

**LOCAL STORE SELLS ESSENTIAL OILS AND MORE**  
PAGE 7

**DANCING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS**  
PAGE 14

**NEW LEADERS EMERGE FOR AHS SPORTS FANS**  
PAGE 16

OUR 129<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 7

DECEMBER 29, 2016

75 CENTS

## Local families help battered boy build a life

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@eagletribune.com

Exactly five years ago, Dec. 18-19, a 2-year-old survived an overnight beating in a woodshed that nearly claimed his life and would throw him and his baby brother into a tumultuous future.

Strider Wolf's torn intestines and injured spleen, pancreas and stomach have since healed but his emotional scars endure as the outgoing second-grader with a yen for math copes with whatever's next.

Andover lawyer Sara Wells and donors, including a good number of Andover

families, have over the past year helped the young Maine brothers and their guardian grandparents, Lanette and Larry Grant, gain an economic footing after years mired in poverty and homelessness.

Wells stepped into the breach after a Boston daily newspaper's article and

Pulitzer Prize winning photo essay on the boys' plight attracted so many offers to help from readers that the newspaper enlisted the attorney to establish a trust for the children.

Donors have put clothes and coats on the boys' backs, bought a \$1,500 van for the grandparents and the boys,

paid for their shelter — an \$840 per month rental in Lisbon, Maine — and sent Strider to summer camps.

The charitable effort continues, and Wells hopes a resurgence of donations will help the Grants, who are in court trying to adopt the children, provide them a home of their own.

"We have a long way to go to adulthood," Wells said. "I hope we get enough for a house because it would give them stability."

The Trust has a net account of more than \$50,000 but will need substantially more to ensure the boys' future care and find them a home of their own. See STRIDER, Page 2

## A HERO COMES HOME



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Commander David Matson, center, come back from Afghanistan, to surprise his children at South Elementary School. Greeting him was his wife Meghan Matson, a P.E. teacher at South School and his sons Jack, 8, left, and Tucker, 3.

### Soldier stationed in Afghanistan makes a holiday homecoming

By GABRIELLA CRUZ  
geruz@andovertownsman.com

David Matson's been in Afghanistan for 10 months, and last week, he got to deliver an incredible surprise to his two young sons back home in Andover.

As students filtered in to the South School cafeteria for a holiday sing-a-long concert

Friday afternoon, David Matson, a commander in the Navy, stood behind the velvet stage curtain, waiting for his cue.

Seated in the front row of a crowd of first-through-fifth graders was his son, Jack, 8, and in the back of the room, his wife, Meghan, the school's physical education teacher.

As Principal Tracy Crowley revealed the surprise to the

packed room of students and staff, Jack sprung up, followed by his mom and younger brother Tucker, 3. Students stood up and cheered as they watched the family reunite for the first time since February.

"It's been a long time," Meghan said. "It's been a really long time. We see him through FaceTime, of course, but it's just different. It was

a real tearjerker," she added with an excited giggle.

David was supposed to return home to Andover around midnight Friday, but a change of travel arrangements had him arriving earlier than expected. Although it was short notice, the staff at South School stepped up and planned what they hoped

See SURPRISE, Page 2

## Different deals are offered for special ed.

By GABRIELLA CRUZ  
geruz@andovertownsman.com

It started out with a simple request by a Weston parent for the legal agreements made between families with special needs students and school administrators.

It has since turned into a quest of sorts by a handful of parents around the state seeking to find out if, and why, those agreements differ from family to family, district to district, and community to community.

As it turns out, in the case of the handful of communities that have actually turned the documents over, as per a Supreme Judicial Court ruling, the differences are significant. In some cases, parents of one special needs child is charged more than the parents of another, even though their children are going to the same, out-of-district school. In other cases, transportation costs, which run in the tens of thousands of dollars, are paid for by the district, while in other cases, they are not.

Andover parents have jumped on the bandwagon and have filed freedom of information requests from Andover public schools, seeking the 71 agreements made between the district and parents over the last six years. The district has agreed to provide them, at a cost of \$540 -- for the amount of staff time it will take to redact, or black out, personal information from the documents.

For years, pretty much ever since the 1993 Education Reform Act, the cost of special education has gone up for local school districts. In Andover, fully one-third of the school department's \$77 million budget was devoted to

See WESTON, Page 3

## Unions bolstered L'Italien's reelection bid

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON - Healthcare unions spent hundreds of thousands of dollars last year to help the state's incumbent Democrats fend off challengers in the Nov. 8 elections.

Service Employees International Union locals 1199 and 509 pumped nearly \$350,000 - more than other third-party groups spent on state

candidate races - into robo-calls, mailers and canvassing, according to a review of campaign finance records.

Among the beneficiaries were Sens. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover, Kathleen O'Connor-Ives, D-Newburyport, and Reps. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, Marcos Devers, D-Lawrence and Linda Campbell, D-Methuen.

The unions showered lawmakers with direct

contributions, as well. SEIU 1199 gave nearly \$100,000 in individual, \$500 contributions to Democratic lawmakers this year, according to disclosures filed with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

SEIU Locals 509 and 5000 spent nearly \$4,000 to support L'Italien's reelection bid. She also received \$5,890 from the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts and \$11,443 from the Massachusetts

Nurses Association, disclosures show.

L'Italien, who won reelection with 63 percent of the vote, said she welcomed the support from the SEIU and other unions.

"These groups are comprised of thousands of hard-working people who live and work in the district and the greater Merrimack Valley," she said in a statement.

Susan LaPlante, the

Republican who unsuccessfully challenged L'Italien, said SEIU volunteers packed polling stations in Lawrence and other communities on Election Day, holding signs supporting L'Italien and other Democrats and harassing voters.

"They were very aggressive at the polls, screaming and even getting in some people's faces," she said. "It harkened back to the old days

See UNIONS, Page 2



FILE PHOTO

Sen. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover, was the recipient of thousands of dollars from statewide unions to help her defeat Republican candidate Susan Laplante from Lawrence.

## Longest night marks turning point

By PAUL TENNANT  
Staff writer

For 40 or so people, the Charles Ward Reservation's winter solstice stroll offered so much more than a walk in the woods.

The 700-acre expanse of forest, meadows and swamps preserved by The Trustees of Reservations - hosted a winter walk to mark the change of seasons. And it was more than a mere stroll among the trees.

Catherine Shortliffe and Danielle Fennema, educators with The Trustees, provided a concise history

of this annual event.

Celebrating the winter solstice goes back 5,000 years, Shortliffe said. Reading from "The Shortest Day" by Wendy Pfeffer, she told how the ancient Egyptians noticed that the sun set at different points on the horizon each evening.

Egyptian astronomers built a structure with a keyhole and when the sun shone directly through it, the solstice had arrived.

When the sun shone through another keyhole,

See SOLSTICE, Page 3



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

A fire dance performance by Tetra, on top of the "Solstice Stones" on the summit of Holt Hill, the highest point in Essex County. The performance was the conclusion of a Solstice Stroll at Ward Reservation in Andover.

### INDEX

- Business ..... 7
- Classified..... 17-21
- Crossword..... 12
- Editorial..... 9
- Letters..... 9
- Obituaries..... 4
- Police Log..... 2
- Seniors News..... 22
- Sports..... 16
- TownsBeat..... 11-12
- Townspople..... 14-15



# STRIDER

Continued from Page 1

home, perhaps a fixer-upper or mobile home on its own land for around \$100,000, Wells said.

In a recent plea to donors, Wells said the Grants had been home shopping and found a house they loved.

It was subsequently bought by another party, for \$98,000, but would have been ideal had the Grants landed it, situated as it is on a dead-end street where children can play outside in safety.

Lanette Grant says Strider battles insecurity, fears that someone will break into their residence and attack him in the night.

The man who beat him on that 6-degree night in 2011, Justin Roy, is serving a 55-year sentence after being found guilty in 2013 in Carroll County Superior Court of 10 counts including two for kidnapping, one for first-degree assault and four counts of second-degree assault, according to NH Supreme Court documents.

The boy's biological mother, Heather Downs, who testified for the prosecution at Roy's trial, later served eight months of a one-year sentence on her conviction for child endangerment and received a

## TO SEND MONETARY DONATIONS:

Strider Wolf & Gallagher Irrevocable Trust  
c/o Sara Wells, Esq.  
Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius  
One Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

12-month suspended sentence for witness tampering. Downs took her child to the hospital the morning after the beating, upon noticing he was unresponsive.

The boy was transferred to Maine Medical Center where his blood pressure was measured to be so low that doctors stated he was dying; he had lost 50 percent of his blood volume due to internal bleeding, the court record states.

The tear in his intestines caused his bowels to spill into his abdomen, the court records state.

Strider underwent three surgeries to repair torn intestines and spent 23 days in the hospital. He was hooked up to a feeding tube for 11 months during his recovery.

The assault took place at Roy's trailer, in Albany, New Hampshire, where the children and their mother were living and Roy came to resent providing for them, the court record states.



COURTESY PHOTO

Strider Wolf, 7, of Lisbon, Maine, stands in his kitchen by a note and picture that Andover third grader Amelia Condon sent him and his brother. The brothers are recovering from hard times thanks in large part to donors and well wishers, including many from Andover.

Roy was also charged with assaulting a third child, Strider's older brother, by a different father. That boy lives with his maternal grandparents.

These days, Strider and his little brother, Gallagher, are receiving services from the state of Maine. Strider sees a counselor at his house, and receives 12 hours a week help from a behavioral health professional.

Strider is doing well in

school. He's a whiz in math, his grandmother said.

"He can manipulate numbers like you cannot believe," she said.

He built a mini helicopter out of an erector-set-like gift given to him by donors, and he and a helper put a motor in it, she said.

Gallagher, who will be 6 years old in January but whose mental level is that of about a 4-year-old, according to recent testing,

receives 20 hours of services a week from a behavioral health professional and is in a day treatment program.

Lanette Grant said Gallagher is a handful, and shows signs of a brain injury, perhaps from when he was a baby.

Lanette's son, the boys' biological father, who goes by the name Michael Grant (his legal name is Edward Michael Skidgel), visits his

kids but is not in a position to care for them.

Larry Grant, 64, and Lanette Grant, 52, did not plan on becoming parents at their advanced ages. Both of them have battled health problems and poverty, though Larry now works as a driver for a medical company picking up blood samples.

The past five years have been difficult, though much easier in the past year thanks to help from the Trust, Lanette Grant said.

After the beating the children were placed with the Grants, and the family has bonded through good times and bad times.

The Grants and Gallagher and Strider lived in a trailer in Oxford, Maine, from 2012 until April 2015.

They lost the mobile home in April of that year and moved into a 24-foot camper, living at campgrounds and Walmart parking lots until August 2015, when they found the rental in Lisbon, Maine.

They have remained there thanks to the help of the Trust, sustained by material help and knowledge that others care about them, Lanette Grant said.

"The Trust and the donors and the people down there have lifted so much from Larry and I," Lanette said. "So much and there is no way to thank them."

# SURPRISE

Continued from Page 1

would be an unforgettable holiday homecoming for one of their own.

"It was such a privilege to be part of that very personal interaction and have (David) come here," Crowley said. "That's what we try to do here, is really embrace all of our families, inside and outside of school."

After mentioning that her husband would be arriving earlier than expected, Meghan said the school's secretary Sue Comeau and Crowley made it their mission to surprise Jack and welcome David home as a school community.

"Everyone was super excited to run with the idea," Meghan said. "Sue and Tracey did such an awesome job. The boys were super excited to just have him back, and to do it in this way was amazing."

Superintendent Sheldon



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Cmdr. David Matson, who returned from Afghanistan on Friday, made a surprise visit to his children at South Elementary School. He is pictured with his wife, Meghan Matson, a physical education teacher at South School, and his sons, Jack, 8, and Tucker, 3.

Berman was there for the homecoming as well and said

he's not only glad the school could share the experience

together, but he also hopes students take a little extra

away from taking part in such a meaningful experience.

"Showing the students that we need to honor the people who are serving is incredibly important," Berman said. "This is a real-life example for students that there are servicemen and women risking their lives for us, and they come home, and have families. They're not just some distant person, they're people in our community, in our schools."

This was David's seventh deployment, Meghan said, but his second after having children. While she's thrilled to have her husband home, she said she's looking forward to the return to normalcy that comes with making her family whole again.

"Just getting back to our regular day is something I'm looking forward to," she said. "It's amazing to have him here for Christmas — and to have those extra hands in the house,"

she added laughing. "That's kind of nice too."

Because he's returning from a nearly year-long deployment in Afghanistan, David said he's home for a while. What he's most looking forward to are the little things, like being able to hold his sons rather than see them on a phone screen.

"Obviously it's very emotional seeing them for the first time in that long," he said. "Longing to see them gets hard, and just being able to touch them for the first time in almost a year. It's great. It's just great."

Jack said he's excited to have his dad home, and really looking forward to Christmas as a whole family. Andover schools is on holiday break until Jan. 2, so the Matsons will have some time to catch up, enjoy the holidays, and look forward to the New Year together.

"When (soldiers) go to Afghanistan for a year, they get a break afterward," Meghan said. "He's home for a while now. He's home."

# UNIONS

Continued from Page 1

of heavy-handed union campaign tactics."

Republicans say the SEIU is pushing an agenda that is hurting the state economy and

driving up spending, despite the need for budget cuts and government downsizing.

"Big spending union bosses bankrolled Democrat candidates with hundreds of thousands in outside money — all to push an agenda that would hurt workers by hiking taxes,

killing jobs, and doing nothing to rein in wasteful spending," said Kirsten Hughes, chairwoman of the state Republican Party.

Tyrék D. Lee Sr., vice president of SEIU 1199, says lawmakers and the public are "enthusiastically supporting

policies that help workers and make our economy stronger, such as increases to the minimum wage, earned sick time, and other worker protectionism."

"Even though income inequality in Massachusetts has reached record levels, a

handful of business interests continue to drive a negative campaign to disenfranchise workers under the facade of advocating for consumers," he said in a statement.

Lawmakers "continue to put people before profits," he added, "and understand that a

strong economy does not have to come at the expense of hard-working employees."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Email him at [cwade@cnihi.com](mailto:cwade@cnihi.com).

# POLICE LOG

## MONDAY, DEC. 19

Police received a 911 call at 8:04 a.m., reported "a

vehicle off into the woods" on Bellevue Road. The caller also reported that there was "no operator around." The

responding officer contacted the owner and left a message, and requested a tow truck to remove the vehicle from the woods.

At 11:27 a.m., officers arrested Nicole Amber McDonald, 28, of 31 Briarwood Road, Haverhill, on Lowell Street for an unknown warrant.

A resident called police at 7:24 p.m., to report that "across from him is a short road and he noticed some possible drug activity in the last half hour." Two officers responded to Juliette Street and reported not finding anything on their arrival.

## Tuesday, Dec. 20

At 9:46 a.m., officers conducted a motor vehicle stop on North Main Street. Austin William Lynds, 23, of 418 Main St., Haverhill, was arrested on an unknown warrant.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

Police received a call at 7:27 a.m., from a resident reporting that "a gray Jeep pulled up, a girl jumped out, and put something in the woods" near Cassimere Street. The caller reported that the girl "returned to the vehicle and left the area." The responding officer reported that he located marijuana in the woods where the caller described and disposed of it at the station.

A North Main Street resident called police at 5:03 p.m., to report that "they have a bat in the house." The responding animal control officer reported that he "has the bat and is en route to the River Road Veterinary."

A Salem Street resident called police at 5:54 p.m., to report that there was a "raccoon struck by a vehicle at the edge of her driveway." The responding animal control officer reported that he took the animal from the scene.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 22

A staff member at a business on Campanelli Road called police at 8:24 a.m., to report that a "vehicle in the parking lot had all four tires stolen." The responding officer filed a larceny from a motor vehicle report.

At 12:03 p.m., dispatchers reported receiving a 911 hang up call from West Elementary School on Beacon Street. The dispatcher called back and spoke with the

vice principal, who reported the call was accidental by a student.

At 1:36 p.m., a caller on Stevens Street reported that someone in a black or dark blue Cadillac was driving erratically and stopped to yell at her. The caller gave a partial plate number, but the responding officer reported not being able to find the vehicle.

An Amherst Road resident called police at 2:05 p.m., to request to speak with an officer about "someone cutting her outside Christmas lights." The caller reported that this "has happened multiple times." The responding officer filed a vandalism report.

Multiple callers reported that just before 4 p.m., "a motor vehicle crashed into a telephone poll" on Red Spring Road. The responding officer reported that there were no injuries, and requested a tow truck to remove the vehicle.

At 4:35 p.m., a caller on Minuteman Road reported that "two turkeys hit his window, and one was not moving." The man called back to report that "the turkey walked off" and the animal control officer's response was cancelled.

A Wild Rose Drive resident called police at 5:36 p.m., to report "finding an owl with a band on its leg in her front yard." The woman reported that she "wrapped it up in a blanket." The responding animal control officer reported that on his arrival, "the owl was released and it flew away."

At 9:23 p.m., police received a 911 call from a driver on North Street reporting "a teenager walking on North Street wearing a t-shirt and shorts." The responding officer reported finding the teen on Chandler Road. The officer transported the teen home to Osgood Street.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 23

An employee of the McDonald's on Main Street reported to police at 4:08 p.m. that someone in the drive-thru was making threatening statements. The driver of the vehicle was later found and told police he an "unpleasant experience" at McDonald's. He was sent on his way.

A car accident at Dascomb Road and Frontage at 6:45 p.m. resulted in two cars being towed and a sign being knocked down. There were no reported injuries.

A 911 caller said at 12:43 p.m.: "Hi, I want my husband arrested because he is a scumbag. Thank you. Bye." The fire department was notified and a request was made for a voluntary psychiatric evaluation.

Vanessa A. Emanuel, 35, of 5202 Archstone Ave., Tewksbury, was arrested on a warrant for attempting to commit a crime.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 24

An unattended death of a 47-year-old female was reported at a domicile on High Meadow Road at 8:39 a.m. The death was not suspicious, according to Lt. Eddie Guy.

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Rachael Pratt, left, and her twin sister Chloe, both 11, of Natick hold lanterns as they walk toward the summit during a Solstice Stroll at Ward Reservation in Andover.



Hikers listen to Catherine Shortliffe, right, as she talks about the history of the Winter Solstice as they walk toward the summit of Holt Hill, the highest point in Essex County during a Solstice Stroll at Ward Reservation in Andover.



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

A fire dance performance by Tetra, on the summit of Holt Hill, marked the conclusion of a Solstice Stroll at Ward Reservation in Andover.

## SOLSTICE

Continued from Page 1

the summer solstice had occurred.

Some 3,000 years ago, the Chinese measured shadows to determine when the solstice happened, according to Pfeffer's book. When the shadows reached their greatest length, the solstice had arrived.

More recently, about 2,000 years ago, the Romans celebrated the solstice by

decorating their homes with evergreen wreaths and mistletoe. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The Romans believed the evergreen offered hope, Shortliffe said.

Swedes celebrated the solstice with a festival of lights, she said. On this side of the planet, the Incas of Peru also honored the first day of winter, she added.

Thousands of years ago, people who did not have the benefit of modern science prayed to their gods to bring

back the sun, according to Shortliffe. Today we understand that the changing of the seasons results from the Earth's orbit around the sun.

When the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, there is less light during the day — and it gets much colder.

Peter Corriveau, who came all the way from Peabody to join the solstice walk, recently returned from Iceland. In that country, which is much farther

north than New England, it's dark at this time of the year until 11 a.m., he said.

Then by 4 p.m., it's dark again. Come summer, however, Icelanders enjoy many more hours of daylight, he noted.

Corriveau, accompanied by Cache, a Finnish spitz dog, said he found out about the solstice celebration by visiting The Trustees of Reservations website.

"I thought it would be good to get out and enjoy (the reservation)," he said.

The participants hiked to the top of Holt Hill, which at an elevation of 420 feet above sea level is the highest point in Essex County. One can see the Boston skyline and even the Blue Hills from there.

Mabel Ward, who gave the land for the reservation in memory of her husband, Charles Ward, purchased the solstice stones at the top of the hill, Shortliffe said. She was inspired to do this after visiting Stonehenge in England, she said.

An entertainer named Tetra performed a fire dance on the solstice stones. She twirled torches, making circles and other patterns in the air.

This was the second solstice celebration at the Ward Reservation. Noting that the reservation is usually closed at sunset, Shortliffe said The Trustees wanted to offer people a different experience on the property, which takes in sections of both Andover and North Andover.

## WESTON

Continued from Page 1

special education last year.

Within that growing budget-buster is the high cost of educating students out-of-district.

Not only does it cost tens of thousands of dollars to send a student to a school like Landmark in Beverly or Melmark right here in Andover, but it costs thousands more to transport many of those students.

Further adding to the burden is the high cost of legal fees communities incur while challenging a family's request to send their child out of district.

Last year the town spent \$126,000 in legal fees to fight families who wanted their children to attend specialized schools. By comparison, the school district spent only \$100,000 educating those students.

In total, 92 students are sent to schools outside of Andover, at a cost to taxpayers of \$4.5 million. Many of them go without a fight from the school district. A small handful of parents, however, get into legal battle with the school district when parents say their child cannot be properly served in Andover schools, but administrators disagree.

### Same lawyer

Michael Champa changed the way schools must respond to public documents in Massachusetts.

What started as his own request to view four years of out of district settlement agreements between parents and the Weston Public Schools system turned into a Supreme Judicial Court case that set a public records precedent.

With costs so high, school districts across the state have used every means at their disposal to keep children from going to schools outside of their home districts. That means using a school lawyer to fight against a family's lawyer to negotiate the best deal for the district.

In Andover, the same lawyer who represented Weston Public Schools, requiring Champa to pay more than \$100,000 in legal fees, now represents Andover Public Schools. Lyons & Rogers is the firm used by Andover, Amy Rogers being the lawyer who fought against releasing settlement agreements in the precedent setting case.

The Champa v. Weston Public Schools case made it possible for parents everywhere, including here in Andover, to receive any and all settlement agreements between a family and a school system. The agreements must be redacted so as not to reveal who the child and family involved is.

### Growing movement

After the decision, which was issued on Oct. 23, 2015, Jorge Teixeira, a parent to a special needs student, was prompted to fight for the documents from his own school system in Hudson, Mass. Eventually, that personal mission turned into a statewide grassroots organization, called Shine Sunlight, that focuses on obtaining out of district settlement agreements from public school systems across Massachusetts.

Teixeira has experienced firsthand the plight that many parents in Andover say they face when advocating for their children. After the Champa decision, Teixeira said he began fighting not just for his own family, but for all families in Massachusetts who find themselves struggling to get what they feel is best for their child.

"I went after this information because this is such a critical piece of data when parents are trying to make a decision about sending their child out of district," Teixeira said. "I want parents to know about the availability of this information when they get push back from school administration."

School Committee member Ted Teichert and a group of local parents have also taken an interest in getting out of district settlement agreements from Andover Public Schools, dating back to 2011.

Because the settlement agreements oftentimes contain sensitive and personal information, Teichert said many parents are unwilling to speak out because they don't want to put their child's placement at risk. In addition, most of them have signed non-disclosure agreements, making it illegal for them to divulge the contents of their agreements.

That's where Teixeira said he wants to help. Through his website, ShineSunlight.org, he requests all out of district settlement agreements from every public school system in Massachusetts, and posts the responses

and documents for anyone to access.

Although Andover administrators and the majority of the Andover School Committee don't believe there to be value in reviewing the redacted settlements, Teichert is confident that obtaining all of the agreements will benefit parents of special needs students, and ultimately, the students themselves.

Teichert himself didn't know whether any laws or policies are being ignored in Andover, but said that as a member of the School Committee elected to make sure students are being treated fairly, he simply wanted to review the agreements "to make sure we're on the up and up and to make sure our counsel is doing the right thing."

### Seeking documents

One of the people seeking the documents, Teichert, has been trying to get the documents for months. Two of his children attend Landmark, a school in Beverly for kids with dyslexia, but Teichert maintains his reasons for seeking the documents relate more to fairness.

He has been joined in his quest for the documents by

Krystal Solimine, a local mother and activist whose children are not special education students but who feels that the documents should be released in the name of government transparency.

According to a Channel 5 report on the subject, the documents portray vastly different responses by school districts.

Champa, according to the news report, found that "sometimes the school district paid for 100 percent of tuition and in other cases only 50 percent, with the parents paying the rest, even though federal law entitles students with disabilities to 'free appropriate public education.'"

He also discovered, according to the report, that the school district paid for transportation for some students, but not others.

"It was horrible for me to read settlement after settlement agreement and see how differently kids were being treated," said Champa.

The program also showed that parents in more affluent towns like Andover were more likely to fight for and receive big settlement agreements than parents with children in

less-wealthy communities.

Teixeira has made the same request for documents to every school district in the state. When he receives them, he posts them on his web site to show taxpayers how their money is being used and how one set of parents and their children are being treated differently from others. So far, he has not received Andover's documents because of the high cost that he said he doesn't find in other school districts.

Second in a series of stories on special education in Andover.

## ESTATE PLANS

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# Andover resident to lead Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

By ETHAN FORMAN  
Staff Writer

For the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's new executive director Karen Sawyer Conard, it's a homecoming of sorts.

For the past seven years, she's served as the city of Peabody's community development and planning director.

Before that, the Andover resident worked as director of economic development in Methuen.

"It is a true honor and privilege to be appointed as the next executive director," Conard said. "The outstanding quality of the work and knowledge base of the staff and the commission are wonderful attributes which I have admired for years, as both a resident of the Valley for 23 years and during my time working for the city of Methuen. I look forward to following in the great footsteps of Dennis DiZoglio and working on behalf of the municipalities we serve."

She takes over the post from Dennis DiZoglio, who retired last month after serving with as director for 10 years.

### North Shore life

In Peabody, Conard tackled a comprehensive update of the city's zoning. She authored grants to improve the appearance and traffic flow of Peabody Square and Main Street. This work even tackled the relocation of the city's Civil War monument. Sawyer's office also rewrote the city's Recreation and Open Space Plan, and its Housing Production Plan in a "proactive" step to spur the creation of affordable housing.

Sawyer has 27 years experience in both the public and private sectors, having worked in both the executive and legislative branches of state government. In Peabody, she oversaw a staff of 25 in an office that handled the city's planning, zoning, community development, building inspections and conservation functions.

Conard served under two mayors, former Mayor Michael Bonfanti, who hired her, and Mayor Ted Bettencourt.

Conard has also served as the chairwoman of the Peabody Community Development Authority, which administers a revolving loan fund meant to spur economic development.

In past jobs, she has worked for the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, or MassDevelopment; the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the office of former Gov. Bill Weld and the Massachusetts State Senate.

**MVPC job**  
The Haverhill-based Merrimack Valley Planning

Commission is a more than 50-year old organization that helps manage growth in 15 communities in the Merrimack Valley "in the planning areas of transportation, the environment, land use, economic development, and GIS mapping," according to its website.

These diverse communities, home to 330,000 residents, include Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

"We are delighted to have Karen join us as executive director," said Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Chairman Robert Lavoie. "She brings decades of experience and extensive planning knowledge as well as deep community, government, and business relationships. We are confident she will not only continue but also build upon the strong collaborative and cooperative development efforts of retired Executive Director Dennis DiZoglio."

### Connections

Conard and DiZoglio share a Methuen-Peabody connection.

DiZoglio, the former Methuen mayor, had once worked as the community development and planning director in Peabody.

Conard said she had lunch with DiZoglio seven years ago around the time she took the job in Peabody. She said DiZoglio told her the one thing he would do would be to bring back Brothers Restaurant and Deli to Peabody Square, which happened during Conard's tenure. After a 17 year absence, the eatery returned, thanks to a city loan of \$200,000. The downtown saw \$6 million in improvements, Conard said, thanks to a joint effort with the city's Department of Public Services.

A \$1.5 million state grant plus \$500,000 from the city paid for a reconstruction of the Main Street corridor.

The money went to reduced the number of traffic lanes from four to two, and built new sidewalks, crosswalks and bump outs to create a more walkable downtown.

A state grant of \$1.85 million helped pay for nearly half of the cost to reconstruct Peabody Square, including the reconfiguration of the square that included the Civil War monument being moved to a new plaza in front of the District Court building.

She lives in Andover with her husband, Robert, and three children.



State Rep. Jim Lyons, R-Andover, poses in front of the nativity scene put up in the Statehouse.

ANTONIO CABAN/State House News Service

# Lyons wins battle for Statehouse Nativity scene

## Atheist group will seek Satanic statue next year

By KATIE LANNAN  
State House News Service

State Rep. Jim Lyons got a Christmas surprise in the form of a green light to host a Nativity display in the Statehouse.

Actually, the Andover Republican was surprised twice: first, in November, when he was told he couldn't put up a Nativity on the State House lawn. Then, last Friday, he got word the Bureau of the State House had approved his application for a display inside the building.

The effort grew into a matter of "religious liberty, freedom of expression, First Amendment, all kinds of things tied into one," Lyons said.

"That wasn't where I was going at the beginning," he said. "I was simply going, can we put up a Nativity scene? I thought the answer would be — to be honest with you — 'Yes.'"

Lyons said his request for an outdoor Nativity was denied because religious displays are not allowed. He then asked to put the scene up inside and reached out to lawyers at the Thomas More Society, who said they would take the matter to court if permission was not granted.

Bureau of the State House policies state "only official state functions" are allowed on the Statehouse grounds or exterior spaces.

The society said it had secured permission for Nativity displays in capitol buildings in states including Illinois, Georgia, Mississippi, Michigan,

Nebraska, Texas, Missouri and Rhode Island.

The display went up in the Great Hall last Thursday, consisting of figures provided by the American Nativity Scene Committee, a kneeler Lyons' wife Bernadette borrowed from a friend, and evergreen branches from the Christmas trees Lyons sells at his family's floral and ice cream shop.

"Our message today is that this is about what Christmas has always been, to us as Christians and I think to a lot of non-Christians also," Lyons said. "This is about that message, the message of love, hope and joy."

Lyons said he wants to make the Nativity display an annual event and hopes for public viewing for a longer period of time — it was scheduled to be up for three hours Thursday — in the future.

That plan caught the attention of the Boston Atheists, an organization that installed its own secular



Courtesy image

An atheists' group will seek to put up a statue of the Satanic Baphomet at the Statehouse next year if Rep. Lyons wants to put up a nativity scene.

banner on the Boston Common Thursday, with the message, "Joy to the world! This holiday season take care of yourself, of each other & of the world."

"If the good representative feels he must pursue a similar action next year, we'll not oppose him with anything so divisive as a lawsuit," the group's officers said in a statement. "Instead, we'll look to him to support our organization's efforts to place a celebratory statue

of the Satanic Baphomet in the Statehouse in the same week, if even for a single day. The values represented by Baphomet are ones we can all celebrate, whatever our philosophical views: the importance of pluralism; the importance of rationalism; and the ever-present need for there to be always in society persons with the courage to speak truth to power, including and perhaps especially in the form of blasphemy."



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## Warm up to winter with BoomerVenture

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:

**Special Interest**  
**Get Your Ducks in a Row:** Mondays, Jan. 12, 19 and Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. Join Karol Bisbee, Elder Law Attorney and RN, for this essential, thought-provoking series on preparing for the second half of life. Topics will include "Demystifying Estate Planning" on Jan. 12; "Asset Protection: Trusts and Real Estate" on Jan. 19; and "Planning with Life Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance and Retirement" on Feb. 2; free with registration.

**Community Drum Circle:** Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 to 8 p.m. Drum in the New Year and shake off those winter blues with Monique Morimoto of Soul-WorksRhythm. A variety of percussion instruments will be available to use, including West African and Japanese drums. Prior experience is not necessary; \$7.

**Films**  
**Screening Room:** Award-winning, independent films are shown every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Seating and snacks start at 6 p.m.

**Exercise and Wellness**  
**Energize with Exercise:** Thursdays, Jan. 12 through Feb. 9, 3:30 p.m. Join Denise Boucher, instructor, for a fun aerobics and weight training workout. A meditative cool down ends the hour; \$27.50.

**Dance Fitness:** Thursdays through Feb. 9, 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. This fun and easy-to-follow cardio-dance class mixes it up with musical genres. Offers upper body strengthening without the floor work. Dance experience is not necessary; \$55.

**Belly Dancing:** Thursdays through Feb. 9, 6 p.m. Learn basic moves from fast and fiery to slow and smooth set to a fantastic mix of world music. Improve flexibility and self-confidence while having fun. Suitable for women of all body types and fitness levels; \$65.

**Serenity Yoga:** Thursdays through Feb. 9, 7:15 p.m. Active, calming practice of

flowing postures with 15 minutes of meditation. Beginners are always welcome. Instructor Sheila Wescott combines the traits of gentleness, spirituality and a genuine "teacher's heart"; \$65.

**Reflexology with Uli Kapp:** Thursday evenings starting at 6 p.m., by advance appointment only; \$1 per minute, in 15-minute intervals. Kapp will massage pressure points that correlate to Qi in the body, offering a refreshing, healing therapy for hands or feet. Must register by the day before to hold a spot.

**Everyday Mindfulness with Chip Carter:** Fridays, 3 to 3:30 p.m. Connect mindfulness with one's "everyday life" in a very real and practical way; \$5.

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](http://www.andoverseniorcenter.org) for complete listings. Registration can now be completed online as well.



BILL KIRK/Staff photos

Marko Duffy, left, a volunteer at the Lawrence YMCA, and Carla Castillo, far right, who works for the Adelante Program in Lawrence, picked up warm clothes gathered at Home Yoga on Chestnut Street last week. The yoga studio is owned by Kristin Olson, center, there with her daughter, 8-year-old Ashlin Kilgallen, and son Shea, 5, sitting on the floor and wearing a Santa hat.

## Christmas cheer in Andover benefits Lawrence YMCA

Home Yoga of Andover conducted a successful "hats, gloves and scarves drive" for the teens at the Lawrence YMCA.

Over the past few weeks, Kristin Olson of Home Yoga on Chestnut Street asked all of her members and fellow yogis for their generosity in collecting as many sets of winter warming hats, gloves, boots and scarves to help teens that attend the many programs at the Lawrence YMCA.

These teens are quite often forgotten at Christmas and for many they know that Christmas kind

of ends for them as they get into their teen years, said Marko Duffy, a volunteer at the YMCA.

This year Home Yoga donated over 300 warm accessories to these teens. Many of the kids that will receive these presents walk to the Lawrence Y to participate in many after school educational programs, music lessons and of course gym and swim.

Often their coats are light and hats and gloves are missing, Duffy said.

On Tuesday, along with Carla Castillo of the Adelante Program, an after-school program for

middle-schoolers, Duffy brought what the studio has collected to give to one group of teens at the Y.

"We have 53, 7th- and 8th-graders that are part of an after-school educational program," he said. "They come to the Y 3 days a week for homework help, tutoring and test prep in hopes of getting into private schools throughout New England. Many are meeting the highest requirements and are accepted at prestigious boarding schools from Phillips Andover to Buckingham, Buckingham Browne & Nichols, and many attend Central and St. John's Prep, Duffy added.

He profusely thanked Olson, owner of Home Yoga.

"The generosity of Home Yoga will go a long way," he said. "There's a huge need, and this will be great."

## THE GREAT HOLIDAY TEDDY BEAR GIVEAWAY



THE ANDOVER SCHOOL OF BALLET IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR WINNER IN THE GREAT VERMONT TEDDY BEAR GIVEAWAY. IT WAS ABRIELLE DALTON, 9 YEARS OLD, OF ANDOVER MA. SHE IS A STUDENT WHO DANCES 3 DAYS PER WEEK AT THE DANCE STUDIO, WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ANDOVER FOR 37 YEARS.

ABRIELLE WAS VERY EXCITED TO BE TOLD AFTER HER BALLET CLASS ON MONDAY THAT SHE HAD WON! SHE TOOK THE TEDDY BEAR HOME THAT NIGHT!



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# All natural, essential oils and more

By RICHARD SNYDER  
CORRESPONDENT

Behind the door of DoveTail Beauty Connection's unassuming 46 Main St. storefront lies a nerve center for design, manufacture and distribution of a truly unique line of skincare products and cosmetics.

At the heart of the company's mission is adherence to the highest possible standards of purity and natural sourcing, and an ongoing process of research and development with exacting attention to detail.

The DoveTail brand is handmade in Andover, and the company brings with it a dedication to community and commitment to making healthy and helpful products available to as many as possible.

"People hear the words handmade and natural used together and think expensive," explains DoveTail founder Sophia Alexander. "Not here."

## Natural ingredients

It starts with a concept, proceeding on to an extensive evaluation of possible ingredients. In DoveTail's new effervescent "bath bombs," even common ingredients such as citric acid must be naturally derived and free of contaminants. But what makes this product special is DoveTail's choice of chemical binder.

As Alexander explains, most commercial bath bombs bind their product using cornstarch, despite its tendency to adhere to skin, break into component sugars and potentially promote infection. Because, as Ms. Alexander says, "anything like that scares the wits out of me," the decision was made to use pure white clay instead.

"Everything here," she says, "is designed to either soothe something or improve something."

The list goes on. In one of DoveTail's facial creams, Abyssinian oil was selected for its ability to penetrate skin and seal in natural moisture. Vetiver, another essential oil, was chosen in part for its antimicrobial properties. And the company employs a steam distilled witch hazel, avoiding the alcohol extraction normally used to obtain



Handmade gifts available for all at DoveTail Beauty Connection on Main St., Andover.

this ingredient.

## Health setback

Alexander runs DoveTail with three colleagues: cosmetologists Nicole Mottola and Tracy Kuzlotsky; and her own son Andrew Alexander.

Completely devoted both to the company and to Alexander, the three are essential to DoveTail's operation. It is in fact thanks to them the shop stayed open following Alexander suffering a stroke a little over a year ago. With this incident, she was left fighting severe physical and cognitive impairments, forcing her to retire from Comcast after 19 years as an HR analyst.

The stroke also rendering everything from writing to driving a car difficult or impossible. That's where Nicole, Tracy and Andrew stepped in. According to Alexander, "the shop wouldn't be going without them."

She can hardly say enough about her three colleagues, and in speaking with Mottola and Kuzlotsky their dedication to DoveTail and the seriousness with which they take their careers is quickly apparent.

## Team effort

Mottola is a full-service cosmetologist and a certified brow technician; according to Alexander the only only person in town certified to color lashes and eyebrows.

"The credibility that comes with this sort of training is very important to us,"



DoveTail Beauty Connection recently opened on Main St., Andover.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo



Gifts for the guys like this after shave lotion, are also available at DoveTail Beauty Connection that recently opened on Main St., Andover.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sophia Alexander, center, speaks with colleague Tracy Kuzlotsky, right, and Andover resident and "devoted DoveTail customer" Kristen Paolino, at left.

Alexander says.

Kuzlotsky, with many years of cosmetology experience, now focuses most of her time on DoveTail's cosmetics, completing at least two makeup classes each year, and in her role managing the retail space maintains a wealth of information on DoveTail's makeup products.

In addition, Alexander's son Andrew, a skilled graphic designer with a background in media

psychology, designs product labels for the store, capturing DoveTail's overall philosophy with clean lines and soft colors.

Over the past year, Alexander, Mottola and Kuzlotsky

have been adding to the company's mission. Since October each Saturday DoveTail has opened its space to local artisans.

"There is some wonderful talent in Andover," Ms.

Alexander says, "and I'm hoping to set up a 'Handmade in Andover' group," offering everything from jewelry and beads to chocolates--sustainably sourced and handmade.

## MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

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

**Enjoy Friday Morning Music with Peter Sheridan**

Children's musician, Peter Sheridan will visit Memorial Hall Library on Fridays, Jan. 6 and 20, at 10 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

Sheridan has performed at libraries, daycare centers and schools for more than 20 years. His shows include guitar, accordion, harmonica and a variety of other instruments, along with puppets and books. He has also been a featured children's performer at First Night celebrations in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for the past six years.

Sheridan's musical programs are sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Registration is required. Go to [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar) to sign up.

**New Family Book Club at MHL**

Families, with children ages 5 and up, that like to read, cook, eat or talk may want to check out the library's newest offering, the Family Book Club.

Each month, the group will read a book with an emphasis on diversity and exploring other cultures. After reading the book, families will be encouraged to cook and eat a meal related to the country or culture represented in the book, then gather at the library on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. for a book discussion and dessert.

The first book, "The Greatest Power" by Demi, is set in China. Reserve and read the book and register the name of each person who will attend at [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar). If there are food allergies or suggested dessert alternatives, email Beth Kerrigan at [bkerrigan@mhl.org](mailto:bkerrigan@mhl.org).

Other events in the Children's Room:

**Noon Year's Eve**, Saturday, Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. Ages 5 to 7 can ring in the New Year with fun activities.

**Dads and Doughnuts**, Saturdays, Dec. 31 and Jan. 28, 10 a.m. This story time targets dads and children ages 2 to

5 (although all are welcome). Take part in stories, songs, rhymes and a craft, and then have some coffee, juice and doughnuts. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

**Pajama Party**, Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31, 6:30 p.m. These 45-minute sessions includes bedtime stories, quiet songs and games, as well as a short film. Designed for ages 3 to 5 and an adult. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

**Kids Create: Tea Light Snowmen**, Thursday, Jan. 12, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Children in grades three to five are invited to stop in to make tea light snowmen. Register online.

**Thinking Thursday**, Jan. 19, 3:45 p.m. Participants, ages 5 to 8, will share a story, do some simple experiments, and make a craft. Online registration is requested.

**Legomania**, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m. This program is for children ages 5 and up who love to build with LEGOs. Each child will build on their own base, and then share their creation with the group before putting it on display in the Children's Room. Register online for this program.

**Cookies and Book-ies**, Monday, Jan. 23, 3:45 p.m. Celebrate the Chinese New Year by reading and discussing "The Runaway Wok" by Ying Chang Compestine, and sharing cookies. For

ages 5 to 8. Participants are asked to read the book before the program. Space is limited. Register the name of each attendee, adult and child, online beginning Jan. 9.

**Game Day with Junior Friends**, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 3:45 p.m. Ages 6 and up are invited to play board games. Space is limited. Registration is required.

**Kids Make: Icy Orbs**, Thursday, Jan. 26, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Kids in grades three to five will make icy orbs. Participants will find out what happens when salt is added to ice and use food coloring to make a sculpture. Online registration is requested.

**Petits Français**, Saturday, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. Children will develop their oral comprehension and speaking skills of the French language through songs, movement and a simple story. This program is for infants to age 4. Pick up a token in the Children's Room on the day of the program, beginning at 10:30 a.m., as space is limited. Adults and children need tokens.

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



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# Opinion

## Case in point on dangers of texting and driving

Time and time again we've seen evidence that texting while driving can be fatal for drivers, passengers, other motorists and pedestrians.

Although everyone charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty, it's possible we have another example of the dangers of texting and driving based on charges announced last week by Newburyport police.

A 17-year-old Boxford boy driving a pickup was charged with vehicular homicide and several texting and unlawful cellphone use violations in the wake of the fatal collision with a 77-year-old pedestrian on Nov. 23 on State Street in downtown Newburyport.

The boy, whose name was not released because he is under age 18, stayed at the scene after the man was struck. Local and state police investigated the collision that killed Richard Barbieri Sr., of Newburyport, and on Wednesday, charges against the teenager were announced by Newburyport City Marshal Mark Murray.

"The law prohibits juvenile operators from using their mobile phones for any reason while driving. All drivers should put their phones down and focus on the task at hand while driving," Murray said when the charges were announced.

Police know distracted driving is dangerous, and changes in state law give them some enforcement powers, especially when it comes to younger drivers. But Massachusetts lawmakers in the House rejected a law that would mandate hands-free cellphone use for drivers. Earlier this year, the Senate passed such a bill, but the Legislature as a whole just can't seem to carry that important legislation over the goal line.

This isn't the first time the legislation has stalled in the House, leaving Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the only states that — except for a limit on texting — allow adults to hold the phone while talking and driving.

At last count, more than a dozen states and the District of Columbia require hands-free cellphone use for adult drivers. Novice drivers face some restrictions — or outright bans — on driving while talking on a phone in more than three dozen states and the District of Columbia. And in 46 states and D.C. — and Massachusetts — all drivers are banned from texting while driving.

Police across the state spent three weeks earlier this year targeting distracted drivers as a way to highlight the danger and send the message that there can be financial penalties for breaking the law. It's safe to say most police officers would support severe limits on phone use for all drivers, but that legislation just can't get over the Beacon Hill hurdle.

The legislation that passed the Senate this year would have put fines in place for violating a hands-free phone mandate. The proposed legislation carried a \$100 fine for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for the third time, and every repeat offense would also have sent the violator to a class about the dangers of distracted driving.

When the bill landed in the House, it died. Who in the Massachusetts House has it in for hands-free cellphone laws? In light of the growing carnage on Massachusetts roads and across the country by distracted drivers, who could vote against severe limits, and why?

The charges against the teen involved in the fatal collision in Newburyport will play out in juvenile court, which is proper. But those charges should also serve as talking points for parents and anyone concerned about unnecessary dangers and distractions on our roads.

The new year, 2017, should be the year the Legislature does the right thing and passes a comprehensive ban on use of a cellphone while driving, unless that phone is set up to be used hands-free. It's a measure that can save lives and give police an important tool for keeping us all safer.

## WEB QUESTION

### This week's question:

Another fatal accident, this time in Newburyport, is being blamed on texting and driving. The state Legislature has refused to act on a bill that would make it illegal to use your cell phone while driving. The current texting and driving bill is unenforceable. Police officers can't tell if a person is making a phone call or texting someone. Do you think the state should mandate hands-free driving?

Yes. Too many people still text and drive. Enforcement should be simple. If police see a phone in your hand, they should be able to pull you over and issue a ticket.

No. It's another step toward a police state where anything I do in the comfort of my own car, from eating potato chips to smoking a cigarette, will be made illegal, allowing police to pull us over for anything and everything.

Yes. The safety marketing phrase "It can wait," is true. There is no reason someone has to pick up their phone and send a text message about what's for dinner while driving down the highway.

No. The problem isn't texting and driving, it's distracted driving. Changing the radio station is distracting. Looking at a map is distracting. Talking to a passenger is distracting. People just need to use common sense and keep their eyes on the road and their hands upon the wheel.

### Last week's question:

Are you happy that the Stevens Street and Balmoral dams are coming down? A project many years in the making, to remove the Stevens Street and Balmoral dams, began this week. Many residents and town officials are excited for the opportunities the dam removals will bring to the town and its residents. Are you happy that the dams are coming down?

Yes. It will be amazing in the spring to canoe or kayak all the way to Ballardvale now that the dams will be gone. 15 votes

Not sure. I think the dams were part of the town's history. It's sad to see them go. 10 votes.

Yes. Opening up the streams will make fishing more fun. 2 votes.

Yes. A faster-flowing stream will make new commercial development more attractive. A nice lunch by the water is in our future

## Five questions before making your end-of-year charitable donation

**Mark W. Nichols**  
CPA, Andover

Look before you leap: Never has a cliché been more spot-on than when applied to a decision to make a charitable donation. It's very gratifying to make donations to a worthy charity and know you are making a difference in the world. But whenever you make a gift, you also want to be sure that your money will be used wisely. The Massachusetts Society of CPAs recommends asking these questions before you give.

### 1. Who are they?

Whether it is a Massachusetts organization or based elsewhere, be sure you know exactly what kinds of programs it has in place before sending your check. Messages on TV or in an email that tug at the heart are commonplace to get us to take the extra step to donate. There's nothing wrong with that but doing a little homework will go a long way toward making sure you're making a good choice. Quick research done online can give you the facts you need.

### 2. Can I see the financial

### statements?

The group should be willing to share its Form 990, a tax return filed with the Internal Revenue Service, for the three most recent years. If the organization will not do so or does not have this information online, that should raise some red flags about the charity.

### 3. How does the charity spend its money?

Among other data, the Form 990 will show program expenses, or how the group spends the money it collects. Check to see how much of your donation will actually go to the cause you support and how much will be spent on salaries and other organizational costs. The charity should be spending at least 75 percent of its budget on its charitable programs. Other expenses—such as fund-raising and administrative costs—should not be higher than 25 percent.

### 4. How do I know the charity makes a difference?

An organization may work diligently to effect change, but that does not guarantee that its efforts are effective. You will want some reassurance that there is a legitimate need for the programs or services being given and that

they are actually being used. If the organization provides after-school programs for inner-city children, for example, how many children are involved on a regular basis? If that number has risen in recent years, has the charity been able to adjust to the new demand? If the number has declined, can the charity explain why? It should be clear that the group has responded to changing circumstances and enhanced its programs over time.

### 5. Am I eligible for a deduction?

You should be able to deduct your donation if it is made to an organization that has been given tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If you donate cash, you can deduct the amount of the gift from your taxable income in the tax year in which the donation is made. Retain a cancelled check or receipt from the charity as proof of your donation. (Get a written confirmation from the charity for any cash donations of more than \$250, even if you have a canceled check for the gift.) You can also qualify for a deduction of the fair market value of

non-cash donations, including clothing and household items in good used condition. The IRS does note that the current value of most used items is well below what they cost new, so be realistic in your estimates of value and get a receipt from the organization stating the value of what you've given. Keep in mind, too, that you generally will need a qualified appraisal if you are taking a deduction for donated property worth more than \$5,000.

Final words of wisdom: Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance are among the groups that evaluate charitable groups and provide information on making wise giving decisions. For personalized advice about your charitable giving plans—or any aspect of your financial situation—be sure to turn to your local CPA. He or she has the expertise to address all your financial concerns.

*Mark Nichols, CPA, MST, MBA, president of Mark W. Nichols, CPA, PC in Andover, and vice-chair of finance of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants board of directors.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

**Mail to:**  
33 Chestnut St.,  
Andover, MA 01810  
**Fax to:** 978-470-2819  
**Email:** townsmen@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the email, not as an attachment.

### Thanks for the baked goods

Editor, Townsman:

I'd like to publicly thank all of the Andover High School families who donated baked goods to the faculty and staff on Thursday, Dec. 15.

What a wonderfully generous and thoughtful gesture. Appreciation in any form is always welcome. When it involves someone's time and resources, it is even more gratefully received.

That this was done at a time of year when so many folks have extra commitments and obligations pulling them in different directions? Well, thank you doesn't begin to express the depth of our gratitude. Wishing one and all a happy holiday season and a healthy and hopeful New Year.

**MARY ROBB**  
Social Studies Department,  
Andover High School  
Lowell Street  
Andover

### L'Italian leading Mass. into a financial mess

Editor, Townsman:

Andover's State Sen. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover, is not letting the spirit of the holidays get in the way of some old-fashioned partisan politics. Last Tuesday, Governor Baker made the politically difficult but fiscally responsible decision to cut \$98 million from the state budget due to sluggish state revenues. L'Italien lashed out at the Governor in last week's Townsman: "This is a failure of leadership by Gov. Baker ... . By unilaterally cutting funding for Andover's Historic Mill District, the governor has shown that he does not care about investing in a centerpiece of Andover's economic future."

according to a 2016 study by George Mason University's Mercatus Center.

We deserve better.

**BOB LANDRY**  
Andover Selectman  
4 Seminole Circle, Andover

### Trump reality show moves into next phase

Editor, Townsman:

One benefit to come out of this past Presidential campaign is that it has caused many to reflect, to narrate retrospectives of how a "ludicrous" long-shot at becoming President evolved into a brilliant, stunning victory. Whereas so often we get enraptured from the beginning doing it his way on his terms while the Burger King Republican Party squeamishly said to him: "Have it your way." And so he did. The 'World According to Trump' (WAT) Reality Show televised and tweeted, instagrammed, facebooked worldwide gratis.

Mr. Trump the playwright scripted fake news and factoids into his own multimedia campaign, thus giving tacit permission for the same to occur unabated and unscrupulously in social media. Mr. Trump the director casted loyal pundits as his entourage of apprentices some who exhibit dubious competencies for the roles they are soon to assume. Mr. Trump the publicity agent flooded a multitude of media outlets with his verbiage sidestepping policy and instead flaunting misogyny, xenophobia, isolationism, racism, demagoguery, etc. and

relished how his show's ratings soared and soared.

Now Mr. Trump's role in the WAT Reality Show seems to be transforming. His campaign sound bites and pledges that shocked, galvanized, and further divided a nation are being edited to conform to his new character role: a president scrutinized by his own government, fellow citizens, and the people of the world. A president duly considered wise counsel, disciplined in word, and courageous in action here and abroad. Fake news and factoids should be strictly edited lest they cause our Nation irreparable harm although his tweets about voter fraud and other vindictive rants continue with little restraint. No shady business deals or conflicts of interest lest they result in an impeachment. Given Mr. Trump's plethora of international investments and influential business partners, he must tread very cautiously along this path.

Mr. Trump most likely has reflected about how he won the Presidency and attributes much to how he scored and transmitted the WAT Reality Show. Now that his apprentices have been promoted to positions of far-reaching authority, Mr. Trump has seemingly decided to tone down the show and modify the petulant image that propelled him to fame. As a condition to assuming the Presidency, he even had to accept a demotion limiting his leadership role in his own financial empire and his ability to run the presidency his way due to constitutional checks and balances. No problem, he's got 4 years to reflect and gather material for the next generation WAT Reality Show and he'll script it entirely his way.

**BILL KOLBE**  
Andover

## 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@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Reporter Gabriella Cruz** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8732, or gcruz@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsmen.com.

■ **Account Executive Maureen Looney** at 978-946-2168 or mlooney@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Advertising fax:** 978-685-1588

■ **To place a classified advertisement:** Call the Classified Department at 978-946-2300.

### ADVERTISING

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

■ **To subscribe to the newspaper or to report delivery problems:** Call the Circulation Department direct at 800-836-7800 during business hours: Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and most holidays, 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## Andover Townsman

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ANDOVER



2012 Chevrolet  
Cruze 2LT  
Sunroof  
**\$9,728**

STK# 5548A



2011 Ford  
Transit Connect  
47,002 miles  
**\$11,355**

STK# 5715A



2011 Buick  
Lacrosse CXL  
**\$14,966**

STK# 8354AA



2013 Chevrolet  
Malibu LS  
23,550 miles  
**\$13,261**

STK# P4569



2011 Mercedes-Benz  
C-Class 4MATIC  
34,841 miles  
**\$12,536**

STK# P3112A



2013 Cadillac  
ATS-4  
**\$19,885**

STK# 4157A



2011 GMC  
Terrain  
SLT, leather, sunroof  
**\$13,810**

STK# P4496



2014 Honda  
Accord LX  
20,335 miles  
**\$16,890**

STK# 2183A



2013 Cadillac  
SRX-4  
**\$21,995**

STK# 2262A



2013 Ford Fusion SE  
Sunroof, Leather Interior,  
10,042 miles  
**\$14,871**

STK# 1008A



2013 Ford  
Mustang GT  
49,766 miles  
**\$17,389**

STK# 3621A



2013 Chevrolet  
Traverse  
48,881 miles  
**\$21,995**

STK# P7722



2013 Chevrolet Silverado  
1500 Extended Cab 4x4  
60,544 miles  
**\$23,543**

STK# P4560A



2013 Jeep Wrangler  
Sport  
35,696 miles  
**\$23,514**

STK# 8507A



2016 GMC Express  
2500 Ext. Cargo Van  
**\$24,990**

STK# 143675



2013 Ford F150  
Supercrew XLT 4x4  
50,790 miles  
**\$24,947**

STK# 3440A



2014 Jeep Grand  
Cherokee Limited  
35,423 miles  
**\$27,206**

STK# 9393A



2014 Chevrolet  
Silverado  
**\$27,985**

STK# P7672A



2013 Toyota Tundra  
65,943 miles  
**\$24,965**

STK# 0195AB



2012 Jeep Wrangler  
Unlimited  
28,499 miles  
**\$29,980**

STK# 8859B



2016 Cadillac  
CTS-4  
**\$36,990**

STK# P7771



2013 Land Rover LR2  
38,930 miles  
**\$25,478**

STK# 7466A



2016 Audi  
2.0T Quattro  
"Premium Plus"  
14,583 miles  
**\$40,932**

STK# 4065A



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# TownsBeat



West Parish Cemetery flourish in fall in Andover.

AMANDA SABGA/ Staff photo

## BEST PHOTOS OF 2016

Every day, all year long, Andover Townsman photographers take dozens of photos of people and places in Andover. Each photo assignment brings its own challenges and opportunities. Today, staff photographers present their favorite photos of 2016.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Dominic Archambault, 4 of Andover places a candle. The parishioners of Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Andover celebrated their Great and Holy Friday with a mass and candlelight procession around the church with the decorated tomb containing Christ's body during their Easter celebration. More than 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide will celebrate Pascha (Easter). This year Orthodox Pascha is celebrated almost a month after the celebration of the Western Easter, while next year it will fall on the same day.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Raegan Hamilton, 3 of Andover waves her American flag while leaving the World War I Memorial Auditorium in Andover after the Memorial Day service. The service was held inside the auditorium instead of the town park because of the rainy weather.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover High School's 156 Commencement was held at the Tsongas Center in Lowell. Andover graduate, Yashini Ramesh hugs a teacher after receiving her diploma.



Mary Guziejka, a retired piano teacher, also played some lovely tunes on the piano to accompany the singers.



Youth members of the Chinese American Association of the Andovers performed a concert of Christmas and holiday carols for residents of Marland Place recently.



Courtesy photos

Members of the youth orchestra with the Chinese American Association of the Andovers performed at Atria Marland Place recently.

# Young musicians celebrate the holiday season with concert at senior center

By SERENA LI  
Townsmen correspondent

The Chinese American Association of the Andovers (CAAA) on Dec. 10 performed a concert at Atria Marland Place for elderly citizens to enjoy Christmas music performed by young musicians.

Silvia She, the organizer of the concert, said she first

came up with the idea after talking to the parents of other young musicians in Andover.

She thought that the seniors "would love to hear the kids' performances, and that the kids would be able to see how their music could touch the hearts of young and old."

Silvia contacted the parents of the musicians and

received widespread support. Then John Zhuang, a member of the CAAA, contacted Marland Place's Mary Mazza, Engage Life Director, and was able to acquire their music hall as a venue.

Fourteen kids, ages eight to 16, played in the concert.

They played a variety of classical and Christmas songs with many different

instruments, such as violin, piano, cello, saxophone, flute and ocarina, to an audience of over 30 senior citizens.

At the end, Billy Tynan, a Marland Place resident, even joined in with his accordion as he played along to the kids' Christmas caroling, which included beloved songs such as Frosty the Snowman and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Mary Guziejka, a retired piano teacher, also played some lovely tunes on the piano to round the night out.

After the concert, the senior citizens, parents and children mingled and enjoyed refreshments provided by both the children's families and Marland Place. The children received many compliments from the seniors, who thoroughly

enjoyed the performance. They congratulated the children for doing a wonderful job and hoped that they would come again to perform.

After this success, the CAAA will host another children's music concert on December 29 at the Andover Commons to celebrate the New Year's with the residents there.

## ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### DECEMBER SATURDAY, DEC. 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, DoubleTree by Hilton, 123 Old River Road, Andover.** Enjoy a night filled with food, comedy, live music, dancing and a champagne toast; some of the biggest names in Boston comedy will perform, including "Tumblin' Jack Walsh, 'The Comedy Barbarian' Mike McCarthy, Dave Russo and Tony V; one of New England's favorite dance bands, The Buckley Brothers, will pack the dance floor; doors open at 6 p.m. with cocktails and cheese and crackers; the dinner buffet will begin at 7:15 p.m., followed by the comedy show at 8:15 p.m., live music at 9:30 p.m.; Champagne toast at 11:59

p.m. with dancing until 1:30 a.m.; \$99 per person; 617-981-0984, <http://hiltonandover.ny.eventbrite.com>.

#### THROUGH DECEMBER

**MITTEN TREE, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover.** The Andover DCS invites the community to help neighbors in need by donating to its Mitten Tree; take a candy cane off the Mitten Tree and replace it with a donation of new or gently worn mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, or any other winter necessities; the donated items will go to local charities, such as Lazarus House; donations may be left under the tree or dropped off at the DCS office, second floor, town offices; [www.andoverdc.com](http://www.andoverdc.com).

### JANUARY EARLY JANUARY

**ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS, will be mailed to residents at the beginning of January 2017.** All registered voters must return the census each year to remain on the voter rolls per state law; non-registered voters are also required to return the annual census; this information is used to verify a person's residency for public school admittance, military benefits and in-state tuition reductions; the information also supports services in the community; anyone who is leaving town for an extended period of time and at risk for not receiving the census in January should contact the Town Clerk's office at 978-623-8230 so that they will not be dropped from the voter or census rolls.

**JAN. 4, FEB. 1 AND MARCH 1**

**BALLARDVALE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETINGS, 7 p.m., Andover Town Offices, second floor conference room, 36 Bartlet St.** All are welcome to attend; agendas are posted at [www.andover.ma.gov](http://www.andover.ma.gov).

**THROUGH JAN. 5**

**VANWAY'S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE, American Training, 6 Campanelli Drive, Andover.** American Training's transportation branch, Vanway, will collect coats, jackets and winter wear of all sizes and styles for men, women and children; the organization hopes to collect 200 items to help keep local communities warm this winter; items can be dropped off or picked up by a Vanway driver by calling 978-685-2151, ext. 6822; [www.americantraininginc.com/coatdrive2016](http://www.americantraininginc.com/coatdrive2016).

**TUESDAY, JAN. 10**

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 2 to 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover.** Donors of all blood types are needed to help ensure a sufficient supply for hospital patients; make an appointment to give blood at [www.recrossblood.org](http://www.recrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767); donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at [www.recrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://www.recrossblood.org/rapidpass) to save time.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 12**

**AUTHOR VISIT, 6:30 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St.** Michael Arthur will discuss his new book "An Intelligent Career: Taking Ownership of Your Work and Life"; through scientific evidence, sharp

insights, and countless stories, the book offers practical advice about planning a career path; Arthur lives in Andover and is a professor of management at Suffolk University in Boston; free and open to all; 978-475-0143.

**MONDAY, JAN. 16**

**10TH ANNUAL MLK DAY EVENT, 11 a.m., Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St., Andover.** All are invited to attend this uplifting community outreach and soul-stirring service of celebration in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; the featured speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Emmett Price, founding pastor of Community of Love Christian Fellowship, and regular contributor to WGBH's Boston Public Radio segment "All Revved Up"; the event will also include performances by the Andover Baptist Unity Choir, Choral Majority, and the Temple Emanuel band "Abbas"; a soul-filling luncheon will be served in fellowship hall; admission is free; [www.andover-baptist-church.org](http://www.andover-baptist-church.org).

**JAN. 20, FEB. 17, MARCH 17, APRIL 21 AND MAY 19**

**ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS, conducted by the Special Education staff.** Screenings are for 3- and 4-year-olds; parents who are concerned about their child's development may schedule an appointment; 978-247-8200.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 24**

**PARENT 2 PARENT (P2P) SPEAKER SERIES, 7 to 9 p.m., The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover.** Sarah Ward, M.S., a speech and language pathologist, will present "Getting It Done: Promoting the Development of Executive Function Skills in the Home and at School"; the free talk is open to all; [www.andoverp2p.com](http://www.andoverp2p.com).

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25**

**SILENT FILM SERIES, 7 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts, Walsh Way, Merrimack College campus, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover.** "The Winning of Barbara Worth" (1926), starring Ronald Colman, Gary Cooper and Vilma Banky; epic-scale Western about the settlement of California's parched Imperial Valley, and the struggle to harness the Colorado River to create an agricultural paradise; shot on location in Nevada's Black Rock desert; free and open to the public; 978-837-5355.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 29**

**ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT, 3 p.m., North Andover High School auditorium, 430 Osgood St.** The chorus will perform works

of several Argentinian composers, including Martin Palmeri's Misatango, a pairing of the ancient Latin Mass text with the rhythms of an Argentinian tango; [www.andoverchoralsociety.org](http://www.andoverchoralsociety.org), email [info@andoverchoralsociety.org](mailto:info@andoverchoralsociety.org).

### FEBRUARY THURSDAY, FEB. 2

**PARENT 2 PARENT (P2P) SPEAKER SERIES, 7 to 9 p.m., The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover.** Jon Mattleman, M.S. will present "The Secret Life of the Massachusetts Teen"; the free talk is open to all; the snow date is Feb. 9; [www.andoverp2p.com](http://www.andoverp2p.com).

### MARCH SUNDAY, MARCH 12

**MVPO CONCERT, 2:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 50 Bartlet St., Andover.** Dorothy Braker, cello, will perform with the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra; the afternoon concert will feature works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Antonin Dvorak; \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors (65 and up), \$5 for children; children must be 4 years old or older to attend; 978-685-3505, [www.mvpomusic.org](http://www.mvpomusic.org).

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

**SILENT FILM SERIES, 7 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts, Walsh Way, Merrimack College campus, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover.** "The Passion of Joan of Arc" (1928) will be shown; Danish director Carl Dreyer's intense recreation of the trial of Joan of Arc set new standards for cinematography and expanded the language of film in new directions; includes extreme close-ups, expressionistic photography, and a stellar cast, with legendary stage actress Renée Falconetti in the title role; free; 978-837-5355.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

**PARENT 2 PARENT (P2P) SPEAKER SERIES, 7 to 9 p.m., The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover.** Sharon Maxwell, Ph.D. will present "In a Hyper-Sexualized World, It Pays to Be Proactive: Setting the Stage for Talking to Your Kids About Sex"; the presentation is free and open to the public; [www.andoverp2p.com](http://www.andoverp2p.com).

### MAY SATURDAY, MAY 6

**ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY IN CONCERT, 3 p.m., Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover.** The chorus will perform "In Troubled Times," featuring Haydn's

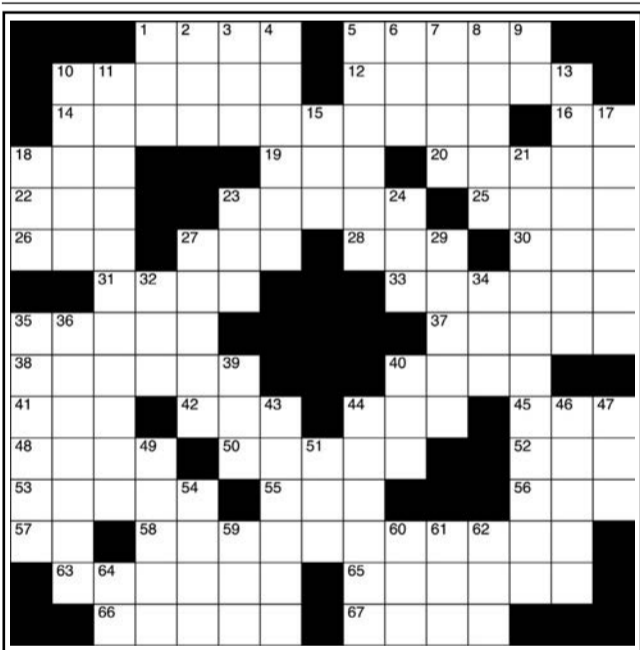
Lord Nelson Mass and two contemporary pieces, "September Sun," commemorating those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and "Peace Like a River," an uplifting spiritual; each concert will be sung with a professional orchestra and soloists; [www.andoverchoralsociety.org](http://www.andoverchoralsociety.org), email [info@andoverchoralsociety.org](mailto:info@andoverchoralsociety.org).

### SUNDAY, MAY 7

**MVPO CONCERT, 2:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 50 Bartlet St., Andover.** Jorge Avila, violin, will perform with the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra; the afternoon concert will feature works by Richard Wagner, Sergei Prokofiev and Pyotr Tchaikovsky; \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors (65 and up), \$5 for children; children must be 4 years old or older to attend; 978-685-3505, [www.mvpomusic.org](http://www.mvpomusic.org).

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**

**CRAFTS IN THE PARK, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, Central Park, 34 Bartlet St., Andover.** Applications are being accepted for Andover's annual fair, now entering its 42nd year; sponsored by Christ Church Andover; proceeds will be used to support the church's mission and outreach to the local community, including Habitat for Humanity, Esperanza Academy, Bread and Roses, Neighbors in Need, Lazarus House, and the Merrimack Valley Project; the church also sponsors The Christ Church Children's Center preschool program, the Andover Thrift Shop, and provides a diverse and enriching music program with scheduled events open to the public; amateur and professional crafts people are invited to display and sell their original works; the online application needs to be filed immediately to be included in the initial jury process; all application submissions require digital photographs of the craft, a website address, if available, and photographs of the craft's display; notification of participation will be confirmed by Feb. 28, 2017; send the \$100 booth fee, which includes a \$25 nonrefundable jury fee and a No. 10 self-addressed stamped envelope to: Andover Crafts in The Park, P.O. Box 685, Andover, MA 01810; a refund, minus the \$25 jury fee, will be sent to crafters not accepted in the show; additional sales commissions are not charged beyond the booth fee; food vendors require additional permits from the Town of Andover; email [jury@craftsinthepark.com](mailto:jury@craftsinthepark.com), [www.craftsinthepark.com](http://www.craftsinthepark.com).



### CLUES ACROSS

- Isodor \_\_, American Nobel physicist
- One a day keeps the doctor away
- Extents
- Noticing
- Scriptural
- Star Trek character Laren
- "The Crow" actress \_\_ Ling
- Not good
- Measures gold
- TV network
- Wasting
- Money in Ghana
- Young girls' association
- Title of respect
- High schoolers take this test
- Crunches federal numbers
- Wild or sweet cherry
- Celestial bodies
- Fruit of the oak tree

### CLUES DOWN

- Seafood
- Incan god of mountains
- Ritz LA neighborhood \_\_ Air
- Line that connect points of equal pressure
- Audience-only remarks
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Pointed top
- Lavender
- Linear unit
- Knives
- 2016 World Series champs
- A way to arrange
- Talk
- Serving no purpose
- Container
- Breathes new life into
- Beloved dog Rin Tin \_\_
- A bag-like structure in a plant or animal

### Solution in Classified Section

- Royal Navy ship during WWII
- Of cherished symbols
- Satisfy
- 5th. day (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- Royal Albert Hall (abbr.)
- Cool!
- Flat metal shelves
- Enclosed
- A way to pass
- City in Iraq
- Printing speed measurement
- Twitch
- Indicates position
- Made lawful
- Took down
- A way to travel on skis
- North winds
- Tunisian metropolis

- Yemen capital
- Sacred book of Judaism
- Make a mistake
- Wrestlers wrestle here
- Respiratory issue
- In league
- Resinous insect secretion
- Unhappy
- Turbulent area of a river
- Neglectful
- Sours
- Calendar month (abbr.)
- Grooves
- Sony Pictures Television
- Monetary units
- Command right
- 1,000 cubic feet
- Expression of triumph
- Dinner jacket
- The first two

12/29/16



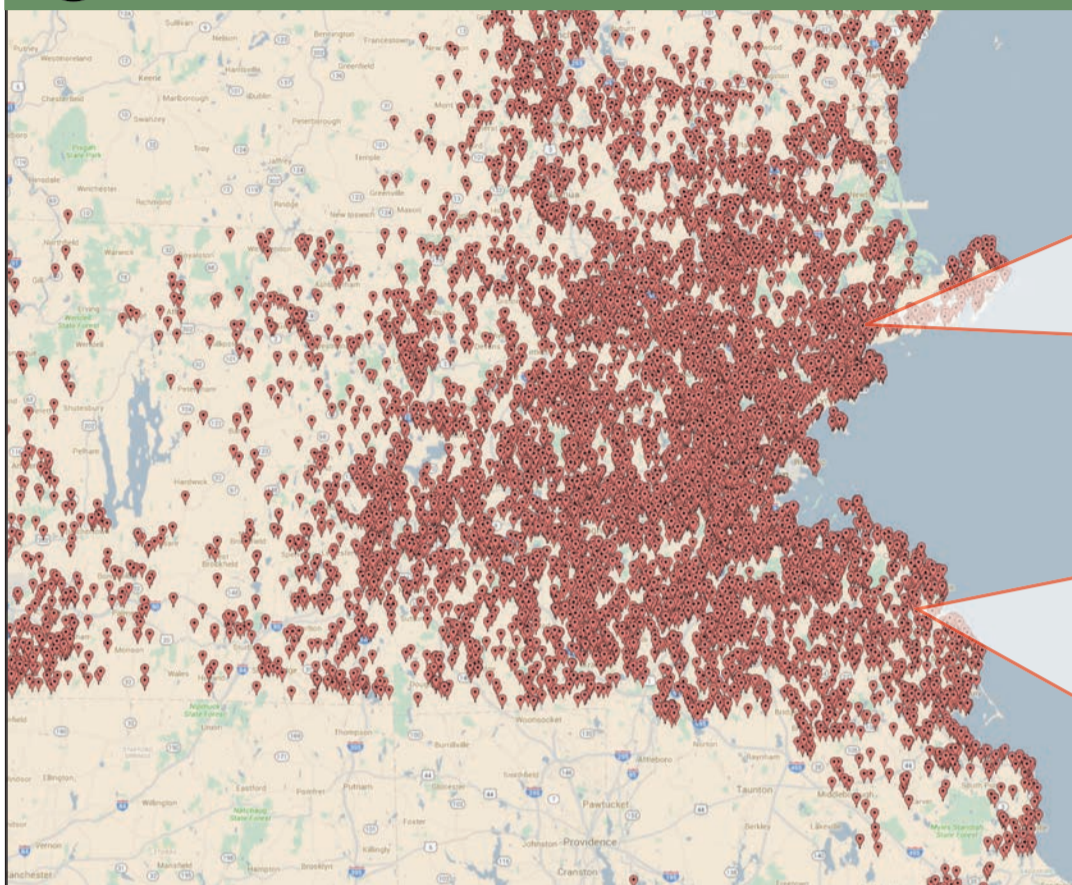
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# Townspeople

## DANCING FUN AT THE HOLIDAY BALL

With financial support from three local assisted living facilities and a dance crowd rearing to go, the recent Holiday Ball attracted senior dancers from all over who simply like to dance on the hardwood floor at Old Town Hall on Main Street.

"Our guests love the floor for dancing at the Old Town Hall and the room is decorated beautifully with lights," said Audrey Nason of Andover, a longtime member of the organizing committee for the annual ball.

Nason's daughter, Brenda Afshin of Andover, is a popular community artist who decorated the event and always gets recognized by guests for the wonderful decorating job that she does.

Presented by the Andover Senior Community Friends, there was live music by D.B.'s Orchestra and dance instruction offered by Tom Webster of Dance New England. About 90 people attended the Ball with about 50 taking a dance lesson with Webster, Nason said.

She explained that the Friends group has been hosting three Balls a year since 2010 - a Spring Ball in May, a Masquerade Ball in October and the Holiday Ball. Each is well attended and cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Sponsorships by Atria Marland, Ashland Farm, and BrightView help keep costs down.

"People really enjoy them. So many seniors love to dance. In fact, we have already booked our dates and music for next year's balls," Nason said.

The Friends group works with the Center at Punchard and aims to support the Andover senior community by offering fun things to do at a reasonable cost. The Holiday Ball is a good example of that.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Debbie Crosby and Bob Williams strike a dramatic final pose as they learn the tango at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball in the Crystal Ballroom in Old Town Hall on Sunday.



Attendees learn the tango at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball in the Crystal Ballroom in Old Town Hall.



Bill Schneller and Elaine Clements practice their tango at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball in the Crystal Ballroom in Old Town Hall.



Ed and Laraine Brylczyk learn to tango at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball in the Crystal Ballroom.



Attendees work on their tango at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball in the Crystal Ballroom.



Attendees dance the night away at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball.



The ladies wait for instruction during a dance lesson at the Andover Senior Community Friends Holiday Ball.

# The secret life of Andover's Dr. DeNapoli

## Argentinian doctor pens memoir about life as a spy

By DYKE HENDRICKSON  
Staff Writer

Those who live exciting, eventful lives often want to write about them.

So, Dr. Jorge DeNapoli has produced "The Unintentional Immigrant: Rising Into the Wind."

It is a memoir by an Argentinian native who spent much of his professional life in the Merrimack Valley as a psychiatrist with a very large practice.

"I am looking for an agent so the manuscript can become a published book," said DeNapoli, who practiced in Andover and lived in Amesbury from 1989 until just a few months ago. "There are so many interesting stories."

Here is a part of his opening paragraph of his query letter, on his Facebook page.

"Have you ever wanted an inside look at a secret double life as an undercover operative and as a practicing psychiatrist?"

"In my 65,000 word-memoir, 'The Unintentional Immigrant: Rising into the Wind,' I have crafted a unique narrative of persistence and resilience as I describe my journey from Argentinian political unrest to the covert world of U.S. government operations in the Office of Strategic Information."

### Dr. DeNapoli

DeNapoli spent much of his life in this country as a psychiatrist. However, his goal as a young medical student was surgery after training in the United States.

He said he was unable to get a surgery internship in this country because he graduated from a foreign medical school, the University of Buenos Aires in 1955 — not a white-shoe American

institution.

The young doctor tried to be accepted for residencies at East Coast medical schools such as Columbia and Johns Hopkins University, but he was unsuccessful.

He was persistent, however. After coming to America and working in Harlem Hospital in the 1950s, he got the chance to study psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

"I would have loved surgery, but it didn't work out that way," said DeNapoli, who is now in his mid-80s.

DeNapoli had a colorful life even before coming to the U.S.

At the University of Buenos Aires, from 1948-1955, he knew fellow medical student Che Guevara, a left-leaning activist who was killed in 1965 for his revolutionary activities.

"Che was a nice guy but he had real Communist ideas," recalled DeNapoli.

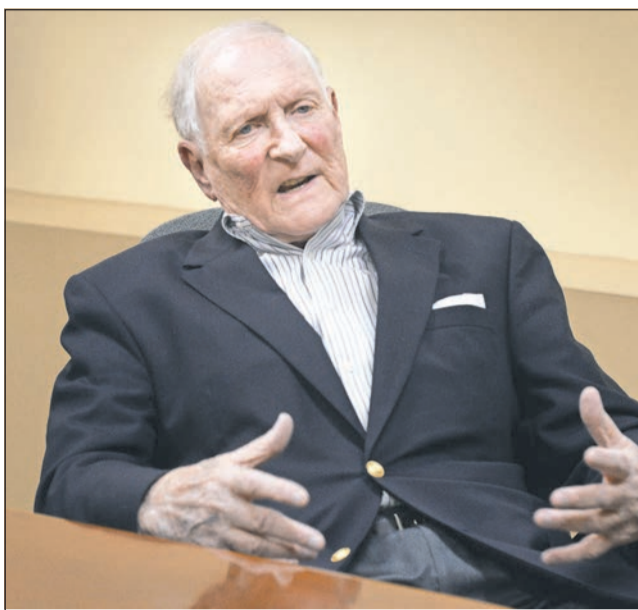
DeNapoli was drafted into the Argentinian army in 1951, during the era of President Juan Peron.

"He was a dictator-type, but we never feared for our lives," he said. But DeNapoli said his brother was jailed for 45 days for protesting during that period.

DeNapoli came to this country in 1956, and landed a rotating internship at Harlem Hospital.

Several years later, after medical school study of psychiatry, he took a job as senior psychiatrist at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health at Gardner State Hospital.

During the early '60s, he was able to take post-graduate training in psychiatry at Columbia-Presbyterian Center in New York, and also at Columbia University itself.



BRYAN EATON/Staff photo.

Jorge DeNapoli immigrated from Argentina.

### Andover practice

And then romance intervened.

He married a nurse from Gardner, Dolores, and he decided to start a practice in Andover. She died in 2014.

"I had not come to this country to settle, but after we were married, we started a family here and we were happy," he said.

They had four children and numerous grandchildren.

In his practice, mostly in Andover, he treated conditions such as depression and anxiety disorders.

"One of the most common phobias was fear of public speaking," said the doctor, who retired about a decade ago. "Another one was an unwillingness to fly, and also, the fear of crowded places."

He said he found satisfaction in helping people who felt lost or were unable to cope with inner feelings.

"My goal was to make them productive citizens again," he said.

DeNapoli was also a consultant to Phillips Academy in Andover.

### 'Love this country'

During his lengthy career, DeNapoli traveled a lot overseas, where he alluded to meeting with industry leaders.

In recent years he has been taking local courses in creative non-fiction, and now he has integrated his travel adventures with reports of sleuthing for the Office of Strategic Services in the Washington, D.C., area.

In a recent interview, he wouldn't get into specifics about what he actually did. One might have to read the memoir to find out.

But DeNapoli was clear when assessing his life in the U.S.

"I found challenges here, as the title of my memoir suggests, 'Rising Into the Wind,'" he said. "That refers to the circumstance that I met obstacles, such as not being able to go into surgery many years ago."

"But I have learned to love this country, its culture, and its opportunities."

## All Those Years Ago

By SUSAN MCKELLIGET  
Andover Historical Society

### 100 Years Ago Dec. 29, 1916

A New Year's party will be held Tuesday night in Garfield Hall, under the auspices of Clan Johnston and the Ladies' Auxiliary. There will be dancing till midnight.

This morning in the lower town hall a hearing was held on the proposed abolition of the trial justice system in Andover and the advisability of transferring all cases to the Lawrence Police Court.

The R.C.O.A. will conduct a private dancing party in the Barnard Block this evening at 8 o'clock.

### 75 Years Ago Jan. 1, 1942

You may take your change at the local stores in defense savings stamps within a few days, according to plans formulated by the local Defense Savings committee which has just been organized. All the local merchants are planning to co-operate in this drive to help finance the United States' fight to restore liberty and decency to the world. The committee includes: James Gould, chairman, Ralph Wilkinson, Nathan Hamblin and Fred E. Cheever.

Two women, seated right center at Andover's special town meeting Monday night, were busily knitting all through the course of the discussion. As each appropriation, neatly severed from the warrant, dropped into the basket, they began new rows and commented casually to each other, "There goes another one," to which the invariable reply was "Liberte, fraternite, egalite." Further inference is quite unnecessary.

(Advertisement) Happy New Year 1942.. and may your life in the days to come be happier and fuller. Andover Spa Dantos Bros. Elm Street off the Square.

### 50 Years Ago Dec. 29, 1966

Town Manager Richard J. Bowen told the selectmen Tuesday night that Andover faces a heavy spending program and he is not optimistic

about cutting expenses. The manager gave his forecast while the selectmen were considering a letter from School Board Chairman Dr. Louis J. Galbiati Jr., with an invitation to join his proposed "Space Planning Advisory Committee for Education" which was approved at the last meeting of the school committee.

DeMoulas advertisement: Beechnut Coffee .69 cents 1-pound can; Bennett's mayonnaise .47 cents quart jar; Tide giant size detergent .69 cents; top or bottom round roasts .79 cents a pound; ready to eat Armour ham leg half .59 cents a pound; Borden's cream cheese .29 cents 8 oz. package; washed spinach 10 oz. cello pack .19 cents.

### 25 Years Ago Dec. 26, 1991

In reading this week's Review of 1991, we remember that Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski's New Year's resolution for 1991 was to put together a balanced budget. He and town officials did it, but not before officials, residents, and employees went through some painful decision-making sessions and program cuts.

Also in reviewing the first six months of 1991, we recall that Raytheon Co. was in the news often. President Bush and Richard Cheney, secretary of defense visited at separate times to congratulate employees for their work on the Patriot missile. We are grateful the need for the missiles was short-lived, but we return to worrying about the economy and lost jobs.

Andover said goodbye to several town officials in the first half of 1991, from schools superintendent Kenneth Seifert, to Andover High School Principal Wilbur Hixon, to Iora Alexander, principal of Bancroft Elementary School, and to William Hart, head of the West Middle School. In one of the sad events of 1991, the town said good-bye to the Ballardvale Library, which closed due to budget cuts, and to its librarian since 1969, Ruth Sharpe.

The Collins Center closed, one of the sadder events of the year.

## Transitions Along the Journey of

# Dementia

Caring for a person living with dementia is a journey with multiple changes and transitions along the way.

This workshop will address stages of dementia, transitions that occur throughout the progression as care needs increase, and community resources available for support.



## Free WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> EDUCATIONAL EVENT

REGISTRATION AND DINNER: 5:30 pm - 6 pm | PRESENTATION: 6 pm - 7 pm

PRESENTED BY: Rebekah Wilson, MSW

at Artis Senior Living of Reading • 1100 Main Street • Reading, MA 01867

Rebekah Wilson is a Masters' Level Social Worker who has devoted her career to the mission of improving quality of life for individuals with dementia and supporting their caregivers. Her work includes non-profit organizations, hospice and home health care, memory care assisted living, and geriatric care management. In these arenas, she has used her specialties in teaching, community outreach, marketing, and developing innovative strategies for providing comfort care for individuals with dementia and support for their care partners. She has presented at local, state, and national conferences as a dementia care trainer in Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal Dementia, behavior management, and other caregiving topics.

*A complimentary dinner will be served.*

Kindly RSVP by January 13<sup>th</sup> to 781-872-1907 or [reading@artismgmt.com](mailto:reading@artismgmt.com)

Certification from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs is pending.

1100 Main Street • Reading, MA 01867 • [www.artisseniorliving.com](http://www.artisseniorliving.com)

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# Sports

## QUEENS OF THE JUNGLE

### Trio become the first all-female leaders of Andover High's 'Jungle' fan section

By DAVID WILLIS  
dwillis@eagletribune.com

From the moment Haley Sutliff walked into her first Andover High sporting event, she was dazzled by the Golden Warrior fan section, now affectionately known as *The Jungle*.

"Everyone looked like they were having such a blast in *The Jungle* and people would be spilling out of the sides of the seating area because it would be so filled with students," remembered Sutliff. "Throughout high school, every Friday night I go to all the basketball games and stand in *The Jungle* since it is always such an amazing experience."

For Kaitlin Lahood, becoming enthralled by the excitement of *The Jungle* the moment she became a Golden Warrior fan was not even a choice.

"During my freshman and sophomore year the *Jungle* was at its peak so it was hard not to be apart of it," said Lahood. "The leaders during those years did everything they could to get the entire Andover High community involved and the excitement was amazing. But it was very intimidating being with all of those upperclassmen."

These days, however, Lahood isn't intimidated by the leaders of the fan base. Instead, she is helping the way.

Andover High seniors Sutliff, Lahood and Charlotte Reeves took over as the official leaders of *The Jungle* in the fall, making them the first all-female group to head up the cheering section that year after year is considered the loudest and most enthusiastic in Massachusetts. After a successful fall season, the trio are now leading *The Jungle* into the winter season.

"I can't count the number of times I've lost my voice after a big win," said Reeves. "Winning is a great feeling, especially when it's against a rival team. We knew we wanted to make the *Jungle* the best it could possibly be for our senior year and make it something



Andover High seniors, from left, Haley Sutliff, Charlotte Reeves and Kaitlin Lahood cheer on the Golden Warrior football during the Division 1 North final against Everett. The trio are the first ever all-female leaders of *The Jungle*, Andover's fan section.

Courtesy photos

special again. It's not just fun for us being in the stands — it's fun for the players who have all their friends and classmates cheering them on."

Growing up in Andover, all three became passionate Andover High fans at an early age, including Sutliff and Lahood watching brothers Matt Sutliff and Alex Lahood each play football for the Warriors.

"I moved to Andover from Braintree the summer going into kindergarten, so basically all my life all I've ever known was to be a big Andover sports fan," said Sutliff. "I've always been a big advocate for Andover sports. I watching my brother play football and my sister, Avery, run cross country and track."

But it was a different experience when the three became freshman at Andover three years ago, and began attending games in the student section.

They were quickly introduced to *The Jungle*,

knowing for going so wild during basketball games that the stands in the Dunn Gym rock wildly, and selling out all the seats for hockey games at the Valley Forum.

"My freshman year was the year we won the Commonwealth Cup for best student section (at the Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic)," said Sutliff. "And that really inspired me to want to become a leader."

It was none other than Andover boys basketball coach David Fazio that brought the idea of leading the section to Sutliff and Reeves.

"Haley and I were in Faz's competitive physical education class for the spring semester and we talked to him a lot about *The Jungle*," said Reeves. "We started talking about being leaders and he told us the position was all ours. We started planning for the 2016-17 year in early June."



Andover High seniors, from left, Kaitlin Lahood, Haley Sutliff and Charlotte Reeves are the first all-female leaders of the Golden Warrior fan section, known as *The Jungle*.

The duo began searching for a third leader, and Lahood was anxious to fill the role, making them the first all-female leadership

group. "In the past, there have been girls that were part of the *Jungle* Council," said Lahood. "But this is the

first year that the *Jungle* is being run by a group of all girls. And I think that is very exciting."

While they are front-and-center in the stands on game days, leading *The Jungle* isn't all fun and games, with responsibilities including running the Twitter account "@TheJungleAHS" which has nearly 1,000 followers.

"Outside of game day, we basically have to coordinate everything that goes into the *Jungle*," said Lahood. "So we created the t-shirt designs and Mr. (Andover High head track coach Peter) Comeau helped us get them printed. Then we have to sell those. We also plan the fan buses with the help of the athletic director (Don Doucette) at our high school."

"Our biggest responsibility is that we have to get people excited before game day and we have to get the information out about it, which we do through social media. This is especially important because people have lost a lot of that spirit and pride for their school, so for the three of us that's our main goal for this year."

And once all the work is done, the trio can enjoy the thrills when the Golden Warriors earn a victory.

"Nothing is better than getting a big win with your school," said Sutliff. "So far, the best victory win was the (Division 1 North semifinal) football win over St. John's Prep. Everyone was so involved in the crowd and when we did the "I Believe" chant it was indescribable with the energy going through the air."

"Having a fan section can seriously help motivate the players on the field or court, and it is our job to do that. After we won that game, everyone in the *Jungle* fan section ran onto the field and I have never seen such happiness and high spirits in everyone. It is truly a memory I will never forget."

Reach sportswriter/vid-eographer David Willis on Twitter at @DWillisET

## Perry IV leads boys to dramatic Christmas Tourney opening win

STAFF REPORT

METHUEN — As the seconds ticked down in the fourth, Andover saw its lead — once as big as 15 points — slowly chip away as Lawrence fought back with all the strength it could muster. Eventually, the Lancers finally caught the Golden Warriors, and the game wound up going to overtime.

But after two and half minutes of back and forth basketball, Andover senior E.J. Perry IV took the game into his hands.

"When overtime came I thought about last year's Christmas Tournament, we were in a close game and we blew it against Londonderry," Perry said. "I didn't want that to happen again."

Perry knocked down a shot to give Andover the lead for good, and then after Lawrence hit one of two foul shots at the other end, he drained a dagger three to help deliver his team a thrilling 72-67 overtime win in the first round of the Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic last Thursday.

Andover was scheduled to face Methuen in the semifinals on Tuesday.

"What else can you say about that kid Perry? Just an unbelievable legacy," said Andover coach David Fazio. "This is his last Christmas Tournament, and hopefully this will add to all the special things he's done at Andover High School."

Perry finished with a game-high 29 points, giving him 128 points in the Christmas Tourney in his career. Andover needed every one of those, because after jumping out



Andover's Michael Makiej goes up to the hoop against Lawrence's Luis Reynoso during Thursday night's Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic game at Methuen. Andover won 72-67.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

to a 22-7 first quarter lead, Lawrence rallied and never relented. The Lancers outscored the Warriors in the second, third and fourth quarters before finally cooling off in the extra frame.

"Every time you play Lawrence, that's what you get. You get an absolute war," Fazio said. "Those kids have so much heart, so much desire, they're so relentless, and if you don't show up ready to play and rebound, play great defense and

execute, they're going to get you. We won against a heck of a team tonight, and I'm really proud of our kids."

Lawrence's rally culminated with 3:10 to play in the fourth, when junior Cristian Kinsley knocked down a 3-pointer for his first basket of the game to tie the score at 59-59. From there, Perry scored on a backdoor cut from Max Beati, and then Lawrence's Luis Reynoso tied the game at 61-61. Andover had one last shot to win at the end of regulation,

but Cedric Gillette's shot from deep didn't go.

Once in overtime, the two teams continued to trade baskets until Perry took over at the end.

"It's always great to play in the Christmas Tournament," Perry said. "All of my uncles and my dad played in this tournament, and there are so many great memories watching teams play in this tournament when I was little, it's a great atmosphere here, Methuen is a great venue to

play it in and it was fun to play a great team in Lawrence."

In addition to Perry, Andover got 9 points from sophomore Emmett Kim and 8 points from Gillette, Brandon Witten and Max Beati.

### Casey, girls hoops roll in Christmas Tourney opener

NORTH ANDOVER — Andover superstar Alyssa Casey nearly outscored Londonderry all by herself.

With Andover up in the fourth quarter, Merrimack College-bound Casey drained her second 3-pointer of the game to give her 32 points, and was immediately pulled while the Lancers' side of the scoreboard still read 35 points.

Casey spent the final six minutes on the bench watching her top-seeded Golden Warriors lock up a 67-45 victory over Londonderry in the Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic first round on Friday.

Andover advanced to take on host North Andover in the semifinals, scheduled for Wednesday at 8 p.m.

"This tournament is very important to us and we came to win it," said sophomore guard Gia Bramanti, who hit a game-high four 3-pointers and finished with 15 points. "Every team in this tournament is competitive and we need to remember that."

While Casey dazzled with her 32 points, increasing her season scoring average to 26.3 points per game, Bramanti's performance offensively was a much needed boost with Andover's other star, Jillian Webber, still out with a shoulder injury.

"It's huge to get that other scorer," said Andover coach E.J. Perry III. "Gia played well tonight but (Zalanskas) has also had her moments this season too. Same with Taylor. When all three of them are playing well, it's a big thing for us."

Added Bramanti: "We're trying to prove something. Last season wasn't very good, so we're trying to show everybody that we're back and better than ever."



SPORTS SCRAPBOOK



Courtesy photo

Andover Girls Hockey teammates making gingerbread houses for Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence.



Courtesy photo

Andover Girls Varsity annual skate with Santa and Andover Youth Hockey Association.

Local Sports Roundup

Girls hockey plays in honor of Ritzer

GIRLS HOCKEY

One of Colleen Ritzer's lasting messages to the many student that admired her was to find some good in each day.

The Andover and Beverly girls hockey teams met on Friday to remember the beloved slain teacher, filling Endicott College's Bourque Arena with friends, family and pink, Ritzer's favorite color.

"It's always a great game with Beverly and we do something for the Ritzer family every year. It's a very important night," said Andover coach Kevin Drew.

Andover fell to Beverly in the game 5-0, despite a huge 24-save night for Golden Warrior goalie Sean D'Urso.

"She's a great goalie and she stopped a lot of tough

ones," said Drew. "But that top line is very good."

Despite a goal for Michelle Durling, Andover lost to Austin Prep 4-1 last Tuesday.

GYMNASTICS

Zukowski dominates

Paige Zukowski continued her tremendous freshman year by winning the vault (9.45), beam (9.4), floor (9.4) and all-around (36.85) as Andover beat Tewksbury 140.85-122.3 last Thursday. Rachel Cadet added a win in the bars and a second in the floor and all-around.

WRESTLING

Quick pin for Meagher

Matt Meagher earned a pin in 55 seconds at 152 pounds but Andover lost to

Chelmsford 48-12 last Tuesday. Peyton Heidtke added a pin in 3:10 at heavyweight.

BOY HOCKEY

Warriors cruise

Andover rolled over North Andover 5-0 last Tuesday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Beati heats up

Center Max Beati scored a team-high 12 points as Andover rolled past Tewksbury 69-47 last Monday. Brandon Witten and E.J. Perry

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Zalanskas stars

Megan Zalanskas scored 13 points and Alyssa Casey continued to surge with 21 points to help Andover top Tewksbury 53-44 last Monday. Gia Bramanti added a pair of 3-pointers for the winners.

Please recycle this newspaper.

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July 17th - Gunga Goalie Camp	August 14th - Prep School/SSAT Prep Camp 2

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Table listing 2016 sold properties with columns for address, price, and location. Includes properties like 21 BENT GRASS CIR, KINGSTON \$349,900 and 241 CLARK ROAD, LOWELL \$370,000.

\* Coco, Early & Associates participated in either the listing side and/or the selling side of the transactions listed above.

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**'12 Jeep Compass Sport**  
**\$10,777**  
67k miles, No accidents, One owner, 4WD, 5-speed manual, Factory warranty remaining, Keyless entry.



**'15 VW Jetta 1.8T SE**  
**\$11,893**  
37k miles, Free Carfax Report, Turbo, Sirius XM, Bluetooth, 6-speed automatic.



**'15 Chrysler 200 Limited**  
**\$11,922**  
38k miles, Clean Car Fax, Chrysler Certified, 9-speed auto, Front-wheel drive.



**'13 Jeep Compass Sport**  
**\$11,944**  
51k miles, Clean Car Fax, AWD, 5-speed, Manual, Jeep Certified, Keyless entry.



**'11 Nissan Xterra**  
**\$11,996**  
82k miles, Includes warranty, Clean Car Fax, No accidents, One previous owner.



**'14 Mitsubishi Lancer SE**  
**\$11,998**  
45k miles, Factory warranty remaining, AWD, No accidents, Sirius XM, One owner.



**'12 Kia Sportage SX**  
**\$12,993**  
76k miles, Sunroof, AWD, Free CarFax Report, Turbo-charged, Navigation GPS.



**'12 Subaru Legacy 2.5i**  
**\$13,966**  
46k miles, Clean Car Fax, No accidents, Factory warranty remaining, 6-speed manual.



**'12 Nissan Altima 2.5 SL**  
**\$14,883**  
32k miles, Moonroof, One owner, No accidents, Keyless entry, Auto.



**'12 Jeep Liberty Sport**  
**\$14,988**  
49k miles, Clean Car Fax, AWD, Jeep Certified, Sirius XM, 4-speed auto.



**'13 Chevy Equinox LS**  
**\$15,966**  
41k miles, Factory warranty remaining, Free CarFax report, One owner, AWD, Bluetooth.



**'11 Honda Pilot EX-L**  
**\$17,966**  
84k miles, Includes warranty, Free CarFax report, AWD, 5-speed auto, Garage door transmitter.



**'16 Jeep Renegade Sport**  
**\$18,866**  
13k miles, Clean Car Fax, One owner, No accidents, AWD, Jeep Certified.



**'14 Mitsubishi Outlander ES**  
**\$20,777**  
38k miles, Clean Car Fax, No accidents, AWD, Chrysler Certified, Bluetooth.



**'13 Chevy Traverse 1LT**  
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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Snow and rain, 1-2"	A snow shower	Mostly sunny	Cloudy and milder	A bit of ice	Occasional rain	Decreasing clouds
High: 38° Low: 33°	High: 39° Low: 22°	High: 34° Low: 29°	High: 42° Low: 22°	High: 37° Low: 31°	High: 44° Low: 25°	High: 41° Low: 23°

**TODAY:**  
DAMARYS IS 100 POUNDS LIGHTER AND 4 INCHES TALLER

Bariatric Surgery helped Damarys get back into high heels. To hear her story and take a Weight Loss Surgery online self-assessment, visit [lawrencegeneral.org/weightloss](http://lawrencegeneral.org/weightloss)

Lawrence General Hospital  
MIRACLES

LOCAL

# Memory Cafe helps bring families together

By TARYN HERMAN  
Townsmen Correspondent

For those living with memory challenges, something as simple as going out to dinner can be an overwhelmingly daunting task — not only for the persons dealing with memory loss, but for their loved ones and caregivers, as well.

Memory Cafés “create opportunities for individuals living with memory challenges, their caregivers, families and friends, to come together for a lighthearted social event, for memory making,” says Emily Kearns, Memory Making Café coordinator.

Kearns knows firsthand the difficulties that can arise in caring for a loved one who suffers from memory challenges. Originally from Andover, Kearns made her way to Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, where she was a professor of sociology.

Her father was the first to suffer from Alzheimer’s, with her mother soon to follow. Kearns was able to relocate back to the area, closer to her parents, where she taught as a professor at Emerson. She took one year of leave from Emerson, to focus completely on care for her parents.

She wishes they had The Memory Café then.

“It was hard to go out. If someone acts out (in The Memory Café), everyone understands,” she says. “It’s a safe place. A lot of people are isolated, (they) feel ashamed. This is a welcoming community.”

After her parents died, she came to her career, her “first love.”

Kearns started as the Learning Program Director of Learning for Life — a Hearthstone program in Lincoln for individuals living with dementia. She used to bring participants to the first Memory Café in Massachusetts.

The café was coordinated by Beth Soltzberg, director of Alzheimer’s/Related Disorders Family Support Program at Jewish Family & Children’s Services in Waltham.

“Once I saw the model there, I dreamed of bringing it



Courtesy photo

A local couple attend the Memory Cafe at Sal’s. The group meets monthly at the Park Street restaurant.

IF YOU GO

**What:** Monthly meeting of Memory Making Café and Dinner  
**Where:** Salvatore’s Restaurant, 34 Park St., Andover  
**When:** 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
**How:** RSVP to Emily Kearns, Memory Café coordinator, by calling 978-604-0830 or emailing emilykearns18@gmail.com.

hopes to “raise awareness throughout our community so that they are no longer isolated and experiencing painful stigma”.

The term memory challenge encompasses a wide range of issues.

Along with dementia and Alzheimer’s, it could be someone who has suffered a brain injury, someone with Parkinson’s, or Down syndrome can sometimes cause memory challenges.

“People can be memory challenged for a lot of different reasons,” says Kearns.

Once a month, anywhere from six to sometimes 15 people attend the Memory Making Café at Salvatore’s (their regular spot). Kearns mentions that “smaller groups are better, more intimate.”

“Folks with dementia are very, very special to (me),” she says. “The culture is evolving, raising awareness for people with memory challenges. (The café) is a small event, but part of a bigger web that is sweeping the nation and it’s exciting that Andover is taking part in it.”

to Andover and met with then director of Elder Services in Andover to tell her about the model and to share with her specific funding opportunities,” Kearns explains.

That led to her serving as the volunteer coordinator for the Memory Making Café, and Caregiver Networking Coffee Hour in Andover.

A monthly event at Salvatore’s, Kearns describes the Memory Making Café as a place to get a free meal, fun activities and more importantly, a place “for folks to feel supported ... an opportunity to relax ... to be a part of this broader community having fun, and meaningful conversation together.”

The most recent dinner event was held Monday night. They are usually from

6:30 to 8 p.m.

In 2015, the Andover Council on Aging secured a grant to start a café at The Center at Punchard, funded by the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition. The following year, the council secured another grant to extend this café into the Merrimack Valley, funded by the Department of Developmental Services.

That same year, the grants ended, but Kearns continued coordinating them on her own as a volunteer, with the help of sponsors, the first being Peregrine’s Landing in Tewksbury. The program is currently looking for sponsorship to be able to continue with the Memory Café’s and Coffee Hours.

On the bigger scale, Kearns



Courtesy photo

Pictured left to right: Front row, Marie Flynn of Quota, Angelique DeCost of Andover Public Schools, Vena Coco of Quota. Back Row: Alice Flynn of Quota, Sara Stetson, APS Director of Special Services, Cathy Bakkensen, Andover Teacher of Hearing Impaired, and Nancy Koch of Andover Public Schools.

# Quota gift helps Andover students

Sitting in the back row of a class or having a somewhat soft-spoken teacher can be problematic for some students as they simply can’t hear assignments as well as they should.

Research by the Quota International Club of Andover shows that listening is the primary channel for learning but physical factors like the distance across a classroom and typical classroom noise may prevent students from hearing the full message. And, the Club is doing something about the problem.

Quota International of Andover has generously donated a Redcat Access from Lightspeed Technologies to the Andover Public Schools. Redcat is an audio enhancement classroom speaker system that amplifies the teacher’s voice, thus enabling every student in Andover to hear every lesson better.

The system will be used in all public schools.

“No longer will Andover students miss oral instructions due to a hearing impairment, auditory processing disabilities or just plain typical classroom distractions,” the Club’s press release says. “No more missing critical components required for learning and understanding.”

Quota International is a worldwide women’s non profit service organization. The Andover branch recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Over the years, the club has supported numerous local organizations and individuals that serve the deaf or hearing impaired as well as families in need.

Quota membership is open to all women who enjoy each other’s company, want to create a variety of fundraising events and want to provide a smile to those served. Membership applications are available by contacting Vena Coco, Quota International of Andover, PO Box 221, Andover MA 01810.

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:

**Monday Movie Matinee:** Free movies are shown Mondays, 1 p.m., with popcorn and sodas available for purchase.

**Mindfulness Meditation:** Friday from 3 to 3:30 p.m. by donation. Mindfulness is a modern, evidence-based way of increasing one’s mental clarity, calm, happiness and health. Facilitated by Chip Carter. Preregistration requested.

**Our Daily Bread:** Warm meals served weekdays at noon; suggested cost \$2.50. Prior day registration is requested.

**Current Events Discussion:** The Townhouse hosts a coffee and conversation every weekday from 9 a.m. to noon. On Thursday is a special current events discussion. Join in this welcoming group to hash over the latest events of the day.

**Parkinson’s Disease Support Group:** Meets on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, 1:30 to 3 p.m. This is an open group and all are

welcome. Call Kristine Arakelian, outreach coordinator, to confirm attendance or for more information.

**Foot Care:** Appointments are available on the third Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of every month (nail clipping only) for Andover residents. Limited to one appointment every other month. The fee is \$10. Call The Center to make an appointment on the first day of the month.

**Bereavement Support Group:** Learn new ways to carry on traditional ways of doing things and figure out how to commemorate days that can trigger a lot of emotion. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month, starting Jan. 5, at 1:30 p.m. Lois Marra, of Home Health VNA Hospice, will facilitate the group. Call to register.

**Pain Management Support**

**Group:** This monthly group usually meets the second Monday of the month, from September through June, at 1:30 p.m. This intimate and confidential group is open to anyone who is dealing with chronic pain management issues. Gerry Rainville, RN, MSN, is the facilitator. Newcomers are always welcome. Call to be added to the list.

**Wellness Clinics:** Stop in for a blood pressure and weight check with trained nurses Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Get help with day-to-day health needs.

**Brown Bag:** Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Boston Food bank, and C@P are expanding this program. This program is free to anyone 60 and over with an income of \$21,978 as a single person or \$29,637 for a couple, or on Mass Health, Chapter

115, food stamps, fuel assistance. This grocery bag is available on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Call Annmary or Kristine to sign up or to check eligibility.

Weekly classes are also offered in aerobics (seated to very vigorous), strength training, beginner and intermediate yoga, basic and performance tap dancing, beginning and intermediate tai chi as well as line dancing.

All events are open to the community. However, space is limited and registration is required; sign up at [www.myactivecenter.net](http://www.myactivecenter.net).

The Center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For a complete listing of classes and programs, check The Center’s newsletter or visit [www.andovercenter.org](http://www.andovercenter.org). For more information, call 978-623-8321.

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