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OUR 129TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 18

MARCH 9, 2017

\$1.00

Town manager proposes budget

A gap of \$1.3 million still exists between school, town plans

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
geruz@andovertownsman.com

With a \$1.3 million gap between the town and school budgets looming, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan presented his proposed spending plan to the Board of Selectmen last week.

During the Monday, Feb. 27 Selectmen's meeting, Flanagan recommended spending \$39.6 million on the town side of the ledger, a 3.1 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2017.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan has recommended that the schools get \$79.1 million, but Superintendent Sheldon Berman and the School Committee have countered that they need \$80.4 million.

For schools, Flanagan proposed a \$79.1 million budget, or a 4 percent increase. His counterpart in the school department, Superintendent Sheldon Berman, claims the schools need \$80.4 million, or a 5.7 percent increase.

The discussion led to a flare-up between Selectmen Dan Kowalski and Bob Landry as several issues remain unresolved. If the schools are forced to settle for a \$79.1 million budget, they will likely have to make some cuts. On the other hand, some selectmen seem unwilling to give the schools a bail-out from free cash and excess levy capacity.

Town budget

A new town yard, according to Flanagan, is "one of the more significant parts of this year's budget." Last year, Town Meeting voted to approve the first three steps toward a new town yard, including purchasing 5 Campanelli Drive, approving funds for a design study, and creating a

See BUDGET, Page 2



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Andover Selectmen incumbent Mary O'Donoghue, right, reacts to challenger Laura Gregory's comments concerning the train idling problem.

Lines drawn by candidates in local election

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
geruz@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — As candidates came together for the first debate of this year's election season, lines were drawn and tensions ignited as various issues spurred debate and disagreement Tuesday night before about 60 people at the Public Safety center on Main Street.

Two candidates for School Committee — incumbent Joel Blumstein and challenger Bob Pokress — and two candidates for Selectmen — incumbent Mary O'Donoghue and challenger Laura Gregory — sparred over town and school budgets, special education, retiree health care premiums, idling trains, and a new high school schedule.

The debate was hosted by the Andover Townsman and Service Club of Andover in advance of the March 28 election.



Andover School Committee candidate Bob Pokress, left, listens as incumbent Joel Blumstein makes a point during the debate Tuesday night.

School candidates

Blumstein, the current chairman of the committee,

and Pokress, a returning challenger who ran for a seat on the committee last year, displayed differences in both policy and personality.

See ELECTION, Page 3

Kris Houle, second from the right, project manager of the Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration talks to the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton at the Stevens Street location about the project. The Secretary conducted a site tour of the Shawsheen River dam removals with state and local officials.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Officials bid farewell to dams

Herring already sighted in the river near Marland Place

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
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For fish, kayaks and canoes, the Shawsheen River is just about open for business.

State officials visited the Ball-moral and Stevens Street dams Friday as the projects to tear down the dams are coming

an end. The dam removals were designated as priority projects by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game in 2008 and have since received \$1.3 million in state and federal funding.

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton visited both dams Friday afternoon along

with representatives from the Department of Fish & Game and its Division of Ecological Restoration as well as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Members of local organizations supporting the removal were also on hand.

"I'm glad I could end the day somewhere that is of personal significance," Beaton said. See DAM, Page 2

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Local Girl Scouts urge drivers to 'STOP'

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
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Five local girls are on a mission to make Andover safer — one driver at a time.

Izzy Marble and Kaylee Rota, both 14, along with Olivia Lu-Alba, Becca Modderno and Olivia Liera, all 13, make up Girl Scout Troop 62101. As part of earning their Silver Award, they are required to identify a problem in their community, raise awareness about it, and come up with a solution to help eliminate

the problem.

Rota babysits for a local family after school and picks the children up from their bus stop. When the bus stops, a metal arm extends a stop sign and the bus's lights start flashing. State law requires cars to stop, but that doesn't deter some drivers from speeding by.

"We noticed that a lot of people were blowing by the stop signs on school buses; they weren't paying attention," Rota said. "It's a real threat because people's lives are on the line."

To earn their Silver Award, each troop member has to contribute 20 hours to the project. The troop spent time brainstorming ideas for an awareness campaign, came up with a slogan, researched state and local laws, and have met with various town officials to discuss the problem.

Their slogan is, aptly: S.T.O.P., which stands for "Stop Traffic Otherwise Punishment." While drivers are liable to be pulled over for not stopping for a

See STOP, Page 3



Girl Scout Troop 62101 is starting a public awareness campaign trying to stop people from passing school buses. Front, from left: Becca Modderno, Olivia Liera and Izzy Marble. Back, from left: Olivia Lu-Alba and Kaylee Rota.

JEN MELI/Staff photo



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All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Historical Society

**100 Years Ago
March 9, 1917**

The snowstorms and blizzard Monday kept down the attendance at the annual town meeting and the number of votes registered at the election, 777, was the smallest for more than a dozen years. Very few of the farmers from the outlying districts were able to come to the polls and only 43 women cast their votes for the choice of school committee.

Charles S. Warden, manager of the Colonial theatre, and David L. Coutts, attended the reception to Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, the Paramount comedy star, at the Copley-Plaza hotel Boston, Tuesday evening.

Last Saturday, an auto and motorcycle collided on Main Street in front of the Joyce Estate and both machines were badly damaged. Ruts in the ice prevented the driver of the auto from turning out in

time to avoid a smash.

**75 Years Ago
March 12, 1942**

Andover's second wartime town meeting, Monday night, kept well within the restrictions of economy imposed by the present conflict, and, while voting large increases in all town departments, amounting in most cases to 10 percent, voted expenditures of \$650,687, or \$28,341 less than last year.

The local civilian defense committee, at its regular bi-weekly meeting Thursday night, made final plans for the blackout to take place Sunday night March 22, in Andover in conjunction with half a dozen other neighboring communities.

Miss Irma Beene, proprietor of a Main Street store is watching the papers with more than usual interest these days, since one of her cousins, Capt. Earle Richards Carle of Malden, is serving with General MacArthur's beleaguered forces on Bataan. Carle is with the field artillery there, and has been in the Philippines since early last July.

**50 Years Ago
March 9, 1967**

The Selectmen have scheduled a Special Town Meeting for March 28 to permit voters to have their say about announced plans for a \$2,182,000 expansion of the Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School. The rush meeting is necessary because the four communities involved—Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, and Methuen—have just 30 days to approve or disapprove the project.

The Andover Youth Center Junior Basketball League closed out its session Saturday with the Chargers winning a play-off victory of 21-17 over the Cougars. It was the second straight championship win for Coach Frank Monette, assisted this year by Tom Robb. Members of the Charger team were Capt. Andy Monach, Robert Dufault, Steve Robinson, Kevin O'Brien, Warren Filz, Tim Murphy, Mike Johnson, Bob Peterson and John Fox.

A photo of a proposed apartment complex accompanies the following: "Disapproved—The Planning Board will advise against rezoning

of some 20 acres off Elm Street to permit construction of an apartment building by Campanelli Bros. which would include buildings of the type shown in this sketch."

**25 Years Ago
March 5, 1992**

An Andover businessman may be within a month or so of signing a deal to buy the old post office building on Main Street, he said last week. "I am planning on purchasing the post office," said Nicholas Aznoian, of 62 Wild Rose Drive.

The four candidates vying for two open seats on the School Committee agreed at last Thursday night's debate, held at Shawsheen School, that education should be a funding priority in Andover. But, incumbent Dick Hubbell and challengers Bill Huston, Larry Lewis, and Mary Lyman disagreed on the town's willingness to speak with its pocketbook during these rough economic times.

Capt. James G. Prout III, USN, son of Elizabeth Prout of 13 Williams St. and the late Capt. Ames G. Prout Jr., USNR, was recently promoted to the rank of rear admiral.

BUDGET: Disparities found between town, school

Continued from Page 1

fund to "mitigate the financial impact of constructing" a new town yard, Flanagan said.

This year, Town Meeting will be asked to take the final step in the process: authorizing the town to borrow \$17.5 million, the full cost of building a new town yard.

"It is our goal to go out to bid in March (for a new town yard design) and have the designs in hand in April, and go to Town Meeting with actual bid numbers and a fully permitted project," Flanagan said. "And we're on pace to do that."

Meanwhile, two people are being hired for Information Technology and one person in the Department of Community Services.

In the last three to four years, Flanagan said, the town's Information Technology department has grown rapidly, adding that town- and school-wide, the department is responsible for 20,000 digital devices.

There will be a vacancy in a higher-paid IT position that the town doesn't plan to fill, but will instead hire two lower-paid technicians to assist with operations throughout town and school departments.

The town will also hire a part-time administrator who will support the work of the Department of Community Services by working out of the Youth Center. That hire will also "allow the town to keep the building open more and track some of the statistics with regard to usage of the building," Flanagan said.

In other priorities, Flanagan has recommended using \$500,000 of free cash to fund two projects: \$300,000 to fund a design study of the Ballardvale Fire Station to map out renovating or reconstructing the facility and \$200,000 to build a handicap accessibility ramp at the fields at High Plain and Wood Hill schools. The other half of that \$400,000 project will be paid for by the schools.

In order to fund more projects out of free cash, rather than CIP requests or additions to the operating budget, Flanagan implemented a "capital capacity initiative" to grow the town's free cash account. The Board of Selectmen have voted on multiple occasions to only use free cash for one-time capital expenses, not for operating budget gaps.

"Based on the recommendation, we'll leave Town Meeting with a much higher balance in free cash than we have in the past," Flanagan said. "(We'll) be able to build up that base over time so we can fund more out of cash than we have previously been able to do."

Funding the gap

Overall, including the school department, the Town of Andover will operate with a \$181.7 million budget during Fiscal Year 2018, 44 percent of that being dedicated to the schools.

Flanagan has recommended that the schools get \$79.1 million, but Superintendent Sheldon Berman and the School Committee have countered that they need \$80.4 million, leaving a \$1.3 million gap between the two budgets.

Members of the School Committee have talked about the possibility of using free cash, which sits at \$4 million, or excess levy capacity, which currently sits at \$300,000, to fund the gap. Members of the Board of Selectmen, however, said

Flanagan has recommended using \$500,000 of free cash to fund two projects: \$300,000 to fund a design study of the Ballardvale Fire Station to map out renovating or reconstructing the facility and \$200,000 to build a handicap accessibility ramp at the fields at High Plain and Wood Hill schools.

last week that the board was against using either for closing the \$1.3 million gap.

Last year, the school department took its special education reserve fund, known as the circuit breaker, to \$0 in order to help fund last years' unexpectedly high out-of-district placement costs and come to a consensus budget with the town.

In recent weeks, Berman and School Committee members have claimed that an agreement was made between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee to reimburse the school department for taking that fund to \$0.

Agreement or not?

During last week's Selectmen's meeting, Selectman Bob Landry raised this issue with his board, requesting that they comment on the record about whether an agreement to fund a reimbursement was made. He said that because the board had not discussed it as a whole in public session, he believed they should do so at the meeting.

As he tried to explain his reasoning, he was interrupted by Selectman Dan Kowalski on multiple occasions, who earlier in the meeting criticized the Townsman for reporting that budget discussions were getting contentious.

Kowalski said "anecdotal notes" regarding the issue "mean nothing unless we've discussed it as a board," to which Landry replied that he was trying to do just that: discuss as a board whether an agreement was made to reimburse the schools. "There was no agreement to provide supplement funding to the schools..." Landry said, before he was interrupted by Kowalski, throwing a hand in the air as he said, "I don't even know what you're talking about, 'an agreement.'"

Landry encouraged Kowalski to "get up to speed" on the issue, suggesting that he watch recordings of Finance Committee and School Committee meetings where the issue was discussed.

Ultimately, the board agreed that no such agreement was made to reimburse the schools for taking its special education reserve fund to \$0 last year.

The three boards came together Wednesday night for a Tri-Board meeting, during which the budget was discussed, and the School Committee will meet tonight with next year's budget on the agenda.

The boards will make their final operating budget and warrant article votes by Monday, March 28 and letters from each committee will be due to the Finance Committee by Wednesday, March 29.

DAM: Dams being removed across Massachusetts

Continued from Page 1

great interest to me, being an avid fly-fisherman," Beaton said. "It's a pretty amazing project to see the before's and after's, and to realize the ecological benefits, the economic benefits, the recreational benefits, the climate-change adaptation benefits, and see it all come together."

Removing the dams will open up about four miles of the Shawsheen River and reintroduce 16 acres of habitat to migratory fish, including alewife, blueback and herring.

"The dams blocked the fish from access to habitat where they reproduce," U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist Bill Bennett said. "By removing the dams, we're really restoring access to these fish that they haven't had access to in 200 years."

Steve Golden of the Shawsheen River Greenway Association said that along with restoring the natural history in Andover, removing the dams will also create opportunity for residents and visitors to canoe, kayak, and fish on the river. Golden and the association plan to host a fish count in April, when volunteers will be invited to



Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton conducted a site tour of the Shawsheen River dam removal on Steven Street in Andover with state and local officials Friday.

help count herring as they swim along the river.

Conservation Commission director Bob Douglas said in a widely shared email Monday morning that a staff member "just reported" seeing a school of herring in the river, upstream of the site of the old Balmoral Dam, near Marland Place.

"Why is this exciting?" he asked. "It's probably the

first school of herring in the Shawsheen River in 150 years."

Tim Purinton, who directs Fish & Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, said projects like these do a lot more than just improve wildlife and ecological conditions.

"It's kind of the rebirth of a river," Purinton said. "In some ways, these projects are much more than the environment piece, more than the fish and the water quality. It's really about the community getting reconnected to its river."

Purinton was also able to secure nearly \$1 million in federal funding through the Department of the Interior's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program. Last year, Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan dubbed 2017 "the year of the downtown." Getting the dams removed from the river and creating a more

interactive environment for residents is one part of a larger plan to incorporate the Shawsheen River into the downtown area.

Both dams were built to support wool mills and each carry historical sentiment, but neither serve a functional purpose and have ultimately been abandoned. Had the dams not been removed, the town would continue to carry an increased risk of flooding to areas surrounding the dams.

Balmoral Dam has been removed, with small pieces of stone the only thing remaining to help support the stone walls to which the dam was attached. Crews are still working at the Stevens Street Dam, also known as the Marland Place Dam, removing remnants of the dam and preparing the banks to be topped with grass.

Officials said crews and construction vehicles should be out of the Stevens Street Dam area within two weeks, leaving the river wide open for fish, canoes and kayaks.

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ELECTION: School committee, selectman candidates stake out positions

Continued from Page 1

Regarding special education, the candidates both believe that addressing the needs of students is of the utmost importance, but disagreed on whether the district was adequately doing so. Pokress argued that students with dyslexia, in particular, “don’t get the support they need in district,” while Blumstein countered that the new director of student services, Sara Stetson, is changing the district’s diagnosis and education practices successfully.

Some families who send their students out of district have complained that the district engages in intense legal battles that result in high costs for all parties involved. To lower the costs, Pokress said taking a deeper look into why some battles are more costly than others is necessary, adding that he believes the district has a “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” attitude when it comes to identifying why special education costs are so high.

Blumstein argued that the number cases that result in legal battles “are very small,” admitting that there are disagreements, but said the vast majority of those disagreements are “not contentious.”

The two candidates also butted heads over the impending Fiscal Year 2018 budget. As it stands, the town manager’s recommended budget is \$1.3 million less than the superintendent’s budget proposal, resulting in a significant gap between budgets.

Pokress said Superintendent Sheldon Berman should be able to “live well within the financial means” delegated by the town manager. At almost \$80 million, the school department



Andover Town Moderator Sheila Doherty listens during one of last night’s debates at the Public Safety Center. Selectmen and school committee candidates debated Tuesday night in front of about 60 people.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

budget takes up more than 40 percent of the entire town budget. Blumstein, however, said that more money is necessary, specifically to pay for what he called “unexpected” costs relating to special education.

“We need to continue to move forward and make smart investments in our school district,” Blumstein said.

One of those investments he pointed to was a new schedule at Andover High School. In order to transition from a semester-based schedule to a year-long schedule, the school department has requested an additional \$500,000 to hire seven more teachers. While Blumstein said the change is needed to compete with other schools in the area that operate on year-long schedules, Pokress said he “can almost guarantee it will be a train wreck.”

Board of Selectmen

Sparks also flew between O’Donoghue and Gregory, who disagreed on nearly every question they were asked. Gregory often accusing O’Donoghue of letting issues grow “under her watch.”

When asked about retired town employee health care benefits, Gregory offered a number of criticisms against O’Donoghue, who served as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen when the board voted to increase premiums in order to offset town-funded health care costs.

“While Mary was chair of the selectmen, the decision was made, after a short period of time, to push the cost on retirees, after (an appointed) committee came up with 21 different possible solutions,” Gregory said, adding that O’Donoghue rushed the vote rather than

waiting for help from the state.

O’Donoghue countered that had the town not increased premiums, in three years there would be a nearly \$650 million unfunded liability weighing on the town. After voting to increase premiums, the projected liability after three years is \$0, O’Donoghue said.

“For those of us paying attention, this was a two-year process,” O’Donoghue added. “Nobody wants to make the hard decisions, but the board did with this vote.”

The two also went back and forth over the issue of idling trains being left in the downtown neighborhood near the train station. Last week, selectmen met with residents, state officials, and representatives from Pan Am to address

the issue, which resulted in possible solution within the next six months.

But Gregory said the timeline was not soon enough for residents dealing with the issue now, and said the Board of Selectmen should be the “squeaky wheel” that attracts more attention to the issue to find a solution faster.

O’Donoghue said any progress is good progress, adding that the board plans to have the issue on its agenda at every meeting until a solution is found. She said “sometimes you have to take baby steps” in order to get to the best solution.

Like the two school committee candidates, O’Donoghue and Gregory differed on the town and school proposed budgets.

O’Donoghue argued that its incumbent on the Board of Selectmen to look out for all taxpayers and work toward spending their

money wisely, adding that “it’s never enough” when it comes to school department budget increases.

Gregory was “disturbed by Mary saying there’s never enough money for schools,” adding that there should never be “battles” between the town and schools, and the two should work as enemies but rather allies.

The four candidates will come together again this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. for a debate that will be broadcast live at www.facebook.com/andovertownsmen. Those debates will take place in the Townsman offices.

Two additional debates are scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m., and Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m., both broadcast on Andover TV and co-sponsored by Andover TV and the Townsman and moderated by Townsman editor Bill Kirk.

STOP: Local girl scouts push drivers to stop

Continued from Page 1

school bus, they are also subject to a \$255 fine. For second offenders, the fine is increased, and for third offenders, there’s a possibility of jail time.

“I never really thought about it until we started the project,” Lu-Alba said. “Then I said, ‘Oh! This is a real problem.’”

With their campaign, the girls aim to not only raise awareness about the penalties associated with ignoring a school bus’s stop sign, but to also help reduce the number of drivers who don’t stop.

Some of their ideas include petitioning the town to install caution or stop signs leading up to bus stops around town. The police department has also agreed to post their slogan on an electronic billboard outside of the fire station to help spread awareness.

The girls also plan to set up tables at local sporting events to inform residents of their campaign, and they may also have stickers made to serve as a reminder to drivers. As teenagers themselves, they are hopeful that their message can reach new and soon-to-be drivers as well.

“This could most effect 16-year-olds learning how to drive right now,” Moderno said. “If they learn this when they’re learning how to drive, about the fine and safety for children, it’s probably going to stick with them forever.”

“Then hopefully over the next generation, it’ll decrease,” Rota added.

The girls are just beginning the implementation of their campaign, but all

agreed they are excited to spread awareness and are hopeful that as a result, they can help solve this problem they’ve identified in Andover.

“I am just beyond proud of all the girls,” said one of the troop’s leaders,

Michelle Rota. “They did the leg work, it’s their idea, they’re getting behind this, they want to do this because they feel that it’s important. They’re willing to put their time and effort into a problem they see in their community,

and that’s what this is all about.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pokress will increase transparency, discipline to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

Bob Pokress is Andover's ideal candidate for election to the School Committee. His background experiences and education speak for themselves. Electing him will bring to the table an action plan for Andover's schools that will include:

— Raising the bar for measurable educational goals and holding the school department leadership accountable for their achievement.

— Implementation of a total transparency policy for parents and all residents on all school department matters, school system needs, and school system results.

— Ending the adversarial relationship among the school department, school committee, parents and all citizens.

— Insisting on a prioritized, disciplined budgeting process which optimizes where dollars are spent and the school population's needs are met.

— Creating a culture which insures, cultivates and rewards excellence in education.

It is important for all citizens to get out and vote and giving due consideration to Bob Pokress will be most worthwhile for Andover.

JOSEPH PONTI
10 Marion Avenue
Andover

Bach: Blumstein is 'steady, positive force'

Editor, Townsman:

I write to urge Andover voters to support Joel Blumstein's re-election to the School Committee. As a member and current chair of the

Committee, Joel has been a steady and positive force.

Always, he comes to meetings prepared lead the meeting and well-versed on the topics under discussion.

In this time of too much negativity, Joel remains respectful and open to the disparate views of all members of the community, even those who are critical of and disagree with the School Committee and School Department.

He listens attentively and he works hard to reach consensus. He continually strives to represent all parents, often recognizing and balancing conflicting views.

He stays focused squarely on his primary constituency, the students, constantly seeking solutions that improve the educational opportunities for all of them.

Please vote on March 28 to return Joel Blumstein to the School Committee for another term.

CLAUDIA BACH, FORMER SUPERINTENDENT ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
19 Chandler Circle
Andover

Blumstein for a man of 'integrity, honesty'

Editor, Townsman:

There are people of integrity and honesty who donate their time and abilities to promote public education in their communities.

Joel Blumstein is such an individual. As chairman of our School Committee, he has helped move our schools in many key areas: selection of a new Superintendent, expansion of the middle school math curriculum, early screening of students with reading disabilities, reduction of elementary class sizes, enhanced dialogue with parents, and delivering a balanced budget at Town Meeting.

I have known Joel for over 25 years. He has always represented himself as a person who works diligently and purposefully in the public arena. He is a person who is

experienced in listening and working hard for the benefit of the public. He is very capable in making decisions in the midst of controversy and finding ways to resolve differences within large groups.

He brings decades of public service to the table to achieve benefits for our children and the town of Andover.

I hope that you will join me on Tuesday, March 28, in re-electing Joel to the Andover School Committee.

JOHN ZIPETO
14 Canterbury St.
Andover

Pokress has 'knowledge, understanding' of school issues

Editor, Townsman:

I met Bob Pokress in a School Committee meeting a few years ago. I was struck by his inquisitive questions, use of data to support his comments and his clear focus on striving for excellence in our schools.

He displayed a commendable knowledge and understanding of the school issues and had the courage to ask difficult questions.

These are the traits of a leader. As an educated and professional working mother of three school-aged children, I respect different opinions and look to data and research to inform my decisions.

Unfortunately, I have not seen this type of decision-making or nuanced discussions occur at the School Committee.

I am confident that Bob will bring the change to allow questions to be asked in open meeting, respectfully listen to the public's input, use data to inform decisions and offer clear communication to the constituents of the town.

Bob has displayed an unwavering commitment to the schools in Andover with his clear goal of delivering the best education possible for Andover children. Please join me in voting for Bob Pokress for School Committee.

TERESA SCHIRMER
80 Center St
Andover

Blumstein brings collaboration, not confrontation

Editor, Townsman:

As a concerned taxpayer, parent of three students and teacher at WMS, the success of our school system is a high priority.

APS faces significant budgetary and strategic challenges; we need School Committee leaders -- like Joel Blumstein-- who will consistently place the needs of the students as the highest priority.

Joel Blumstein has proven that he will work toward achieving goals that keep our students safe and on the path toward continued academic excellence.

Nothing can be more important to the Committee than the well-being of our students and their continued growth as learners in this community.

As a teacher I appreciate his interest in math and his earnest desire to better understand the needs of all my classroom learners. While other candidates have spoken about Andover's math, they have not reached out, like Joel has, to gain a better understanding of what I actually do in my classroom on a daily basis.

What we need are leaders who will work with the Finance Committee, Board of Selectman, APS administration and teachers to improve our school system.

I can tell you with certainty that confrontation is not an effective method for making the schools better. We want collaborative board members who seek input to understand the issues before acting on them. Joel's vote is always based on best advice from experts within the larger community. A vote for Joel Blumstein on March 28 is a vote for an advocate who will stand up for our schools and for our students.

MARJORIE ANDRESEN
85 Argilla Road
Andover

Gregory 'intelligent, fair, inclusive'

Editor, Townsman:

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Laura Gregory for several years in her capacity as president of the AHS PAC, co-president of the Doherty Middle School PAC and as a member of the

Bancroft School Improvement Committee.

I can honestly say that I have rarely worked with anyone so dedicated to fairness and inclusivity. Laura is extremely hard working and very generous with her time.

She works tirelessly on all matters by listening to all perspectives and considerations without being focused on single issues and narrow topics.

Her thoughtful approach includes looking at overall community benefits and impacts. In her capacity as a volunteer in our town, Laura has proven capable of using limited resources to do the most good for the most people.

Laura is intelligent and competent and particularly well-suited to the position of Selectman. I hope you will join me in voting for Laura Gregory for Selectman on Tuesday, March 28.

HEIDI BORENSTEIN
10 Avon St
Andover

Pokress will return schools to 'glory days of 1975'

Editor, Townsman:

I am a loyal reader of Andover Townsman since I moved into Andover in 2011. I am writing to you to express my support of Bob Pokress for a seat in the Andover School Committee.

I made a choice to settle down in the town of Andover based on its reputation of good school district. Unfortunately, nowadays the Andover school system is not as good as it used to be (regardless of how other politicians would debate on the standard of ranking).

As a matter of fact, the house price is a good indicator. The sluggish house price in Andover comparing to the other peer towns is claiming that parents with school-age kids are valuing other towns more than Andover.

As a parent of two elementary school kids, I'd like to see a change in the management of school system (in terms of responsibility of teachers, superintendent as well as a stronger curriculum). I had the chance to meet with Bob a couple of times since last year's election.

Through my conversation with him, I believe he has a strong vision to change our school system and raise it back to the glory dates of 1975. Personally, I think the current school committee is biased towards the interest

of the teacher's union more than those of parents and students. We need some new blood to make the change and Bob is the one to move the needle.

DR. LIN ZHANG
10 Lamancha Way
Andover

Blumstein won't 'tear things down'

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing in support of Joel Blumstein for School Committee. I have been reflecting a lot about what character traits and strengths I want in my elected officials. For me, those are integrity, intelligence, a collaborative spirit, trustworthiness, and insightfulness not to make snap judgements but rather to seek information before making decisions.

Joel Blumstein embodies all of these characteristics. Joel is seeking re-election because he values the education of all our students and is committed to working toward a balanced and comprehensive plan that takes into account the concerns of all residents. Joel has a very thoughtful and quiet demeanor.

His style of governing builds confidence because it's obvious that he is listening to all constituents, carefully analyzing the information presented, and trusting our educational professionals to make rational decisions on the difficult issues.

There are many progressive initiatives and many talented educators, staff and administrators in our schools. Joel looks to capitalize on these successes to build on and move forward.

I am a realistic person. I know there are challenges that we face as a school department and a community. What I want is a leader who understands the challenges and is committed to moving things forward by building on the good, focusing on the challenges and not just looking to tear things down.

I believe this is Joel Blumstein and I hope you will join me in voting for him for School Committee on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

DIANE COSTAGLIOLA
Belknap Drive
Andover

Gregory will end division and bickering

Editor, Townsman:

Many have spoken of her background in Andover Schools and PTOs, but I would like to focus on other strengths she brings to the Board of Selectmen.

In 25 years as a civil litigation attorney, she has participated in negotiations and mediations of numerous cases, often eliminating the need to file suit.

She knows that litigation is lengthy and expensive both in terms of legal costs and the parties' time, but also in the animosity often stoked between the parties.

The best solutions for all parties are reached when all stakeholders work together with the goal of reaching the best solution for all and doing so in a constructive and positive way.

The Board of Selectmen needs to work collaboratively both within itself and with all facets of the Andover community. Electing Laura to the Board of Selectmen is a step toward collaboration and away from division and conflict.

Laura was also a member of the Reading Zoning Board of Appeals. In her position on the Zoning Board she enforced the town zoning by-laws, heard appeals of decisions of the Building Inspector, decided applications for variances and special permits, as well as issues involving low and moderate income housing. This background will be invaluable in moving Andover forward and making the most of Andover's opportunities with the Historic Mill District and the development of the town yard site. I urge you to vote Laura Gregory for Selectman on March 28.

MARY CATAUDELLA
17 Ballardvale Road

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■ OBITUARIES

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices. To place an obituary, please visit andovertownsmen.com/submitobit. Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions.

Paula Petrillo

January 29, 1928 — March 5, 2017

WINCHESTER, MA — Paula J. (DeFuria) Petrillo of Winchester, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Henry A. Petrillo. Loving mother of Henry L. "Hank" and his wife Valerie of Andover, Linda A. Mahoney and her husband, Bob of Burlington, Lois A. Murphy and her husband, George of Londonderry, N.H., and Paul C. Petrillo of Winchester. Dear grandmother of Michael and his wife Jenna, Noelle, and Nicholas Petrillo, Kristen and her husband, Grant Farrell, Kerrie Mahoney, Allyson Kusser and her husband, Adam, and Ryan Murphy and

his wife, Megan. Proud great-grandmother of Avery, Brent, Aria and Ella, and Grayson. Cherished sister of Anna Carangelo of Lynnfield. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: Visiting Hours will be held at the Lane Funeral Home, 760 Main St. (Rte. 38), Winchester, on Thursday, March 9th from 4 to 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday March 10th at St. Patrick's Church, 71 Central St., Stoneham at 10 a.m. Relatives and Friends are kindly invited to attend. Interment will be private. For online condolences please visit www.lanefuneral.com. Lane Funeral Home, 781-729-2580.

Tree falls on I25, kills woman traveling in car

By ZOE MATHEWS
Staff reporter

Police have identified Elizabeth Roszkowski as the 58-year-old North Reading woman who died Saturday after a tree fell on the car she was riding in on Route 125.

State police responded to reports of a crash on Route 125 north near Wildwood Road at about 2:15 p.m.

Troopers found that a 2007 Toyota Camry had been struck by a falling tree, trapping the two occupants inside.

Roszkowski was transported to Lawrence General Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The driver, a 58-year-old man from North Reading,

was also transported to Lawrence General Hospital with life-threatening injuries. His identity has not been released.

The crash remains under investigation by Troop A of the Massachusetts State Police with assistance from troopers from the Crime Scene Services Section, the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and the Detective Unit for Essex County.

Route 125 was shut down for approximately two hours.

Authorities have not said what caused the tree to fall but it was very windy that day. Earlier in the week, windstorms brought down numerous trees throughout town. (See related story, Page 17.)

■ REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

14 Acorn Drive: Kenneth E. and Jodi L. MacDonald to Peter Y. Li and Jean Qiu, \$1,415,000

10 Colonial Drive, Unit 3B: Ronald Cuscia to George Y. Gu and Xuehong S. Yang, \$117,500

10 Crescent Drive, Unit 3: David Greeley to Amanda and Julie Allard, \$152,500

10 Cyr Circle: Richard Keller to Kevin O. and Geraldine Kelley, \$664,000

4 Jillian Way: Jillians Way LLC to Andrew and Jessica Yu, \$854,999

9 Longwood Drive, Unit 11: William V. Boyd and Citi-Mortgage Inc. to Brandon A. Tabassi, \$105,000

133 Rattlesnake Hill Road: Barbara E. Rose and Bank of America NA to William N. Berkowitz and Georgia Pagninis, \$491,000

20 Washington Park Drive, Unit 2: Courtney G. Vareschi and Kirstin V. Brown to Kimberlee A. Brown and Kevin P. Harron, \$163,500

Baker, lawmakers seek more pothole money

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse reporter

BOSTON — Lawmakers are fast-tracking plans to give cities and towns more money to fix potholes this spring, but local leaders say the dollars still won't be enough to address the state's infrastructure needs.

Gov. Charlie Baker proposed borrowing \$200 million to help the state's 351 cities and towns repave roads and make other transportation improvements.

The proposal falls short of the \$300 million in pothole money that communities are seeking, said Geoff Beckwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

"We need to have adequate and dependable resources to be able to maintain the roadways," Beckwith told members of the Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee on Monday. "This is a crucial source of funding for communities."

Beckwith said cities and towns need to know further in advance how much money they will get — including in local aid disbursements — so they can plan for capital projects. Lawmakers have rejected similar proposals.

The state needs to spend at least \$639 million a year to maintain and upgrade more than 30,000 miles of deteriorating local roads, according to a recent report by the association.

"It's going to get more expensive to maintain our roads without making an investment now," Beckwith said. "The cost to taxpayers will only get higher if we put this off."

Baker's proposed bond bill, if approved by lawmakers, would supplement the money that the state already provides to cities and towns in Chapter 90 transportation funding, which totaled more than \$500 million in the current fiscal year.

Those funds come from the state's gas tax, which increased to 24 cents per gallon in 2013 and generates \$50 million to \$60 million a month, according to the state Department of Revenue. Communities get a slice of that money based on population and the miles of roads within their borders.

In the current fiscal year, Haverhill received more than \$1.5 million in Chapter 90 funds, while Lawrence got about \$1.3 million, according to the state Department of Transportation. Salem got \$855,944 and Newburyport \$516,329.

Gloucester received \$672,157 last year in Chapter 90 money, which helped pave a few miles of main roadways, said Public Works Director Mike Hale.

The city got another \$100,000 from a similar \$200 million pothole bill approved by Baker and the Legislature last year.

League of Women Voters to hold candidate's forum on March 25

STAFF REPORT

The Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters is pleased to host its annual Candidates' Forum on Saturday, March 25 from 3-4 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, third floor.

The four candidates in the contested races for Board of Selectmen and School Committee will attend. The forum will be moderated by a League member from North Andover, and will be

aired live and recorded for re-broadcast by Andover TV.

The two candidates for Andover's Board of Selectmen are incumbent Mary O'Donoghue and challenger Laura Gregory. School Committee candidates are incumbent Joel Blumstein and challenger Bob Pokress.

Selectmen and School Committee candidates will appear in separate panels. They will each have an opportunity to make opening and closing statements,

in addition to answering questions from the community.

All residents are invited and encouraged to submit questions in advance, as questions will be not be taken from the audience at the event. Questions must be received by Monday, March 20, and may be sent via e-mail to League-Forum@lwv-andovers.org or dropped off in the designated box at the Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier

Court, Andover.

The Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters is an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of policy issues and topics directly impacting our community. It does not support parties or candidates. For more information, visit www.lwv-andovers.org or find [lwv-andovers](https://www.facebook.com/lwv-andovers) on Facebook and Twitter.

■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY GABRIELLA CRUZ

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

At 12:32 p.m., on River Road, officers arrested Robbie Frost, 27, of 1074 Upper-city Road, Pittsfield, N.H., on a warrant for possession of heroin.

A caller on Haverhill Street requested an officer at 2:34 p.m., "for a report of a suspicious male in a hoodie looking through car windows and asking questions to people passing by." The responding officers did not find the subject.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

At 2:49 p.m., Methuen Police reported a "raft in the river near the old Phillips Academy boat house ramp, possibly occupied." An officer responded to the river in the area of River Road for a well being check, but reported that it "appeared to be a barge with a TV on it,

but no signs of a person." Police received a 911 call at 5:59 p.m., reporting "a six-year-old female had her fingers stuck in the elevator by accident." While on the phone with dispatch, the caller reported they were able to free the hand.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Police responded to High Street at 10:51 a.m., for reports of a tree on a wire with a brush fire below. Police shut down High Street from Haverhill Street to Burnham Road and shortly after, the road was reopened, the fire put out by Andover Fire, and the tree removed.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

At 7:19 a.m., a caller reported that "a vehicle struck a telephone pole" on Juniper Road. The vehicle was towed from the scene and no one was injured.

Officers arrested Alvina C. Moore-Clifton, 47, of 531

Mount Vernon St., Lawrence, on River Road at 11:10 a.m., on a warrant for an uninsured motor vehicle and also charged her with operating an uninspected motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Kristine R. Dussault, 45, of 5 Glenwood St., North Andover, was arrested at 11:52 a.m., on North Main Street on a warrant for a suspended license and was also charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for an OUI charge.

Police received a call at 4:08 p.m., from a resident reporting "a group of youths skateboarding up and down Main Street causing a danger to the public." The responding officer spoke with the group of kids.

Officers responded to Elm Street at 10:39 p.m., to assist the fire department's ambulance with "a male at the bar who almost passed out and vomited." The responding officer reported that Palmer's

called a taxi for the man "and everyone was clear."

A Jenkins Road resident called 911 at 11:32 p.m., to report that his house was broken into and a jewelry box taken. The caller reported that the incident may have happened several hours before. Dispatch informed the caller not to touch anything, and detectives responded to the scene for photographs.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Jake Thomas Kavanaugh, 19, of 15 Fairview Farm Road, Haverhill, was arrested at 7:33 p.m., on Lowell Street and was charged with operating under the influence of drugs.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

At 12:09 p.m., police received a call from a resident on River Road reporting "a rabid coyote in the football field." The responding animal control officer reported that "it was a statue."

Early voting costs weigh on local budgets

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON —The state's first foray into early voting was lauded as a success, but it was a costly one for cash-strapped local governments.

Cities and towns spent nearly \$720,000 on early-voting costs that should have been picked up by the state, according to a recent report by state Auditor Suzanne Bump.

The expense included extra election workers and longer hours at polling stations during the early voting period, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4, preceding the Nov. 8 election.

Gov. Charlie Baker and lawmakers are pledging to take over those costs. A Republican-led proposal that is building bipartisan support on Beacon Hill will require the state to pick up the tab beginning in 2018.

"It's an unfunded mandate, so the state need to pay those costs," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, the bill's

EARLY VOTING COSTS BY CITY/TOWN

Nov. 8, 2016 elections
Andover \$5,562 (8,623)
Haverhill \$1,730 (7,748)
Lynn \$15,291 (7,142)
Methuen \$2,295 (7,189)
North Andover \$4,950 (7,195)
<i>Source: State Auditor Suzanne Bump's Office ("early ballots cast")</i>

primary sponsor. "We want to make it easier for people to vote, and early voting will likely be a part of our landscape going forward," he said. "But local governments shouldn't be bearing the brunt of those expenses."

Baker, a Republican who ran on a platform to reduce unfunded mandates on the state's 351 cities and towns, said recently he will "find a way" to cover early voting costs before the 2018 mid-term elections.

Last fall was the first time that Massachusetts allowed early voting, under a law signed by former Gov. Deval Patrick in 2014. More than 1 million residents -- 22 percent of registered voters -- cast early ballots, according to Secretary of State William Galvin's office. Galvin's office provided grant money to cities and towns to promote early voting, but that didn't affect mandated costs such as hiring poll workers and keeping polls open. The Legislature chipped in \$400,000 to help communities cover early voting costs. But local elections clerks say that money didn't fully cover their expenses. Andover Town Clerk Lawrence Murphy said poll workers and booths, police details, advertising and other expenses cost an extra \$14,000. "We knew it was coming, so we built it into our budget," he said. Bump's report said at least \$5,562 of Andover's early voting costs were unfunded.

Murphy said 8,600 town voters cast early ballots last fall, or about half of those who voted.

Overall, about 80 percent of Andover's registered voters participated. "It didn't increase voter turnout, but the public really loved it," he said. "And it certainly cut down the lines and congestion on Election Day."

State law prohibits the Legislature from imposing unfunded mandates on cities and towns, and the auditor's office reviews complaints about potential violations. Ahead of last fall's election, Woburn and Oxford asked Bump's office to determine whether they should be exempted from the law because of the added costs. Her review concluded that the state should have picked up the estimated \$7,000 in expenses in those communities.

Bump estimated cities and towns spent more than \$1.9 million on early voting expenses that weren't deemed to be unfunded mandates.

Worker shortage adding to wait list for preschool programs

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse reporter

BOSTON — A workforce shortage is creating a crisis at day cares and preschools, which advocates say is keeping thousands of children from getting into subsidized programs.

State subsidies help about 58,000 children from low-income families to attend such programs, but more than 23,000 are on a waiting list.

Early-education advocates say the solution lies in bolstering salaries and benefits for early childhood educators, a field that struggles from frequent turnover.

"It's a serious crisis," said Amy O'Leary, director of the Boston-based Strategies for Children's Early Education for All Campaign. "We can't get kids off the waiting list, because we can't fill classrooms with teachers, because we're not paying them enough."

About 90,000 early childhood teachers are working in Massachusetts, earning a median salary of about \$25,000 per year. That's just above the federal poverty level for a family of four, O'Leary said.

The average public school teacher in Massachusetts earned more than \$74,000 in the previous school year, according to state data. Tom Weber, commissioner

of the state Department of Early Education and Care, said the early education labor crunch is his highest priority.

"We're planning a multi-year effort to bolster the quality of our early education workforce by attracting and retaining highly qualified educators," he said in an interview.

State subsidies for early childhood education providers varies by region but average about \$9,000 annually per child, Weber said.

The rate has increased in the past four years, which the state agency hopes to sustain.

"We undoubtedly have more progress to make on that front," he said. "We're going to be advocating for increasing the rate."

Massachusetts isn't alone in its struggle to fund early education programs, Weber said.

Weber said the model for an early education program involves considerable overhead and is labor intensive.

"So the market is tight for programs," he said.

Educators say more funding will not only improve teacher retention but also improve the curriculum and programs for children.

"These people are doing important work, and we need to provide them with a livable wage," said Sheila Balboni, executive director of Community Group in Lawrence, which receives state funds to provide day care and preschool for about 1,000 children.

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Peter J. Caruso, Esq.
Paul Mercandetti
Scholarship Committee Chairs

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

O'Donoghue concerned about the needs of all residents

Editor, Townsman:

As a citizen who has long encouraged fiscal responsibility and forward-thinking leadership in our town, I write today in support of Mary O'Donoghue's re-election to the Board of Selectmen.

Mary is not a candidate of special interest groups; she listens to, and responds to, the concerns and needs of all elements in the community. As a result, she takes strong stands on difficult issues, but always in the best interests of the entire town. She recognizes the need to look carefully at proposed spending, to make sure that taxpayers are getting the best value for their money. In every decision, her primary concern is to balance needs not just of one constituency, but rather the well-being of the whole town.

She has been a strong advocate of long-range planning to ensure that our schools, our police and fire, our roads and highways, all of our town services, have the resources they need to do the job the public expects from them.

She recognizes, too, the importance of careful economic development, since ultimately that is the only way to increase town revenues, thereby increasing resources available to the schools and to every town department without putting undue burdens on the taxpayers.

In her three years on the

Board of Selectmen, she has been instrumental in hiring a new Town Manager, maintaining principles of fiscal responsibility, and starting the process of establishing long-range planning to ensure that Andover's future meets the expectations of its citizens.

I urge your support for Mary O'Donoghue in the town elections on March 28.

DON ROBB
36 York Street
Andover

Gregory 'respectful, listens to all'

Editor, Townsman:

I have known Laura Gregory for years, both as a neighbor and as a parent involved in Andover Schools at all levels. I worked with Laura on the Doherty Middle School Parent Advisory Council as both the PAC's secretary and as the PAC's representative to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).

Laura listens well to all, is respectful of all viewpoints and works very hard to address problems by working collaboratively with everyone to seek a solution that best addresses the problem for the entire community and allows for continued future collaboration.

She brings people together, a skill that is badly needed on the Board of Selectmen. As a lawyer she is always cognizant of the rules and limitations that apply to her role and position and making sure that her actions are consistent with those rules.

She also expects and requires others to comply with their obligations and not to

overstep. Laura's only agenda is to do her best in the position to the benefit of the entire community.

Please join me in voting for Laura Gregory for Selectman on March 28.

KELLY BURNS
1 Glenn Cove
Andover

Pokress will bring back 'world class education'

Editor, Townsman:

As all of Andover's children navigate increasingly complex and demanding educational challenges that will affect their abilities to compete in our globalized society, our students require effective, educated, and experienced guidance. The policies that our school committee shape chart the course of the actions taken by our administration, which filter down to our teachers and finally, to our children.

We are concerned, that despite living in a community that is nationally known for being a great place for kids, our children are not receiving the in-depth education that children in many other parts of this state, this country, and the world are receiving. Our children are our collective wealth and the future on which we all depend.

For all of these reasons, and more, the school committee person whom we elect must be someone who has the necessary experience which includes instructional design, business experience, and budgeting.

Delivering a world class education is not synonymous with an override. Our school committee needs a leader who understands that fiscal responsibility can be one part of a world class education.

A vote for Bob Pokress is a vote for a fiscally responsible, world class education that is a win-win for all Andover townspeople.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dogs and owners are eyes and ears in cemetery

Editor, Townsman:
I read with interest Gail Ralston's article about the cemetery's dog ban. By her own admission, the Trustees' agenda was to study why dog-walkers should be unilaterally banned, not why they should be welcomed.

I'd like to think the involvement of neighbors and plot-holders could have swayed the Trustees' decision. I can definitively say that we weren't asked.

I'd be surprised if unelected Trustees with 3-year terms have the authority to place permanent restrictions on town-owned land.

Ralston wrote that "Mr. Flanagan asked the Trustees to hold off on posting signs until the Mass. General Laws on town-owned cemeteries could be reviewed, and an opinion offered by town counsel."

I'd be interested in hearing town counsel's opinion on the legality of this ban, but Ralston's article doesn't address that issue.

I suspect the lawyer's response was not provided in Ralston's article as it did not support the Trustees' decision.

Unlike Ralston, I see the cemetery as idyllic, enhanced by a tradition of welcoming everyone, but it isn't perfect.

Sometimes cars drive aimlessly, sometimes too fast, groups of teens gather.

Sadly, there have been thefts and vandalism. It is an

isolated spot located close to town.

The watchful presence of the community — mourners, dog-walkers, cyclists and joggers alike (who seem to have gotten along just fine for 150 years without Trustee intervention) — makes for a safer, more connected place. I ask the Town Manager and Selectmen to take our concerns into consideration.

JAMES GREER
76 Spring Grove Road
Andover

Pokress will bring positive change to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:
I am writing to give my support for Bob Pokress for School Committee. If you have watched a school committee meeting in the last year then you know that we need change.

It seems that our school committee has forgotten who they represent. They represent us, the parents and taxpayers of this town, not our superintendent.

Lately, parents who speak at committee meetings are made to feel rushed and quite frankly like they are

a complete bother. They are sometimes not even responded to.

This makes it very difficult for people with issues to speak out. Yet, this is the most important function of our school committee, to listen to parents who are having a problem within the school system.

It is my belief that Bob is ready to be that change. He wants to listen, good or bad. Sometimes, making positive change means ruffling a few feathers and I believe Bob will do just that.

He clearly has a passion to do what's best for our kids. I ask you to please consider giving your vote to Bob Pokress in this year's School Committee Election.

HEATHER FERRO
12 Alonesos Way
Andover

O'Donoghue for selectman

Editor, Townsman:

Mary O'Donoghue gets things done. Thanks to her leadership, Andover recruited a spectacular new Town Manager. Issues of longstanding discussion (town yard relocation) and of immediate urgency (addressing the opioid crisis) are being addressed thanks to Mary's common sense approach and collaborative problem-solving skills.

Andover faces challenging economic realities that require leadership based on a comprehensive knowledge of municipal finance and the ability to steer a course that benefits the greater public good. Mary's experience on the Finance

Committee supports this knowledge and ability. Mary's voice is vital to the success of the tri-board meetings where consensus must be reached if Andover is to continue providing excellent educational opportunities, improved infrastructure, and an environment that welcomes economic development that will offset rising municipal costs.

I'm grateful to Mary for her

longstanding commitment to Andover, demonstrated throughout her 28 years as a resident of our town, as a local business woman, as an engaged volunteer, and as a leader committed to working with others for the benefit of all. Please join me in voting for her re-election as Selectman on March 28.

NANCY JETON
57 Chestnut St.

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.

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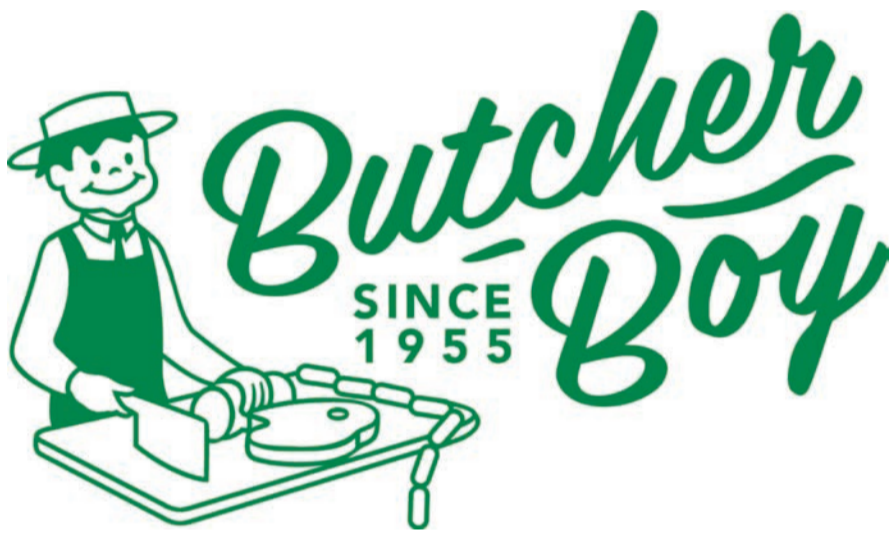
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Opinion

Cheers and jeers for local newsmakers

Cheers and jeers go to officials of Pan Am Railways, who met last Monday with Andover residents who have been complaining about the problem of trains idling in their back yards.

When the MBTA put in a second track adjacent to the single track that ran through downtown Andover, railway officials and others said it was to improve commuter rail service on the Haverhill line. The thinking was that a second track would alleviate conflicts between freight trains and the commuter rail. Fewer conflicts would mean better service. Somewhere along the line, an extra set of tracks became a parking lot for idling freight trains and their lengthy cargoes. This is where the jeers come in.

There is a bright side, which is where the cheers come in. Monday's meeting was cathartic for many residents who left with a glimmer of hope that the situation may be solved by summer. Pan Am officials deserve credit for facing an angry crowd, attempting to answer questions and pledging to address concerns about residents' health and well-being.

While their answers weren't ideal, Pan Am says it's working on the problem, and it appears there will be an end within the next six months or so. That's good news for residents.

Jeers to the weather. In the span of 24 hours, we went from wearing T-shirts and shorts to parkas and wool hats. We went from enjoying sun-dappled golf driving ranges (albeit with piles of snow nearby), to howling winds and toppling trees.

Of course, there's a reason for the saying, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." The tumultuous weather certainly was lion-esque. And, as meteorologists tell us, that topsy-turvy weather this time of year isn't really all that unusual.

Still, even as we enjoyed unusually high temperatures in February, beautiful days can lead to dangerous situations. A recent warm spell — in tandem with rain — softened the earth and made it easier for big trees to fall. Trees were down throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In Andover on Thursday, a large tree crashed down on Whittier Street, waking up a dozing resident but thankfully not causing any significant damage.

Much more seriously, a tree fell on a car on Route 125 in Andover Saturday afternoon, killing the passenger and severely injuring the driver.

Our careening weather — overnight temperatures were back into single digits over the weekend — could be far worse, and at least we're not forecast to pick up the shovels anytime soon. But it would be nice if we could pick a season.

Cheers for the school of herring spotted in the Shawsheen River Monday by a staffer from the Conservation Commission. Commission Director Bob Douglas said in an email that no sooner had the dams come down (see page 1) than the herring, following their instincts honed through thousands of years of evolution, swam up the river as far as they could go.

While they can't make it all the way upstream, since the Ballardvale Dam still impedes their progress, their sighting was gratifying for everyone who worked for decades on the project to remove the dams.

WEB QUESTION

This week's question:

I about 3 weeks, the town election is being held. Signs are sprouting up all over town. Sign-holders have been convening on weekend mornings outside old Town Hall. Do you plan on voting on March 28?

Yes. It's my civic duty.

Yes. Local issues are very important as they determine how the town is run and how good the schools are.

No. None of the candidates interest me.

No. I don't care about local elections, only national ones.

Last week's question:

Recently, the trustees of Spring Grove Cemetery voted to ban dogs from the cemetery, saying that the dogs are "disruptive, destructive and hazardous, and ... the cemetery is no place for them." Do you think people should be allowed to walk their dogs through the cemetery?

No. The cemetery is a place for people to visit their loved ones. Leaving it open to dog walkers takes away from people grieving. 107 votes

No. If dogs urinate on headstones and grave markers, they and their owners should be banned for being disrespectful. 15 votes.

Yes. The cemetery has been open to dogs for as long as I can remember. As long as people pick up after their pet, there's no harm! 196 votes.

Yes. The cemetery trustees just don't like dogs. Their reasons for not letting them in don't make sense. 20 votes.

Who cares. I don't have a dog. I like cats. 1 vote

More letters, Pages 4, 6, 7, 19

O'Donoghue for 'ethical, accessible government'

Editor, Townsman:

Please consider this letter an endorsement of the candidacy of Mary O'Donoghue in her reelection campaign for Selectman

Both a highly successful businessperson as well as a highly effective community leader, Mary's clear and steady voice will continue to be heard as an advocate for the interests of all of Andover's citizens—the young, the old, the taxpayer—no exceptions.

Andover, thanks to the leadership of Mary and her colleagues, stands apart from most communities for its stable, accessible, and ethical government. Time and again, Mary has proven herself to be a wise, even-handed and concerned champion and leader for our wonderful Town, for every one of us, and for all of our opinions and viewpoints.

I am genuinely proud to publicly support Mary O'Donoghue and urge you to vote for her on March 28.

MICHAEL W. MORRIS SR.
11 Abbot St.
Andover

Pokress has background, education for school committee

Editor, Townsman:

Bob Pokress has the background and experience to really make a difference in how Andover's School Committee operates.

The challenge at hand is to restore Andover to the top 10 public schools in the Commonwealth. Andover deserves and expects this top rating.

Bob's background as a former school committee member and unique problem solving ability with MS degrees in Operations Research and in Applied Mathematics coupled with proven business experience makes him an ideal candidate for a position on today's school committee.

Whether or not you have children in Andover's school system, if you care for what Andover stands for and its traditions of excellence, he deserves your vote in the coming election. Make your vote count by electing Bob Pokress.

ANN GRECOE
49 Whittier St.
Andover

O'Donoghue a green champion

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to express my support for Mary O'Donoghue for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. A couple of years ago, when I started working on the zero waste/food rescue initiatives for the Andover Public Schools, I was always able to count on Mary for support and advice.

She cares for the protection of the environment and she believes in the importance of educating the community in sustainable efforts. As a Selectman, Mary has

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

been open to suggestions and ideas we can implement in town to further our commitment as a green community. I am looking forward to continuing to work with her in ways to reduce our carbon footprint and save taxpayers money with our efforts.

Mary was born and raised in Ireland and as an immigrant myself, I believe it is very important, to have as a town official in our community someone who can relate to our struggles and needs in today's social and political environment.

Please make your voice heard and vote for O'Donoghue on March 28.

CARINA SCHUSTERMAN
2 Robinswood Way
Andover

Gregory: Right set of skills for selectman

Editor, Townsman:

The Andover Board of Selectmen is in dire need of fresh leadership and direction that will truly represent hardworking taxpaying families of our great American town.

Laura brings a highly unique set of skills, talent and experience that hasn't been present on this board for decades. The ability to carefully listen, actively engage and execute what matters most to taxpayers is a profound asset. Laura will enforce our established bylaws and make town department managers accountable to the people. Laura Gregory — right set of skills, right experience, right for Andover.

ANDREW GORDON
15 Pine St.
Andover

O'Donoghue good on finances, responsive to constituents

Editor Townsman,

I urge my fellow citizens to vote for Mary O'Donoghue for re-election to the Andover Board of Selectman. Mary has represented us well and has brought experience, intelligence and wisdom to her service.

It was my privilege to serve with Mary on the Andover Finance Committee for a number of years. I saw first-hand her commitment to the town and her grasp of municipal finance and the budgetary process. She has the ability to look at all aspects of a problem and carefully evaluate the best course of action, being ever-mindful of the long-term financial implications that sound fiscal planning requires. Andover received a AAA bond rating and has sustained it consistently through responsible and prudent decision making. It is to our advantage to see that this continues.

On a personal level, I have found Mary to be responsive to requests, with follow-through in timely fashion. Our neighborhood was one of those whose streetlight was turned off. Summer Street is heavily traveled all day, not only by vehicles, but by walkers, joggers, bicyclists and the street is very dark in the winter months. I called Mary and put the problem to her. She pursued the necessary contacts and

arranged for the light to be reinstated and she called to make sure that all was working well. It was a minor problem in the scheme of things, but it is often the little things that make a difference in our lives.

There will always be problems big and small, facing any community. Andover is fortunate in having in Mary, an experienced, intelligent selectman with no hidden agenda. In the nearly half century that our family has lived in this wonderful town, Andover has been served well by many outstanding, selfless people. I count Mary among that number. She wants what is best for Andover and has earned reelection to continue to represent us in confronting the current challenges and those yet to come. Mary serves us well.

MEL JURGEN
Andover

Gregory has the right skills, experience

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing in support of Andover resident Laura Meyer Gregory for Selectman.

I met Laura through our volunteer efforts at Doherty Middle School. She came to DMS eager to lend her skills as a volunteer and leader, after having leadership experience at both Shawsheen and Bancroft schools.

While many parents lessen their volunteer contribution after elementary school, Laura's commitment to the Andover schools has never wavered. She moved on to leadership roles at DMS and now Andover High School. Serving on the Board of Selectmen seems a natural progression for Laura, who has shown her dedication to Andover at every level.

In addition to her knowledge of the schools, she serves as a Friend of Memorial Hall Library and also brings Zoning Board experience to the table. Her resolve and long-term commitment to service, as well as her negotiating skills as a lawyer, make her a smart choice for Selectman. She is a level-headed, reliable and intelligent leader who is able to listen and exercise good judgment.

I believe Laura will be a consensus builder and a strong advocate for Andover.

GALE BATSIMM
5 Island Way
Andover

O'Donoghue has deep experience in government, real estate

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to encourage my fellow Andover residents to support and vote for Mary O'Donoghue in the upcoming Selectman race. The challenges that Andover faces are not unique.

Statewide and nationwide, towns and municipalities are grappling with the crisis of how to maintain a high quality of community services in an increasingly costly environment.

The solutions are not simple and, in my opinion, the need for steady and fair hands in leadership positions has never been greater. Leadership carries the burden of principled decision

making that can draw fire and criticism, and it is critical that we have leaders who have the wisdom and experience to see the best path, and the "intestinal fortitude" to stay on it.

For over 20 years I have worked with Mary. I believe that she possesses the qualities of leadership that we need to guide our community through the times before us.

Her experience is deep. She has served in every meaningful position at the Northeast Association of Realtors (unpaid positions) including as Treasurer and as President. Her tenure in these positions was during the "bubble" and "post bubble" era as we have come to know it, and the problems which needed solving were constant. She has served on the Andover Finance Committee and understands the intricacies of budget and finance.

As a member of the Board of Selectman she has been actively involved in bringing the town yard to center stage, advocated early on for the Mill District, and has been a proponent for the hiring of dedicated professional help to confront the opioid problem that exists in the community.

We need leaders who are intelligent and fair minded and have the interests of the community at the forefront of their actions. Please give Mary O'Donoghue your vote.

CHRISTOPHER DOHERTY
33 Alden Road,
Andover

O'Donoghue asks the tough questions

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to support Mary O'Donoghue for reelection to Andover's Board of Selectmen. As a member of the Andover Green Advisory Board and volunteer advisor to Andover's Plant and Facilities office, I engaged with Mary on several occasions to facilitate Board approval for projects involving electric net metering, landfill use, and Green Communities status. While I may not have agreed with every outcome, I was always impressed with Mary's openness to hear and accommodate fresh ideas. As chairwoman, Mary conducted Board meetings with unwavering leadership, discipline, and efficiency.

At present, the town has many vexing issues on its agenda. The perpetual need to do more with less can be served by incorporating appropriate smart technologies into our processes. But often, we lack expertise on these technologies within our town government. In those cases, we must depend on guidance from external consultants.

Our Selectmen can add value by asking tough questions about consultants' recommendations and evaluating the trade-offs underlying those recommendations. Based on what I have witnessed of Mary's management style, I trust that she will continue to play that role with fairness and without political bias.

I look forward to working with her for the benefit of Andover, for years to come.

ANIL NAVKAL
LEAD, ENERGIZE ANDOVER PROGRAM
MEMBER, ANDOVER GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
14 Rock O Dundee Road
Andover

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TownsBeat

The next generation of political thinkers

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
gcruz@andovertownsmen.com

For some, the future of American politics is uncertain at best, and doomed at worst. But a group of local teenagers believes the future of American politics is in their hands.

Roughly 25 students make up Andover Political Review, a club at Andover High School. The group meets Thursdays after school and has recently published its first magazine of the year, full of commentary, criticisms, humor, and hopes regarding American politics.

The students are led by senior Owen Ezell, the magazine's editor-in-chief, a well-spoken and inclusive torchbearer helping Andover teenagers find their political voice.

"Kids shouldn't be afraid to speak their mind," Ezell said. "I think that we can argue about ideas all we want, and I think that should be divorced from people's personalities. We coexist in this club. The political climate is so contentious, and we have a president who comes down hard on opposition, and I think it's an important message to get across that we should all coexist."

Last Thursday, the group convened for their weekly meeting, discussing progress on upcoming story ideas: Should the students write about the Russia hacking scandal? Is Kellyanne Conway the reason Donald Trump became president? Who are some of the most powerful women in politics?

They breach the kinds of questions and topics that are wont to spawn heated debates among TV personalities and have the tendency to lead adults down an argumentative road that often takes sharp, controversial turns. But they're not afraid to brave the sensitive pressure cooker that American politics has become.

"Not many people our age are involved in politics, or as involved as they should be," sophomore Matthew Allen said. "Everybody at our school has their own political beliefs, they just might not know enough to form them. So if we allow them an outlet to form their beliefs and look at different opinions and choose which ones they agree with, then we might be able to create political activism."

Seeking change

The Winter 2017 issue of the Andover Political Review



Rohan Sinha, left, and Owen Ezell talk about one of the topics being covered in the Andover Political Review Club at Andover High School.

JEN MELLI/Staff photos



Noah Colby, left, and Niko Potamitis discuss some ideas for the next issue of the Andover Political Review.



Noah Coyle talks about the topic he is writing about for the Andover Political Club during their meeting on Thursday, March 2.

magazine is 26 pages stuffed with student-produced articles, drawings, cartoons, and poems. Articles entitled "Neoliberalism: The invisible ideology destroying America" and "The planetary plight of the unspoken majority" are separated by cartoon images of President Trump and graphs illustrating the disconnect between wage increases of the wealthy and of the poor.

The culmination of political opinions and observations by students who are carrying full class loads, preparing for college, and navigating their way toward adulthood, is — in a word — impressive.

But Andover Political Review members aren't looking for praise. They're looking for change.

"We have a group of kids who are willing to write about politics, and who are dedicated to it," Ezell said. "And we're coming together and trying to reach people."

Political shift

Rohan Sinha, a senior who co-founded Andover Political Review with Ezell and Owen Morrissey, said he hopes the future of American politics shifts from a two-party system to one that encapsulates all variations of political views citizens

can hold.

"I would hope that people escape the containers of a two-party system and actually discover their political beliefs," Sinha said. "I hope that more political parties arise and more people voice their political beliefs rather than sticking to parties that don't necessarily represent them."

Through participating in Andover Political Review, Sinha and his cohorts have opened the door to all students interested in developing political beliefs and discussing different opinions. The students believe their club and others like it

have the potential to mobilize their generation toward getting involved at a young age and staying involved.

"This is a place you can come and present your opinions," junior Jasmine Meade said. "When your parents or your teachers or

your friends disagree with you, all opinions are welcome here, even if we don't all agree."

For more information and to read and view content from Andover Political Review, visit www.andoverpoliticalreview.com.

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 1 p.m., Lawrence; www.lawrencestpatsparade.com, email information@lawrencestpatsparade.com.

MARCH 11 AND 17

OPEN HOUSE, The Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St., Lawrence. Enjoy corned beef sandwiches and entertainment; www.thecladdaghpab.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MVPO CONCERT, 2:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 50 Bartlet St. Dorothy Braker, cello, will perform with the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra; the afternoon concert will feature works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Antonin Dvořák; \$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.mvpo.org.

WHITE FUND LECTURE, 2 p.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Local author Ellen B. Alden will discuss her book, "Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke"; free; sponsored by the Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division 8 LAOH; Irish Heritage Month is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; email mark.alaimo@gmail.com.

MARCH 13 AND MAY 22

MORNING TEA WITH MY DOLL AND ME, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Old Town Hall, 20 Main St. Bring a favorite doll and come dressed in your tea-party finest for treats, snacks and tea for sipping; geared for children ages 2 to 5 and an adult caregiver; includes a story time, craft activity and a mini fashion show on the stage; \$15 for children; 978-623-8340, email rec@andoverma.us, www.andoverrec.com.

MARCH 15, 22 AND 29

OPEN HOUSE, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lawrence Public Library, South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker St. Irish books, CDs and DVDs will be showcased; sponsored by the Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians; free; email mark.alaimo@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

TONY KENNY'S IRISH CELEBRATION, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. One of Ireland's most beloved artists, Kenny has starred at Jury's Irish Cabaret in Dublin for more than 20 years and won many awards for his work over the decades; together with Victoria Kenny, Seamus Kennedy, and the Trinity Irish Dance Company, Kenny will present an unforgettable St. Patrick's Day celebration; \$40 for adults, \$35 for seniors, students, alumni and Merrimack employees, \$10 for children 10 and under;

doors open at 7 p.m.; 978-837-5355, www.merrimack.edu.

47TH ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON, Reliefs' In, 1 Market St., South Lawrence. Enjoy a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band at noon; the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award will be presented; sponsored by the Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians; 603-898-7766.

MARCH 17 TO 19

"THE WIZARD OF OZ," South Church, 41 Central St. The South Church Players will perform the show at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday; \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$48 family maximum in advance, \$60 at the door; a portion of the ticket sales will be given to the Andover Cares Fund; 978-475-0321, www.southchurch.com.

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-SCHOOL 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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

ANDONA'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY, 1 to 4 p.m., Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St. All Andona members, past and present, are invited; light refreshments will be served; reservations requested;

email President@Andona.org, 978-475-0218.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

AUTHOR VISIT, 2 p.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Local author David D. McKean will discuss his most recent book, "Lowell Irish"; free; sponsored by the Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians; email mark.alaimo@gmail.com.

BRUNCH AND LECTURE WITH POLITICAL EXPERT, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., private home in Andover. The public is welcome to join Hadassah Northern New England and guests for a lecture with Eric Trager, author of "Arab Fall: How the Muslim Brotherhood Won and Lost Egypt in 891 Days"; Trager will take attendees on a tour of Egypt's tumultuous political landscape, and examine its implications for the U.S. and Israel; Trager, the Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute, is an expert on Egyptian politics and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt; the address will be given out upon registration; \$36 per person (\$18 is a donation to Hadassah); brunch will be served; register at <http://www.hadassah.org/events/authorbrunch>, 781-455-9055, email hne@hadassah.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 Renee Falconetti in the title role; free; 978-837-5355.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

BOSTON BRASS, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. From classical to jazz to the best of the brass quintet repertoire, Boston Brass treats audiences of all ages to a unique brand of entertainment; in the first half of the evening, members of the group will present their favorite selections, with captivating stories and insights; at intermission, the audience will get to choose what the group will play during the second half; \$40 for adults, \$35 for seniors, students, Merrimack employees and alumni, \$10 for children 10 and under; doors open at 7 p.m.; 978-837-5355, www.merrimack.edu/academics/rogers.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

SPRING GOSPEL CONCERT, 6 p.m., Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St. The Institute Choir of Calvary Baptist Church, The Choral Majority, ABC Unity Choir and other gospel artists will perform; a freewill offering

will be collected with a portion of the proceeds going to ABC Missions; www.andoverbaptist-church.org.

TRIVIA NIGHT AND BOURBON TASTING, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 20 Main St. The Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation (MVJF) invites teams and individuals to participate and test their trivia talent and learn about America's only native spirit; the evening will include free appetizers and desserts, prizes for trivia winners and a cash bar; proceeds will support the Federation's ongoing programs in the Merrimack Valley and Israel; \$25 per person; register at 978-688-0466, www.mvjf.org.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER, 6 to 10 p.m., Melmark New England, in the ballroom, 461 River Road. Recruit friends and family members to solve some serious and silly brain teasing trivia; prizes will be awarded to the top scoring team; light dinner, complimentary snacks, cash bar; opportunity to win raffle prizes; \$25; www.melmarkne.org.

CANDIDATES' AFTERNOON, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St. Hosted by the League of Women Voters, the afternoon will feature the candidates running for Andover Board of Selectmen and Andover School Committee; email stefraina@verizon.net.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL, 10 a.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. The free

See **CALENDAR**, Page 12

Corned beef and cabbage for a cause

By ALEX GUITTARR
Townsmen correspondent

In an effort to assist the community of Andover, the West Parish Church Men's Group will be holding a Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper with all the proceeds going to the educational fund of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

The West Parish Church, formed in 1826 under the United Church of Christ denomination, is led by Reverend Katrina Wuensch and has a long standing history of holding these dinners, extending back at least 50 years when church members Harold and Priscilla Tynning organized them. They were forced to end the practice 20 years ago when Harold became ill.

The suppers would resume in 2001 with the help of the Church's Men's Group, with three or four being held annually, including corned beef and cabbage suppers, ham and beans suppers and a Dominican Buffet, not to mention Yard Sales and Chocolate Fairs.

The dinners went smoothly for awhile, but about five years ago, the Men's Group felt they needed a cause to support



Last year's scholarship recipients stand at the front of the West Parish Church during a service to celebrate the winners.

in order to motivate them to do the dinners, as the money would go exclusively to the church.

This was when they decided to start giving the money away as scholarships to students in the Lawrence Boy's and Girl's Club. The idea for the fund came from Jon Glesmann, a member

of the church, who noted, "my involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence with tutoring and college placement gave rise to the idea of giving college scholarships to members of the Club. Since then, every penny of our income has been going to college scholarships and educational

needs for underprivileged kids."

In the last five years, the group has given away over \$15,000 in scholarships to members of the club, in \$500 increments.

The scholarships are handed out during a Sunday service in June in a special ceremony that honors each

recipient with the scholarship, a certificate and flowers. Glesmann said the ceremonies are very inspirational because of how each recipient has overcome adversity in their lives.

"Their motivation, ambitiousness, determination and strength have carried them through to rise above

IF YOU GO

What: Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper
Where: West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road
When: Saturday March 18, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$15, children 12 and under \$10; they can be purchased at the door.
For more information: west-parishchurch.org

the hardships and to graduate from high school," he said. "They have collectively had to deal with everything, including physical abuse, homelessness, murder of a parent and rape."

The Men's Group also uses the dinner to raise money for the scholarship receivers when they are suffering from financial difficulties, such as covering tuition and the cost of books for a couple of students, as well as raising over \$2,000 for one young man who suffered from an eye disease that rendered him legally blind.

The money was raised to cover the remaining fees for a corneal transplant, which was successful, giving him 20/25 vision. He is currently attending Northern Essex Community College.

Courtesy photo

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

event is sponsored by the Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians; email mark.alaimo@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

FREE CONCERT/LECTURE, 2 p.m., Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St. Andover musician Terri Kelley and guest Sheila Manzi will present "Irish Songs and Stories"; hosted by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library, the concert is supported by Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians in memory of George Kelley; all are welcome.

SECOND ANNUAL FACULTY CONCERT, 2 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. Enjoy a variety of styles and genres, as the music faculty and their invited guest artists perform an afternoon of classical, world music, jazz and the blues; free admission; 978-837-5355, www.merrimack.edu/academics/rogers.

MARCH 27, APRIL 24, MAY 22, JUNE 26 AND JULY 24

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 2 to 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed to help those who rely on blood products; www.redcrossblood.org, 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

BEGINNING TUESDAY, MARCH 28

LADIES ARCHERY, 6 to 7 p.m., West Elementary School gym, 58 Beacon St. Archery has a number of health and fitness benefits as well as being an enjoyable and social sport; it improves upper body strength and stimulates mental focus; participants will

learn proper shooting form, safety rules and games; all equipment will be provided; Lucy Morris, from the New England School of Archery, will be the instructor; \$85 for four lessons; limited to 14; registration required; 978-623-8340, www.andoverrec.com.

BEGINNING TUESDAY, MARCH 28

ARCHERY FOR KIDS, 5 to 6 p.m., West Elementary School gym, 58 Beacon St. Lucy Morris, from the New England School of Archery, will teach ages 8 and up basic techniques of target shooting; participants will learn proper shooting form, safety rules and games; all equipment will be provided; \$85 for four lessons; limited to 14; registration required; 978-623-8340, www.andoverrec.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

PARENT 2 PARENT (P2P) SPEAKER SERIES, 7 to 9 p.m., The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road. 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.

THROUGH MARCH 31

ANDOVER GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, is currently accepting registrations for its spring and summer seasons, as well as a preseason hitting clinic, a subsidized preseason pitching clinic and the popular in-season Pizza & Pitching clinic; AGSL is open to girls starting at age 5; http://www.sportsmanager.us/Andover-GirlsSoftball.htm.

APRIL SATURDAY, APRIL 8

SOUP'S ON DINNER AND AUCTION, 6:30 p.m., Relief's In, 1 Market St., Lawrence. Hosted by Neighbors In Need; enjoy food and drink as well as live and silent auctions; call 978-685-8321 or email NeighborsInNeed@verizon.net to contribute to the auctions; www.needfood.org.

BEGINNING APRIL 25

HOUSEHOLD SEWING, 6 to 8 p.m., Bancroft Elementary School cafeteria, 15 Bancroft Road. Join sewing teacher Carrie Midura, of Carrie + Fitz Sewing, for a four-week sewing class, designed for busy adults

who want to save time and money with DIY sewing repairs and projects; family-oriented sample projects will include hemming pants and jeans, sewing patches and buttons, repairing stuffed animals and pillows; participants should bring their own sewing machines but loaner machines will be available with advance notice; sample project materials will be provided; \$100 for four classes; limited to 10; registration required; 978-623-8340, www.andoverrec.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

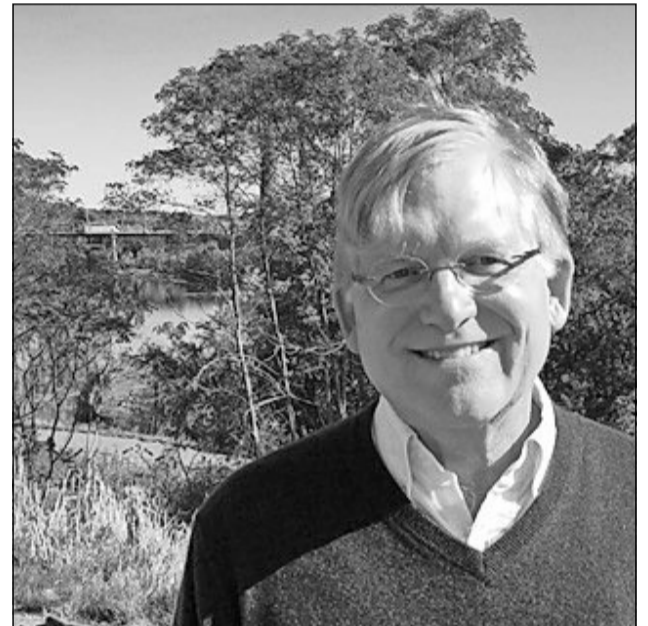
HEROES IN ACTION GALA, Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. The annual fundraiser, hosted by the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. (GLCAC), serves to honor those who strive to make a difference in the lives of children in need; this year's honoree is Dr. Thomas Perreault, who has 37 years of volunteer leadership at GLCAC; includes a cocktail reception with silent auction, dinner and award presentation; sponsorship opportunities available; donations accepted for the silent auction; 978-620-4706, email wparkinson@glcac.org, www.glcac.org.

MAY SATURDAY, MAY 6

ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY IN CONCERT, 3 p.m., The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road. The chorus will perform "In Troubled Times," featuring Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and two contemporary pieces, "September Sun," commemorating those who were killed 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, email info@andoverchoralsociety.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

MVPO CONCERT, 2:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 50 Bartlet St. 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.



Courtesy photo

Rusty Russell, director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, will speak at the AVIS annual dinner.

AVIS holds annual dinner March 14

STAFF REPORT

With all of the uncertainty in the world about environmental protection, an expert on the Merrimack River will be the guest speaker at this year's annual Andover Village Improvement Society annual dinner.

Rusty Russell, director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, will give a talk entitled: "Strangers in a Strange Land — Habitat and Water Conservation at the Dawn of a New Era."

He will examine the needs of the vast, two-state Merrimack River Watershed in an age of uncertain environmental stewardship.

What does a working river require? What resources are at hand? Have we grown complacent in the belief that state and federal oversight will always be there, ready to engage in an instant to ensure that the worst won't happen?

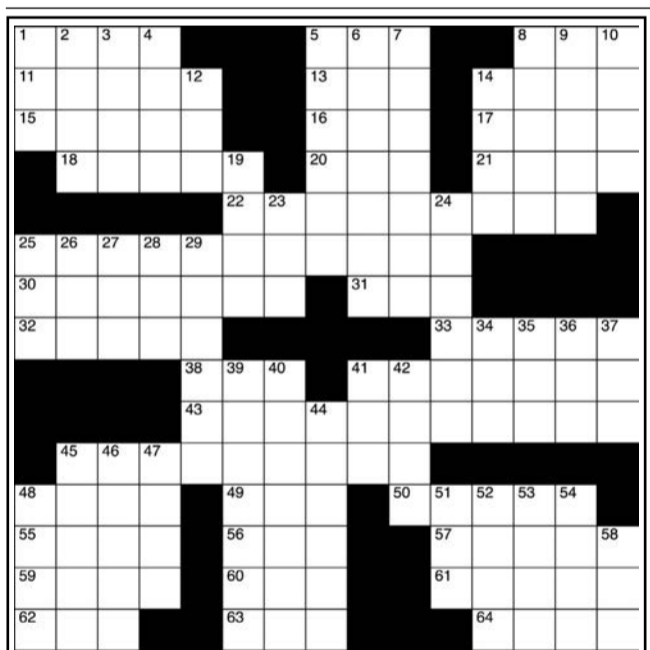
These days, the future of that institutional shield is in doubt. In the face of this potential breach of stewardship, how should our communities — our towns, our local nonprofits, our neighborhoods, even some of our meet-up groups — re-channel their energies

IF YOU GO

What: AVIS annual dinner
Where: Andover Town House (Old Town Hall) at 20 Main St.
When: March 14 at 6 p.m.
Who: Rusty Russell, director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, is guest speaker.
Cost: \$35 for dinner. There is no charge for those who wish to attend for just the speaker at 8:15 p.m.
Details: Seating is limited. Contact Judianne Livermore, at (978) 475-4521 for tickets. There may still be seats available for dinner. Social hour is at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. A short business meeting and the speaking program will start about 8:15 p.m. and is open to the public at no cost.

to address this uncertain future?

Russell will recount the river's major triumphs over the past four decades (MRWC was founded in 1976, the year Jimmy Carter became president), as well as the threats it continues to face, some of which are likely to intensify in the coming decades. He will consider the role that government programs have played in this transformation, and what they may or may not be prepared to do to stand up to ongoing challenges.



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

- Fall down
- Walmart founder Walton
- Los Angeles time zone
- Gallantry
- Early Supreme Court justice Bartlett
- One-time governor of Maryland
- Act of imitating
- Popular basketballer Jeremy
- Round Dutch cheese
- S. American rodents
- Comic opera "Princess ___"
- Commodities buyers and sellers (slang)
- Hovers
- Having had one's head cut off
- One-time monetary unit of Greece
- Not no

CLUES DOWN

- Polyvinyl acetate
- Canadian folk musician
- Evergreen trees and shrubs
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Secretion
- Quality of yielding nothing of value
- Aquatic mammal
- Father
- Protective crusts
- Caps
- Handwoven rug
- Soil-like material
- Not wide
- When you aim to get there
- Hold molecules
- Tooth caregiver
- Amount of time
- Beverage container
- Perform
- Beloved Cubs third baseman Ron
- Shapes
- Giants signal caller Manning
- Moves all the way around
- Babe Ruth retired as one
- Relinquishing
- Native religion in China
- Not well
- Fill with high spirits
- In bed
- Type of pet
- Somewhere to go
- Smaller quantity
- Ingested
- Singer and Jacobs are two
- Anger
- British rockers ___ Zeppelin
- Like
- Appollo's grandmother
- Obsolete home entertainment device
- Serbian mythological demon
- Bulgarian currency
- Midway between south and southeast
- Makes sense
- A way to single out
- Criminal (slang)
- Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
- Wobbled
- Singapore's second highest peak
- Grossly overweight
- Radioactivity units
- Famed Spanish painter
- Internet router algorithm
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Druidic mother goddess
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Midway between east and southeast

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

Living Healthy Series: Thursdays, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Come to one or all of these cutting-edge presentations by local experts in each field. Here's the lineup: "Spine and

Orthopedics: Understanding Spine and Orthopedic Pain and Your Management Options," March 9; "Diabetes Management and Plant-based Diets," March 16; "Heart Health: How Men's and Women's Symptoms and Treatments Differ," March 23; "Women's Health Month: Incontinence — Common Causes and Solutions," March 30; "Non-pharmaceutical Approaches to Pain Management," April 6; "Hand Pain, Carpal Tunnel and Osteoarthritis," April

13; "Joint Replacements and Robotics," April 20; "Pain Management: General and Back," April 27; "Shoulder Pain," May 4; and "One Hit Wonder" panel discussion with Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, May 11. A light supper will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 6 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation. Call 978-623-8320 to preregister.

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

Belly Dancing: Thursdays through May 11, 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; \$78.

Energize with Exercise: Mondays through May 8, 3:30 p.m. Join Denise Boucher, instructor, for a fun aerobics and weight training workout; \$55.

Townspeople

'Ashes to Go' a hit on Main Street

STAFF REPORT

ANDOVER — South Church has found multiple ways to “do church” by reaching beyond the walls of their big, traditional 156-year-old building on Central Street.

For the second year in a row, South Church pastors Dana Allen Walsh and Alex Shea Will took to the streets of Andover on Ash Wednesday with an offer to administer ashes to people grabbing their morning cup of coffee.

This year they were joined by Rev. Anne Gardner of Phillips Academy to give ashes to 30 people, twice as many people as last year.

Walsh said the spirit of curiosity was alive and well as “some people stopped for ashes, others wanted to know who we were, and some had questions around what Ash Wednesday is, what Lent means or how Protestants do Ash Wednesday.”

He noted, “It is really powerful that it can mean so much on a sidewalk.”

One man walked by, got his cup of coffee, went to his car but came back intrigued. After a discussion about what it meant, he decided to take ashes.

“I walked away with goosebumps for the first time in 20 years from a spiritual experience,” the man said.

Alternative outreach

Recently, South Church announced the launch of “Standing Under the Word,” their 15- to 20-minute weekly podcast. Anyone can download the sermon and listen while commuting, making dinner, working out at the gym – the way they would with any other podcast. There is also a companion download. The preacher answers questions about the thought process that goes into the sermon and the challenges and inspirations that go into living and preaching a text. The podcast is available through both the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Further, once a month, a varied group of people and perspectives gather at local establishments, including Café Nero, Andonlini's and Jimmy's Culpeppers Bar & Grill to discuss different topics over a drink – whether alcoholic or not. The “Theology on Tap” group gathers in study and discussion of God's work in the world.

South Church, part of the United Church of Christ Congregation, is located at 41 Central St. For more information, visit southchurch.com.

► **Pastor Alex Shea Will and Rev. Dana Allen Walsh talk with a man outside Starbucks about Ash Wednesday To Go.**



Pastor Alex Shea Will looks on as Rev. Dana Allen Walsh gives ashes to a woman outside Starbucks on Main Street on Ash Wednesday, which fell this year on March 1.



Pastor Alex Shea Will and Rev. Dana Allen Walsh stand with their sign on Main Street Wednesday.



Matt Lombard



Juliette Cormier

Two Andover runners on Dana-Farber's Boston Marathon Challenge team

STAFF REPORT

Two Andover runners are on the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team taking part in the Boston Marathon on April 17.

Juliette Cormier and Matthew Lombard, both of Andover, are among the 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world, who will run the historic marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston to collectively raise \$5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer. Each team member must fulfill a basic fundraising commitment of at least \$4,000. Invitational runners pledge \$5,000 while own entry runners join the DFMC team after obtaining their own race entry and pledging \$4,000.

This year marks the 28th annual running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC) team. One hundred percent of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge goes to Dana-Farber's

Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising scientific research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$80 million for the Barr Program to date, according to a press release.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge or support a runner, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at (617) 632-1970 or dfmc@dfci.harvard.edu. Follow DFMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/marathonchallenge. On Twitter: #RunDFMC

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:

Foxwoods Luxury Bus Trip

Tuesday, March 21, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The \$35 fee per person includes a luxury coach bus, \$15 in bonus slot play, \$10 food voucher or free buffet. (The true cost is \$10). Tickets are now on sale; purchase by Feb. 16 to ensure a seat.

Memory Café

Monday, March 27, 10 to 11:30 a.m. The free café-like event is for individuals with memory challenges and their caregivers, families and friends. The café will be fun and engaging, facilitated by arts, movement, music

and other presenters. This program is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Disabilities. Residents from surrounding communities are welcome to attend. Call 978-623-8320 to register.

Monday Movie Matinee

Free movies are shown Mondays at 1 p.m., with popcorn and sodas available for purchase.

Mindfulness Meditation

Fridays 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. Pre-registration 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 are held on the first Thursday of the month 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

The program is free to anyone 60 and over with an income of \$21,978 as a single person, \$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.

Duplicate Bridge

Thursdays through May 11, 1 p.m. Learn how to play the game in a fun, informal setting. Intermediate bridge skills are required as well as partners; \$24.

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.

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.andoverseniorcenter.org. For more information, call 978-623-8321.

Financial Players of the Fortnight Award winners



Pictured above are the 2016-2017 AHS Varsity basketball team winners of the Baystate Financial Player of the Fortnight award, given for exceptional contributions to team excellence. They are, front row, kneeling, left to right: Emmett Kim., Caroline McDonald, Cedric Gillette, Taylor Landry and Max Beati. Standing, back row, left to right: Coach Dave Fazio, Ryan Puglisi, Sarah Sullivan, Jillian Webber, Devon Beasley, Gia Bramanti, Ron Hill of Baystate Financial and Coach EJ Perry III.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

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

Here are some of the featured programs on the calendar:

Growing future gardeners

A panel of educators will share their experiences establishing and sustaining successful school garden projects on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m.

Panelists will be Linda Shottes-Bouchard, executive director of SHED Children's Campus; Melanie Cutler, AHS science teacher; Leigh Hartwell, AHS Sustainable Garden manager; and Hannah Tragis, Seed to Table coordinator at Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Bring questions and ideas. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Backyard chickens and how to get started

Discover the wonders of raising both regular and heritage poultry in your backyard on Saturday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m.

Presented by Jen Valentine, of Valentine & Sons Seed Co., based in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire. Attendees will learn about raising chicks, flock management, coop design, basic medical issues, and have a chance to meet some real heritage hens. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Experience the romance, joy and melancholy of the 24 Chopin Preludes

Pianist Michael Arnowitz will offer a program of Chopin's 24 Preludes, a classic collection of quintessential Romantic miniatures on Sunday, March 12, at 2:30 p.m.

The music spans the full range of human experience and emotions, at turns joyful, fleeting, energetic, eerie, vulnerable, melancholy, passionate, and humorous. No matter the mood, Chopin offers music of great beauty. Listening to the preludes as a whole is a true odyssey, a splendid journey into this unique, romantic, and evocative world unmistakably Chopin's.

Arnowitz is one of today's most creative and imaginative musicians. His life and music was the subject of a 2004 documentary, "Beyond 88 Keys." He has toured nationally and internationally and has performed as a piano soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Kiev Chamber Orchestra under Roman Kofman, the Savannah Symphony Orchestra, and others. Hear his music at <http://www.mapiano.com/>.

The free concert is sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds office hours

The Northern Essex Registry of Deeds will hold office hours for the public in the Activity Room on Monday, March 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Register Paul Iannuccillo and Registry staff will be on hand to answer questions about a variety of issues, including the Massachusetts Homestead Act. They will be able to verify if a Declaration of Homestead has been recorded on residents' properties, and they can provide or order a copy of current deeds, discharge of mortgages, or other Registry documents.

Registry booklets and other information will be available. No appointment necessary.

Creating a garden for honey bees

Learn how to help save honey bees in your own home garden by including plants that provide nectar and pollen for them on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m.

Master Gardener Barbara MacPhee, who has been a beekeeper for 36 years, will present the program. She was named 2009 Beekeeper of the Year.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of MHL and Spade and Trowel Garden Club. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

"The Witches of Foster's Pond"

Jane Cairns, of the Andover Historical Society, will shed light on Andover's history and role in the famous witch accusations and trials of 1692-1693, where 41 townspeople were accused of witchcraft.

Cairns' talk, held on Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., will focus on the South Parish/modern Andover families, the Fosters and the Carriers. (Ann Foster was dragged off the shores of Foster's Pond and imprisoned.)

A brief Annual Meeting will precede the talk. The program is a collaboration between the library and the Foster's Pond Corporation.

Journey into German genealogy

Katherine Schober, a professional German-English translator, will discuss the history and variety of German states over time on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m.

Learn what it means to have German ancestry, how to locate vital records, and how to use surnames as clues for fleshing out stories in your family tree.

Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar or call 978-623-8430.

Must-see gardens in the Northeast

Join Jana Milbocker and Joan Butler, avid gardeners, plant collectors, designers and writers with Enchanted Gardens, for a presentation on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m.

Attendees will take a visual tour and learn about the best public gardens, nursery display gardens, and private gardens open to the public in the Northeast.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of MHL and the Village Garden Club of Andover. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Take a musical journey with The David Zoffer Differential

Multi-instrumentalist David Zoffer and The David Zoffer Differential will perform original sophisticated pop/jazz/blues/fusion tunes with jazzy harmonies, funk and rock rhythms on Sunday, March 26, at 2:30 p.m.

Zoffer will be on keyboards, piano and vocals, along with Caio Afione, guitarist; Dan Nadeau, drummer; and Michael Morrisette, bassist. Zoffer has played and recorded with Eddie Gomez, Don Alias, Luciana Souza, Bela Fleck, Bob Moses, Don Byron, David Liebman, Stan Strickland, Phil Grenadier, Rick McLaughlin, John Lockwood and many others. He's been both a featured rock and jazz artist at clubs like the Bitter End, as well as a crossover jazz/classical guest performer/arranger/soloist with the Handel and Haydn Society and Boston Philharmonic.

He chairs New England Conservatory's Prep and Continuing Education Jazz Department, and serves on the faculty of the Contemporary Improvisation Department. He is an associate professor of Contemporary Writing and Production at Berklee College of Music, and jazz ensemble director at the Walnut Hill School.

The concert is free and open to all. Sign up at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail: A Video Journal
Discover and get inspired to hike the Bay Circuit Trail, which runs through 37 communities, on Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

Dan and Marilyn Briemann of e-Awakening.com, a website dedicated to the preservation of nature and the protection of resources, and Andover resident Alan French, will guide viewers along the 200-plus miles of natural wonder that arcs around Boston from Newburyport to Kingston.

Dan interviewed more than 60 people to create a set of documentary videos that capture his enthusiasm and concern for this beautiful resource. Sixteen miles of the Bay Circuit Trail run through Andover. French, the founder, chairman and executive director of the Bay Circuit Alliance, spent more than 25 years making the project a reality.

Owner selection to begin for Andover Community Trust's new affordable home

STAFF REPORT

The owner selection process for a permanently affordable three-bedroom home at 168 Haverhill St. in Andover is beginning this month. This home is expected to be completed in the fall of 2017 and will be sold for \$195,000 by Andover Community Trust (ACT). Students of Greater Lawrence Technical School (GLTS), under the supervision of their teachers, are building the home.

Income-eligible individuals who are interested in being selected to purchase this home must attend one of the following information sessions:

2 p.m. Sunday, March 19, or
6:30 p.m. Monday, March 20

All sessions will be held on the third floor of Memorial Hall Library in Andover. Applications will be available at the end of each meeting, and ACT members will be on hand to answer questions and assist with the application process. Applications, which are also available online at www.andoverCLT.org, are due by 4 p.m. May 1.

This single family home has three levels with



Owner selection is beginning for Andover Community Trust's new affordable home at 168 Haverhill St., being built by students and faculty from Greater Lawrence Technical School.

approximately 1,865 square feet of living space. It features three bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, dining room, kitchen, front porch, finished basement and one-car garage under. The home is on town sewer and water. It has gas heat, a laundry hookup and includes a range, dishwasher and refrigerator.

Andover Community Trust gives preference to income-eligible, first-time homebuyer households who will fully occupy a three-bedroom home. Total household income must be less than 80 percent (\$59,150 to \$71,000, depending on family size) of the area median income, as established annually by the U. S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition, family assets may not exceed \$75,000. All applicants must complete a first-time homebuyer's class before being selected to purchase this home and have mortgage pre-approval.

ACT will continue to own the land. The house is sold with a 99-year ground lease and resale formula to establish a purchase price to keep the home affordable, if the owner chooses to sell it in the future.

John Pearson, ACT president and architect, designed this permanently affordable three-bedroom home. This is the seventh ACT home, and the fourth

built by students from the Greater Lawrence Technical School.

Based on a strong belief that economic diversity is an important contributor to vital and livable communities, Andover Community Trust advocates for and develops permanently affordable homes in Andover. ACT will not discriminate in the selection of applicants. Individuals who have a financial interest in the project are not eligible to participate.

For more information, contact Andover Community Trust at 978-276-9228, info@AndoverCLT.org or visit the website at www.andoverclt.org.

Alternative Healing Therapy Center opens in Andover

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsm.com

If managing everyday stress, or anxiety, trauma, depression and bereavement are troubling you, an experienced Andover therapist has just opened an alternative healing center in town that just might help.

Kim Conway, LICSW, a therapist for over 25 years, opened A Centered Self on March 6 at 2 Elm Square, Suite 314.

A Centered Self provides therapeutic services to individuals managing stress, anxiety, trauma, depression and bereavement. The services provided will be psychotherapy, bereavement, psychic mediumship, Reiki, Past Life Regression, Integrated Spirit Guided Therapy, Transcendental Healing



COURTESY PHOTO

Kim Conway, a local therapist for over 25 years, opened A Centered Self, on March 6, at 2 Elm Square, Suite 314.

and Essential Oils Healing Touch.

With Conway's guidance, clients develop their own

unique ability to manage their struggles, gain insight and clear their paths to happier lives, according to a press release. A Centered Self is a transformative therapy and counseling center providing natural and innovative therapies to address life struggles utilizing multiple therapeutic options.

"We address a wide range of needs. Clients may be looking solely for our alternative treatments, traditional psychotherapy or combine the two. Treatment is tailored specifically to client needs, often utilizing the resources offered from multiple clinicians," Conway said in a press release.

The Center also run trainings, workshops and support groups on a variety of topics including relaxation, bereavement and spiritual

development as it strives to be a place offering warmth, serenity and hope.

Other specialists providing services at the Center include: Sairey Luterman, certified thanatologist; Karissa Eve Dorman, Evidential Psychic Medium; Julia Linkova, LMHC; Mindy Gilbert, licensed esthetician and Jess Sharpe, LCSW, MSW.

Conway received her Masters in Social Work at Adelphi University and has worked in private practice settings, and medical and psychiatric hospitals. She combines traditional clinical skills with alternative healing methods. Her approach with clients is intuitive, mindful and spiritual, she said.

For more information, see www.acenteredself.net.

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

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

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 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 are encouraged to cook and eat a meal related to the country or culture represented in the book, then gather at the library on Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. for a book discussion and dessert.

Due to last month's snowstorm and cancellation, the book remains "Waiting for

the Biblioburro," by Monica Brown, which is set in Colombia. Reserve and read the book and register the name of each person who will attend at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

If there are food allergies or suggested dessert alternatives, email Beth Kerrigan at bkerrigan@mhl.org.

Friday Morning Music with Peter Sheridan

Children's musician Peter Sheridan will visit Memorial Hall Library on Friday, March 17, at 10 a.m.

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. Sheridan's musical program

is sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Registration is required. Go to www.mhl.org/eventcalendar to sign up.

Other events in the Children's Room:

Kids Create: Dazzling Kaleidoscope, Thursday, March 9, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Children in grades three to five are invited to stop in to make kaleidoscopes. Discover how light and reflection make patterns using things found around the house. Register online.

Curiosity Club, Tuesday, March 14, 3:30 p.m. This program, for ages 6 to 7, focuses on a single subject through stories and activities sure to pique their curiosity. Register online.

Pajama Party, Tuesdays, March 14, 21 and 28, 6:30 p.m.

These 45-minute sessions include 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.

Board Game Day with the Junior Friends, Wednesday, March 15, 3:45 p.m. Ages 6 and up are invited to play board games. Space is limited; register online.

Alpha-Buddies, Thursday, March 16, 1:30 p.m. Celebrate a single letter of the alphabet through stories, songs, games and activities. For ages 4 to 5 and an adult. Register online.

Thinking Thursday, March 16, 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.

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Sports

The next level



Courtesy photos

Andover's Jason Denoncourt flies down the hill this season. The Golden Warrior sophomore has emerged as a star this winter, and was a favorite going into the state meet.

Rising sophomore becomes a star for ski team

BY DAVE DYER
ddyer@eagletribune.com

A little experience was all Andover High sophomore Jason Denoncourt needed to reach a new level in the North Shore Ski League this winter.

As a freshman, Denoncourt had a solid rookie campaign at Bradford Ski Area, finishing 12th in the North Shore League standings followed by finishing sixth in the slalom at the state meet.

But this year, Denoncourt seems to have taken his skiing to new heights. He dominated the regular season, finishing first in the NSSL standings. He had the fastest time in six races, took second once and added a third.

He won the final two meets of the regular season, after also winning the first two. He added the title at the league's Interscholastic Meet, more than a second ahead of the competition. Denoncourt entered the



Jason Denoncourt

Massachusetts state ski meet, which was scheduled for Tuesday, as one of the top competitors for the overall individual state title.

"I think I got used to the hill (at Bradford)," said Denoncourt. "It's a short hill ... it's different from other places. Starts are really important and I worked at getting off faster."

Until last year, the 5-foot-8 Denoncourt was accustomed to longer distances. Along with older sister Cailey, who is a junior on the Andover girls ski team, he has been skiing and racing at Waterville Valley (N.H.) on weekends and vacations, honing his technique on longer courses.

But along with a better feel for the Bradford course, added with his improvement



Andover's Jason Denoncourt has emerged as one of the top skiers in the state this season, dominating the league for the Golden Warriors.

over the last year, Denoncourt has something else going for him this year at states, where skiers compete in both the slalom and giant slalom — more confidence in the slalom after the

current North Shore season. While most leagues around the state regularly ski both races during the regular season, which gets their skiers prepared for state, the North Shore

league has restricted itself to the giant slalom — until this year.

For the first time, the North Shore league conducted two slalom races during the season in addition to the

Interscholastic race with the idea that local skiers would be more prepared once they got to state.

"I'm excited ... I think it was really helpful that we had the slalom," said Denoncourt, who also runs cross country and plays baseball at Andover. "My goals this year were just to do better in the league and then do better at state."

He's halfway there.

Family business

Jason Denoncourt isn't the only member of the family that starred on the slopes this winter.

Sister Cailey was Andover's top skier in one meet — taking second overall — and was regularly the No. 2 finisher for the Golden Warriors behind teammate Olivia Lawler.

Cailey, who trains alongside her brother, took seventh overall at the Interscholastic Meet with a 53.14. She was Andover's second finisher behind Amanda Leung (52.48).



The Andover High School gymnastics team posed for a shot at the sectionals. They are: Coach Jimmy Tomacchio, Paige Bukowski, Rachel Cadet, Isabelle Allen, Caroline Curtin, Kaitlyn McDonald, Karina Calhoun, Jessie Barry, Hannah Finn, Maddie Quill, Yasmin Gulbas, Sarah Williams, Matt Campbell, Coach Jenny Coney and Coach Tracy West. Not shown: Maddie Francis. The team came in first in the sectionals but placed fourth in the states.

Bukowski steals show, takes state title

STAFF REPORT

HUDSON — Paige Bukowski "has a tiny body but the heart of a champion."

That's how her coach, Tracy Vadala West, described the dynamic 5-foot Andover freshman who stole the show at Sunday's Massachusetts state championships.

Bukowski won the all-around with a 37.725 as well as the beam (new school



Paige Bukowski

record 9.725) and the floor (9.5). She also added a third in the bars and was eighth in the vault. "She had a wonderful meet," said Vadala West. "She's great to watch, very clean and very confident."

Bukowski led Andover to a fourth-place finish among

the eight qualifying teams. Andover's Kaitlyn McDonald was 11th.

Vadala West said Bukowski and McDonald are quite the 1-2 punch.

"Her and Kaitlyn are great together," said the coach. "They cheer each other on. It's really great to see especially with one a freshman and one a senior."

Next up for Bukowski is the New England's Saturday in Woodstock, Conn.

See GYMNAST, Page 17

Andover Hockey rolls in tournament opener

BY HECTOR LONGO
Staff writer

CHELMSFORD — Six days after suffering the heartbreak of falling just short of its first Super 8 berth in program history, Andover hockey could have allowed the disappointment to overwhelm them.

Instead, the Golden Warriors began the postseason in dominant fashion.

Andover pounced on No. 12 Winchester, breaking to a quick 2-0 first period lead and rolling to a 4-1 victory in a Division 1 North quarterfinal on Saturday.

"It was a disappointment for the team (not making the Super 8), but we accepted where we are and put it behind us," said Warrior Mike Biddle. "We all thought we should have been there. We've accepted where we are, and now we just keep moving forward."

The Warriors were next scheduled to face Austin Prep on Wednesday with a trip to the North final on the line.

"We took care of business tonight, and now the



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Brendan Croston, pictured here battling with a defender, scored a goal as Andover rolled to victory in its state tournament opener on Saturday.

focus is on Austin Prep Wednesday," said Andover goalie Zack Laramie, who was called on to make just 13 saves in the win. "We think we're just as good as any team. We beat Central, the six seed in the Super 8. Not getting in just lights a fire under us to win this."

Despite showing the rust of a two-week layoff, Andover made sure there

would be no letdown. Matt Schuhwerk opened the first period with a goal and Matt Belluche closed it with one as the clock showed just 24 seconds to intermission.

"Fourteen days off between games and it showed," said Andover coach Chris Kuchar. "We played really sloppy. We didn't have our legs

See HOCKEY, Page 17

Connell takes silver at New England track meet

TRACK

Devin Connell starred with an outstanding second overall in the 1,000 at the New England Championship on Saturday at the Reggie Lewis Center.



Devin Connell

Connell finished in 2:31.69. The talented junior was nipped by Stephen Tyler of Weston, Conn., who won in 2:31.53.

The Andover girls 4x400 team of Hannah Lansberry, Emma Joel, Julianna Kennedy and Delia Barbanti placed 10th in 4:03.41, good for 24th on our region's all-time list.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Casey, Webber keep rolling

Alyssa Casey and Andover started hot, sprinting out to a 14-point first half lead and never looking back on the way to beating Masconomet 64-51 in the Division 1 North quarterfinals on Friday.

Andover was scheduled to face Billerica in the North semifinals on Wednesday.

Casey was her dominant self with a game-high 26 points, while superstar front court mate Jillian Webber chipped in with 21 points of her own, along with 13 rebounds and five blocks. Gia Bramanti added a pair of key 3-pointers for the winners.

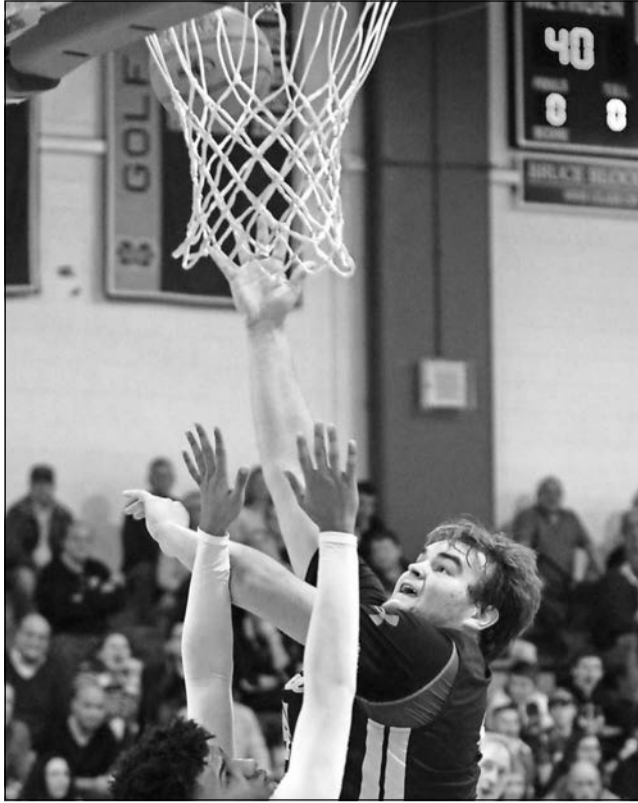
"We went in knowing that defense is the key to everything," said Webber. "Defense was the number one thing. We got I think three steals in the first quarter. I got some blocks, and Alyssa and I got a bunch of rebounds. It was just defense, and then the offense came."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Beati dominates, then Andover falls

Big man Max Beati erupted for a whopping career-high 31 points to go with 10 rebounds as Andover surged past Methuen in the Division 1 North first round last Monday. Devon Beasley added 19 points and Timmy Kalantzakos scored 10 points for the Golden Warriors.

"This team is a bunch of tough kids," said Andover coach David Fazio. "Max Beati, what a night, Devon Beasley, what a night, Brandon Witten



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Max Beati posted a career-high 31 points as Andover beat Methuen in its tourney opener. The Golden Warriors, however, fall to Central Catholic in the next round.

with a (sprained) wrist, come on. These kids are just tremendous."

Devon Beasley scored a team-high 14 points, but Andover



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover captain Alyssa Casey shoots over Masco's Lily Polakewicz. Casey was again dominant as the Golden Warriors rolled over Masconomet in their state tourney opener.

points and Timmy Kalantzakos had nine points for the Warriors.

"I have to send a shout out to our seniors," said coach

HOCKEY: Warriors are back to play after defeat

Continued from Page 16

underneath us, and we weren't very crisp. "We only gave up 14 shots, but we need to play better. We have to be much better to beat a team like Austin Prep."

Biddle had the lone goal

in the middle period and Brendan Croston made it 4-0 before Winchester spoiled Laramie's bid for the playoff shutout late in the third.

All in all, fighting the layoff and the misfortune, Kuchar likes where his team is headed to Tsongas.

"There's another tournament to be played," the coach said. "Despite the fact we didn't close out the season well, we truly didn't earn our way into the Super 8, we have things to play for. This is our second time in the Division 1 North semifinal in the last three years and we

are looking forward to it."

Andover 4, Winchester 1

Winchester (12-10): 0 0 1-1
Andover (14-5-2): 2 1 1-4
Division 1 North Quarterfinals
Goals: A — Matt Schuhwerk, Matt Belluche, Mike Biddle, Brendan Croston; W — Jack Keane
Assists: A — Jeff Hurst 2, Pat Hughes, Mike Reilly, Matt Sharrio, Matt Croston, Biddle; W — Joe LePore
Saves: A — Zack Laramie 13

GYMNAST: Bukowski off to New England

Continued from Page 16

Mass. State Championships

Team results (8 teams): 1. Bridgewater-Raynham 144.75, 4. Andover 142.175
Area leaders:
Vault: 8. Paige Bukowski (And) 9.275; Bars: 3. Bukowski (And) 9.225; Beam: 1. Bukowski (A) 9.725, school record; Floor: 1. Bukowski (And) 9.5;
All-around: 1. Bukowski (And) 37.725, 11. Kaitlyn McDonald (Andover) 35.7

LOCAL

Storms, strong winds bring serious damage to Andover

By GABRIELLA CRUZ
geruz@andovertownsmen.com

Al Dahlgren lay sleeping in his Whittier Street home as a large tree fell in his next-door neighbor's front yard.

"I was actually taking a nap, and I heard it happening," Dahlgren said. "I thought my damned chimney had come down in the wind."

Just before noon Thursday, a large tree fell into the front yard of 43 Whittier St. An Audi parked nearby had slight surface damage, and the house received minimal damage.

Superintendent of Parks, Grounds, Forestry and Cemeteries Paul Sanborn, who is also the town's tree warden, was on scene at the Whittier Street home.

"We're busy, but we're on top of it now," Sanborn said. "With a little luck, we can break for lunch," he added with a chuckle.

Sanborn said workers were busy throughout the day, mostly responding to trees down in roadways. High Street was closed for a couple of hours later in the morning and had reopened to only one lane of traffic by 1 p.m.

Crews scrambled to make the roadways clear before Andover schools around town released students for the day. Red Spring Road was closed from the parking lot behind the high school football field to the horn bridge due to downed power lines and branches.

A fractured utility pole was in danger of falling over on Lovejoy Road around 3 p.m., which is near Sanborn Elementary School. Parent pick-up buses were detoured until the road was reopened.

Both Red Spring and Lovejoy roads were open in time for Friday's morning commute.

The wind also caused a flagpole to break free and break through a car window in front of the Starbucks on Main Street.

The sidewalk in front of 10-12 Main Street was blocked off by police to make sure no one was injured should any additional poles fall. The sidewalk remained closed through Friday as crews worked to make sure the remaining poles were secure.

According to Andover Police logs, there were nearly 20 wind-related calls, from downed wires and fallen trees, to debris in the roadways and a few



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

A crew from National Grid is working to restore power on Red Spring Road in Andover. The wind knocked down a large tree, wires and a light pole. Andover was hit with strong wind damage in several areas Thursday.



A crew from National Grid works to restore power on Red Spring Road in Andover. The wind knocked down a large tree, wires and a light pole.



Runners jog past a large tree that came down on the front lawn of 43 Whittier St., Andover. The tip of the tree just missed the front of the house. Andover was hit with strong wind damage in several areas Thursday.

scattered and short-lived power outages. A woman was killed on Saturday when a wind-blown tree fell on top of

her car as she was riding on Route 125 in Andover. The driver of the car was also seriously injured. (See story, Page 5).



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Gregory, Blumstein will end strife and division

Editor, Townsman: On March 28, we will be voting for candidates for Andover Selectman and School Committee who actively support our public schools. Laura Gregory has an extensive background as a lawyer, but has also been a steadfast volunteer in our schools for more than a decade...

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.

composed leader. We respect that he weighs all sides of an issue and makes rational decisions, even when there are disagreements. Additionally, these candidates are each constructive and positive. Andover government is increasingly divisive and conflict-driven, and we need a shift toward more collaboration on and between our boards. Please join us in supporting Joel and Laura in our town election. Their

leadership is good for our schools and, therefore, good for our town.

DAVID AND MELISSA GIULIANO 10 Coventry Lane Andover

Dog ban at cemetery unfair

Editor, Townsman: It's a sign of the times — the trustees of Spring Grove Cemetery are proclaiming a dog ban. They are using false claims to justify their position (Peeing on grave-stones! Barking at funerals!) and are cultivating a culture of fear (knocking over elderly visitors!).

SUSAN MAY Porter Road Andover

AYS saves children, please keep up the support

Editor, Townsman: I love AYS. I am writing this letter to ask Andover residents for their continued support of the Andover Youth Center.

As a retired art teacher (24 years) for the town of Andover, I have known students who wanted to connect socially with their peers. (The CVS store uptown doesn't count.)

When I entered AYS for the first time I felt the electric atmosphere of positivity and playfulness. I wanted to do stuff. I would like to praise the staff at AYS. They have worked tirelessly and passionately to create a safe place for Andover's young people. They have always encouraged youngsters to come into the center and be themselves.

was being proposed I stated at a meeting, "The Andover Youth Center saves children." They still do.

DOLORES DUNNING 161 Andover St. Andover

Gilbert: Vote Blumstein for School Committee

Editor, Townsman: I had the privilege of serving on the School Committee with Joel Blumstein for two years, and can say without hesitation that I have never worked with anyone more committed to serving our schools with fairness and integrity. I am proud to support Joel's candidacy for re-election to a second term so that our community will continue to benefit from his leadership.

These days, it has become all too easy to point out what is wrong and who is to blame, but the hard work of governance demands much more from its leaders. Governance

means listening, not just waiting to talk. It means fostering a climate of support, not fear, among the professionals who serve our town. It requires respectful consideration of other points of view, and recognition that despite limited resources with which to serve a diverse range of students and programs, with hard work you can find a way to make great progress. Above all, it means keeping the needs of the students first and foremost, no matter what.

Joel Blumstein has demonstrated his knowledge of all this and more. He thinks deeply about every issue, listens closely to all, and has a work ethic that is beyond reproach. He faces high-profile issues head on with his characteristic even-handed approach, and has been instrumental in forging a path forward in such areas as the middle school math curriculum, early screening for reading disabilities, and the high school schedule. I am proud to have served with and learned from Joel Blumstein, and hope you will join me in voting for him on Tuesday, March 28.

ANNIE GILBERT 12 Gray Road

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line ad publication deadlines: dailies:

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

weeklies:

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

Cancellation/change deadlines: same as publication deadlines



Announcements

HAPPY ADS

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

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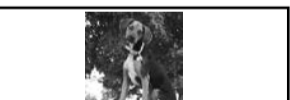
G/C BUILDER'S LICENSE COURSE Register by March 31st, for Danvers, Lowell, Haverhill, MA 1-888-833-5207 www.StateCertification.com

LOST & FOUND

FOUND DOG - small, mid-older male dog, near Gloucester High School. 10-15lbs. approx 12-16" tall, black face, white/black body, short white tail. Very friendly. Very hungry. Call 978-879-6775, leave message.

First Run

LOST CAT - White cat with black tail and markings, missing in Belleville area of Newburyport since 2/17. Answers to "Mr. Bumbles" and is very friendly. Call 978-462-9763. \$500 REWARD FOR SAFE RETURN!



LOST DOG Beagle/Hound Mix Black and tan with white belly Name: TIANA S Hampton Rd / Battis Farm, Amesbury Missing for several weeks Please call with any info 626-664-7272 or 626-665-9100

SALEM, MA: Camp Naumkeag/Willows area FOUND 2 weeks ago, TABBY CAT Call 978-744-8663

SILVER Wedding Ring found on South Martin Rd., Amesbury cadwiz1@gmail.com

Real Estate

BARGAIN BANK OWNED HOMES

Most of these homes are in move in condition, some with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. You'll save thousands!!! The banks see them as surplus and don't care about getting the highest price (equals GREAT DEALS). Homes from \$165,000 to \$335,000 located all over the North Shore. These aren't available to investors and can only be sold to people looking for a home to live in (it's a special government program). Buy with as little as \$3000 dollars down. (If your credit isn't perfect - no problem - rates, short sales, bankruptcy - OK). Close in 21 to 120 days (smooth transactions). For all the information including addresses and pictures TEXT 978-393-1123 and type "BankOwnedns" (List available 24 hours a day 7 days a week - automated system - Updated Hourly). This exclusive service (Not available to Realtors) is a courtesy of Patrick Lydon - Lydon R.E. If you want to talk to a bank owned rep, call 978-235-1707

HOMES

Gloucester - Custom colonial on elevated knoll with striking ocean views... Home features open-concept, eat-in kitchen, two decks, living room with ocean views, dining room, family room with wood stove/fireplace abuts bedrooms and office. A generous master bedroom en-suite with fireplace and deck overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and additional bedroom rests on its top. Basement game room with full bar complements the home. Near Good Harbor Beach with easy access to Rte 128, shopping and MBTA to Boston. \$698,000

Rick Petralia J Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

ROWLEY - A treasure of an early country house on 2+ A along the Mill River stream. 4 bdrms, 28' great room, paneled fireplace wall, crown moldings, museum quality shell corner cupboard, double stairs, large kitchen with marble and SS, 2015 septic. Screened porch, so much character here! \$495,000

RIVER VALLEY RE Phone Joanie Purinton 978-462-6898 office 800-773-9990

NEWBURY - RIVERFRONT - NEW PRICE 11 room stunning home + office + barn, 3.3 A estate overlooking Little River and its marshes and hills. Greek Revival character plus 21st century Master Suite addition; 23' studio, solarium entranceway, screened porch, 4 bdrms, 3.5 baths, fabulously landscaped. This is a magical setting and home, unspoiled surrounding lands in permanent protection, 7 minutes to Newburyport beaches/Boston train, Atlantic Ocean. \$1,750,000

River Valley Real Estate Phone Joanie Purinton 978-462-6898/office 978-465-8851

ROWLEY - Early 1740 house, fine location, pass Title V, 4 bedroom, many original features, needs total rehab - a fine opportunity. \$242,000

RIVER VALLEY REAL ESTATE Call Joanie Purinton direct 978-462-6898; office 800-773-9990.

WENHAM - Sprawling Paul Zampell ranch, sited on a spacious manicured lot. Enter the center foyer to living room with cherry wall cabinet, at the right, a dining room connects to a spacious updated eat-in kitchen open to fireplace family room with beamed ceilings and sliding doors to a private patio with in-ground pool. Features include expansive laundry-mudroom, two-car garage, spacious bedrooms with wide closets, a full bath and a beautiful master bedroom en-suite with two walk-in closets, master bath and slider to the patio. An entertainment game/bonus room completes the home. Easy access to town, shopping and MBTA. \$725,000

Rick Petralia J Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

Miscellaneous

PUZZLE SOLUTION grid with letters filled in for a crossword puzzle.

HOMES

SALISBURY - "UNDER CONTRACT" 9+ room raised ranch, 2015 roofing, 97% high efficiency gas heating system, city water/city sewer; eat-in kitchen, wonderful natural light, 3-4 bedrooms, office space, garage, lovely location! \$322,000

RIVER VALLEY R.E. Call Pat Skibbee 978-465-8851/direct 978-502-4782.

WEST NEWBURY - BETTER PRICE! Beautifully restored 10 room early, authentic 3,500 + sf Georgian Colonial, period fireplaces, paneled walls; gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceiling family room. Au pair suite/office with separate entrance. 2-car garage, lovely grounds. \$588,325

RIVER VALLEY RE Call Joanie Purinton 978-462-6898 or office 978-465-8851

LAND/ACREAGE

NEWBURY - Two wonderful building lots, perched on Hay Street, 1.02 A \$315,000; 1.4 A, \$360,000.

RIVER VALLEY RE Call Joanie Purinton 978-462-6898 or office 978-363-8851

COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS

HAVERHILL Industrial building for sale. 65k sq ft, 4 loading docks, large parking lot, freight elevator. Partially rented. 978-689-5613

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PUBLIC NOTICES

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 17SM000541 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Julia A. Christopher; Daniel E. Christopher and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 50 §3901 et seq. Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in ANDOVER, 1 WOODHILL ROAD, given by Julia A. Christopher and Daniel E. Christopher to Bank of America, N.A., dated June 10, 2010, and recorded in the Essex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 12069, Page 175 as affected by a modification agreement dated August 28, 2015 and recorded with said Registry in Book 14437, Page 67, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before April 17, 2017 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on February 28, 2017.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder

201612-0137-TEA AT - 3/9/17

Rentals

RENTALS

PLAISTOW, NH CHANDLER PLACE APARTMENTS Now Accepting Applications for Age 62+ over. 1 bedroom Units from \$890, heat & hot water included. On-site laundry and parking. OPEN HOUSE Sat 10am-12 noon, 18 Chandler Avenue, Plaistow Unit A-3 is Open for viewing. Applications are available at our office between 9am - 2pm Mon-Fri. STEVEN LEWIS, INC. 11 Main St., P.O. Box 1358 Atkinson NH 03811. 603-362-6565 Income restrictions apply.



PUBLIC NOTICES

The following checks remain outstanding as of January 31, 2017 on the Town of Andover's general account. If you feel you are entitled to one of these checks, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 978-623-8947 to provide additional information to obtain one of these checks.

Table with columns: CHECK #, CHECK DATE, TYPE, VENDOR, NAME, UNCLEARED. Lists various checks and vendors.

HOMES

ROCKPORT - Long Term Single-Family House Rental situated in desirable downtown Rockport! A wonderfully appointed home with wood floors, sitting room with fireplace, fully appliances kitchen, 1-1/2 baths, washer and dryer, ample storage, parking and ocean views. Near downtown shopping, restaurants, Shalin Lu Performance Center and commuter rail to Boston. First months and security required. No pets. No-fee application required with minimum credit score of 685 to qualify. \$1695/mo

Rick Petralia J Barrett & Company 978-865-1203

APARTMENTS

ANDOVER-HAMILTON GREEN APARTMENTS WAIT LEST REMAINS OPEN for 2 bedroom units only. 1 & 3 bedroom wait list closed. Must income qualify & pass credit & background check. Tenants pay for Electric only. Lisa Perez 978-623-8155



PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER

Table with columns: CHECK #, CHECK DATE, TYPE, VENDOR, NAME, UNCLEARED. Lists various checks and vendors.

APARTMENTS

BRADFORD, MA Forest Acres FRIENDLY COMMUNITY LIVING AT ITS BEST ●Pool ●Central A/C ●Playground Basketball/tennis court ●Free storage ●Free heat, hot water, gas Visit us 28 Forest Acres Dr M-F 8:30 to 4:30, Sat 10-2 movetoforestacres.com

GROVELAND, MA - 2 bedroom includes heat & hot water, hardwood, storage, deck, parking, new pool. Pets considered Starting at \$1425/mo. 978-891-3153

METHUEN, MA - Elm Crest Estates. 2 Bedroom \$1400 mo; 1 Bedroom - \$1150 mo. All utilities included. No pets 978-682-4891 www.forrent.com/elmcrestestates

PUBLIC NOTICES

Business & Service DIRECTORY

Services

ADULT CARE

BUSY LADY SERVICES-
Are you in need of a ride to AIRPORT, doctor, shopping, or where ever you need to go?
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PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT WANTED for developmentally challenged adult in Manchester MA. 10-20 hours per week. Must have car to take individual to doctor's appointments, shopping, etc.
Please call Kenneth at 978-236-1007

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Want to make a difference AND earn money from home? Become a Shared Living Provider for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities living in Massachusetts. Call Nate Wetmore at (978) 531-0818 x2704 TODAY!! www.makeadifferenceathome.com

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3-H HANDYMAN
Reasonably priced, basements, carpentry / remodeling, tiles. Call 978-375-1976

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ALL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED. Only NH Childcare Providers May Be Licensed Or Non-Licensed

First Run
PEDIATRIC RN Is your infant, toddler or child sick? Do you need respite care? Call mobile mom Andover/Merrimack Valley 978-884-2530

Single Father of 11 year old boy in Salisbury, MA seeking P/T help. early mornings and afternoons to get son off to school and pick up late afternoons and watch on no school days and some evenings. Must pass a check. Ideal situation for school employee & others. Call 857-265-9044

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Ads under this classification may be found online under the Service heading of General Services

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Qualified candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance, a solid understanding of accounting concepts and practices, and a firm grasp of business and office flow functions. Preferred candidates will have at least 3 years of related experience and demonstrate strong Excel skills, attention to detail, and effective reporting and communication skills.

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Full-time. We are looking for a versatile, creative and deadline-oriented page designer to join our news design desk. Our staff of 22 people designs pages for eight daily newspapers, six weekly newspapers, more than a dozen magazines, and a variety of special publications. Ideal candidates will have experience designing broadsheet newspaper pages with Adobe InDesign, but other publication design experience will be considered. Ability to meet deadlines, communicate with local and remote editors, and work at a fast pace are all musts. Editorial and/or news experience a plus. This position is evening hours, and includes weekends.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny; cooler	Clouds and sun	Mostly sunny; colder	Not as cold	Not as cold	Rain possible	Mostly sunny
High: 47° Low: 26°	High: 38° Low: 12°	High: 23° Low: 8°	High: 29° Low: 12°	High: 35° Low: 21°	High: 42° Low: 25°	High: 38° Low: 22°

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MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY TEENS

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

Practice ACT and SAT exam sessions for teens

Students can take a free practice ACT exam on Saturday, March 18, and a free practice SAT exam on Saturday, March 25, courtesy of Sylvan Learning. Both sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Students must bring a No. 2 pencil and a calculator

(that is not a phone). Results will be given at follow-up seminars on Tuesday, March 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. for the ACT exam, and Tuesday, March 28, from 6 to 7 p.m. for the SAT exam.

Registration is required and space is limited. Register online at www.mhl.org/event-calendar or call 978-623-8430.

Calling teen poets

Students in grades six through 12 are invited to

submit up to three poems for the 2017 MHL Teen Poetry Contest.

Submissions will be accepted beginning 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15 through 9 a.m. on Friday, March 31. Poems can be submitted online at www.poetry.mhl.org.

Students don't have to be Andover residents to participate. Prizes will be awarded for the top three poems in the middle school and high

school categories, as well as Honorable Mentions and Teens' Choice Awards. A poetry reception will be held on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Contact Renata or Anna at 978-623-8432 or ya@mhl.org if there are questions.

Other upcoming events at the library include:

Deconstruct a Computer: Thursday, March 9, 3 p.m.

Free Form Fridays: March 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: Mondays, March 13 and 27, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

DIY Pot of Gold: Thursday, March 16, 3 p.m.

Destroy a Book — Create Black-out Poetry: Monday, March 20, 3 p.m.

Teen Movie Nights: Tuesdays, March 21 and 28, 6 p.m.

Flower Crown DIY: Wednesday, March 22, 3:30 p.m.

Flower Crown DIY Random Fandom — Beauty and the Beast: Tuesday, March 28, 3 p.m.

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