



MEDIUM PREDICTS TRUMP VICTORY PAGE 11



AAA HONORS CROSSING GUARD WITH SAFETY AWARD PAGE 14



BIG WIN FOR WARRIORS HOOPS PAGE 16

OUR 128TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 9

JANUARY 14, 2016

75 CENTS

CAMPAIGN 2016

School Committee chairwoman seeking selectmen's seat

By TERRY DATE
tdate@andovertownsman.com
A challenger has emerged in the election for selectmen, making it a three-candidate race for the two open seats with the challenger stepping over from the school side. School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert pulled papers for the selectmen's seat on Friday, Jan. 8. The two other candidates for the three-year terms are incumbents Paul Salafia and Alex Vispoli.

Gilbert will not seek another term on the School Committee, nor will fellow member Paula Colby-Clements, who says in a letter to the editor in this week's Andover Townsman that she will not seek a third term on the panel. Meanwhile, Gilbert said in a sit-down interview



Annie Gilbert

this week that she wants to bring her school experience to the town panel. "Essentially, the reason that I am running, put very simply, is that I think if you consider the Board of Selectmen as being the town's board of directors," Gilbert said, "it ought to have on it someone with a deep understanding of the school system, which is the biggest department in town, and, frankly, the most expensive." Gilbert is finishing her third term on the school

panel, the current stint a one-year span completing former member, and now state senator, Barbara L'Italien's term. Gilbert has served as chairman three times. Also, she was appointed to and served on the (Bancroft) School Building Committee, the group that oversaw completion of the elementary school, from planning and design to construction. The \$45 million elementary school, 44 percent of

See GILBERT, Page 3

Five candidates for 2 School Committee seats

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
gcruz@andovertownsman.com
and Paul Murphy have all pulled papers to enter the race for school committee, joining Bob Pokress, who pulled papers earlier this month. Current School Committee chairwoman Annie Gilbert will be stepping down from the committee in March (see related Shannon Scully, Willard Perkins, Laura Gregory See COMMITTEE, Page 3

"It really worries me, especially given how close the tracks are to houses. If there was a derailment or industrial explosion, we would be obliterated, along with most of the town."

Peggy Rambach, Andover resident



TERRY DATE/Staff photo

Rail crews repair broken tracks in Andover by Burnham Road and Arundel Street last Tuesday morning. Three of five empty commuter rail cars came off the tracks after the train encountered broken tracks at this location.

Derailment in Andover raises concerns about train safety

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

The trains rumble past Peggy Rambach's Andover home several times a day, some pulling tankers laden with crude oil and other highly-flammable materials bound for shipping ports and refineries.

Rambach, who has lived alongside the tracks for more than 20 years, says she never thought much about railway safety until last week when an MBTA commuter train derailed a few hundred feet from her property.

"It really worries me, especially given how close the tracks are to houses," says Rambach, who lives on Arundel Street. "If there was a derailment or industrial explosion, we would be obliterated, along with most of the town."

MBTA officials said the train was empty aside from a conductor and engineers,



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Peggy Rambach of Andover stands on a deck in the back of her home near the train tracks on Arundel Street. Rambach is concerned about the freight trains that come through town even more so since last Tuesday's derailment.

and nobody was hurt in the incident on the Haverhill line early Tuesday morning. They blamed the derailment on cold weather that caused the steel track to "shatter," and say the investigation is ongoing.

But the tracks, owned by the MBTA, aren't just used by commuter trains. Major railroads use the line to move industrial materials and freight, including crude oil.

Recent fiery crashes

involving rail transit have stirred public concerns about the transportation of crude oil, which has become a far more common cargo. Railroads hefted nearly

See TRAINS, Page 2

Schools budget proposal at \$76.7M More work needed on budget that calls for 26 new employees

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
gcruz@andovertownsman.com

The school district's proposed budget for next year is \$1.5 million more than the town manager's recommendation, which could create a stir leading up to Town Meeting in May.

In his first budget proposal presented at last Thursday night's School Committee meeting, new Superintendent Sheldon Berman said the district needs a minimum of \$76.7 million — a 4.6 percent increase over the current year's budget. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan had recommended schools get an increase of just 2.8 percent.

The proposed \$76.7 million budget would keep school services level, but during last week's meeting Berman said

the district actually needs much more than that amount.

He said that to cover every one of the district's needs, 26 teachers and other new employees would need to be hired. The cost of those positions - estimated at \$1.5 to 2 million - would be in addition to his proposed \$76.7 million budget.

"Frankly, if we did all of this, I don't think that the town could afford it," he said during his presentation last week. "But that's not the purpose. The purpose is to say, 'Here are the needs, and now we have to filter those down.'"

Staffing needs

Berman said school principals have listed their staffing See BUDGET, Page 8

Town inks pact with patrolmen, officers

By TERRY DATE
tdate@andovertownsman.com

Selectmen ratified long overdue police union contracts on Monday, signing off on two-year agreements retroactive to July 1, 2014.

The town's agreements with the Andover Police Superior Officers Association and Andover Police Patrolmen's Union both call for increases of 1.5 percent in year one and 1.75 percent in year two for a total of 3.25 percent.

The contract ends June 30 this year. Selectmen approved the contracts by a 5-0 vote.

To put the increase into perspective, an entry level patrolman at Step 1 of the contract schedule was earning \$49,159 prior to the ratification of the Patrolmen's Union pact.

Now, with the retroactive 1.5 percent increase in year one, the salary went to \$49,896, and, with the retroactive 1.75 percent increase in the second year of the contract, from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, the entry level salary is \$50,769.

Meanwhile, the town is behind on all its contract negotiations which affect four other union groups. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said in an interview after Monday's meeting.

He said he will start negotiating with the police unions this winter on the next three-year contract to run from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019.

In the future, the town will try to avoid falling behind on contracts, officials said.

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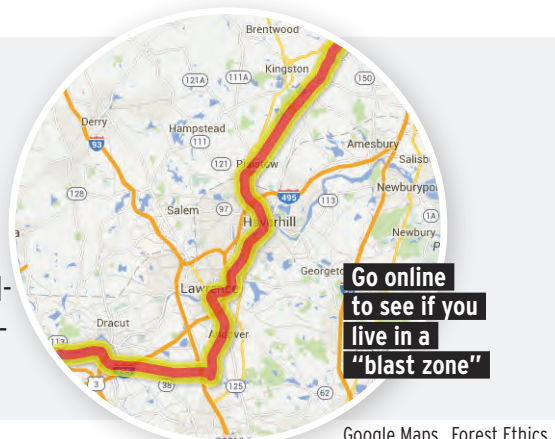
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Google Maps, Forest Ethics

BLAST ZONES

One of the major shipping routes for crude oil runs across northern Massachusetts and into southern New Hampshire by way of the Merrimack Valley - passing through communities such as Andover, Lawrence, Haverhill and Plaistow - according to Forest Ethics, a California-based environmental group that tracks oil by rail shipments.

TRAINS

Continued from Page 1

500,000 carloads of crude last year, up from 9,500 in 2008, according to the Association of American Railroads, a trade group.

Two years ago, a Canadian oil train derailed and exploded, leveling part of the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, and killing 47 people. Last year, at least six oil trains derailed in the United States and Canada, federal officials say.

One of the major shipping routes for crude oil runs across northern Massachusetts and into southern New Hampshire by way of the Merrimack Valley — passing through communities such as Andover, Lawrence, Haverhill and Plaistow — according to Forest Ethics, a California-based environmental group that tracks oil by rail shipments.

But information about the frequency of crude shipments and how much is moving through the region isn't available.

A Google map created by Forest Ethics — www.explosive-crude-by-rail.org — illustrates the scope of a catastrophe caused by a derailment or explosion involving crude oil.

The map shows a "blast zone" in dense, thickly settled parts of Andover — including Rambach's home.

The zone represents a mandatory, half-mile evacuation area for an oil-car derailment. A mile-wide evacuation

area is highlighted if an oil car derailed and catches fire.

"We've talking about highly explosive oil passing through downtowns throughout the country," said Eddie Scher, a spokesman for Forest Ethics, which used industry figures and train-spotters to identify crude oil routes. "It's a disaster waiting to happen."

He added that most rail lines are often unprotected and susceptible to tampering by anyone wishing to do harm, which raises concerns about terrorism.

While railroads have long transported hazardous materials, a boom in U.S. oil production is driving the record increase in crude shipments by rail, Scher said. Much of it comes from North Dakota's abundant Bakken Shale deposits.

Meanwhile, railroad officials fight to keep details about oil-train routing and frequency from the public, citing competitive and security concerns, he said.

Scher said that leaves people living or working near routes in the dark about what is being transported and the heightened risks of derailment, fire and explosion.

"We don't think any crude oil should be moving by train," he said. "It's fundamentally too dangerous."

Ed Greenburg, a spokesman for the Association of American Railroads, said the industry has taken numerous steps to respond to the concerns of state and federal officials, and the public, about moving crude oil by rail.



Peggy Rambach, of 1 Arundel St., was awakened by the Jan. 5 train derailment on the tracks behind her house in Andover. Rambach has lingering concerns about rail safety.

TERRY DATE/Staff photo

"We've slowed down our trains, we've increased track safety technology, operational reviews and track inspections, as well as stepping up outreach and preparedness and training with first-responders across the country," he said.

A spokesman for Keolis, the French company that operates the MBTA's commuter rail, said workers inspect rail lines twice a week — in some cases daily — to ensure tracks are intact and signals work properly.

"We're constantly inspecting the rails to check for buckling or other anomalies,"

said spokesman Mac Daniels.

Freezing temperatures likely caused the track problems leading to Tuesday's derailment in Andover, which disrupted service for commuter rail branches and Amtrak's Downeaster, said state Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack.

Federal regulators have imposed new rules to reduce chances of a catastrophic derailment. They've lowered speed limits in cities, ordered railroads to install electronic braking systems, and required stronger tank cars starting in 2018.

The oil industry has challenged some of those rules in court, while critics say the standards don't go far enough and lament that tens of thousands of older, less fortified tank cars will remain on the tracks for years to come.

Congress is considering proposals for new safety standards, as well as measures to curtail the transportation of crude oil by rail.

Overall, the industry's safety record has improved. Freight-train derailments have been cut in half since 2004, with the number falling to 1,210 last year from 2,350

a decade earlier, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Massachusetts has also seen a reduction in derailments, according to the agency, with five reported in 2015 compared to 11 in 2011. New Hampshire has only had two derailments since 2006, according to federal statistics. The data didn't identify what kinds of trains were involved or their cargo.

Cities and towns have scrambled to devise emergency plans and train firefighters to deal with the increased risk.

Local officials often work closely with railroads on preparedness, and obtain information on cargoes and routing.

In Andover, which has plans for dealing with a catastrophic derailment, Fire Chief Mike Mansfield said the proximity of the tracks to downtown and surrounding neighborhoods is a big concern.

Railroad companies have curtailed large shipments of crude oil through Andover in recent years, he said, but that hasn't alleviated the concerns of local officials about the possibility of a freight train derailment or exploding tanker cars.

Mansfield said materials more "hazardous than crude oil" pass through town, but he didn't specify what those are.

"It's a business, and they can run any commodity they want through here as long as they are meeting the necessary requirements," he said.

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 Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.
 No cancellations honored after these deadlines.

CONTRACTS

Continued from Page 1

"We should not be a year and half behind on our contracts," selectmen Chairman Mary O'Donoghue said after Monday's meeting. "It clearly is a priority for this board to become current with our obligations."

Police Chief Patrick Keefe was glad to see the agreement struck and ratified.

"It's a fair contact for both sides and gives an opportunity to start fresh," he said, referring to the next round of negotiations.

Colin Radford, president of the Patrolmen's Union, echoed those sentiments, saying the whole package was a

fair deal and it is good to get the agreement done.

"It's always a burden lifted," he said. "It seems like we are always in negotiations."

He looks forward to starting negotiations on the next contract with the new town manager.

The police chief said that ultimately, the contract allows the department to focus more on its primary duties of law enforcement and public safety.

Getting the union contracts finalized was among the items at the top of Flanagan's to-do list as he started his job Oct. 13.

After some initial meetings with union representatives, the two sides met in earnest in December, he said.

Concessions include benefits such as terminal leave and vacation days, Flanagan said.

Terminal leave applies to the total sick leave an employee is entitled to upon

retirement.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 2015 are entitled to 50 working days terminal leave after 30 years service.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 2016 are entitled to 25 working days terminal leave after 30 years service.

As far as vacation time goes, an employee hired on or after July 1, 2015 receives 10 days vacation after one year continuous service; 15 days after five years; 20 days after 10 years; 25 days after 15 years; and 30 days after 20 years continuous service.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 2015 shall not be entitled to any additional vacation leave beyond 30 days after the applicable years of continuous service.

The money for these collective bargaining agreements was made available at the last Town Meeting, May 2015, in the town compensation fund part of the general fund operating budget, Flanagan

said.

The chief said the contracts will influence the pay and benefits for 53 members of the Police Department — 14 senior officers and 39 patrolmen.

Negotiations on the police agreements started in the summer of 2014 under previous Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski, who retired on June 30, 2015.

Part of the reason for the delay to the agreement was a stalemate in negotiations, and the gap between the departure of the former town manager and the new town manager taking over, local officials said.

No negotiations took place from June to October, the time between town managers.

The town looks forward to getting a jump on the next agreement, O'Donoghue said. "Even though we just closed off this round, the next round will commence (soon)," the chairman said.

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The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods.

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2016:

Andover

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2015 but may require some touch-up work in 2016:

Andover

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal

Treatment Periods

January 11, 2016 - May 30, 2016	May 30, 2016 - October 15, 2016	October 15, 2016 - December 31, 2016
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
	Basal	

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm): **Maria Claire Rigby**, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Telephone: (508) 860-6282 or email: maria.claire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 1

story on Gilbert's run for Selectman, along with vice chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements (see letter to the editor, page 9). The two open seats each hold three-year terms.

Scully

Scully, of 34 School Street, is a parent to two boys, who are third- and fifth-graders at Bancroft Elementary, where Scully is vice president of the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

The founder and principal engineer of Scully Consulting, LLC, Shannon worked at Cisco Systems for a decade in various roles in

high technology. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, and the Boston College School of Management, where she received an MBA.

"I think I'm a unique candidate because I take in a lot of data and I like to make decisions based on fact rather than anecdotal evidence," Scully said. "I've been engaged in, and an active participant in Andover Public Schools and I think it's time to expand my role into a leadership position."

Along with her role in Bancroft's PTO, Scully also serves on the Andover Coalition for Education Board of Directors and is

a member of the League of Women Voters of Andover-North Andover. If elected, Scully hopes to use her analytical thinking to help the committee make important, thoughtful decisions for the town's schools.

"I support the delivery of services residents expect from a high performing school district and allocating Andover tax dollars responsibly," Scully said.

Perkins

Willard Perkins, of 14 Rennie Drive, will also be seeking election to the school committee this March.

Perkins is president of Hearthstone Realty Corporation and is a registered professional engineer in

Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He is a graduate of Cornell University's School of Engineering and has been working in the field of engineering for more than 25 years.

Through his work in engineering and realty, Perkins has represented Free Christian Church, Pike School and Andover School of Montessori in each of their expansion projects. Perkins has worked with Andover and Lawrence Housing Authorities to assist in development of playgrounds at local affordable developments.

Perkins has been involved with the Andover School of Montessori, Andover Community Trust, Friends of Andover Football and the

Andover Youth Foundation.

Gregory

The fourth candidate so far in the school committee race is Laura Gregory of 5 Embassy Lane. Gregory, an insurance lawyer at Sloane and Walsh, LLP, received a Bachelors Degree from Grinnell College, graduated from the Boston University School of Law in 1992, and received a Juris Doctorate with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Since 2006, Gregory has been involved with numerous Andover school boards and committees including the Shawsheen School Council and Shawsheen School and APS Expanded Learning Time Committees. She was co-chair of

the Bancroft PAC from 2010-2011 and served on the council from 2009-2011. She has served on the Doherty Middle School PAC since 2011 and was co-chairwoman of the council from 2012-13.

Murphy

A fifth School Committee candidate pulled nomination papers Tuesday afternoon. Paul D. Murphy of 6 School St. is the dean of Students and Residential Life at Phillips Academy.

Perkins, Gregory and Murphy could not be reached for comment in time for publication. Follow the Townsman's continued coverage of School Committee candidates in next week's paper and online at andovertownsmen.com.

GILBERT

Continued from Page 1

which was funded by the state, opened in 2014. Gilbert served almost six years on the Building Committee.

Its members worked closely with town department heads, among them those in the planning, police and fire, public works and water departments. Gilbert's work on the School and Building Committees has given her experience working with individuals in those town departments and understanding their responsibilities.

"I know and have worked with Bill Fahey, with Chris Cronin, with Paul

Materazzo, because we work with him when new developments come online and what to expect," she said. "Ed Ataide is a partner on a daily basis with the schools."

Ultimately, Gilbert sees the town and school as overlapping entities - like one big organization.

"It is commonly said that people move to Andover for the schools but, to me, the school system is not an entity in and of itself," she said. "When I think about how virtually every department in town is connected to the school system and supports the school system you cannot think of it as town and schools."

From snow plowing to

the schools' relationship to the police department and fire department, the library and youth services, both of which are extensions of what the schools do in the afterschool hours.

Asked if she, as a selectman, would be more likely to support school spending, having come from a school background, Gilbert said, "It is all about balance, though education is a critical piece of what will keep Andover thriving in the future."

The married mother of three children, ages 17, 20 and 23, said she understands the taxpayer side of the equation as well.

Her husband, Bob, has a law firm in town and owns

Andover Classic Wines.

"A good school system is the cornerstone of a community and I certainly feel that by bringing my knowledge and experience to the Board of Selectmen it is going to help keep that at the forefront," she said.

"However, I really want to emphasize that by this time next year I will be an empty-nester because my youngest son will graduate this spring from Andover High School. My husband and I are looking ahead

to what Andover can be for people like us who are going to continue to age, possibly downsize."

The deadline for pulling papers to run for office and returning them with 50 signatures from certified voters to the Town Clerk's Office at the Town Offices is Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.

The town election is March 22.

So far — exclusive of the three people who have pulled papers for

selectmen — Bob Pokress has pulled papers for a seat on the School Committee; Steven Pekock has pulled paper for the Trustees of the Punchard Free School; incumbent Sheila Doherty has pulled papers for town moderator; and incumbent Danie Grams has pulled papers for the Andover Housing Authority.

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:

Take the 16 in '16 Book Challenge

The 2016 MHL Reading Challenge is on. Memorial Hall Library challenges the community to read 16 books in 2016. It's just like summer reading, but for the whole year, and there are chances to win every month. A prize will be awarded on the 16th of each month, with the final grand prize drawing in December. Readers can choose the books and formats (paper, electronic, or audio), and log their reading online. To register, visit www.mhl.org/16in16 or call 978-623-8401, ext. 32. Stop at the Reference Desk each time a book is logged and pick up a raffle ticket. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

The Andover Seed Library takes root

Patrons will soon be able to borrow books, movies, and seeds for their garden from Memorial

Hall Library. The Andover Seed Library will open on Thursday, Jan. 21. Thanks to the generous donations of several seed companies, patrons will be able to pick up packets of vegetable, herb and flower seeds to plant in their gardens. By providing free seeds, the hope is to encourage gardeners to grow plants from seed, save the seeds of plants that don't cross pollinate, and perhaps donate


back to the Seed Library. MHL is offering a series of free lectures and workshops on the beauty of seeds, growing plants from seed, the importance of native and heirloom varieties, herb gardens, organic vegetable gardening, and seed saving. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Visit www.mhl.org/green-thumb/andover-seed-library for more information.

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Town and school buildings to be evaluated

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
geruz@andovertownsmen.com

Two-phase project comes with \$200K pricetag

It's time to go through town and school buildings with a fine-tooth comb.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan and school Superintendent Sheldon Berman announced this week the signing of a \$100,000 initial contract with a consultant who will do an assessment of nearly every municipal building in town, starting with school buildings.

The Andover School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and town and school department heads met Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the School Committee Room to discuss the initial goals, approaches and schedule of the townwide master facilities plan.

Assessment of school buildings and administration offices will be the first phase of the facilities study and is set to be completed by Feb. 26. Phase two, which will include town buildings, will have a \$85,019 price tag and is set to be completed by March 31.

"At the beginning of the year, we talked about launching an evaluation of our facilities and beginning the development of a long-range facilities plan," said Berman. "We will begin to evaluate our buildings and whether they accommodate our instructional program, and I'm excited that we're going to begin that and set that in motion."

School buildings

MGT of America was chosen as the consultant. When the committee drafted its initial CIP request for the planning, it asked for \$100,000 as a placeholder until a firm could be selected through a bidding process.

MGT of America's proposal came in at a base bid of \$91,567 over proposals from Dore and Whittier, and SMMA. The contract was awarded to MGT of America at the beginning of December, and last week's meeting served as an introduction to the projected schedule and the firm representatives that will be working on the master plan.

According to the request for proposals submitted to the



The Memorial Hall Library will be evaluated in the second phase of a town-wide municipal facilities study.



One of many buildings in town that need work is the Ballardvale fire barn.

state by the town's purchasing agent Tom Watkins, the duration of the contract will be two and a half months. During that time, MGT will conduct three types of assessments at each of the facilities included in the study.

First, conditions of each building will be evaluated, such as roofing, windows, and mechanical and electrical systems. The firm will also assess the educational suitability of each building to determine how well each one supports its educational programs.

The firm will evaluate, for example, whether the building has the appropriate types of spaces needed to operate efficiently and if the spaces are the appropriate sizes. Finally, the technology readiness of each facility will be inspected to see if the systems and equipment in place throughout the district adequately support information technology.

"MGT has provided us with a timeline, so over the next couple of months, I believe we'll be at a position of

understanding the condition of our schools," said Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski. "Another very, very important piece, and this is to Shelley's credit of working with a new Town Manager, is that this RFP was expanded to include not just schools, but town buildings as well."

Town buildings

Municipal buildings will be looked at in the second phase, including the Town Offices on Bartlet Street and 9 other town facilities.

Memorial Hall Library, Public Safety, West and Ballardvale Fire stations, Old Town Hall, the Center at Punchard, the water treatment plant, Spring Grove

Cemetery and Red Spring Road maintenance building will be evaluated after school building and office reviews have been completed.

"(The representative from MGT) said that it is very unusual that a municipality — a town and school department — want to do something like this together," School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert said. "They said it's a positive and shows that we are unified."

Master plan

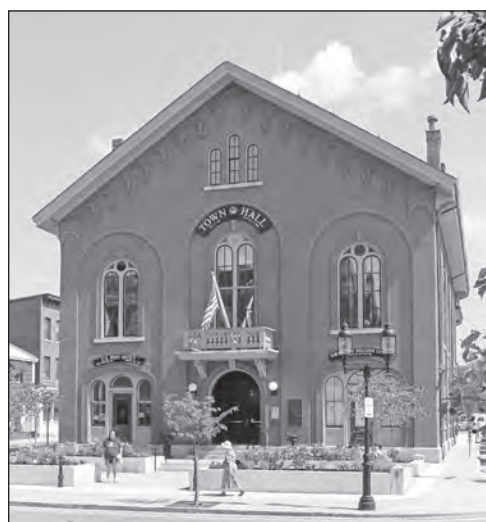
Berman said that the data produced as a result of the project will help the district plan for the future and have a better idea of the changes needed to address any safety and maintenance issues, meet future enrollment numbers and keep up with changing educational programs and teaching methods.

"This study will yield a master plan to guide capital improvement decisions and resource allocations for the next 10 years or even longer," Berman wrote in a letter to parents and staff. "It will consider such features as...layouts and furnishings... landscaping and traffic patterns, but will also consider how well our facilities enable us to attain our instructional goals."

During last week's school committee meeting, Berman encouraged district staff to offer input about anything at their respective schools that they feel need improvement. Berman and town officials have planned a community forum planned for a to-be-determined date in February and will also create an online platform for feedback submission.

"Our parents and staff have a wealth of hands-on information about where we could make facility improvements to enhance our children's performance," Berman wrote in his letter. "The outcomes of this feedback will be woven into the draft of the master plan, which will then be the focus of additional community review and input."

Old Town Hall on Main Street has had a lot of work done to it, recently, but it is part of a joint, town-schools facilities study anyway.



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Chemical explosion brings massive response

By TERRY DATE, GARRIN MARCHETTI AND JILL HARMACINSKI STAFF WRITERS

Dozens of firefighters and hazardous materials specialists from across Eastern Massachusetts, including many from Andover, flocked to the scene of a violent chemical explosion last Thursday that left four people hospitalized and a building damaged.

At about 2:30 p.m. last Thursday, an explosion rocked a Dow Chemical facility located on Willow Street in North Andover, less than a half-mile from homes in Andover. The damaged building is located on a side street behind the Stop & Shop on Route 114.

Four people were critically injured in the explosion. They were decontaminated and treated at Lawrence General Hospital. Three of the victims, who suffered shrapnel injuries and burns, were transferred to Boston hospitals for further treatment. At least two patients who went to Boston were airlifted by medical helicopter.

The fourth victim was admitted to Lawrence General Hospital. A fifth injured person was treated at the scene and did not require hospitalization, according to State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan.

The injured have not yet been identified by local or state officials.

Andover's role

Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield said an engine company went to the scene of the explosion on Thursday, but was then dispatched to a fire in North Andover.

"We assisted in extinguishing the fire," Mansfield said. "Then we covered the North Andover station after that."

In addition, two Andover ambulances were used to transport victims from the scene to LGH, he said. Andover's portable air supply truck was used at the



North Andover firefighters and emergency responders gather in the parking lot of the Dow Chemical company on Willow Street in North Andover after the explosion.



A patient is taken towards a medical evacuation helicopter after being treated at Lawrence General following a chemical explosion took place in North Andover.

scene Thursday and Friday to replenish oxygen tanks used by hazardous materials workers entering the building.

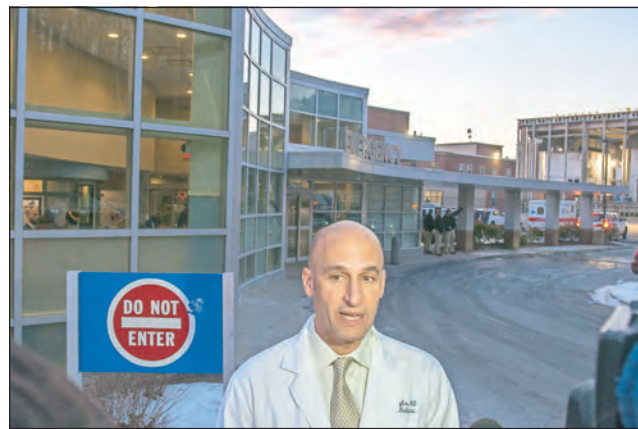
Also, Andover

representatives of the technical rescue team were on-hand both days to lend expertise and equipment as needed, Mansfield said.

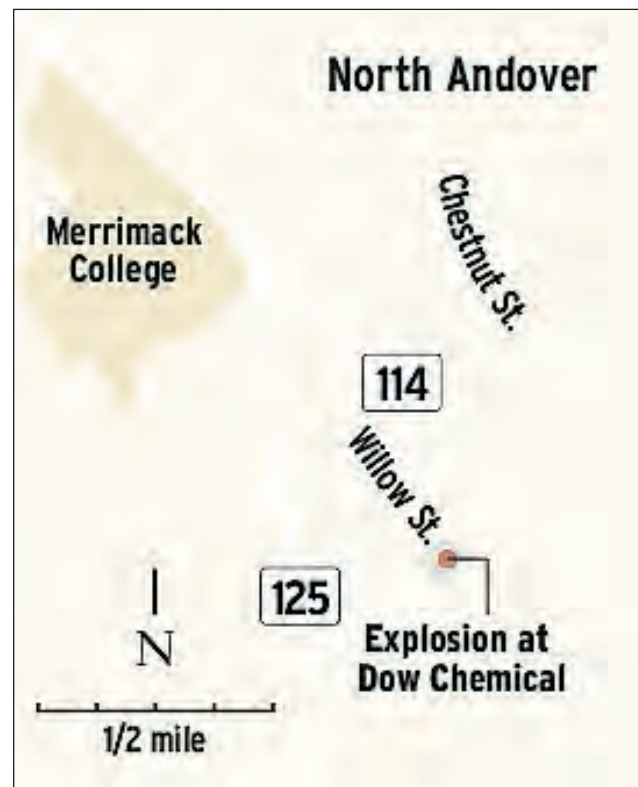
On Friday, one of Andover's

engine companies was on scene, attached to a hydrant, to provide water in case anything more happened inside the building.

Mansfield said that in all,



Lawrence General Chief of Emergency Medicine Dr. George Kondylis speaks to the media after treating victims of the chemical explosion.



15 Andover firefighters, including the chief himself, were at the site over the two-day period.

Decontamination process

At Lawrence General Hospital on Thursday, Lawrence firefighters, working with hospital staff, set up a decontamination area near the entrance to the emergency room.

Firefighters, who trained for such incidents with

Lawrence General staff, used "copious amounts of water" to rinse down the four explosion victims and removed their clothing, said Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty.

"We were prepared for a mass decontamination," he said, noting crews for three fire trucks and the department's fire prevention unit responded to Lawrence General. "More hands make lighter work, and it worked quite well."

Once the victims were decontaminated, they were immediately taken into trauma rooms inside the hospital.

"It's very involved," Moriarty said of the decontamination process.

Dr. George Kondylis, Lawrence General emergency medicine chief, said hospital staffers are trained to handle such injuries.

"As a verified trauma center, we see critical injuries on a regular basis and know what to do," Kondylis said. "Our protocols worked just as they are intended to today, and probably 50 to 60 health care professionals, doctors, nurses, paramedics and others came to together to respond."

By 4:30 p.m., the decontamination area outside the hospital was idle and emergency response to the explosion appeared to have concluded.

Building damage

Some windows and the laboratory where the explosion occurred were damaged in the blast, according to Coan, but the building was "stable."

"There is no structural damage to the building itself, but there is substantial damage to the lab itself," Coan said.

Hours after the explosion, grim-faced Dow workers left the plant boarding yellow buses parked nearby. Despite numerous questions from a throng of media assembled, none of the workers offered any comment.

This is the second recent explosion at the Dow plant, located at 60 Willow St., off Route 114.

An explosion at the facility on Oct. 9, 2013, killed Carlos Amaral, 51, of Peabody, who suffered burns to half of his body. Amaral worked at Dow for 13 years.

Dow Chemical said in a 2014 statement that an internal investigation revealed the "release" and subsequent fire was caused by cleaning fluid inadvertently getting into a container holding a volatile chemical fluid called trimethylindium.

Trimethylindium is used to manufacture semiconductors and can ignite spontaneously upon contact with the air.



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Solar power bill still bogged down

BY ANDY METZGER
 AND MATT MURPHY
 State House News Service

Lack of action costing Andover millions

Nearly two months since lawmakers came up short in reaching a deal to lift caps on solar installations around the state, one of the Senate negotiators said Monday that gathering the full conference committee could be effective in breaking the stalemate between the branches.

"I think there's been some informal discussions and I think that people do understand the importance of trying to get it done in the near term, but that being said I don't think at this point we are on the threshold of consensus. I think there's still work to do," Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr told the News Service.

As lawmakers and activists warned that solar projects and investments - including one affecting Andover - were imperiled, the House

and Senate in mid-November assigned a six-member conference committee to settle differences between the branches over competing solar bills.

The committee, according to Tarr, met on the day it was appointed - Nov. 18 - and has not met since, a span of 54 days. The Nov. 18 meeting was hastily convened moments after the House and Senate appointed conferees. It lasted just 15 minutes, and an hour and a half later conference leaders announced that no deal would be struck before the Legislature began its weeks-long winter recess.

Conversations between the two chairmen, Rep. Thomas Golden and Sen. Benjamin Downing, have been ongoing. Tarr said he would like to see the full conference

committee meet within the next week or two. He said agreement on lifting solar caps is "over the edge of the horizon at the moment."

"I really think this is a subject that deserves a meeting of the conference committee and the full engagement of all of its members because I think clearly we all understand that lifting the cap is a priority, however obviously people have strong opinions about how to get there and I think that the way to resolve that is to sit at a table and have an exchange of those ideas so that we can find some common ground and I'm hoping that that will happen sooner rather than later," Tarr said.

Golden, a Lowell Democrat, declined to discuss the committee's workings, but

said, "The conferees have continued to talk and there have been plenty of conversations and the staff are working great together."

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton said last week the administration is trying to be "helpful" where it can, and he has spoken with Golden and Downing.

The administration does not want to see disagreements over expanding support for solar energy spill over into what it expected to be another complex debate this year over facilitating the development of other renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric and off-shore and on-shore wind power.

Sen. Dan Wolf of Harwich in November said raising the net metering cap increases

the supply of solar energy and said solar opponents were playing a "fast trick" to manipulate demand and make it "less of a viable business investment." Wolf said the House proposal would have a "dramatic negative impact" on the demand for solar projects and said developers had informed his office of their concerns about how much of their planned investments they may pull back, depending on the bill.

Unveiling an energy calculator "designed to help Massachusetts employers decipher the maze of government-mandated energy subsidies," Associated Industries of Massachusetts on Monday estimated the state solar subsidy program costs residential and commercial ratepayers \$600 million per year "and is headed for \$1.5 billion per year," with the energy efficiency program at \$600 million per

year, and the regional greenhouse gas program, which charges electrical generators for their carbon emissions, adding another \$60 million.

AIM said its calculator was developed with Energy Tariff Experts LLC, and works for most customer customer classes. Based on trials, it shows total subsidies for state-mandated programs can equal 25 percent of a customer's total bill, according to AIM.

In Andover, failure to pass a solar energy bill would have a serious financial impact. The town is counting on approval of an increase in the net metering cap to pave the way for construction of a solar panel array in Western Massachusetts that would sell its discounted solar power into the grid. Under an agreement the developers have with Andover, the town would save millions over the 20-year agreement.

Business Briefcase

Andover attorney joins Burns & Levinson as partner

Debra Rahmin Silberstein has joined Burns & Levinson as a partner in the Private Client group.

Prior to joining Burns & Levinson, Silberstein, who specializes in trusts and estates, tax-related matters and elder law, was in private practice for more than 25 years.

Silberstein is an active member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, currently serving on the Probate Law Section Council, and is a well-known member of her local bar, the Lawrence Bar Association, as well as the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys. She regularly writes and publishes on estate planning and tax policy matters.

She is a trustee of the Lawrence General Hospital, currently serving as chair-elect, and a member of the Anti-Defamation League's New England Regional board and the Latino-Jewish roundtable.

She is a past director of the Women's Resource Center's Legal Access Project, which provides legal services to victims of



Debra Rahmin Silberstein

domestic violence, and previously served as a director of TAVAH, an organization that provides support for senior citizens to stay in their homes.

As of Jan. 1, and in conjunction with Silberstein's arrival, Burns & Levinson's North Shore office has relocated to 69 Park St. in Andover.

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

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.

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 for a complete schedule.

To submit an item for the Business Briefcase, email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

Weigh in on housing forum

STAFF REPORT

The Andover Council on Aging will hold a forum Jan. 26 on establishing zoning changes to accommodate small independent living sites suitable for senior residents.

The Senior Housing By-law Forum will be from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Andover Memorial Hall Library's third floor auditorium.

This forum is a follow-up to a session held last October where the Intown Independent Living Overlay District idea was introduced and discussed, said Council on Aging Chairwoman Ann Greco and Council board member Joe Ponti.

"Motivation for the creation of an ILOD comes from the extensive senior citizen survey funded at last year's town meeting and carried out under the auspices of

the Andover Department of Elder Services," said a Council on Aging news release. "One of the major needs identified in this survey was for in-town, less expensive, smaller and independent living sites."

Since then, an Andover Council on Aging sub-committee has been working with the town's Planning Department to draft a proposed bylaw describing the details of this new overlay district and the zoning changes it would encompass.

The intent of the Jan. 26 forum is to offer the public a final opportunity to be heard prior to the formal drafting and submission of an article creating the ILOD in the 2016 Town Warrant. Submission are due no later than January 31, 2016.

The proposed by-law will come before the May 2016 Town Meeting.

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 President and CEO

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As we approach the most challenging weather months of the season, I'm thankful that the remainder of this winter is predicted to be fairly mild. But who can forget last year's January blizzard that dropped 2 feet of snow, and the freezing temperatures that paralyzed the region.

Although it's doubtful we'll have record-breaking weather again this year, we're bound to experience at least a few snowstorms. When they do arrive, you can be confident our committed staff will brave any conditions to be at your door ready to meet your home health or hospice needs. And, if a storm is in the forecast, they'll help you to plan ahead, ensuring you have food, medications and support to stay safe. So, whether you need nursing after a hospital stay, assistance to stay independent, or care for an advanced illness, winter is no match for our determination and spirit of service to our patients. We never waver in our commitment to bring care home.

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Battle over beaver-built bog

Resident maintains dam should be maintained; town disagrees



TERRY DATE/Staff photo
Roy Dobbelaar of 8 Moreland Ave. talks about the wetland behind his house.

By **TERRY DATE**
tdate@andovertownsmen.com

The beavers are gone but their handiwork remains, remnants of a dam and the pond that formed behind it.

A lingering dispute remains, as well — opposition over the pond and changed state of the wetlands.

Jane Axelrod and Roy Dobbelaar, 8 Moreland, want the ponded wetlands to remain.

Over the past decade they have watched from their home and yard as nature has flourished with rising water levels, attracting waterfowl, wildlife and songbirds.

Others in the area of Great Heron Place, Orchard Street and Moreland Avenue, as well as the Conservation Commission want nature to run its course, without human hands hastening or slowing that course.

In December, the Conservation Commission director sent a letter to abutters in the neighborhood stating the pond had been dammed up recently, and not by beaver, and the Commission considers it an act of vandalism.

“A local beaver expert confirmed that the structure was

not built by beavers, and is comprised of heavy boulders and gravel, not mud and sticks typical of beavers,” the letter states.

Douglas said the man-made structure was built in the fall of 2015, and the commission has noticed water levels rising in the ponded wetlands. A Conservation Commission volunteer has since, in December, removed three layers of boulders, gravel and mud, the man-made obstructions, he said.

The remaining stick-and-mud dam will, if untouched by human hands, deteriorate and the water level find its natural level, Douglas said.

Douglas said that typically, beaver will leave an area after their food source is depleted and, after they leave, the dam will disintegrate, water levels recede and the area reverts to its pre-beaver state until a new set of beaver move in and the cycle begins anew, he said.

Conservation Commission members were surprised that the beaver dam didn’t disintegrate naturally over number of years after the beaver departed since it typically takes six months to a year for a beaver dam to disintegrate.

It was the Commission’s

opinion that the dam was artificially maintained by humans, the director said.

Meanwhile, Dobbelaar said he does not know about anyone damming up the waterway with boulders. He said the beavers built their dam along an existing stonewall on the land.

Furthermore, he maintains that some people have been tearing down the dam and accelerating the draining of the pond.

“It is inconceivable to me that they want to rip down this dam so that this wetland habitat will be destroyed,” he said, “and all the waterfowl that live here and breed will have to go elsewhere.”

Dobbelaar and his wife maintain that tinkering with a beaver dam is a breach of federal and state law.

“What bothers me, the Conservation Commission seems to pick and choose the laws it wants to follow,” Axelrod said.

While they spoke inside their home about the wood ducklings, geese, flickers, cedar waxwings and other winged creatures they enjoy seeing, a male cardinal in his bright red plumage alighted on the drooping branches of a weeping birch tree, nature

on display outside their bay window.

Late in December, Axelrod filed a request with the Conservation Commission applying to maintain the dam at the height it stood when a beaver deceiver — a pipe that drained water levels to prevent flooding — was installed in 2009.

Dobbelaar later withdrew the application request after meeting in person with Douglas on Jan. 5.

“Simply because I am not the owner of the (dam) property and they couldn’t give me permission to work on somebody else’s property,” Dobbelaar said.

The dam is most likely on homeowner Noriaki Ikemoto’s land, though the map is not entirely clear whose land it is on. It’s either Ikemoto’s or town-owned conservation land, Douglas said.

Instead of the filing the application, Dobbelaar will present the Conservation Commission a proposal for a wetlands enhancement project, he said.

He said he will pay for it if the Commission agrees to the proposal.

“We had a thorough and good conversation,” Dobbelaar said of his conversation with

Douglas.

He said the Commission does not plan to remove material from the dam and will let it deteriorate over time.

Douglas said his Jan. 5 conversation with Dobbelaar was a good one and included areas where their philosophies overlapped but also areas where they disagree.

Douglas said the parties disagree that about water level issues.

Douglas says that for decades a stream has run behind houses that encircle the wetlands, then, about 8 or 10 years ago, beaver occupied the area. They put their teeth to work and built a dam. The water levels rose and the pond formed.

Several years ago, the Conservation Commission allowed a flow device — a beaver

deceiver — to be installed.

The drain device was to maintain the pond at a level to prevent nearby properties from flooding.

Douglas said the water level with the beaver deceiver in place was a temporary measure.

Dobbelaar disagrees, he says the water level that resulted from the drainage was to be maintained.

The drainage pipe no longer remains. Dobbelaar removed it a year ago and patched up the hole where it stood, he said.

The future of the wetlands remains to be seen.

Dobbelaar said he plans to make his wetlands preservation project presentation to the Commission in the near future.

Douglas said Dobbelaar and the Commission do hold some ideas in common.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

needs for the next school year and that increases in the number of special education and English Language Learning students, in addition to a hike in the general student population, all contribute to the need for more teachers.

According to Berman, Andover schools will see a 20.5 percent increase in English Language Learning students during fiscal 2017. In fiscal 2016, 176 ELL students were enrolled in Andover schools and that number is expected to rise to 212. This enrollment increase alone would require hiring three new full-time teachers, Berman said.

The district’s general

enrollment will increase by 111 students, Berman said, which will lead elementary schools to need almost seven new, full-time employees, including an assistant principal and two full-time teachers at Sanborn Elementary School, a second-grade teacher at South Elementary School and a second-grade teacher at Bancroft Elementary School.

Berman also pointed to the high school’s new schedule and changes in the middle school math curriculum as factors that will require more staff.

Based on a full-time teacher’s starting salary of about \$45,000, according to the teachers’ contract found on the school district’s web site, the hiring of 26 new teachers would cost a minimum of

about \$1.2 million. That does not include health insurance or other benefits, which typically tack on another \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year.

Nor does it take into consideration the fact that the contract requires the district to pay more for people over age 30 and/or who have master’s degrees.

People with master’s degrees, for example, start at a salary of about \$50,000 a year, according to the contract. On the other hand, if the district hires part-time employees, as proposed in some cases, the cost of benefits would be lessened.

Schedule change

In any event, to adapt to the high school’s transition from semester-based classes to full-year courses, nearly six new

staff members and \$50,000 in textbooks will be needed. Similarly at the middle school level, offering algebra to eighth-grade students will take three new teachers and \$15,000 in textbooks.

Bob Pokress, a candidate for this year’s school committee election, believes the changes being made at the high school and middle school levels should not require such costly solutions.

“I commend Dr. Berman for being upfront about the fact that this is far from a finished budget,” Pokress said. “However, a lot of scrutiny needs to be applied to the budget, by both the school committee and finance committee, so that we don’t end up furthering the unsustainable nature of the current school department budget.”

He added, “the number of kids taking math in middle schools isn’t changing and they’re saying they’re going

to need three additional teachers to fix the problem. That really stretches the bounds of credibility because it shouldn’t take more teachers, teaching the same number of kids, to fix what the district broke in the first place.”

If elected in March, Pokress would be in a position to vote on next year’s budget in May. Currently, he is the only candidate running for two, open seats on the School Committee as incumbents Paula Colby-Clements and Annie Gilbert have both announced they won’t be running for re-election. Gilbert, however, is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen.

‘Not final’

Berman and committee members admitted that it’s not only unlikely that the district gets everything it wants, but that the town would be unable to afford the costs of all 26 new employees. However, they agreed the positions are


justified.

“As we have been developing the budget, this is just one step in that process,” Berman said. “This is not the final budget, but an initial conceptual overview of the drivers that are impacting our budget. We’re not done yet.”

Committee members and Berman also said that both the district’s budget proposal and Flanagan’s plan are in preliminary stages and subject to changes that Berman said could happen all the way up to Town Meeting in May.

Berman also said several times during his presentation that once his proposal is reviewed by district staff, the number of new employees could be narrowed down based on the most critical needs.


The School Committee held hearings this week on their budget, which is due to be presented to Selectmen and the Finance Committee by early March.



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Opinion

Public safety workers shined in chemical spill response

If you ever wonder where your tax dollars go when it comes to public safety, look no further than last week's explosion at a chemical plant in North Andover.

The coordinated, professional, fast, efficient and potentially life-saving response from police, fire, emergency and health care providers was nothing short of spectacular.

Of course they will tell you, and they did tell us, this is what they train for. In fact, what they train for is a lot more severe than what actually happened last Thursday afternoon, as bad as it was. Prepare for the worst, hope for the best is always a good motto.

But when you see these public safety personnel in action, in front of TV and newspaper cameras, with Twitter, Facebook and Instagram chronicling their every move, it's hard not to be impressed.

The initial call came in around 2:30 p.m. and seemingly within minutes, ambulances from Andover and North Andover had taken four badly injured workers from the Willow Street plant run by Dow Chemical to Lawrence General Hospital. Before they were brought into the hospital, however, they were washed down and decontaminated outside the emergency room entrance by Lawrence Fire Department personnel.

Once inside, physicians, nurses and other health care personnel stabilized the injured. Two helicopters came in, landing on the hospital's helipad one-by-one, taking the more severely injured to Boston hospitals.

Dr. George Kondylis, Lawrence General emergency medicine chief, said hospital staffers are trained to handle such injuries.

"As a verified trauma center, we see critical injuries on a regular basis and know what to do," Kondylis said. "Our protocols worked just as they are intended to today, and probably 50 to 60 health care professionals, doctors, nurses, paramedics and others came to together to respond."

Back at the scene, the response was massive, as emergency response vehicles from numerous communities and regional emergency agencies swooped in to help. At one point, an Andover engine company that was on-scene was dispatched to a fire in North Andover, helping douse the blaze before heading to the North Andover fire station as back-up in case anything else happened.

They call it mutual aid, but it could also be called, simply, good teamwork.

Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield said he spent two days at the site, helping coordinate coverage and overseeing his community's response. Behind the scenes, Andover loaned its two ambulances to North Andover, Mansfield said, as did several other communities and Lawrence General Hospital, so the community would be able to respond to any other kind of disaster at the drop of a hat.

Everyone, it seemed, was ready.

"We were prepared for a mass decontamination," said Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty, noting the heavy response from his and other communities. "More hands make lighter work, and it worked quite well."

While the workers remain hospitalized, and the investigation continues, fire and rescue officials are likely to conduct some kind of after-action report to look at what went well and what didn't go so well. Whatever they find, it seems they can take at least one good lesson from the incident: training and preparation make for smooth operations when the going gets tough.

■ ■ ■

While there were no mass casualties, and no mass decontamination was needed, a story in this week's paper shows why that kind of training is so important. The rail line generally used by the MBTA for commuters is also used daily by freight cars carrying flammable and dangerous chemicals.

When a train derailed in Andover last week, it showed just how vulnerable the train tracks really are. The steel on one section of rail apparently "shattered," according to state officials, leading to an empty commuter rail car to jump off the track before coming to a halt in Lawrence.

State Police were dispatched to interview residents along the rail line, ostensibly looking for anything that might lead them a saboteur or vandal messing with the tracks. While it doesn't appear any suspects were found, the fact remains that dangerous chemicals are being transported on rail lines that aren't quite as solid as they look. It may be time for regulators and legislators to take a closer look at the practice of using rail lines that run through residential neighborhoods for chemical transport. Otherwise, the next big chemical spill may be a lot more serious.

WEB QUESTION

Last week's question:

Will you make, and keep, New Year's resolutions for 2016? Now that the overindulgence of the holidays are over, have you given any thought to next year?

No. I never follow through with them. 75 percent

Yes. It's always good to have something to look forward to after the holidays. 25 percent

This week's question:

MBTA train tracks, including the tracks that run through Andover, are being used to transport crude oil and other chemicals. Do you think using commuter railways to move flammable materials is a good idea?

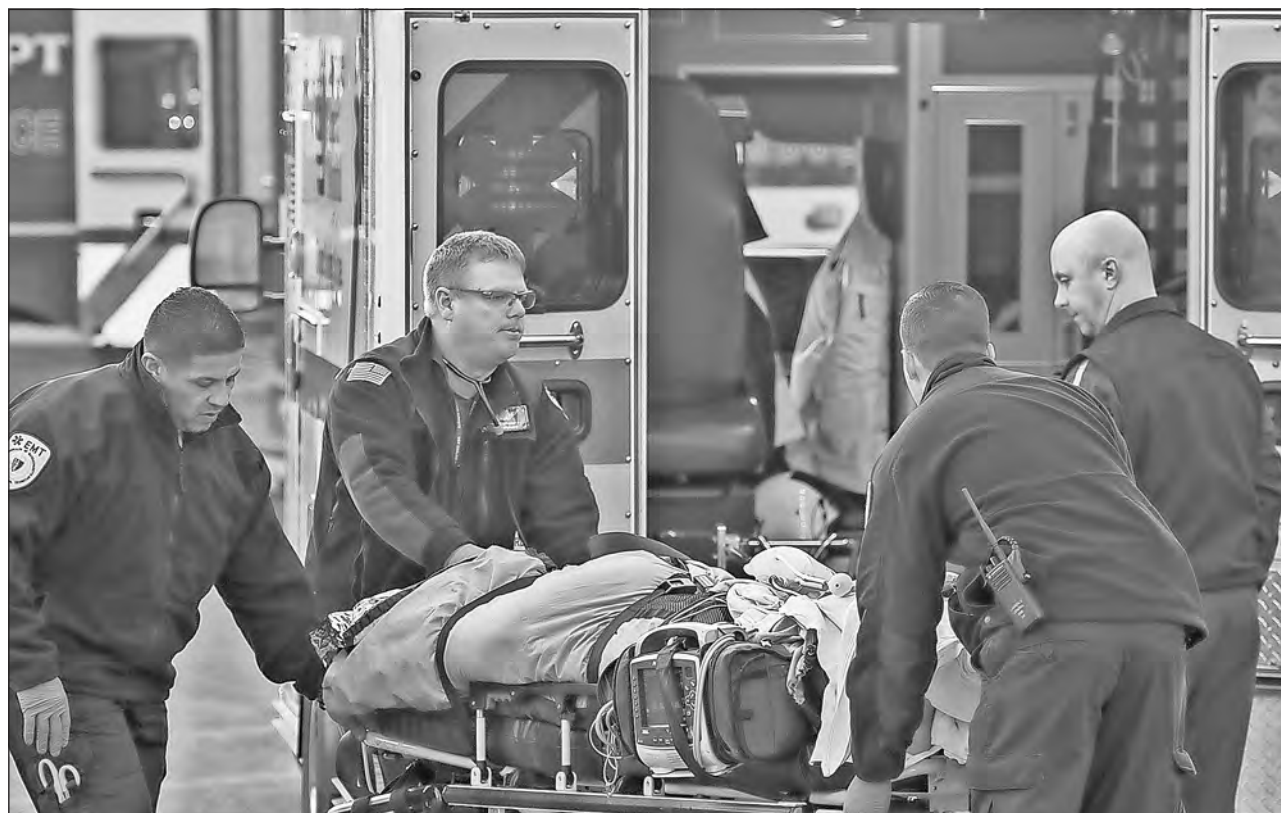
Yes. The amount of regulations and emergency plans in place make sure that if something goes wrong, it can be contained with minimal fallout.

No. If an empty commuter train can derail in Andover like it did last week and cause transit problems, the possibility of flammable materials spilling will cause bigger problems than late trains.

Yes. Every issue has its pros and cons, but being able to move profitable materials in as many ways as possible benefits the economy more than the potential for accidents could hurt the environment.

No. Transporting cargo other than passengers over commuter rails leaves too many opportunities for delays and cancellations that hinder the tracks' original purpose.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



FILE PHOTO

A victim is placed into an ambulance after the chemical explosion last Thursday in North Andover. A coordinated response by multiple emergency workers may have saved lives and certainly showed how the region's first-responders work together in times of crisis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Committee member pulls out of race

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to let the Andover Community know that I will not be seeking a third term as a member of the Andover School Committee. I have long been a believer in term limits. That belief coupled with my need to spend more time focusing on my family has led to my decision not to run for office.

Being a member of the School Committee has been a rewarding and humbling experience. I wish to thank all of you who have supported me over the years and thank the community for their engagement and their support of our schools.

I leave knowing, in my heart, that I have spent my 6 years focused on doing what I believed was best for our schools and our students. The School Committee wrestled with many tough decisions over the past 6 years, but I am very proud of the work we have done and recognize that there is still lots of work ahead. While I feel a bit sad that I won't be part of the work as a sitting member of the committee, I intend to remain involved and am fully confident in our superintendent and his leadership team's ability to navigate the short-term and long-term challenges that we face.

Andover is an amazing community with active, engaged and caring citizens and I often reflect on how proud I am to be part of it. I look forward to seeing continued and increased collaboration among the boards in our town as they work toward a new facilities master plan, a fair, open and inclusive budgeting process, and solutions on big issues like our OPEB liability.

If we continue to recognize each other's individual strengths, working together there is nothing we can't accomplish.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community for the past 6 years.

PAULA CLEMENTS
Chestnut Street, Andover

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-

at hand, and leveraging these facts into creating and implementing a possibility for better answers. Fiscal acumen, measurable results and managerial accountability are what we can expect and receive from Bob. Make a difference in helping to shape Andover's educational future by getting to the polls this year and make a personal difference by casting your vote for Bob Pokress.

JOE PONTI
Marion Avenue

New polling place is not walkable

Editor, Townsman:

We got our Official Town Census for the Town of Andover today. The new polling places for 2016 are listed on the Census. As announced in the Dec. 17 Andover Townsman: "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... The change will cut, by half, congestion at Andover High School, he (Town Clerk Larry Murphy) said. It will relieve traffic in the area and be convenient for East Andover residents, having a polling place closer to home."

I live in Precinct 4 on Lincoln Street less than 0.3 miles from Andover High School. My neighbors and I usually walk to the high school to vote. We are now required to vote at Wood Hill Middle School, 333 High Plain Road, 3.2 miles from our home. This is true for everyone that lives in Precinct 4, many of whom live within 1 mile of AHS.

It appears that the polling places were reassigned without considering the distance from residents' homes and voting locations. How does this relieve traffic when Precinct 4 voters (and possibly others) now have to drive over 10 times as far to vote?

CHARISSA RIGANO
Lincoln Street, Andover

Pokress will bring 'breath of fresh air' to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

I was greatly pleased to see your front-page article in last week's Townsman announcing Bob Pokress's candidacy for School Committee. I have known Bob personally for many years and it is without reservation that I support his run for this vital town office.

Bob's entry into this race brings with it a breath of fresh air. Through numerous letters to the editor in the past he has made his position quite clear, and quite courageously I might add. Bob wants the best education for Andover's children while carrying out a program of both fiscal sanity and accountability.

Having attended several School Committee meetings, the impression I get is that it is essentially a closed agenda, and anyone daring to have a say is looked at as having interrupted the proceedings of the all knowing. The little listening that goes on is from a position of assessment with no openings for fact or possibility. The term hubris comes to mind when I think of a descriptive term for most of the existing committee.

Bob Pokress will actually be applying facts to solve the problems

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

- **Editor Bill Kirk** for 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
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TownsBeat

Intuition leads to the 'other side,' if you are listening

Local psychic makes some startling predictions for the future

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

People need to listen to their intuition. Because the other side is talking to it.

So says Kelle Sutliff of Carter Lane - a regular mom by day, a psychic medium by night.

"We all have the power of intuition," she said during a recent interview with the Andover Townsman. "It is a tool to be used to guide us daily. Its purpose is to protect us from ill will from others."

But Sutliff uses it for much more than that.

She helps solve missing persons cases and makes predictions for the future - all while listening to shining souls.



Kelle Sutliff holds her new book, "Listen Up! The Other Side is Talking."

COURTESY PHOTO

Ordinary life

But family comes first.

She is a married mother of three teenagers with two Corgi dogs who worries about what's for dinner like any other Andover mom. But there is nothing ordinary about her line of work. She is a psychic medium who is often sought on missing persons cases, double homicides and new year predictions while making meatloaf for dinner.

After dinner with husband Tom and her children, Matthew, who attends Hobart College, and daughters Avery and Haley, who both attend Andover High School, she typically steps into her home office to concentrate on listening to the other side.

A 14-year veteran of her trade, she's very grateful for

her spiritual intuitiveness and she said more people should pay attention to their intuitions because important messages are usually looming there.

Sutliff's newest book is "Listen Up! The Other Side is Talking" (\$16.95, Tri Circle Publishing) and is autobiographical as she writes about her psychic medium life and presents evidence on how her readings help to solve missing persons cases. Written in a breezy, first-person style, Sutliff shares stories about her work as a psychic detective, and some of her predictions about coming disasters, including her prediction about the Boston Marathon massacre.

It's her second book and she hopes readers will learn how to improve their own

sense of intuition, as well as learn ways to communicate with loved ones from the other side.

Cold cases

A Michigan native who said her grandmother was psychic, she has also hosted a local radio show about psychic mediums and is currently shopping around for a larger national audience as the interest for her specialty is there, she said. In fact, there is a network television show about a psychic medium from Long Island, N.Y.

Sutliff has worked with the national group Find Me 2 and the Boston University Cold Case Collaborative, which includes FBI agents and psychics.

"Yes, I have solved a few

cases, especially when it comes to finding the poor souls who went missing," she said. "I work for the souls on the other side. It is their energy that is used to help me receive the information so I can give it to the proper authority to investigate a case."

Sutliff said state agencies are overwhelmed with cases these days but money and resources for investigations are limited.

"It's silly not to use a medium ... society needs to trust that a psychic medium is a phenomenal resource for investigations," she said, adding that solving a case is like getting the Academy Award from spirit. "Those souls are shining so bright with thanks ... it's very fulfilling for me."

Some predictions for the future by psychic medium Kelle Sutliff of Andover

Donald Trump is our next president.

Donald Trump pulls in a powerful partner for Vice President ticket to win it. May be Chris Christie or Ben Carson. It works with his business success and someone who has been in the political arena already. It's a great venue of minds.



Congress finally gets along



Congress likes the new edge of players on board in the government and comes together. This ticket crosses the aisle for new changes and leadership in governing for the first time in four years.

Attack on hotel in India.

Watch for a hotel in India with lots of yellow in it ... diplomat conventions take place there, and terrorists will try to attack it.

Terrorists move to outskirts of cities

Big cities are watched and searched well by Homeland Security - insurgent groups know this. Pay attention to outskirts of cities that filter down from them. I am being shown Syracuse, Rochester N.Y., Raleigh, N.C., the Bayou of Louisiana, (ports) and Colorado around ski areas.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker will serve two terms as Governor

This is based on his work with the Opiate Crisis, the MBTA overhaul and making child welfare center state for improvement.

Boston

will have a lot of high-tide influenced storms.



Advancements in cancer research.

There will be research breakthroughs in both breast and prostate cancers, shorter treatments found. Look to the Netherlands and California research companies for breakthrough. As crazy as this sounds, stay clear of under wires in bras. Chemicals in wires affect the breast tissue.

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY MONDAY, JAN. 18

NINTH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St., Andover. The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Howard Mandell, Congregation Beth Israel, Andover; Eric Lindahl and the Choral Majority, Temple Emanuel band, the "Abbas," and the Andover Baptist Unity Choir will perform; there will also be a Unity Luncheon; free and open to the community; 978-475-0166, www.andover-baptist-church.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.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS, 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. 31

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

MERRIMACK VALLEY CAMERA CLUB, based in North Andover and in its 79th year, has 150 members hailing from the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, and Southeastern and Seacoast areas of New Hampshire. Members range from beginners to professionals. The club and its members have been garnering recognition and awards throughout New England and beyond for decades. The club, which meets almost every Wednesday evening, holds frequent hands-on workshops, field trips, photo-related activities, presentations and competitions, most of which are open to the public. Socializing starts at 7 p.m. and the program runs from 7:30 to

See CALENDAR, Page 12

Joyfully remembering MLK

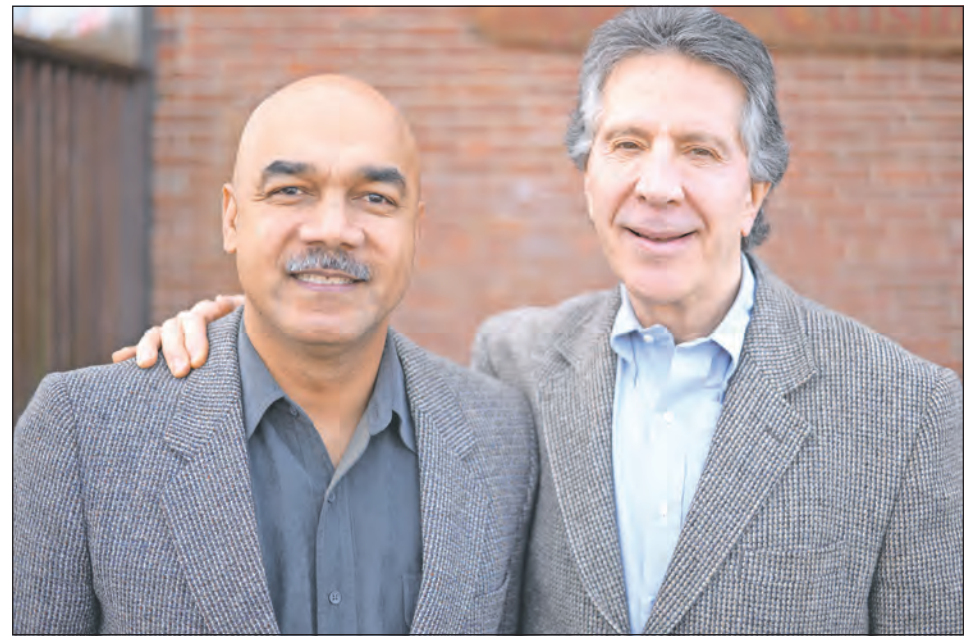
BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Just eight weeks before he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., talked about being a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness in his sermon at a Baptist church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Now, nearly 48 years later, the Andover Baptist Church is remembering that powerful sermon and the man behind it as a church committee has declared that drum major reference as the theme of this year's salute to MLK.

This is the ninth consecutive year for the church's MLK celebration. This three-hour Unity Luncheon event is free and open to worshipers of all spiritual denominations. In fact, two Jewish temples in Andover will be well represented as Rabbi Howard Mandell of Congregation Beth Israel is the keynote speaker and a band from Temple Emanuel will perform.

"I think it's an excellent theme," said church pastor the Rev. Lyndon Meyers. "...our committee wants to remember him and to remind us that he called all



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo.

Rev. Lyndon A. Meyers, left, pastor of the Andover Baptist Church, is ready for the 9th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 18, at his church. He is standing with the event's guest speaker, Rabbi Howard Mandell of Congregation Beth Israel in Andover.

of us to be drum majors." The Rev. Meyers said King is "very special" and a great influence to his congregation as they joyfully host the luncheon every year to celebrate his life.

"...it was after four or five years when I asked the committee if they were tired of doing this. It was then that I realized they want to do it because Martin Luther King is so special

to them. They support this celebration very much," the Rev. Meyers said. "And it's a warm, generous feeling as everyone who comes enjoys the celebration."

This year's keynote speaker said he was honored and privileged to be taking part in the luncheon as he was strongly influenced by King.

"I was a civil rights lawyer when I went to Martin

Luther King's church...I was very influenced by him," said the Rabbi Howard Mandell of Congregation Beth Israel in Andover.

The Unity Luncheon happens Monday, Jan. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Andover Baptist Church, one of Andover's oldest churches, located at 7 Central St. See andover-baptist-church.org for more information.

Town employees donate holiday gift baskets

Town Offices departments shared in the holiday spirit with their donation of gift baskets for home-bound seniors in need.

Staff from HomeCare, Inc., one of the not-for-profit agencies of Home Health Foundation, delivered the cheerful baskets to clients receiving home care support in Greater Lawrence.

"This is a wonderful gift of neighborly kindness. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support for those we serve at this time of year and all year long," said Theresa Petrie, Vice President of HomeCare, Inc.

"Our staff are happy to help others at this time of year by putting together baskets that might bring cheer to others," said Kim Stamas who organizes the basket collection and delivery to HomeCare, Inc. at the Town Offices each year. "Having them delivered by the staff of HomeCare, Inc., who care for so many seniors in the community, is a nice way to combine our efforts to make the season bright."



Staff from HomeCare Inc., of Lawrence, picked up gift baskets put together by town staff just before the Christmas holidays. Pictured, from left, are Laurie Ouellette of HomeCare Inc., Jenn Lawlor, Kim Stamas, Jessica Downing, Sophie Stahley, Janice Coppolino and Kathy Bowler, also of HCL. The baskets were delivered to those homebound in Greater Lawrence.

COURTESY

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKilliget

Andover Historical Society

100 Years Ago
January 14, 1916

Tyler's Famous Divinity Fudge is now on sale at Mrs. Dalton's store. Do not fail to try it.

Miss Philana McLean of Abbot Academy, in charge of Draper Hall, met with a serious accident Tuesday when she fell on an icy spot the corner of School and Abbot streets, and broke her ankle. Miss McLean was on her way to the railroad station at the time. She is confined to the Antoinette Hall Taylor Infirmary.

A man named Augustus Dyer, aged 78, was found in an old shack at carter's

Corner in a most pitiable condition. When found he had apparently fallen asleep. He was found Dec. 19, and from his own story had been without food or drink for more than three days. He was removed to the Lawrence General Hospital and given every possible aid, but he succumbed Sunday morning. He claimed to have been working in Reading and was walking to South Lawrence where he claimed to live on South Broadway.

75 Years Ago
January 16, 1941

An Editorial noted: "We saw quite the funniest letter the other day. It was official, signed by the secretary of Public Works—and maybe the fact that it came from an official

board made it seem all the more absurd...the North Main street hill, no matter how icy, will not be sanded until the Shawsheen Dairy truck tries it out. The letter advised the Dairy to put chains on its trailers that come up this particular hill. Then it went on: "It was also voted to notify you that if it is impossible for your trucks to make this hill with chains, the street will be sanded, but if the trucks cannot get up the hill because of the lack of chains and they block traffic, the Registry of Motor Vehicles will be notified to that effect. If it is impossible for your trucks to make this hill with chains, the street will be sanded!" So we're warning you motorists now: If you come along on an icy night and get into

an accident on icy North Main street hill, it will be your own fault. You should have known that the B.P.W. will not sand that road until the Dairy tries it out!"

50 Years Ago
January 13, 1966

A double-barreled proposal for the dredging and enlarging of Pomp's Pond as a recreation and flood control project and the beautification of the centrally located Town Hall block was presented to the Board of Selectmen Tuesday by member Paul W. Cronin. In a lengthy statement, Cronin noted that in the past three years he has seen two "seemingly unrelated accomplishments which have a great potential for making Andover a more beautiful and also

more enjoyable place in which to live." He referred to the purchase of the Manning property adjacent to the pond bathing beach and the more recent move to acquire the Shorten garage property at the rear of the Town Hall block.

From a usually reliable source it was learned this week that the Town of Andover may finish the year with the largest fiscal surplus in its history. The figure mentioned was something approximating \$1 million.

25 Years Ago
January 17, 1991

Students may be doling out the green stuff to ride the yellow buses to school next year. Members of the School Committee hope proposed riders' fees ranging from \$50 to \$100 will

make at least \$150,000 for the schools' budget next year.

Traffic on Lowell Street backed up Wednesday morning, from Interstate 93 to West Parish Church in one direction and well beyond Barron's Country Store in the other. The commuter's headache was due to increased security at Raytheon Co, because of the Persian Gulf crisis.

The storm that dumped a foot of snow on Andover last weekend did what is generally thought to be impossible—it stopped the mail. The Andover post office did deliver or collect mail Saturday because of the storm and by Sunday night the mail box in front of the post office on Stevens Street was overflowing with letters.

Please recycle this newspaper.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Women (French)
- Hyrax
- Distress signal
- Trade
- Large northern deer
- The 3 Wise Men
- Marten of N Asian forests
- Hoover's agency
- Received an A
- 2nd Islamic month
- Light brown
- Clarified butter used in Indian cookery
- Frankness
- Argentina's capital
- Citizen of Kenya or Zimbabwe
- Noah's boat

CLUES DOWN

- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- Netherlands river
- Italian island
- One's own being
- More adroit
- Balkan country
- Psychologist B.F.
- Investment group Goldman
- Double curve
- The plane of a figure
- Ocean
- Public presses
- Civil Rights activist Parks
- Cooking container
- Arctic native
- Founder of Babism
- Bashkortostan capital
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle
- Louse egg

Solution in Classified Section

- Family of languages in So. Africa
- Inappropriate
- Scientific workplace
- Hungeriness
- Say to talk about an annoying topic
- Sing and play for somebody
- Strike buster
- A citizen of Thailand
- Civil Rights group
- Honest Company's Jessica
- "...death do us part"
- Malarias
- Claim against another's property
- Mined metal-bearing mineral
- Dashery
- Capacity unit
- Primary color
- Indian dress

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 offerings in store for the campus at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover:

Exercise and Wellness
Self Defense for Women: Thursday, Jan. 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Defend Yourself Against The Aggressor (D.Y.A.T.A.) level II session will be open to beginners as well as previous participants. The session will begin with a refresher of level I before the next session gets underway. This class will focus on Pressure Points, Principle of Center, Defense from Dynamic/Static Attacks and Response to Edged Weapons; \$22.

Community Drum Circle with members of Genki Spark: Thursday, Jan. 28, 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Drum in the New Year with West African, Japanese, recreational drums and a variety of percussion instruments. The evening will include background on the drums, instruction and explanation of the health benefits of group drumming. All equipment will be provided or participants can bring their own instruments. Prior drumming experience is not necessary; \$7.

Meditative relaxation and self-care: Thursdays, Jan. 14 and 21, 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Learn loving kindness meditation, autogenic training, progressive relaxation and emotional freedom techniques in a relaxed group format. Dr. Ruth Naylor, AT, CBH will lead the meditation sessions; \$10.

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 Uii 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. 18, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Combine weight training and cardio-fitness while dancing; Nancy Ryan is the instructor; \$49.50.

Serenity Yoga: Thursdays through Feb. 18, 7:15 to 8:30 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. 18, 6 to 7 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. The Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 978-623-8321 for information or visit www.andoverseniorcenter.org for complete listings. Registration can now be completed online as well.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

9 p.m. See the calendar of events, directions, membership, competition information and more at www.mycameraclub.org.

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; tcnmanager@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, 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. (Shawsheen 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 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.

SEN. BARBARA L'ITALIEN'S OFFICE HOURS, fourth Monday of each month, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Andover Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St. Residents are also welcome to contact the senator's office at 617-722-1612; Sen. L'Italian represents Andover, Lawrence, Tewksbury and Dracut.

To submit an item for the entertainment calendar, email townsman@andvertownsman.com.

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

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

made while healthy and clear thinking because it is as important a decision as one can make in a lifetime.

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

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

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Townspeople

Keeping an eye on students at a crossroad

A busy street in the midst of a busy campus

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsm.com

With busy Route 28 splitting one side of the campus from the other, Phillips Academy students sometimes take their lives in their own hands when they cross the state highway.

With their ears often covered with speakers or earbuds and their eyes looking down, trained on their mobile devices, it's probably a good thing they have a guardian angel on their side.

Frank Sapienza of Methuen was recently given an award from AAA as a "traffic safety hero" for his work during the daily commute - also busiest pedestrian hours at the preparatory high school - standing at the crosswalk at Salem Street, adjacent to busy South Main Street.

As he has done the past 8 years, Sapienza has been known to holler at students as well as cars for not stopping.

Safety matters to this crossing guard, who was recognized for being a traffic safety hero by the AAA Northeast Community Traffic Safety Award program. An awards dinner was held at the Burlington Marriott on Dec. 15.

Retired from the composing room after 44 years at The Eagle-Tribune, the now 71-year-old, who lives in Methuen with his wife and Corgi dog, has been at the same crosswalk on Salem Street for nearly 8 years. Sapienza works a 7:30 to 9 a.m. shift four days a week.

"I just really like my job," he said. "My boss is great, the kids are great ... it's a

good environment."

Sapienza knows about the special blinking traffic lights on nearby South Main Street crosswalks, installed after a student was hit by a car a few years ago. Students have to cross the busy road often as Rte. 28 slices the campus in half.

Sapienza's crosswalk can also be busy as he said cars sometimes simply ignore him and do not stop for students waiting to cross the street.

"There have been cars that just won't stop," he said. "The drivers are in a big hurry."

With a dining hall, the Bulfinch building for English classes and the admissions office near his crosswalk, it can get busy. Classes start at 8 a.m. and students are often hustling so they won't be late. It gets busy but Sapienza works hard to keep the students safe.

Sapienza was one of more than 300 people in the public safety business who responded to a request from AAA to share their stories about the importance of their job. When his story was selected as the winner, he smiled thinking about the \$16-an-hour crossing guard job advertisement in a Sunday Eagle-Tribune that caught his eye and brought him to Phillips Academy in April 2008.

It's also a step back in time for Sapienza as his education in traffic safety began in 1953. From 1953 to 1955, Sapienza was a member of the AAA School Safety Patrol at Leonard Middle School in Lawrence. Now, 60 years later, he still has a pair of merit awards given to him for his service.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Crossing guard Frank Sapienza stops traffic as the Phillips Academy students walk across Salem Street in Andover.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Crossing guard Frank Sapienza stops traffic as Phillips Academy students walk across his Salem Street crosswalk.

A one-time resident of Juliette Street in Andover's Shawsheen neighborhood, he lived in North Andover for 25 years before moving to his Methuen condominium a few years ago. He is a longtime

Lions Club member and also has a home in Hampton, N.H. That's where he keeps his treasured 200-piece unique China set that features only pieces from Hampton. His 400 Hampton post card

collection sits in numerous folders nearby.

The year 2015 marked the 95th anniversary of the AAA School Safety Patrol, which started in 1920 in Illinois. The group now has 635,000

students nationwide participating in this signature AAA safety education program, which helps students get safely in and out of school.

St. Augustine's pastor honored

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsm.com

Local church pastor Peter Gori has a lengthy to-do list as his beloved church in Andover turns 150 years old in 2017.



Father Peter Gori

And a local community civic group is making sure he is recognized for his tireless commitment to all the behind-the-scenes work that he does.

Every January, the Andover Knights of Columbus Council 1078 hold a

Winter Warm-up Dinner Dance to help raise money in support of their many charitable activities and honor a local leader or program. This year, the group will honor Gori.

Known as Father Peter, he was raised in Reading and was the youngest of four children. He has said he became interested in the Augustinian religious life while attending Austin Preparatory High School. He graduated from Villanova University in 1975 and took his final vows as an Augustinian Friar in 1977.

He was ordained a priest in 1979 by the late Cardinal Humberto Medeiros at Merrimack College. His first assignment was in Queens, N.Y. (1978-1983).

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Andover Knights of Columbus Council 1078 Winter Warm-up Dinner Dance
HONORS: Father Peter Gori, pastor at St. Augustine Church on Essex Street since 2009
WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 30, cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Andover Country Club
COST: \$50 per person; tickets available at the St. Augustine Parish Center (978-475-0050) or by contacting Jim Hauer via his email at jim.hauer4@gmail.com

His initial vision was to be a high school teacher, but he was identified by the Augustinian Order to further his education in Rome, Italy. He studied canonical law - laws and regulations made by the Roman Catholic Church - for four and a half years and received his

doctorate degree in canon law.

His first local assignment was at St. Augustine Parish in Andover as a Parochial Vicar for five years beginning in 1988. Father Peter returned to St. Augustine Parish as pastor in 2009.

In addition, he has been

serving on the Boston Archdiocese Marriage Tribunal for over 25 years. Father Peter is currently Trustee/Director for Holy Family Hospital (Steward Health Care System) and Trustee of Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

He is also on the Board of Directors for Lazarus House Ministries, D'Youville Life and Wellness Community and Mary-Immaculate Health/Care Services. He is also a past chaplain of the Andover Knights of Columbus Council 1078.

"He has worked tirelessly toward retiring the new Parish Center mortgage and building the new Doherty Memorial gymnasium at St. Augustine School, which has over 450

enrolled students," Richard Paskowsky of Andover and a member of Andover 1078 Knights of Columbus, wrote in a press release.

Father Gori's to-do list includes overseeing several major projects this year. Those include the St. Augustine School Pre-Kindergarten program which will be relocated to a restored home next to the main school building; and a church building and grounds improvement with plans to update the organ, improve the handicap ramp, paint the interior and assure the preservation of the stained glass windows.

This planning is underway for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Augustine Parish in 2017.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover, has lots of activities and programs on tap.

Here are some of the highlights:

Model Building: Wednesdays, through Feb. 10, 9 to 11 a.m. Make plastic or balsa model planes, trucks, tanks, ships, and cars. Get together and pass some of those winter hours with fellow model-builders. Bring a model and the supplies. Facilitated by Dave Cook, longtime model building enthusiast; \$6.

The Healthy Brain: Thursdays, Jan. 14 and 21, 1:30 p.m. Topics will include understanding how the brain works, assessing memory skills, adopting a brain-healthy lifestyle and ways to exercise the mind. Learn how

advances in science have changed the way the aging process is viewed; \$6.

Memory Café: Thursday, Jan. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. Offers a welcoming place for people living with memory changes due to Alzheimer's, vascular disease, Parkinson's, dementia, or any other related conditions, as well as their friends and care-givers.

Friday Speaker Series: Mr. Olympia: Friday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m. By day, Andover native Dr. Fred Arrigg Jr. specializes in restoring patients' hearing and treating their dizziness problems. By night, Arrigg trades his medical coat for a high intensity workout that propelled the 62-year-old, Lawrence-based ear doctor to a win at the "Mr. Olympia" competition; \$4 includes breakfast.

★ VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK ★

Retired teacher still dedicated to students

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
gcruz@andovertownsm.com

For one local retiree, just because the career has ended doesn't mean the work has to.

Sally Reyer is a retired Londonderry Public Schools fourth grade teacher who, even in retirement, is helping children learn. Reyer lives in Andover and volunteers at West Elementary School every Tuesday, working with some of the school's more than 30 English as a Second Language students.

"She's a thoughtful, reliable, and dedicated teacher always pushing the students to learn more and be their best," said Nicole Hayes,

an ESL teacher at West Elementary.

With 38 years of teaching under her belt and four years of volunteer work with West Elementary students, she is able to help students receive additional hours of support to improve their reading and writing skills.

"Our students adore Sally and as a retired teacher, she's been a wonderful mentor to the teachers as well," Hayes said. "She's just terrific."

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Sally Reyer reads with, from left, ESL students Junyi Ye, Ved Patel and Ephraim Maina at West Elementary School.

Andover residents embrace abused Maine brothers

Local attorney sets up trust fund for two boys beaten by mother's boyfriend

By TERRY DATE

tdate@andovertownsmen.com

In mid-December, Andover mom and trust fund lawyer Sara Wells drove to Lisbon, Maine to meet Strider, 6, and Gallagher, 4, two brothers familiar with chaos but gaining stability with help from afar.

Four years earlier, almost to the day, Strider Wolf, then 2, was beaten so severely by his mother's boyfriend at their mobile home in Albany, N.H., that it left a hole in the child's stomach and three surgeries to repair torn intestines.

The Nov. 8 narrative in a Boston daily newspaper about Strider's injuries and the lingering poverty and uncertainty that he and his brother Gallagher have endured resonated so profoundly with readers and generated so many offers to help them that the paper sought Wells' help setting up a fund for the boys.

The past four years the boys' paternal grandparents, Lanette and Larry Grant, have cared for the brothers, struggling to keep the boys housed, fed and clothed.

Wells, herself the mom of five young children, thinks the boys' plight and Strider's injuries strike an especially vibrant chord with parents in Andover.

"I look at my two-and-a-half year old, and it is heartbreaking to imagine a child going through that at that age," she said.

GoFundMe account

Many other local parents feel the same, and have come to the brothers' aid - joining a growing flood of cash and gifts that are making the lives of the boys, and their caretakers, a little easier.

Wells, of the firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, has been drafting trusts since 2002. She has written, pro bono, a trust that ensures that cash donations benefit the kids, The Strider Wolf and Gallagher Irrevocable Trust.



COURTESY

Sara Wells of Andover stands with Strider Wolf outside his home in Maine during a visit on Dec. 15. Wells and other Andover families have been helping Strider and his brother since reading about Strider's near fatal beating and the subsequent upheaval in their lives.

A GoFundMe account was set up, which places the donations into the trust fund.

By Christmas the GoFundMe account had raised more than \$12,000, and the trust had received cash donations from more than 100 different people.

Wells, connected to local parents through her children's activities and her work with the Bancroft PTO, said more than 10 percent of the cash donations and many of the material donations have come from Andover people.

Also, numerous care packages including toys, clothes, blankets and gift cards have arrived to Wells' house for delivery to the family home in Lisbon.

In addition, Lanette Grant said the family has received

two to five packages a day through the mail, lots of the help from Andover.

AndoverMums on Facebook

The grandparents, the boys' guardians, have been caring for them since January 2012, including a spell during which the four of them were homeless.

"For Larry and I, to see the generosity, love and caring down there ...," she said in a phone interview. "Larry and I can't comprehend."

For the first time, the boys have new stuff, and the brothers are as proud as peacocks.

"They actually have clothes that were not worn by somebody else," their grandmother said.

Liz Mills of Andover has

visited the boys twice since seeing a posting about Strider and Gallagher on the Andover Mums Facebook page.

"It really touched me because I have a three year-old," she said.

She brought the children blankets, pillows and toys, and gave the family a gift certificate to IHOP.

Children helping

Mills said Strider is very smart and perceptive, and listens closely to everything, so much so that it is impossible to have an adult conversation if the child is within earshot.

Gallagher is having a hard time, emotionally, and may have some sensory problems, Mills said.

After the Andover mom got

HOW TO HELP

To send monetary donations:
Strider Wolf & Gallagher Irrevocable Trust
c/o Sara Wells, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP
One Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
To send physical items (clothes, toys, etc):
The Grants
PO Box 493
Lisbon, Maine 04250

For updates on the family visit the Strider Wolf and Gallagher Supporters Facebook page.

home, and put her daughter to bed, she watched a video about the brothers and started sobbing.

Patty Pirone-Rice of Andover, who posted the boys' story on Andover Mums, couldn't stop crying after reading their story. She has sent them footed pajamas and winter hats and gloves and furry socks.

"Just reading about them it takes you back to your own kids," said Rice.

Andover children have joined the help brigade, as well.

Wells said Andover mom Ellen Alden and her daughter have been shopping for the boys.

And Wells' daughter Amelia wrote a letter and drew a picture and sent them along with books, including a few by Dr. Seuss, to Strider and Gallagher.

Requests for help

The way the trust works is the grandparents request items to help with the children's care and Wells then decides whether to approve the request.

So far the Grants have requested very little.

The one big request was \$1,500 to buy and repair a blue minivan. The family had no transportation after their vehicle was deemed beyond repair.

The trust has paid the \$9 per day fee for Strider to join after-school activities, recreation and arts and crafts. He has long wished to be part of

the extra-curricular fun but the family had been unable to afford the fee.

The only other trust funded items have been a home desk for the kids and the family's heating costs in December, Wells said.

Now three years to the month after internal injuries to Strider, he and his little brother are learning that security — a warm place to live, nice clothing, food — can arrive unexpectedly and from afar.

Lanette Grant said she and her husband have begun adoption proceedings.

'I live here'

In 2013, the former stepfather, Justin Roy, was found guilty of 10 counts related to the case and sentenced to 55 years in prison.

In the aftermath of the nearly fatal beating, Strider spent 23 days in the hospital.

The boys' grandmother says the boys do not want to have anything to do with their mother and want to remain with the Grants.

Last month when Wells drove the two-plus hours to visit Strider and his little brother at their paternal grandparents' apartment in Lisbon, she wondered what she would find.

The first thing she found was a perky Strider, arriving home from school and not wondering about the stranger in the driveway.

"He said, 'Hi, I'm Strider. I live here,'" Wells said.

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Sports

“A star? People keep saying that it’s his turn. The kid’s been shining for three years now. People just don’t know it because he’s all about the little things.”

David Fazio, coach

TIME TO SHINE



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover student fans cheer on the team against Central Catholic. Their support helped spur the Warriors to a 62-55 win.

Unsung hero O’Connell delivers star-making plays

By HECTOR LONGO
Staff Writer

Packed house of over 1,000. Tight, intra-division collision with hated rival Central Catholic.

Shot clock running down, ball sails out to Ryan O’Connell at the arc.

Whap! Three points, ballgame ... Andover KO’s the Christmas tourney champs, 62-55 on Friday, to remain perfect in the MVC.

A star is born. “Look, I don’t care about the newspaper and the publicity. They don’t matter to me,” the Andover High senior flatly states.

Too bad, big guy. Make

shots like that, in games like this, and it comes with the territory.

“A star? People keep saying that it’s his turn. The kid’s been shining for three years now. People just don’t know it because he’s all about the little things,” said a slightly more animated David Fazio, his coach.

O’Connell, a league all-star last year is considered the glue around the Warrior program, has been for years. The only issue was that he’s toiled mainly in anonymity, behind Connor Merinder, David Giribaldi and E.J. Perry IV.

“He’s been right there in all the battles. People forget he’s been in there with us



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover’s Ryan O’Connell, left, always draws the tough defensive assignment. Here he tangles with the dangerous Steven Hajar during a huge performance as O’Connell led the Golden Warriors to a victory over rival Central Catholic last week.

every step of the way,” said Fazio. “He’s been in there at the Tsongas Center, been in there at Central, played in that double-overtime playoff game with Lawrence last year.

“He had six offensive rebounds in that one. We don’t win that without him.”

The mild-mannered O’Connell, after a bit of a slow start, was back at his pesky best Friday, sticking his nose where it never belongs, mixing it up with Central’s giant front line and

keeping his team together in crunch time -- hence the term glue.

“It’s senior year, and you start to realize some things. This is probably our last chance to play Central here,” said O’Connell. “These are some special nights.”

Indeed, the place was jammed and this joint was alive, making for a wild night on the hardwood.

“Faz always talks about me doing all the little things,” said O’Connell. “In big games, I like to do some big

things too.”

Easier said than done. Sure, it takes guts to take the big shot. It takes courage to make them when they matter most, like O’Connell did here last night.

“You have to feel great for the kid, especially after the start he had,” said Fazio. “I think early in the year he was trying a little to hard to score. He doesn’t need to. He’d start for any coach in this league, just giving them the things he does all the time.”

Tell all your folks in the

media, though, O’Connell is willing -- for the team -- to accept the accolades around him, even if it means some coverage in the newspaper.

“I guess I’m ready to take it if it happens,” he said.

Believe me, people notice O’Connell. A superb student with a combined 2,090 on his SAT’s, O’Connell hopes to play next year at one of five schools -- Babson, Bentley, Trinity, Hobart or St. Anselm.

Until then, he’ll continue to

See STAR, Page 17

► Local Sports Roundup

Boys track shines at Division 1 relays

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@eagletribune.com

BOYS TRACK

Andover scored three victories, including once again dominating in the hurdles, to place second at the MSTCA Division 1 Relays at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston on Saturday.

The Warriors finished with 36 points, just behind St. John’s of Shrewsbury’s 38.

Behind star Justin Mantrana, the Andover boys 4x50-yard shuttle hurdles relay flew to victory in 28.23. Mantrana was a member of the 4x55 meter relay that won the title at New Balance Nationals last winter. He was joined on Saturday by Owen Mosher, Alec Pascoe and Graham Scott.

The Warrior trio of Ray Gorzela, Jeremy Travaglini and Andrew Lucia teamed with Jeremy Chan to win the 4x200 (1:32.30) and with Ben Reilly to take the 4x400 (3:28.98).

... Nick Backsai won the 1,000 (2:48.68) and Rob Pineault took the mile (4:47.48) as Andover beat North Andover 55-40 and Haverhill 67-28 in a tri-meet on Friday. Jeremy Chan took the 55 meter. Andrew Lucia won the 300 and Rory Cochrane took the shot put for the winners.

GIRLS TRACK

Kobelski takes two
Lizzie Kobelski won the 55-meter hurdles (9.21) and the long jump (15-8) to help Andover best North Andover 59-36 and Haverhill 70-25 in a tri-meet on Friday. Audrey Adam won the 55 dash. Hannah Lansberry won the 300 and Miranda Lawrence was second in the 55 hurdles and third in the long jump.

... The Andover girls took fourth as a team (34 points) at the MSTCA Division 1 Relays on Saturday. Newton North took the title (58 points).

The Andover girls earned

one gold, winning the long jump relay with a 46-7.5. The Warriors also scored a second in the 4x50 shuttle hurdles (30.62) while the 1,600 sprint medley and high jump were third.

BOYS HOCKEY

Laramie dominates

Zach Laramie made 14 saves for his second straight shutout as Andover blanked Billerica 2-0 last Wednesday. Caeden Dillman had a goal and an assist and Michael Reilly potted the other goal for the winners.

GYMNASTICS

Tarbox leads the way

Audrey Tarbox won the beam and was second in the floor and all-around as Andover beat Tewksbury 131-127 last Thursday. Madison Gill won the bars and was second in the vault, won by Warriors teammate Joe Aronov.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Curtin nets two

Behind two goals for Caroline Curtin, Andover broke through with a 5-1 victory over Central Catholic on Saturday. Hannah Littlewood, Allison Wright and Krystal Brighton each scored single goals for the winners, and goalie Sean D’Urso made 10 saves.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Beasley keeps scoring

Devon Beasley continued to surge with 24 points as Andover cruised past Haverhill 66-32 last Tuesday. E.J. Perry IV added 11 points for the winners.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Webber’s efforts for naught

Jillian Webber scored 31 points, her second game over 30 points on the season, but Andover was shocked by Haverhill 52-50 last Tuesday.



FILE PHOTO

Andover’s Jillian Webber blocks a shot during the Division 1 State semifinal basketball game at the TD Garden in Boston last year. Webber is again making an impact this season, scoring more than 30 points in two games so far this season.

Taylor Landry added eight points for the Warriors.

... Andover fell to red-hot archrival Central Catholic 53-43 on Friday.

WRESTLING

Heidtke in control

Payton Heidtke (heavyweight), Kelly Howard (220), Pat Fragala (195) and Matt Stamos (185) all scored victories as Andover tied North Andover 39-39 last

Wednesday. Pat Meagher (152) and Jake Ruthazer (160) also had wins for the Warriors.

... Pat Meagher and Matt Stamos each earned two victories by Andover lost to Tewksbury (42-36), Triton (48-19) and Methuen (66-0) on Saturday. Payton Heidtke took a team-high three victories and Matt Donahue picked up a win for the Warriors.

Andover Hall of Fame to induct 16 on April 8

MICHAEL MULDOON
mmuldoon@eagletribune.com

The Andover-Punchard Hall of Fame will be inducting a star-studded class of 16 athletes/coaches/administrators on April 8 at Andover Country Club.

This is believed to be just the second Hall of Fame class the school has inducted since 1995. The other was in 2006.

Tickets to the event are \$55 and will be available after February 1 by contacting the athletic office at 978-623-8670.

Here are thumbnails on the inductees based on information supplied by the Hall of Fame committee and Eagle-Tribune records:

CONNIE BROWN JEFFERY (Class of 2003): Ranks on the short list of greatest swimmers in state history. Three-time Eagle-Tribune MVP. Eagle-Tribune Athlete of the Year. Nine-time All-American at University of Texas.

SALLY BROWN (Class of 2002): First MIAA swimmer to break five minutes in the 500-yard freestyle. Eagle-Tribune MVP as a senior. Swam for 2003 national champion Auburn. Transferred to Arizona State where she was among the team’s top five swimmers in four events her senior year.

BARRY CONNORS SR. (Class of 1963): At 6-3, 230, was a giant lineman for his era who dominated on both sides of

the line. Also a top basketball player who scored 351 points as a senior. Starred at small-school football power Parsons College and got pro tryouts with the Cleveland Browns and Buffalo Bills.

BUDDY FARNHAM (Class of 2006): A brilliant wide receiver, he was a three-time Eagle-Tribune All-Star who won the Bulger Lowe as New England MVP at Brown. He twice was on the practice squad with the New England Patriots. Farnham also starred in lacrosse with a scholarship offer from national power Virginia.

MARILYN FITZGERALD (Coach): Arguably the most successful coach in any sport

in area history. Built the perennial state champion Andover swimming dynasty which has sent swimmers to Texas, USC, Wisconsin, Auburn, Arizona State, Harvard and Virginia. The Eagle-Tribune Swim Coach of the Year was named in her honor. Being inducted along with her granddaughters Connie and Sally Brown.

RACHEL FOX (Class of 2007): Lacrosse great helped Northwestern to two national titles. Eagle-Tribune MVP in indoor track and lacrosse as a senior. Two-time area scoring leader with 256 goals, 125 assists in her career. Four-time indoor track Eagle-Tribune All-Star placed fourth as

a senior in 600 at New England.

JIM HURLEY (Administrator): Andover High grad was a longtime middle school teacher-coach. Was athletic director from 1987-03. Twice in his tenure Andover won the Boston Globe’s Dalton Award as the most successful athletic program (boys and girls) in its division in Eastern Mass.

LAURENE LAZZARETTI RICHARDS (Class of 1984): Boston Globe Swimmer of the Year. Eagle-Tribune Athlete of the Year. All-American at Southern Methodist in 1985 and 1986.

MIKE MARINARO (Class of 1988): Eagle-Tribune All-Star in basketball and football. One of the great



New Andover Hall of Famer Rachel Fox was Eagle-Tribune MVP in indoor track and lacrosse in 2007.

linemen in area history. Starred for Jack Bicknell and Tom Coughlin at Boston College. Second-team

See HALL, Page 17



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover big man Max Beati drives to the hoop and scores against Central Catholic during the Warriors' huge 62-55 win on Friday.

STAR

Continued from Page 16

be that guy. "He'll just be a Warrior, and that's more than enough for me," said Fazio.

Beasley comes up big

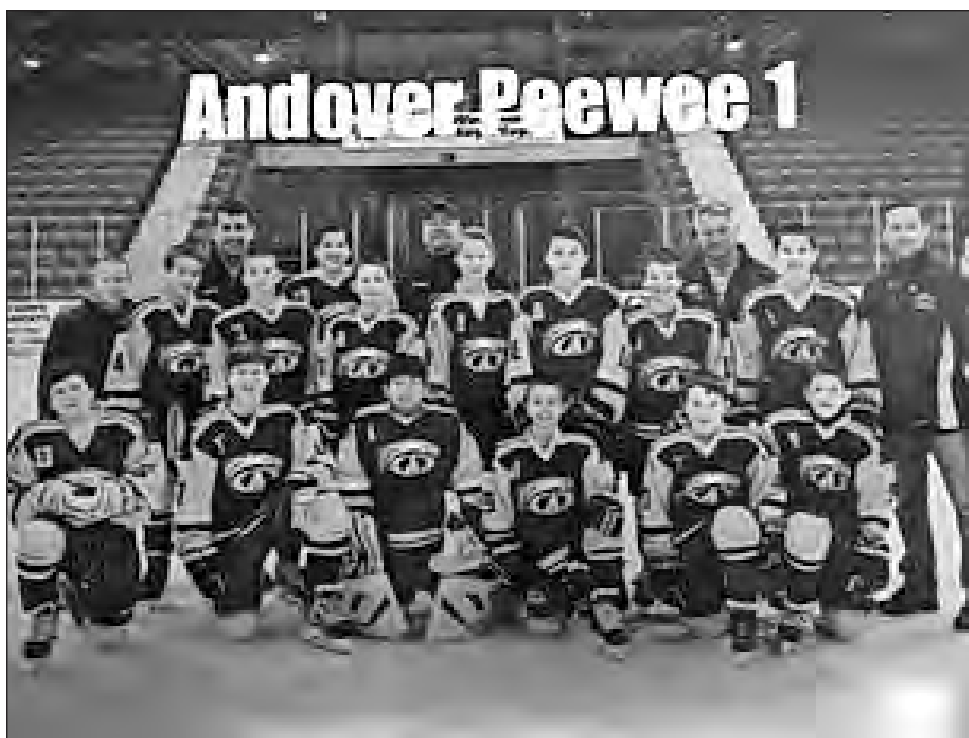
You had to love the way Andover spread the offense around in the Central victory on Friday, as Devon Beasley netted a team-high 19 points. E.J. Perry IV chipped in 13 points, Ryan O'Connell had 11 and Brandon Witten tossed in 9. By

the way, in the quiet but deadly category, the selfless EJ4 pulled in 11 defensive boards and dished out six assists.

Beasley simply refused to let Central get anything going in the form of a rally in the second half.

Up 34-31 early in the third, Beasley drained a 3 to double the advantage at six. Later in the quarter, Raider George Grillakis got the steal and coast to coast layup, cutting it to 42-37, but Beasley again hit the jets and answered with a jumper of his own.

Champions



Andover's Pee Wee 1 team won the "American Cup" hockey tournament held Dec. 10-13. The team went 4-0 for the weekend playing teams from New York and Vermont. All games were played on the rink in Lake Placid, N.Y., where the U.S. Men's Olympic Hockey Team won the gold medal in 1980. Kneeling (left to right): John Bowab, Nick Saunders, J.J. Quill, Benji Miragliotta, Kevin DeMichaelis, Josh D'Addario. Standing (left to right): P.J. Reming, Nate Byers, Coach Jim Rigazio, Conan Keefe, Anthony Teberio, Matt Shea, Coach George Flaherty, Alex Landry, Leo Flaherty, Mikey Diconzo, Coach Mike Diconzo, Ryan Rigazio, Coach Kevin DeMichaelis.

K of C hosts free-throw contest

STAFF REPORT

The annual Free Throw contest for local boys and girls ages 9 to 14 is Saturday, Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Knights of Columbus gym located at 10 Brook St.

It is a free event.

The Knights of Columbus host this annual Free Throw Championship and the local winners progress through local, district and state competition.

All participants are eligible to compete in their respective age divisions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to

furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms or additional information contact David Tagliaferri at 978-886-7758.

HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page 16

All-Big East defensive lineman who won the Scanlan Award, BC's football's most prestigious honor.

ASHLEY McLAUGHLIN POHLMAN (Class of 2004): Scored 1,150 points at Andover. Eagle-Tribune MVP in volleyball and basketball as a senior. Went on to captain Holy Cross basketball and help lead the Crusaders into NCAA tourney.

JENNY MULLER (Class of 2003): Scored 1,496 points and is the only area girls basketball player named Eagle-Tribune MVP three times. Also a two-time Eagle-Tribune All-Star in soccer. Starred in

both sports at Tufts then Amherst.

JOHN PERRY (Class of 1988): A rare three-sport Eagle-Tribune All-Star (football, basketball, track). One of only a handful of athletes in a nearly 20-year span named EMass. All-Scholastic in football and basketball. Caught 117 passes at Andover and 191 at UNH. Also played some basketball at UNH. Now a coach with NFL's Houston Texans.

JIM TILDSLEY (Coach): Took over a strong program in 1995 and made it into a superpower. Had an 18-year record of 378-60 at Andover, including eight North titles, seven EMass. titles and four Division 1 state titles.

BRIAN TISBERT (Class of 1997): Eagle-Tribune baseball MVP went on to star at Rollins and UConn. Moynihan Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Eagle-Tribune All-Star quarterback and kicker called "one of the best I ever coached" by legendary coach Dick Collins.

LISA TISBERT RODGER (Class of 2001): Won 2001 Bishop Award as Eagle-Tribune's top female three-sport athlete. Eagle-Tribune All-Star in soccer, basketball and softball. Starred in soccer and softball at Bentley, where she was Outstanding Female Athlete as a senior. Brother is fellow inductee Brian Tisbert.

CHRIS VETRANO (Class of 2004): Just 5-9, Vetrano

hit the ground running and was one of the area's best from the first game of his freshman year. Four-time Eagle-Tribune Super Teamer and the only three-time Eagle-Tribune MVP in boys basketball history. His 2,090 points are a school and area record. He later was a starter at UNH and St. Anselm's.

SWIMMING TEAMS (1999-2005): Dominated the state swim scene with top talents like the Connie and Sally Brown, Elizabeth Mancuso, Caitlin Doherty, Jen Busby, Caroline Crocker, Beth Couture, Holly Boucher, Erica Douvadjian, Caitlin Geary, Diana Harlow, Holly Hinds, Amy Caron and Candice Peak.

SEND US YOUR TOWN SPORTS NEWS

The Townsman wants to spotlight the triumphs, and tragedies, of Andover's local sports teams and athletes.

We're asking coaches, players, parents and fans to send us photos as well as highlights from all the week's sporting games and events. Items can range from a shout-out for a top player or team, a spectacular play or sports milestone or even some candid shots from a game or practice.

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

Send your photos, highlights and story ideas to townsmen@andovertownsmen.com or call 978-475-7000, ext. 8733. We look forward to hearing from you.



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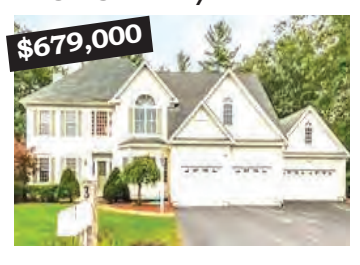
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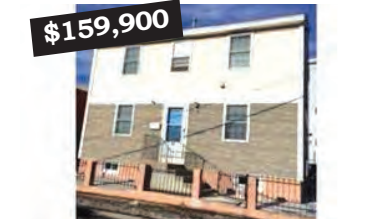
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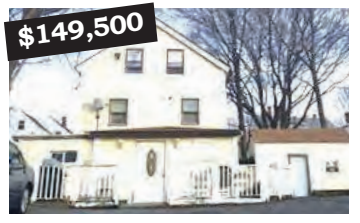
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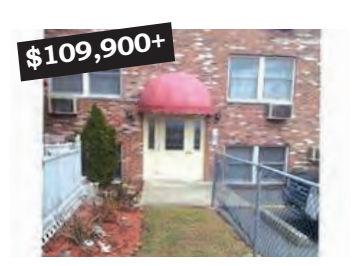
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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny	Warmer with some sun	Rain to snow	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Sunny and colder	Plenty of sunshine
High: 31° Low: 22°	High: 39° Low: 29°	High: 37° Low: 24°	High: 36° Low: 22°	High: 31° Low: 19°	High: 30° Low: 16°	High: 29° Low: 13°

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

25 Abbot St.: Margot P. and George H. Bixby to Mark A. Ventre and Amy Parker-Ventre, \$725,000

5 Alison Way: Jeffrey E. and Janice M. Lewis to Garrett M. and Katelyn Greer, \$735,000

7 Charlotte Drive: Farrington RT and Lawrence A. Farrington to Ryan J. and Laura B. Haggerty, \$530,000

4 Colonial Drive, Unit 8B: Nancy Brown to Paul W. and Julie C. Jensen, \$140,000

5 Colonial Drive, Unit 8B: Linda A. Bourgeois to Richard and Susan Simons, \$128,000

30 Enfield Drive: Shalon Cohen Estate and R. David Cohen to 30 Enfield Drive RT and Hassam Hussein, \$375,000

24 Lowell St.: Marshall FT and Walter F. Marshall to Martin W. Daly, \$225,000

24 Marland St.: Mary J. Froburg to Constitution Properties, \$215,000

2 Patriot Drive: Thomas E. and Lisa K. Humphreys to Thomas M. and Erica L. Tassinari, \$730,000

55 Red Spring Road: Carrie Lilley and Timothy Soule to Red Spring Development LLC, \$232,500

2 Sevilla Road: David M. and Helaine L. Weiner to Thomas S. Burns, \$565,000

6 Shaw Drive: Jeffco Inc. to James and Kristin Kissane, \$980,000

178 Shawsheen Road: Luminita E. Velicanu to Nuruddeen Lewis and Aneesah Hasan, \$381,000

1000 Spring Valley Drive, Unit G: Kethian G. and Elena Jordan to Mary J. Frongillo, \$245,900

20 Westwind Road: Pauline M. Malloy to Donna Grieco, \$408,000

5 Wild Rose Drive: Shawn A. and Ahn N. Cummings to Kaleb and Ching Y. Pan, \$425,000

20-R William St.: Patch Development LLC to Anil S. and Chitra A. Sawkar, \$969,900

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