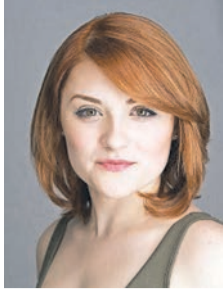




HIKE FOR HOPE
DRAWS
HUNDREDS OF
MARCHERS

PAGE 9



LOCAL
THESPIAN
MAKES A NAME
FOR HERSELF

PAGE 10



CLEMENTS
SISTERS
MAKE WAVES
AT AHS

PAGE 17

OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 49

OCTOBER 4, 2018

\$1.00

NiSource apologizes for disasters



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Work crews continue to dig in to Bartlet Street in Andover on Tuesday.

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

Weeks after the Sept. 13 gas explosions struck Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, representatives from Columbia Gas and its parent company, NiSource,

showed up at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday to say they were “very sorry” about the disaster. “I am very sorry this happened to your community,” said Chuck Shafer, senior vice president for Customer Service and New Business

at NiSource. “It is unprecedented as you’ve heard many times, and it just does not happen.”

The apology was long-awaited by those seriously affected by the gas disasters, left without heat and hot water, or even without

their homes. Shafer said in his 29 years working for NiSource, he has never seen anything in this magnitude.

“This is a significant effort far beyond what we have muscle memory for and a lot of these processes are being stood up very

quickly,” he said.

Things that would take months to design have been designed in three days, Shafer said, with hopes of being able to work quickly and meet the Nov. 19 restoration date set.

See GAS, Page 2

Town eyes high cost of 2 new schools

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

As the town looks ahead to millions of dollars in school building construction and capital improvement projects, the Board of Selectmen is looking at the potential cost to taxpayers.

Last month, the board, led by Selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli, held a series of meetings to discuss the problem of rising property taxes.

It was Vispoli’s goal to educate not just the public, but other town officials, about the impact of property taxes on homeowners and business owners alike.

“We want to reduce the rate of tax increase,” Vispoli said. “Last year was unsustainable.”

For fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30, 2018, the average tax bill rose 4.6 percent, well above the 10-year average of 3.4 percent, according to town documents.

That translates into a tax bill for the current fiscal year of \$9,965 for the average home in Andover assessed at \$613,261.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan explained at a recent meeting with members of the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen that the tax bill is projected to go up nearly 4 percent next year.

Driving the high taxes are a number of factors, Vispoli and Flanagan said, including health insurance, retirement costs, health insurance for retired employees, along with the normal salaries and benefits of current employees.

In addition, school officials want to build or renovate school buildings.

In particular, the West Elementary School rebuilding project has an estimated cost of \$45 million, while the Andover High School project could cost anywhere from \$7 million to \$185 million.

Both projects need to be approved by voters at Town Meeting and at the ballot box because they will require Proposition 2 1/2 overrides to pay the costs. The state is expected to reimburse a portion of the costs for the West Elementary School. Andover High School has not been approved for state reimbursement yet.

The burden on the taxpayer for the West Elementary project, according to town documents, would last 30 years, starting at \$212 a year in 2021 and dropping to \$108 a year by 2051.

The high school project, See TAXES, Page 2

Local salon donates to public showers

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

When natural gas was cut to thousands of customers in Andover last month, and the town brought portable showers for people affected by the outage to Poms Pond, Robert Caggiano, owner of Robert Jason Salon, had one thought: What are they using for shampoo and conditioner?

That’s when he decided to donate 12 gallons of shampoo and conditioner to the town.

“My staff thought the shampoo and conditioner was a great idea, and my distributors were thrilled about it,” he said, noting that almost immediately he was able to get his hands on six gallons of shampoo and another six gallons of conditioner. He said he would get another 10 gallons of each next week.

The shampoo and conditioner are products from Joico and CosmoProf, two of Caggiano’s distributors. Though Caggiano’s

■ For more of the gas explosion coverage, see pages 2, 11, 12 and 14.

original idea was to donate the shampoo and conditioner to the public showers at Pomp’s Pond, where people are required to bring their own shower products, Assistant Director of Public Health Joanne Belanger said the showers don’t have the space or dispensers for the

See SALON, Page 3



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Robert Caggiano, owner of the Robert Jason Salon in Andover.

At age 12, Anna Du is an award-winning engineer

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

Anna Du wants to save the world, and at 12 years old, she is well on her way to doing just that.

Her home at 16 Evergreen Lane, where she lives with her mother and father, has a room filled with self-constructed projects she has created through the years.



Anna Du

Using items as simple as a CD player she found on a beach at Castle Island, Du was able to transform the parts into projects for a better cause.

Her path to success began with a simple love for the

ocean and the beach, and a video she watched at school. Du attends the Andover School of Montessori where she is in the seventh grade.

“We were watching a video about how plastics were affecting the environment and I was really horrified because I also love animals, so I wanted to do something to try and help solve that problem and save the world,” she said.

Du put her love for the beach and her passion for the environment to use and constructed an underwater ROV (remotely operated vehicle) that uses infrared LED lights of varying wavelengths to separate microplastics from other particles.

She hypothesized this project would help researchers analyze the ocean floor quickly and inexpensively.

The ROV is controlled by a remote and detects where plastics are in the ocean. Du said she believes it’s more logical to first know where the plastics are and then go directly there to clean them up, since the ocean is such a gigantic place.

“This is just a first step in what I am planning to do. In the future I hope to create an See STEM, Page 3

Town still searching for new veterans services director

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

As the town works on hiring a new Veterans Services Director, it’s been all-hands on deck to make sure the office is fully staffed and able to take care of local veterans seeking services.

The town has been without a veterans services officer since August after the retirement of Alicia Reddin, who agreed to leave after she was admonished for posting highly political and profane

tweets on her personal Twitter account.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said the process of hiring a new director is “ongoing, but moving forward,” adding, “we’re going through a screening and identifying a list of finalists and we will then begin the process.”

Director of Community Services Joe Connelly has been working frantically with other staff members in town hall who have taken

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Unseen damage

Two weeks later, families still grapple with trauma



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Amber Cook, 23, of Lawrence, cooks in a crock pot on top of her washing machine.

By ZOE MATHEWS
zmathews@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — When emergency vehicles go by, sirens wailing, or when the gas crews show up on her street, Amber Cook is taken back to the night of Sept. 13 when explosions and fires ripped through her community, forcing her and thousands of others to flee their homes in terror.

More than two weeks later in her South Lawrence apartment — still without gas — Cook, 23, tries to keep her family fed and warm. But the trauma remains: unseen but ever-present.

“I honestly don’t feel safe here,” she said.

On Friday, with her nearly 2-year-old son Eli in her arms, Cook recalled the uncertainty of evacuating and the confusion upon returning.

“There were still fires going on when they told us it was safe to come back,” she said of the Sunday after the explosions. Even as South Lawrence residents were allowed to return to their homes, a fire broke out on Diamond Street. It was determined not to be gas related.

“It was like we would never get away from it,” he said.

Cook and her family are among tens of thousands of people who were rushed from their homes as over-pressurized natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas caused dozens of fires across the Merrimack Valley. Two weeks later, residents of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover

still cannot shake the visceral memory of that night, as they simultaneously try to look ahead to the restoration of gas, and their normal lives.

Cook lives on Springfield Street, where a house caught fire that Thursday night, with her four children under 12 years old, and their father, Moyce Capo.

“Everyone said, ‘Well, at least you have a house to go back to,’” she said. “But when we left, we didn’t know ... there was no telling what could happen.”

Cook’s own home burned down when she was 6 years old. She recalled her fear that Thursday night that she would go through the same thing again, as she evacuated to Capo’s aunt’s house in North Lawrence, tears streaming down her face.

“I can’t go through that now, with my kids,” she said.

Cook said her kids are too young to really understand what’s going on, but she has a feeling they sense it.

“Kids might not realize it but when they see a parent stop to have to try and breathe,” they know something is going on, she said.

Doreen Arcus, associate professor of psychology at UMass Lowell, said the effects of trauma have multiple layers.

When over-pressurized gas lines caused explosions and fires in dozens of homes across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, people would have experienced what’s known as fight or flight

— the psychological and physiological response to stress that prepares people to respond to an attack or threat, according to Arcus.

“This is a great surge of chemicals through the body, to prompt you to be ready for action,” she said. “That is something also that leaves significant memory traces ... we not only remember some of the details, but we also carry a very physical memory of the trauma.”

Despite spending two hours to boil water to bathe her children, one of whom is autistic and fights having her hair washed; despite finding new ways to cook a meal for six people — on Friday, it was Hawaiian chicken in a crock pot, and Chef Boyardee in the microwave; and despite working opposite hours as Capo and having little else for a support network, Cook said she will get through it.

It’s as Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera said in the days after the disaster: people in the city are resilient.

“It really shows you how creative people can get when it comes to this,” Cook said. “People who are used to the poorer side of things, they can make anything work.”

Across the region, people have stepped up to mitigate the trauma of those in all three communities affected.

People checked in on elderly neighbors to make sure they understood the claims process. Those in unaffected areas opened doors for people without gas so they could

stand in the shower under a steady stream of warm water and take a deep breath. People created support networks online to keep each other informed and to stay together.

In Andover, the house across the street from Jon Vacik’s caught fire on Sept. 13. It took 25 minutes for firefighters to respond.

When he realized there was an issue with the gas, he rushed from house to house, turning off the meters along his street.

“We called 9-1-1,” he said, only to hear from the dispatcher: “We’ll get there when we can get there.”

“She said we were the 30th call in 5 minutes. I was a little stunned,” he said.

Neighbors congregated in his house until they were told to evacuate. He took his two sons, Matthew, 6, and James, 9, and their dog, Dixie, and walked out of the neighborhood.

“We dropped everything and walked out on our lives,”

he said. He, his wife Bonnie, and the rest of their family are back in their home but still don’t have answers.

“Columbia Gas has been nebulous enough” about what they will reimburse for, he said. So his family still isn’t sure if they’ll switch over from natural gas to electric.

“Meanwhile we’re still in limbo,” he said. “That first afternoon was pretty scary for everybody involved. ... I was running around frantically, which unnerved (my sons). ... But by the time we took off, they thought it was a grand adventure.”

As the weeks roll on with people adjusting to a new normal — and the announced timeline that gas service will be restored by the end of November, though that has come with skepticism from local officials and residents alike — Arcus said those networks will be critical.

Families are trying to return to normalcy. Children are back

in school but may have difficulty focusing, she said. And their home lives are undoubtedly strained.

“One of the issues for children is that the entire family experienced this,” she said. “So their parents, who they would usually turn to for support, they themselves have their own resources depleted. I think families overall need help and assistance — from the authorities, from their friends, from other family members who were not directly impacted by the explosions.”

“We focus on research that getting together with other people who have had a similar experience, and talking about it, can be very useful,” Arcus said. “It can be very isolating to have these experiences, and realizing you’re not alone is helpful.”

“We focus on the negative outcomes, and there are many. ... But, you know, sometimes people really rise to the occasion.”

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Work crews continue to dig in to the street at the intersection of High and Harding Streets.

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GAS
Continued from Page 1

Representatives from Columbia Gas were asked to attend the previous board of selectmen meeting on Sept. 17, but did not respond to the request.

Shafer was accompanied this time by Tracy Stefanowicz, communications manager for Columbia Gas.

In addition to an apology, the company also admitted to mistakes they have made

in the restoration process. Residents have said that assessment appointments at their homes have been missed, or multiple crews have showed up at their homes in one day.

Shafer said the reason for that was because Columbia Gas was completing assessments but not indicating them as complete, so another crew would show up to do an assessment.

“We know that we’ve missed appointments and we know that we’ve had multiple

people show up at appointments,” he said.

Shafer said that problem has since been fixed and the company is now starting to stabilize. Columbia Gas has changed their process with help from resident feedback and communication, and said the feedback is something they take very seriously.

“Everyday we have a daily review of what went well and what did not go well,” he said. “What did we hear that was a gap and how can we fill that gap?”

Shafer assured the board that Columbia Gas has qualified, licensed folks on the streets completing the work.

Selectman Annie Gilbert said she was blown away by how remarkable residents have been in handling and dealing with the circumstances.

Shafer agreed, and added despite all of the chaos and disappointment, Andover residents have been extremely welcoming and very understanding, well beyond what he had anticipated.

SEARCH
Continued from Page 1

on the responsibilities of the position until it is filled. He has also been lending support

where it is needed.

Connelly said the staff from the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center has been a huge help. The staff has assisted in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, helping veterans in any way possible and providing referral services.

Susan Magner, Veterans Services Agent in North Reading, has been in the office on Friday afternoons assisting with benefits and other information.

In addition, Christine Baraford, administrative assistant to Veterans Services, has continued to assist with benefits and veteran-related questions.

Elder Services Volunteer Coordinator Ashley English has also been helping staff

the office to make sure the door is always open during business hours.

The Patriotic Holiday Committee, meanwhile, has taken the lead in assisting with Veterans’ ceremonies and events.

Connelly said Cal Deyermund and Cal Perry have been instrumental in the continued success of the division during the transition. John Doherty, former Director of Veterans Services, has been supporting the division in any way possible as well.

Connelly said that the result of advertising for the position was successful, with “over 30 applications from a very talented pool of candidates.” He said the first round of interviews will be scheduled in the next couple weeks.

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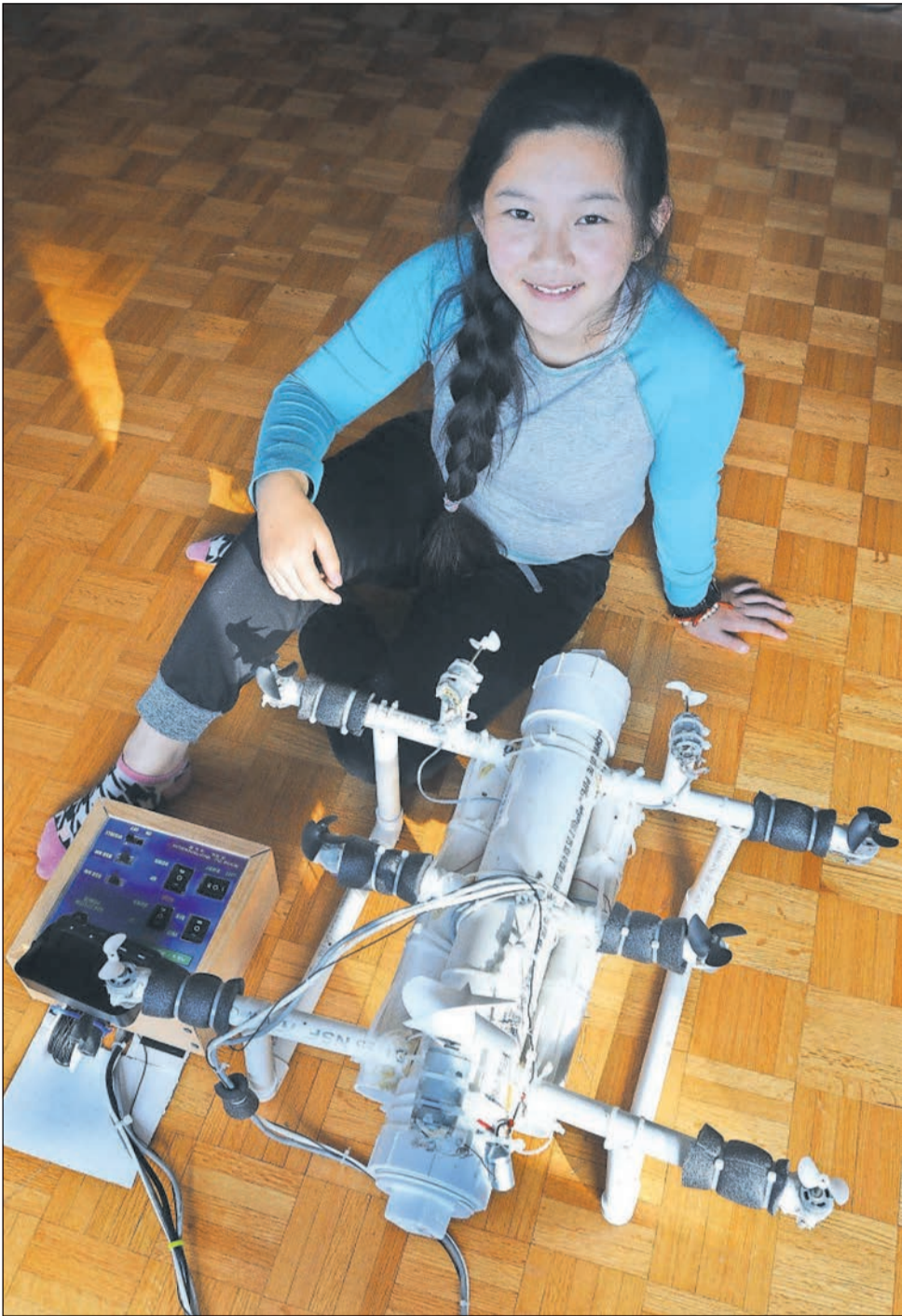
TAXES
Continued from Page 1

meanwhile, estimated at \$54 million, would add \$258 a year in the first year, 2023, and go down over the next 30 years to \$129 a year by 2053.

The higher the estimated cost of the high school project, the higher the burden on taxpayers.

Flanagan said during the recent hearing that the town is currently facing a \$1.4 million budget.

Please recycle this newspaper.



Anna Du, a 12-year old STEM student from Andover School of Montessori seen here with her ROV (remotely operating vehicle).

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo.

STEM

Continued from Page 1

AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) that goes in the water by itself and doesn't need anybody to control it," she said.

Working mainly by herself, Du constructed the ROV at MIT in Cambridge. She has been working on it since October 2017.

"I've had some tips from my mentors, but I've mostly been building it by myself," she said.

Since Du was five years old, she has been attending MIT every Saturday to build projects with assistance from staff members there. She loves science and engineering, and this has been a way for her to learn

and strengthen her skills.

Du was the only student from Massachusetts selected from a record high of 2,537 applicants in 35 states to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS, by placing among the top 10 percent of middle school competitors at Society-affiliated regional and state science fairs, including the Massachusetts Northeast Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Her underwater ROV leader to first place in the Massachusetts Northeast Regional Science and Engineering Fair in June 2018.

Du was then named a top 30 finalist in the 8th annual Broadcom MASTERS. The competition is a science, technology, engineering and mathematics middle school

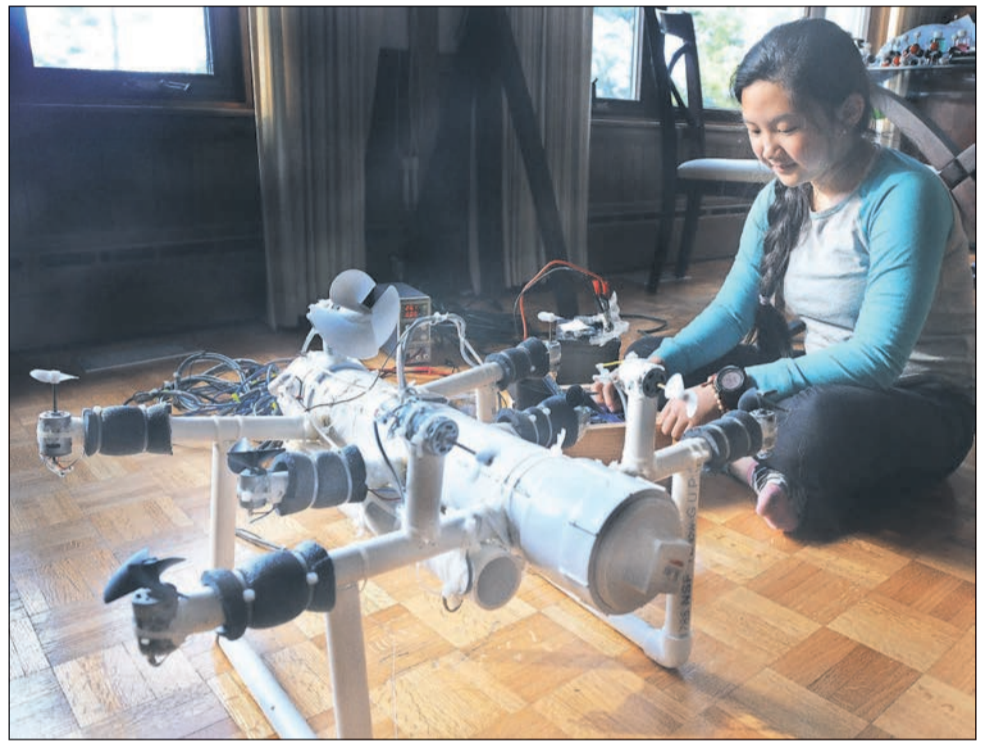
competition.

In October, she will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in a rigorous competition to test and demonstrate her skills of critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration in each of the STEM areas.

"I'm nervous because this is a big competition and there are going to be a lot of super smart people there, but I'm also pretty excited for what's going to happen there too," Du said.

Du said she hopes to attend MIT when she is older.

"I'm not too sure what I want to do in life, I just know I want to build stuff, she said. "Maybe I'll be an environmental engineer so I can help save the world."



Anna Du works on her invention, which she hopes will help clean plastics out of the ocean.

SALON

Continued from Page 1

products.

"We are still really grateful and it was a thoughtful donation," she said.

The shampoo and conditioner from Caggiano is now being donated to the store at the Andover Senior Center, where families and individuals affected by the disasters have access to free necessities ranging from hair products to diapers.

Belanger said they are so grateful for the thought from the salon, but the public showers don't have the space or the dispensers for the products.

AnnMary Connor, director of

Elder Services, said the store has had over 60 donors.

"So many people have been so generous in their donations to the store," she said.

Caggiano's bulk donation will fill the store's shelves with quality shampoo and conditioner for those in need, saving them the burden of having to purchase them at a store.

The store at the senior center is open to those affected in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

Caggiano said his salon was lucky enough not to lose power during the gas explosions. They instantly had electric hot water heaters installed so basic tasks like washing clients' hair did not have to be done with cold water.



Robert Jason Salon owner Robert Caggiano, center rear, with his staff.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

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Scarecrow Festival kicks off Oct.13

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

It's October and among the pumpkins and potted mums decorating town for the fall season will soon be scarecrows on Main Street.

The Andover Coalition for Education (ACE) hosts its annual popular Scarecrow Festival in downtown Andover from Saturday, Oct.13 to Saturday, Oct. 27.

ACE is now offering the public a chance to purchase "Make Your Own Scarecrow Kits," which cost \$50 and contain everything needed to craft your very own scarecrow, while supporting the Andover public schools. Individuals may purchase a Scarecrow Starter Kit for \$30 (includes wood frame and hay). Scarecrow Kits are available now at locations around Andover. To reserve your scarecrow kit today, you can contact jsrivastava@aceandover.org to arrange a pick-up date and location.

"ACE is excited to be hosting our sixth annual Scarecrow Festival. This year, more than ever, it will be wonderful to bring the Andover community together downtown to celebrate our schools and bring

a festive fall excitement to the Andover business district," said ACE President Lenore Price in a press release. "ACE is proud to sponsor this annual event and help raise funds to support innovative initiatives in our schools. Thanks to our sponsors this year, we have already raised \$13,000 for our schools through this event."

This year, ACE is planning on displaying approximately 75 scarecrows on Main Street's light poles. In addition to schools, civic and non-profit organizations will also be able to create their own personalized scarecrows, each with their own educational theme and creative flair.

Schools throughout Andover are in the process of brainstorming the creation of their scarecrows. The theme for this year's festival is "Andover Goes International - Explore the World!" inspired by the diverse community and educational focus on global connections through the Andover Portal. For those that have not experienced the Portal, ACE and APS, in collaboration with Shared Studios, launched the first Portal in a K-12 school district last March. This immersive audio-visual experience enables students

to come face-to-face with students around the world, and is a tool for teachers to enhance global curriculum.

With the International theme, participants are encouraged to create a scarecrow that represents a favorite culture, destination or message around being a global citizen.

"We are encouraging the Andover School's to integrate an international theme into their scarecrows this year," said Jennifer Srivastava, ACE Director. "This could be representing a culture, community or favorite place in the world... the possibilities are endless and we can't wait to see what our young people create."

In addition, there will be a "Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt" during the festival to encourage families to visit all of the scarecrows and find hidden items as part of the fun.

All non-profit and civic organizations in town can create a Community Scarecrow to be displayed downtown.

ACE will once again be hosting a Poetry Event on Friday, Oct. 26 after school in downtown Andover (exact location is TBD.) Students are encouraged to write an original poem or read a favorite poem of their

choice. ACE is extremely grateful for the significant contribution Andover Youth Services has made to this year's festival through the assembly of all stakes that will support our scarecrows. The student volunteers and staff that have made this possible have been tremendous.

Sponsors are: Andover Classic Wines; Craft Beers & Spirits, Andover Pediatric Dentistry, Doherty Insurance Agency, Gilbert & Renton LLC, Koopman Lumber & Hardware, Mail Data, Inc., Morana Law Offices, Olivia's Organics, Pentucket Medical, Rotary Club of Andover, Salvatore's of Andover, Andover Business Community Association, Andover Inn, Andover Orthodontics, Andover School of Montessori, Andover TV, Black Diamond Networks, Blackdog Builders, Bridges by EPOCH at Andover, Carl Fences, Chic Consignment, Dauphin Law, Enterprise Bank, Chan and Chen Orthodontics, Ryan Financial, Sam & Julie Howe, Samel Insurance Agency, Inc., Stone Hill at Andover, The Savings Bank, Touchstone Closing and Escrow and Verizon - IM Wireless.



File photo
A young boy checks out one of the scarecrows hanging from a light post on Main Street last year. The scarecrows will be back again this year as part of a fundraiser for ACE, the Andover Coalition for Education.

Andover Public Schools meet MCAS targets

Education Notebook

Jessica Valeriani



Andover Public School district was classified as meeting targets in their 2018 MCAS results, the highest classification a

district can receive. Many individual schools within the district performed very well in terms of student achievement and exceeded targets across many indicators.

West Elementary School was named a School of Recognition by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the highest designation a school can receive for high growth and exceeding targets.

West Elementary is one of 52 schools in the state to receive this title.

High Plain Elementary School placed in the top 5 percent of all elementary schools. "We've reviewed 2018 MCAS results, and our results are quite positive," said Superintendent Sheldon Berman. "In particular, we saw significant improvement in elementary reading at all elementary schools and for all elementary sub-groups ... We also made

improvement in science, particularly at the elementary level."

AHS open house

Andover High School will be holding an Open House on Thursday, Oct. 11.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. with a short presentation by the Andover High School Facilities Study Committee Chairman Mark Johnson in the Collins Center. He will discuss the progress that the committee has made in

reviewing the facility needs at the school.

The evening will include information about the school, students' classes and the community.

Teachers will also discuss the course outline, objectives and syllabus.

Middle school marching band

Seventh and eighth grade students are invited to join the Andover High School Marching Band during a football

game on Friday, Oct. 5.

The underclassmen students are welcome to meet members of the band and get involved in an exciting high school activity.

The event is a great opportunity for students who may be interested in joining the marching band.

A meet and greet with the band will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by a run-through of the Star Spangled Banner and the game at 7 p.m.

ON CAMPUS

Local residents named to the spring 2018 dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Lowell include: Antonio Apolinar, Molly Aumais, Rachel Brouillette, Devin Burke, Shawn Burns, Kunnik Chaudhary, Hannah Chiodo, Sophie Combs, Morgan Engdahl, Zachary Ferreira, Sabrina Fullam, Leah Gens, Michael Heath, William Hennessy, Tristan Hubbard, Mary Humble, Sara Hurchik, Daniel Jacavano, Michael Jacobsen, Maxwell Kalinowski, John Kiely, Sarah

Knowles, Daniel Krichmar, Lauren LeBlanc, Josef Livingstone, Anna Marocco, Christopher McCarthy, Noah Mezher, Anna Montgomery, Alexander Nelson, Rebecca Netson, Una O'Toole, Evan Paige, Kunj Patel, James Piehl, Christopher Primes, Andrew Runge, Christopher Sarno, Amala Srinivasan, Connor Stack, Marshall Su, Zobia Tariq, Nicholas Wackowski, Muzhdah Waqar, Ashanti Williams and Justin Yee.

Azita Bakhtyari, a member of

Worcester Polytechnic Institute's volleyball team, has been named the WPI Female Student-Athlete of the Week for the week ending Sunday, Sept. 23.

Bakhtyari was one of two Engineers to reach milestones in Saturday's match at Wellesley. After doling out 30 assists at Smith, the senior handed out a season-best 49 to exceed 2,000 for her career as the upset-minded Crimson

and Gray were on the wrong end of a five-set thriller.

Kyra Morissette and more than 250 first-year University of Vermont students, led by 80 upper class leaders, began their UVM experience as part of TREK, a unique, seven-day first year enrichment program sponsored by the university's Department of Student Life. Morissette participated in

Hiking. A part of the Wilderness TREK program which provides students the opportunity to build lasting friendships, initiate self-discovery, and explore the people and landscapes that are Vermont, Hiking TREK provides incoming students an opportunity to visit and explore some of the highest, most remote and oldest footpaths in the country — all along the long trail and in

the Adirondacks. Hiking on average eight miles per day, Morissette traversed through hardwood, trickling streams and learned of the North Country's rich, natural history along the way.

James Imrie, Kevin Chen and Louis Iglesias were named to the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Spill of gas cylinders closes Route 114 for 2 hours

By PAUL TENNANT AND LISA KASHINSKY
Staff writers

NORTH ANDOVER — Four gas cylinders that likely fell off a truck forced the closure of the portion of

Route 114 that runs along Merrimack College for around two hours on Monday, Sept. 24.

North Andover police Chief Charles Gray said two cylinders contained acetylene, a flammable gas used for

welding, while the other two had nitrogen. Some of them appeared to be leaking, he said.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Response team sent two trucks to the scene and worked with North Andover police and firefighters to safely remove the cylinders and clear the highway.

The road closure caused a traffic jam for commuters who were trying to get home.

The cylinders were strewn across the eastbound side of Route 114. Lynnell Schield of Salem, New Hampshire, saw them while she was traveling in the opposite

direction to get to a dental appointment in North Andover shortly before 3 p.m.

"They literally rolled across the road," she said. Vehicles were attempting to navigate around the cylinders, she said, adding, "That was really dangerous."

Merrimack College sent out a message to students and staff saying the campus was safe.

Police closed the section of Route 114 between Andover Road and the Andover Bypass at around 3:45 p.m. North Andover Engine 2 was stationed near the cylinders, ready to hose them down in case they ignited, according to fire Lt. Timothy McGuire. Engine 1 and an ambulance were also sent as a precaution.

Two troopers assigned to the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad, wearing helmets and protective suits, placed the two cylinders containing acetylene in the back of a North Andover Division of Public Works truck. They wrapped the cylinders in bomb blankets and placed them upright.

Two cylinders containing nitrogen, a less hazardous gas, were put in another truck by Massachusetts Department of Transportation workers.

The highway was reopened at 5:45 p.m. While the cylinders probably dropped from a truck, no driver reported they fell from his or her vehicle, according to Lt. E.J. Foulds, spokesman for the North Andover Police Department.

The police are investigating to find out why the cylinders fell on a busy highway and who is responsible, he said.

"We will work toward that end," Foulds said.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos
Members of the Massachusetts State Police bomb squad load a cylindrical tank of acetylene into a North Andover DPW truck.



A member of the Massachusetts State Police bomb squad carries a cylindrical tank of acetylene.



A North Andover firefighter takes a temperature reading from one of the acetylene cylinders that fell off the back of a truck on Monday afternoon.

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To the People of Greater Lawrence

On behalf of our entire Columbia Gas family, I am sincerely sorry for the tragic loss of a young life, the injury and hardship suffered by thousands of our neighbors and the devastation brought upon these communities on September 13.

In the midst of adversity we have witnessed your heart and your strength. We have all been inspired by the heroic efforts of first responders, the compassion of community partners and the resilience and generosity of the people of greater Lawrence. As we continue our efforts to restore this community, we will be relentless in living up to their shining example.

I also know you are looking to us not for words but for action. Many people are still hurting. We will continue taking steps to make things right as quickly as possible and to address the added burden this has placed on people and organizations throughout the region. That assistance is available by calling our Greater Lawrence Help Line at 1-866-388-3239. We urge anyone who has unmet needs to call us.

We will keep working as hard as we can - in partnership with local, state and federal officials and other dedicated people and organizations from across the Commonwealth - to restore this community, regain your trust and prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

Para los residentes del área metropolitana de Lawrence

En nombre de toda nuestra familia de Columbia Gas, siento enormemente la trágica pérdida de una vida tan joven, las lesiones y las dificultades que padecieron miles de nuestros vecinos y la devastación que sufrieron estas comunidades el 13 de septiembre.

En medio de la adversidad, hemos sido testigos de su amor y su fortaleza. Todos hemos sido inspirados por los esfuerzos heroicos de los equipos de respuesta rápida, la compasión de los socios comunitarios, el poder de recuperación de la comunidad y la generosidad de los residentes del área metropolitana de Lawrence. Seguimos llevando a cabo esfuerzos para restaurar esta comunidad, y no descansaremos hasta que lleguemos a la altura de su brillante ejemplo.

También sé que lo que esperan de nosotros no son palabras, sino acciones. Mucha gente aún está sufriendo. Seguiremos tomando medidas para mejorar las cosas de la manera más rápida posible y abordar la carga agregada que esta situación le ha representado a las personas y organizaciones de toda la región. Para recibir la asistencia disponible, llame a nuestra Línea Directa del área metropolitana de Lawrence al 1-866-388-3239. Alentamos a todos aquellos que tengan necesidades a que nos llamen.

Continuaremos trabajando tan arduamente como podamos (en conjunto con representantes locales, estatales, federales, y con otras personas y organizaciones especializadas de toda la comunidad) para restaurar esta comunidad, recuperar su confianza y evitar que vuelva a ocurrir otra tragedia parecida.



Joe Hamrock
President and CEO, NiSource Inc.
Parent Company of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

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Making sense of the Retirement Earnings Test

Financially Speaking

John Spoto



For most Americans Social Security plays an important role in maintaining retirement security. The benefit payments represent an income stream that is free of default, investment, inflation and longevity (outliving your money) risks. In other words, regardless of economic and market conditions, Social Security pays an annuity that will increase with inflation and continue for as long as

you or your spouse live. It is well known that workers and spouses who qualify for Social Security can elect to receive them at any age between 62 and 70. Benefits received prior to an individual reaching full retirement age (FRA) are subject to an actuarial reduction for early retirement. Conversely delaying benefits until age 70 would result in an increase in the benefit amount.

Less well known is the impact that continuing to work has on an individual who is already collecting Social Security. A person's decision when to collect benefits is independent of when they decide to leave the workforce. There is nothing to prevent someone who is eligible

to receive benefits from doing so while remaining on the job. However, for those who claim benefits prior to FRA and continue to work and exceed certain income thresholds, Social Security imposes an "offset" that reduces, sometimes substantially, the full monthly benefit that would otherwise be paid. This offset is known as the Retirement Earnings Test (RET) and it applies to employment income only, not earnings from investments, pensions, etc.

Under this test, a worker who will be younger than FRA during the entire calendar year will be subject to a 1% reduction in benefits for every \$2 they earn above \$16,920 (2017). During the calendar year in which the

person reaches FRA, a less onerous earnings test is imposed. Social Security will reduce benefits by \$1 for each \$3 of earnings above \$44,880 (2017). Once a person attains FRA there is no reduction of benefits regardless of income.

The conventional wisdom among seniors is that the RET represents a harsh penalty that when added to payroll and income taxes removes any financial incentive to continue working. Therefore, at a time when most seniors would greatly improve their financial security by maximizing their income, they instead choose to reduce their earnings below the test's thresholds to avoid triggering the reduction. Worse yet, some leave the workforce entirely.

This perception is based on an incorrect interpretation of the test. The misunderstanding exists in large part because the Social Security Administration and the financial services industry have done a poor job of explaining how the test works.

Here are the facts. It is true that the Retirement Earnings Test reduces the benefit for Social Security recipients under full retirement age who continue to work and earn above the legal thresholds. However, once the recipient reaches full retirement age, Social Security increases the monthly benefit amount for the remainder of the person's life. Assuming the individual lives to average life expectancy, they would

recoup any benefits lost due to the RET in earlier years. So, rather than a permanent penalty, the RET represents a re-timing of payments from the pre-FRA years to the post-FRA years, when most seniors could benefit from the higher income.

This article is for general information purposes only and is not intended to provide specific advice on individual financial, tax, or legal matters. Please consult the appropriate professional concerning your specific situation before making any decisions. John Spoto is the founder of Sentry Financial Planning in Andover and Danvers. For details, call 978-475-2533 or visit www.sentry-financialplanning.com.

Sisterhood's 'Swap, Shop' event helps Uncommon Threads

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Swapping and shopping is all the rage at an upcoming Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel in Andover fundraiser.

Uncommon Threads of Lawrence, a project that helps low-income women look and feel better with a private styling session, benefits from the Accessory Swap and Shop event on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy drinks and appetizers,

shop supporting vendors, and find new-to-you treasures, including jewelry, handbags, scarves, sunglasses, shoes, wallets, watches, blazers, jackets, capes, wraps and new beauty product gift sets.

Earn a swap ticket for every accepted item you contribute.

Nothing to swap but you want to go home with more than you bring? No worries, says event organizer Rebecca Joyner of Andover.

"We'll accept swap tickets or \$5 per item," she said.

Turn in your in-style (new or gently used) items Oct. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. and on Oct. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The event will be held at Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. The cost is \$20 for Sisterhood members and \$25 for non-members.

To purchase tickets, click the Paypal link on the Sisterhood website (<https://templemanuel.net/community/sisterhood/>) or buy tickets at the door.

Uncommon Threads takes an "outside-in/inside-out" approach to lifting women up by using clothes and style as tools for increasing self-worth. To access services clients must be low-income and referred by a social service or health professional. Clients include domestic violence survivors, disabled women, female veterans, homeless women, women in recovery, and the elderly.

Clients receive a private styling session with a

volunteer stylist to learn their best styles and colors and how to dress to project a positive image. They receive up to four complete outfits. The goal is for women to feel nurtured, beautiful and confident by changing the way they view themselves and the way they are perceived by others.

Although Uncommon Threads can dress a woman for a job interview or the workplace, it can also style women who are not able to work due to emotional

trauma, age or circumstances. The organization believes all women deserve to feel beautiful. Uncommon Threads' monthly self-esteem-focused workshops and groups provide women with information as well as a place to connect with other women (breaking the feeling of isolation). Future plans include a mentoring program (called Uncommon Friends), as well as stress management and beauty services.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

110 Cross St.: Matthew J. and Kristen B. Naffah to Daniel and Yekaterina Vainshtein, \$500,000

92 Dascomb Road: Karen L. Moss to Soonha and Kyung Lee, \$700,000

44 Duffton Road: Michael R. Blanchard and Valerie Sodano to Marlaina Luciano, \$545,000

15 Greenbriar Circle: Ilana Itenberg RET and Ilana Itenberg to Matthew and Kristen Naffah, \$755,000

9 Greybirch Road: Sudip and Anita S. Ghimire to Michael

Pescatore and Deanna Vasiliakakis, \$736,000

204-210 N. Main St.: JCDT Development LLC to Serenity Residential LLC, \$1,150,000

1 Powder Mill Square, Unit 204: Jonathan Ross and Elizabeth Harris-Ross to Hannah Mathew, \$435,000

56 Prospect Road: Lorale Brennen and Gregory Kneeland to Matthew L. Olsen, \$710,000

4 Stoneybrook Circle: Edward T. and Anisa Flannery to Hamid Danesh and Tahereh S. Mardan, \$972,000

90 Washington Park Drive, Unit 3: Gregory Anderson to Mohammed Elkhadji and Fouzia Faleh, \$163,000

BUSINESS BRIEF CASE

Carberry earns Good Neighbor Award

Deb Carberry, a Realtor at RE/MAX Partners in Andover, was presented with the Good Neighbor Award by the Northeast Association of Realtors (NEAR).

The award recognizes a local Realtor who makes extraordinary commitments to improving the quality of life in their communities. Nominees are considered for the award based on their personal impact on the community through volunteer work. The award was presented at the NEAR Annual Awards Gala at the Andover Country Club in May.

Carberry has been a member of NEAR since 1999. She served as co-chair of the



Deb Carberry

association's Community Service Committee in 2017. She was selected as this year's award recipient for her Someone Cares Package

Party. What began as a small gathering of friends in her home has evolved into a full-day annual event.

Hundreds of volunteers gather on the second Sunday of November, now known to many as the Someone Cares Package Party. The care packages, which include items such as hand sanitizer, socks, lip balm, toiletries, wash cloths, flashlights, and handwarmers, are packed, loaded on a truck, and distributed to Lazarus

House, DayBreak Shelter, BlanketMe, and local schools. Some packages are kept by volunteers to be delivered to the homeless and others are sent to soldiers overseas.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 11. More information can be found on the project's Facebook page at facebook.com/SCPParty.

Aras acquires Comet Solutions

Aras, the leader in open product lifecycle management (PLM) software for the enterprise, announces that it has acquired Comet Solutions, Inc., a provider of best-in-class software for simulation process management. Using Comet's technology, manufacturers are able to reuse

complex simulations in order to scale the application and use of simulation results. The addition of Comet's capabilities to the Aras PLM Platform provides a way for organizations to connect simulation, and simulation experts, to mainstream engineering processes for traceability, access, and reuse across the product lifecycle.

Industry experts anticipate increasing demand for simulation across the product lifecycle driven by product complexity, competitive pressure, and emerging opportunities with Digital Twin and IoT. To date, broader use of simulation has been held back by the failure of simulation process and data management (SPDM) tools to connect simulation users to the enterprise.

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Galvin accused of mixing politics with voter guide

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Secretary of State Bill Galvin is coming

under fire for using taxpayer money on a voter guide that boasts of his efforts to crack down on securities fraud.

The booklet, which is being mailed to the state's nearly 4.5 million registered voters, fulfills a voter outreach mandate in the state Constitution. It contains details about the Nov. 6 elections, information on how to register to vote, advice on requesting absentee and overseas ballots, and explains the three questions that will appear on the ballot.

A section near the end of the 23-page booklet, which also details the services provided by the secretary of state's office, lauds how Galvin has been "successful in returning millions of dollars" to defrauded investors.

It mentions him by name in every paragraph — at least 10 times.

"An older couple contacted Secretary Galvin's office because all their money had been put into an annuity by their broker and they could not access their money without incurring substantial fees," reads one vignette. "Secretary Galvin was able to get them out of the annuity without having to pay the fees."

Another vignette boasts of the efforts of Galvin's office to catch an unidentified individual who "preyed on his elder relatives" by trying to steal their investments.

"They notified Secretary Galvin's office when he admitted what he did, and Secretary Galvin's office was able to get the brokerage firm to reimburse the stolen funds," it reads.

Galvin's Republican challenger, Anthony Amore, accused the state's top election official of mixing politics and state business. "It's brazen and the reality is he doesn't seem

to care," said Amore, a Swampscott Republican. "He's using a voters guide to list his accomplishments, which is beyond the pale."

Good government groups say the section on securities fraud crosses the line between voter information and campaign literature.

"In my opinion, it really doesn't belong in information for voters," said Mary Ann Ashton, president of the nonpartisan Massachusetts League of Women Voters, which seeks to expand voter participation.

"Given that he is a candidate in this election, I would think that he would want to be more careful about promoting the various roles that his office plays," she said.

Galvin's office declined to comment on the content of the voter guide, referring a reporter to his campaign, which didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

How much the guide will cost taxpayers isn't clear.

A Galvin spokeswoman said the company that prints the guide hasn't billed yet, as the booklets are still being mailed to voters. Galvin's office earmarked \$1.7 million to provide "information to voters" in its current budget.

Besides running federal and state elections, the secretary of state oversees the state archives, the state Historical Commission, the lobbyist division, and the state's public records. The office also oversees the securities division, which has the power to investigate fraud.

The secretary is elected to a four-year term and makes \$150,400 per year, with benefits.

To be sure, this isn't the

first time Galvin has faced criticism that he blurs the lines between politics and his officials duties.

Over the years he has appeared in television ads encouraging people to vote, or alerting them to potential securities fraud schemes. His office has defended the expenses as a public service, despite claims from critics that he used the ads to polish his image.

Recent news reports highlight how Galvin's office was possibility violating state law by enlisting government employees to drop off signature petitions for his re-election bid to local clerks offices while they were on the clock.

An internal review by Galvin's office resulted in several unidentified state workers having their pay docked for performing political tasks on his behalf.

Galvin, a Brighton Democrat seeking a seventh term, is one of the longest serving politicians on Beacon Hill. He has held the secretary's post for nearly a quarter-century.

He soundly defeated Boston City Councilman Josh Zakim in the Sept. 4 Democratic primary — his first primary challenge in years.

Besides Amore, he faces Juan Sanchez, a Holyoke community activist running as a Green-Rainbow candidate, in the Nov. 6 election. "Galvin has a long history of using his office for his own personal and political gain," Sanchez said. "This is just another example of that, and voters should be outraged about it."

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

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857.325.3703 / Relay 711

Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2018.



Opinion

Gas company leaves customers in the dark

Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera posted to Facebook on Friday afternoon a detailed, 21-page daily report by Columbia Gas summarizing work to restore natural gas service to the Merrimack Valley.

Everything about this complex operation — from progress made replacing gas lines to the home inspections necessary to hand out space heaters — was reduced to numbers, plotted on charts and maps, and explained in bullet points. There were status reports, goals, risk assessments, even key performance indicators and a 10-day weather forecast.

Scrolling through the report, one could picture decision makers at Columbia Gas, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and city and town halls huddled to talk about where things stand and who needs what. One could also imagine how useful these slides might be if shared regularly with the public.

Unfortunately, except for the intervention of Lawrence's mayor, such sharing hasn't happened.

Columbia Gas might do a bang-up job putting together an executive summary. It has proven shockingly poor at communicating with customers and the public in general.

The gas disaster that beset the Merrimack Valley on Sept. 13 has been trying enough with fires, deadly explosions and hasty evacuations of homes due to a spike of high-pressure natural gas. A service outage now stretching into its third week has left some 8,600 homes and businesses wanting for hot showers, working cook tops and, as the weather turns chilly, heat.

Poor communication makes everything worse.

What's going on with home inspections? When will gas service be restored to certain areas? What alternatives do you have to heat your home? What's with the mysterious, 24-hour security details posted around the area? Who knows?

An information vacuum leaves people to glean details from neighbors, social media or subcontractors who also have limited information. Officials like Rivera, and town leaders in North Andover and Andover, have been far better sources of updates than even the utility — which reflects well upon them but is absurd.

Columbia Gas, which should be a model of transparency and near-perfect communication, instead has a public relations effort that consists mostly of a website with a rudimentary presentation of press releases. If you're looking to learn when they'll be digging up your street, or when to expect the gas to come back on, this isn't the place for you.

Communication, of course, isn't exactly a Columbia Gas forte. Less than 24 hours after disaster roiled the Merrimack Valley, Rivera and Gov. Charlie Baker were publicly hammering the utility for a lack of information and responsiveness. Rivera called it the "least informed and the last to act."

Baker decreed a public emergency and put another utility in charge of the recovery and restoration.

Columbia Gas, at that point, had no place to go but up. While official communication has apparently improved, its outward message to the public still seems to be an afterthought.

Some portion of Columbia Gas customers may switch their heat and hot water to electric, but most of its gas customers at the end of today will probably still be gas customers at the end of next month and next year.

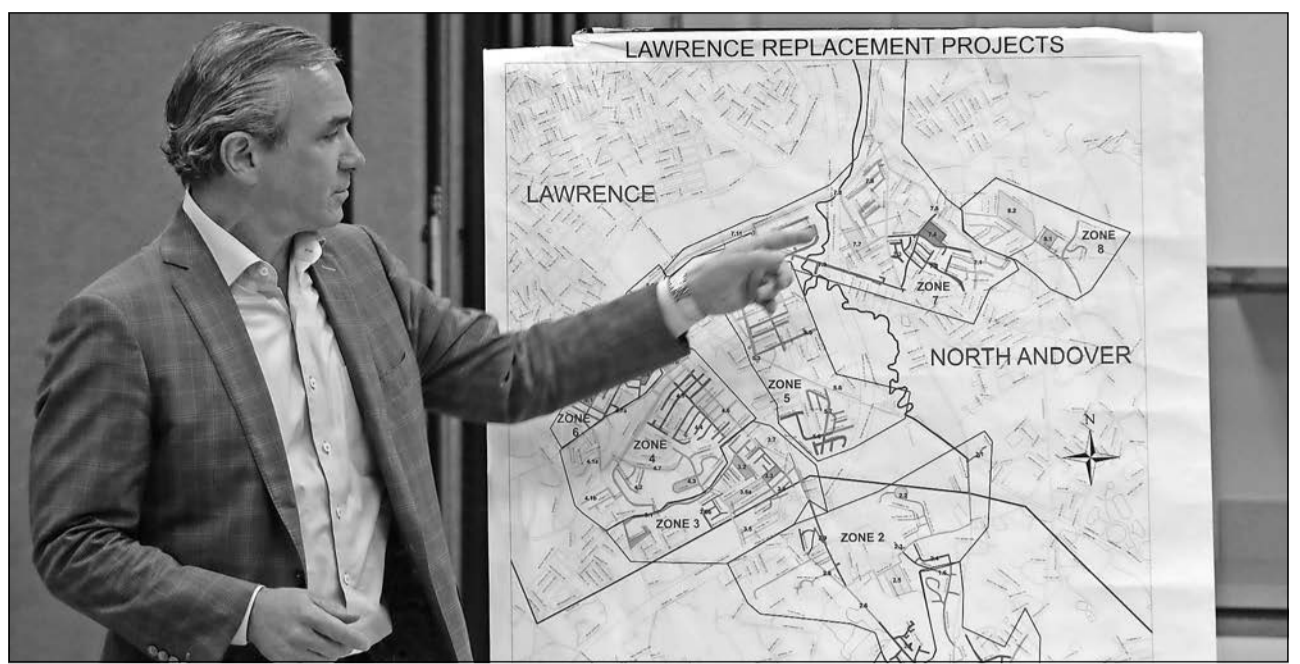
Attorney General Maura Healey this week fired off a strongly worded, seven-page letter that channeled the frustration and anger of thousands who have been left without gas, and without information.

Writing to Columbia Gas President Stephen Bryant, she demanded a meeting, answers and assurances, writing in part, "In recent days, we have heard from many residents and business owners who have suffered significant losses yet remain in the dark about your claims process and the schedule or process for restoring gas service."

Among Healey's demands was that Columbia Gas "ensure customers are receiving timely and complete information regarding the company's restoration plan."

Years from now, people will surely study the Merrimack Valley's gas disaster to understand how emergency services and governments work together in times of crisis, what to improve, and what not to do.

UNVEILING THE PLAN



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

At a press conference at the Lawrence Senior Center on Tuesday morning Joe Albanese, chief recovery officer of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster, shows off a map of the exact zones in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover that will have gas line replacement work being done over the next few weeks. See story, page 11.

Miriam Putnam was a librarian extraordinaire

Andover Stories

Gail Ralston

In one corner on the main floor of Memorial Hall Library, by the magazines, is a plaque that reads: "The Miriam Putnam Reading Room, Librarian 1939-1967." This honor came with the dedication of a new and expanded library in 1966.

Miss Putnam's role, as evidenced by this plaque, helped the library grow to what it is today. Her innovations and contributions to the library — as well as to the Town of Andover — should not be forgotten.

Following the service of Librarian Edna Brown, the library trustees announced in May of 1939 the appointment of Miss Miriam Putnam of Cambridge. Miss Putnam graduated from Radcliff College in 1925. With four years of summer study, she received her B.S. in Library Science at Columbia in 1935. Prior to her Andover appointment, Miss Putnam worked at the Newton Public Library, ending with the position of head-cataloguer.

By 1949 it was clear to the public that Miss Putnam was a keeper. A Townsman article described her as combining "outward serenity with an inner enthusiasm and vitality." It was said she had a "modern approach to the librarian's place in the community"



File photo

Townsman photo of Miriam Putnam from 1949. Putnam ran Memorial Hall Library for many years.



Memorial Hall Librarian

Miriam Putnam served as the library's head librarian for many years.

that was key to the library's growth.

Not only did Miss Putnam spearhead book acquisitions in all fields, she and her staff sponsored or planned events that brought people into the library to become "regular visitors; where men and women, young and old, came to share their knowledge ... to give a little and take a little of the human experience."

In addition to offering the community a place to hold meetings, library programs included one for "Littlest Listeners" who gathered for stories while elsewhere their moms gathered to explore varied topics. A course was offered in "Personality Improvement" and one group held discussions on Plato's Republic.

Library collections grew

to include classical music and children's record albums. During World War II Miss Putnam led the Victory Book Campaign that collected over 5,000 books for American troops. 1943 saw the beginning of an adult education program. In 1951 Miss Putnam began a Great Books series.

Adding to the physical plant during Miss Putnam's tenure, in addition to the Reading Room, was construction of the children's wing. This physical expansion was now able to house 100,000 books by the time of her retirement. And that achievement was key to Andover's selection as one of seven regional links in the Eastern Regional Public Library System.

Miriam Putnam's library programs alone might have garnered her well-earned

accolades, but she extended her time well beyond those four walls.

Miss Putnam was a member of the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union and Common Cause. She also was active in the Andover League of Women Voters, the Andover Historical Society and the Andover Guild.

When Miss Putnam retired in 1967 she kept her apartment for future visits. She urged the library to continue to reach out to even more in the community.

She also announced she would be moving on to Tall-edged College in Alabama, an interracial school, as assistant librarian. Here she hoped to continue to be socially active and become involved with the young students.

Shortly before her death in 1996, Miriam Putnam reflected on her time in Andover:

"When I came in 1939, Andover was a small town. The library had a remarkable collection and a community tremendously interested in education. As new people began to arrive, they brought new interests. We felt the library should begin to represent the town as it is, not just as it was."

From all the heartfelt remembrances that poured in on her death, there is only one thing left to say: "Well done, Miss Putnam. Your life was well-lived!"

WEB QUESTION

This week's question:

The Board of Selectmen, led by chairman Alex Vispoli, is trying to assess the impact of town spending on the tax rate, with an eye toward keeping down what Vispoli calls "the rate of increase." Last year, he said, the increase was "unsustainable." **With two, massive school projects in the planning stages, and other major capital expenses, do you think the town should raise taxes through an override or find another way to fund these huge projects?**

Go for an override. We need modern, up-to-date school and town facilities.

Find another way. Taxes are already too high in Andover.

Cut taxes. We don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem.

Last week's question:

As the natural gas disaster lingers on and on, Gov. Charlie Baker late last week announced an aggressive timeline to restore service to thousands of residents currently without gas to power their utilities, including heat, hot water and stoves/ovens for cooking. **He said it should be Nov. 19 that some 50 miles of potentially damaged underground natural gas lines are replaced and thousands upon thousands of damaged appliances are repaired or replaced. Do you think it's possible?**

Yes. I believe in Charlie Baker. He will make sure we have heat before the snow flies. **15 votes.**

No. There is no way Columbia Gas, which created this problem, will have heat, hot water and gas for cooking by Nov. 19. This is a disaster. **36 votes.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lyons helped during natural gas disaster

Editor, Townsman:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank state Rep. Jim Lyons for his tireless efforts on behalf of all of his constituents during the recent natural gas disaster affecting the Merrimack Valley. Representative Lyons exhibited strong leadership and compassion during this crisis.

As directed, we had shut off our gas and evacuated our home, but thankfully were able to return to our house since it is located in a non-impacted area. Still, there was confusion and a lack of information about how to get gas service restored and timelines for when technicians might arrive to safely restart our service.

Seeing his social media posts and hearing from others about his assistance,

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: townsman@andover-townsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

my family reached out to Re. Lyons's office for information and guidance. Rep. Lyons personally called me back, took my contact information, and followed up with me to ensure that gas service had been restored in our

neighborhood. He worked diligently to make sure that answers were provided to us and others affected by this tragedy. We know that others have and will continue to suffer more significantly from this event, and we know how fortunate we are, but we also feel lucky to have a strong advocate like Rep. Jim Lyons working for us and the people of Andover.

CHIP MACDONALD
Andover

Support Tram Nguyen for state Rep.

Editor, Townsman:

As someone who cares deeply about our veterans and their families, I am writing to express my strong support for Tram Nguyen as our next state representative. Tram is a person who understands veterans and who will work tirelessly on Beacon

Hill to support them. Tram is the daughter of a man who fought alongside U.S. troops in Viet Nam, who became a prisoner of that war, serving eight years in Communist re-education camps, and who came to this country with his family as political refugees.

With this history so much a part of her, Tram believes deeply that our veterans have earned the respect, admiration and support of all of us. As a lawyer, Tram has fought for veterans' benefits and is committed to continuing that fight as state representative. She will advocate for our veterans and will work to provide them with the help they need and deserve, including health care and mental health services, education, and housing assistance.

Please join me in supporting Tram Nguyen on Nov. 6.

BILL PENNINGTON
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@andover-townsman.com.

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

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File photo

A crowd of thousands gathers at Andover Landing at Brickstone before the start of the Walk to End Alzheimer's last year.

Alzheimer's Walk rescheduled to Oct. 14

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's has been rescheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14 in Andover. The walk was postponed due to the gas crisis events in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover last month.

The purple T-shirted teams will meet at Andover Landing, formerly Brickstone Square, walk downtown and back to Andover Landing, for this annual benefit walk to raise money for Alzheimer's research.

"We have over 300 registered teams for the Northeastern MA Walk to End

- IF YOU GO**
- **What:** Northeastern Massachusetts Walk to End Alzheimer's
 - **When:** Sunday, Oct. 14; registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Promise Garden Ceremony at 9:40 a.m., Walk at 10 a.m.
 - **Where:** Andover Landing, formerly Brickstone Square, Andover
 - **More info:** alz.org/walk

Alzheimer's that have raised almost \$500,000," said Nicole Francoeur, walk manager for the Alzheimer's Association,

MA/NH Chapter, in a press release. "We can't thank our walk participants enough for their dedication and commitment to our vision of a world without Alzheimer's."

The statistics about Alzheimer's are alarming. The Northeastern Massachusetts chapter of the Alzheimer's Association said that someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's every 65 seconds. By mid-century, someone in the U.S. will develop the disease every 33 seconds, according to the association. Further, Alzheimer's disease is the only top 10 cause of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

Walkers will be dressed in purple which is the signature color for Alzheimer's support.

For advice on how to help individuals with dementia manage in this crisis, the Alzheimer's Association provides a 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 and has more information on their website: www.alz.org.

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History & Culture

100 Years Ago – Oct. 4, 1918

Friends of Mrs. Arthur P. Phillips of Wolcott Avenue will be glad to know that she is recovering from her severe attack of pneumonia at the Anderson sanatorium on Maple Avenue.

The committee in charge of the Red Cross drive for clothing to send to the Belgian refugees announces that garments may be left on Fridays, Oct. 4 and 11, at the Guild House on Brook Street. The time for collecting this clothing had to be extended on account of the influenza epidemic, but October will be the last day on which this appeal may be answered.

The shop windows in town are gay with their Liberty Loan posters and many of the firms have entered into the spirit of aiding this campaign ... in the window of Herbert F. Chase in the Arco building is an interesting display loaned by Principal Sterns of Phillips Academy. It consists of several German and Austrian trophies captured in Italy. There are two helmets, taken from Soissons, an ammunition pouch roll of Austrian cartridges and in the Bookstore is a large American flag with a mounted poster

which reads: "For Victory Buy More Bonds".

75 Years Ago – Oct. 21, 1943

Several prominent painters from Andover and North Andover will hold a bazaar for the benefit of Russian and Chinese relief. On exhibition will be paintings by Maud and Patrick Morgan, Lev Goriansky, Alica Atkinson, Frances Dalton, Harry Sutton and Claire Hayes. All proceeds from their sale will go into the Russo-Chinese fund.

The annual Free Church fair opened this afternoon at 2 p.m. This marks another of a long succession of fairs held by the Free Church and dating back into the last century. The current fair is the accomplishments of hundreds of men and women and eight church organizations, and represents both in detail and in commodities for sale, an extensive effort.

Two local Navy men, John Mooney, Signalman 3C, of High Street, and Lawrence Grant, Radioman 3C of School Street, returned to Andover this week after seeing several months of constant action in the Sicilian and Italian operations.

50 Years Ago – Oct. 10, 1968

An engineering test flight, Apollo 7, will carry a three-man crew, Walther M. Schirra Jr., commander, Donn F. Eisele, command module

pilot, and Walter Cunningham, lunar module pilot.

As reported in last week's Townsman, seven Andover and North Andoverites are employed on the Apollo program at Avco Space Systems Division, Lowell, designer and manufacturer of the Apollo heat shield.

The names of 20 area residents were drawn as winners of a pair of tickets to the Nov. 10 Boston Patriots-San Diego Chargers football game. Winners can claim their tickets at Dana's Sport Shop, 62 Main St.

25 Years Ago—Oct. 14, 1968

Andover's first case of rabies in animals was confirmed by the state last Thursday, Oct. 7, according to doctors at Andover Animal Hospital. Early last week, the owners of two dogs in the Chandler and River roads neighborhood went outside to find that their pets had torn apart a raccoon. The results from the state's test of the raccoon came back positive two days later.

A humanitarian aid organization has been formed in Andover, the Service Club of Andover, to identify and respond to the needs of individuals and organizations in the community. "I believe there exists in everyone the desire to do something good for others in need," said Enzo Fossella, president and founder of the club.

AT&T wants to put small antennae on light posts in town

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

AT&T is looking to partner with local officials in Andover to facilitate the deployment of small antennae around town, according to a press release from AT&T.

The so-called small cells are actually antennae that fit onto traffic lights and utility poles. They improve the capacity, speed and quality of wireless networks, according to a press release from AT&T.

Patricia Jacobs, president of AT&T New England, said in the press release that the small antennae would create better coverage for Andover

residents and make it faster to download files.

They would also allow better access to resources for local businesses, schools, hospitals and police and fire departments.

"A June 2018 statewide survey of Massachusetts AT&T customers showed that 94 percent of respondents support small cell installation in their communities," said Jacobs.

AT&T is looking to partner with Andover and other cities and towns across Massachusetts, she said.

"Our wireless world continues to develop in remarkable and exponential ways," she said. "Small cells keep customers and communities

ahead of the curve."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli said he has yet to hear anything about the installment of antennae. In the past, the town has opposed such installations, fearing that they would not match the historic aesthetic of the community.

Karen Twomey, public relations manager at AT&T, said the process is still in the very early stages and there is no specific activity in Andover just yet.

"The town has been receptive to having future discussions about the installment of the small cells and AT&T is looking forward to talking with them about it," said Twomey.

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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. The cost is \$4 one way or \$7 round trip. Travel plans should be arranged by Tuesday at noon. Call 978-623-8323 to schedule transportation.

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.

TownsBeat



Twenty-two-month-old Landon Armata of Middleton pushes an oversized basketball at the 19th annual Hike for Hope in Andover.



Clara Mannell of Hudson, New Hampshire, celebrates as she crosses the finish line.



Four-year-old Connie Mamis of Andover wears a pair of wings made out of balloons.

Hike for Hope raises \$130K for Lazarus House

BY JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

A sea of red shirts filled The Park in Andover Sunday morning as hundreds of walkers gathered for the 19th annual Hike for Hope.

More than 600 walkers participated in this year's 5K to support Lazarus House in Lawrence, a homeless shelter working to break the cycle of poverty in the Merrimack Valley. The event raised more than \$130,000.

For many of the staff and people who use Lazarus House services, the day was more than just a fund-raising event.

Edwin Bonilla, a long-time guest and Lawrence resident, looks forward to the walk every year. Bonilla, though he walks with poles for support, is determined to partake in the walk, supporting a place that means so much to him. "I keep on doing it and I will do it for as long as I can," he said.

Bonilla has been participating in the walk for 11 years, and this year he was the captain of Team Eddie, one of 45 teams that registered this year. He wore a white T-shirt, like all team captains, to represent his leadership position and involvement in the walk.

Tiny Tunes, the premier sponsor of the walk, performed the National Anthem with help from the crowd to kick off the walk.

Bridget Shaheen, executive director of Lazarus House, has been a part of the hike since it began 19 years ago.

"One of the reasons I love this event is because it's families creating a better world for other families," she said.

Shaheen said that during the walk, no one is judged and everyone is accepted regardless of their backgrounds. The walk brings people together who share the desire to do good, like herself.



Amy Hamilton, right, of Andover walks with her parents Jeff and Loni Seligman of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and her children Wyatt Hamilton, 8, and Lily Hamilton, 4, during the 19th annual Hike for Hope on Sunday in Andover. The event, which raises money for Lazarus House Ministries, drew more than 600 participants.



Jeff Hazelwood of Andover is the first to cross the finish line.



Ally Evangelista, left, and Priya Worden, both 13 and of North Andover, were the first female finishers.

"Everyone is the same, it doesn't matter where you're from," she said. "Everyone here is just perfect."

This year's walk welcomed back veteran walkers and new walkers as well.

Melissa Zuluago, 16, of Lawrence, was participating in the walk for her first time. She was walking with her friend Olga Valentin, also 16 of Lawrence, who walked last year. The two girls are students at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School in Lawrence, where a

group of about 20 students participated in the walk this year.

"It's so fun because you get to walk around with your friends for a good cause," said Valentin.

The day was filled with music, food, games, and of course, giving back.

"The hike is an event that brings together so many different people," said Lazarus House Director of Development Kelley Granahan.

Close to 100 volunteers offered to help at the event, including a

number of Austin Preparatory students who were the first to show up, helping to set up at 8 a.m. Sunday.

Dave McGillivray, longtime race director of the Boston Marathon and founder of the Hike for Hope, addressed the crowd with a touching speech before the walk began.

"You are all going to heaven," he said, and thanked the crowd for being there and for their generosity.

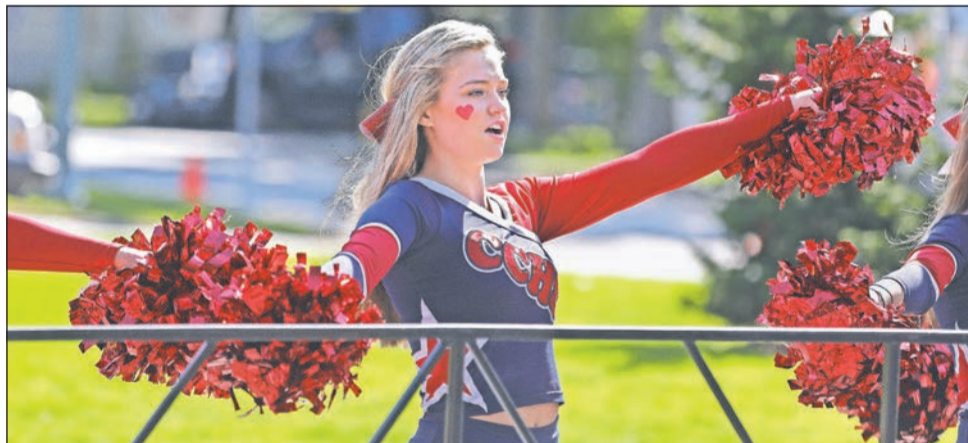
McGillivray donated a delivery truck to the Lazarus House, a huge surprise to the staff.

Lazarus House has three thrift stores located across Lawrence on Hampshire Street, South Union Street and Essex Street. They use their trucks to deliver furniture, food and other goods to their stores. For a while, they have been down a truck.

"We've had to turn donors away because our truck was not fixable," said Granahan. "So this is huge for us."



From left, Annabelle West, Anna Oppenheim and Lily Zacher sing with the Tiny Tunes group.



Stephanie Hughes, a junior at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, cheers on walkers at the finish line.



Eleven-year-old Victoria Rivera, left, and Angelina Benjavitvilai, 10, listen to the opening speeches.

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER THURSDAY, OCT. 4

AUTHOR VISIT, 6:30 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 74 Main St. Linda Flaherty Haltmaier will read from her new book of poetry, "To the Left of the Sun"; Haltmaier is Andover's Poet Laureate and the winner of the 2018 International Book Award for Poetry; free and open to all; 978-475-0143.

OCT. 4 TO 28

GAYLE CARUSO ARTWORK ON DISPLAY, Bromfield Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave., Boston. "The Light and the Wallpaper," artwork by local artist Gayle Caruso, will be featured in a new exhibit at the gallery; the opening reception will be held on Friday, Oct. 5, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; www.bromfieldgallery.com.

OCT. 7, 14, 21 AND 28

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.

THURSDAY, OCT. 11

ACCESSORY SWAP AND SHOP, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road. Presented by the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel in Andover, proceeds will benefit Uncommon Threads of Lawrence; enjoy drinks and appetizers, shop the supporting vendors, and find new-to-you treasures, including jewelry, handbags, scarves, sunglasses, shoes, wallets, watches, blazers, jackets, capes, wraps and new beauty product gift sets; earn a swap ticket for every accepted item you contribute; swap tickets, or \$5 per item, will be accepted

for those with nothing to swap or anyone who wants to go home with more than they brought; donate in-style (new or gently used) items on Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., and Oct. 10, 5 to 7 p.m.; admission to the Swap and Shop on Oct. 11 is \$20 for Sisterhood members, \$25 for nonmembers; click the Paypal link at <https://temple Emanuel.net/community/sisterhood> or buy tickets at the door.

OCT. 15 AND NOV. 26

MEMORY-MAKING CAFÉS AND DINNERS, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Salvatore's Restaurant, 34 Park St., Andover. Memory-Making Cafés create opportunities for individuals living with memory challenges, their caregivers, families and friends to come together for light-hearted social events; each café will have a specific theme and activity facilitated by a presenter aimed to

stimulate shared connection and joy; this event is free and pizza will be provided; sponsorship opportunities are available; 978-604-0830.

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

AUTHOR VISIT, 6:30 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 74 Main St. Jenna Blum will read from her new novel, "The Lost Family," which tells the story of a man who lost his family in the Holocaust and his hope of starting over with his new wife and daughter; she is the author of "Those Who Save Us" and "The Stormchasers"; free and open to all; 978-475-0143.

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

HYE KEF 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 \$65 for adults 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 armenianfriendsofamerica.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

See CALENDAR, Page 10

Collins stage first; now touring nationally

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Touring the country for a national musical show yet again is Andover High School graduate Katie LaMark as she's landed the lead role in the 10th anniversary production of "Rock of Ages" coming to Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre stage this month.

LaMark leads the cast as "Sherrie Christian" in the musical which captures the iconic era that was the big bad 1980s Hollywood. It is set in 1987 on Hollywood's Sunset Strip, when a small-town girl meets a big city rocker. It's a love story as Sherrie falls in love with Drew Boley, another rock-n-roll dreamer looking to turn a fantasy into reality.

Featuring the music of



Courtesy photo

Katie LaMark, a 2009 graduate of Andover High School, performs in 'Rock of Ages' at Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre next month.

1980s hit bands such as Styx, Poison, Twisted Sister and Whitesnake, the

musical was nominated for five Tony Awards including Best Musical.

The show's song list includes "Know What Love Is," "Feel the Noise," and "Take Your Best Shot."

"I really like this role. She is a very interesting character," said LaMark, the daughter of two professional musicians who grew up in West Andover and now lives in Manhattan.

She is now rehearsing for the Boston show and is very happy to see her sister who lives nearby in Jamaica Plain.

LaMark, 27, is a 2009 AHS graduate and earned a degree at Syracuse University in musical theater. Since her college graduation, she's been busy with roles in numerous musical productions including a national "50 Shades! The Musical Parody"

show and regional productions including "Mama Mia," "Chasing Rainbows" and "The Rocky Horror Show." She recently played "Maureen Johnson" in the 20th anniversary tour of RENT, a musical that toured the country.

And, she is most grateful for her hometown help with her drama dreams.

"I feel I was really well-prepared for this career with my theater experience in Andover," LaMark said.

She appeared in many Merrimack Junior Theater shows when she was a young aspiring thespian and salutes the now-retired MJT director Josie Walker for guiding her. Next up was Andover High where Arts Director of Theatre Arts Susan Leland-Smith Choquette challenged her frequently with a wide range of

roles in many productions performed on the Collins stage.

"Susan really produced so many different types of shows and I really learned a lot because of that," LaMark said. "She would always challenge us with a variety of shows."

The rave reviews were reciprocated by Choquette.

"Katie is great! She played Diana Morales in our production of 'A Chorus Line.' She is a talented singer/actor/dancer from a very musical family. I'm so pleased and not at all surprised that she has worked consistently since she graduated," Choquette wrote in an email. "It is very thrilling as a teacher to see my former students living their dreams."

"Rock of Ages" opened April 7, 2009 on Broadway and played more than 2,300

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Musical, "Rock of Ages"
- **Who:** Andover High School graduate Katie LaMark, '09, has lead role
- **When:** Oct. 23 to 28
- **Where:** Boch Center Wang Theatre, Boston
- **More info:** <http://www.boch-center.org/rockofages>
- **Tickets** for "Rock of Ages" at the Wang Theatre are on sale now. Tickets are available at the Boch Center Box Office, Bochcenter.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787).

performances at the Brooks Atkinson and Helen Hayes theaters. The show also enjoyed successful national and international tours and, in 2012, was turned into a major motion picture.

Spotlight Playhouse proudly presents 'August: Osage County'

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

A community theatre group takes on the deeply moving yet also hilarious 2013 movie, "August: Osage County," that starred Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts, and the local stage performance promises that the whirlpool of events that shake the Oklahoma family's foundation in the movie will be shaken just as much in this local play.

Spotlight Playhouse starts their 11th season with this Tony Award winning play version of the movie. The local play opens Friday, Oct. 12 and runs two weekends through Saturday, Oct. 20. The curtain goes up at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, with a 2 p.m. matinee show on Saturday, Oct. 13. All performances will take place at the Pike School on Sunset Rock Road in Andover.



Courtesy photo

The cast of "August: Osage County," which will be performed later this month at Pike School on Sunset Rock Road in Andover.

Violet, the acidic matriarch played by Streep in the movie, will offer the same

deep and uproarious roller coaster that challenges the perception of the modern

American family, in the local play. The family's stormy history with its mocking taunts

IF YOU GO

- **What:** "August: Osage County"
- **Who:** Spotlight Playhouse, a non-profit community theatre organization
- **When:** opens Friday, Oct. 12 and runs two weekends through Saturday, Oct. 20; 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings; matinee on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Pike School on Sunset Rock Road in Andover
- **Tickets:** spotlightplayhouse.org or call the box office at 978-470-2175

and hurtful revelations, will get lots of attention.

Spotlight's upcoming show is headed by an award winning production team with Technical Director James DeStefano and Director Ben Delatizky at the helm. DeStefano received the coveted

Eastern MA Community Theatre (EMACT) "2018 Best Set Design for a Play" award for his impressive Noises Off! two story, moving set design.

Delatizky makes his Spotlight directorial debut with a show he describes as "if Tennessee Williams were alive today, "August: Osage County" would be the kind of script he would write."

"In my opinion it has everything an audience could want: a story that plays like a gunshot, circumstances worthy of a daytime soap opera, festering past family dysfunction and behavior that comes to tragic conclusions with bomblets of information and revelations dropped throughout to keep you wanting more until the very end," Delatizky says in the press release about the show.

"August: Osage County" cast includes Kathleen Cahill Wackowski of Andover.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 9

NOVEMBER SATURDAY, NOV. 10

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/inpink2018.

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 Punchard, 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 Punchard 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; tcnmanager@treblechorusne.org.

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

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

KARMA, live band music, Thursday through Saturday; 209 N. Main St. (Shawsheen 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.

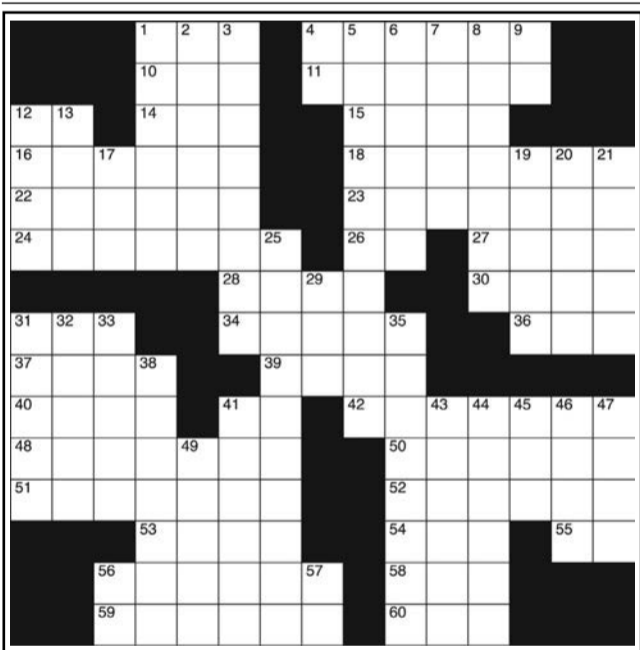
ANDOVER REC, 36 Bartlet St., offers a number of different programs for adults, youth and children; www.andoverrec.com, 978-623-8340.

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 townsmen@andovertownsmen.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- Type of cleaner (abbr.)
- Going out
- Jima, WWII battlefield
- Closed
- Air Force
- Moved swiftly
- Will not (obsolete)
- Type of tank
- Raise
- Represent
- Gives a new moniker
- Adversary
- Anno Domini
- Lillian __, actress
- Bunch of something
- This (Spanish)
- A guitarist uses one
- Small stem bearing leaves

CLUES DOWN

- High moral behavior
- Expects
- Fanciful notions
- Spanish be
- All the people of approximately the same age
- Berated
- Trailblazing comedienne
- Fabric edge
- South Dakota
- Amazon ID number
- A wife (law)
- Printing speed measurement
- Wrong
- Exams
- Outlying suburb of London
- Replaces

Solution in Classified Section

- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Actress Rooney
- Dark brown or black
- Matter
- Atomic number 87 (abbr.)
- Food company
- Trips to see wildlife
- Elderly
- Famed chapel
- Something to grab
- City in Oklahoma
- Muckraking journalist Tarbell
- Thallium
- Corroded
- A Brooklyn NBAer
- Most liberated
- Google certification (abbr.)
- Prints money
- Accumulate
- New Zealand conifer
- College teachers
- A way of grating
- Novice
- Having limits
- Shining with jewels or sequins
- Existing at birth but not hereditary
- Caesar, comedian
- A young male horse under the age of four
- Russian industrial city
- Wash off
- Radio frequency
- Delirium tremens

10/4/18

OBITUARIES

Robert C. Buell, 87

April 23, 1931 - September 25, 2018
Former Mass. State Senator

RYE, NH — Robert Colby Buell, aged 87, of Rye, N.H., and formerly of Boxford, Mass., passed away on September 25, 2018. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Ted Buell, as well as his siblings, sister Marilyn Corning, sister Betsy Uhl, and brother David Buell. He is survived by his three sons and their wives, Ronald Buell and Maggie Sutherland of Piedmont, Calif., Stephen and Deborah Buell of North Reading, Mass., and John and Casey Buell of New Durham, N.H. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Ryan Buell, Liza Buell, Henry Buell, Amy Phillips, Leslie Lufkin, and Stevie Lewis; and one great-grandchild, Benjamin Phillips. He was married to Jean Wetmore Buell for 46 years, who predeceased him in November of 2005.



Robert C. Buell

his 26 years in public office. He was an old school politician who listened to his voters and frequently reached across the aisle to work out legislation.

Bob loved ice hockey and did not hang up his skates until after he turned 80 years old. He competed every summer after the age of 50 in the Snoopy Senior Men's World Ice Hockey Tournament in Santa Rosa, Calif., helping his team win several championships there. Bob and Jean also loved to go downhill skiing in Europe. They took their honeymoon in the Swiss Alps to ski. After exploring multiple ski areas during the early years of their marriage in Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, they found Lech in Austria and returned there every January for many years. They made many friends there and after Jean passed, he skied there one last time with his three boys (who had never been before that). It was a memorable occasion for all.

Bob also loved his family summer home on Lake Winnepesaukee in Tuftonboro, N.H. His father Ted purchased the place in 1939, and Bob spent many summers there as a child. At one point his parents were considering selling it, and would have, had Bob not vehemently fought against the idea. He has spent summers there every year of his life up until this last one. And he will be laid to rest on that very beloved ground, next to his wife Jean.

ARRANGEMENTS: A memorial service will be held to celebrate Bob's life, his athleticism, his service to his country and community, and most importantly his love of family and friends on November 3, 2018, at 1 p.m., at the Boxford Congregational Church. A reception will be held following the service at the Ferncroft Country Club immediately afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Bob's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

Ronald A. Gargalowitz, 83

December 4, 1934 - September 29, 2018

ANDOVER — Ronald A. Gargalowitz, 83, of Andover, died Saturday, September 29, 2018 at home with his loving wife.



He was born December 4, 1934 in Newark, New Jersey to the late Alexander and Teresa (Sofian) Gargalowitz.

Ron grew up in Union, NJ, and graduated from Union NJ High School. He then joined the U.S. Air Force where he learned to fly, and was stationed in northern Africa. Upon returning home, he married Carole Barry and graduated from Embry-Riddle University. The young couple and their first child moved north and lived in Parkchester NY for several years to be close to extended family. He then began his career as a commercial airline pilot. With the addition of a second son and a daughter, the family moved to Fairfield, Conn. for three years. When Ron became based out of Logan airport in Boston, the family moved to Andover, where they have lived for the past 43 years. Ron flew for Delta Airlines for many years and flying was his passion. He also enjoyed golfing, cars, traveling, reading, good food, and tinkering with projects.



Most important to Ron was his family. He is survived by his loving wife Carole of 60 years, his sons, Mark, and wife Jean, Paul, and wife Mary, and his daughter, Christine Yoken and husband Craig. Grandchildren include Michael Gargalowitz, and wife, Laura, Michelle Kelly, and husband Kyle, Sarah Yoken and An-

drew Yoken; great-grandchildren include Demetri Semel-Wells, Willow Kelly, and Lucy Gargalowitz. Ronald's sisters include Gladys Metzger and Barbara Simon, and her children Jennifer and Stephen.

ARRANGEMENTS: Family and friends are invited to calling hours on Friday, October 5, 2018 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Conte Funeral Home, 28 Florence Street, Andover, MA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 10 a.m. in St. Augustine's Church in Andover. Burial will follow in West Parish Cemetery, Andover. For online condolences please visit www.contefuneralhomes.com. Memorial contributions may be made to: Catholic Charities, St. Jude's Hospital for Children, or The Wounded Warrior Project.



'Hell-bent' to hit deadline

Officials unveil detailed plan to get gas restored across Valley by Nov. 19

By ZOE MATHEWS AND LISA KASHINSKY
zmathews@eagletribune.com, lkashinsky@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — Officials in charge of restoration efforts in the wake of the Merrimack Valley natural gas disaster said Tuesday they are racing against the weather to restore gas to everyone affected by the Sept. 13 explosions and fires.

At a press briefing in Lawrence on Tuesday morning, Joe Albanese, chief recovery officer of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster, and Pablo Vegas, executive vice president of NiSource, remained confident workers would hit their targeted Nov. 19 restoration date.

NiSource is the parent company of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, which operates the pipelines that are affected.

To restore gas service to some 8,600 meters across three communities requires replacing about 45 miles of pipeline and 6,100 service lines, using nearly 200 construction crews, according to information released Tuesday by Columbia Gas.

The restoration plan involves splitting recovery up into eight different zones across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover — 63 individual construction projects, each with its own schedule, spanning from late September to early or mid-November.

Columbia Gas has broken down restoration efforts into three stages: house ready, which includes in-home assessments and repairs; gas ready, which involves main and service line replacement and meter installation; and the final step, which involves another visit from a Columbia Gas representative to perform final safety checks and restore service.

Work involves replacing not only service lines and meters, but also installing pressure regulations at each meter and

excess flow valves, a modern safety feature required for new or replaced gas service lines by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

As of Tuesday, nearly 5 miles of pipeline had been replaced, and 113 service lines were deemed ready to support gas.

Recovery officials said they expect to publish an interactive map by the end of the week, so residents and business owners can see when their meters will come online.

Albanese said the Nov. 19 date resulted from initial planning for a worst-case scenario where all pipelines in the area would have to be replaced, which was soon walked back to roughly 48 miles.

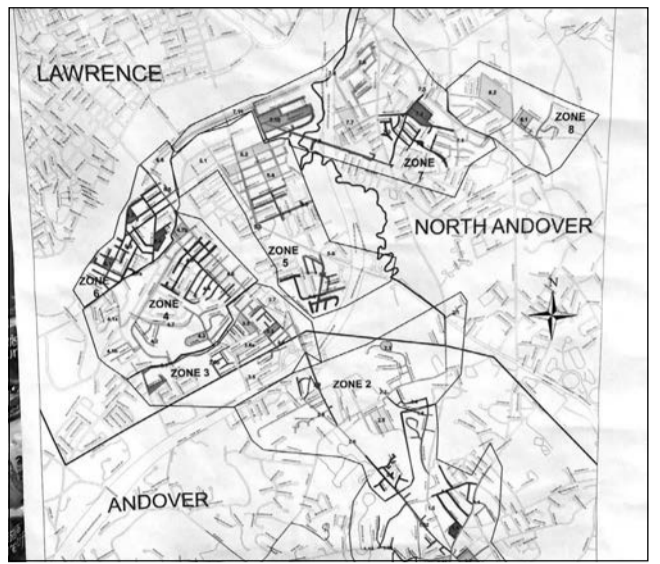
A retired U.S. Navy officer, Albanese was named chief recovery officer for the Merrimack Valley disaster Sept. 21, when Gov. Charlie Baker ordered Columbia Gas to bring in outside help.

"It's a resource-driven evolution, so we know how much we have to do, and we have a lot of crews in a small footprint," Albanese said at Tuesday's press conference.

On an average day, the Columbia Gas office in Lawrence staffs about 180 people. In the weeks since the explosions and fires, about 3,000 people have been in the area to assist with the restoration efforts, Albanese said, noting it's an unprecedented incident.

"We are hell-bent on assuring people have heat and hot water by the 19th," he said. "There will be some anomalies along the way. ... There were significant code violations in some of the buildings ... and we're working our plan to accommodate all of that."

Many residents have said a lack of clear information from Columbia Gas about restoration timeline limits their decision-making. The company has said it will reimburse



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

A map of the exact zones in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover which will have gas line replacement work being done.

customers who want to switch to alternate heat sources, even temporarily. But without a specific timeline pertaining to streets and neighborhoods, some say they don't feel comfortable going through that process.

"That's exactly why we're working to get this kind of house and business level detail out to customers," said Vegas, the executive vice president of NiSource.

"We recognize those decisions prior to having that information," are limited, he said.

The Greater Lawrence Disaster Relief Fund will begin accepting applications Wednesday for financial aid from Merrimack Valley residents impacted by last month's gas explosions and fires, with about \$10.85 million to be distributed from the fund.

The fund was launched to provide short-term assistance for things like shelter, food and health services as thousands of residents in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover who have been without gas since Sept. 13 cope with the circumstances.

Columbia Gas made an

initial \$10 million donation to the fund and officials said another \$850,000 was raised.

"The rollout of these dollars is a big step in recovery for our community," Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera said. "The release of these funds will put cash directly in the hands of the neediest families affected by this disaster. These funds will help those affected directly and catastrophically start to re-build their lives."

The Essex County Community Foundation, which is managing the fund, said all people will be offered additional support services, if necessary, during the application process. Case managers will be available to connect applicants with local non-profits in the fields of housing, transportation, health care and food services.

Affected residents can apply for assistance from the fund online at www.GLDRF.org, by phone by dialing 2-1-1, or in person at one of three drop-in application centers. The centers are located at Old Town Hall, 20 Main St., Andover; Relief's In, 1 Market St., Lawrence; and First and Main Plaza, 115 Main St., North Andover.

Suspicious white powder found at local business

By PAUL TENNANT
ptennant@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — A hazardous materials team is investigating a suspicious white powder that was found at a local business Thursday

afternoon.

Officials think the powder is fentanyl or a similar substance,

Andover fire Chief Michael Mansfield said firefighters went to Vicor Corp., 400 Federal St., at 2:30 p.m. after

workers found a package with an unknown white powdery substance on the floor.

Firefighters asked the state Department of Fire Services District 5 Hazardous Materials Team to assess the substance

because its employees have specialized training and equipment.

The team took custody of the package and took it to a testing site. No one was injured and the incident remains under investigation.

POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY JESSICA VALERIANI

TUESDAY, SEPT. 25

Angela M. Copin, 35, of 45 Auburn St., Lawrence, was arrested on a warrant after she refused to leave a friend's house on Shattuck Road at 8:06 p.m.

The tree department was notified about a large tree that was reported to be blocking Porter Road at 4:41 p.m.

A caller reported being bitten by a dog on Clover Circle at 12:43 p.m.

A duck was stuck when it ran afoul of a fence on

Bancroft Road at 8:37 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26

A wire was down in front of a home on Abbott Street at 4:17 p.m. Verizon was notified.

Personal injury resulted from a crash reported on North Main Street at 7:27 a.m.

A caller reported a breaking and entering in their home on Elm Street before 10 p.m. Police said it appeared that forced entry was gained through a window. A watch was reported missing.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 27

Yanexis E. Corporan, 21, of 37 Albion St., Apt. #2,

Methuen, was arrested on a warrant on River Road at 7:12 p.m.

A caller reported a car operated by a male speeding around the plaza lot on North Main Street at 4:57 p.m. A female was reported to be crying in the vehicle.

An injured turkey on Linda Road was transported to the River Road vet at 11:44 a.m.

Loose donkeys were reported on Lowell Street at 12:38 p.m. Staff came and retrieved their asses.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28

Alexsander E. Padro, 27, of 3 Albert St., Haverhill,

FOR FULL POLICE LOG
www.andovertownsmen.com

was arrested for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on River Road at 7:27 p.m.

A Sugarbush Lane resident reported that someone was trying to use his Social Security number.

A caller reported his Elm Street home was broken into sometime before 10 p.m.

Candidates to meet with voters on October 10

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

NORTH ANDOVER — The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover will host an evening with the state senate and state representative candidates running to represent North Andover and Andover on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

The event, held at the

Stevens Estate, 723 Osgood St., at 6:30 p.m., will be an opportunity to hear opening statements from each candidate and ask questions with them directly.

Each candidate will move from table to table, speed-dating style, as voters will have the chance to ask questions and engage with each of them.

Invited are the candidates

for the:

■ 14th Essex State Representative seat, Ryan Losco and Christina Minicucci

■ 18th Essex State Representative seat, James J. Lyons Jr. and Tram Nguyen

■ First Essex State Senate seat, Diana DiZoglio and Alexander Leighton Williams

■ First Essex and

Middlesex State Senate seat, Bruce E. Tarr.

Everyone is welcome at the event. Anyone who can't make it but would like to be involved can watch live on North Andover CAM stations Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 24, or in broadcast on their YouTube Channel at their://www.youtube.com/user/NorthAndoverCAM1.

Cellphones to receive emergency test Wednesday

STAFF REPORT

ANDOVER — Don't panic. Just as much of the Merrimack Valley has been in the throes of real emergency the past few weeks, the federal government is issuing a nationwide emergency alert test Wednesday afternoon.

Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said he hopes people realize it's just a test.

"Andover has experienced and is still recovering from a serious emergency, and it is vital that we get the word out about this test so that no residents are put in fear," Flanagan said.

"Virtually all cell phones and television and radio stations are part of the test tomorrow. The test is meant to ensure that vital communications infrastructure is in working order in the event of a national

emergency. Again, tomorrow's event is only a test."

The test of the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts is being conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission.

The Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEA, portion of the test will be sent to virtually all consumer cellular phones in the U.S. beginning at 2:18 p.m.

The Emergency Alert System, or EAS, test will follow on all TV and radio stations at 2:20 p.m. This is the first time the federal government

has tested the WEA.

The WEA test message will appear on mobile phones and will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

Phones will display this national test using the header "Presidential Alert." These nationwide alerts, established pursuant to the WARN Act of 2006, are meant for use in a national emergency and are the only type of alert that can be sent simultaneously nationwide by FEMA.

Each phone should receive the message only once.

Gas Disaster



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Columbia Gas workers monitor the venting of natural gas at the intersection of Route 125 and Pleasant Street in North Andover on Wednesday.

Tips on filing damage claims

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — State Attorney General Maura Healey announced Tuesday her office is providing additional resources to help people and businesses that sustained losses as a result of the Sept. 13 gas disaster.

The attorney general has also ordered Columbia Gas and NiSource to preserve all documents related to the disaster for use in a potential state investigation. The National Transportation Safety Board has already begun probing the disaster.

Residents and business owners with questions and concerns are advised to call the attorney general's new hotline at 617-573-5370 to connect with specialists who can handle questions about legal representation, home improvement scams and insurance claims.

The attorney general's office is sending staffers to help at the Lawrence claims center. Lawyers from the office are in touch with Columbia Gas to make sure that the utility is preparing to fully compensate individuals and businesses affected by the disaster, Healey said.

The attorney general advises people not to be pressured into signing anything they do not understand.

- Make sure you are working with a licensed attorney. Look up anyone who claims to be an attorney with the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers. Only a licensed attorney can represent you in court, advise you as to whether you should apply for benefits or protections or explain your legal options and give you legal advice.

- Do not sign a contract or agreement you do not understand. You can have it translated into your native language, Healey said.

- Never sign a blank form.
- Get copies of every document you sign.

- Insist on a receipt for every payment you make.

- No legitimate lawyer can promise you a particular result.

- Be wary of anyone who asks you to lie or conceal information; or who asks you to conceal his or her involvement.

- If you have complaints against an attorney, contact the Attorney and Consumer Assistance Program of the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers, at <https://www.massbbo.org/Complaints> or at (617) 728-8750.

- If you need help finding an attorney, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/finding-a-lawyer>.

Recovering losses

Healey recommends that those who have sustained losses from the disaster should first exhaust all possibilities with the Columbia Gas claims process. The helpline, 800-590-5571, is staffed 24 hours a day to receive claims of loss or damaged property.

Home improvement contractors

- Shop wisely. Get recommendations from friends and neighbors.

- Check for license. Make sure a contractor who is doing work on your house is registered with the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

- Solicitations. Be extra cautious hiring contractors who solicit business by knocking on your door or calling you on the phone.

- Get it in writing. Make sure you obtain a written contract or price estimate that details the job that will be done. For more complex projects, ask for an itemized estimate.

- Upfront fees. Be wary of contractors who demand the full price of the work up front. Reputable contractors typically require a portion of the fee upon signing the contract and the remainder when the job is done, Healey said.

For more info or assistance, call the attorney general's dedicated hotline for Merrimack Valley residents at 617-573-5370. It is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Recovery warming up

Natural gas system to undergo statewide review

By ZOE MATHEWS
Staff Writer

BOSTON — The state Department of Public Utilities will hire an independent evaluator to examine the safety of the natural gas system across the state, the agency announced Wednesday.

This comes in the wake of the gas explosions and fires Sept. 13 across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, that killed one man, injured dozens of others, and displaced thousands of people.

When Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency after the natural gas disaster on lines operated by Columbia Gas, he authorized the DPU to direct all natural gas distribution companies operating in the state to fund the examination.

"The safety and security of all communities is the top priority of our administration, and out of an abundance of caution, I have directed

the utilities to work with an independent evaluator to carry out this comprehensive safety review," Baker said. "This review will help improve accountability for utilities and add another layer of oversight for all natural gas infrastructure."

This follows a similar precedent set by the state of California to conduct a third-party review following a natural gas incident in 2010, according to a press release issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which oversees the DPU.

The evaluator will produce a report with any necessary recommendations. The report is meant to complement, but not duplicate, the investigation of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB is focused specifically on the Sept. 13 disaster in the Merrimack Valley and its potential causes. Its investigation could take up to two years, according to the organization,

but generally a preliminary report is issued a few weeks after evidence is collected in the field.

The DPU will consult the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to find an evaluator.

Just last month, the administration gave Massachusetts regulators near-perfect scores on their ability to perform safety inspections on gas lines.

There was just one problem: In the weeks leading up to gas explosions and fires in the Merrimack Valley, the state didn't have enough active inspectors in the field.

"At the time of this evaluation only two inspectors are available to perform inspections," according to an evaluation filed with federal regulators.

The report showed concern that low staffing levels could delay the implementation of inspection plans.

When federal officials

visited over the summer, six of eight inspectors were not available to conduct inspections.

However, even with a tight staff, the report found inspections by state employees have been trending upward in recent years.

"The MA-DPU metrics appeared to be at reasonable performance levels. ... Inspection days per 1,000 miles (are) trending up since 2014."

The state department scored 112 out of 115 possible points when its operation was evaluated at the end of August 2018.

Points were deducted because none of the inspectors had completed a required integrity management program training.

Baker's office said in a statement Wednesday there are currently 10 inspectors assisting with ongoing work in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. Five are with the state's DPU, and five have

come from New York.

This week crews began in-home safety assessments to determine what appliances need to be replaced before gas can come back online. Columbia Gas also is purging the natural gas system across the three communities starting Wednesday.

The company said residents may notice an odor of gas and hear loud noises around the work zones, and are encouraged to call 911 if they suspect a leak.

The work is being conducted at Essex and Brooks streets, Phillips Street at Main Street, and Elm Street at Pine Street in Andover; Chickering, Pleasant and Russell streets in North Andover; and Lenox Street, Hawley Street from South Broadway to Brookfield Street, Inman Street from South Broadway to Brookfield Street, Farley Street at Brookfield Street, and Groton Street at Brookfield Street in Lawrence.

Healey warns residents about getting ripped off by scammers

By KEITH EDDINGS
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — Attorney General Maura Healey on Thursday made her third visit to the city since the natural gas explosions and fires that rocked the region Sept. 13 to repeat advice that has become familiar by now: anyone impacted by the disaster should file a claim with Columbia Gas while being wary of lawyers and contractors — or alleged lawyers and contractors — seeking their business.

"I want to make sure that nobody gets ripped off," Healey told about 200 residents and business people who came to a Lawrence High School lecture hall for her advice about how to file claims with Columbia, protect their rights and guard against fraud. "I don't want to see people scammed or taken advantage, especially people who have already suffered too much."

Healey also had warnings for Columbia Gas. Earlier in the day, she issued a statement accusing the company of leaving its customers "in the dark" about the recovery and demanding its executives meet with her next week to explain their effort to process claims, restore service and provide alternate energy sources to customers asking for it, including by paying the costs of switching them to electricity if they request it. Healey has directed Columbia and its Indiana parent company, NiSource, to preserve documents related to the disaster so they can be reviewed by federal and state investigators looking into the causes of the disaster and the response.

"We're going to be getting to the bottom of this," Healey said at Thursday's meeting at the high school.

One person was killed, about 80 buildings in South Lawrence, North Andover and Andover were damaged or destroyed and thousands of people were evacuated for three days following the disaster, which began at about 4 p.m. Sept. 13 when



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photos

State Rep. Juana Matias, center, talks with Attorney General Maura Healey as Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera looks up into the audience before the start of the forum.

high-pressure natural gas was routed to low-pressure lines.

Since then, Columbia has received thousands of claims from residents and business owners at centers it opened to receive the claims in the three municipalities. Gov. Charlie Baker last week named Joe Albanese, a former Navy captain who now owns a construction company, to coordinate the effort to rebuild or repair 49 miles of Columbia's gas lines by Nov. 19. That effort got underway last week.

Healey was joined by a battery of lawyers on her staff who specialize in the range of legal issues raised by the gas disaster, and an immigration lawyer who said undocumented immigrants affected by the disaster should not be afraid to file claims.

"Our primary message is that you should file a claim with Columbia even if you have your own (homeowner's or renter's insurance) policies," Assistant Attorney General Arwen Thoman told the audience. She urged people to keep receipts and to document expenses they've incurred over the last few weeks, including for meals and hotel stays, so that they could be submitted to Columbia for reimbursement.

"Ask questions and do your homework," Assistant Attorney General Jon Miller urged anyone approached by lawyers and contractors seeking

to sign them up for lawsuits against Columbia or to repair damage to their homes or businesses. "We've started to hear concerns from the community about people who said they're lawyers but who really aren't. These are scammers looking to steal money from homeowners or renters dealing with the situation right now because they know people are vulnerable and want help."

Before hiring anyone, Miller urged people check the lists of licensed lawyers and contractors on websites maintained by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers and the state's Office of Consumer Affairs. People should ask for references, Miller said, and warned them against signing contracts they don't understand, paying large sums of money up front or allowing themselves to be pressured. Ivan Espinoza-Madrugal, executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice in Boston, said there are ways to protect the identity of undocumented immigrants if they wish to sue Columbia. He did not elaborate.

"When the explosions happened, the first thing that came to my mind was that we need to make sure that our rights as residents of Lawrence and surrounding communities are respected and protected," Espinoza-Madrugal said. "That applies to all of us, regardless of what Zip Code



Renters Cheryl and Mark Wood listen Thursday during the Lawrence Gas Disaster Legal Forum at Lawrence High School.

you live in, regardless of what is your race, your background, the language that you speak or your immigration status."

Several residents and business owners had questions. Most were fielded by Mayor Daniel Rivera, who hosted the event with City Councilor Pavel Payano and state Rep. Juana Matias, a Lawrence Democrat.

Lawrence resident Mark Wood asked about the threat that water pipes in his home would burst if gas service is not restored and his home can't be heated before the onset of freezing temperatures. Rivera said that kind of emergency is likely down the road and could be dealt with by turning off water to buildings and moving residents to alternate housing.

"My biggest concern is, will I lose my job," said Audalina Martin, who enrolls 10 children in the day care center she operates at her home on Newton Street in Lawrence.

Rivera responded that Columbia will be responsible for lost income suffered during the disaster. He said the state Division of Unemployment Insurance also will pay benefits to people who lose income. Homayoun Maali, who already

has filed a claim against Columbia, asked Healey why she has not filed a complaint against the company. Healey promised that day is coming.

"This was a terrible thing that happened," Healey said. "There's going to be a ton of investigations and litigation. I'm going to do my job representing your interests, making sure we're protecting people and making sure we're holding accountable those who need to be held accountable. We've got a federal investigation going. We have an investigation by the state Department of Public Utilities ongoing. I've already done the work we need to do to preserve our rights to bring any action — civil, criminal, you name it — against anybody."

"I was on Chickering Road," Healey added, referring to the home on the street where 18-year-old Leonel Rondon was crushed to death when a brick chimney toppled onto his car after he pulled into the driveway of a home that exploded and collapsed moments later. "It's unbelievable. I am so sorry. Something went terribly wrong and there will be people and entities held accountable."

Judy Rakowski, spokeswoman for Columbia, did not return a phone call seeking comment.



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AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera speak with small business owners after a press conference at Papi's Grocery store on South Union Street in Lawrence.

Emergency fund established for loans to local businesses

By ZOE MATHEWS
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — From inside a bodega in South Lawrence, Governor Charlie Baker, Mayor Daniel Rivera, and other state and local leaders announced a business loan fund to assist business owners affected by the Sept. 13 natural gas disaster. The fund will have \$1 million from various business enterprises.

Baker has been in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover almost every day since over-pressurized lines caused explosions and fires, temporarily displacing thousands, many of whom remain without gas.

He met with business owners and leaders from all three communities, and on Friday announced this fund. Business owners can submit applications starting Oct. 1, with no minimum and a \$50,000 maximum.

There will be no payments or interest due for the first six months, according to Baker, who said the restoration and

recovery “should be done long before” that.

Loans will also be eligible to be extended at market rates or restructured for longer terms.

“These stores are embedded in the neighborhoods, they’re critical to get back up,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, noting that they also employ people in the community.

Mass Growth Capital Corporation, Lawrence Partnership and ten lenders involved with the Lawrence Venture Loan Fund and Mill Cities Community Investments (MCCI) are collectively working together to create the program.

North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor and Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan also spoke to the importance of local businesses as the baseline of the region’s economy.

Andover’s entire downtown is in the affected area, with more than 100 businesses out of gas at the height of the disaster. Two weeks later, 20 businesses

remain closed and 500 people are out of work in the town, Flanagan said.

“The difference between \$100 and \$200 is the difference between food on the table or the ability to put in an electric water heater and bathe your family,” said Rivera, noting the importance of this fund, in addition to the \$10 million fund through the Essex County Community Foundation.

Columbia Gas donated \$250,000 in loan loss reserve to the business fund.

Diomedes Ynfante, owner of Papi’s Grocery, said he put out a fire in the basement of the store himself on Thursday, not knowing it was gas-related.

He also owns a restaurant down the street, which also sustained damage in the original incident.

When asked if he would utilize the fund as weeks go on without gas, and a full restoration not expected until late November, he responded “Claro,” — Spanish for “of course.”

U.S. congressional committee to probe Merrimack Valley gas disaster

By KIERA BLESSING
Staff Writer

A U.S. Senate committee will hold a hearing on the deadly gas explosions that rocked the Merrimack Valley, killing a teenager, injuring at least 25 people and forcing the emergency vacation of more than 8,000 residents.

Massachusetts Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren announced in a joint statement Friday that the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing in the Merrimack Valley in the coming weeks.

The hearing will seek to identify whether Columbia Gas and pipeline regulators have adequate plans in place to detect violations and prevent catastrophes like the one that occurred on Sept. 13, when high-pressure gas leaks caused at least three explosions and some 80 fires across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

Markey is a member of the committee, which oversees both of the investigating bodies probing the disaster — the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the National Transportation and Safety Board.

The location of the hearing has yet to be determined, according to the statement.

Both senators called on the committee leadership to hold such a meeting two weeks ago, just one day after the explosions.

“We urge the Committee to call a hearing immediately ... in order to examine whether regulators have adequate authority and resources to detect and remedy violations, respond to natural gas accidents in a timely manner, and ensure better operating procedures for companies linked to repeated misconduct,” they wrote.

Few houses are being issued space heaters

By LISA KASHINSKY
AND ZOE MATHEWS
Staff writers

Four days into the distribution of space heaters to those without gas service in the Merrimack Valley, officials estimated only 10 percent of homes inspected were capable of supporting the devices, leaving those in charge of relief efforts scrambling for alternatives.

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts — the utility whose customers were affected by the Sept. 13 explosions and fires — said it was bringing in 24,000 space heaters to help warm homes until gas service could be restored to some 8,600 meters, the majority of which are residential.

But the installation has not gone smoothly.

Inspectors across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover have been entering homes for evaluations only to find outdated electrical wiring unsuitable for using space heaters, officials say.

“We’re finding that space heaters are being distributed at a ... minority of the houses being assessed,” North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor said Thursday.

Now, Maylor said local officials are considering the alternatives — shelters, hotels and other forms of temporary housing.

“I think we’re literally exploring every option,” he said.

Space heater distribution began in the region on Monday, as crews simultaneously worked to replace 48 miles of affected gas pipelines to restore service by Nov. 19.

Teams comprised of a National Guardsman, an electrician, a Columbia Gas contractor, a Mass Save energy assessor and in some cases an interpreter have been going door-to-door in Lawrence to check electrical systems and ensure they can support the space heaters safely. In North Andover, residents must schedule an appointment with inspectors. Andover officials announced Thursday evening that Columbia Gas had canceled space heater evaluation appointments for Friday and thereafter. Going forward, they will conduct a single assessment of each home, scheduled through the town, to determine each customer’s repair and replacement needs.

On Thursday, there were 75 teams consisting of 110 assessors, 220 electricians, 25 linguists and upward of 300 National Guard soldiers, according to Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera’s office.

Two-thirds of the homes affected by the natural gas disaster are in Lawrence — 5,015 of the 8,570 meters affected — where the housing stock is aging and its wiring is oftentimes not up to modern standards.

Officials said many of the homes inspected so far were unfit for space heaters and would need to undergo a costly replacement of electrical service.

“It’s an old mill city. The houses are old, wood-frame houses built when the mills were in their prime to house the people that worked there,” said Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty. “Now it’s many, many years later. Society’s changed. Look at the draw society puts on electricity that they didn’t have back then.”

Moriarty said he’d been told by electricians that “space heaters require a dedicated, 20-amp breaker, but that’s not available in most of the residences they find.”

The older nature of electrical systems has made space heater dissemination “less successful than we were hoping,” he added.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency said as of 6 p.m. Thursday it did not have up-to-date totals of space heater installations.

Maylor said he had seen numbers earlier in the day that showed no more than 1 in 5 households were receiving space heaters. He said that figure was “fairly optimistic.”

He said inspectors are erring on the side of caution. Space heaters are a known fire risk, accounting for thousands of fires annually in the United States.

While space heater installation has been largely unsuccessful so far, teams of inspectors have installed hundreds of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, a silver lining for officials concerned about the safety of residents. Maylor said about 3,000 had been installed.

But in the wake of rejections, residents say they aren’t being offered timely or tenable solutions to heat their homes.

Larry Vitale said he greeted the team that came to evaluate his Packard Street home in South Lawrence on Thursday, only to hear them say they were “turning down 98 percent of people who want these heaters.”

The team looked around his house and inspected his electric panels. Instead of installing a space heater, they handed him a sheet of paper with an apology — based on the electrical assessment, they could not install a space heater.

They left without offering advice or alternatives for Vitale to heat his home, which he shares with his daughter, son-in-law and grandchild.

Vitale said he’s heard the gas company would pay to have someone switch his appliances to electric from gas, but it’s not something he can afford on his own.

“If it gets cold, I’m going to be here in the cold,” he said.

While some affected residents have opted to buy their own space heater and seek reimbursement from Columbia Gas, others say they don’t want the risk.

Heather Cleary of Andover said she is considering switching to electric heat and hot water — which Columbia Gas has said it will reimburse.

On Atkinson Street in South Lawrence, a crew ultimately determined the electrical system of a triple-decker owned by the Cosme family could not safely support a heater.

When Lois Cosme asked — translated through her son — what else they could do to heat their home, a representative said he couldn’t answer that and recommended they call a Columbia Gas hotline.

A spokesperson for Columbia Gas said officials are continuing to assess the homes.

Amber Cook on Springfield Street in Lawrence said crews haven’t gotten to her street yet, and she wasn’t hopeful that she’d get any relief when they do.

“Our building is like 100 years old,” she said. “I was talking with our neighbors and we don’t expect to get a heater.”

Maylor said officials are exploring options to ensure residents are not left in the cold as temperatures fall.

“We’re seeing what congregate housing looks like, how many hotel rooms do we need, opportunities for temporary housing,” he said, adding officials want to make sure “when there’s a couple of bad days or a stretch of colder weather, we’re there to have answers for our residents.”

He said those options could include shelters, potentially in large commercial buildings; hotels; Airbnb rentals; or available apartments across the three communities.

“You have to make sure you look at every option, vet it properly, be realistic in terms of what’s practical,” he said.

Follow reporter Lisa Kashinsky on Twitter @lisakashinsky. Follow reporter Zoe Mathews on Twitter @ZoeSMatheWS.



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

Odalisa Ortega, 19, enters the portable showers set up at the Lawrence Housing Authority development at Market and Loring Street.

Hot showers open in S. Lawrence at last

By KEITH EDDINGS
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — Portable showers opened in trailers across the city Wednesday, offering relief to people who have been taking cold showers since the natural gas explosions and fires left more than 5,000 homes and businesses in South Lawrence without hot water.

The YMCA on Lawrence Street and Lazarus House on Park Street also are opening showers to victims of the disaster.

At each location, people can take a shower for free,

city officials said. People should bring their own towels, toiletries and flip flops, officials said. Each location will be staffed, including with a police officer. Each trailer has separate blocks of showers for men and women.

Here are the locations of the showers and hours they are open:

- **South Lawrence East School**, 165 Crawford St., daily 6 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.
- **Lawrence Housing Authority**, 319 Salem St., daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Lawrence Housing Authority**, 100 Market St., daily 6 to 10

p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Lawrence Housing Authority**, 212-236 South Union St. and 190-198 Andover St., daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **The YMCA**, 40 Lawrence St., Monday to Thursday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Lazarus House**, 260 Park St., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 to 11 a.m.

In addition, Lawrence High School and Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill are making showers available to students and staff.

Gas-related lawsuits bring total to 4

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

Four lawsuits have been filed in the nearly two weeks since dozens of gas-driven explosions and fires damaged homes and businesses across the Merrimack Valley.

The suits allege negligence on the part of Columbia Gas, a natural gas utility, and its parent company NiSource Inc., after the Thursday, Sept. 13, disaster.

“With so many fires burning concurrently, some buildings were left to burn because the firefighters were unable to respond to all explosion sites,” according to a suit filed in Essex Superior Court on behalf of Edward Accomando and Mary Sheila Prout of Andover.

Their suit alleges, “NiSource’s and Columbia Gas’s record of safety and maintenance in the Commonwealth is dismal.”

“Since 2010, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has fined Columbia Gas seven times for safety violations that included faulty pressure testing and response procedures, insufficiently covering new service lines, improperly classifying leaks, and breaking rules around the use of leak repair kits,” according to the suit filed by attorney Nathaniel Orenstein of Boston.

A similar suit was filed in

Superior Court by a group of Lawrence and North Andover residents and First Class Tire Shop of Lawrence, which was forced to shut down for four days after power and gas were shut off, according to the suit.

Columbia Gas failed to address “the foreseeable risk” and “prevent the over-pressurization of the gas lines,” according to that suit filed by attorneys associated with Bailey & Glasser of Boston.

In the first class action suit filed just five days after the incident, Columbia Gas was accused of knowing \$27 million in repairs and upgrades were needed to the gas-carrying pipes this area.

That law firm, Morgan & Morgan, is accusing Columbia Gas of negligence in a suit also filed in Superior Court.

Almost a year earlier, on Oct. 31, 2017, “Columbia Gas identified 150 leaks in its distribution system that required maintenance and \$26,839,832 in leak prone infrastructure and gas distribution lines that required replacement.”

The high-risk and leak-prone infrastructure was not replaced by Columbia Gas prior to dozens and fires across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover on Thursday, Sept. 13, the lawsuit states.

That suit also alleges

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts uses more than 471 miles of cast or wrought iron pipes. Federal investigators probing the gas leak acknowledged some of the gas lines involved were cast iron and 100 years old.

“This is among the highest amounts of cast or wrought iron distribution lines utilized by an American utility company. There are 178 utility companies that utilize a lower number of cast or wrought iron distribution lines,” according to the suit.

The class-action suit was filed on behalf of Francely Acosta and “all others similarly stated.”

Lawrence residents Homayoun and Juana Maali also filed a civil lawsuit against Columbia Gas on Sept. 18 through their attorney, Daniel Faneuf of Boston.

That suit alleges Columbia Gas “negligently, carelessly, and recklessly delivered natural gas” into their home “causing an explosion.”

When asked recently regarding the lawsuits, NiSource spokesperson Ken Stammen said they do not “comment on pending litigation however I can tell you that we are fully committed to responding to the needs of people who are suffering because of this incident.”

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

Digital newspaper collection available

Memorial Hall Library is pleased to announce a free addition to its digital newspaper collection.

The Boston Metropolitan News, updated daily, provides web-based access to current and archived issues of 163 newspapers in the Greater Boston area, including the Andover Townsman, The Eagle-Tribune,

Tewksbury Advocate, Wilmington Advocate, North Andover Citizen, Lowell Sun, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Metro Boston, Boston Herald, and many others. Patrons can easily search

and browse current and archived news articles, editorials, reviews, birth and marriage announcements, obituaries and a variety of special sections. Boston Metropolitan News can be accessed at https://

mhl.org/bostonnews. The collection is available to anyone in the library and at home to Andover cardholders. Other newspapers offered by the library, including the New York Times and

Boston Globe, can be found by visiting https://mhl.org/databases. The library is located at 2 N. Main St., Andover. For more information, visit www.mhl.org, or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

TOWN BRIEFS

LOWV voter guide available

With the 2018 Massachusetts elections fast approaching, the need for unbiased, nonpartisan voter information is critical. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is pleased to make available a nonpartisan Voter Guide to help all voters, regardless of their party affiliation, make informed choices as they go to the polls on Nov. 6. The guide features complete information about candidates for all races. Just go to www.informedvoterma.org and enter your street address.

Anyone not registered to vote can also register at the Town Offices on Bartlett Street or online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr. For more information about the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, go to www.lwvma.org.

LaRoche performing stand-up to benefit women's health

This fall, 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. This will be just one part of the organization's ninth annual In Pink Brunch & Comedy Show fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St.

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas' district director, June Black, will be honored with the health center's Rosalyn Kempton Wood Award for Inspirational Leadership during the event. Black, a two-time breast cancer survivor who holds women's health causes near and dear to her heart,

is being recognized for her time serving the Merrimack Valley.

In addition to LaRoche's routine, 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 at www.glfhc.org/inpink2018. Parties interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact the organization's External Relations department at glf-hcevents@glfhc.org.

Get involved with the Andover Trails Committee

The Andover Trails Committee is making it easier than ever for people to join in the fun.

Five sub-groups have been created, each with its own purpose, for people to

participate in. Members of the Bay Circuit Trail help maintain and promote Andover's section of this amazing 200-mile walking trail. The Trail Maintenance and Projects group takes care of everything great and small. Those involved with the Communications group handle the website, social media, email and more.

Volunteers with the Hikes & Events group show all that nature has to offer. And the Community Paths group is in charge of maintaining and promoting the neighborhood trails.

Sign up for one or more of the groups at www.andover-trails.org.

Conservation Commission volunteers needed

The Andover Conservation Commission is looking for

volunteers to help with the Retelle Reservation Interpretive Project. The goal is to create a self-guided tour of the property to highlight its history, flora and fauna, and wildlife relationships through numbered stations, QR codes and descriptive/interpretive panels.

The commission is seeking volunteers with skills in graphic design and art to create maps and interpretive panels; mapping and GIS; historical research; naturalists to help identify the flora and fauna and their interrelationships; and QR coding.

The project is the initiative of Kevin Porter, the commission's vice chairman and overseer coordinator, and Wilow Cheeley, a conservation overseer, is the project leader.

Anyone willing to volunteer their time and skills is encouraged to email

cheeleyw@gmail.com for more information.

Join the Andover Chess Club

This very worthwhile and popular group meets on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Rita Hall (below St. Augustine Church), 43 Essex St.

Email inquiries to andoverchessclub@gmail.com or call club adviser Mike Henroid of Andover at 781-790-6461.

Andover preschool screenings

The Special Education staff conducts screenings for 3- and 4-year-olds on the third Friday of every month.

Parents who have concerns about their child's development may call Mary Kay at 978-247-8200 to schedule an appointment.

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

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Garage & Yard Sale DIRECTORY
Clip and save this special section as your convenient guide to all the best garage sales!

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DANVERS - 2 Treetops Lane FRI. & SAT. Oct 5th, 5:00-8:00pm SUN Oct 7th, 9am-1pm NORTH SHORE ESTATE SALES MAJOR SALE- EVERYTHING GOES! Outstanding furnishings, house and garage contents. EXTRAS: Wurlitzer piano, pool table, gym equipment, sports memorabilia; snow blower, 24 pc. place setting of Lenox Christmas china. Partial list of contents and photos at: www.northshorerealestate.com or call 978-273-0450. CASH & CARRY. Checks with ID. nseesvian@gmail.com WE MAKE IT HAPPEN	LONDONDERRY, NH, LIONS CLUB GIANT SALE Sat, Oct 13, 8am-2pm. Lions Hall, Mammoth Rd. No Early Birds! You may donate goods 2 weeks before the sale at the Lions Shelter, or rent a space. Tom 603-548-5011
IPSWICH - Estate Sale ONE DAY ONLY! Sat. 10/6, 9am to 3pm, 6 ABBOTT LANE For photos go to: upscalesales.com	NORTH ANDOVER MA, 191 Barker St., Sunday October 7 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We're doing some fall cleaning and have lots of different items for sales including appliances, housewares, sporting goods, small furniture, home decor and more. Specific items include rear-projection hdtv, microwave, dishwasher, JVC home theater, large blue/white ceramic pots, an Asian stool, skis/books (adult/kid), an American Girl doll and outfits. Wii games (includes sky lander characters), neutral set of dishes, coffee table, baby rocking chair, baby gates, puzzles/games and more. Come and check it out!

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A	M	P	S	P	R	I	G	S
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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE
Docket No. ES18P291EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Division
Estate of: George L. Martin
Also Known As: George Leo Martin
Date of Death: 4/26/2018

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on that the Petitioner
Maureen LaRivee of Bradford MA intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will
Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond
Maureen LaRivee of Bradford MA

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration of the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
AT - 10/4/18

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. ES18P2924EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Probate and Family Court 36 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970 (978) 744-1020

Estate of:
Nelson E. Townsend
Also Known As:
Nelson Earl Townsend
Date of Death: 10/27/1995
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Ellen M. Gagnon of Danville NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Ellen M. Gagnon of Danville NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/05/2018.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 24, 2018
Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate
AT - 10/4/18

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that two public hearings will be convened on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlett Street, on applications submitted by AJM Construction, LLC for a 4-lot Definitive Subdivision Plan and a Special Permit for Earth Movement under Section 9.4.8 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. Said applications are for property located at 125 Bailey Road owned by AJM Construction, LLC, and part of 121 Bailey Road owned by John A. Young more specifically identified as Assessors' Map 229, Lots 6B and 6C.
The application may be examined in the Planning Department Monday through Friday during normal business hours.
THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Zachary Bergeron, Chairman
AT - 10/4, 10/11/18

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

Docket No. ES09P0280GD
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Probate and Family Court 36 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970 (978) 744-1020

In the Interests of:
Joseph Bartley, Jr.
Of: **Andover, MA**
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Joan M. Bartley of Andover, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/17/2018. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance. If you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2018
Pamela Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate
AT - 10/4/18

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18. Signature and Title of Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Signature: _____ Date: 9/19/18

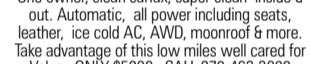
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SUV

Sports

SUPERSTAR SISTERS

Andover's state champion Clements sisters are each others' biggest support

By DAVE DYER
Staff Writer

Even Andover's Emily Clements, one of the premier swimmers in New England, can begin to feel burned out now and then.

When you're swimming up to five hours a day between the Phoenix swim club and Andover High — starting as early as 6 a.m. and not finishing until close to 10 p.m. — with lots of academic work to navigate, who wouldn't be worn out?

"There are times when you get tired and overwhelmed trying to balance everything," admits Emily, a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a weighted GPA of 4.15.

But those times are rare for Emily. And in the rare occasions she needs moral support, she has her sister Jordy, a senior captain with whom she's quite close.

Together, they make up one incredible dynamic duo.

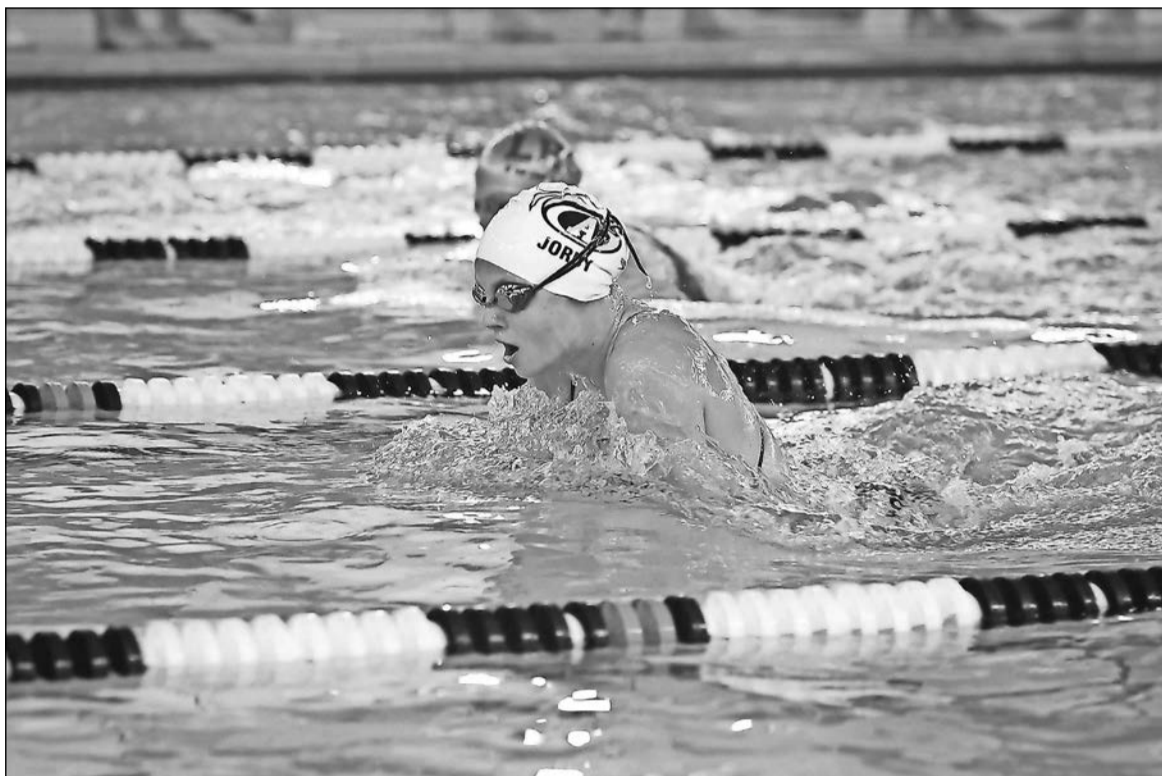
Over her historic coaching tenure, head coach Marilyn Fitzgerald said she has had 40 sets of sisters and the Clements probably stand as the most accomplished other than her grandchildren, Connie and Sally Brown.

Just being mentioned with the Brown sisters puts the Clements in a special class. Connie Brown won 16 Division 1 state titles and was later a nine-time All-American at the University of Texas. Sally was in on 12 state titles and went on to swim with distinction at Auburn and Arizona State.

Both of the Browns, who combined for a remarkable 28 state titles, were All-Americans and inducted into the Andover Hall of Fame.

That's quite a legacy, but the Clements duo are carving out their own. Emily has already won eight state titles in two years, meaning that she could match Connie Brown, who many consider the greatest female swimmer in state history. Jordy, meanwhile, is a two-time state breaststroke champion and last year was also part of two state champion relays.

"One of my goals for my talented swimmers is for them to make All-American status and I feel Emily has the potential to make it this



Courtesy photo Mary Ann Alwan

When it comes to the 100 breaststroke, none is better than two-time defending Division 1 champion Jordy Clements.



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Andover sisters and defending state champions Emily Clements, left, a junior, and Jordy Clements, a senior, get together during a dual meet earlier in the season.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover junior Emily Clements, competing in the 100 freestyle in a dual meet last year, has eight state titles in two years.

year as an individual and they could both make it on a relay," said Fitzgerald, who has coached 22 All-Americans during her 26-year tenure, which includes 15 state titles.

Like the Browns, in which Connie was a year younger and both

more talented and acclaimed than Sally, Emily will likely be far more highly recruited than her sister. But Jordy doesn't seem to have an ounce of envy in her.

"Emily is my best friend so whenever she does well, I'm happy," said Jordy.

This is confirmed by their mother, Paula Colby-Clements.

"They're so supportive of each other it's been nice to see," she said. "They're very happy for each other when one of them does well."

"They're definitely different personalities but as far as

SISTERS AND CHAMPS

Jordy

2015 - Finished third at D1 state in 100 breaststroke

2016 - Won D1 state title in 100 breaststroke, on state 2nd-place 200 medley relay team

2017 - Won D1 state title in 100 breaststroke, on state winning 200 and 400 relay teams

Emily

2016 - Captured D1 state titles in 200 IM and 100 freestyle, on state-winning 200 and 400 relay teams

2017 - Captured D1 state titles in 200 IM and 500 freestyle, anchored state-winning 200 and 400 relay teams

Combined

Emily and Jordy have won 11 Division 1 state titles the last two years

competitiveness and love for swimming, they're very similar," said Fitzgerald, who has noticed the same thing.

"Emily is far more serious.

When Jordy walks in a room with humor and enthusiasm, everyone goes crazy. You have no doubt how she's feeling — she wears her emotions on her sleeve.

"But they are very close — not all sisters are — and totally support each other. They are both wonderful kids and they compete."

And they definitely love swimming, regardless of, or maybe because of, how much work it entails.

"I love it because I love competing, and I even love practicing," said Emily. "There is always something you can fix or improve upon, even if it's just one-hundredth of a second. It keeps you motivated."

Emily also likes the swimming culture and being a part of it with her friends, which is also a big attraction for Jordy.

"The team camaraderie is fantastic in swimming and it's unique," says Jordy. "In a sport like soccer, you're on the field working together but in swimming you're in the water by yourself and it's all on you, but you can feel the support of your teammates the whole time."

More than anything, Jordy and Emily can feel the support of each other, a support that is helping to keep them and the talented Golden Warriors at the top of the wave.

Trapp's two wins lead red hot golf team

GOLF

Trapp takes two

Tyler Trapp scored a 1-up win and Steven Ingram won 3-and-2 as Andover edged Belmont 12-7 last Wednesday. Kade Cedorchuk, Josh Grunenberg and Teddy Gorrie added wins for the Warriors.

Mac Lee won 4-and-3, Tyler Trapp took a 3-and-2 win and Andover swept Salem 20-0 last Thursday. Nick Ventura, Steve Ingram, Ted Gorrie and Alicia Wang earned victories for the winners.

SWIMMING

Ambrose, Warriors keep rolling

Vic Ambrose won the 500

freestyle (5:25.68), Mia Galat took the 100 butterfly (59.32) and 200 freestyle (1:55.94), Emily Clements won the 100 freestyle (55.14), Jordy Clements took the 100 backstroke (1:11.49) and they teamed to win the 200 medley relay as Andover beat Acton-Boxboro 88-77 last Wednesday. Julia Donahue swam on the winning 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays.

Julia Donahue won the 100 butterfly (1:01.14) and 100 backstroke (1:02.66) and swam on the winning 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay as Andover downed Lowell 97-81 on Friday. Emme Pitts won the diving, Lauren Bisette took the 100 breaststroke and Aliza Williams won the 100 freestyle for the Warriors.

FIELD HOCKEY

Medwar heats up

Hannah Medwar scored her second goal in two games and Heather Graham added the winning goal as Andover topped North Andover 2-1 last Wednesday.

Hannah Medwar and Sydney Gregory each scored a goal as Andover tied archrival Chelmsford 2-2 last Monday. Ali Gasperoni made five saves for the Warriors.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Cain take win

Sarah Cain stayed hot, taking first overall in 21:28 to lead Andover past Haverhill (21:26) and Lawrence (15-49) last Wednesday. Sophia Couto (21:59) was second overall and Emma Griffin was third

(22:15) for the winners.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Fraser, Andover top rival

Caroline Fraser scored 17 service points and added nine digs as Andover beat North Andover 3-0 on Friday. Alexis Mancha added nine digs and Hailey Halverson had 10 kills for the winners.

Hailey Halverson scored 10 kills and 20 service points, but Andover lost to Central Catholic 3-2 last Monday. Alexis Mancha added 20 assists and Sophia Martinez had 10 kills for the winners.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Warriors split

TJ Jayasinghe finished fourth

overall for Andover, which beat Lawrence (20-41) but fell to Haverhill (21-34) last Wednesday. Charlie McCarthy was fifth (18:46) and Jason Denoncourt was ninth (19:25) for the Warriors.

GIRLS SOCCER

Joel goal for naught

Hope Joel scored a goal, but Andover lost to North Andover 2-1 last Thursday. Scarlet Gillette made eight saves for the Warriors.

BOYS SOCCER

Zucco finds net

Despite an Anthony Zucco goal, Andover lost to Lowell 5-1 last Monday.

Andover fell to North Andover 2-0 last Thursday.

THE WEEK AHEAD

THURSDAY, OCT. 4

Boys Soccer
Methuen at Andover, 7 p.m.
Girls Soccer
Andover at Methuen, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5

Field Hockey
Andover at Lowell, 4 p.m.
Football
Methuen at Andover, 7 p.m.
Girls Swimming
Andover at North Andover, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Volleyball
Andover at Tewksbury, 5:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 6

Boys Soccer
Andover at Somerville, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 8

Girls Soccer
Andover at Beverly, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 9

Golf
Andover at Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Soccer
Lowell at Andover, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10

Boys Cross Country
Andover at Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Cross Country
Andover at Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
Field Hockey
Chelmsford at Andover, 7 p.m.
Golf
Andover at Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Volleyball
Methuen at Andover, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 11

Golf
Andover at Billerica, 3:30 p.m.
Boys Soccer
Lowell at Andover, 7 p.m.
Girls Soccer
Andover at Tewksbury, 3:45 p.m.

After strong start, football can't keep pace with Central

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — For nearly a half, Andover held the momentum against its archrival.

When freshman QB Victor Harrington found Nick Zalanskas for a 26-yard touchdown late in the first quarter, and the Golden Warriors followed that up with some impressive defense, Andover looked to be in position to score an upset.

But Central Catholic struck for four straight scores, and the Andover could not recover, suffering a 33-14 loss to the Raiders on Saturday.

"We were talking about this rivalry all week," said Central Catholic back Anthony Caggianelli. "We talked about



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover running back Josh Ramos runs for a gain against Central Catholic on Saturday. Ramos scored a touchdown as the Golden Warriors fell to the Raiders.

how the rivalry is about 100 years old. We needed this. Andover is our biggest rival, and they played us tough

again tonight."

Andover opened the game with a strong defensive stand, which Ethan Coyle

finished off with a sack to limit Central to a field goal.

The Golden Warriors then quickly marched up the field, and Harrington threw a beautiful pass to Zalanskas in the right corner of the end zone for a touchdown.

Andover then held Central to two straight three-and-outs, seemingly taking momentum. But the Raiders scored on four of their next five possessions to take control.

The Golden Warriors responded as Harrington found Zalanskas for a long gain, setting up a Josh Ramos 6-yard touchdown. But another Central score closed out the Raider win.

Coyle starred with a pair of sacks. Ramos had eight tackles, ran for 58 yards and

the TD and had a 50-yard kick return. Zalanskas had four catches for 68 yards.

Central Catholic 33, Andover 14

Andover (1-2): 7 0 7 0 — 14
Central Catholic (2-2): 3 14 16 0 — 33

First Quarter

CC — Nick Mazzi 34 field goal, 6:54
A — Nick Zalanskas 26 pass from Victor Harrington (Shamus Florio kick), 4:15

Second Quarter

CC — Anthony Caggianelli 65 run (Mazzi kick), 5:59
CC — Jermaine Wiggins 35 pass from Aidan Gordon (Mazzi kick), 0:36

Third Quarter

CC — Caggianelli 11 run (Mazzi kick), 10:23
CC — Mazzi 32 field goal, 4:13
A — Josh Ramos 6 run (Florio kick), 1:39
A — Caggianelli 52 run (kick blocked), 0:27

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING: Central Catholic — Anthony Caggianelli 8-145, Jared Silverio 11-18, Shaun Morgan 2-14, Nate Hebert 1-1, Mark Kassis 3-3, Deven DeBay 3-7, Aidan Gordon 1-(-1); Andover — Josh Ramos 18-58, Tommy Duncan 4-19, Victor Harrington 5-(-14)

PASSING: Central — Gordon 4-5-0, 80; Silverio 3-8-0, 12; Andover — Harrington 9-20-2, 103

RECEIVING: Central — Jermaine Wiggins 2-45, Justin Carson 1-18, Shaun Morgan 1-17, Nate Hebert 1-12, Michael LeFebre 1-4, Kassis 1-(-4); Andover — Nick Zalanskas 5-68, Nick Silva 1-12, Ramos 1-13, Duncan 1-13, Jackson McCarthy 1-(-3)

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Inc. clouds	Partly sunny; cooler	Mostly sunny	Pleasant and warmer	Cooler	Clouds and sun; warm	Partly sunny
High: 79° Low: 56°	High: 62° Low: 45°	High: 65° Low: 54°	High: 80° Low: 57°	High: 65° Low: 56°	High: 74° Low: 58°	High: 72° Low: 57°



TODAY:
BECKY IS OVER BACK PAIN AND UNDER PAR

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WHAT'S HAPPENING: HAROLD PARKER STATE FOREST

Harold Parker State Forest in Andover has plenty of activities in store, from nature walks and quarry hikes to animal tracking.

All programs are free and open to the public. Here is what's on tap:

Creature Catch: Friday, Oct. 5, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Meet at Frye Pond Beach to discover what lives in New England ponds. Nets and buckets will be provided. This activity can

be wet and muddy, so wear appropriate clothing and shoes. All ages are invited to participate.

Gone Fishin': Saturday, Oct. 6, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Families can learn the basics of pond fishing in New England at Frye Pond Beach. Rods and bait will be provided or participants can bring their own. All ages are welcome and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Owl Power: Saturday, Oct. 6, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Find out what makes owls such unique creatures at the Campground Nature Center. This program will include a short demonstration of owl adaptations and owl pellet dissection. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Birding for Beginners: Sunday, Oct. 7, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn about the local bird population from the park interpreter while enjoying some

amateur bird watching; meet at the Campground Nature Center. Bring binoculars if possible. Appropriate for children 6 and up.

Soapstone Quarry Hike: Sunday, Oct. 7, 2 to 4 p.m. Take a moderate, guided hike to the remnants of the Jenkins family blue soapstone quarry. Learn about the park's history and resources while getting some exercise; meet at the Campground Nature Center.

Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

End of Season Celebration: Monday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Say goodbye to the camping season with some popular activities. Enjoy fishing, marshmallow roasting, local wildlife exhibits and more at the Campground Nature Center. Appropriate for all ages.

Participants should bring water, wear sunscreen/bug spray, dress in layers, and wear appropriate footwear.

An adult must accompany children. Binoculars and cameras are also recommended for many of the programs. All activities are canceled in the event of rain. Harold Parker State Forest campground is located at 133 Jenkins Road, Andover. For more information, call 978-475-7972 or visit www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-north/harold-parker-state-forest.html.



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