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9-YEAR-OLD HOPES TO BE A TV GENIUS

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HISTORY MADE AS ANDOVER HOCKEY MAKES SUPER 8

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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

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Tempers flare at selectmen's meeting

BY KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsman.com

ANDOVER — The Board of Selectmen's meeting almost came to blows Monday night as one selectman accused the chairman of ethics violations while the chairman shouted back, repeatedly: "You are a liar!"

Later, Chairman Paul Salafia's son, in the audience, was heard threatening another audience member who later took out a police complaint against him.

The meeting, and the ensuing police investigation, came amid a backdrop of increasing animosity between Selectman Paul Landry and Salafia.

Landry and Salafia have traded barbs in public, while social media posts between Landry and his followers and followers of Salafia have added to the tension.

Meeting erupts

Monday night the ongoing rivalry boiled over when, near the tail-end of the meeting Landry introduced a

motion to remove Salafia as chairman of the board. He claimed Salafia was guilty of a number of ethics violations and had misled the board on details of the North Reading water deal.

As Landry read his litany of complaints against Salafia, the chairman repeatedly wielded his gavel, slamming it to the table so hard it fell apart. He shouted that Landry was out of order, later yelling at him and calling him a liar. "And you know you're a liar," Salafia shouted.

See SALAFIA, Page 14



Chairman Paul Salafia's son motions to a supporter of Selectman Bob Landry's as Police Chief Patrick Keefe tries to keep the peace. Selectman candidate Joe Albuquerque can be seen at right.

KELSEY BODE/Staff photo



Courtesy photo

This screen-grab is from a video shot by Michael and Penny Restuccia, who live close to the construction site of an assisted-living facility being built on Elm Street. It shows a cloud of dust and smoke in the aftermath of blasting in January. While blasting at the site has ceased, now neighbors are dealing with the sound and vibrations created by rock crushing.

Nightmare on Elm Street continues

BY KELSEY BODE
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The end to the rock crushing on Elm Street is near, but neighbors of the Capital Seniors Housing development say little has changed since citizens pleaded their case to the Board of Selectmen in January.

On Jan. 22 dozens of people who live near the 141 Elm St. project begged selectmen for help, describing booming blasts that had cracked their foundations and walls.

Selectmen told residents there was nothing they could do to stop the development from being built. It had been permitted through all the proper channels. They appointed Deputy Town Manager John Mangiaratti as the point-person

See NIGHTMARE, Page 2



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Pine Street resident Rob Ciampa vents his frustrations over disruptive construction in his neighborhood during a Selectmen's meeting Jan. 22 at the Doherty Middle School auditorium.

Candidates address Andover's angst

BY KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsman.com

Using words like "fiasco" and "crisis" while also lashing out at appointed and elected leaders for failing to respect the voters, the four candidates for two, three-year seats on the Board of Selectmen seem to agree that something is amiss in Andover at

the moment.

With town elections less than a month away, the Townsman asked the candidates what they thought of the current state of affairs in town, as more and more people in different neighborhoods are starting to complain about issues like blasting, loose zoning bylaws, a planning department accountable to no one,

a school superintendent meddling in decisions on athletic coaches, and more.

The agitation has resulted in the growth of a new organization in town, a loose alliance of several, different neighborhood groups all with one goal: to find out why they have been left out of the loop on major issues that directly affect

See CANDIDATES, Page 2

★ ★ ★

ANDOVER ELECTION

Tuesday, March 27

★ ★ ★

Tech school parents speak out on threats

BY PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

Parents of students who attend Greater Lawrence Technical School accused the superintendent of "protecting" a student who made threatening gestures on a popular social media application.

Superintendent John Lavoie told a group of about 150 angry parents, staff and students at a meeting Feb. 22 at the River Road school that he and his staff are doing everything they can to make sure their children are safe.

He said that the student who made the threatening gesture and inappropriate comments on SnapChat did not pose a threat to the rest of the student body.

A subsequent post that warned of a threat of violence at the school was "based on rumors" and was debunked, Lavoie said.

Students "will not be harmed by this individual," Lavoie added.

Police agreed, saying the rumor about a student saying he wanted to "shoot up the

See SCHOOL, Page 14

When Greater Lawrence Tech students returned to classes Feb. 26, police officers were at the school to guarantee safety.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Debo Brown points to community members in the audience during a meeting at the Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium on Feb. 22 regarding a rumor of violence being directed at the school last week. Brown insisted that they should have been notified of the situation earlier.

New veterans director, Alice Reddin, steps into job

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
Staff Writer

A 32-year-old Navy veteran, who is a mother of two and swing dances competitively, is the new Director of Veterans Services in Andover.

Alicia Reddin was the District Director of Veteran Services for Melrose, Wakefield and Saugus and also serves on the Post-Deployment Council at the Statehouse. She lives in Billerica with her family and starts her job in Andover on March 1.

Riddin served in the U.S. Navy as an "EO" (equipment operator) with the Seabees, a Navy construction battalion



Alice Reddin

Michael Burke who was 54-years-old when he suddenly retired on Oct. 23 after 10 years in the job. Health issues were troubling him. Director of Community Services Joseph Connelly said at the time. Burke earned about \$80,000 annually.

The town's Veteran's Office was among several town

departments that were reorganized and now report to Connelly. Other departments also reporting to Connelly are Youth Services, Elder Services and Recreation.

Riddin is anxious to meet veterans in town and will be busy getting acquainted with them in her first few weeks in Andover.

Here is what she had to say about her new job:

Question: What is your experience with veterans and where did you work before?

Answer: "I have been a Veteran Services Office Intern in Hingham and in Somerville. In 2015 I joined Melrose - Wakefield - Saugus Veteran

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New Veterans Director Alicia Reddin with husband Michael, and children Gabriel, 4, and Rosalie, 10, and dog, Neely.



Courtesy photo

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VETERANS

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Services District as a Veteran Service Officer and in 2016 I was promoted to District Director of Veteran Services for Melrose-Wakefield — Saugus. I am also the Chairman of the State Veteran Services Officer Association Training Committee and I serve on the Post Deployment Council at the Statehouse. I am also a member of the VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, and a lifetime member of the DAV."

Q: Are you a veteran?

A: "Yes I am. I served in the US Navy as an "EO" with the Seabees - I operated heavy equipment for quarry operations, water well drilling, as well as blasting. I deployed one time to the South Pacific. In 2008 I went into the reserves and served as the Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Specialist for NMCB 28 out of Quincy."

Q: What's your first order of business in Andover?

A: "Well my first order of business is to settle in and make contact with the clients who receive benefits through the Veteran Services Office. I will take some time to get acquainted with those case files. From there I will be meeting with members of the Patriotic Committee and past VSO John Doherty who has been hugely supportive through this transition. I am not walking in with a mentality to make major changes. I will spend my first months learning — learning the community, meeting the veterans in town, and most importantly continuing to build the bridges and expand the available services through the community services division at Town Hall."

Q: What are your specific

plans to reach out to veterans in Andover?

A: "Outreach is key to the success of any Veterans Office. There are numerous approaches that I would like to take. Some of the ways will be:

- Spending some time with Mr. Doherty, and I will continue to bounce ideas and thoughts off of him. He has been a huge support and the knowledge he has in invaluable. The local posts will also play a huge role in outreach, they know this town up and down. I look forward to sharing knowledge with them.

- A strong and positive social media presence: Where are we, what are we doing, things like that.

- Coffee hours and roundtables throughout the town.

- A monthly newspaper column, or something like that.

- A short TV promo through the public access TV.

- Perhaps a podcast.

- Office hours at the Senior Center.

- Attendance at the quarterly meetings at senior housing.

- I am exploring funding to do a large mailing to all veteran households in town as well.

Q: What interested you about the Andover job?

A: "When the posting went out, I honestly had a feeling. It is hard to explain but sometimes you just know that you need to take a chance. I live in Merrimack Valley so the commute being less was helpful as well! I love that the town government is so supportive of what this office does and what they represent."

Q: Do you support President Trump's military parade idea?

A: "I am a full supporter of the military and veterans. I am a veteran, I have loved

ones on active duty, and I come from a proud military family. I must say that I am not in support of this parade. To truly show support for our Military and Veterans I would like to see the funds redirected into the pay checks of active duty members, enhancements to the VA Health system, and into housing for Veterans. No person who honorably served this country should ever sleep on the street. Ever. I believe that we should support our troops all the time, but let's show them with something they can use. A better quality of life, rather than a parade."

Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: "I am 32, my husband and I have known each other since we were in 8th grade. His name is Michael and he is a sous chef at Emmanuel College in Boston. We have two children, Rosalie, 10,

and Gabriel, 4. We reside in Billerica with our dog Neely. Yes, like Cam, and cat Natasha, she reminded us of Natasha from Bullwinkle.

"My daughter is a competitive cheerleader, my husband and I are avid Bruins Fans, and for fun we travel. I am a member of the Rotary Club and attend their conventions all over the world each year — Atlanta, Toronto, Germany. We love taking last-minute weekends away (to places like) Portland, Maine; Lincoln, N.H.; Cape Cod. It's nice to break up the average and spend time together. I kickbox for fun.

"My current big hobby is swing-dancing. I am competing in an event called 'Dancing with our Heroes' in a partnership with Fred Astaire Dance Studios. It's like "Dancing with the Stars" and all the money raised through voting goes to the Fisher House."

NIGHTMARE

Continued from Page 1

for residents to go to with their concerns about the development.

"I have met with many neighborhood residents in my office and at their property," Mangiaratti wrote in an email. "I would extend this offer to anyone in the neighborhood that has any questions or concerns about the project."

He added: "Town officials have been monitoring the site daily and we are in regular contact with the construction representatives and the neighborhood. I would welcome the opportunity to meet or talk with anyone who has concerns about the town's role in this project."

Residents say little has changed since Mangiaratti was appointed as a public liaison for the project, however.

"We were very public about what was going on and the lack of response from the town," said Rob Ciampa of 53 Pine St. "They assigned the assistant town manager, who has actually been nice to work with, but the reality is the communication we are getting is kind of the same old-same old. We are dealing with a horrific rock crushing situation. They are saying it is in compliance, but you

listen to eight hours of rock crushing. You're going to lose your mind. Some residents feel it is nothing more than lip service. All I know is that nothing has really changed except that the deputy town manager is responding."

Lori Paglia of 3 Farnsworth Road agreed.

"Honestly, we haven't really heard much," Paglia said. "They did appoint the deputy town manager as the point person for us to go to, but we really haven't received any more information than we were before."

He said the rock crushing is unbearable.

"It has just been so loud," Paglia said. "It is not just the noise level, it goes on all day. My backyard abuts the construction site. There is a hill of ledge and then there is the construction site and it just vibrates through the house, just like the blasting. At times, depending on what they are crushing, my glasses shake. You can hear the pipes inside my walls shaking. It's like the Red Line is going through my backyard all day long. It's not just here and there, it's all day long."

According to Mangiaratti, the town met with Capital Seniors Housing LLC officials after the January selectmen's meeting to address some of the resident's concerns.

"We reviewed all of the concerns that have been raised by the residents and

town staff reiterated the requirements in the special conditions and other applicable regulations," Mangiaratti wrote in an email. "We were notified by CSH that they planned to mobilize additional equipment to limit the duration of rock crushing operations. We also discussed the noise concerns and CSH agreed to hire a third party noise consultant to monitor the site. The town has also engaged a third party consultant to provide peer reviews of the CSH noise consultant results. At the meeting, we notified CSH that if noise levels are found to be in violation of applicable standards that the town would take necessary actions."

The neighbors also brought forth a list of seven demands to the town at the Jan. 22 meeting. The demands were written up by Ciampa, which he has since attached to an online petition. The petition has about 800 signatures.

The demands include a call for a change in leadership in the Planning and Economic Development Department, the elimination of an appointed Planning Board in favor of an elected one, the resignation of Selectman Paul Salafia, the establishment of an independent commission to review zoning loopholes, an investigation by the Attorney General of Massachusetts into the Andover

planning department, the creation of a set communication standards, and the formation of clear and measurable safety provisions for residents.

Ciampa himself later submitted a warrant article for annual Town Meeting to transition the Planning Board from an appointed to an elected body.

When asked if the town was pursuing a change in leadership in the Planning and Economic Development Department or the resignation of Paul Salafia, Mangiaratti said that information was "not available."

As for Ciampa's request for a commission to examine zoning loop holes, Mangiaratti says the town is working reviewing the entire zoning bylaw.

"The concept of reviewing zoning bylaws is a goal for the Department of Community Development and Planning as indicated in our FY 2019 budget request," Mangiaratti wrote. "If the request is approved we intend to commence a process to recodify the entire zoning bylaw. This review will look at the existing language of the bylaw to make sure that it is in compliance with the most recent edition of MGL Chapter 40A. The project will include looking at the various zoning districts and determining whether the Community's objectives are being met. A

new zoning bylaw will be prepared for a future Town Meeting as an end result of this project."

As for Ciampa's demand for communication standards, Mangiaratti pointed to the town's existing procedures for posting information to the town website, issuing new information through email "NewsFlashes" and specific email alerts, as well as social media.

"We would love to hear any suggestions from the public for how we can continue to enhance our communications," Mangiaratti added.

When it came to Ciampa's request for safety provisions to protect residents, Mangiaratti wrote: "The town of Andover would never allow construction or other activities that caused dangerous, hazardous, or harmful conditions for our residents. The mission statement for the Building Division within Community Development & Planning is: To ensure the health, safety and welfare of the town's residents and visitors, as well as to protect the value of the historic district and historic structures in the town through the uniform enforcement of State and local laws, by-laws and regulations."

"The Town has investigated and addressed all complaints that we have received and we are in constant communication with neighbors,"

Mangiaratti added.

Brad Weeden, of 5 Summer St., lives near enough to the Elm Street project that he knows the neighbors and what the blasting and rock crushing has done to the residential, historic neighborhood.

"The people on that stretch of Elm Street, Pine Street, and Farnsworth Road are so disenfranchised right now," Weeden said. "The Planning Board decision was unfortunate. Those people put their life savings into their neighborhood and homes and moved there for a reason. Now they are not getting what they thought they were getting."

According to a Feb. 19 letter issued by Dellbrook JKS, the construction company for the Capital Seniors Housing development at 141 Elm St., rock crushing at the site is anticipated to be complete in the first few days of March, weather permitting.

Dellbrook claims that adding an additional rock crushing machine to their operations sped up the process by a month or more.

Heavy trucking to and from the site is expected to continue as construction goes on, however. As of the week of Feb. 19, foundation operations were underway, and it is expected construction for the building itself will begin in April.

Follow Kelsey Bode on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1

them and their families.

Selectmen respond

When asked if they thought the town's residents had lost faith in their elected and appointed officials, they all said yes. When asked what they'd do about it if elected, their answers varied.

"Many in town have lost faith in the character and direction offered by our current leadership," said challenger Chris Huntress, a local landscape architect and frequent town volunteer. He blamed the tone set by the Board of Selectmen, saying he would work hard to "find consensus (and) address others with respect, even when we disagree. ... Having a skilled, hardworking, efficient board is critical to the success of our community."

Second-time selectman candidate and former School Committee member Annie Gilbert took a slightly harsher stance, saying "entire neighborhoods believe their legitimate needs and concerns have been minimized or completely ignored." She added that as a result, "we lurch from one conflict

to the next." She added: "Trust can be restored only when decision-making processes are open, inclusive, and well-structured, and responses to concerns are swift and proactive. The Elm Street and Dascomb Road fiascoes make it clear that we need a comprehensive review of our zoning bylaws."

Challenger Joe Albuquerque, a hospital executive and local activist, blamed elected and appointed leaders for ignoring voters.

"Residents are mobilizing and standing up against elected and appointed officials because they have lost faith in leadership that fails to respect their neighbors," Albuquerque said. "Listening to citizens is the foundation of town government; Andover's officials have neglected this fundamental obligation."

He went on to list a series of missteps, from the botched bidding for a handicapped-accessible ramp at one of the middle schools to poor negotiations in pursuit of a long-term water lease deal with North Reading.

"We entrust officials to act in the best interests of the town and should hold them accountable," he said.

Incumbent Bob Landry, who said he's still on the fence about whether he's



Joe Albuquerque



Bob Landry



Annie Gilbert



Chris Huntress

going to run even though his name is on the ballot, made specific charges against the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Paul Salafia and Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, accusing them of lying about the North Reading water deal. He added: "Salafia has also misled residents on many other issues too numerous to mention. An on-line citizens' petition has garnered more than 800 signatures calling for his resignation."

He also referenced the school department, even though Selectmen have little to no authority over the schools.

"Our school district is now careening from one crisis to another," he said, referring to the scandal involving the varsity hockey coaches, the firing of a popular soccer coach and the termination of a teacher who has charged that she was let go because of the high cost of medical bills

for her sick child.

"Andover's School Superintendent (Sheldon Berman) has lost all credibility and for the sake of the community, should resign," Landry said.

Solutions

While the candidates were adept at pointing out some of the flaws in Andover's governance, they also outlined some of the things they would do if elected to restore faith in government.

Landry said he'd "restore trust in the community by doing exactly what I've been doing for the last three years in office. I will provide transparency. I will stand up for residents. And I will publicly hold town officials accountable."

Albuquerque said that if elected he would "advocate for better communication, education, and follow-through when working with residents on issues. Methods will include regular

informational meetings and electronic access to public documents via the town website so that there will be no element of surprise to anyone. My plans will facilitate greater transparency and robust, honest discussions, resulting in improved, collaborative outcomes and positive impacts on the look and feel of our town, while also restoring trust between its government and its people."

Gilbert said she wants the community more involved, and supports "a comprehensive review of our zoning bylaws, including any inconsistencies or loopholes. This process will be meaningless without full participation by our residents."

"We need an open, rational, inclusive community dialogue about the development Andover needs to remain vibrant — adequate amenities for our businesses and work force, affordable housing for lifelong residents who want to remain in Andover, accessible open spaces, and good infrastructure. Process matters and fairness matters. We need both in order to reach solutions with the same wisdom and foresight prior generations had when they helped to shape this beautiful town."

"Andover's School Superintendent (Sheldon Berman) has lost all credibility and for the sake of the community, should resign."

Bob Landry, selectman

Huntress said that if elected he would seek common ground.

"Over the next three years we will make important decisions on our residential and commercial tax rates; we will need to find ways of making it affordable for our seniors to stay in town, and we have to find a cost-effective solution to deal with the overcrowding issues at Andover High," he said. "To be successful on these issues, we need a Board of Selectmen that can work together. Reasonable people can disagree, but we need to work together to advance our common goals."

"I base my campaign on the following promises: I will listen first, work hard to find consensus, and I will address others with respect, even when we disagree," Huntress wrote.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Advertising copy must be in the office by Monday at 5 p.m.

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

No cancellations honored after these deadlines.

Koh releases opioid policy proposal

BY KELSEY BODE

kbode@andovertownsmen.com

Congressional candidate Dan Koh announced a policy proposal to address the opioid crisis last week.

Formerly Chief of Staff to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Koh is one of several Democratic candidates running for the 3rd Congressional District to succeed current Rep. Niki Tsongas. His proposed policy includes promoting education among young people about the dangers of opioid addiction, working to reduce over-prescription through training initiatives for prescribers,

increasing federal funding for Narcan, and increasing available data and information sharing with other states.

Koh believes funding education, prevention, intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation services will help alleviate the opioid crisis.

"The opioid epidemic is tearing apart families and devastating our neighborhoods," Koh said, "Just this past weekend, there were 20 overdoses in Greater Lowell. We need to push forward a proactive agenda and tackle this public health crisis head

on. Constituents deserve to know how policymakers will actually deliver results. That's why I am proud to announce this comprehensive, substantive plan to address the opioid epidemic."

"Opioid addiction is treatable, and opioid-related deaths are preventable," Koh added. "We have an opportunity and obligation to protect our communities. Addiction does not care if you are on the left or the right — we all know someone impacted by this epidemic. We must fight back now and enact practical solutions."

SEE WHAT'S IN STORE AT 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:

Exercise and Wellness

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

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

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

The Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 978-623-8320 for information or visit www.andoverseniorecenter.org for complete listings. Registration can now be completed online as well.

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Town releases MyAndover app

BY KELSEY BODE
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The town of Andover launched its very own app last week.

On Feb. 22, the town launched MyAndover, a free app that allows residents to pay bills, look up property information or recycling information, send questions to the Town Manager's office, and access online permits.

The app also sends notifications about town social media and newflashes.

Other features include a staff directory with contact information and business hours, a meeting videos button that directs users to andoverv.org, and a calendar of community events.

Town employees have been working on the app since summer 2017.

"The goal of the app is to provide a resource for communicating important information in a format that is easy to use," Deputy Town Manager John Mangiaratti said in an email.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of people who are using their mobile devices rather than a computer to access our website. Although our website is fully responsive and works on mobile browsers, we believe the MyAndover app will make it easier for users."

Mangiaratti says the town paid \$150 to customize graphics for the app, but besides that there was no additional cost.

The app was a feature that was included when the town purchased its new website.

The app can be found on an Apple iPhone or iPad by searching "CivicMobile" in the iTunes App Store. Once downloaded, users must search for Andover or use the 'Find My Location' option in the app. Android device users can get the app at the Google Play store by searching MyAndover.

"I feel strongly that this tool will help people access



The home page of the new Andover app shows some of the various kinds of information being made available.

online service faster," Mangiaratti said.

"The app provides an easier way to look at agendas, allows residents to stay connected with the town through newflashes and other notifications. The app also provides quick access to budget information, bill paying, assessor data, and the town calendar. There is also an economic toolkit that was created in collaboration with the Economic Development Council."

He said there are many other uses.

"An example I can think of when this app might be useful is on trash day," Mangiaratti added.

"If you are at your house and trying to remember if it is a recycling day or not, you can pull out your phone, and tap on the app to find out. This was also possible with a web browser but I believe that residents will find the app more convenient."

Mangiaratti says he is welcoming input from users on how the town can improve the app.

"I look forward to hearing any feedback we have about the app as we intend to continually update and make improvements to ensure we are providing the content that users want to see," Mangiaratti wrote.

Follow *Kelsey Bode* on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

Run for the Troops going to the dogs

BY KELSEY BODE
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Andover's annual Run for the Troops gets bigger and better every year, and the race this April will be no exception.

Organizers of the April 22 5K race are offering an alternate, 1.6-mile Dog Walk course for people who want to include their pets in the race. Run for the Troops 5K has partnered for the 2018 race with K9 Excursions of Haverhill, a canine care company, and Operation Delta Dog of Chelmsford, a non-profit that trains shelter dogs to be service dogs for veterans.

All proceeds from the dog walk will go to Operation Delta Dog. The cost of a service dog through their organization can range between \$25,000 and \$30,000. A guest speaker will also be present at the April Run for the Troops and will hold demonstrations of what service dogs are capable of.

A non-profit corporation, Run for the Troops also supports several organizations that support veterans, including Homes for Our Troops, Ironstone Farms, Brides Across America, and the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center.

Organizers hope the race will educate veterans about what services a service dog can provide and how they might be able to get one.

"Service dogs area tremendous benefit to veteran's lives," said Sarah Schevis, owner of K9 excursions. "They give us such unconditional love. They just bring a lot of happiness and joy. It helps veterans emotionally, mentally, and physically. There are veterans I have met who have basically said if it wasn't for their service dog coming into their life they probably wouldn't be here today."

"I think we take for granted the simple things and opportunities we have in life," Schevis added. "These men and



Courtesy photo

A U.S. Army veteran with his service dog, Saint.

women are going overseas, sacrificing their lives for our freedom, and they have a lot they deal with on a daily, hourly basis that we have no idea. They need our support and help. That's why I think it's important to shine a light on the service dog part to give them proper guidance."

Veterans with PTSD often find the support of a service dog can be life changing, Schevis says.

"These dogs support them in so many ways," Schevis added. "They may go from being stuck in their house and scared to go grocery shopping, where they have a service dog within weeks to a month it can completely change their personality and give them the confidence they didn't have before."

Service dogs can be trained to sense an oncoming panic attack and alert their owner that they are becoming distressed. The dogs can wake their owner up from a nightmare, detect oncoming seizures, and use their body weight to lie on their master and physically calm them down. They can also do physical tasks like turning on a light or opening a refrigerator for a severely injured veteran.

Race Director Bill Pennington says if the race helps one veteran, that's more than enough.

"If we can do that one time a year, that makes it worth while," Pennington said. "I know we typically change one life a year. Veterans tell us and thank our organization. At the end of the day, this is about the cause and that is the most important thing-- to get the message out to the community to get more support to the veterans and to show them they have our support. We're giving them resources to help benefit their lives."

Julian Jaramillo, a housing specialist and case manager at the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in Haverhill, knows exactly how life changing a service dog can be. Jaramillo has had his golden retriever service dog, Radar, since the summer of 2014. Jaramillo was a 13 year marine and ended his service in 2006. Radar came from Patriot Rovers, a non-profit organization in North Carolina that trains service dogs for veterans.

All of the dogs at Patriot Rovers are named after fallen soldiers, and it just so happens that Radar was named after a fallen soldier Jaramillo knew-- Captain Seth "Radar" Mitchell.

Radar helps Jaramillo by distracting him when he gets nervous, waking him up from nightmares, and keeping people from getting too close

in public.

"We need to bring more awareness to service dogs, what they are, and what they are not," Jaramillo said. "I think the public and business owners really need to get an education on the difference between service dogs and emotional support dogs. When I first moved up here I got kicked out of some places while with Radar. I still get kicked out of places, but I know my rights and my dog's rights."

Jaramillo says a lot of business owners don't know the two legal questions they can ask him about Radar. Business owners are allowed to first ask, is that a service dog? If the answer is yes, they are allowed to ask what service the dog provides.

Jaramillo says he knows a veteran who got his service dog through Operation Delta Dog. When the man's service dog inexplicably got sick and died, the organization helped him with the animal's medical needs and eventually replaced the service dog.

"That organization stands by their dog," Jaramillo said. "There are some organizations that will train a dog and give it to a veteran, and then the veteran is own his own. It can get very expensive, fast, and if you have a reputable organization that can stand behind you it is huge. Delta Dog does that. They're a good organization."

Organizers of the race are also encouraging participants to sign up in teams to promote the race and get more people involved.

The Dog Walk will begin after the 5K and will not interfere with that race. Dogs that are registered must be friendly and socialized, vaccinated against rabies, and remain leashed throughout the event. People are limited one dog per person and must clean up after their pets.

For more information, go to www.runforthetroops5k.com.

Annual Town elections on the horizon; March 27th

BY KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsmen.com

Town elections are less

than one month away. Residents will vote between candidates Keith Saxon and Sheila Doherty for a one-year term as town moderator. Residents will also vote between Incumbent Selectman Bob Landry, Annie Gilbert, Chris Huntress, and Joe Albuquerque for two, three-year terms on the Board of Selectmen.

Voters will also vote between Incumbent Chairwoman of the School Committee Susan McCready and challengers Tracey Spruce and Shishan Wang for two, three-year terms on the School Committee. Votes will also be cast to elect one member of the Greater

Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee and two Trustees of the Punchedard Free School.

The Annual Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 27, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Residents from precincts one and three will be voting at the Punchedard Senior Center. Residents from Precincts four, five, and six will vote at Wood Hill Middle School. Lastly, residents who live in precincts two, seven, seven-A, and nine will cast their votes at the Andover High Field House.

Voters have until March 7 at 8 p.m. to register to

be able to vote in the election. On March 7, the Town Clerk's office will remain open until 8 p.m. for voters to register.

Residents who wish to vote through an absentee ballot have until 12 p.m. on Monday, March 26 to apply. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office.

To check their voter registration status and find out which precinct they belong to, voters can go to the Secretary of State's website at www.sec.state.ma.us or call the Town Clerk's office at 978 623 8320.

Follow *Kelsey Bode* on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

Townsmen snags 3 journalism awards

STAFF REPORT

BOSTON — The Andover Townsman picked up three awards at Saturday's New England Better Newspaper Competition awards ceremony, hosted by the New England Newspaper & Press Association and held this year at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront hotel.

Editor Bill Kirk won first place for editorial writing in the category of weeklies with a circulation less than 6,000. Judges called Kirk's editorials "hard-hitting (and) well-argued on topics of interest." The judges also commented: "Good writing."

Kirk and the staff of the Townsman also received second place in the General

Excellence category.

The panel of judges said the Townsman had a "newsy, well-presented first page." They also commented on the "informative and fleshed-out police log; lots of space devoted to candidate-endorsement letters; and a strong classified section."

Further, they commented on an "interesting feature on 'Benny' and entertaining photos on the Fundapalooza page."


Reporter Judy Wakefield wrote about how friends of the late Benny Sayles were raising money to buy him a proper tombstone.

He was a beloved character remembered by many in Andover.

Former Townsman reporter Gabriella Cruz wrote a short story about Fundapalooza, an annual fund-raising and fun event held at the South School. The story was accompanied by a series of photographs taken by photographer Amanda Sabga.

Sabga, meanwhile, won first place for a photo she took for the Andover Townsman, which judges called a "beautiful and creative image! Very well done!"

The Eagle-Tribune was also recognized for excellence in reporting, photography and multimedia coverage.




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35 Chandler Circle, Andover

Jeffrey Queen

ANDOVER - Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath Cape convenient to commuter routes and downtown. Updated kitchen with granite counters. First floor tiled bath has a pedestal sink and soaking tub overlooking the terraced backyard. Two bedrooms on the first floor provide a flexible floor plan. Hardwood floors in many of the rooms. The second-floor bedrooms have skylights and built-ins as does the tiled bath. Come home to Chandler Circle!

\$439,900




182 Lacy Street, North Andover

Coletta Fanuele

NORTH ANDOVER - Stunning 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath Colonial beautifully sited on 9.63 acres. The first floor features the living room, dining room, kitchen and great room. Flowing from the great room is a family room/bedroom/full bath suite with its exterior entrance. The second floor features three generously sized bedrooms plus a master bedroom suite. An added bonus is a large walk-in storage room which could easily be completed for additional space.

\$699,900

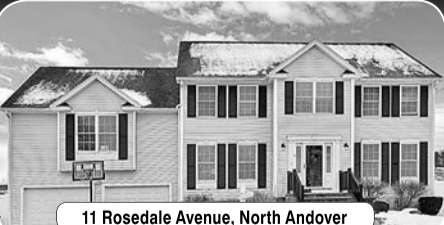


125 Palomino Drive, North Andover

Donna Shay

NORTH ANDOVER - Wonderful 4 bedroom Colonial in Forest View Estates! Beautifully maintained, light and bright with a popular open floor plan. The gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, center island, and stainless appliances is open to the fireplaced two-story family room. Finished basement with full bath, media room and exercise room. Stone paver patio, trex deck and fenced yard!

\$679,900




11 Rosedale Avenue, North Andover

Cathy Johnson

NORTH ANDOVER - Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath Colonial offers a spacious a flexible floor plan! Welcoming tile foyer draws you into the granite and stainless steel kitchen. The dining room flows nicely from the kitchen. The large cathedral ceiling family room features a gas fireplace. The second floor has the master suite with full bath and 3 additional bedrooms and hall bath. Close to Olde Center and commuter routes.

\$639,900



24 Elmcrest Circle, Melrose

Marina Adly & E.J. Perdigao

MELROSE - Upper East Side Classic! Well-maintained 5 bedroom Cape set on a beautiful cul-de-sac. Excellent curb appeal, brick driveway and open foyer with Juliette balcony. Spacious custom cherry kitchen with new appliances open to the family room with vaulted ceiling and over-sized dramatic windows. Gleaming hardwood floors, inviting oversized living room which steps down into a three season sun room.

\$1,050,000

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AHS holds lockdown after empty holster found

Item determined to be for track-starting pistol

By KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsmen.com

ANDOVER — Andover High was placed on a 15-minute lockdown Tuesday morning after an empty gun holster was found in the sports field house, police said.

The holster was later determined to be for a starting pistol for track meets. The holster was left behind after a track meet Sunday, according to an email that Principal Philip Conrad sent to parents Tuesday morning.

“We are happy to report that this object was proven to be non-threatening and the owners were contacted,” Conrad said. “The shelter in place was lifted once confirmed. Everyone was safe and acted appropriately. We thank all the staff, teachers, students and police officers for their cooperation during this situation.”

A student found the holster during gym class, according to Lt. Edward Guy, spokesman for the Police Department. The student brought the holster to a gym teacher, who then told the assistant principal, Guy said.

Unsure if the holster was for gun that might be in the school, officials decided to

place Andover High on lockdown. Police officers and detectives were called in.

Conrad said the holster looked like it could have belonged to a gun, and that he didn’t know it belonged to a starting pistol when he saw it.

“You wouldn’t know what kind of gun it would hold,” Conrad said. “In this case we were very fortunate that this was a starting pistol, but when you looked at it, it didn’t look any different than a regular holster.”

According to Guy, when a police officer who is an Andover High alumni was told where the holster was found, he realized it possibly was for a starter pistol. The holster

was found at the starting line for winter track races.

Police were able to confirm that the person who does the starting at track meets was missing his holster.

“There was no threat,” Guy said. “It was just the starting pistol for winter track. The school followed all of the proper steps by going on lockdown and calling us. Even though it did cause a little bit of a stir, after the investigation we determined that there was no issue.”

Conrad expressed thanks to Andover police for responding quickly, and to the student and faculty involved who brought the holster to his attention.

“I think that everyone was

concerned and we were glad it came to the resolution it did, as quickly as it did,” Conrad said.

Last week, Andover police investigated a rumor about a threat of violence at Greater Lawrence Technical School. That rumor was also determined to be unfounded. Guy said social media can sometimes create a panic around these kinds of incidents.

“It starts here and explodes because of social media,” he said. “It can cause a lot of panic. These days it is understandable and we want to make sure we’re responding to all of those reports, whether they are real or not.”

Conrad said in the wake of the Parkland, Florida, in

which 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Andover schools are reviewing their security policies. The School Committee will be discussing school safety at their March 1 meeting, as well.

“We’ve seen a spike in concern since the Parkland incident,” he said. “We’ve had people report these incidents more over the last decade. Parkland was such a huge loss. We’re here to keep students, staff and faculty safe. If someone has an issue with security or safety, please give us a call. We’re going to do our best to provide as safe a community as we can.”

Follow Kelsey Bode on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

Lawrence firefighter running for L’Italien’s seat in the Senate

Former state senator, Barry Finegold, said to be eyeing seat

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — Already an attorney and a Lawrence firefighter, Lt. Michael Armano said he now wants to be a vocal proponent for the working class in the Merrimack Valley.

Armano, a 40-year-old Democrat, confirmed on Feb. 20 he is running for the state Senate seat being vacated by Barbara L’Italien, an Andover resident who is running for Congress in the 3rd District.

The 2nd Essex and Middlesex Senate seat covers Andover, Lawrence, Tewksbury and Dracut, where Armano now lives with his wife and three children.

Raised in Lawrence, Armano is a 1996 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He later earned degrees from UMass Lowell, Massachusetts School of Law in Andover and Anna Maria College, where he obtained a master’s degree in public administration.

Seven years ago, Armano was appointed as a Lawrence firefighter following in the public service footsteps of his father, who was also a city firefighter, and his grandfather who was a Lawrence police officer.

“Growing up my values and principles have always been aligned with working class people... It is our responsibility to care for people and help find solutions to problems,” said Armano, adding his grandparents always encouraged him to work hard and pursue his education.

Prior to his firefighting job, where Armano is now assigned in the fire prevention and investigation unit, he worked as a real estate attorney, was a full-time substitute for the Boston Public Schools and was also the wrestling coach at Central Catholic for 16 years.

Armano said there are many issues that triggering his run and fueling his campaign including affordable housing, home ownership, public education, mental health, addiction and homelessness.

“We see these things every day,” said Armano, referring to firefighters.

If elected, Armano plans to take a leave of absence from the fire department to serve in the Senate.

Others eyeing a Senate run so far are Andover’s Barry Finegold, who held the seat from 2011 to 2015, and Pavel Payano, a newly elected city councilor in Lawrence.

The Lawrence Firefighters Union, Local 146, has already endorsed Armano. Next month, Armano will also ask state union leaders, the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, for its endorsement as well, he said.

Armano said he feels strongly the seat must be held by “somebody who is dedicated to public service.”

“I picked this position for a purpose... I want to bring the voice of these communities to the state level,” he explained. “The same yearning I had to be a firefighter is at the same calling I have now. I need to be the voice of these people.”

He vowed to be “accountable, reachable and approachable.”

His brother, Karl Armano, is his campaign treasurer, and a committee has been formed for his fundraising, he said.

West Parish Church dance party is March 3

On Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m. the West Parish Church, located at 129 Reservation Road, is hosting a “fun-filled night learning some exciting new Latin dance moves with instructor Stanley Martinez,” according to a press release from the church.

The event, to be held in Fellowship Hall, benefits the West Parish Men’s Group College Scholarship Fund for the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

All welcome, no partner required.

The cost is \$20 per person or \$30 for a couple.

3 alleged home invaders held without bail

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — Three youths who allegedly invaded an Andover home early Thursday morning and stole about \$300 in cash and a laptop computer from a terrified couple are being held without bail.

Lucas Hill, 18, of Haverhill; Tyler Runge, 18, of Andover; and Ashley Freda, 18, of Saugus, pleaded not guilty to home invasion, armed robbery while masked, malicious destruction of property over \$250, larceny over \$250, carrying a dangerous weapon and possession of an electric stun gun at their arraignment in Lawrence District Court the next day. Judge Kevin Gaffney

ordered them held without bail pending a detention hearing Friday.

Hill and Runge are being held at Middleton jail while Freda was sent to Massachusetts Correctional Institution — Framingham, where female prisoners are incarcerated.

The three defendants are charged with invading a home on Regency Ridge, where they allegedly held a man who lives there at gunpoint and demanded money. Besides stealing about \$300 in cash from the man’s wallet, they also stole a laptop computer, police said.

The suspects kicked in two doors during the home invasion, police said.

Police were alerted to the crime when they received a

911 hang-up call at around 3:35 a.m. Thursday. Police officers arrived at the home within a couple of minutes.

Officer Benjamin Ledwell saw the taillights of a car that was driving away from the home. He stopped the vehicle — and inside were the three defendants, police said. When he asked Hill, the driver, what he was doing on Regency Ridge at that hour of the morning, Hill said he had “picked up a friend,” according to the police report.

When asked if he knew he was on Regency Ridge, Hill said he didn’t know, according to the report. Police seized two knives, a mask and two firearms, an airsoft gun and what appeared to be a machine

pistol from the car.

Runge was involved in a violent armed robbery prior to the home invasion, police said. Freda appeared to be under the influence of a narcotic and admitted she had taken some “benzos,” according to the police report.

The suspects became angry with the two victims, a man and a woman, when they learned the woman had called police, according to the report. Then one of them apologized to the couple, saying they “really needed the money,” the report alleged.

Besides Ledwell, Officers Angelo Taveras, Brian MacKenzie and Daniel Igoe participated in the investigation and arrest of the trio. Sgt. Richard Crimmins was the supervisor.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Support of Chris Huntress for Selectman

Editor, Townsman:

As an 11-year resident of BallardVale and a downtown business owner, I can think of no other person more qualified to be Selectman in Andover than Chris Huntress. As an architecture colleague, he is talented, passionate, detail-oriented, respected by his peers, and a consummate professional. His pro bono work while I

was on the BallardVale Fire Station Building Committee was instrumental in conveying our concepts to the community.

With his involvement on the fire station, playground, Traffic Task Force, I-93 Interchange and South School projects, BallardVale is lucky to have a champion for this often-forgotten and under-represented community in Andover.

Aside from his work in Andover, Chris’ charity and kindness extends beyond our town borders. In 2016 when

Lawrence High School’s Veterans Memorial Stadium’s athletic field was destroyed by a concert, Chris stepped up and offered his design services for the field’s repair, safety improvements, maintenance plan, and construction bid procurement at no charge to the City. This magnanimous gesture was not only well-received in the local community (read the article in the Eagle-Tribune), but in the architecture community as well. He is someone to look up to as a professional and a citizen.

With major projects upcoming such as Dascomb Road, the Historic Mill District, and school renovations, we need Chris’ vision and leadership to make decisive judgments and not to seek a consensus as our Selectionmen of the past would with an eye toward higher office. Chris’ resume proves he is fully committed to Andover and making it a functioning, safe, and desirable place to live for decades to come.

He has my full support.
MICHAEL IGO
29 River St.

POLICE LOG

By KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsmen.com

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

At 5:17 p.m. a woman called police reporting a dog on Chandler Road had chased a raccoon and that when her husband went after the dog, he came back covered in raccoon’s blood. The dog was taken to River Road Veterinary Hospital and the husband was taken to the hospital by his wife.

Onessimus Lightfoot-Taylor, 46, of 62 Beach St., Haverhill was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. Police stopped Lightfoot-Taylor at 9:47 p.m. on the ramp from Route 28 to Route 495 North. One vehicle was towed.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

Jenna Taylor, 29, of 96 Orchard St., Lynn, was charged with having an

outstanding warrant. Police stopped Taylor at 12:51 p.m. on Highland Road. Her vehicle was taken into police possession.

A hit-and-run crash was reported at Planet Fitness on North Main Street at 4:15 p.m. A witness left a note.

A crash resulting in injury was reported on Haverhill Street at 5:45 p.m. One vehicle was towed. Fire and Rescue also responded to the scene.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

Dawn Chretien, 48, of 55 Memorial Circle, Andover, was charged with an outstanding warrant after being stopped on Union Street by police at 1:56 p.m. One vehicle was towed.

Vanessa Barbosa, 28, of 105 Boxford St., Apt. 3, Lawrence, was charged with two outstanding warrants. Benjamin Cotto, 48, of 233 Jackson St., Apt. 1, Lawrence, was charged with having a

revoked registration, an uninsured motor vehicle/trailer, giving a false name during booking, a minor violation of giving a false name/address to police, operation a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and an outstanding warrant. Barbosa and Cotto were stopped on River Road by police at 7:40 p.m. One vehicle was towed.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

A two-car crash resulting in injury was reported on Union Street at 7:19 a.m. Two people were taken to Lawrence General Hospital.

A woman hit her head in a motor vehicle crash on River Road at 3:51 p.m. One vehicle was towed.

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Lyle Yearling, of 434 Textile Ave., Apt. 1, Dracut, was charged with a subsequent offence of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, having a

revoked registration, having an uninsured motor vehicle/trailer, and possession of heroin. Yearling was stopped by police on River Road at 3:33 p.m.

A cell phone was stolen at the YMCA on Haverhill Street. The incident was reported to police at 4:15 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 25

An Archer Lane resident reported that someone rang his doorbell at 12:23 a.m. Police did not see anyone at the scene.

Peterson Charles, 33, of 26 Newhall St., Apt. 10, Lynn, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor after he was stopped by police on York Street at 4:20 a.m.
MONDAY, FEB. 26

An instance of vandalism was reported on Corbett Street at 7:44 a.m.

Follow Kelsey Bode on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

Steve Kerrigan issues statement ending campaign in 3rd District race

By PETER FRANCIS
Staff Writer

One of the early contenders seeking to replace Congresswoman Niki Tsongas has dropped out of the race.

Following the recent death of his mother, Steve Kerrigan ended his campaign for the 3rd District seat Monday.

Kerrigan, 46, a Lancaster Democrat who had been a longtime fixture in state politics, issued a statement Monday afternoon announcing his intention to leave the race.

Kerrigan’s mother, Janice, passed away on Feb. 9 following a brief illness. She was 75.

In the statement, Kerrigan thanked his supporters and spoke of the sense of service his mother and father passed down to him and his two siblings.

He added that he will “never stop being amazed” by the love and service of teachers, nurses, doctors and first responders who tackle the district’s most pressing issues, from educating students to fighting the opioid epidemic that has gripped the 3rd District and the entire nation, an issue Kerrigan took a particular interest in addressing during the campaign.

“I have learned a lot about myself — from my family and many friends — over these past trying weeks. Service is about more than a title or an election,” said Kerrigan.

A former aide to U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy and current president of the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, Kerrigan was an early entrant into the race to succeed Tsongas, who said last summer she would not seek



Paul Bilodeau/Staff file photo

3rd District candidate Steve Kerrigan, right, talks with veteran Michael Rubera Sr. as he campaigns at the Sunnyside Diner in Lawrence on Oct. 18, 2017.

re-election in 2018. He had previously run for lieutenant governor in 2014.

Kerrigan stated that he would continue to look for ways to impact his hometown of Lancaster, and while he

didn’t endorse a candidate on his way out of the race, Kerrigan will likely be an ardent supporter of the Democratic nominee.

“I will be watching this race closely as we move through

caucuses and reach out beyond the grassroots and insiders to the working families of this district,” he said. “I do hope the candidates that remain try to take a page from our campaign playbook and focus first on the people of this district, not just the donors, the media or the talking heads.”

“The stakes are too important and the people of the 3rd deserve nothing less,” Kerrigan said.

At the time of his departure from the race, Kerrigan was one of 14 candidates in the hunt for the Democratic nomination. Despite receiving an important endorsement from the National Abortion Rights Action League — of which Kerrigan is a board member — his campaign had not matched the fundraising numbers posted by other candidates in the race. As of the year-end reports

filed with the Federal Election Commission, Kerrigan had raised \$159,240 and spent only \$26,600. At the time of that filing, Kerrigan’s fundraising was trailing that of Dan Koh, Lori Trahan, Rufus Gifford, Beej Das, Barbara L’Italien and Juana Matias on the Democratic side, as well as Rick Green, the lone Republican candidate in the race.

Shortly after Kerrigan’s announcement, Koh issued a statement expressing his condolences for, and admiration of, Kerrigan and his family.

“I know that this was a very difficult decision for Steve, and that it has been a heartbreaking time for Steve’s entire family,” said Koh. “I have no doubt that Steve’s dedication to public service will continue. Massachusetts and the nation will be better because of it.”

Support child care program

Editor, Townsman:
On Feb. 9, the president signed a two-year bipartisan budget agreement. This budget puts much-needed funding into programs that help children thrive, in Massachusetts as well as across the country. Although Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) did not vote for the agreement, as it did not include a deal surrounding Dreamers, she was a champion for a critical component: a historic promise to double funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program. These additional dollars will ensure that approximately 230,000 more low-income American kids will receive access to high-quality child care programs. Early learning and child care programs help give kids, particularly those living in poverty, a chance to enjoy a brighter future. Additionally, when kids do well in school, they are more likely to support our economy and join the workforce. That benefits our entire nation and it certainly deserves our investment.

Now Congress needs to make this promise of funding a reality. Please join me in urging Congress to retain this funding in the final fiscal year 2018 budget and invest in kids and families in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

JEFFREY KAO
11th-grader
180 Main St.
Andover

Gilbert would be 'dedicated, informed, caring' as a selectman

Editor, Townsman:
You can make a difference in our community if you vote on March 27 in the Andover town elections! The Board of Selectman, guided by the town manager, make decisions that impact each of us and the town as a whole. Andover is currently making important decisions about major capital projects that affect our schools (i.e., a possible addition to our high school and a possible renovation or rebuilding of West Elementary) and the future of the Historic Mill District, to name just a few.

We want dedicated, informed and caring members of our community to be sitting on the Board of Selectmen when they make these decisions and guide us into the future.

Annie Gilbert will serve us well and admirably. We have seen her work ethic, intelligence, patience, thoughtfulness and creativity. She wants the best for each of us and for the town. She is open-minded and willing to consider multiple sides of an issue, while weighing the consequences of decisions.

Her experience is invaluable: the Andover School Committee, the Building Committee for the new Bancroft School, and now Chairwoman of the AHS School Facility Study Committee. She is a hard worker with extensive knowledge of our town, and has proven herself as a community leader. She will be up and running on day one as a member of our Board of Selectmen, and will work collaboratively and respectfully to make this community stronger.

This is not a time of right or wrong, winning or losing, or pointing fingers. We need to find the positive in all that the town is trying to accomplish. By working together for the

betterment of all, we will make a difference. Our vote for Annie is a vote for positive action. A vote for creating a positive environment for good decision-making. Please join us and let your voice be heard too.

Vote for Annie Gilbert, Board of Selectmen, on March 27.

TINA AND ANDREW GIRDWOOD
15 Tucker Road
Andover

Town officials have broken trust with citizens

Editor, Townsman:
The Andover Townsman (Front Page, Feb. 22) once again described the questionable handling of the North Reading water deal by the four individuals charged with its negotiation. Astonishingly, another selectman has accused these same individuals of misrepresenting to the Board of Selectmen on a different aspect of this all important deal to Andover.

To accomplish the work of the town, members of the Board of Selectmen must rely on each other along with the town manager and assistant

town manager to execute the board's will faithfully.

Regrettably, this did not happen for the North Reading water deal. As a result, these four individuals — Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Assistant Town Manager John Mangiarotti, Selectman Paul Salafia and Selectman Laura Gregory — jeopardized the future viability of Andover and have created a crisis of confidence in Andover's town government.

In plain language, irrespective of whether the infractions were due to negligence, incompetence, or were intentionally disingenuous, these four individuals can no longer be trusted to do the town's business.

They have let the citizens of Andover down and should resign or be dismissed.

These infractions rise far above political gamesmanship and speak to the ability of the town to operate with integrity. Moral guidance is set by example at the top and extends down to all other departments and eventually the townspeople. This town is already experiencing embarrassment and the staining of its reputation from the absence of leadership on the school side. That will be their legacy.

I implore the Board of Selectmen to act swiftly on this serious matter and restore this broken trust with the citizens of Andover and the Board of Selectmen.

RON RIEDER
47 Rattlesnake Hill Road
Andover

Censure Landry for 'attacks' on Salafia

Editor, Townsman:
In the matter of a Board of Selectmen reorganization, I would strongly suggest that Selectman Bob Landry be roundly ignored. These constant attacks on (Selectman Chairman) Mr. (Paul) Salafia's character need to stop. I hope that a counter-agenda item is introduced, censuring Selectman Bob (Landry) for his outrageous behavior toward his fellow board member. The smarmy insinuations Selectman Bob (Landry) so casually

makes have no place in civil discourse.

And since I am writing, may I also say that while sorry the marijuana question did not work out the way Selectman Bob (Landry) wanted it to, his suggesting that "the voters were confused, and didn't know what they were voting for" is insulting.

Live with the results, Selectman Bob (Landry). God knows we all are.

GERRY GUSTUS
5 Fern Road

Huntress is hard-working, honest and humble

Editor, Townsman:
I was so blessed and fortunate to have worked with Chris Huntress for four years as a member of the Yvonne Cormier Youth Center Building Committee. Chris' leadership style as our chairman was nothing short of exemplary. His tenacity and tireless energy and work ethic were truly appreciated by all.

Even with some of our roadblocks, setbacks and contentious moments along our journey to build a state-of-the-art youth center, it was through those difficult times that you truly observe someone's character. Chris has the uncanny ability to take those challenging times and turn them into extremely positive outcomes.

Chris is not only very intelligent and charismatic, but most importantly, he is a kind and thoughtful individual who is always willing to listen to all perspectives and points of view.

Many people witnessed Huntress' generosity and expertise by stepping up to the plate to save the day for Lawrence High School's Thanksgiving football game in 2016 after the field had been destroyed by a previous concert.

This extreme act of kindness and goodwill was greatly appreciated throughout the Merrimack Valley. As quoted by many: "What an amazing human being."

Others said: "Huntress and members of his firm have been on the project around the clock."

Chris saved the city of Lawrence approximately \$50,000 by giving the time and services of his firm.

Chris' positive leadership style and non-combative and diplomatic approach would be valuable assets to our Board of Selectmen.

The town of Andover must get out and vote for Chris Huntress as a member of our Board of Selectmen.

JOE SPANOS
119 North St.
Andover

Albuquerque would protect environment, boost accountability, transparency

Editor, Townsman:
Our town is in the middle of a leadership crisis and we are in desperate need of new people to lead our community. I support Joe Albuquerque for selectman because I believe what he did at the Jan. 29 Special Town Meeting is an example of his personality and we would be well-served to have him representing us.

Joe acted selflessly and withdrew his two, private warrant articles he had been working on for months so citizens could vote before the end of the night on the anticipated articles regarding the ID2 rezoning. Joe valued citizens' time and effort to attend town meeting so he sacrificed his own articles to speed up the process and reach those awaited articles on the Dascomb Road project.

One of the articles Joe withdrew focused on proposing online access to public records so Andover citizens could be easily informed of town issues at any time, a practice implemented in many towns for transparency purposes.

The other article was about restricting any use of funds for the post-closure of the Ledge Road landfill property without town approval. This land is part of the Watershed Protected Overlay District and should not be used for anything that risks contamination of our drinking water. These two articles represent what Joe cares most about and what we Andover citizens need nowadays: transparency, accountability and protection of the environment.

Please vote for Joe on March 27.

CARINA SCHUSTERMAN
2 Robinswood Way
Andover

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TODAY:
JEANNE'S MANTRA IS NO PAIN, ALL GAIN



Jeanne Lowd was an active sports mom, but years of poor circulation in her legs took their toll and, eventually, limited her ability to walk. Enter Dr. Gonsalves and his team of vascular experts at Lawrence General. Together, they performed Jeanne's surgery in the hospital's new state-of-the-art surgery center, which features the region's first hybrid operating suite. They restored blood flow to Jeanne's lower body and gave her the power to step into a new, pain-free life.

Visit lawrencegeneral.org/circulatory to hear Jeanne's story and take an online risk assessment. **Lawrence General. Boston-quality care, close to home.**



Lawrence General Hospital
MIRACLES

Opinion

Regional emergency dispatch center a failure

The Essex County Regional Communications Center is in trouble. It has been operating at a deficit for years, with the already cash-strapped Sheriff's Department forced to make up annual multimillion-dollar shortfalls. The dispatch center's performance has been spotty and oft-criticized by local emergency personnel. And with the impending departure of the Amesbury fire and police departments from the system, the already anemic client base will shrink even further, to four communities. The center's most recent director has resigned.

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, now early into the second year of his term, is pushing to have the state take over operations of the center, and has had talks to that effect.

"These are preliminary discussions, but it makes a lot of sense," Coppinger said. "We want to right the ship and get it back on course and make it more efficient."

Coppinger is right. Fixing the problems at the dispatch center is a tall task, one best handled by the state.

It shouldn't have to be this way. The \$13 million center was touted by state and local officials — and praised in this space — as a regional approach to handling emergency calls. The idea was to take the burden off the area's police and fire departments, increase efficiency and save taxpayers money.

That has not happened. Instead, the center was plagued by equipment and management issues from the minute it opened. Those problems have deepened in severity over the past few years to the point where there's no path to solvency without a state takeover.

The issue was laid out in a brutally honest audit commissioned by Coppinger last year and released earlier this month.

In its report, Municipal Resources Inc. of New Hampshire noted that any undertaking of this size is likely to experience growing pains. At least some of the center's woes can be attributed to foot-dragging on the part of municipalities and public service unions loathe to give up local dispatching positions.

But the problems run far deeper than that, as the audit report notes:

- A series of technical glitches delayed Beverly's addition to the program. The city eventually pulled out of the agreement, filing suit against the center when it continued to bill the community for services it never provided.

- The center tried too hard to accommodate every client, rather than requiring them to share radio frequencies. The result, the report said, was that there is not one dispatch center but "five local dispatch operations" located under one roof. The center's \$6 million yearly budget is thus "well above" that of comparable 911 operations.

- Having to monitor several frequencies at once has put added stress on employees already working under difficult conditions. The high turnover in the dispatcher positions has caused an "operational crisis and immediate threat to the long-term viability of the center."

- The audit also criticized the center's accounting procedures. Poor record keeping makes it difficult to track how money is spent. While there was "no clear evidence of impropriety or fraud," the report said, auditors nonetheless could not rule out that information was "intentionally altered."

It's no wonder that the center, designed to handle 13 communities, will serve only four once Amesbury leaves: Essex, Middleton, Topsfield and Wenham. The center also handles 911 cell phone calls for Essex County and most of Middlesex County, but the number of those calls is falling thanks to the state's Direct 911 program.

While the audit was undeniably critical of the center's current operations, Municipal Resources said there is still an opportunity to set things right. The report laid out dozens of suggested changes such as revamping accounting processes, streamlining emergency frequencies, guaranteeing a stronger voice for local communities and improving training for dispatchers.

It's a long list — too long for a sheriff's department that should be focused on its core responsibilities. But change is achievable.

WEB QUESTION

This week's question:

Andover is in the midst of some turmoil. Some blame the Board of Selectmen. Others blame the Planning Department. Still others claim that town officials are to blame. **What do you think is going on?**

I think people in town are starting to wake up and realize that town officials work for them, not the other way around.

As the angry man in the 1976 film 'Network' said: 'I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore.'

It's a combination of factors, from blasting on Elm Street to the North Reading water deal to the Lupoli project, not to mention issues with school administrators.

Last week's web question:

Last week it was revealed that the three varsity hockey coaches who had been suspended for alleged physical abuse of their players did nothing wrong. Both a state Department of Children and Families and a local administrative investigation found no wrongdoing. **What do you think of the handling of this controversy?**

It was a tricky situation, I think school administrators and state investigators did the best they could. **61 votes.**

It was handled poorly from the start. The parent who made the original complaint to the state is the one most at fault. **31 votes.**

The state never should have been involved in the first place, their investigators should be investigating real crimes against children. **23 votes.**

The school administration is trying to make it all go away. They need to focus on the superintendent and the letter he wrote about his son. **16 votes.**

First half of school year marked by innovation, teamwork

Sheldon Berman
School Superintendent



The Andover Public Schools (APS) have been making significant progress on multiple fronts through the first half of this school year. This forward movement stems from the outstanding teamwork that is a hallmark of APS. We have a very special staff who care deeply about the students in Andover and the quality of instruction they receive. In addition, devoted parents and a supportive community have been with us every step of the way as we strive to provide the best possible education for every child.

A critical area of progress has been addressing building repairs and renovations. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) invited the district to participate in the eligibility period for West Elementary based on our first application to the program. This may lead to a significant subsidy for renovating or replacing the building. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan has included funds for the feasibility study for West Elementary to be approved at Town Meeting on April 30. In addition, we are working with an architectural company on the Andover High School (AHS) facility study, and the School Committee

will be considering options to address overcrowding and instructional improvement needs. We have also proposed a study of long-term upgrades needed for Doherty Middle School.

At Andover High School, the new 7+H schedule has had a highly successful launch. The year-long courses are enabling students to explore subject areas more intensively, and both students and teachers are taking advantage of the new H block to incorporate advisory meetings, speakers, and deep dives into content. AHS also introduced the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college-preparation program in grade 9 and expanded the availability of online virtual courses.

We are strengthening our approach to literacy, employing a number of progress monitoring assessments to track students' reading skills. The data-reflective culture we are establishing through teacher data teams and data analyses is enabling us to better support students and improve instruction. We are also midway through a pilot to identify a new elementary literacy program. At the middle and high school levels, we are providing teacher training to better support students with dyslexia and other language-based disabilities. Students at all levels may now choose to use TextHelp — a technology tool that assists students with language-based challenges to access rigorous curriculum but is useful for

all students.

School and classroom climate and culture significantly impact learning. To strengthen the learning environment, we are applying strategies to increase student engagement. In elementary schools, we are implementing Responsive Classroom strategies that emphasize the formation of caring classroom and school communities and the building of positive learning environments for all students.

The iAndover 1:1 technology program is now complete K-12. We took our final step of deploying Chromebooks for students in grades 2 through 4 and iPads for K-1 students. We replaced aging Smartboards in elementary classrooms with new interactive projectors and added sound enhancement systems in many elementary and some middle school classrooms. We also provided teachers with new computer devices and redistributed the older models to students in grades 6-12 who needed them so they could participate in the Bring Your Own Device program.

Support for instructional innovation is encouraging teachers to involve students in design thinking and authentic learning experiences. Some examples include rapid design challenges, maker spaces, Global Pathways at the high school, and integrative arts and literacy activities supported by our New England Arts in Literacy grant. Through funding from Andover Coalition for Education (ACE), we also expanded the AHS

Innovation Lab, supported teacher innovation grants, and spread the use of Capstone projects from the high school to middle and elementary schools.

A special innovation will arrive shortly after February vacation: the Global Portal is an immersive, audio-visual experience that will enable our students to communicate with others around the world. Thanks to a grant from ACE, we will be the first district in the country to provide this new technology and global experience to students. The Portal will move from school to school so that many students can participate.

Communication with parents and the community remains a high priority. The Student Services Department launched an outstanding online magazine, and every issue contains helpful tips and interesting information. Parents and community members are invited to sign up for online distribution. We are also finalizing a new district brochure to be available in the fall that will provide a thorough overview of our programs and services.

This summary highlights just a sample of what APS has been engaged in the past several months. We hope you are as enthusiastic about the progress and opportunities as we are. For more information about these activities and other initiatives, please check out my Mid-Year Progress Report to the School Committee, which is available on the Superintendent's Office page of our website.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS POLICY

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

Mail to:
33 Chestnut St.,
Andover, MA 01810

Fax to: 978-470-2819

E-mail: townsmen@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

Huntress listens, considers all sides, makes 'sound decisions'

Editor, Townsman:

Andover is very fortunate that Chris Huntress, a talented landscape architect, business owner, and tireless Andover volunteer over the past two decades, has chosen to run for one of the open seats on the Board of Selectmen.

Chris represents the best that Andover has to offer. Personally, he is smart, listens well, and considers all sides of an issue before making practical, sound decisions. He has a proven ability to devise workable solutions in tough situations, as proven by his work as chairman of the challenging Andover Youth Center Building Committee.

He is dedicated to the town, as shown by more than 20 years of volunteer work on innumerable boards and commissions including the Ballardvale Historic Commission, the Andover Hockey Association, the Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force, and many others.

This experience has provided him with in-depth knowledge of how the town works and what makes Andover tick. And he is public-minded as demonstrated by his work in 2016 with the city of Lawrence, where he donated his considerable expertise as a landscape architect to design, bid and oversee the restoration of the Lawrence's ruined artificial turf field — for free. That was an incredible example of his generosity and speaks volumes about his character.

I have known Chris for more than 20 years and have supreme confidence in him to represent me on the Board of Selectmen. Please join me in supporting his candidacy.

JIM CURTIS
5 Orchard St.
Andover

Annie Gilbert: Respectful, collaborative, calm, productive

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing this letter in support of Annie Gilbert's candidacy for Board of Selectman.

I have known Annie for over 10 years. I worked closely with her on the Bancroft School Building Committee and, for the last year, on the Andover High School Facility Study Committee. She is dedicated, organized, detail-oriented, and well-versed in analyzing the financial impact of decisions.

Annie believes in the complete discussion of issues; always focuses on Andover and its residents' best interests when making decisions. This does not mean we have never disagreed — we have — but we have always been able to have calm and respectful discussions and move on productively and collaboratively.

Over the last couple of years, it appears that many of our elected officials are unable to engage in reasoned discussion of issues. Instead, many differences of opinion subject one to personal attacks and claims of unethical behavior.

Though it is always easier to personally attack someone than engage in fact-based discussion, the ability to consider and discuss all sides of an issue is the basis of our form of government, though such deliberation is increasingly difficult in the current environment.

If this continues, the pool of qualified residents willing to engage in a discussion of issues who will consider running for public office or volunteering to serve on town boards will decrease; residents will not wish to be subject to personal attacks. Andover will also lose dedicated and competent employees to other towns. This does not reflect the Andover I have lived in for over 30 years.

I believe that Annie would be a Selectman who engages in reasoned discussion of the issues that face Andover and who sets a positive tone for our future, providing a role model of how an elected official should act if our children tuned in to cable TV to watch a selectmen's meeting.

I hope you will join me in not only supporting Annie Gilbert for Board of selectmen

but in remembering to vote on Tuesday, March 27.

MARK B. JOHNSON
24 Greybirch Road
Andover

Spruce will take 'broad, balanced approach' to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

Tracey Spruce will bring confident and balanced leadership to the Andover School Committee.

As a lawyer, Tracey is used to weighing multiple sides of an issue and reaching a decision based on fact. We cannot afford to let the emotion of day-to-day issues or social media "emergencies" drive short-sighted thinking. Tracey will look at data over rhetoric and make decisions in the long-term, best interests of Andover students.

Additionally, Tracey is not a one-issue candidate. With only five seats on the School Committee, we need each one occupied by someone who takes a broad look at school interests. Each investment decision — whether impacting special education, class size, parent fees, test scores, rankings, facilities — has direct bearing on something else. Finding balance between multiple important initiatives is critical.

For these reasons (and more), I'm supporting Tracey on Tuesday, March 27, and I hope to see huge turnout from Andover voters doing the same.

SARA WELLS BLAIS
12 Coventry Lane
Andover

SEE MORE LETTERS ON PAGES 5, 6 AND 8

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

- **Editor Bill Kirk** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-691-8733, bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

- **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

- **Reporter Kelsey Bode** at 978-691-8723, or kbode@andovertownsmen.com

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

- **Account Executive Jason Hutchinson** at 978-946-2168, cell 781-572-9959; or jhutchinson@andovertownsmen.com

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ADVERTISING

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

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Spruce will be 'independent thinker' on School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing in support of Tracey Spruce for Andover School Committee. As a seasoned attorney with experience in negotiations, resolving disputes, and working with clients to find practical solutions, Tracey will be able to work effectively with the schools and town to find areas of compromise that will benefit our

community as a whole.

Tracey is committed to serving the best educational interests of every single child in town and will do all that she can to ensure that our students have the best education and learning environment possible. Tracey will work collaboratively with other elected officials to ensure that the district serves the needs of special education and students with limited English proficiency. She will work to implement a school calendar that maximizes the learning

opportunities of all of Andover's students. She will aim to decrease classroom sizes with the goal of providing all students the ability and resources they need to succeed.

At the same time, Tracey will examine the school department budget to make sure that every dollar is spent appropriately and find areas of efficiency. Tracey will push for greater transparency so that Andover residents can have confidence that their tax dollars are being spent wisely. Finally, Tracey is an

independent thinker. She will consider all points of view, analyze the information, and make hard decisions that are based on facts and reason. Tracey will be an excellent addition to the School Committee. I urge you to vote for Tracey on March 27.

TRAM NGUYEN
Andover

Spruce will bring decision-making to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

Town vs. school is an issue Andover cannot afford to fight over and I believe electing Tracey Spruce to the School Committee will provide tremendous value bridging the divide. As my sister-in-law, I've come to recognize Tracey's many talents and I'd like to highlight two: a keen ability to balance business and personal agendas and a critical thinker capable of making hard choices.

I clearly recall a parenting lesson from Tracey several years ago: Despite the demands running a local law firm, Tracey routinely gathers both our families for dinner. One evening as the kids sang the latest Taylor Swift song, they poked me to join. Gruffly I replied I didn't

recognize the song, to which Tracey recommended I spend a little time each week to stay current with the rapidly evolving interests of my kids. The message was simple. It is clear Tracey recognizes the value of focusing on what's important to others. With a commitment to transparency and an ability to identify what is critical to both sides, Tracey Spruce will ensure our schools and our community grow stronger together.

However, it is not enough to understand Andover's critical issues. It is imperative to elect people of action to the School Committee.

Tracey is a person of action with strong, educated opinions, yet she reasons and listens to logic as the successful lawyer she is.

When the moment comes, Tracey makes hard decisions where others are unwilling. Her initiative amazes me, driving decisions in the most difficult circumstances. As my parents battled the repercussions of terminal illness, Tracey gathered significant information and it was Tracey who led the family to force hard decisions.

Knowing the best choice is extremely difficult, but indecision is always worse. As an in-law, the easy answer was to let the immediate family

work it out. However, Tracey drove the hard choices for our family, as I'm sure she will for our schools.

Our school system will not improve without action and financial commitments.

Electing Tracey Spruce to the School Committee will drive the action needed to make Andover schools the best they can be.

DAVID BARCELO
15 Dawn Circle
Andover

Reinstate JV Soccer Coach Cudmore

Editor, Townsman:

The details about the dismissal of Mr. (David) Cudmore as AHS JV Girls' Soccer coach leave me appalled, just as did the travesty that affected the hockey coaches recently. The occasional disgruntled youth or parent, behaving badly, should not lead our superintendent or School Committee to ignore school policy, ignore the facts, and make unjustified staffing decisions.

The proper reviews were done in this situation, which apparently found no issues with the behavior of Coach Cudmore or any of the other coaches involved.

Please reinstate Coach Cudmore as soon as possible.

Lots of youths eventually get cut from competitive high school teams (my son included), or they just don't get so much playing time, but that is the way the real world works. College varsity sports are far harsher competitive environments, and the high school level helps to prepare students for that transition, sometimes by helping them learn to focus elsewhere. One player or parent with a sense of entitlement cannot change that, and the administration needs to support the coaches, or there will be no semblance of order or purpose to what is a natural, but sometimes difficult process.

JONATHAN HARDER
23 Abbot Bridge Drive
Andover

Gilbert will end divisiveness on board

Editor, Townsman:

I am a life-long resident of Andover. My family has owned a business here and five members of the Hesselstine family have spent their lives here. I am a former town selectman, chairwoman of the Bicentennial and 350th Celebrations for the town of Andover, and have been a member of many other boards and commissions in Andover throughout the last five decades.

As a former selectman, I know how difficult it is working through town and school matters, but I also know that board members must work professionally and collaboratively. Certainly there has been disagreement in the past, but there has always been respect and courtesy shown to other board members and the citizens who engage with the Board.

In the last three years, I have seen upheaval, distrust and chaos on the board. This has been brought on primarily by one selectman who has behaved divisively and disrespectfully toward his fellow selectmen at meetings and in public. We have had to listen to him spout his own agenda and his "my way or the highway" approach. He constantly dismisses the thoughts and concerns of other members of the board. I have been involved in Andover for 50 years and have never seen anything like this before. It is tearing our town apart.

I am asking you to join me in voting for Annie Gilbert for Board of Selectmen. Annie has proven herself an effective leader many times by being fair and respectful debating school issues as a 7-year member of the School Committee. Her actions helped to maintain the respect of other cities and towns that highly regard Andover as a well-managed town. Annie knows that all decisions do not center on dollars and cents, and that this community is made up of individuals, families, and neighborhoods — all of whom need to be considered when decisions are made. She has helped Andover successfully move forward, which is something we all want. On March 27, we need to elect Annie Gilbert for Board of Selectmen to help turn the board around to function again as knowledgeable, productive leaders in our community.

NORMA GAMMON
197 High St.
Andover

TownsBeat



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Stephen Chinosi, director of strategic innovation for Andover Public Schools, shows a group of children how they will be able to use the interactive portal at the Cormier Youth Center to talk to people from around the world starting Friday.

A 'portal' to other parts of the world

BY KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsmen.com

Education often brings students to new places, but it looks like that may be more true than ever for Andover students in the coming months.

The Andover Coalition for Education, or ACE, has funded a portal through Shared Studios, an organization that creates spaces with technology and connects people internationally. The inflatable portal is equipped with video and audio technology that allows people inside the inflatable, yellow portal to communicate with people in other portals around the world. There are currently 47 portals around the globe.

"The real innovation is in the global network of Portal

sites around the world," explained the school department's Director of Strategy and Innovation Stephen Chinosi. "Having access to people who are interested in connecting with others to build 'real' relationships and potential partnerships. The Portal is using the best technology to actually connect people through focused and open dialogues. The experience is nothing like a Skype call, which only focuses on the head/shoulders. The Portal feels like you're in a room with someone who happens to be on the other side of the world."

The portal was installed at the Cormier Youth Center on Sunday and it's kickoff in Andover will be held Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the annual World Summit. About 130 students, called

Global Scholars, will learn about a major, international issue and discuss possible solutions at the summit. Chinosi said United Nations Sustainability Development Goals will be focus points for the summit. The Andover Public Schools Global Scholars program was created four years ago to introduce students to the world through various experiences.

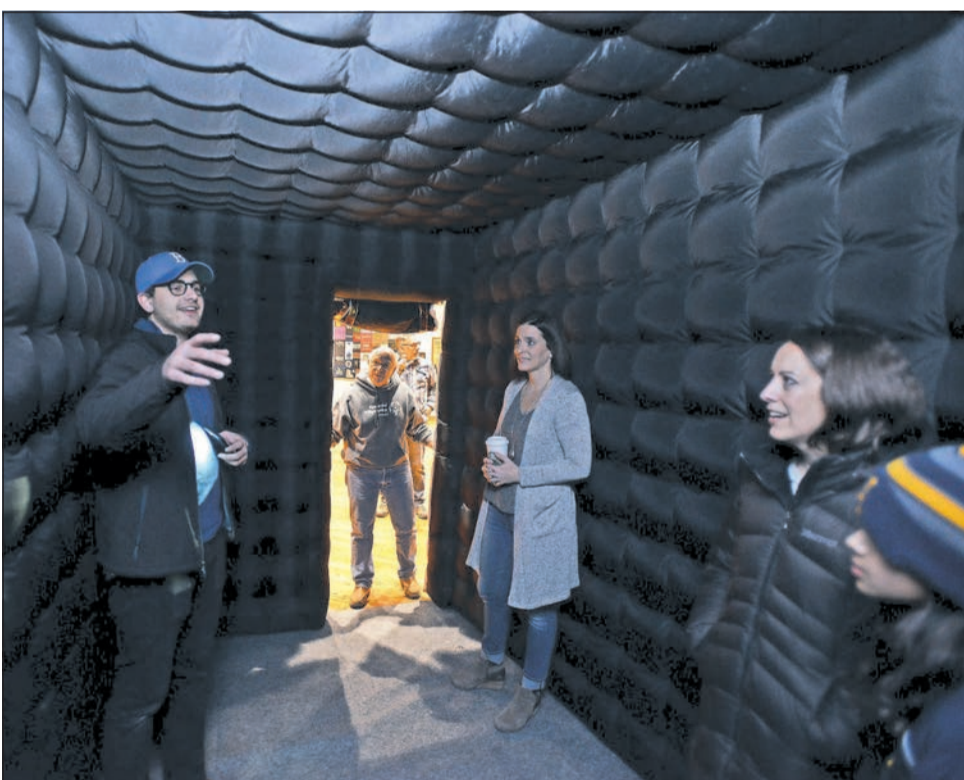
"This year is the Future of Food," Chinosi wrote in an email. "In the past, we've also explore the Future of Water and Air, as themes. We host a design challenge, then we offer a few breakout sessions that engage the students to think broadly about global cultures."

ACE will fund the portal for six months at \$6,000 per month, and is working on

See PORTAL, Page 10



Chinosi talks to a group of students about the portal and how it will work.



Jake Levin, head of operations for Shared Studios, left, shows off his company's interactive portal at the youth center.



Jake Levin, head of operations for Shared Studios, left, unrolls his company's interactive portal. The inflatable box is used to speak with people all over the world via video transmission.

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March THURSDAY, MARCH 1

FLORAL ARRANGING WORKSHOP: WATER-BASED ARRANGEMENTS, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Bancroft Elementary School cafeteria, 15 Bancroft Road. Offered through Andover Recreation; Heather Allen, from Alice's Table, will be the instructor; students will be led step-by-step through the process of arranging, including how to choose flowers, buying supplies, prep flowers, placement and how to make them last; all supplies are included in the fee; the cost is \$90; limited to 20; registration is required; 978-623-8340, www.andoverrec.com.
MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 AND 29

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, 4:30 p.m., St. Michael Catholic

Church, 196 Main St., North Andover. Is food a problem for you? Overeaters Anonymous can help; 781-641-2303.
MARCH 1, 13 AND 27

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS, Blanchard House and Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St. Peek inside closets, pull aside curtains and give in to that irresistible urge to look behind the "staff only" and "no entry" signs; tour the attics, closets, nooks and crannies and hear stories about the items in rarely seen collections; the stories will change with every tour, so there will always be something new; tours will begin at 5 p.m. on March 1, 10 a.m. on March 13 and 7 p.m. on March 27; admission is free, but registration is

required; <http://andoverhistorical.org/behind-the-scenes>.
FRIDAY, MARCH 2

SELF DEFENSE CLASS, 7 to 9 p.m., Cervizzi's Martial Arts, 28 Chestnut St. Sensei Seth Winch will teach the class; \$40 entry fee; all proceeds will benefit the Martin W. Richard Charitable Foundation, which was formed by the parents of 8-year-old Martin Richard, who was killed in the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013; the charitable foundation provides opportunities for individuals and communities to act on the values of peace, justice, and kindness through community service; Stephanie Godley of North Andover is running the 2018 Boston Marathon in support

of the foundation; the inspiring and empowering night of self-defense will include door prizes, a raffle and refreshments; no experience necessary; payment can be made at the event via check or cash, or online; 978-810-1069, email stephggodley@gmail.com, <https://www.crowdrise.com/dashboard/stephaniegodley/teammr8boston2018>.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

147TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE, 6 to 11 p.m., Relief's In, 1 Market St., Lawrence. Guests will enjoy a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and dancing to the music of John Connors & the Irish Express; the Richard Cardinal Cushing and Irishman & Irishwoman

of the Year Awards will be presented; sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 8; handicapped-accessible; 508-328-0323.

"THE GINGERBREAD KID," 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St. Presented by Fairy Tale Players, the show centers around the Gingerbread Girl's journey through the Enchanted Forest, where she meets some famous characters and learns a valuable lesson about home and family; children are encouraged to stay after the performance to try on costumes; the professional performers combine energetic storytelling and audience interaction to introduce young audiences to self-expression, dramatic play, and the

performing arts; \$7 per person or \$25 for a group of four; cash only at the door starting at 9:45 a.m.; this program is supported in part by a grant from the Andover Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency; email info@fairytaletaleplayers.org, www.fairytaletaleplayers.org, www.massculturalcouncil.org.

16TH ANNUAL A CAPPELLA NIGHT, 7:30 p.m., Merrimack College Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. Boston Jazz Voices will open for Five O'Clock Shadow in what promises to be an evening that delights music lovers of all ages; \$30 for reserved seating, \$25 for seniors and the military, \$10
See CALENDAR, Page 10

Townspeople

WICKED SMAHT!

Andover 9-year-old to appear on NBC-TV reality show about kid geniuses

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
Staff Writer

Like any extremely smart 8-year-old math whiz, Bryan Hendroid of Andover begged his father, Michael, to respond to the email about a new televised, competitive game show for the most incredible kids in the country. Bryan wanted a tryout.

That was March 2017 and the intense tryout process for the show, "Genius Junior," which celebrates the brightest children in America, began for Bryan and his family. This one-hour competition series is the ultimate test of intelligence and endurance as 12 teams of the most incredible children in the country, ages 8 to 12, compete in a series of increasingly complex quizzes with the goal of being crowned Genius Junior. Bryan is the youngest competitor.

"I begged my Dad to go to this," said Bryan, a third-grader at High Plain Elementary School who turned 9 on Dec. 26.

Hollywood actor Neil Patrick Harris hosts and produces the new NBC show, which airs March 18, and was advertised during the Olympics. One advertisement featured Bryan with Harris as the super-motivated young learner from Andover. Bryan's episode airs Sunday, April 8.

"We are contractually bound to not communicate publicly about how Bryan did," said proud father Michael Hendroid, a professional chess player and

chess writer who founded a chess club for Andover kids three years ago that has grown tremendously and meets regularly at St. Augustine Church. "You have to watch the show. But, we can talk about the journey to get selected for the show."

The journey

From March to August of last year, Bryan studied and studied and studied. He received study guides from the show that had spelling words that most 8-year-olds never heard of. He would have to learn how to spell the words backwards as well as correctly; study consonant counts and reveal vowel counts in some words. The first study guide had 70 words that included turquoise, renaissance and dirigible, Bryan said. There were also tough math equations in the study guide.

Show producers used Skype for timed questions and quizzes as Bryan progressed.

More study guides arrived at the family's Webster Street home and the word list got up to 270, along with more mind-bending math equations. Show producers also tossed in a request to memorize every one of the streets in certain San Francisco neighborhoods, as well as the parts of a Boeing 747. And, there were lots of questions related to a deck of cards.

Finally, Bryan got the call from Hollywood that he hoped for — he was a finalist for the show. It



Bryan Hendroid, 9, seen here with his father, Michael, and at right, standing, was selected to be on a new reality TV show called Genius Junior, hosted and produced by actor Neil Patrick Harris.

was in June 2017 when the Hendroid family, including Bryan, his parents, Michael and Xiaolin "Jade" Jiang, and sister, Kayda, 7, all flew to Los Angeles for an interview. The show paid for the trip.

With about 15 producers on stage with him and Neil Patrick Harris bopping in and out of the room, Bryan said he was just happy that he made it to Los Angeles.

Bryan clearly wowed the producers with his adorable good looks as they brought him to a nearby park for a photo shoot.

"They really liked my hat," is what he remembers

most about his Hollywood photo shoot.

He is on a team of three for the show and there are 12 teams competing. Questions are asked fast and furiously as the fast pace is a key part of the show. His teammates are from Washington, D.C., and Georgia. The winning team gets \$100,000 for each member.

Teachers' praise

His teachers aren't surprised by the precocious youth's success.

His third grade teacher, Maura Bresnahan, wrote in an email that "having Bryan as a student is a



pleasure since he combines a genuine love for learning with a great sense of humor. Bryan's strong background knowledge on a wide range of topics and a curiosity to learn new things every day enrich our class discussions."

She went on to say the boy has "a particular interest in vocabulary and takes pleasure in defining new words for us that are introduced in read-alouds or through the curriculum. His sense of humor shows in his puns and word play that appeal to students and adults. He appreciates the jokes shared by others, too. Bryan enjoys being challenged and has yet to say no to any assignment he is offered. He loves collaborating with classmates on logic puzzles

and math brainteasers. Bryan is a voracious reader and recently finished the Harry Potter series. He has started reading Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson novels but he definitely prefers interacting with peers to independent activities. During recess, he is in the mix on the playground or playing board games on the rug if we are stuck indoors. While his classmates might describe him as smart, they would also say he is kind, funny, and a good friend."

His second grade teacher, Terry Stone, agreed.

"Bryan is a very motivated learner," Stone said. "He earned several opportunities to work on challenging math assignments with a partner, a small group, and on his own. He's a voracious reader of both nonfiction and fiction with a special appreciation for humorous fiction. He's very modest about his participation in such a unique and challenging opportunity, which really demonstrates his character. I know he'll make his family, friends and community proud on TV; he's already done so in his everyday life."

Dressed in a casual suit coat with a tie and stylish hat, Bryan just shrugged when told of the compliments from his teachers.

"I'm not a genius," he said quietly. "There's more than what's in your brain."

And, he may say math is his favorite subject but it's actually third on his list of the best things about school, as math comes after lunch and recess.

Horse therapy a confidence booster

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
Staff Writer

A one-time therapy riding youngster with cerebral palsy at Ironstone Farm, who is from Andover, is giving back and sharing his story for fundraising efforts because the Farm means so much to him.

"Ironstone has done wonders for me," Doug Cooper wrote in email. "I had the chance to gain confidence in myself and have many adventures (and misadventures) while learning how to do something unique. I say 'unique' because it seems like not many people know how to ride horses. There probably was a therapy component to my time at Ironstone, too. I was too young to be worried about that."

He said he has become a cheerleader for the organization because it gave him so much.

"I want other people to have the same positive experience that I was privileged to enjoy at Ironstone," he said. "I am in a position where I can use my skills and talents to support the farm. And I missed being at Ironstone. I have a reason



Doug Cooper at the Ironstone Farm arena on Sunday.

to stay connected."

Now 35 and a librarian at the

Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell,

the 1980s, he started horse therapy he also has a law degree. Back in

as a 4-year-old with cerebral palsy.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

He rode the smallest pony, named Yankee, back then and continued to ride at Ironstone until he went to college in 2000.

His 14 years of horse therapy sessions helped him be more confident about his disability and taught him one important life lesson about falling off a horse: When you fall off, you have to get right back on.

"I would tell today's riders not to be afraid of falling off. But, we all are afraid of falling off at one time or another. My advice is to keep trying. We all get better with practice," he said.

Over the years, he went on a few trail rides in Colorado and Wyoming. But he's not riding these days.

"I really do miss riding. I should take lessons again," he said.

Cooper was also a Boy Scout and said helping others has always mattered to him.

"In Scouting, I learned the value of helping other people, and making a positive contribution to my community," he said.

That life lesson is now having an impact at Ironstone Farm.

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:

Living Healthy Series: Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Local experts in their fields will offer cutting-edge presentations. Upcoming presentations include "DASH: Dietary Aid to Stop Hypertension," with Pramila Rao of Radiant Homecare Services on March 1; "Veterans Northeast Outreach Center," an overview of supports and benefits, with Jillian Harmon on March 8; "Medical Marijuana," with Deidra Ruvido of Revolutionary Clinics on March 22; "How to Stay Safe at Home as We Age in Place," with Joseph Corson, from Be Safer at Home, on March 29. This series is appropriate for clinical practitioners

and those wishing to be more informed. Open to all adults. A \$5 donation is suggested. A light supper will be held at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is requested. Call 978-623-8320.

Townie Trips: Thursdays, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Center offers in-town traveling for those who want to get their hair done, go out to lunch, to a friend's house or to the library. A one-hour minimum stay at the destination is required. The cost is \$4 one way or \$7 round trip. Travel plans should be arranged by Tuesday at noon. Call 978-623-8323 to schedule transportation.

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. This service is free and confidential.

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.

What's for Lunch: Warm meals served weekdays at noon; suggested cost \$2.50. Prior day registration is requested.

Bereavement Support Group: Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend once or monthly to learn new ways together to carry on traditional ways of doing things and how to commemorate days that can trigger a lot of emotions. To register, call Lois Marra, Home

Health VNA Hospice, at 978-552-4537.

Pain Management Support Group: This intimate and confidential group meets on the second Monday of the month, September through June. Open to anyone dealing with chronic pain management issues, the group is facilitated by Gerry Rainville, RN, MSN. Newcomers are always welcome. Call to register.

Council on Aging board meetings: The COA meets on the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Parkinson's Support Group: Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, 1:30 to 3 p.m. This group is open to all. Call Kristine Arakelian, outreach coordinator, to confirm attendance or for more information.

Brown Bag: Elder Services

of the Merrimack Valley, Boston Food Bank and The Center at Punchard, are expanding the Brown Bag program. This free program is for anyone 60 and over with an income less than \$21,978 for a single person or \$29,637 for a couple, on Mass Health, Chapter 115, food stamps or fuel assistance. The grocery bag is available on the fourth Tuesday of the month. It must be picked up by 10:15 a.m. Call Annmary Connor or Kristine Arakelian to check eligibility or to sign up.

Computer Users Group: Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, from September through June, at Memorial Hall Library.

For outdoor programs, any cancellations or changes will be communicated by email and/or phone to those registered. All participants need a health release form on file at The Center, updated

annually. Bring binoculars, water, bug spray, a walking stick and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Hikes are subject to change due to weather and conditions. Preregistration is requested; swipe in before going.

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 978-623-8320.

Exchange Club honors police, firefighter heroes

Andover police and firefighters were honored last Wednesday night by the Exchange Club of Lawrence during a ceremony at the DoubleTree Andover Hotel.

Andover Detectives Michael Lane and John Delaney made more than 80 arrests in 2017, according to Andover police Chief Brian Keefe. They arrested many drug dealers and seized an estimated 3,700 grams of heroin or fentanyl as well as \$20,000 in cash proceeds from narcotic sales, Keefe said.

Andover fire Lt. Brian Wright is now a three-time Andover Firefighter of the Year. This time he was honored for promoting physical fitness, not only in his department but others. In prior years, he was honored for reviving a man suffering from cardiac arrest and saving a choking victim.

Emergency medical technicians Seth Roher and Scott Silva treated a man who was bleeding uncontrollably from a severe laceration on his arm last March. Each time his heart beat, he lost more blood.

Paul Brennan, director of pre-hospital EMS for Lawrence General Hospital, said the victim, in his 30s, lost 2 liters of blood. Roher and Silva immediately applied direct pressure to the wound. Paramedics Andre Painchaud and Timothy Mueller arrived and the four responders stopped the bleeding with a tourniquet and a pressure bandage.

Their efforts saved the man's life, Brennan said.

These were just a few of the recipients who were honored by the Exchange Club as Police Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, EMT of the Year of Paramedic of the Year.

Many other police and firefighters from adjoining towns were also recognized.

Only 33 days after he became a detective, Harold "Hal" Rogers, a 13-year veteran of the Lawrence Police Department, encountered the bullet-ridden body of a man in a snow bank near Prospect Hill last February. Through countless interviews and poring over videotapes, he was able to identify the suspect's car from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, according to acting Lawrence police Chief Roy Vasque.

On New Year's Eve, Rogers found another man who had been shot many times, this time outside St. Mary's Cemetery. His investigation led to the estranged husband of the victim's girlfriend, who could not explain why his truck was caught on surveillance tape near the murder scene, Vasque said.

Rogers "earned the unanimous nomination for the Lawrence Police Department's Officer of the Year," the chief said.

On the night of Dec. 14, "four of our best were put to the test," Lawrence fire Chief Brian Moriarty said. Firefighters were enjoying a prime rib dinner at the British Club



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield, far right, and his crew pose for a photo with Andover Firefighter of the Year Lt. Brian Wright, center. The Exchange Club of Lawrence recently recognized the outstanding service of police officers and firefighters at 56th Annual Public Safety Awards ceremony. Police officers and firefighters from Andover, Lawrence and North Andover, as well as emergency medical technicians and paramedics from Lawrence General Hospital, were honored Wednesday night.



Andover Firefighter of the Year, for the third time in his career, Lt. Brian Wright is congratulated by his wife, Jenine, and their daughters, Madison, left, 13, and Dylann, 11.

when retired fire Capt. Leo Boutin noticed his son, Bryan Boutin, was choking. Firefighter Michael Delaney Jr. began performing the Heimlich maneuver with help from firefighter Shane Donahue, Lt. Joseph Murphy and retired firefighter Michael Delaney Sr.

Donahue got a pocket mask from his vehicle while the younger Delaney was able to remove a large piece of meat that was blocking Bryan's airway, Moriarty said.

A grateful Bryan Boutin joined Murphy, Delaney Jr. and Donahue, the Lawrence Firefighters of the Year, at the front of the hall.

Officer William Brush, the North

Andover Police Officer of the Year, was the first to respond to a distraught man who was cutting himself in April. The man came at Brush wielding a butcher knife, according to North Andover police Chief Charles Gray.

Brush drew his weapon and ordered the man to drop the knife, but he failed to comply. When family members appeared behind the man, Brush holstered his weapon out of concern for their safety. He then deployed his Taser and subdued the assailant.

Brush said he didn't think about how dangerous the incident was until afterward. His training was



Andover police chief, Patrick Keefe, right, presents detective John Delaney the Exchange Club of Lawrence Andover Policeman of the Year award.

essential, he said.

Gray pointed out police are answering more calls that involve people with mental health problems. Police officers need to have the "tact and ability to work with these calls," he said. Brush demonstrated those qualities on that April night, Gray said.

North Andover firefighter Neil Patnaude, his town's Firefighter of the Year, "treats every patient as if they were a family members," according to his chief, William McCarthy. Patnaude, who is active in numerous charitable fundraising events, demonstrated that care by purchasing food for an elderly diabetic man.

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:

Greenscapes 101

Robert (Rusty) Russell, executive director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, will present "Greenscapes" on Thursday, March 8, at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn how to create a healthier landscape at home.

Greenscapes have plants and turf with deep roots, which are naturally resistant to drought, weeds and disease, and are good for the environment. By following the recommendations in this presentation, attendees can save money on their water bills, nurture a safe environment for their families, create more habitat for wildlife, spend less time doing landscape maintenance, reduce stormwater pollution and help protect their water resources.

Russell, who has taught graduate students in Tufts University's urban and environmental policy and planning program, is a certified planner, has been a journalist and a corporate attorney.

This presentation is sponsored by the Andover Municipal Services Department, Greenscapes North Shore and the Andover Seed Library at Memorial Hall Library.

Go to www.mhl.org/calendar to sign up. Check out www.greenscapes.org for more information about healthy lawn care practices.

Kick up your heels with The Kelly Girls

Memorial Hall Library will welcome The Kelly Girls, a lively and talented four-piece, all-female band, on Sunday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m.

They play traditional, contemporary and original Celtic tunes, ballads, folk and pub songs, and have been entertaining audiences for many

years, with their rousing renditions of songs and tunes rooted in Irish, Scottish, American and Canadian musical traditions.

Their talented members, Nancy Beaudette, Christine Hatch, Aisling Keating and Melinda Kerwin, are accomplished on fiddle, banjo, bodhran, tin-whistle, flute, ukulele, harmonica, bouzouki, guitar and mandolin.

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

Jacoby, Krasnova to perform

The Friends' Concert Series will conclude with a performance by Meghan Jacoby, flutist, and Svetlana Krasnova, pianist, on Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. Jacoby and Krasnova will perform works by female composers, in honor of Women's History Month.

Their program will include pieces by Melanie Bonis, Anna Amalie (Princess of

Prussia), Sofia Gubaidulina and Lili Boulanger.

Jacoby and Krasnova have performed with chamber ensembles and orchestras worldwide and teach at Powers Music School. Jacoby also serves on the faculty at Phillips Academy.

Register at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Bostwick to visit MHL

Marie Bostwick will visit the library on Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. in the Activity Room.

Bostwick is a USA Today and New York Times bestselling author of uplifting historical and women's fiction, including the popular "Cobbled Court Quilt" and "Too Much, Texas" series of books. An unabashed advocate of happy endings, Bostwick crafts strong female characters who feel like friends, bringing messages of hope and encouragement to readers' lives.

Bostwick's books will be available for sale and signing, courtesy of the Andover

Bookstore. This event is sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Registration is requested as space is limited. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar.

World War I connections and book discussion

Lawrence City Councillor Marc Laplante will share his fascinating journey researching World War I veterans from the city of Lawrence on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Laplante's presentation will be followed by a discussion of Richard Rubin's book, "Back Over There." To sign up, visit www.mhl.org/calendar.

Other events at the library include:

Practice SAT administered by the Princeton Review, Saturday, March 3, 9:30 a.m. Registration is required. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Adult Board Games, Sunday,

March 4, 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. Play board games with other adults. Bring one from home or choose one from the library's collection.

Conversational English, Mondays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10 a.m. to noon. For non-native speakers of English who have studied formal English and would like to practice their speaking and listening skills. New members are welcome. Call Carolyn Fantini at 978-475-4602 to register.

Discover Your Past Genealogy Club, Thursday, March 8, 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Practice ACT administered by the Princeton Review, Saturday, March 10, 9:30 a.m. Registration is required. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar.

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

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

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

Zumbini classes with Madison Fugere

Memorial Hall Library will host two Zumbini classes on Saturday, March 24, at 9:15 a.m. and noon.

Created by Zumba and BabyFirst, the Zumbini program combines dance, music and movement for children from birth to age 4.

The class promotes play-based learning and is designed to increase the child's emotional development, cognitive skills, balance and rhythm, and social skills, all while strengthening the bond between caretaker and child.

Space is limited. Register at www.zumbini.com.

Friday morning music

Peter Sheridan will visit the library on Friday, March 16, at 10 a.m.

Popular with preschoolers and families, Sheridan's show features guitar, accordion, harmonica and a variety of other instruments, along with puppets and books.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Registration is required. Register the name of each person attending at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Other events in the Children's Room:

Kids Coloring Craze, Thursday, March 1 and Saturday, March 31, 2:30 p.m. Students in grades three to five who are crazy about coloring may stop by for some coloring fun. Plenty

of coloring pages will be available as well as colored pencils, markers and gel pens. Online registration is required.

In-Be-Tweens: Water Lily Tea Light Holders, Monday, March 5, 4 p.m. Students in grades four and five will use plastic spoons, glue and paint to create a tea light holder. Register online as space is limited.

What Will We Dewey? Program, Tuesday, March 6, 3:30 p.m. Second- and third-graders will explore numbers through stories and activities, using groups of numbers from the Dewey Decimal System. Register online for this program.

Pajama Party, Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6:30 p.m. The 45-minute sessions will include bedtime stories, quiet songs and games, and a short film. Designed for ages 3 to 5 and

their adult caregiver. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

Thinking Thursday, March 8, 3:45 p.m. Kids ages 5 to 8 can share a story, do simple experiments and a craft. Online registration is requested.

AlphaBuddies, Thursday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. Share stories and activities that center around a single letter of the alphabet. For ages 4 and 5 and a favorite adult. Sign up online.

Legomania, Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m. This program is for children ages 5 and up who love to build with Legos. Each child will build on their own base and then share their creation with the group before putting it on display in the Children's Room. Online registration is requested.

Dads and Doughnuts, Saturdays, March 10 and 31, 10

a.m. This story time targets dads and children ages 2 to 5, although all are welcome. Take part in stories, songs, rhymes and a craft, and then have some coffee, juice and doughnuts. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

Board Game Day with the Junior Friends, Wednesday, March 14, 3:30 p.m. Play a variety of board games, card games and word games with the Junior Friends. Geared toward ages 6 and up. Register online as space is limited.

In-Be-Tweens: Flower Pot Bunnies, Thursday, March 15, 4 p.m. Fourth- and fifth-graders can create a flower pot bunny and celebrate the coming of spring. Space is limited. Online registration is requested.

Yoga for Kids, Sunday, March 18. Offered by Stand Tall

Family Yoga, ages 5 to 9 can come to Bigger Yoga at 2 p.m. and walkers to age 5, with a parent or caregiver, can attend Little Yoga at 3 p.m. Space is limited and online registration is required.

Peace Out! Mindful Story Time, Thursday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. Take part in stories, mindfulness, gentle movement and fun, and other calming activities.

Around the World in 30 Minutes, Friday, March 30, 9:30 a.m. Infants to age 5 and their adult caregivers can explore different languages through songs, rhymes, stories and games. For native speakers and those who want to expose their child to different languages and cultures at an early age. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

Avoiding the obstacles to saving money

Financially Speaking

John Spoto



Last week, we talked about the importance of making good financial decisions when planning for retirement. Although people have good intentions about how and when to save, left to their own devices, they fall prey to certain biases when making financial decisions. In this article, we'll address additional obstacles and introduce some solutions to work around these issues.

Self-control. Even those who have the computational skills to solve the problem and recognize the need to save more, many lack the self-control or willpower to reduce current spending in favor of future benefits. There is a constant battle being waged in the human mind between getting an immediate reward and being patient in order to receive a better one in the future.

The lure of instant gratification often trumps making the smart long-term decision.

For those who expect pensions and Social Security to provide sufficient retirement income, self-control plays a minor role because neither requires willpower to save. The employer and government do it by default. Unfortunately, as old-fashioned pension plans disappear and Social Security replaces less of pre-retirement income, fewer Americans find themselves in this category. Each of us is born with the capacity for self-control, some of it genetic, some of it experiential (life-experience, parental influence, etc.), but clearly some are endowed with more than others. Self-control is the personality trait most closely associated with academic achievement, career success, and marital stability. For the retirement saver, a lack of self-control can lead to other behavioral impediments.

Procrastination. Closely associated with self-control, procrastination is the tendency to postpone

unpleasant tasks. Instead of engaging in a goal-achieving activity such as retirement planning that involves complexity and may lead to frustration, people often opt for a stress-relieving activity such as watching a favorite television program. Herbert Simon, another Nobel Laureate, related procrastination to "cognitive laziness" which is the attempt by individuals to avoid the hard work of thinking through a problem.

Inertia. Procrastination in turn produces a related psychological force known as inertia, which is the resistance to change. This resistance often is the consequence of what is known as "loss aversion." This is the tendency of decision-makers to put more emphasis on what they could lose rather than how they might benefit. A key finding of behavioral economics is that people weigh losses significantly more heavily than gains. Some estimates peg the ratio at 2:1. In other words, losses generate twice as much psychological pain as gains yield pleasure.

Loss aversion affects saving decisions because

once households become used to a certain level of take-home pay, they tend to view reductions in that level as a "loss," even when it is the result of increased savings. Compounding the challenge, saving for retirement involves a difficult trade-off between current and future consumption. The evidence is clear that most individuals have a strong preference for the immediate rewards of spending today over the future payoff of enjoying an increased standard of living in retirement.

In our next article, we'll offer some solutions to help improve the chances of securing a comfortable retirement.

John Spoto is the founder of Sentry Financial Planning in Andover and Danvers. For more information, call 978-475-2533 or visit www.sentryfinancialplanning.com.

Koh endorsed by labor unions

By KELSEY BODE
kbode@andovertownsmen.com

Third Congressional District candidate Dan Koh received endorsements from Laborers Local 175 and Laborers Local 609 on Monday.

Koh hopes to succeed Congresswoman Niki Tsongas in the 2018 election. He is one of several Democrats running for the position.

Over 100 people belong to Local 175 in Methuen, and over 500 people belong to Local 609.

"Our members know that Dan will stand up for workers," said Business Manager of Local 175 Michael Gagliardi. "Dan has a detailed plan to create jobs and raise wages throughout the Third District. He will work to build an economy where everyone can get ahead."

Koh has also been endorsed by IBEW Local 96,

IUEC Local 4, Laborers Local 88, Building Wreckers Local 1421, and Operating Engineers Local 4.

"We are proud to support Dan," said Business Manager of Local 609 Christopher Murphy. "Dan has the experience, skills, and commitment to get things done for working families."

Seven unions in total have endorsed Koh.

"I am grateful to have Local 175 and Local 609's support," said Koh. "These two unions work every day to protect workers' rights and expand economic opportunity. The Laborers' apprenticeship program helps provide a pathway to a good-paying job in the construction industry. As Congressman, I will work with local officials, unions, schools, and businesses to scale and expand successful programs that bridge the skills gap."

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfer was recorded recently in town: **36 Oriole Drive, \$1,050,000, Ortlloff RET and Maria E. Ortlloff to Noureddine Hawat.**





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RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Students and parents packed into the Greater Lawrence Tech auditorium on Thursday night during a meeting regarding a rumor of violence there last week.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

school” was false. Lt. Edward Guy, spokesman for the Andover Police Department, said the post was “inappropriate,” but not a threat.

Contentious meeting

At first, Lavoie refused to divulge the nature of the supposed threat.

Jennifer Lopez, mother of a Greater Lawrence Tech student, asked, “What was said in the first post?”

Lavoie said he could not divulge the contents of the post because of confidentiality requirements.

“We are not asking for his name,” Lopez said.

“What was posted?” another woman asked. “We are here for the first post!”

“Give me five minutes,” Lavoie said. He then left the Performing Arts Center, where the meeting was held, to call an attorney.

After returning, he said, “We need to err on the side of caution” before telling the crowd that the post showed

the unidentified student pointing his finger in the air, then pointing it toward the camera.

The post also included these statements: “I like gangs” and “I like firearms,” the superintendent said.

Some parents questioned whether the school properly dealt with the student, who was sent home.

“You are protecting him,” one woman said.

At one point, as tempers flared, Lavoie threatened to end the meeting.

“If you’re not going to be respectful, I’m going to shut down the meeting,” Lavoie said. “I will not be disrespected.”

Training ‘a joke’

The meeting soon turned into a discussion of overall safety at the school.

The superintendent said there is room for improvement in security at the school — though several people credited the receptionist at the main entrance with being very vigilant about who is allowed to get beyond her station.

Lavoie said he will “follow up” on reports that the doors at the school are not always locked.

“Do we need to do it better? Absolutely,” Lavoie said.

David Thompson, who teaches metal fabrication, said training for how to respond to an active shooter needs to be better. Teachers know about drills before they happen, he said.

“Our training is a joke,” he said.

Rob Gomez, whose son Stephen is a senior and studying information technology, appealed for calm and reason.

“Let’s keep our heads about us,” he said. Greater Lawrence Tech will not achieve a safe environment by anger and finger pointing, he said. “We need to come together.”

Gabriela Gonzalez, a junior who is enrolled in the auto body shop, was asked if she feels safe at her school.

“I know they’re (administrators and teachers) doing their best,” she said.

When Greater Lawrence Tech students returned to classes Feb. 26, police officers



Greater Lawrence Tech Superintendent John Lavoie addresses parents and students Thursday night regarding a rumor of violence at the school.

were at the school to guarantee safety.

“I asked the Police Department to add some presence here,” Lavoie told the crowd.

SALAFIA

Continued from Page 1

At one point, he stood up and walked over toward Landry, waving a pen at him as Selectman Dan Kowalski, who sits between the two men on dais, seemed to recoil and then attempt to get between the two men.

Police Chief Patrick Keefe approached the table and attempted to calm the men down, to no avail.

Catcalls from the audience included the word “liar” as Landry continued to read.

In the midst of the argument, Kowalski stood up, gathered his belongings, and left, saying, “I’m not going to be party to this type of behavior.”

He was applauded by several of Salafia’s supporters, including former state Sen. Barry Finegold, a longtime friend and supporter of Salafia’s.

At one point, Salafia offered to resign.

“If my chairmanship is getting in the way of us moving forward together I will happily resign my chairmanship just because I love this town,” Salafia said.

He was met with a mixed response from the crowd. Some shouted out, encouraging him to resign, others begged him not to.

“I won’t do it,” Salafia finally said.

Landry countered that he should resign.

“This board has a leadership problem,” he said. “As a board member, I have no confidence in Selectman Salafia’s ability to lead this board.”

Landry called for the board to vote to appoint Alex Vispoli as chairman until after the March spring election, when a new chairman would be appointed anyway. Neither Vispoli nor Selectman Laura Gregory seconded the motion.

“I think this has been a huge distraction,” Vispoli said. “The people that voted for us are expecting us to do the town’s business. There have been issues on all sides. We cannot operate in this environment. The citizens expect more from this board.”

Later, he added, “We need to move forward. We are going to vote a new chair, vice chair, and secretary the



KELSEY BODE/Staff photo

More than 75 residents attended the Feb. 26 Board of Selectmen meeting. A motion to oust Paul Salafia from his post as chairman failed.

day after the election.” Landry’s motion was never seconded and Salafia remains chairman.

“It’s clear where the board stands,” Landry said. “I called for this agenda item to give the board a chance to show where they stand, and I think now the town can see where they stand. So we’ll just leave it at that.”

Police report

Even after the meeting adjourned, tensions in the room remained high.

Chestnut Street resident Pete Smith said as numerous crowd members shouted out during the meeting, the Salafia brothers made angry faces at him because of his own comments.

“Salafia’s two sons were in the meeting and they were trying to intimidate me, which was a mistake,” Smith said. “I don’t get intimidated. They were leaning against the aisle, giving me menacing looks. I leaned across and gave them a face and gave them the finger.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, Smith said, he was approached by Salafia’s sons.

“I was getting out (of the meeting) and the Salafia brothers got in my face and said, ‘Out in the parking lot, you’re going to regret that,’” Smith said. “After that I was like, get out of my face.”

Salafia said his sons didn’t threaten Smith in Town Offices after the meeting had adjourned. In fact, he said, it’s more like the other way around and that his sons were trying to protect their mother.

“You think my sons might want to protect her from a guy who is much bigger than her?” Salafia asked. “If my sons are protecting my wife and there is no fisticuffs or anything, I’ll own that all day long. That’s what families do. They protect each other. I don’t think for a second he should feel in any way threatened. What he should have done is not F-bomb my wife and throw her the finger. That to me is threatening in itself. It’s school yard bully stuff and that’s not the way you act in a public meeting.”

But the tension level didn’t end there.

Smith also claims that Salafia and one of his son’s followed him home.

Smith lives on Chestnut Street, just a few hundred feet from the Town Offices. He says he walked to the parking lot with a friend, Krystal Solimine of 2 Surrey Lane. She saw Salafia and his son in their car as she and Smith were leaving the parking lot and was worried for Smith’s safety.

When Smith and Krystal got in their cars and pulled out of the Town Offices parking lot, Smith says Salafia’s

car pulled out behind Solimine’s car and followed them to Chestnut Street.

“I said, ‘I won’t stand for this,’” Smith said. “I won’t be scared to go to my house. These people are just bullies. I pulled into my driveway. Krystal took a left and they drove past and went on. She was petrified. She didn’t want to leave me alone.”

Smith reported the incident to police, who called Paul Salafia. He told police he didn’t follow Smith home, and that he didn’t know even what Smith’s car looked like or where he lived. He said he was driving his son, Paul Jr., home to North Andover and Chestnut Street was part of the route he was taking to get there.

Smith remains skeptical. “Maybe he does take that route,” Smith said. “But it’s just an awful lot of coincidences all around. When you start stacking them all up it doesn’t stand all right.”

Andover police investigated the incident and found that Smith had not been followed home, according to police spokesman Lt. Edward Guy.

“Based on the report I have, it was determined the individual who was alleged to follow Smith home has no idea what Smith drives,” Guy said.

He also said the police investigation is over.

Follow Kelsey Bode on Twitter @Kelsey_Bode.

Announcements
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Real Estate
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Rick Petralia
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TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlett Street, the Planning Board will convene public hearings pursuant to Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws on the following proposed amendments to the Andover Zoning By-Law, Article VIII:

- 1. Amend Section 5.2 (Signs) by deleting language from the Bylaw and adding language to the Bylaw.
2. Amend Section 10.0 (Definitions) to include a new definition "Marijuana Establishments."
3. Amend Appendix A Table 1 Section 3.1.3 (Table of Use Regulations) to include a new row "27. Marijuana Establishment."


The Planning Board will also discuss its recommendation with regard to the following warrant article: 1. A warrant article proposing an amendment to Article XII of the Town's General Bylaws, Miscellaneous Bylaws, by adding after Section 48 a new section: Section 49 Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments Not Medically Prescribed. The full text of the proposed amendments and warrant articles may be viewed in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD Austin Simko, Chairman AT - 2/22, 3/1/18




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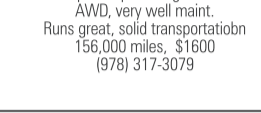
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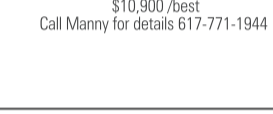
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Sports

ANDOVER IS SUPER

Andover the Super 8 darling, Central the favorite

DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

From the opening days of the preseason, Andover preached one singular goal — to play in the Super 8 tournament.

Now it is a reality. The Golden Warriors (13-5-2) made history on Saturday by earning the school's first ever berth in the elite Super 8 hockey tournament.

That also made them just the second school from the Merrimack Valley Conference to qualify for the elite tournament since it debuted in 1991. Only archrival Central Catholic — a perennial qualifier and the No. 1 seed the winter — had previously earned the honor.

"Happy and proud to announce our selection as the No. 5 seed in this year's Super 8," Warriors coach **Chris Kuchar** said on Twitter. "Speaks volumes of our kids' character and resiliency."

No. 5 Andover was scheduled to take on No. 4 Hingham (12-4-6) at the Tsongas Center in Lowell on Wednesday. The Warriors are guaranteed to play three games in the first round with its round-robin format.

Andover just barely missed out on a Super 8 bid last year, becoming the final team left out of the Super 8 field.

The tournament is historically dominated by Catholic schools, and it is extra hard for a public school to earn a spot. It is even tougher when the school has never qualified before.

How did the Golden Warriors make the Super 8? By simply dominating the late season.

In a four-day stretch from Feb. 17-20, the Warriors took on three other 2018 Super 8 qualifiers. Here are the results:

- Andover 2, Waltham 0
- Andover 2, Arlington 0
- Andover 3, St. John's of Shrewsbury 1

No one has been hotter in the final weeks of the season than Andover goalie **Cole Chingris**. The junior first-year starter posted shutouts in three of the Warriors' final four games, blanking Newburyport to close out the regular season. For the year, Chingris has seven shutouts and a 1.33 goals-against average.

Matt Belluche (9 goals) is Andover's leading scorer, followed by **Michael Feeney** (8 goals) and **Caeden Dillman** (8 goals).

Girls hockey opens Wednesday. The Andover girls hockey team was also set to open the postseason on Wednesday as the No. 22 seed in Division 1.

The Golden Warriors (10-5-5) were scheduled to face No. 11 Lincoln-Sudbury (15-4-1) at the Valley Sports Arena in Concord.

Goalie **Sean D'Urso** (five shutouts) leads Andover into action.



JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photo

Andover player celebrate a goal against Newburyport. The Golden Warriors spread out the offense, not relying on one player for key goals.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Caeden Dillman and Andover dominated down the stretch, and now the Golden Warriors have earned their first Super 8 berth in program history.

On the offensive end **Lily Shannon**, who is just a freshman, led the team with 15 goals. **Emma Gilmarin** and **Callie Wiley** were next best with six each.

The Golden Warriors have reason to believe in a shutout. They dealt No. 3 seed Methuen/Tewksbury its lone loss this winter, and later tied the Red Rangers, who are coached by former Andover star **Sarah Oteri**.

Boys basketball's tough task
Andover fought its way into the

tournament for the 29th time in **Dave Fazio's** 29 years as head coach. But the Golden Warriors faced a massive task in the first round of the Division 1 North tournament. The No. 15 Warriors were scheduled to travel to surging No. 2 Lawrence on Tuesday. The Lancers were 2-0 against Andover this winter.

"We're excited to be back in the tournament," said Fazio. "But we are going against the most talented team in Massachusetts. We're excited to compete against



JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photo

Andover's Samual Murray checks a Newburyport player into the penalty box last week. The Golden Warriors' fierce defense is a big reason they are in the Super 8.

the best." Andover junior **Emmett Kim** has stepped into the go-to role and is averaging 15.9 points including 45 3-pointers. Right behind him is **Kyle Rucker** (14.9 ppg), and three-sport star **Cedric Gillette** always has the potential for a big game, like his 20 point night in a recent loss to Central Catholic.

Girls hoops eyes upset

The Andover girls basketball team was also scheduled to open

play on Wednesday. The No. 12 seed Golden Warriors were traveling to No. 5 Revere.

Gia Bramanti leads the Golden Warriors at 12.8 points per game, including 34 3-pointers. She is followed by classmate **Taylor Landry** (9.5 ppg).

The Warrior headed into the postseason at 10-10 under first-year head coach **Alan Hibino**.

Contact David Willis at @DWillisET.

Girls relay wins All-State track crown

GIRLS TRACK

The Andover High girls 4x200 squad won the All-State title Saturday at the Reggie Lewis Track.

The team of seniors **Ally Bennett** and **Hannah Lansberry** and juniors **Delia Barbanti** and **Hope Joel** ran a 1:44.29 to edge Wachusett, which crossed the line in 1:44.61.

That was slightly off their Division 1 States-winning time of 1:43.84, which ranks them seventh all-time in the state.

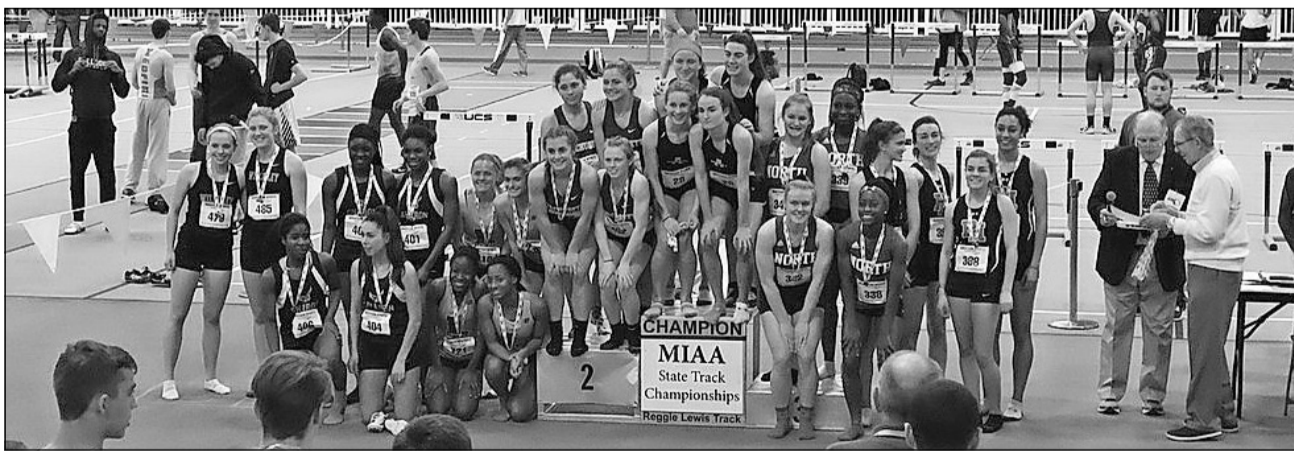
Lansberry, Grace Dunn, Julianna Kennedy and **Barbanti** came back for a second in the 4x400. Their time of 3:58.18 is 20th all-time indoors in Massachusetts and second-best ever by a Golden Warrior quartet indoors.

The Warriors tied for sixth as a team with 20 points. Andover's lone individual placer was Kennedy with a seventh in the 600.

BOYS TRACK

Pascoe takes silver

Alec Pascoe added his name to the glorious Andover High hurdles tradition with a 7.75 in the 55-meter hurdles, good for second



Courtesy photo

The Andover 4x200 relay crowd on top of the podium after winning the All-State title on Feb. 24.

at indoor All-States on Saturday. That times was just off his season best of 7.74 in the prelims at the MVC Championships. Pascoe ran a 15.26 in the highs last spring.

Woburn senior **Elisha George** was victorious Saturday in 7.70.

Fellow Golden Warrior **Devin Connell** was fourth in the 1,000 in 2:30.96.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Shootout thriller

Andover won a shootout over powerhouse Duxbury to advance to the finals

of the Hingham Showcase last Tuesday. It was 1-1 in regulation (**Lily Shannon** scored on Andover's first shot of the game). The Golden Warriors took the shootout 2-1. **Sean D'Urso** finished 18 saves and stopped all five shots in the shootout.

Host Hingham broke a scoreless tie early in the third but Andover would pull out a pulsating 2-1 win last Thursday in the finals of the Hingham Showcase. **Lily Shannon** scored with 1:36 to go and then **Callie Wiley**

netted the game-winner with just 17 seconds left. **Sean D'Urso** stopped 23 shots. D'Urso and Wiley were Andover's co-MVPs for the tourney.

BOYS HOCKEY

Domination continues

Cole Chingris made 20 saves for his third shutout in four games, and Andover ended the regular season with a bang, blanking Newburyport 4-0 in the Newburyport Bank Classic on Friday.

Andrew King, Jake Lachance, Matt Belluche and **Caeden**

Dillman each netted a goal, with Lachance and Belluche each adding an assist.

"You want to play your best hockey headed into the tournament," said Andover coach **Chris Kuchar**. "We played four good teams and got the three shutouts. To do that against those caliber hockey teams, there's still more to come."

Caeden Dillman had the natural hat trick in the first period and Andover continued to play some of the best hockey in the state with a

3-1 win over St. John's of Shrewsbury last Tuesday. Dillman scored just 23 seconds in and had two in four minutes.

Andover surged past defending Super 8 champion Arlington 2-0 last Monday in the second game since the return of coach **Chris Kuchar** from suspension. **Matt Belluche** and **Caeden Dillman** each scored a goal while **Cole Chingris** made 25 saves for the shutout.

Girls basketball

Kim heats up

Emmett Kim sank five of Andover's nine 3-pointers and poured in 24 points as Andover held off Marlboro 53-52 to close out the regular season last Monday. **Kyle Rucker** added 12 points for the winners.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Warriors fall short

Andover dropped its regular season finale to Mt. Wachusett 62-38 last Monday. **Shea Krekorian** scored eight points for the Warriors.

To Get Your Full Local Forecast, Go To <http://www.Andovertownsmen.com>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Cooler	Bit of rain, snow	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Rain and snow	Snow possible
High: 54° Low: 39°	High: 40° Low: 35°	High: 42° Low: 32°	High: 41° Low: 30°	High: 41° Low: 29°	High: 44° Low: 33°	High: 43° Low: 31°



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Andona scholarship offered while two schools get grants

Andona's 2018 scholarship program is open and accepting applications until March 1. The group provides five \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors who live in town every year. Eligible applicants must be ranked in the upper 50 percent of their high school class and have plans to continue their education after

graduation from high school. One of the five scholarships is awarded to a senior who receives special education services. The Scholarship Committee reviews each applicant's academic performance, community involvement, extracurricular and employment activities, and character. Students interested in

applying can learn more at andona.org/scholarships. Andona, now in its 65th year, is a non-profit run by volunteers who are dedicated to raising money to support Andover youth. Since its founding, the women of Andona have raised over \$1 million for Andover families. Most recently, the Andona membership awarded six

grants to support Andover students across town. Grant recipients include A Better Chance for a health and wellness program, Andover High School's girls basketball and hockey programs, AHS Senior Safari celebration and art programs at the Essex Arts Center in Lawrence. The membership also

awarded a grant to Aaron's Presents, a non-profit organization with the mission of "inspiring kids to give of themselves for the good of the world." The grant will support ongoing after school programs at Sanborn and West Middle schools in Andover. More than \$4,000 will be awarded to those schools.

Plans for Andona's biggest fundraiser — Clown Town — are well underway. The carnival will be held Friday, May 18, from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Andona is seeking adult and student volunteers. Anyone interested in helping out, or businesses interested in sponsoring, can visit www.andona.org to learn more.

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