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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 44

AUGUST 30, 2018

\$1.00

Philips to transfer 280 workers out of Andover

BY PAUL TENNANT
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ANDOVER — Philips Healthcare announced it is moving another 280 jobs out of its Andover facility, leaving the company's future in town in doubt.

The medical electronics manufacturer said 120 jobs will be transferred from the 3000 Minuteman Road plant to the company's Reedsville, Pennsylvania, facility. Another 160 jobs will be shifted to Philips' new North American headquarters in Cambridge.

The moves will actually take place in 2020, according to Silvie Casanova, director of communications for the company. The moves are part of a consolidation of Philips' ultrasound business.



Philips Medical, at 3000 Minuteman Road, is shipping more jobs out of state.

Philips previously announced the transfer of 1,900 jobs out of the local facility in January. Most of those positions went to Cambridge, but some

were transferred to the Philips plant in Nashville, Tennessee. Most of the employees whose jobs are heading for Reedsville "will have the

opportunity to transition with their role," Casanova said.

"It's disappointing," said Alex Vispoli, chairman of the Board of Selectmen. "We were told that the ultrasound division would stay in Andover."

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan and Paul Materazzo, the town's director of planning, have been meeting regularly with Philips executives to see if there was anything the town could do to keep the jobs in Andover, Vispoli said.

Philips executives were "very open" about their intent to move their operations to the new corporate headquarters, he said.

Philips has been manufacturing ultrasound transducers at the Andover plant for several years and has

employed as many as 2,200 people.

"Ultrasound employees whose roles require closer collaboration and proximity to customers, partners, academic institutions and technology leaders so that we can truly partner and co-create solutions for the future of health care will transfer to Philips' new location at Cambridge Crossing," Casanova said.

Asked how many jobs will remain in Andover, Casanova said she did not immediately have that information. Vispoli said it appears few if any Philips employees will continue working in Andover.

"It will be a big hole to fill," he said. The company owns 140 acres on Minuteman Road. It would certainly be in Philips' interest to either sell

the property to another company or lease it, he pointed out.

Philips, a worldwide health technology corporation, was established in the Netherlands in 1891. For many years, the corporation manufactured lighting.

More recently, Philips has moved away from lighting and concentrated more on medical technology, Casanova said. Besides ultrasound transducers, the company also makes MRI machines, CT scanners, patient monitoring systems and other medical devices.

Philips employs about 20,000 people in North America, according to Casanova. Worldwide, the company has about 105,000 employees, according to a Philips website.

Speed limit may drop to 25 mph

BY JESSICA VALERIANI
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Watch out lead-foots, the speed limit may be going down in town.

Last week, police officials presented the Board of Selectmen with a proposal to possibly lower the speed limits on certain roads around the community.

Until the state Legislature passed a law in 2017 allowing local control over speed limits, the speed on most roads in congested areas was a state-mandated 30 mph.

Now, local authorities have the option of dropping that limit to 25 mph.

Police Chief Patrick Keefe, along with Safety Officer Glen Ota and Sgt. Chuck Edgerly, presented an overview of what the changes could potentially be.

Keefe said if Andover were to make the changes, they would probably do it by neighborhood as opposed to street by street.

The changes, he said, would apply to "non-posted, thickly settled areas. Dropping those from 30 to 25."

There are currently 33 towns that have made changes to their speed limits.

"Roughly 100,000 vehicles travel through town a day, without the highways," said Ota.

Keefe said Andover does not have any problems relating to town speed limits right now.

See MPH, Page 2



Andover Police Sgt. Chuck Edgerly stands in front of a speed limit sign on Chestnut Street.

AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo.



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Protestors line North Main Street in Andover.

Pols protest Baker at Lyons fundraiser

BY KIERA BLESSING
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ANDOVER — A small group of about 30-40 protesters gathered at the base of the Lanam Club's driveway Monday evening to object to Gov. Charlie Baker's presence at a fundraiser for state Rep. Jim Lyons, R-Andover.

The crowd, donning signs and stickers for Democratic candidates ranging from Lyons' challenger, Tram Nguyen, to gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez, held blue campaign signs as well as handmade signs declaring Baker, a moderate Republican, a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

The protesters' main concern was Lyons' history of not supporting — or even working to undo — protections for the LGBT community, especially transgender people. Lyons is currently backing a referendum on the 2018 ballot that has the potential to repeal the transgender protection bill passed in 2016, widely known as the "bathroom bill," the passage of which allowed transgender individuals to use public

bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond to their gender identity.

The protest was organized by Gonzalez's campaign in an effort to highlight what he described as Baker's hypocrisy.

"You have to watch the difference between what Gov. Baker says and what we does. And by being here, to actively help Jim Lyons get reelected to the Statehouse, Gov. Baker is actively working against ... basic rights for transgender people. He is actively working against banning the horrific practice of gay conversion therapy."

Among the candidates who came out to the protest were Gonzalez, Nguyen, 3rd congressional district candidate Alexandra Chandler and state Sen. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover, as well as gubernatorial candidate Bob Massie.

Lyons and Baker did not respond to the protest, which had largely broken up by 7 p.m. The fundraising event was closed to the press, who were asked to leave the Lanam property.

Chandler, a transgender See BAKER, Page 3

Berman: Enrollment up but class sizes stable

BY JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

The School Committee last week discussed how they planned to handle the increased enrollment in Andover public schools.

Superintendent Sheldon Berman said the district gained 110 students over projections, including 52 more at the elementary level, an additional 34 students at the middle school level, and 24 new pupils at the high school.

Berman told the committee that the increase is being driven by demographic changes in Andover.

A 7 percent increase in home sales in Andover is a big reason for this higher number of enrolled students. Berman said that as more senior citizens are moving out of their larger homes, those homes are going to families with children.

Despite the increased enrollment, School Committee member Joel Blumstein said the budget cannot increase.

"Our budget is our budget, and we are required to and will stay in that budget," he said.

Berman said a lot of the decisions were made in See SCHOOL, Page 2

School district hires 5 new administrators

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

As school opened this week, the district not only welcomed new students but also a number of new administrators.

"Three of our administrators, including our assistant superintendent, join us from the Lexington Public School District," school Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman said in an e-mail. "Additionally, 27 new teachers will join us for their first year at APS."

Berman stressed that the positions aren't new, only the people are.

Sandra Trach, assistant superintendent for Teaching and Learning, came from Lexington Public Schools, where she has served as principal of the Joseph Estabrook Elementary School since 2009. Previously, Trach was principal of the Woodside Elementary School in Topsham, Maine, from 2002 to 2009. She was also the Special Education Team Chair and 504 Coordinator for the Portland Public Schools from 1999-2002. Trach has seven years of classroom and special education See FIVE, Page 2

See FIVE, Page 2

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FIVE

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experience as an elementary school teacher in Maine and Massachusetts.

Trach earned her B.S. in Special Education from Boston University, and her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Maine. She is the author of an upcoming book on leadership that will be published by Corwin Press and has written numerous articles.

Sara Calleja, the new Literacy Program coordinator, previously worked as a principal intern at High Plain Elementary. Most recently, she served as the assistant principal for Instructional Leadership and Teaching at the Witchcraft Heights

Elementary School in Salem, Massachusetts. Additionally, Calleja served as a Literacy Coach for the Lawrence School District. Finally, she taught first, third and fifth grades and served as an academic coordinator for the New York City Public Schools.

She is a graduate of New York University, and earned a Masters of Arts in Curriculum in Teaching at the Teachers College of Columbia University and a Masters of Education in School Leadership from the Harvard Graduate Schools of Education where she received the 2016-2017 Leadership in Education award.

Andrea Taddeo, the new assistant principal at Bancroft Elementary School, has more than 25 years of classroom experience,

having been a grade four teacher in the Chelsea Public Schools and most recently, the Lexington Public School District.

She earned a Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts and a Masters in Organizational Management from Endicott College and holds numerous credits from a variety of other colleges.

As a leader in curriculum, professional development and organizational leadership, Andrea is certified with a Massachusetts Administrator License, Massachusetts Teacher Certifications in Elementary Education, and Massachusetts Teachers Certification in Early Childhood Education.

Kathleen Caron, assistant principal for South Elementary School, joins Andover

Public Schools after serving 10 years as a Special Education reading teacher at the Bowman Elementary School in Lexington Public School District, working with students with moderate to severe dyslexia. She received administration certification from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, graduated Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Moderate Special Needs. She earned her Masters in Reading Education from Boston University.

Nicole Kieser, director of communications, has nearly 20 years of experience as a communications professional. As a former journalist and television newsroom manager her expertise includes crisis management, strategic communication

campaigns, project management, event planning and logistics, media and message training.

In 2016, Nicole began consulting for a variety of clients, including the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Previously, Nicole worked as senior vice president for CGPR Public Relations, managing public relations strategies on all national outdoor, lifestyle accounts, including adidas Outdoor, W.L. Gore, and LifeStraw. In addition, Kieser served as vice president for news operations/director of television relations at Regan Communications Group in Boston, Mass.

In her time as a journalist, Nicole was the planning manager at Fox 25 News,

leading coverage of major news events and supervising the segment producers and digital team. Prior to Fox 25 News, she worked as the assignment manager at New England Cable News. Throughout her career, Nicole has witnessed and covered historical events such as the Boston Marathon bombings, the capture and trial of James 'Whitey' Bulger, Pope Francis' visit to the U.S., New England Patriots Super Bowl wins, Boston Red Sox World Series victories, and numerous state and national elections. Nicole graduated from Emerson College in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and Television News Production and is a member of the Board of Overseers for Salem State University since 2012.

MPH

Continued from Page 1

He said accident reports have been pretty standard for the past five years, and they have reported between 550 to 650 crashes per year.

So why change the speed limits now?

"I'm assuming the law came about for a reason," noted Selectman Annie Gilbert.

Ota said the law came about due to a Boston request.

Keefe added that "more densely populated areas really wanted this change and to have the option of dropping down 5 mph. It was just a feeling of making a safer environment for kids and giving them that satisfaction."

Not everyone was happy

with the proposed change.

Mike Roli of College Drive said when he comes down the hill into Andover from Phillips Academy, "I'm going 30, and I think that's a reasonable speed, but then it goes to 25, and it's like death."

"I just don't consider that a reasonable speed," added Roli. "I think 30 mph is a fair speed, as long as people stick with it."

Keefe said he would reach out to Danvers, a community with similar types of roads, "to see why they made the changes to some of their roads" and to "see their process and their course of action."

Edgerly said it's really up to the selectmen whether they want to adopt the law or not. "I personally think it's a good idea in the more built up districts," said Edgerly.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

early summer, when parents were registering for full day kindergarten. "If people register early, they get a discount. So a lot of them do."

A projection of 363 kindergarten students was made for the school year. As of Tuesday, there are 406 kindergarten students.

"We usually have about 60 - 80 kids choose half day kindergarten," said Berman, adding "this year we only had about 40."

There are also about 20 more students in full day kindergarten than expected.

The money from full day kindergarten, which is a fee of \$3,975, created a budget to fund additional teachers. Two and a half kindergarten teachers were added across the district for this year.

That two and a half will be divided between High Plain, West Elementary, and South.

One of those two and a half was an instructional assistant already in the school system who is now becoming a permanent kindergarten substitute.

Berman said the enrollment

for first grade was also higher than anticipated. Of those two and a half, one of them who was already in the school system became a first grade teacher.

Nicole Kieser, Director of Communications for Andover Public Schools, said "It was really just a shift of resources."

Kieser also said the student teacher ratio will be similar to what it has been the past two years.

The committee will try to stay within the class sizes set by policy. For example, first- and second-grade classes

should not exceed 23 students. "Fortunately, we have been able to maintain class sizes and the student-teacher ratio will be similar to the last two years," Berman wrote.

The committee also discussed the addition of a special education position, as there has been an increase in the number of special education students as part of the overall increase in student enrollment.

Berman said the funding for this additional position is available in the budget, since no new positions are being added.

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY TEENS

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

Upcoming events at the library include:

Free practice SAT, ACT exams

The Princeton Review will administer a practice SAT

exam on Saturday, Sept. 15 and a practice ACT exam on Saturday, Sept. 22. Both exams will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Teens should bring a pencil and a calculator that is not a phone. These are full-length tests, so teens should bring snacks. Scores will be sent by email.

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**Merrimack River tainted by sewage
Mid-August storm caused overflows**

By JACK SHEA
Staff writer

New numbers on the release of untreated sewage into the Merrimack River reveal the overflows connected to a mid-August rainstorm were at least twice as bad as earlier reported.

Tuesday, the treatment plant that serves a number of communities in the greater Lowell area reported it released a total of 26.2 million gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater during the rainstorm of Aug. 9-12. Of that amount, 24.5 million gallons were released on Aug. 11 alone.

The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District reported shortly after the storm that it released 26 million gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater through outfall pipes along the Merrimack River. The district serves Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Dracut, Methuen

and Salem, New Hampshire.

According to the Merrimack River Watershed Council, a Lawrence-based watchdog group, the new figures from Lowell bring the total of sewage that was dumped from Aug. 9-12 to at least 52 million gallons, the largest recorded dumping of sewage into the Merrimack in 2018.

Treatment plants in Haverhill and Nashua, New Hampshire, also reported releases of untreated sewage and stormwater through their outfall pipes during the mid-August storm. The amounts released from the two plants have not been reported.

The watershed council said data is also currently missing from the Manchester, New Hampshire, plant, which has historically released the most sewage into the Merrimack, yet only publicly releases its overflow figures once a year, in January.

The plants periodically release sewage and wastewater into the Merrimack during rainstorms when street drains and sewage pipes become overwhelmed by the volume of stormwater and sewage. The problem occurs because the same pipes collect both sewage and runoff water from storms.

The releases, called combined sewage overflows, come from relief pipes in the municipal systems that funnel the untreated wastewater directly into the Merrimack.

The plants along the Merrimack River are under federal consent orders are requiring them to fix the combined sewage overflows over a period of one to two decades, due to the high cost of re-engineering and building new systems.

The MRWC said combined sewage overflow events have a "measurable adverse impact on the health of people and

animals," citing a 2015 study that found Merrimack Valley hospitals see a significant spike in the number of emergency room patients in the days after the events. Data collected by the EPA also indicates drops in dissolved oxygen levels in the river's water after the events, which can cause fish die-offs.

Rusty Russell, executive director for MRWC, noted the recent discharges of sewage into the river and related the issue to climate change, saying that it will only get worse over time.

"Obviously there's a lot more work that needs to be done to address the problem of sewage spills in the Merrimack," said Russell. "As you're seeing more sudden rainstorms, you're drawn to conclude that we're seeing the effects of the changing climate, and we're going to see more of this happen."

Ex-Sheriff Cousins left jail budget a mess

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Former Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins' administration lacked adequate financial controls to prevent theft and loss,

putting taxpayers at risk of losing millions of dollars, according to a newly released audit.

A report by State Auditor Suzanne Bump's office released Monday uncovered "numerous deficiencies in operations" including a lack of documentation for procurements by the sheriff's office of more than \$1 million between July 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2016, when Cousins left the post.

"As a result, the commonwealth cannot be certain that these procurements were conducted openly and fairly or that (the Essex County Sheriff Department) obtained these goods and services at the best possible value," the audit stated.

The report found the office under Cousins failed to conduct regular inventories of assets and implement a risk assessment plan to prevent theft and loss.

The sheriff's office also didn't collect a 10 percent fee for many police details under Cousins' tenure, or report the loss of \$624 of inmate funds that was the subject of a 2016 internal affairs investigation.

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, a Democrat who replaced Cousins in January 2017, wrote in a response to the audit that he has taken numerous steps to improve financial accountability since taking the helm.

The audit also pointed out that the sheriff's office has been underfunded by the state Legislature in recent years, requiring supplemental budgets halfway through the year to meet expenses.

"Despite (the Essex County Sheriff Department's) efforts to cut spending, funding levels are consistently non-commensurate with our operational needs," Coppinger wrote.

Coppinger said he requested the audit to get a better handle on the finances and operations of the sheriff's office after taking it over.

He declared a fiscal emergency last year, which led to reductions in overtime and other cost-cutting initiatives. "As the new guy on the block, I really wanted to know what I'm looking at in terms of the finances and operations," he said Monday. "There weren't any bombs in it, but they found a few glitches."

Bump is expected to visit the sheriff's office in Middleton on Tuesday to discuss the findings and

tour a women's detox unit. Cousins, a Republican, was appointed to run the department in 1996 by then-Gov. William Weld. He subsequently was elected to three, six-year terms.

He decided not to run for re-election in November 2016, leaving amid controversy over the finances of the agency. He now serves as president of the Chamber of Commerce in Newburyport, where he lives.

Last December, a scathing report by state Inspector General Glenn Cunha uncovered widespread abuses of sick time among employees under Cousins' tenure. The report determined he had encouraged at least 82 employees to call in sick on days when they were healthy — often using the time to work other jobs — or to claim holiday and vacation time they were not entitled to between 2009 and 2016, costing taxpayers nearly \$1.1 million.

Cousins wasn't criminally implicated, and the attorney general has not sought to recoup the money paid to those employees.

Bump's audit didn't look at sick time abuse. The sheriff's office, which oversees the roughly 1,500-inmate Middleton House of Correction, operates on a nearly \$70 million budget with about 600 employees.

Christian Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for the North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Reach him at cwade@cnhi.com.

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ABOVE and BELOW; Protestors line North Main Street in Andover.



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez, center, speaks with protestors.

BAKER

Continued from Page 1

woman, said she came to the event to stand “in solidarity” with those protesting.

“For myself, it’s particularly poignant in that I am an openly transgender woman,” she said, noting that she transitioned 12 years ago while working for the Office of Naval Intelligence under President George W. Bush. “The fact that we still have relics of the past who haven’t seemed to have gotten the message of the last 12 years, that we are past this type of ignorance and hate and fear in our politics and in our culture, is just maddening to me.”

Nguyen, a political newcomer challenging Lyons for his seat, said she became interested in politics while working as an attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services, a nonprofit that provides free legal assistance and representation

to low-income families to help them secure basic needs like housing and job protection.

“This is about community values, and Jim does not share the values of this community,” Nguyen said. “The governor also prides himself on working across the aisle, building a bipartisan coalition, and this is not something that Lyons has been able to do, and in fact, he hasn’t been able to work with even other Republicans, let alone the Democratic majority,” she added. “And I find that very, very concerning that the governor is out here supporting such an extreme person.”

In addition to concerns about Lyons’ relationship with the LGBT community, the protesters expressed dismay with his attitude toward immigrants, abortion and the state budget, which he has repeatedly voted against.

Among those also protesting were campaign staffers and citizens

concerned about Lyons’ anti-LGBT agenda. Aldebran Longabaugh-Burg, whose son is transgender, said she was there out of frustration with Baker’s inaccessibility to herself and fellow pro-transgender-rights activists.

“His door was closed to us,” she said. “He’s here to fundraise for hate.”

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Andover's Dan Koh moves ahead in race for Congress

By KIERA BLESSING
Staff Writer



Daniel Koh

With the primary election about a week away, Dan Koh has taken the lead in the race for the 3rd Congressional District with 19 percent of the vote, according to a new poll released by UMass-Lowell Thursday.

While he has maintained a significantly larger bank account than his rivals throughout the campaign, Koh was tied for fourth place at just 4 percent in the last poll released by the university in April. He has since jumped 15 points, now leading Rufus Gifford and state Sen. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover, who are tied for second place with 13 percent of the vote.

"I think it is more likely than not that Koh, L'Italien or Gifford will eventually win, but at the same time, I think — what the poll really shows is the effect of a race where the only thing that matters is the campaign," said John Cluverius, associate director

of the Center for Public Opinion and assistant professor of political science at UMass-Lowell. "And I don't even mean the message. I mean getting eyeballs on your candidate, talking to voters on the phone and at the doors. The actual conduct of the campaign is what's driving these effects in the race."

Lori Trahan came in fourth with 8 percent of voters' support in the UMass Lowell-Boston Globe poll that closed on Aug. 21; but since then, she's racked up several key newspaper endorsements, from her hometown newspaper The Sun in Lowell to the Boston Herald.

Cluverius said newspaper endorsements are typically a "really soft push" on voters, but said they could have a more profound impact in this race, where the candidates

are so many and so similar that voters are experiencing information overload.

"I think there's the potential for there to be more impact of that kind of news endorsement here than perhaps in a lot of other primary elections, but that's because there's so few other things that separate the candidates from one another," Cluverius said. "You do see endorsements have an effect on people who are planning to vote anyway, but are undecided."

In this race, the undecided voters are many. Twenty-nine percent of voters have not yet chosen a candidate, and while that number is down from the 60 percent of voters who were undecided in April, there is "evidence that the large field of candidates is making the choice difficult," according to the statement released with the poll.

Cluverius said the poll shows "the only fundamental" driver affecting the race is fundraising, but even that is "not affecting it to the

"I think it is more likely than not that Koh, L'Italien or Gifford will eventually win, but at the same time, I think — what the poll really shows is the effect of a race where the only thing that matters is the campaign."

John Cluverius, associate director of the Center for Public Opinion and assistant professor of political science at UMass-Lowell

intensity we would expect." What has been launching the top three candidates to their levels of success has been their connection and communication with voters, Cluverius said — and that is likely to be affected by the date of the election, the Tuesday after Labor Day.

"All else equal, the selection

of that date has a negative effect on turnout," Cluverius said. He pointed to the fact that many voters will be traveling the weekend before the vote, making it difficult for candidates to make their final push. Not being able to reach the electorate that weekend will be a "huge challenge," he said.

The margin of error for the poll is 5.2 percent. While Cluverius predicted one of the top three candidates coming out victorious on Sept. 4, he says any result is still possible.

"Koh's lead is not huge," Cluverius said. And even candidates with lower polling numbers — like Juana Matias at 6 percent, Alexandra Chandler at 4 percent, Jeff Ballinger and Beej Das tied at 2 percent and Leonard Golder and Bopha Malone tied at 1 percent — a win is not impossible.

"One of the things that could happen is a new event that focuses the race in an interesting way," Cluverius said, like an attack by

President Donald Trump on immigrants or women in Congress. "That, I think, changes the dynamic, because when Democrats go to the polls, they might be thinking about who they want to represent them, and the things that popped most in the poll — in the characteristics people wanted — is someone to stand up to Donald Trump."

Fifty-one percent of the voters polled said that standing up to the president is the characteristic they most valued in a candidate. Eighteen percent prioritized candidates who have not taken campaign money from lobbyists or political action committees, and 15 percent want their representative to be someone who has lived in the district for most of his or her life.

In that regard, Cluverius said L'Italien stands a good chance, as "the person who was most well-known prior to the start of the campaign ... the person who voters are most used to voting for in the district."

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

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

Chinese Language Story Time, Saturday, Sept. 8, 11:15 a.m. Infants to age 6 can enjoy Chinese stories, songs and simple crafts in the Activity Room. Email andover-ma@chinese-storytime.org for more information.

Night Readers, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. The group will discuss "Hello Universe" by Erin Entrada Kelly. Open to ages 9 to 12 and a favorite adult. Attendees should request

and read the book beforehand. Register online at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Junior Friends, Wednesdays, Sept. 12 and 19, 3:45 p.m. Group members, made up of ages 8 to 11, plan programs and do small projects to help the Children's Room. For more information, call 978-623-8401, ext. 39 or email kbelczyk@mhl.org.

Make It Take It Tuesday, Sept. 18 and 25, 6:30 p.m. This drop-in craft program is geared toward ages 3 and up and their adult caregivers. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

AlphaBuddies, Thursday, Sept. 20, 1:30 p.m. Share stories and activities about one letter of the alphabet. Designed for ages 4 to 5 and an adult. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Thinking Thursday, Sept. 20, 3:45 p.m. Kids, ages 5 to 8, can share a story, do simple experiments and create a craft to take home.

Register at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Preschool Music with Peter Sheridan, Friday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. Register online at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Legomania, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m. This program is for 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.

Reading with Annie, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Annie is a therapy dog who loves to be read to. Children who are able to read on their own are encouraged to sign up for a 15-minute session with Annie. Only the child who is reading is allowed in the room with Annie and her handler. Register online at www.mhl.org/calendar.

In-Be-Tweens: Create a Sunflower Card, Thursday, Sept. 27, 4 p.m. Open to students

in grades four and five. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Around the World in 30 Minutes, Friday, Sept. 28, 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.

Dads and Doughnuts, Saturday, Sept. 29, 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.

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

First meeting for new town clerk/strategy officer

City Hall Notebook

Jessica Valeriani



Austin Simko, Andover's new town clerk and chief strategy officer, attended his first Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, Aug. 20.

Selectmen Alex Vispoli welcomed Simko to the meeting, and Simko said he was happy to be there. Simko started the position on July 31, and will be paid an annual salary of \$120,000.

"I very much enjoyed my first meeting as Town Clerk and Chief Strategy Officer," said Simko, adding that he was happy to be able to contribute on a few issues and looks forward to

contributing more. The role of Chief Strategy Officer is new to town, and Simko said it will require him to facilitate strategic planning and contribute to initiatives of strategic importance.

The board of selectmen welcomed Neil Magenheimer, Andover's new Planning Board Member, at their meeting on Monday.

The potential for joining an opioid lawsuit was discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday.

"Everybody has a problem with opioids," said town counsel Tom Urbelis. "Across the country, people, including states and municipalities, are suing manufacturers and distributors (of prescription opioids) for the monetary damages that they suffer because of opioid addiction." Urbelis added these monetary damages include things like narcotic costs and personnel costs.

Selectmen Alex Vispoli said the board decided to have town manager Andrew Flanagan find more background information before they made any decisions.

"It appears all towns are doing this," said Vispoli. However, he said the board was questioning the purpose and need for the litigation.

He said more information from Flanagan should be received within 30 days.

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OBITUARIES

Mr. Gregory S. Gryllakis, 48

January 25, 1970 - August 22, 2018
Beloved Husband, Father, Son

ANDOVER — Mr. Gregory S. Gryllakis, a resident of Andover, and beloved husband of Sarah P. Meier, passed away, suddenly, in North Carolina. He was 48 years old.

Greg was born in San Francisco, the beloved son of Manos and his wife Irene Gryllakis of Crete, and the late Stella Prenares. Greg was raised in Lexington and was a cum laude graduate of Northeastern University, class of 1993. He earned his MBA from Suffolk University. Greg had been employed as an Equity Trader for Fidelity for many years.

With a warm, welcoming, and outgoing personality, Greg was loved by all who knew him. He was a man who embodied the motto, carpe diem. He was devoted to his family and friends. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing with his girls, celebrating his children's accomplishments, working on and admiring all types of cars, biking, traveling with his family and friends, playing soccer and coaching his daughters' soccer teams. Greg was a ten-year rider the with Pan-Mass Challenge Ride; collectively his bike team, Team Longevity, has raised close to one-million dollars for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. An avid outdoors person who sought all kinds of adventures, he loved spending time in Vermont, skiing, snowboarding, fishing, and hunting. Greg loved his classmates from high school and college. He was a kind, gentle, and thoughtful friend. Either upon just meeting or knowing Greg for years, one noticed immediately his special gift; his astounding ability to make one feel special, accepted and loved. To know Greg is to love him. He will be deeply and dearly missed.



Mr. Gregory S. Gryllakis

Besides his beloved wife, Sarah, Greg is survived by his loving daughters, Emily H., Chloe A. and Stella C. Gryllakis, all of Andover; sister, Anne and her husband Eric Roberts of Highland Park, Illinois; father-in-law and mother-in-law; Deri and Suzanne Meier of Waitsfield, Vermont; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; Timothy F. Meier of Hudson, Linda Oland and Austin Delaney of Toronto, Victor and Fiona Oland of Toronto, and Heather Oland and Robin Delisle of British Columbia; nieces and nephew, Moriah, Mateja, and Eric Roberts, and many cousins.

ARRANGEMENTS: His funeral Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, 71 Chandler Road, Andover, on Friday, August 31, at 10 a.m. Calling hours will be held in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover, on Thursday, August 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. Donations in Greg's memory may be made to a cause close to his heart, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, www.nationalmssociety.org/Donate, or National MS Society, P.O. Box 4527, New York, NY 10163. For more information, please visit www.burkemagliozi.com.

Vera Konjoian

September 22, 1929 - August 21, 2018
LOVING AND CARING WOMAN

ANDOVER — Vera (Hagopian) Konjoian of Andover, 88, passed away peacefully on Monday, August 21, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 22, 1929, daughter of Peter and Julia Hagopian, who owned a farm on Chandler Road in West Andover where Vera was born.

As a child, Vera and her sisters worked effortlessly on the farm alongside her parents growing and nurturing flowers, plants and vegetables. In 1948, Vera married Michael Konjoian, and together they built their first greenhouse and created a thriving flower business whose reputation achieved national recognition. Vera and her husband raised three sons, David, Peter, and Michael. The environment they created drew all three of their sons back to the farm and they worked together as a family continuing to build the business that is still in operation today.

Surviving family members include her loving sons, David and wife Rosalie, Peter and wife Tama, and Michael Jr.; seven cherished grandchildren, Matthew, Brett, Jonathan, Bristol, Julianne, Jenni-



fer and Michael; and she was lucky enough to enjoy her four great-grandchildren, Margot, Eloise, Bennett, and Sadie.

ARRANGEMENTS: Vera was laid to rest in the Konjoian Family Lot of West Parish Cemetery, Andover. Contributions may be made in Vera's memory to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by Driscoll Funeral Home, 309 So. Main Street, Haverhill. For guest-book, please visit www.driscollcares.com.



ARRANGEMENTS: Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend funeral services in celebration of Edward's life in the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody Street, Waltham, on Tuesday morning, August 28, at 11 a.m. Visiting hours will be held in the Mary Catherine Chapel prior to the funeral service on Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waltham.

Edward J. Donahue Jr., 75

June 24, 1943 - August 17, 2018

WAREHAM, MA — Edward J. Donahue Jr., of Wareham, passed away peacefully in his sleep early Friday morning, August 17, 2018, in his home, after a long illness at the age of 75.

Born on June 24, 1943, in Everett; son of the late Edward J. Donahue Sr. and Ruth (Collins) Donahue, Ed was raised in North Andover and had resided in Andover, Mass., and Salem, N.H., for many years before moving to Wareham, Massachusetts, 20 years ago.

A graduate of North Andover High School, Ed continued his education at the Newman School, a preparatory school in Boston. Ed worked in the family business at Andover Country Club for many years before going to work at the Raytheon Corporation.

It was at work at the Andover Country Club that he met his beloved wife Dorothy. They shared 46 wonderful years together before her passing in April of this year.

Ed had many interests,

but he enjoyed most arts and crafts, and was an avid painter.

Beloved husband for 46 years to the late Dorothy M. (Defina) Donahue, Ed is survived by his three sisters, Susan Donahue of Andover, Ruth Ann Donahue of North Andover, and Mary Louise Edmunds of West Hartford, Conn.; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to the charity of one's choice.

ARRANGEMENTS: Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend funeral services in celebration of Edward's life in the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody Street, Waltham, on Tuesday morning, August 28, at 11 a.m. Visiting hours will be held in the Mary Catherine Chapel prior to the funeral service on Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waltham.

Robert Schulz Weldin, Jr., 58

August 18, 1959 - July 2, 2018

ANDOVER, MA — After an almost two-year battle with cancer, Robert S. Weldin, Jr. died peacefully on July 2, 2018, at Kaplan House hospice in Danvers.

Bob was born in Wilmington, Del., to Robert and June Weldin. After graduating high school as valedictorian in 1977, Bob put himself through undergrad and graduate school at the University of Delaware in Newark and the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He earned a Bachelor's and two Master's in economics and was one dissertation shy of a PhD.

He met Carol Jamback Weldin in 1986 and married her in 1988. Bob and Carol had a happy marriage, and would have celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary this year.

Bob worked for many years as a consulting economist, but decided to make a career change in 2003 and completed the MINT Program. Bob began teaching math at Lawrence High School and completed another master's degree in mathematical teaching from Boston University. Bob taught at LHS for nine years, and then joined the staff at Andover High School in 2012, where he taught until May of this year. Teaching truly made Bob

happy. He spoke with pride about his students and attended sporting events and school plays. Bob worked this year until he couldn't anymore. He had every intention of returning to school in the fall.

Bob was an avid reader and was on a first name basis with many of the staff members at Memorial Hall Library. Bob read comic books throughout his life and was a huge fan. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of sports facts and loved rooting for all Boston teams.

Bob was very proud of his family, and was an engaged and present parent for his two children. Bob was also an active member of the North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist Church. He volunteered there in many capacities over the years.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carol J. Weldin and his children, Amanda and Doug; his mother, June Weldin and his sister Sandra Myers and her two children Diana and Billy Myers. He was predeceased by his father, Robert S. Weldin, Sr.

ARRANGEMENTS: Celebration of Life Service at 11 a.m. on September 8 at North Parish of North Andover. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob's name may be made to North Parish of North Andover.

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

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

Andover remembers 9/11 victims at annual ceremony

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

Andover's Sept. 11 ceremony will be held at the Town Offices on Bartlet Street on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The ceremony will take place on the front steps starting at 8:30 a.m.

The victims of the Sept. 11 tragedies will be honored at the ceremony. Joe Connelly, director of Community Services, said there will be a wreath-laying ceremony around the flag pole for the four Andover victims who lost their lives that day.

The four families of the

victims have been asked to attend.

The ceremony will also include an opening and closing prayer, a moment of silence, and a contribution from the students at the Doherty Middle School, said Connelly.

Connelly said the ceremony is different from other ones such as the Memorial Day ceremony.

"It's a more low-key day, but it's no less important," said Connelly.

He said there has been a very good turnout in the past, and the same is expected for this year.

Two charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute

By PAUL TENNANT
ptennant@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — A motor vehicle stop for speeding on the southbound side of Interstate 495 resulted in the arrest of two suspects for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute late Thursday night.

Trooper Kevin Delgado, assigned to the state police barracks in Andover, was patrolling the highway when he saw a 2005 Subaru traveling well above the speed limit, according to a state police press release.

Delgado stopped the vehicle and when he encountered the driver and passenger, he saw in plain view numerous marijuana plants in the

car, state police said. Police counted 115 suspected marijuana plants, more than three pounds of a substance believe to be marijuana and paraphernalia used for packaging and selling the drug, according to the press release.

The driver, Brianna Jean Pomerantz, 19, of Devens, and the passenger, Lucas Thayer, 32, of Harvard, were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and conspiracy to violate the drug laws.

Pomerantz, who was stopped at around 11:40 p.m., was also cited for speeding.

The two suspects were released on their own recognition and are scheduled to be arraigned Monday in Lawrence District Court.

POLICE LOG

STAFF REPORT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

A woman's car was broken into on Suncrest Road sometime before 8:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Manuel Alberto Reyes Luciano, 20, of 41 Fenwick Circle, Methuen, was arrested at 11:46 a.m. for operating a motor vehicle after having his license suspended.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Two individuals were given summonses on River Road at 1:24 p.m. for unlicensed and unmarked lanes violations and for possession of a Class A substance.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Mathew Bennett, 24, of 587 Chestnut St., Manchester, N.H., was arrested at 5:39 p.m. for operating with a suspended license, speeding, and not wearing a seat belt while driving on Interstate-495 north.

A building and a couple of cars located on Dundee Park were reported vandalized at 7:19 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 25

Police responded to a water main break on Greenwood Road at 5:19 p.m. Police reported that water was coming up from both sides of the road and requested immediate assistance from the water department. Barricades were put up at the scene.

Officials get low marks from gun owners group

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Gun rights groups didn't fare well in the recent legislative session, with lawmakers pushing through bipartisan bills banning bump stocks, giving police more authority to seize guns and regulating stun guns as firearms.

As such, most Beacon Hill leaders received low grades from the state affiliate of the National Rifle Association ahead of the primary and general election.

The Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts issued rankings based in part on support or opposition to Second Amendment protections.

Jim Wallace, the group's executive director, said many grades dropped from previous rankings because of support for the "red-flag" bill, which allows police, friends and family members to ask a court for a so-called "extreme risk protection order" if they believe a legal gun owner poses a risk.

"It was a horrible piece of legislation," said Wallace. "But there was so much political pressure to pass it, they didn't seem to care if it was good or not."

He pointed out that the Legislature worked with gun rights and gun control groups in 2014 to tighten firearms laws without infringing on gun rights.

But GOAL was largely sidelined in a discussion over the red-flag bill and other measures in the recent legislative session, he said.

"We didn't have a seat at the table," Wallace said. "And they went after the guns, and not the problems behind them, which is sad."

Republican and Democratic lawmakers representing the North of Boston region received low grades from the group.

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, a Gloucester Republican who just last year got the group's highest ranking, received a "C" grade.

So did Rep. Lenny Mirra, a West Newbury Republican who also voted in support of the red-flag bill.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, both Republicans seeking another term, were given an "F" grade for their support for the red flag law.

Attorney General Maura Healey, a Democrat who has sued gun manufacturers and the Trump administration over gun control issues, also got a failing grade.

The state's 11 member, all-Democrat congressional delegation, including Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Salem, were also flunked by the group.

The rankings were based on roll call votes and legislators' response -- or lack of response -- to a questionnaire. The group said it doesn't recommend voting for officials who get a D or F grade.

The group assigned failing grades to officials whom it suggests not only "do not support the Second Amendment" but "go out of their way to pass laws and support legislation designed to restrict and regulate our civil rights."

Rep. Colleen Garry, a Democrat, was the only member of her party to get an "A" grade for casting one of 14 votes in the House against the red-flag bill.

Lawmakers who supported the measure say they stand behind their votes, arguing the red-flag bill strikes a balance between public safety and due process.

Rep. Linda Campbell, a Methuen Democrat who got a "D" from the group, said she voted for it because she believes it will help reduce firearm suicides among veterans.

"Lives will be saved as a result of this," said Campbell, a former Army captain. "The suicide rate among veterans is high, and the weapon of choice is a firearm."

Rep. Paul Tucker, a Salem Democrat who also got a D grade, called the bill "a reasonable way to make people safer without compromising due process."

Massachusetts already has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, but support for even tougher measures has increased since the Valentine's Day shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and a subsequent mass shooting at Santa Fe High School in Texas.

The gun owners group singled out lawmakers who helped write the red-flag proposal -- Reps. David Linsky, D-Natick and Marjorie Decker, D-Cambridge -- with F grades.

Gun control advocates say the poor grades should be "badge of honor."

"We've very proud of the Legislature and Gov. Baker for standing up for gun control," said Cindy Rowe, executive director of the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action and co-founder of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. "We hope they will continue to make laws that make our state safer."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cnhi.com.

SECOND AMENDMENT GRADES

Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts, the state's NRA-affiliate, ranked elected leaders based, in part, on their voting record on Second Amendment issues in the previous legislative session.

STATEWIDE OFFICES

Gov. Charlie Baker, R-Swampscott - F
Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, R-Shrewsbury - F
Attorney General Maura Healey,

D-Charlestown - F
U.S. House of Representatives: Seth Moulton, D-Salem - F
Niki Tsongas, D-Lowell - F
Massachusetts Senate: Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester - C
Barbara L'Italian, D-Andover - D

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE

Juana Matias, D-Lawrence - D
Frank Moran, D-Lawrence - D
Jim Lyons, R-Andover - C
Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen - C

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Please recycle this newspaper.

Having fun with science in the summer

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

They might be called Future Einsteins. Either that, or kids having fun with science.

The town Recreation Department ran a series of programs over the summer, including last week, at Old Town Hall on Main Street focusing on fun, child-friendly scientific experiments.

Gauging by the reaction of some of the participants, the experiments were a complete success.

Lauren Gleason, an incoming first-grader at South Elementary School, said she was learning a lot about science. Even though math is her favorite subject, she still said she was having "lots of fun" at the program.

The kids did an experiment with primary and secondary colors, overseen by the instructor, Emily Gilstrap, a teacher with Scienstational workshops, an independent company that runs science enrichment programs for kids. They dripped water onto a paper towel with food coloring on it to watch how the colors changed. Gleason said that was her favorite experiment because it was fun to watch the colors.

Gilstrap guided them through an activity about the center of gravity, where they balanced a small, plastic bird on its beak. They were able to balance the bird on the eraser tips of their pencils, something Gleason and the rest of the group found very exciting.

Tommy Schmidt, an incoming second-grader at South Elementary School, and his younger brother Chris, an incoming first-grader at South, also had a lot of fun at the program and were really excited to be there.

They both said they learned a lot about different types of rocks. They wrote down a list of 20 different types. "I can only memorize the first four,



Emily Gilstrap of Scienstational Workshops for Kids shows students how to make a "volcano" out of vinegar and baking soda during a "Chemical Magic" workshop for children Wednesday at the Old Town Hall in Andover. Gilstrap presented a number of lessons in physics, chemistry and geology.

MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photos



Nine-year-old Ziyen Thakkar does a chromatography experiment.

but I'm figuring them out," said Chris.

Tommy's favorite activity included putting a paper Christmas tree into water filled with crystal powder, and watching how the tree colors brightened as it absorbed the powder.

The group also experimented with super absorbent crystals and watched them absorb water.

Although neither Tommy or Chris said they were excited to head back to school next week because there's "too much homework," they still enjoyed their time experimenting and learning news things outside the classroom.

Gilstrap said the workshop was open to all students ranging from first to fourth grade. The kids were conducting experiments involving gravity, physics, chemistry, geography, microscopes, colors, and much more.

"It's a really broad range," said Gilstrap of the activities.

There were about 20 students in attendance at the workshop.



Six-year-old Lauren Gleason balances a plastic bird on the end of a pencil for a lesson on finding the center of balance.



Minh Do, 9, asks Gilstrap a question during the workshop.

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Saturday, September 8th, 2018

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ON CAMPUS

Taylor Jordan D'Urso achieved dean's list recognition at Pennsylvania State University, College of Education, for the spring 2018 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must complete at least 12 credits of "graded" coursework with at least a 3.5 semester grade point average.

Mia Sonberg, Joshua Krinsky, Emma Flaherty and Devin Bernstein will attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, this fall.

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Opinion

Cheers & Jeers for recent newsmakers

JEERS to the seemingly inevitable result of heavy rain in the Merrimack Valley, and we're not talking flooded roads and washed-out ballgames. Storms that soaked the region earlier this month, from Aug. 9 to 12, also inundated local sewage and stormwater treatment systems, which spilled into the Merrimack River. The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, which serves a half-dozen communities in the region, reported a release of 26 million gallons of untreated stormwater and sewage. The wastewater treatment facility in Lowell spilled a similar amount. The Haverhill plant also reported a release. In sum, it was an especially bad time to be on the river.

Treatment systems that overflow into the Merrimack are an old-school infrastructure that communities in the region are under pressure to upgrade. Improvement comes at significant cost, however. It's not clear how the Greater Lawrence district, for example, can afford to overhaul its system so that it can retire the outfall pipes and prevent these spills from happening. Still, the problem will only get worse. A changing climate that has meant drier conditions in some regions of the United States, and hotter weather in others, is predicted to make the Northeast even wetter than it already is, according to the government's National Climate Assessment. That means more chances to send raw sewage downriver.

So noted Rusty Russell, director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, in an interview with Jack Shea: "Obviously there's a lot more work that needs to be done to address the problem of sewage spills in the Merrimack. As you're seeing more sudden rainstorms, you're drawn to conclude that we're seeing the effects of the changing climate, and we're going to see more of this happen," he said.

Time is of the essence. Valley communities may not be able to fix the problem by capping overflow pipes especially quickly. A more attainable goal, and the least that can be done, is to require stormwater treatment plants to use technology to report overflows online, in real time, so that those who use the river are kept abreast when potentially dangerous conditions occur.

The Patriots have the undeniable ability to unite people in New England, especially when the team is in the throes of a playoff run. As it turns out, some smaller ballplayers have the ability to bring people together, too.

CHEERS to members of the Lawrence Pop Warner program, as well as the business people and benefactors who've stepped up to help them avoid what looked like the organization's collapse just a couple of weeks ago.

When interviewed more than a week ago, Chris Morales, the program's athletic director, described a desperate need for \$6,000 just to stay in the game. Hearing this, a long list of people chipped in to help: David and Joanne Pena of Pena's Trucking, Charlie Daher and Commonwealth Motors, Neil Rosenburg of Shyer's Lobster Pound, Bobby Sheehan of Sheehan's Towing, Dave Geaslen of Under Armor, Peter Burbank, Dennis McCarthy, Mayor Daniel Rivera and state Senate candidate Barry Finegold — just to name a few.

With this wave of generosity, it looks like there are now enough funds to ensure that all players will have a new pair of cleats, not to mention the complement of pads, pants, jerseys and helmet that every Pop Warner player needs.

"I was almost in tears," Morales told executive sports editor Bill Burt after word of his situation spread. "A few days ago, I wasn't sure our kids were going to play. And now this. I am extremely humbled and blessed."

It's not only a positive outcome for the program, the donations reflect well upon everyone living in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley. Here's hoping the players and cheerleaders associated with Lawrence Pop Warner have a great season.

WEB QUESTION

This week's question:

Next Tuesday is primary day when voters across Massachusetts will go to the polls. Here in Andover, the big race is who will succeed Niki Tsongas in Congress. There are nearly a dozen Democrat candidates and a handful of Republicans. **Are you excited about going to the polls next week?** **Yes.** It's my democratic duty to vote. **Of course!** We need more Republicans in Congress. **Absolutely!** We need more Democrats in Congress. **Not sure.** What's primary day?

Last week's question:

Hundreds of newspapers across the country last Thursday (and this Thursday in the Townsman) ran editorials condemning the rhetoric from President Trump that the media is the enemy of the people. **Do you think the media is the enemy of the people?** **Yes.** They skew the facts and lean way too far to the left. **42 votes.** **No.** The media is our only hope against an out-of-control despot. **138 votes.** **Yes and no.** Local media is fair; it's the national media that's biased. **16 votes.**

Timeless message as the school year begins

Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein



This summer, my wife, a veteran first-grade teacher, inspired me to see "Won't You Be My Neighbor?," the very popular documentary about the life and work of Mister Rogers. I was never a fan of the show. I had grown out of children's programming when it began, and my own children found the faster-paced, more colorful "Sesame Street" far more appealing.

The graphics of Mister Rogers' show were lackluster, almost amateurish. Fred Rogers' message was seemingly dated in the fast-paced '70s and '80s. But because of his authenticity, sincerity and simple decency, the program was brilliantly successful.

Mister Rogers' core

philosophy was straightforward and optimistic. Originally trained as a minister, he channeled the prophetic conviction that every human being embodies a spark of goodness, the potential for love, and a worthiness that cannot and should not be undermined.

A number of movie critics noted the tears shed by audience members at the end of the film, which seemed surprising because it's a documentary and nothing overtly sad takes place. Some reviewers suggest the emotional response has to do with our own loss of innocence. At a time of hyperpolarization and discord, when kindness and propriety have given way to harsh and threatening exchanges, we long for a time of respectful dialogue, disagreement without anger, and dissent without belittling vilification.

The last scene in the Mister Rogers documentary is both painful and uplifting. It is a clip of his message on the one-year anniversary of the 9/11 attack.

Mister Rogers spent his entire career celebrating the spark of goodness and benevolence in every child, and ultimately in the soul of every human being. When the scars of this national tragedy — not a natural disaster, but one born of hate and absolute evil — were still so raw, what advice could he possibly give to the adults who had been raised on his positive and hopeful outlook?

He expressed pride in the children, now parents, who grew up believing in every human being's inherent goodness. He encouraged them to let their own children express their feelings while assuring them of their safety. He urged them to find ways to bring healing to many different neighborhoods; and affirming everything he believed in, he concluded, "I like you just the way you are."

This week marks the beginning of a new school year. As a child, I remember how on the night before the first day back to school, when it was so hard to fall

asleep, my mother, also an elementary school teacher, would come into each of our rooms to offer my sisters and me her "pearly words of wisdom." Though I don't remember her exact advice, it was along the lines of "work hard, respect your teachers and be nice to your friends." Like Mister Rogers, my mother's message was obvious, simple, straightforward, but sometimes neglected.

At a time of social division, when our interactions have become coarse and angry, Mister Rogers' voice continues to resound: every human being is precious, we each have a right to be who we are as long as we don't hurt anybody, and we should all try to make our own corner of the world a more virtuous, respectful and peaceful place. Today, a decade-and-a-half after his death, Mister Rogers is still teaching us how we are supposed to behave, how to live and love, and how to make the most out of each beautiful day.

Rabbi Goldstein is the Spiritual Leader of Temple Emanuel of Andover.

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.

Vote L'italien for Congress

Editor, Townsman:

I urge you to vote for Barbara L'italien for Congress. Barbara has served Andover and Massachusetts in various capacities as state Representative, school committee member, and state Senator. No matter whether her immediate constituency is the town of Andover, a district that includes Andover, or our entire Commonwealth, she's served with a passion for solving problems and getting things done.

Barbara is a Progressive Democrat who knows how to fight for what is right, such as supporting Safe Communities and Medicare for all, while also professionally handling the day-to-day job of governing.

Years ago, when my youngest child was a student at South Elementary School, at a PTO silent auction, I won a tour of the Statehouse with Barbara. I was escorted to her office in the Statehouse basement where she was located as payback for her publicly standing up to now-disgraced Speaker of the House Finerman. When we got upstairs we were able to look out the Statehouse windows at a group of anti-gay demonstrators.

Barbara told me that she had gone out and talked with the demonstrators and had discovered that every one of them was from outside Massachusetts. This mattered to me, not only because I supported gay rights, but also because my child had come out as transgender.

Barbara always takes the time to investigate the facts, propose solutions, and fight for important causes and the people she represents. I urge you to support her in the Democratic primary for Congress on Sept. 4.

KENNETH TAMARKIN
22 Willard Circle
Andover

Send Finegold back to the state Senate

EDITOR, TOWNSMAN: As a retired firefighter, I understand the importance of public service. I know Barry Finegold does too. I remember when Barry first ran for

voters more information even at this stage of the election process.

Beth Lindstrom will provide the voters with a reasonable and rational alternative for Massachusetts. The state needs someone who can express the views of our diverse population not just a narrow segment of either end of the political spectrum.

The voters should make this choice.

ARTHUR TUCKER
53 Summer St.
Andover

Still great to be a Catholic in Andover

Editor, Townsman:

The crimes against vulnerable children, committed by men who we were indoctrinated to respect as our noble, sacredly ordained leaders, is shameful. But I am still proud to be a Catholic. The scoundrels who have done so much damage to the church of my life are not going to take that away from me.

In first grade, Sister Ramone swept into our classroom in a tornado of black and white habit, her bright blue eyes smiling from under her wimple, while she taught us to read, add numbers, and enjoy a good story. Sister Ramone had a special deal with the Hood man who delivered milk to the school. Every Thursday he would drop off a bag of Hoodies cups for her class. Sister Ramone also practiced amateur dentistry in her classroom. If she saw one of her pupils wiggling a baby tooth with their tongue, she would sit them on her lap and check to see if it might be ready to come out with a bit of persuasion.

Sister Madeline at Saint Augustine's made sure every child who wanted to, learned how to play the guitar. If you couldn't afford one, she found one for you. She taught us how to sing three-part harmony, make batik wall hangings with melted crayons, and how to add fractions. Sister Madeline instilled in me a love for architectural drawing with her excellent knowledge of vanishing points and artificial horizons. Her classroom was always a housekeeping disaster, but we had a ball.

Father Morgan taught world religions and geometry at Austin Prep. He and

his fellow Augustinians woke up every morning and bravely faced 400 teenage boys for whom the last thing on their minds was religion and geometry. Austin spoiled me for college. I learned about American literature, the bones in the human body, solving for X, ancient mythology, how to speak another language, how to drive defensively, and how to pick up a spare in a bowling alley.

I'm not throwing all that away because of some bad apples.

KEN EULIE
25 Boston Road
Andover

Geoff Diehl for U.S. Senate

Editor, Townsman:

There is a reason I, like so many others, are supporting Geoff Diehl for U.S. Senate. One of which is because he believes — as a lot of the citizens of Massachusetts do — that we deserve to have a say on who votes in our elections, and who does not. We have this right as a sovereign state of the union. Thus, as a sovereign state, we are allowed to dictate our own public policy, to make our own laws, and to enforce those to the extent we feel is necessary.

The Pew Research Center's Jens Manuel Krogstad, Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn report in their article "5 Facts About Illegal Immigration in the U.S." that, as of 2015, there were 11 million undocumented immigrants living in this country, some of whom can vote, and others who have drivers licenses.

Other estimates, as of today, put this number at over 12 million. Consequently, this goes to Geoff Diehl's point that we are on an unsustainable path of illegal immigration, and, if continued, will cause irreparable harm to our country due to the influx in the population.

Geoff Diehl understands this issue and is not willing to risk the success and robustness of this great country for political niceties or political correctness. We need a leader who will challenge the status quo — and Geoff Diehl is willing to — that's why I am voting Geoff Diehl for U.S. Senate.

CAMERON BURTON
195 Holt Road
Andover

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

- **Editor Bill Kirk** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-691-8733, bkirk@andovertownsmen.com
- **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com
- **Reporter Jessica Valeriani** at 978-691-8723, or jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com
- **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsmen.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

Andover Townsman

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

1 Colonial Drive, Unit 5A: Jeds RT and Susan A. Klein to Jamie Dedoglou, \$195,000
27 Crenshaw Lane, Unit 1: CA INT and Yvon Cormier to Mark E. Zuckerman 2015 FT and Mark E. Zuckerman, \$1,300,000
28 Crenshaw Lane, Unit 28: CA INT and Yvon Cormier

to Doreen M. Bushashia, \$1,175,000
52 High St., Unit 52: Johns Homestead RT and Jerry Johns to Solange Silva, \$250,000
8 Lupine Road: South Church to Andover Community T. Inc., \$200,000
2 Meadow View Lane: Alwan RT and Joseph H. Alwan to Gaurang and Dhara Satija,

\$1,400,000
2 Patriot Drive: Thomas M. and Erica L. Tassinari to Bharath Kodali and Chaitanya R. Kaita, \$860,000
10 Pettinill Road: Kimberly A. Colombo to Sarah Ihugo, \$629,900
359 River Road: 359 River Road RT and Deborah A. Picard to Joseph B. and Colette Gencorelli, \$665,000

6 Strawberry Hill Road: Mathew S. and Whitney C. Bourgeois to Matthew T. and Kathleen M. McMillan, \$671,000
13 Strawberry Hill Road: Kathleen M. and Matthew T. McMillan to Kevin F. Murphy and Meghan T. O'Day-Murphy, \$643,500
18 Summer St., Unit 2: Mary and Stephen Kurkul to Marcia S. Jacobs, \$625,000

BUSINESS BRIEF CASE

TEC hires Kelley

Kristen Kelley joins The Engineering Corporation, Inc. (TEC), a local engineering, surveying, and construction management consulting firm, as director of Business Exchange and Imaging.

A newly created position, she brings more than 20 years of experience with marketing, sales, and proposals in the A/E industry.

In this role, Kelley will lead proposal production, marketing initiatives, creative imaging, recruiting, and communication platforms. This is another important step in TEC's growth, expansion, and corporate goals.

Prior to joining TEC, Kelley worked for transportation engineering firms, including STV Incorporated and Bryant Associates, Inc. She is a graduate of UMass Lowell.

Merrimack Valley Chamber to host expo

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's Fall Business Expo, Trade Show Health and Wellness Fair will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St.

In addition, the chamber will host its Annual Healthcare Luncheon Conference from noon to 1:15 p.m. Guest speakers will include John L. Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP, chief medical officer of Holy Family Hospital, a Steward Family Hospital; and Karen Gomes, RN, MS CPHQ, president and CEO of Home Health Foundation.

A complete hot plated luncheon is included with the program. Admission to the luncheon conference is \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers.

For more information and to register, call 978-686-0900, email office@merrimack-valleychamber.com or visit www.merrimackvalleychamber.com.

BNI Merrimack Valley networking meetings

BNI Merrimack Valley chapter meets on Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Lanam Club in Andover at 260 North Main St. The group's mission is to help members increase their business through a structured, positive, and professional referral marketing program that enables them to develop long-term, meaningful relationships with quality business professionals.

The philosophy of this organization is built upon the idea of "Givers Gain": If I give you business, then you'll give me business and we'll both benefit as a result. BNI allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter.

For more information, call Edna Peters at 1-800-783-6127 or email epeters@partnersadvantage.com.

Wright-Pierce ranks among top 200 environmental firms

Wright-Pierce, an employee-owned, multi-disciplinary environmental engineering firm, has been recognized for the ninth consecutive year by Engineering News Record (ENR) as one of the "Top 200" Environmental Firms in the country. ENR, a trade publication of the AEC (architecture, engineering and construction) industry, compiles and publishes annual rankings of engineering and construction firms in the United States.

Wright-Pierce's ranking on this year's list rose based on the company's

continued growth.

In June, Wright-Pierce was also recognized by ENR as one of the "Top 500" Design Firms, and earned rankings in the Top 25 of the ENR Top Design Firms Sourcebook in the Wastewater Treatment Plants and Sanitary and Storm Sewers categories.

Wright-Pierce also continues to earn award recognition for completed projects including three American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Engineering Excellence Awards in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. In addition, the firm was recently recognized by Healthiest Employer, LLC for promoting a culture of wellness through the company-wide program, The Wright Way to Wellness, which provides incentives and rewards to all employees for healthy life choices.

Monthly professional networking

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

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

Solutions for a better financial future

Financially Speaking

John Spoto



Last week, we discussed specific obstacles that can get in the way of securing a comfortable retirement.

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

Fortunately, the study of the behavioral forces that result in poor decisions has enabled researchers to develop strategies to employ those forces to produce better choices and financial outcomes. A program designed by behavioral economists Shlomo Benartzi of UCLA and Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago does just that. Their program called Save More Tomorrow (SmarT) is intended for employers who want to increase employee savings rates in 401(k) type plans. One feature known as "automatic escalation" however can easily be adapted by the average person saving for any important future goal.

The idea is to automatically increase savings from the employee's paycheck with each future salary increase. This simple tactic can avoid the psychological barriers that impede individuals from achieving what they want; minimum pain today and larger account balances at retirement. It uses what could be considered a "behavior first" approach meaning that it requires a change of behavior rather than a change of attitude or an increase in computational skills. These are some of the benefits:

■ **It's simple.** It eliminates the complexity of making difficult assumptions

and calculations. It is a yes or no decision. You either commit to it or you do not. Once committed, you know that 30 percent, 50 percent or more of each pay increase will be "swept" into an investment account. All the calculations are complete, and the hard work is done.

■ **It is pre-determined.** Because of the psychological barriers of lack of self-control and procrastination, most of us find it easier to imagine and commit to doing something difficult in the future rather than right now. Pre-commitments are a way of avoiding the inevitable temptation of the moment (when the cash is in our hands), and our inclination to procrastinate matters that have an immediate cost but a future reward.

■ **It's painless.** Inertia can be triggered by several factors, one of which is hypersensitivity to loss, or placing more weight on the pain from the potential loss than the benefits from the potential gain. In the savings context, people hate to see their take-home pay go down. The automatic increase program does an end-run around these powerful psychological forces. In their book "Nudge" authors Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein applaud the success of the SmarT program in general and the automatic escalation feature specifically. "By synchronizing pay raises and savings increases, participants never see their take-home amounts go down, and they don't view their increased retirement contributions as losses. Once someone joins the program, the saving increases are automatic, using inertia to increase savings rather than prevent savings." Simply put, it is easier to keep on doing what you have been doing, than it is to change.

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L'Shana Tova Tiketavu
Our Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Selichot Saturday, September 1 8:00p.m.	First Day of Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 10 Children's Service: 3:00pm	Yom Kippur-Kol Nidre Tuesday, September 18 Early Service: 5:30pm-7:00pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah Sunday, September 9 7:00pm	Second Day of Rosh Hashanah Tuesday, September 11 10:00am	Yom Kippur Wednesday, September 19 Children's Service: 3:00pm Healing Service: 3:30pm Mincha: 4:30pm Neilah: 5:30pm

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Friday, September 7th 5:30 pm Pre-Neg Nosh 6:00 pm Sabbath Eve Service Join us for our service and meet our clergy and lay leaders.	Saturday, September 8th 10:00 am-4:30 pm Andover Day Stop by our booth at Andover Day to learn about our school programs and our community.	Sunday, September 9th 9:00-11:00 am Religious School Open House Come hear the wonderful opportunities to get involved with the Temple Emanuel community and visit our Religious School.
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Merrimack Valley networking meetings

Merrimack Valley Networking Group, a free business networking group, meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at Atria Marland Place, 15 Steven St., Andover. Bring business cards to hand out.

For more information, call Paul Lambert at 978-609-6420 or email PDLAW@comcast.net.

Please recycle this newspaper.

TownsBeat



Brian Lynch stirs sauce while making rice pudding.



Jeanette Alexandrou pours cream sauce over the eggplant in a tray while making moussaka.



Nancy Patsios adds spices while making moussaka.

Time to make the moussaka!

STAFF REPORT

A contingent of 16 amateur bakers convened in the kitchen of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church on Chandler Road over weekend, where they cooked for 11 hours preparing for the Sept. 8-9 Greek Festival.

On Friday night and all day Saturday, the volunteer chefs ranging in age from teenagers to seniors in their 70s, made a variety of Greek food, including Pastitsio and Moussaka.

According to Brian Lynch, the parishioner who coordinated the event, the group prepared 42 hotel trays of Pastitsio, also known as Greek lasagna, and another 30 trays of Moussaka, a traditional eggplant dish topped with béchamel.

"It's enough for over 800 delicious meals," he said in an email detailing the operation.

The annual Greek Festival, held at the church, will include numerous activities, including a cooking demonstration for Spanakopita, or spinach pie, on Saturday afternoon, Lynch said.

There will be live music Saturday night, and Curious Creatures for the kids Saturday afternoon.

Other Greek food to be served includes roasted lamb leg, Gyros, grape leaves, chicken and beef shish kebab and bakery items.



Nancy Patsios, left, and Georgia Kiladis work together to drizzle cream sauce over eggplant in a tray of moussaka in the kitchen of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in preparation for the upcoming Greek Festival.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



ABOVE: Bob Goodwin puts a tray of moussaka into an oven. RIGHT: Paul Ganes, left, and Jim Kiladis work together on a tray of moussaka.



ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 AND 30

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., Ballard Vale United Church, 23 Clark Road. Is food a problem for you? Overeaters Anonymous can help; 781-641-2303.

THROUGH SEPT. 3

AJFL FOOTBALL AND CHEER-LEADING, registration is open to students in grades two through eight for the 2018 season; parents can sign up at www.ajfl.com.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4

EXECUTIVE SERIES LUNCHEON, noon to 1:15 p.m., Lanam Club, 260 N. Main St. Hosted

by the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce; Secretary James Peyser, Massachusetts Executive Office of Education, will be the guest speaker; a complete hot luncheon is included; the cost is \$20; reservations are requested; 978-686-0900, email office@merrimackvalleychamber.com, www.merrimackvalleychamber.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5

MERRIMACK VALLEY CAMERA CLUB MEETING, Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St., North Andover. Based in North Andover and in its 82nd year, has about 150 members hailing from the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, and

Southeastern and Seacoast areas of New Hampshire, ranging from beginners to professionals; the club and its members have been garnering recognition and awards throughout New England and beyond for decades; the club, which meets almost every Wednesday evening, holds frequent hands-on workshops, field trips, photo-related activities, presentations and competitions, most of which are open to the public; socializing starts at 7 p.m., and programs run from 7:30 to 9 p.m.; www.mvcameraclub.org.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

31ST ANNUAL FISHING FESTIVAL, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

Sudden Pond, located near 100 Middleton Road, North Andover. This event, for all ages, will introduce beginner and veteran anglers to fishing; cast a line, learn about the fish in New England waters, safety and equipment; MassWildlife Angler Education volunteer instructors will be on hand to assist and equipment will be provided; licenses are not required; wheelchair accessible, with reasonable accommodations upon request; 978-475-7972, www.mass.gov/der.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11

9/11 CEREMONY, 8:30 a.m., Town Offices, Bartlet Street. The ceremony will honor

the victims of Sept. 11, 2001; 978-623-8381.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12

FALL BUSINESS EXPO, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce will host a Fall Business Expo, Trade Show Health and Wellness Fair; the Annual Healthcare Luncheon Conference will take place from noon to 1:15 p.m.; guest speakers will include John L. Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP, chief medical officer of Holy Family Hospital, a Steward Family Hospital, and Karen Gomes, RN, MS CPHQ, president and CEO of Home Health Foundation; a

complete hot plated luncheon is included with the program; admission to the luncheon conference is \$30 for members, \$50 for nonmembers; registration is required; 978-686-0900, email office@merrimackvalleychamber.com, www.merrimackvalleychamber.com.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S, Brickstone Square. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the Promise Garden Ceremony at 9:40 a.m., and the walk at 10 a.m.; nearly 3,500 people from northeastern Massachusetts are

See **CALENDAR**, Page 10

Chamber music returns for Mistral's 22nd season

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

100 years old this year. "His spunky Clarinet Sonata will be performed by international clarinet soloist, Todd Palmer, and his raucously entertaining aria from his opera, 'Candide, Glitter and be Gay,' is sure to bring audiences to their feet," Scolnik said. Also, this season Mistral is bringing back its Salon Series on the Friday evening before three of the concerts. Listeners get to enjoy chamber music in the intimacy of the Brookline living room of the Scolnik-Brower family. The couple formerly lived on South Main Street in Andover with their two children. The Andover concerts will be held at West Parish Church on Reservation Road. "It's an intimate venue with beautiful acoustics and is perfect for chamber music. Andover concerts are at 4, and Brookline concerts at 5. Those time slots seem to suit all generations as they allow people to

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Mistral presents "RONDOS, RAGS, & RIFFS"
- **When:** Saturday, Sept. 15, 4 p.m.
- **Where:** West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover
- **Players:** Terry Everson, trumpet; Amadi Azikiwe, viola; Todd Palmer, clarinet; Sarah Moyer, soprano; Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Julie Scolnik, flute; Jan Muller-Szeraws, cello
- **Tickets:** \$35, free student rush tickets at the door; mistralmusic.org, 978-474-6222



The musicians playing in the first weekend of concerts, Sept. 14-16, are, from left to right, top row: Terry Everson, trumpet; Amadi Azikiwe, viola; Todd Palmer, clarinet; and Sarah Moyer, soprano; second row, from left: Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Julie Scolnik, flute; and Jan Muller-Szeraws, cello.

The founder of this chamber music group, formerly of Andover, has long said her group's chamber music style is "unstuffy, unpredictable and unmatched." You can hear for yourself as professional flutist Julie Scolnik and her physicist husband Michael Brower come back to Andover next month to perform with their chamber music group, Mistral. It is the 22nd season of offering a five-concert series in Andover and Brookline for Mistral. "The show is called 'Rondos, Rags & Riffs' and is an infectious fun program," Scolnik said. And, special this year is that the show's bluesy rhythms, harmonies and jazzy sounds in the works of chamber music, include a mini birthday celebration for the late Lawrence native conductor Leonard Bernstein who would have been

enjoy much of the weekend daylight, and still have time for dinner after the concert," said Scolnik, who is artistic director (see MistralMusic.org for the Salon Series schedule). Mistral's Brookline concerts will take place at Saint Paul's Church and Congregation Kehillath Israel.

Fundraising event planned in memory of Alex Miliotis

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com



Alex Miliotis

The Alex's Team Foundation, founded in memory of former Andover High School student Alexandra Jane Miliotis who tragically died of cancer at 16, will sponsor the 5th annual Spirit Ball in memory of Miliotis. The event will be held on Nov. 3

at the House of Blues in Boston. This event celebrates her life and memorializes her journey of hope and courage during her battle against Acute Lymphocytic Leuke-

mia. Diagnosed in May 2001, Alex died on March 15, 2002. Organizers say her angelic smile, positive outlook, and unwavering loyalty to her friends and family has been instilled in the Foundation. As a testament to her strength and courage, the Alex's Team Foundation strives to find unique ways to

support childhood cancer research and nursing. Foundation awards impact the cancer community by providing support to nursing care staff, doctors and families. Through their flagship programs with Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard University Medical School and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Alex's Team Foundation truly believes that the groundwork has been laid to establish a lasting impact on the search to cure childhood cancer and improve the quality of life for patients and their families. This year's Spirit Ball starts at 7 p.m. at the House of Blues on Lansdowne

Street in Boston. It will feature a night of live entertainment, silent and live auction, food and drinks, as well as the opportunity to support the fight against childhood cancer. Tickets for the event are now available and can be purchased through the Foundation's website, alexsteam.org.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 9

expected at this year's event to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease; sign up as a team captain, join a team or register to walk as an individual at www.alz.org/walk.

OCTOBER SATURDAY, OCT. 20

HYE KEY 5, 7 p.m. to midnight, DoubleTree By Hilton, 123 Old River Road. The five-hour dance, presented by Armenian Friends of America, Inc., will feature musician and singer Onnik Dinkjian, along with John Berberian (oud), Mal Barsamian (clarinet), Ara Dinkjian (keyboard), and Jason Naroian (dumbeg); continuous buffet, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; coffee and dessert, and a cash bar; tickets are \$55 if purchased before

Sept. 16, \$65 after and \$50 for students 21 and under; tickets must be purchased in advance, as they will not be sold at the door; all sales are final; proceeds will benefit the Armenian Churches of the Merrimack Valley, St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of North Andover, the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe in Bradford, Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Chelmsford, and the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, New Hampshire. For tickets, call 603-560-3826, 978-683-9121, 978-375-1616, 978-808-0598 or 978-475-8309. For more information, visit armenianfriendsamerica.org.

SATURDAYS THROUGH OCT. 20

ANDOVER FARMERS MARKET, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Amos Blanchard House and Barn, 97 Main St. Since 2007, the Andover Center for History & Culture has welcomed the

community to the lawn to socialize while buying fresh, locally grown food; www.andoverhistoryandculture.org/farmers-market.

SATURDAY, OCT. 27

NINTH ANNUAL IN PINK BRUNCH & COMEDY SHOW, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. Nationally-known comedian and motivational speaker Loretta LaRoche will perform a stand-up routine to benefit women's health initiatives at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center; Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' district director, June Black, will be honored with the health center's Rosalyn Kempton Wood Award for Inspirational Leadership; the event will feature silent and live auctions, brunch provided by the country club and a gift for attendees; early bird tickets are \$45 and will be available for a limited time online; www.glfhc.org/inkpink2018.

NOVEMBER SATURDAY, NOV. 10

FALL FUNDRAISER, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall, 20 Main St. Join A Better Chance of Andover in support of the ABC Scholars, featuring Alumna Taide Argelia Broadbelt, '94, who will present her First Impressions Fashion Collection; proceeds will benefit A Better Chance of Andover, an organization that has been closing the education gap for students of color and opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1967; tickets and donations provide room and board, books, transportation, tutoring, health services, extracurricular programs, college prep and much more; email info@andoverabc.org, www.andoverabc.org.

ONGOING

MERRIMACK VALLEY CAMERA CLUB, based in North Andover, and in its 82nd year, has about 150 members hailing from the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, and Southeastern and Seacoast areas of New Hampshire, ranging from beginners to professionals. The club and its members have been garnering recognition and awards throughout New England and beyond for decades. The club, which meets almost every Wednesday evening, holds frequent hands-on workshops, field trips, photo-related activities, presentations and

competitions, most of which are open to the public. The club meets at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St., North Andover. Socializing starts at 7 p.m., and programs run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Find more at www.mvcameraclub.org.

FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY ANONYMOUS (FA), Saturdays, 8 a.m., Christ Church, 33 Central St. Having trouble controlling the way you eat? FA is a program that addresses binge eating disorder, overeating, obesity, bulimia, undereating, and obsession with body size and exercise; the free meetings are held in the classroom building of the church; www.foodaddicts.org.

MERRIMACK TOASTMASTERS CLUB, second and fourth Thursday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., Stevens Memorial Library, 345 Main St., North Andover. Membership is open to individuals looking to improve their speaking, presentation and leadership skills, and to overcome their fear of public speaking; guests are always welcome; www.merrimack-toastmasters.org, email contact@merrimack-toastmasters.org.

MEMORY CAFÉ, fourth Monday of the month, Center at Punched, 30 Whittier Court. Memory Cafés offer a welcoming, memory-making place for people living with memory changes; they unite people facing similar challenges, provide a much-needed break from routines, and offer ideas, information and connection to other community support mechanisms; snacks will be provided; the free program is offered through grant funding from the Department of Developmental Disabilities; advance registration is requested; 978-623-8320.

BALLROOM DANCING, Sundays, 7:30 to 11 p.m., Relief's In Function Hall, 1 Market St., Lawrence, on the North Andover line. Come Alive After Five has been running this dance for singles and couples for more than 30 years; live bands are featured along with bar service and door prizes; \$13 admission fee includes dessert and coffee at 8:30 p.m.; 781-451-7872.

ANDOVER CHRONICLERS, see what's in store. Past shows can be viewed on Comcast Channel 8 or Verizon Channel 47 Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at 9 a.m.; Wednesday and Saturday at 7 p.m.; and Friday at 6:30 p.m. The show is produced by the Andover Chroniclers, an all volunteer group. For more information, call the Center at Punched at 978-623-8321. New members welcome. No prior experience needed. Email andvchron2@gmail.com for more information. Past shows may also be accessed at http://andovertv.org/sites/default/files/videos/saa_20160801.mp4.

FA (FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY ANONYMOUS),

Wednesdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the St. Augustine Education Center, 45 Essex St.; and Saturdays, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Christ Church, 33 Central Ave. The free, 12-step program is open to anyone who struggles with their weight and/or food; members include men and women who have lost more than 200 lbs., those who turned to bulimia, over-exercising and obsessive dieting, and those who had no weight to lose, but were obsessed with food and/or their weight; all are welcome to share their stories, from newcomers interested in learning more to people who have maintained steady, healthy weights for decades; www.foodaddicts.org.

FELLOWSHIP/WORSHIP MEETING, Sundays, 5 p.m., North Boston Korean United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 244 Lowell St. Hosted by the Mosaic Christian Movement, everyone is welcome to enjoy food, fellowship and a relaxed worship service; registration is requested; email aaronkrue@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY GIVING TREE'S VAN, will be in the Penguin Park parking lot on Burnham Road from 10 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Donations of gently used baby gear and in season children's clothing will be collected. All donations will go to children in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore. At this time, there is an urgent need for infant clothing (0 to 3 months) and infant car seats under five years old. For a complete list of acceptable donations, visit www.communitygivingtree.org.

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

PALMERS RESTAURANT, live music, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. to midnight; no cover charge; 18 Elm St.; 978-470-1606, www.palmersrestaurant.com.

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

KARMA, live band music, Thursday through Saturday; 209 N. Main St. (Shawshen Plaza); 978-809-3075, www.karmaandover.com.

ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART, free admission to the gallery and all programs; located on the Phillips Academy campus, 3 Chapel Ave.; 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.

GELB GALLERY, located in George Washington Hall, Phillips Academy campus, 7 Chapel Ave.; open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; parking is available on Chapel Avenue and in the lot next to the Andover Inn; www.andover.edu.

ALPERS FINE ART, located at 96 Main St.; 978-760-1829, www.alpersfineartonline.com.

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

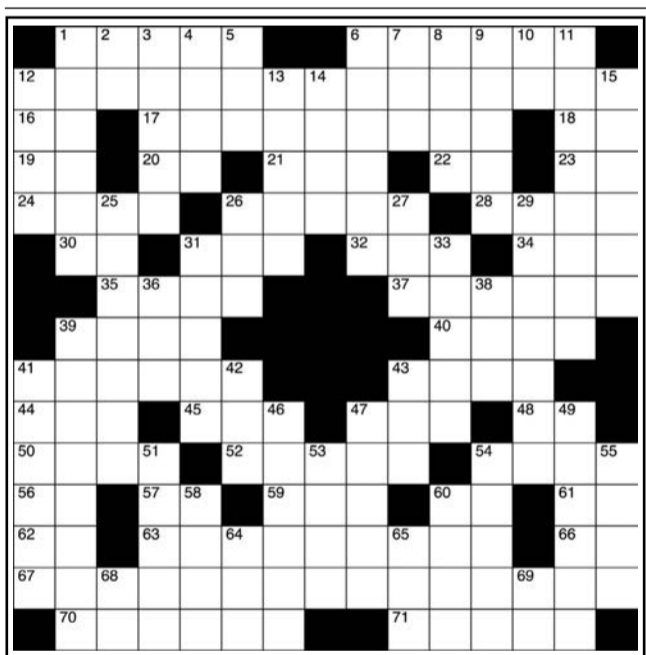
ANDOVER REC, 36 Bartlet St., offers a number of different programs for adults, youth and children; www.andoverrec.com, 978-623-8340.

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., Sundays, Ballardvale United Church, 23 Clark Road. Is food a problem for you? Overeaters Anonymous can help; 781-641-2303.

FLOWER FIELDS CUTTING GARDEN, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Stevens-Coolidge Place, 137 Andover St., North Andover. Visitors may cut and assemble their own bouquets in the Cutting Garden, for a fee; in addition to the zinnias, cosmos and rudbeckia, visitors will find new varieties to add pop and flair to their bouquets; stop by the tent to pay, grab scissors, cup and water before making a bouquet; the garden is fun for all ages and there is always something new to learn; explore the other gardens including a French Potager Garden, Rose Garden and recently restored Perennial Garden; borrow a blanket and a book to read under a tree or play a game of checkers or tic-tac-toe; presented by the Trustees; \$5 per 10 stems for Trustees members, \$10 per 10 stems for nonmembers; www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- Where to shop
- A descendant of Shem
- NBA big man "Boogie"
- Integrated circuit
- Voice
- Larry and Curly's buddy
- Beloved English princess
- Used to emphasize
- Sun worshippers want one
- Atomic # 44 (abbr.)
- Lincoln's state
- Selects
- Organs present in invertebrates
- Self-immolation by fire
- Trauma center
- Automobile
- Mustachioed actor Elliott
- Something to do at auctions
- British School
- San Diego ballplayers
- Drumming pattern

CLUES DOWN

- Cooks need one
- A mystic syllable
- Male parents
- Greek goddess of discord
- U.S.-based church (abbr.)
- Movies have lots of them
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Influential naturalist
- Ancient town
- Atlanta-based rapper
- Animosities
- Pop singer
- Speak
- One who lives in northern Burma
- Not liquids
- A framework
- Peter's last name
- Plants have it
- To shorten a book
- French philosopher

Solution in Classified Section

- One-time Portuguese currency
- Honor
- Beaches have it
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Electronic data processing
- Where wrestlers ply their trade
- The Peach State
- Boat post
- Omitted from printed matter
- Witnesses
- Indicates position
- Atomic # 18 (abbr.)
- Obligated to repay
- Lead prosecutor
- Sun God
- The Ocean State
- Seek opportunity without scruples
- Keeps you cool
- Achievements
- A beloved street
- Analyze minutely

- Murdered in his bathtub
- Greek letter
- A hiding place
- Crazed supporters
- Winged nut
- Doctor of Education
- Unhappy
- Popular celeb magazine
- __ and greets
- Poke holes in
- Beloved Mexican dish
- Monetary unit of Angola
- More wise
- Pouches
- Hindu's ideal man
- Type of gazelle
- Revolutions per minute
- Energy unit
- Cerium
- Canadian peninsula

8/30/18



Townspeople



Joe Connelly, director of Community Services, talks about the renovations planned to expand and rearrange space at the Center at Punchard.



The dining room is also used for a multi-use room.



Kitchen staff prepares meals in the kitchen. Plans to expand and renovate the senior center will come before Town Meeting later this year.

Punchard Center eyed for \$4.5 million makeover

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

The senior population in Andover is growing, and the town is making big plans to accommodate them.

Joe Connelly, director of Community Services, said that by the year 2030, 38 percent of Andover's residents will be seniors.

The Center of Punchard in Andover is currently right under 10,000 square feet. The Mass Council on Aging recommended that, considering the size of the senior population in town, the center be 20,000 plus square feet.

Plans for renovation to the senior center have been underway for a couple years, said Connelly.

"This is not something new," he said.

The renovations are expected give the center 3,000 square feet of additional space.

"We're cramped, we're wall to wall," Connelly said.

The ideas for renovations have come from public meetings and from talking with staff at the senior center.

The new plan will include opening up the overall space, and expanding on rooms that are already there. There will be a pool room, ping pong room, expanded four seasons room, expanded cafeteria and a fitness room, which was a direct request from the seniors, said Connelly.

Electric dividers and improved audio will be implemented in the classrooms. Connelly said the office spaces will also be expanded, as they are "not functional" for Punchard employees at the moment.

"The seniors deserve this, and now is the time to give them what they deserve," said Connelly.

Connelly said the total cost of the renovation is projected to be \$4.5 million dollars. He gave a timeline of the project, estimating the construction period to be around 18 months, and expecting it to begin in the winter of 2020.

The town is hoping to raise \$500,000 for the project.

"The money we ask for fundraising will really make the



Seniors make crafts in one of the classroom spaces at the Center at Punchard.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Seniors play a game of bridge in the Four Seasons room.



Kitchen supplies are stored in a closet, because the kitchen is too small.

place a whole," said Connelly, adding that it will go towards things like furniture and gym equipment for the new wellness center.

Connelly said the other part of fundraising is educating the community on the needs at the center.

At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, members seemed pleased with the fundraising goal. That was the first step, said Connelly.

Elaine Meisinger, a Salem Street resident who comes to Punchard every Thursday to paint, said she enjoyed the

Punchard Center but it could be better.

"There are lots of things going on here but we could have more," she said, adding that the makeshift exercise room doesn't have enough open wall space to perform certain exercises.

Louise Small, of Fosters Pond Road, said she was hopeful the changes will bring new people to Punchard.

"I think the renovations will be really nice, and will attract a lot more seniors," she said.



A plan to expand and renovate are in the works for the Center at Punchard Senior Center.



Joe Connelly, director of Community Services, talks about the planned renovations.

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:

Friday Night Special: Chinese American Association of Andovers and Andover Elder Services host free activities at The Center on Fridays, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., including Zumba, yoga, ping pong, Mah Jong, board and card games, and other social activities. All are welcome.

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.

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.

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. Preregistration 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.

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

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 the meetings.

Parkinson's Support Group: Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 1:30 to 3 p.m., September through June, and are 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 and must be picked up by 10:15 a.m. Call Annmary Connor or Kristine Arakelian to check eligibility or to sign up.

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.



Triple Tax Savings Event on windows!

We're celebrating our Triple Tax Savings Event all month long!

Through September 1st only, buy four and get 18.75% off your entire project, and get an additional \$100 off each window and patio door with no money down, no payments and no interest for one year!¹

- From last year we know that these appointments fill up quickly; call today
- Your order must be placed by September 1st



Order must be placed by September 1st, 2018



<p>1</p> <p>18.75% OFF your entire project¹</p> <p><small>Minimum purchase of four.</small></p>	<p>2 AND</p> <p>\$100 OFF each window and patio door¹</p> <p><small>No minimum purchase required.</small></p>	<p>3 WITH</p> <p>NO Money Down NO Payments NO Interest FOR 1 YEAR¹</p> <p><small>Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months. Participating states require the payment of sales taxes on all product sales.</small></p>
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Don't settle for poor-quality vinyl windows.

Not only can they look shiny and low-end, some poor-quality vinyl windows can warp, leak and become drafty after just a few years. Our windows are made of our exclusive Fibrex[®] material, which is twice as strong as vinyl.

Unlike some other companies, we warrant our windows and installation.*

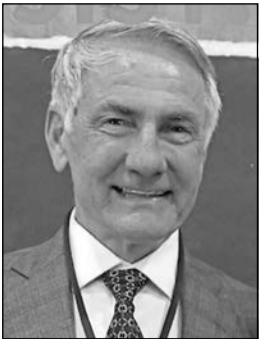
Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen Corporation, and because they've been around for 115 years, you know we'll be around to stand behind our window, our service and our installation.*



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¹DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 9/15/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. 18.75% off your project and 12 months no money down, no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 7/29/2018 and 9/15/2018. Subject to credit approval. Additional \$100 off per window or patio door when you set your appointment by 9/1/2018 and purchase by 9/15/2018, taken after initial discount(s), no minimum purchase required. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky[®] consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2018 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.



Jeff Ballinger



Alexandra Chandler



Beej Das



Rufus Gifford



Leonard Golder



Rick Green



Daniel Koh



Barbara L'Italien



Bopha Malone



Juana Matias



Lori Trahan

► 3rd District

Five questions for 12 candidates

Agreements and differences on a range of topics

BY KEITH EDDINGS Staff Writer

The issues facing the next Congress and the nation are vast and complex, as is the challenge voters in the 3rd District face sorting through the crowded field of candidates who want to succeed Congresswoman Niki Tsongas in Washington.

To help, The Eagle-Tribune asked each of the 12 candidates — 10 Democrats, a Republican and an independent — for their positions on the opioid epidemic, the economy, immigration, President Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court and how they would serve the 3rd District.

Their answers follow, along with links to their web pages for more detailed information.

All 12 candidates told us the federal government has a bigger role to play fighting the opioid epidemic. All 12 also agreed that solutions should include stepped-up prevention, education and treatment. Only one, independent Mike Mullen, said the mix of solutions should also include stepped-up law enforcement. Several said the pharmaceutical companies should be held accountable for the damage opioids have done and should help pay for the fixes.

"We need to prioritize and expand access to treatment, which means providing federal resources to increase the number of beds at treatment facilities," said Rufus Gifford, a Democrat. "There are many incredible facilities in our district, but they all have wait lists."

The Democrats agreed that Trump's tax cuts and tariffs will damage working people and the economy. Republican Rick Green said the tax cuts allowed him to give bonuses to his employees and price cuts to his customers at the online auto parts company he owns.

"He's giving away a trillion dollars in tax cuts for billionaires and big businesses while claiming we can't afford our social safety net and he's put jobs at risk and raised prices by unilaterally starting trade wars with some of our closest economic partners," said Barbara L'Italien, a Democrat.

All 12 favor comprehensive immigration reform, although there are differences over the details.

Eight of the Democrats oppose Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court, while two said only that they were troubled by it. Mullen, the independent, opposes the nomination. Republican Green won't say, noting that only the Senate, not the House, will vote on the nomination.

"Absolutely not," said Daniel Koh, a Democrat, about Kavanaugh's nomination. "The Republicans stole a Supreme Court seat and now want to entrench a far-right conservative majority. We need to fight

to uphold a woman's fundamental right to choose what happens with her own body. We need to fight to reverse Citizens United. We need to fight to protect LGBTQ rights. We need to fight to safeguard the Affordable Care Act. And we need to show the Trump administration that we will never stop fighting for our American values."

The primary is Sept. 4. Green, the Republican, is unopposed and will advance to the general election Nov. 4. As an independent, Mullen will not appear on the ballot until the general election. Only one of the 10 Democrats will move on to the Nov. 4 election.

DEMOCRATS

What can the federal government do to combat the opioid epidemic?

JEFFREY BALLINGER, Andover, <https://www.ballingerforcongress.com>. What I saw during a year in Afghanistan sickens me. I told our ambassador that the Dutch and German space agencies wanted to share satellite monitoring data of smuggling routes in Afghanistan. He basically told me, "Stay in your lane." We do nothing on the drug interdiction front because we are protecting corrupt politicians and warlords who are profiting from the smuggling. As early as 1962, former U.S. Sen. Estes Kefauver warned of the danger of advertising pharmaceuticals. The blame for the rampant opioid abuse epidemic can be laid at the feet of two or three big pharmaceutical companies — the real criminals!

ALEXANDRA CHANDLER, Haverhill, <https://alexandrachandler.com>. My own father struggled with addiction and it contributed to his death when I was 17. The federal government must treat this as a public health emergency on the scale of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, fully funding an integrated approach to medication-assisted treatment, mental health care, education, housing, transportation, health care and employment. Congress must stand up to pharmaceutical company lobbyists (I take no corporate PAC money, so I will) and restore full enforcement against "pill mills." Congress must demand that insurance companies and a future single-payer system make non-opioid alternatives to pain management easily accessible and affordable.

BEEJ DAS, Lowell, <https://dasforcongress.com>. The federal government has provided insufficient resources for two critical areas: (a) drug abuse education and prevention and (b) treatment that allows addicted patients the ability to safely return to society without their debilitating condition. There are insufficient residential treatment options available to safely handle the current crisis and states cannot bear the financial burdens alone. The cycle of addiction, life-threatening

ELECTION DAY

It's Election Day on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

In Andover, that means the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ People living in Precincts 1 and 3 vote at the Center at Puncard (Senior Center).

■ Those in Precincts 4, 5 and 6 vote at the Wood Hill Middle School.

■ Precincts 2, 7, 7A, 8, 9 and 9A vote at Andover High School Field House.

When you approach the check-in table, first tell the poll worker the name of street where you live, then the number of your residence and finally your name. As the voters list is arranged by street, this is the quickest way to receive a ballot and keep any lines moving.

In a primary election, voters who are registered in a political party may only obtain a ballot for that party. All other voters may request the ballot of any party participating in the primary election. You will not become registered in a political party because of your participation in a state primary.

overdoses and hospitalization repeats itself frequently because the current federal response is anemic. The Department of Justice must also investigate the prescription practices of drug manufacturers to seek recovery for the costs of handling the epidemic.

RUFUS GIFFORD, Concord, <https://rufusgifford.com>. We can and we must do so much more to combat the opioid epidemic head-on. As I travel across the 3rd District, I hear story after story of how families have been devastated and it breaks my heart. We need to prioritize and expand access to treatment, which means providing federal resources to increase the number of beds at treatment facilities. There are many incredible facilities in our district, but they all have wait lists. We also need to decrease the supply of opioids to get at the root of the problem. That means much more congressional oversight over the pharmaceutical industry and prescribers.

LEONARD GOLDER, Stow, <https://www.facebook.com/GolderforCongress>. Prevention: guidelines for acceptable prescriptive use, alternative treatment and research for eliminating the addictive elements of opioids. Education: to consumers and school children. Treatment: funding for substance abuse counselors and inpatient treatment centers.

DAN KOH, Andover, <https://koh2018.com>. The opioid epidemic is tearing apart families and devastating our neighborhoods. But in the face of this public health crisis, President Trump has actually proposed cutting funding for agencies on the front lines of the epidemic. We must invest the necessary resources on the ground for prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services. We also need to destigmatize addiction and recognize opioid

misuse and recognize it for what it is: a preventable and treatable medical condition.

BARBARA L'ITALIEN, Andover, <https://teambarbara.com>. We must treat opioid addiction like the public health crisis it is. Whatever Trump says, we can't arrest our way out of an epidemic and demonizing immigrants won't save lives. We should give medical professionals the training, tools and resources to keep people from getting addicted to start with; reduce the risk to those already addicted with supervised injection sites and needle exchanges; make treatment possible for all by ensuring vulnerable people have insurance coverage and expanding the behavioral health workforce; and hold the negligent corporations who caused this epidemic accountable.

BOPHA MALONE, Bedford, <https://bophaforcongress.com>. We should be vastly expanding access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations and promoting better practices by prescribers. I am committed to helping people who are struggling with addiction find and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration into society, and working to remove common barriers to gainful employment, housing, and education. Drug addiction is a mental health issue and needs to be treated that way by insurance companies and our criminal justice system. Right now, too many people with addiction are languishing in our criminal system rather than getting the help they need.

JUANA MATIAS, Lawrence, <https://juanamatias.com>. The opioid epidemic is the public health emergency of our time. The key to solving this crisis is to treat addiction as a chronic disease. Just like any other chronic illness, we cannot solve this by blaming or criminalizing patients. Instead, we need to destigmatize addiction and educate our population, provide access to comprehensive treatment, empower health professionals to treat with all available options and use the judicial system to go after the bad actors instead of the victims of this crisis. I fully support Senator Warren's CARE Act, which will provide \$10 billion in funding over the coming decade.

LORI TRAHAN, Westford, <https://loritrahan.com>. Congress needs to pass the Warren CARE Act to ensure states like Massachusetts are getting more funding for treatment, Narcan and other support services for those battling substance abuse disorder. Pharmaceutical companies should continue to be prosecuted for their role in this epidemic and all money collected should go to the communities hardest hit. We need more long-term treatment programs as well as workforce training

and family supports to help those with this lifelong battle.

Has President Trump improved or harmed the economy? What's gone right/wrong under his leadership and how would you build on it or reverse it?

BALLINGER: Trump is the ultimate huckster, trained for years doing reality TV. He spoke very boldly about "intellectual property theft" by the Chinese. But given an opportunity, he did nothing for Ayer-based AMSC, whose technology was stolen by their biggest customer: the Chinese firm Sinovel in 2011. While a U.S. District Court found this company harmed AMSC by \$800 million, AMSC just settled for pennies on the dollar: \$57 million. More than 700 jobs were lost. None of these workers will see restitution on this paltry settlement. Trump could have pressured the Chinese but he didn't lift a finger!

CHANDLER: President Trump has harmed the economy. Wages for most working- and middle-class people are not keeping up with the rising cost of child care, health care and education. His actions abroad have harmed U.S. trade and market stability. His tax cut was temporary for ordinary people and a permanent boost to the wealthy and large corporations and will increase our national debt. I will work to permanently increase the disposable income of ordinary families by up to thousands a year and cut our debt by repealing the Trump tax cuts and replacing them with progressive taxation and an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.

DAS: President Trump's economic package, mainly tax cuts for large corporations and a roll back of labor regulations, has offered stimulus to the economy without solving the more serious structural issues facing small business or the economy. Health care continues to be the significant cost driver for small businesses and employees alike and has not improved under his watch. I agree with the President that NAFTA and other multi-lateral trade agreements must be abandoned in favor of bilateral balanced trade agreements, but his arbitrary tariffs and heated trade war mongering is counterproductive.

GIFFORD: Too many people in the 3rd District are struggling economically and the Trump administration has not prioritized working families whatsoever. In Congress, I will fight not just for jobs, but for good-paying, middle-class jobs that allow people to get ahead. We need to find ways to increase wages, while also reining in the skyrocketing costs of health care, education, and housing. The Trump tax bill was a massive giveaway to the wealthiest and corporations. The next Congress must repeal it. Additionally, Trump's trade wars and tariffs

See **QUESTIONS**, Page 18

Announcements

HAPPY ADS

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

G/C BUILDER'S LICENSE COURSE Register by Sept 21st for Danvers, Lowell, Haverhill, MA 1-888-833-5207 www.StateCertification.com

LOST & FOUND

LOST CAT (Tuxedo) male, name Johnny Missing since July 6th in Ballardvale area of Andover. \$500 REWARD!! Call Debbie (978) 566-5626; Rick (781) 789-2241

LOST PARROT Sun. 5/27 Carter St Newburyport area. Small Quaker parrot, several shades of blue, answers to Charlie. Call 978-465-9154

PERSONALS

ST. JUDE
Thanks for the favors.
MIMB

Real Estate

HOMES

Gloucester - Prominent custom colonial on elevated knoll. Enjoy the many decks. This home features spacious open-concept living ideal for entertaining. Eat-in kitchen, exits to decks and abuts a living room with alcove to overlook a dining room. Spacious family room with wood stove/fireplace abuts bedrooms and office. A generous master bedroom en-suite with fireplace and deck overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and an additional bedroom rests on its top. Complementing the home, a beautifully designed basement game room with full bar, an entertaining delight! Situated on a cul-de-sac street near Good Harbor Beach with easy access to Rte 128, shopping and MSTA to Boston. Garage/Accessory Potential. \$650,000

Rick Petralia
J Barrett & Company
978-239-6207

Gloucester-Stunning Back Shore custom designed colonial sited on spacious manicured lot. Perched on an elevated knoll, this home features oak floors, polished tile, marble and solid oak doors and trim throughout. Highlighting the home, a graciously appointed custom kitchen that opens to a two story vaulted-ceiling family room w/ impressive full-height granite fireplace opening to a lofted game room w/bar. The home also features a finished basement, two-car tiled garage, multiple decks and patio. Near beaches. \$1,085,000

Rick Petralia
J Barrett & Company
978-239-6207

Newburyport ~ High Street

THE MERRILL HOUSE - 1791 elegance and space with period features. 4 fireplaces, raised field paneled mantel walls, double staircases, cornice moldings. Formal dining room, library, private second floor deck, heated sunroom looking out on 1/2 acre of lawn and gardens. All systems updated. SS kitchen, Master Bath, two story carriage barn. Kept meticulously by caring owners. \$848,000

RIVER VALLEY RE
Call Joanie Purinton 978-462-6898 or office, 978-363-8851 for more information or to arrange a showing

NEWBURYPORT - NEW TO MARKET

One of Newburyport's earliest! 1657 Saltbox with direct views over across the expansive Mouth of the River. Two bedrooms, giant fireplaces, flower garden. Country kitchen with picturesque pantry room. Upgrades are left for the new owners; the period character remains. The other side of this duplex is also for sale, enabling a new owner to possess a single family residence. Sunrises are your daily excitement. \$469,000

RIVER VALLEY R.E.
Call Joanie Purinton for appt 978-462-6898

UNDER CONTRACT

WEST NEWBURY

Spacious and sturdy Colonial home with three living levels - needs complete rehab - new heating system, 1998 huge country kitchen, newer hot water heater and newer roof, passed Title V/septic inspection. High ceilings, fireplace, fine moldings, French door, glowing pine floors, two bedrooms, special "reading nook," excellent storage. Many special touches here! \$375,000

RIVER VALLEY R.E.
Call Pat Skibbee for appt 978-502-4782

TOWNHOMES/CONDOS

Beverly - Centered between Cabot and Rantoul Streets, this new condominium association with first-floor updated two-bedroom unit offering many amenities. Unit features stainless-steel eat-in kitchen, new wood floors, wide trim moldings, laundry in unit, updated bath, exclusive use porch, storage, and two-car parking. Easy access to highway and Train. Near Danvers Beach. Enjoy all that downtown Beverly has to offer! \$308,000

Rick Petralia
J Barrett & Company
978-239-6207

Sports

STAR IN THE MAKING

Diabetes can't stop multi-talented star McCarthy

By MICHAEL MULDOON
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for Andover travel team football coach Jimmy Johnson to know Jackson McCarthy was something special.

"It was my very first game," said Johnson, the former Andover High and Dartmouth College wide receiver. "It was vs. Derry, the champions the past couple years. On one of Jackson's first runs, he split two defenders, juiced another and ran over another for a 70-yard gain. He's an absolute monster, to say the least."

Andover High coach E.J. Perry concurs: "Every player, coach, trainer who sees him says he's the next great Andover football player. He has a chance to start as a freshman."

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound McCarthy, the son of Somerville natives Jack and Linda McCarthy, comes by his toughness naturally. He has to be tough. He's a type 1 diabetic.

"If I have high or low blood sugar, it can be impossible to play," said McCarthy, a graduate of Andover's West Middle School. "I almost passed out last year I think vs. Lowell."

Why keep playing?
"I realized I could give up everything and let this disease get the mental victory," said McCarthy, who has a talented classmate at AHS in 6'0", 172-pound quarterback Victor Harrington. "Or I could keep pushing and pushing and pushing. I feel if I'm dedicated enough, I can do anything."

"I realized I could give up everything and let this disease get the mental victory. Or I could keep pushing and pushing and pushing. I feel if I'm dedicated enough, I can do anything."

Jackson McCarthy

He just started weightlifting but, thanks to years of push-ups, can bench press 190 pounds and can do a set of 75 push-ups.

Football is clearly his sport, but he plans to play basketball (he can dunk) and lacrosse, too.

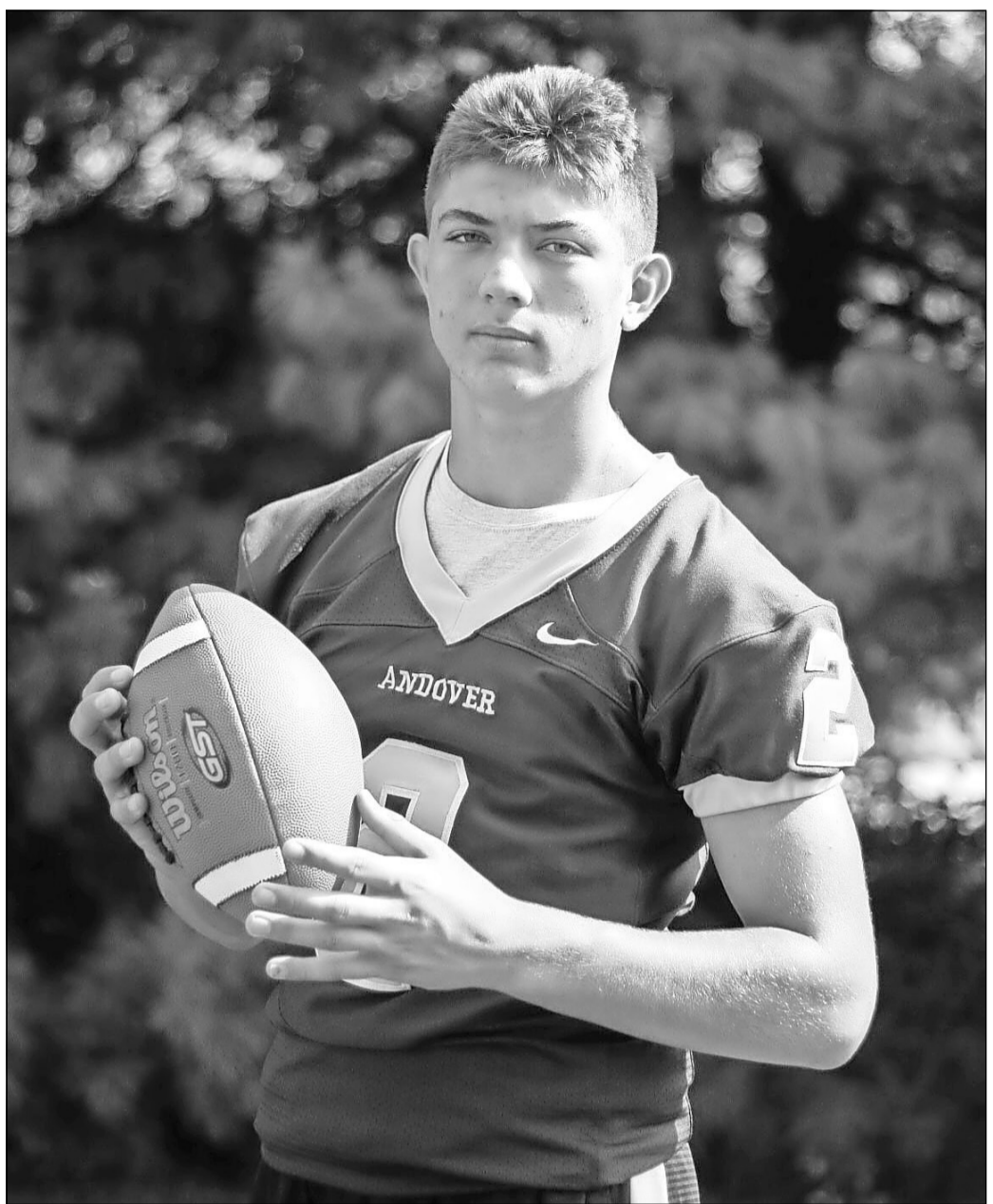
His 6'2", 227-pound second cousin, St. John's Prep grad Steve Langton from Melrose, long jumped 23-1 (he's in the Northeastern Hall of Fame) and is a three-time Olympian on bobsled team. His brother, Chris Langton, was an Olympic bobsled alternate.

McCarthy was accepted to St. John's and Central Catholic.

"I really considered them," he said. "But I had to stay home and play for Coach Perry. He's the best coach around. He was my fifth grade teacher and I was on his basketball team. It was my first year of basketball. He really worked with me."

"My dad always reminded me, 'Coach Perry was always there for you.'"

Follow Michael Muldoon on Twitter at @MullyET.



Jackson McCarthy was a one-man wrecking crew as a middle school football player.

ALEXANDRA NICOLAS/
Staff photo

Taking on the best

Oppenheim reflects on Koepka and Tiger experiences

Bill Burt

Rob Oppenheim had a front row seat for what turned out to be a memorable day of golf.

Andover's Oppenheim was in the family room of his home in Orlando, Florida, planning to check in from time to time to watch snippets of the PGA Championship.

But he didn't leave the family room much late Sunday afternoon. Brooks Koepka, who won his third major in two years, and Tiger Woods, who finished second after getting within a stroke early on the back nine, were too good.

Oppenheim wasn't surprised one bit about both, which is why he watched most of it. He has experience with both to back him up.

In the 2016 U.S. Open, Oppenheim was paired with Koepka in the final round at Oakmont Country Club.

After two bogeys over his first three holes, Koepka went on an epic U.S. Open tear, going eight under par over eight holes — birdie, birdie, birdie, par, birdie, eagle and birdie.

Koepka got to within two strokes of the leader Dustin Johnson, who eventually won easily by three strokes, and fans and TV cameras took notice.

"It was incredible watching Brooks," said Oppenheim. "He was almost like, carefree, oblivious to what was going on. He kept knocking it close, making birdies and never showed any emotion. Even when he eagled from the fairway. Fans started following us. The cameras were



Associated Press photos

Andover's Rob Oppenheim has had experience playing with resurgent Tiger Woods and recent champion Brooks Koepka.

everywhere," recalled Oppenheim. "I just wanted to stay out of the way. But he was still talking, still friendly. It's amazing how carefree he was in that situation."

Oppenheim said Koepka, though, has the talent to back it up.

"I saw first-hand the fire power he had," said Oppenheim. "He's not only very long, but he's straight. But what impressed me the most was his short game was good. He's a very good putter. The Oakmont greens were very fast, but he still went on a tear there."

Oppenheim points not to his win at the PGA championship, but winning the U.S. Open two months ago at Shinnecock Hills, where length isn't as important. "That was huge, winning there," said Oppenheim. "He's for real. I saw it with my own eyes on a tough U.S. Open course two years ago. He's got the game and the mentality

"I usually play my best this time of year when my back is against the wall. I'm ready. I've been home with the family and feeling good. It's time to play."

Rob Oppenheim

to be a big, big winner for years to come."

The other reason Oppenheim watched intently was the re-emergence of Tiger Woods in the hunt of a major late in the afternoon.

"To be honest with you, I'm like a lot of people," said Oppenheim. "If he wasn't in the hunt, doing what he was doing, I probably wouldn't have watched as much as I did. "He's definitely getting close to where he was," said Oppenheim. "To not hit a fairway until the 10th

hole, and still score the way he did, is incredible."

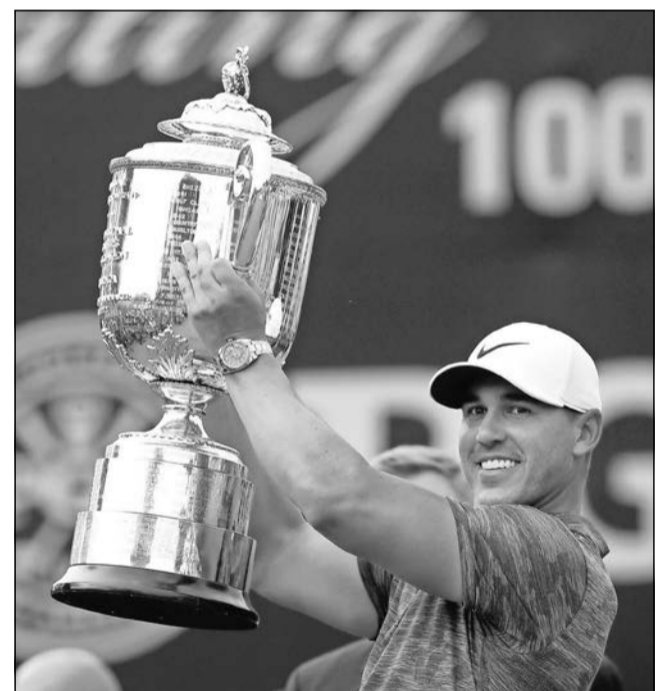
Oppenheim has played in a few events this season in which Tiger was in the field. It felt different, he said, when he was there versus when he wasn't.

"It's a different feeling when he's there," said Oppenheim. "The fact he did what he did, in such exciting fashion, probably makes him the bigger story (at the PGA Championship)."

"Rightfully so. The way he dominated the sport was special to watch. It would be amazing to play with him. I also respect the way he has been on the course, high-fiving fans. We didn't see a lot of that before."

Oppenheim is currently competing in the four-event Web.com Tour play-offs, which has replaced the new "PGA Q-School."

"I usually play my best this time of year when my back is against the wall," said Oppenheim.



Andover's Rob Oppenheim has faced off against Brooks Koepka, here lifting the PGA Championship trophy earlier this month.

"I'm ready. I've been home with the family and feeling good. It's time to play."

so much and miss a lot of things," said Oppenheim, who grew up in Andover and was a three-sport athlete. "But when I had the option of seeing her off, with my wife and son, I wasn't going to miss it ... The school is only a block down the street. So it wasn't very far."

And how did it go?
"A few tears from mom (Lacey)," said Oppenheim, who tees off today at 1:40 p.m. "But other than that, all good."

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com.

SEND US YOUR TOWN SPORTS NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
A t-storm in spots	Cooler but pleasant	Low clouds	Low clouds may break	A shower possible	A t-storm possible	Showers possible
High: 86° Low: 62°	High: 75° Low: 62°	High: 73° Low: 64°	High: 83° Low: 70°	High: 88° Low: 68°	High: 81° Low: 65°	High: 80° Low: 62°



QUESTIONS

Continued from Page 14

make no economic sense and will only hurt workers in the 3rd District.

GOLDER: His tariff wars are shutting out American companies from selling overseas and will lead to higher prices for American consumers. While his tax cuts for middle- and lower-income people and small corporations have led to some economic growth, his tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations have just resulted in bigger profit margins for big business while overall wages are still stagnant. I support converting the tax cuts for large corporations to tax credits conditional on businesses hiring, training and providing a living wage to workers, including those over 40. We also need to increase the minimum wage and pass laws strengthening labor unions, which are a force for higher wages.

KOH: President Trump has harmed our economy. He just passed a tax giveaway that makes economic inequality worse and rigs the system in favor of big corporations at the expense of the middle class. We must reverse the Republican tax scheme and fight for a fair economy with a \$15 minimum wage, strong unions and equal pay for equal work. As chief of staff to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, I brought people together to create jobs and get things done for working families.

L'ITALIEN: Trump has benefited hugely from inheriting former President Obama's economy. The economic policies he's actually pursuing are harmful for working families. He's giving away a trillion dollars in tax cuts for billionaires and big businesses while claiming we can't afford our social safety net and he's put jobs at risk and raised prices by unilaterally starting trade wars with some of our closest economic partners. We need Congress to reverse his reckless tariffs and boondoggles for billionaires, invest in massive infrastructure improvements and renewable energy, and experiment with a federal guaranteed jobs program to try to create a more just economy.

MALONE: President Trump likes to take credit for the economic gains that started in the Obama administration, but his actions in office have hurt low-income and middle-class Americans. His unilateral tariffs are already increasing the cost of consumer goods and hurting critical industries. I would build consensus and push the administration back to the negotiation table with these countries. The president's only other noteworthy economic "accomplishment" is the tax bill that largely benefited corporations and the top 1 percent. Instead, tax cuts should focus on the middle class who will purchase more goods and services, growing our economy from the bottom up.

MATIAS: The American economy is doing well right now, but it's clear that the benefits of a strong economy aren't being

enjoyed by all Americans. While the wealthiest profit off a strong stock market, working and middle-class Americans' wages have stagnated over the last 40 years. Instead of leveling the playing field, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress gave a tax break to the largest corporations and top 1 percent, blowing a hole in our deficit and leaving middle-class and older Americans to pick up the tab.

TRAHAN: The Trump tax cut has failed on all counts. The economy is growing but at the same rate or slightly slower than when President Trump was elected. We are only beginning to see the impact of his tariffs, which will result in fewer U.S. exports, more expensive imports and higher prices on everyday goods. Families continue to be hit by falling wages and rising prices. We need to right-size tax reform to incentivize businesses to reinvest and provide families with much needed relief.

What should be the elements of a comprehensive immigration policy?

BALLINGER: There has been almost nonexistent enforcement of border security during the last several decades, under both parties. Similarly, the visas for skilled workers and workers at resorts and farms have never been sufficiently policed. American businesses (including Trump's) need and want some of these workers. But we cannot really oversee the visa over-stayer problem with the current immigration staff. I married a naturalized citizen from a Muslim-majority country. We probably would not have met under the Trump administration bans. Blocking funding for "the wall" is a top priority!

CHANDLER: America is great in large part because of immigration. Comprehensive immigration policy should reflect that. I support a path to citizenship for immigrants with DACA status or Temporary Protective Status and all undocumented immigrants provided they have not been convicted of a serious violent crime. I will vote to defund ICE enforcement of the "zero-tolerance" policy. I will use my expertise as a former national security professional to lead a reform of the entire Department of Homeland Security to protect civil liberties, streamline cumbersome immigration bureaucracy, honor our values and make us safer.

DAS: Immigration reform must focus on two important objectives: (a) ensuring the United States remains the beacon for the world's smartest and most talented people, and (b) guaranteeing fair access to the country. We must add more seasonal, H1B and student visas to the current allocation. America's greatest strength is when it attracts, sharpens, and aggregates talent among its people. Our current immigration policy aims to deter immigration and that is a fundamental and dangerous mistake.

GIFFORD: We need a compassionate, rules-based immigration system that is in line with our values as a nation. We must never

forget that we are a nation of immigrants, that our country has always served as a beacon of hope to the oppressed and neediest and that immigrants have made our communities stronger and more vibrant. We must reverse President Trump's racist and xenophobic immigration policies, which are, frankly, un-American. I support comprehensive immigration reform along the lines of the 2013 bipartisan Gang of 8 bill, which would provide a pathway for citizenship for undocumented immigrants. I also believe we need to enact policies that keep families together and protect DREAMers.

GOLDER: Everyone should be entitled to the same treatment and opportunity for entry to America as was just given to Melania Trump's parents. We need to pass DACA. Those seeking asylum from despotic governments or drug lords should be encouraged to enter the country through border entry without separation from their children and given asylum as long as they are not criminals or terrorists. We need to eliminate the enforcement arm of ICE and its Gestapo tactics.

KOH: My family immigrated to Lawrence from Lebanon and Korea. Today, Donald Trump would stop us at the border. Trump is directly attacking the American dream that made my family's story and the stories of millions of others possible. We need to permanently protect DREAMers, reunite families that were indiscriminately and inhumanely separated and pass common-sense immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship. When Trump proposed his racist travel ban, I worked with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to open up City Hall to those who felt threatened. In Congress, I will continue to stand up to Trump's policies.

L'ITALIEN: Like almost everyone in this country, my family came here from somewhere else. I've always seen immigrants as vital to what makes America, America. I never forget in considering immigration policy that most immigrants are coming here for the exact same reason my grandparents did: to seek a better life for their children. We need comprehensive immigration reform that provides undocumented immigrants who have no criminal record and meet key standards a path to citizenship, and rebuilds our immigration enforcement system from the ground up to be fair, just, compassionate and reflect the values of a nation of immigrants.

MALONE: I'm a refugee and immigrant. I'm running for Congress today because America opened its doors to my family. It saddens me that our country is now turning its back on asylum seekers escaping violence and seeking a better life, as well as undocumented immigrants who are already part of our communities and contributing to society. A comprehensive immigration plan will create a clear path to citizenship for law-abiding citizens, including DREAMers, protect families seeking refuge at our borders,

increase border security without building an unnecessary wall and reform ICE so it refocuses on criminals and stops abuses.

MATIAS: It's time that our immigration system reflects our values as a nation. I am an immigrant, a former Justice American Corps legal advocate who fought for children seeking asylum in court, the sister of a border patrol officer and the leader on the Safe Communities Act in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, which has given me a unique understanding of our immigration system and its shortcomings. Instead of tearing families apart, it's time for Congress to pass comprehensive, compassionate immigration reform that abolishes ICE, protects DREAMers and immigrants with Temporary Protective Status and keeps families together. In Congress, I'll be a tireless advocate for immigrant families like mine.

TRAHAN: First and foremost, we must stop the separation of families and the inhumane punishment being inflicted by ICE. Congress must act quickly on comprehensive reform that protects DREAMers, provides pathways to citizenship and incorporates aid and support for countries in need. We can push back against Trump's failed policies by using the appropriations process to direct Homeland Security priorities to national security.

REPUBLICAN

RICK GREEN, Pepperell, <https://www.rickgreen-forma.com>

What can the federal government do to combat the opioid epidemic?

This issue is too important to wait. This is why we have already convened our "Empowering Recovery" Action Team to bring together various community members actively working to address the opiate epidemic. Among the items we discussed is the necessity of a centralized communications network and infrastructure for sharing information and best practices, so that all the different groups can help each other be successful in their own efforts towards our common goal. I take personal responsibility for this effort, but I have also announced that I will appoint a senior level member of my congressional staff to focus solely on coordinating and communicating with all these groups and across all levels of government - local, state and federal.

Has President Trump improved or harmed the economy? What's gone right/wrong under his leadership and how would you build on it or reverse it?

In April, my company paid bonuses to all of our full-time employees. This was a decision that our company made after Congress passed the tax package. At the end of the day, virtually all of the savings will be passed onto our customers in the form of lower prices, but in the meantime, we decided to share these savings with our employees as well. Also, all of our employees have seen an increase in their take-home pay, with the average increase

around 4 percent. In fact, the largest increases went to folks at the lower end of the pay scale, and with the child tax credit, single mothers benefited the most. I would work to make the tax breaks for the middle class and families permanent.

What should be the elements of a comprehensive immigration policy?

Politicians on both sides have been playing political football with the issue of immigration for too long. It's time to stop fighting and fix this. A few weeks ago, when we rolled out our "First Generation Americans" Coalition, I told the folks there that a successful immigration policy requires both certainty and humanity. Everyone benefits from a clearly defined and universally applied system. We must re-establish the rule of law and reject sanctuary policies. There is no point in changing or making new laws if we can't all agree to follow existing laws.

The 3rd Congressional District includes some of the wealthiest communities in Massachusetts, including Andover, and some of the poorest, including Lawrence. How would you serve them both?

My brother and I built a business out of a garage in Pepperell, Massachusetts. Not many people know that Pepperell was a mill town. When the mill closed down, a lot of people lost their jobs and downtown was hit hard. But within a few short years, my company became the largest employer in town. We have created over 500 jobs and now have locations in Westford and Littleton. I know what it takes to revive an old mill economy and turn it into a growing 21st century economy because I have done it. A thriving economy benefits folks at every income level and in every community. It takes a bottom-up, not a top-down approach.

Do you support the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court?

The House of Representatives doesn't vote on Supreme Court nominations. I do not think that it would be appropriate for a congressional candidate to get involved in supporting or opposing Supreme Court nominations. This only serves to politicize the court. We have too much of this polarization already.

INDEPENDENT

MICHAEL MULLEN, Maynard, <https://mullen2018.com>

What can the federal government do to combat the opioid epidemic?

My background in the workers compensation industry has provided me experience in this area. Response to the opioid epidemic needs to address prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement. Partnering with state and local governments to support treatment and prevention programs through something like the Warren/Cummings CARE act is a good start. Monitoring and limiting production and prescription of legal opioids domestically and working with foreign governments to prevent fentanyl production and distribution are appropriate enforcement measures. Helping ensure access to

(naloxone) and sharing information related to the strength of street drugs between law enforcement agencies would help reduce harm.

Has President Trump improved or harmed the economy? What's gone right/wrong under his leadership and how would you build on it or reverse it?

I believe the President's economic policies are resulting in short-term gains that are not sustainable and disproportionately favor the wealthy. The dramatic increase in our deficit spending and the impact of tariffs will likely cause economic damage that will take many years to resolve. While the President has recognized that people do not want "business as usual" in Washington, he has done it in a way that divides the nation rather than brings it together. Rather than direct the frustration towards each other we should use that energy to come up with solutions that address the root cause of issues.

What should be the elements of a comprehensive immigration policy?

We are a nation of immigrants and this DNA drives our culture and economic success. Any immigration reform should address three areas. First, the existing system is outdated and needs to be modernized for the 21st century. Second, a path to citizenship for those undocumented residents that have been contributing members of our communities. Lastly, adequate funding for effective enforcement. I support legislation in the spirit of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. This addresses modernizing the system, provides a "reset" to address where we are as a nation and provides a path forward.

The 3rd Congressional District includes some of the wealthiest communities in Massachusetts, including Andover, and some of the poorest, including Lawrence. How would you serve them both?

I don't believe support of these constituencies is mutually exclusive. A strong economy, access to quality health care and education are important to all citizens. I support universal solutions where possible to encourage engagement and support. For example, to help fix the impending Social Security insolvency, I support removing the cap on wages taxed but would also allow for higher benefits for those contributing more. According to American Academy of Actuaries, this would solve 71 percent of the gap, or 88 percent if the benefits weren't increased. I believe this approach is more fair and allows for greater support of the program.

Do you support the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court?

While as a member of the House of Representatives I would not be voting on his nomination, I would not support it due to his views on the separations of powers as it relates to executive privilege. I would also want to hear more about his views on the precedents set by decisions over the past few decades related to civil rights.

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