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OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 11

JANUARY 16, 2020

\$1.00

Andover mourns popular school bus driver after death



Rick Frederickson Courtesy photo

Rick Frederickson lived in North Andover, drove buses for 45 years

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

Andover school bus driver Rick Frederickson pulled up to his stops last Wednesday wearing his trademark smile and saying hello to parents as their kids piled into his bus.

It was a typical day for the longtime driver of Andover

public school bus number 13. Nothing appeared to be out of the ordinary — but it would be Frederickson's last day alive.

The 70-year-old, a resident of North Andover, died unexpectedly that night. He worked for the Trombly Bus Company, which has the Andover school bus contract. He lived alone,

was not married and had no children, company officials said.

Christine Valcourt, president of the Trombly company, said Frederickson drove his regular school bus route in Andover on Wednesday of last week, then drove a bus for an athletic team later in the day. He suffered a medical emergency around

8:45 p.m., Valcourt said. An autopsy will be done to determine the cause of his death, she said.

Parents, School Department staff members, students and Frederickson's coworkers were saddened to hear the news of his death. He was a popular, friendly and conscientious school bus driver for 45 years,

according to school officials. "Rick was a dedicated and valued part of the APS (Andover Public Schools) community. He worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of generations of APS students, always willing to go above and beyond for our families," Mary Lu Walsh, Andover public schools

See **MOURN**, Page 2

Too-tall fire truck returns to Andover at just the right size



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

The Andover Fire Department's new \$1.2 million ladder truck makes it under the Horn Bridge after being modified by the company that made the truck.

A perfect fit

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

Andover's new \$1.2-million fire truck is back in town and it fits under the Horn Bridge.

With Fire Chief Michael Mansfield at the wheel, the new ladder truck cleared the bridge without any issue late last week.

Last summer when it first

arrived, the new truck was too tall to fit under the Horn Bridge, a small railroad bridge at Central Street and Red Spring Road.

Last week, after work was done to reduce the vehicle's height, the fire truck was returned to Andover and is being stored in a bay at the town garage on Campanelli Drive.

Technology and

equipment were being installed and loaded onto the truck last week. Firefighter training on it is scheduled for later this month, Mansfield said.

Also there is not enough room at Andover's fire headquarters or its two substations to store the truck at this time, Mansfield said.

"If everything goes as well as I am expecting," he

said, the truck should be in use by crews at the start of February.

"There's a lot of technology on this truck that didn't exist 20 years ago or even 10 years ago," he said.

The truck is expected to be used by Andover firefighters for at least the next 20 years.

The firefighters union last week publicly questioned

See **TRUCK**, Page 3

South School principal takes medical leave

Comes after teachers complain of 'hostile' working conditions

By BILL KIRK
Staff Writer

principal, has agreed to serve as the principal in the interim."

Tracy Crowley, the principal at the center of a controversy over claims of a "hostile work environment" at South School, will be taking an extended medical leave, according to a message from the superintendent to parents.

"We wish her the best during this time," Superintendent Sheldon Berman said in an email this week. "Beginning on Jan. 21, Colleen McBride, the former South Elementary

Berman went on to say that McBride is "very familiar" with the school and its curriculum, and he is "confident that she will be able to serve the students, faculty and South School community."

Crowley, who took over at South School in fall 2017, has been embroiled recently in a controversy over what Berman has called a "hostile work environment" at the school.

See **PRINCIPAL**, Page 2

Flanagan reappointed as town manager

Select Board gives him 5-year contract

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

shook hands with board Chairwoman Laura Gregory and members Alex Vispoli, Dan Koh, Ann Gilbert and Huntress.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan has won a five-year contract.

The Select Board voted unanimously this week to reappoint Flanagan, who was hired in October 2015. His salary is now \$214,000 per year.

The board met for about 15 minutes in executive session Monday night to discuss the contract, then

reopened the meeting to cast the vote. Selectman Chris Huntress made the motion to grant Flanagan the five-year contract.

"I want to thank the board for the opportunity to continue to serve," Flanagan said after the vote. He then

Flanagan, who replaced longtime Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski, said, "We have a lot of work ahead of us."

He said he intends to complete construction of the Ballardvale fire station and renovation of the Andover Senior Center.

Flanagan also said he is looking forward to "implementing the vision of the Historic Mill District."

"Flanagan has earned another term as Andover's town manager," said Vispoli, who was a member of the board that hired Flanagan.

See **FLANAGAN**, Page 2

Dog park, composting area pass first hurdle

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

The Conservation Commission has unanimously approved a land swap that will permit the dog park and composting area to continue operating in their current locations at Bald Hill.

The Select Board then gave its consent, also unanimously, Monday evening.

The Conservation Commission agreed at its Jan. 7 meeting to relinquish its jurisdiction over the 4.5-acre site at Bald Hill in exchange for 7.4 acres along the Shawshen River. The swap still needs approval from Town Meeting and the state Legislature before it can take effect, according to Town Counsel Thomas Urbelis.

The dog park and composting area have been operating at the Bald Hill site, which the town acquired in 1978, for quite some time. Several years ago, the state Department of Conservation

and Recreation initially said those uses were allowed there, according to Deputy Town Manager Michael Lindstrom.

Last summer, however, the state changed its position and decided the dog park and composting area could not be located on conservation land, Lindstrom said. He, Urbelis and other local officials proposed the land swap.

The land along the Shawshen, which is accessible via Tewksbury Street, was acquired by the town in 2006. The original plan was to build athletic fields there, but then officials determined it was not a suitable site for them, according to Lindstrom.

Urbelis suggested the Conservation Commission support the swap with the condition that only a dog park and composting area be located at Bald Hill.

Conservation Commission members Thomas Brady and Jon Honea said they were concerned about runoff from

the composting area. Deputy Public Works Director Carlos Jaquez assured the commission his crew will work to mitigate excessive runoff from the site.

Mark Baldwin, a local resident, called the land exchange a "win-win" for

the town. Susan Stott, another

See **PARK**, Page 2

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30-year-old Merrimack Valley woman killed in crash

Collision also leaves 2 people hospitalized

By JILL HARMACINSKI
 Staff Writer

Police identified the woman killed in a Sunday night crash as a 30-year-old Merrimack Valley woman.

Yahaira Colon of North Andover "succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead at Lawrence General Hospital," according to a statement released late Monday morning by North

Andover police. The crash happened on Waverley Road in North Andover, police said. A passenger in Colon's vehicle was airlifted to Boston

Medical Center where she was listed in critical condition, according to police. The passenger was not identified by police. The driver of the other vehicle, who was also not identified by police, was taken to Lawrence General Hospital and listed in stable

condition, police said. Police received 911 calls around 10 p.m. about the crash involving two vehicles near 420 Waverley Road. A SUV and a sedan appeared to be involved in the crash. The SUV was left on its right side near a front lawn.

The crash is under investigation by North Andover Officer Anthony Sousa, a state police accident reconstruction team and the Essex County District Attorney's Office. Anyone with information about the accident is asked to call Sousa at 978-683-3168.

PRINCIPAL

Continued from Page 1

Berman and Crowley said the tensions involve teachers fighting with teachers, but the Andover Education Association, the teachers union, has said the principal created the stressful working conditions because she is opposed to any discussion of or attempts at union activities.

Union President Matthew Bach could not be reached for comment. Neither could Crowley nor School Committee Chairman Joel Blumstein. Berman said in a text message Monday that no additional information beyond his message to parents would be released.

As the debate over working conditions at the school picked up momentum, teachers marched out of the school after classes were over one day in mid-December and had a rally to draw attention to their cause.

McBride, who takes over later this month, had been principal at South School for three years before leaving.

The issue of a "hostile work environment" was investigated by school administrators, who said the problems occurred due to warring factions among teachers. The administrators, including Crowley and Berman, started an investigation that included



A group of teachers emerge from the South Elementary School in Andover after classes were over to join demonstrators who showed up for a rally.

MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

interviewing teachers at the school. But the teachers union countered that the problems

were created by Crowley, who tried to quash any type of union activity at the school. The teachers union

sought a court injunction against the administration to stop the investigation. The injunction was denied

by a judge late last month. But in his ruling, the judge wrote: "There is certainly evidence of troubling actions by School District officials, including the principal at South Elementary."

FLANAGAN

Continued from Page 1

Vispoli credited Flanagan with modernizing the town's financial system, relocating the Department of Public Works, and expediting the replacement of the Ballardvale fire station and renovation of the Senior Center.

The fire station and Senior Citizen projects "were long overdue," he said.

Vispoli said he and his colleagues want Flanagan to stay in Andover for the next five years. Although Flanagan's initial contract does not expire until October, Vispoli said the board wanted to secure Flanagan's reappointment earlier.

Vispoli, the board's senior member, said Flanagan has appointed a "great team" of town officials. Vispoli mentioned Deputy Town Manager Michael Lindstrom, Town Clerk Austin Simko, Town Treasurer Michael Morse, Director of Community Services Jemma Lambert and Veterans Services Director Mark Comeiro.

The Select Board has had a fair amount of turnover in the last few years, Vispoli said.

"Andrew has served with nine different selectmen," he said of Flanagan.

Flanagan, 34, was the deputy town manager in Arlington before he was hired for his current position.



Town Manager Andrew Flanagan speaks at a Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce event.

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MOURN
 Continued from Page 1
 transportation manager, wrote in an email to parents
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after the death. "We can't look at each other without getting very emotional," Valcourt said of how Frederickson's coworkers at the Trombly company reacted to his death. "He was the sweetest man who took care of his elderly mom for years until she passed. He loved being a school bus driver. The kids on the bus were his kids." Over the years, Frederickson drove Andover bus 13 for Bancroft, West Elementary, West Middle and Andover High schools.

Parent Tracey Spruce, vice chair of the Andover School Committee, said it was very hard to tell her children about Frederickson's death. Her children rode his bus for eight years, she said. "He always had a smile when he pulled up," she said. "My kids were shocked." Frederickson had a

reputation for being a very safe driver who made sure bus riders stayed in their seats, school officials said. He obeyed speed limits and knew every child's name, Valcourt said. "Route 13 is now open," Valcourt said. "and I just hope the next driver loves it as much as he did."

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PARK
 Continued from Page 1
 Andover resident, said she is pleased that the arrangement, if it gets all the necessary approvals, will provide greater protection for the Shawsheen River. Chairman Donald Cooper, Floyd Greenwood, Ellen Townson, Kevin Porter, Brady and Honea voted in favor of the swap. Alexandra Driscoll was absent. The commission also unanimously granted permission to GPI to do two exploratory borings at 50 Bartlet Street. GPI will be doing the borings on behalf of the town, which plans to construct a walkway between Chestnut Court and the entrance to the Senior Center. The site is within 100 feet of Rogers Brook, so the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction. Janet Nicosia, the town's facilities director, said the walkway, estimated to be about 500 feet, will make it easier for residents to walk to the Senior Center and other nearby locations. The borings are needed to test the soil, Nicosia said. The town also plans to put a parking lot with 50 spaces near the proposed walkway.

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Fire Chief Michael Mansfield with his department's new \$1.2 million ladder truck.

TRUCK

Continued from Page 1

where the new truck was, roughly five months after it was returned to Pierce, the manufacturing company. Mansfield rebuffed any suggestion that it was missing or he was hiding it.

On Wednesday afternoon of last week, he took a reporter for a ride on the new Ladder 1 and drove under the Horn Bridge to show the truck cleared.

Firefighter Eric Teichert, president of the Andover firefighters Local Union 1658, said "he was glad the truck was back."

"And I would only hope the original specifications are still the same," Teichert said. "I'm extremely thankful a firefighter was able to find the problem this summer before the truck was damaged."

Mansfield stressed the truck was modified by the Pierce company without any further cost to taxpayers.

To reduce the height, lower profile tires were installed "which will not affect the drive-ability of the truck at all," Mansfield said.

A red piece of equipment

on the top of the truck, a cradle-device that carries the ladder, was reduced in size. Adjustments were also made to a front nozzle and the truck's suspension, Mansfield said.

The truck was returned to a Pierce facility in Wisconsin and then brought back to a dealer in Walpole before arriving back in Andover, Mansfield said.

The truck previously measured 11 feet, 11 inches tall. It now clears the Horn Bridge which is roughly 11 feet, 6 inches tall.

Several other town-owned trucks and pieces of

equipment, including a tree truck and two backhoes, do not clear the bridge, officials said.

Late last week, firefighters put out a picture of a milk carton with the fire truck on it, asking if anyone knew the whereabouts of the truck.

The inquiry came after the union publicized a "no confidence" vote against Mansfield and said they wanted a new chief to lead the department.

Mansfield has declined to comment on the union's recent activities or any ongoing issues.

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Communities weigh closing off gas hookups

Cities and towns move away from natural gas in favor of wind, solar power

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Staff Writer

More than a dozen Massachusetts cities and towns are writing plans to ban new natural gas hookups for homes and businesses, according to one environmental group, despite complaints that the efforts are illegal.

In November, Brookline became the first community in the state to ban new gas hookups. Its bylaw, approved at Town Meeting, prohibits the installation of oil and gas heating systems in new construction beginning in 2021.

Other communities — including Cambridge, Newton, Arlington and Lexington — are weighing similar bans.

The efforts are winning praise from environmental groups hoping to speed up a shift away from the use of gas and other fossil fuels to wind, solar and other renewables.

"Communities are frustrated that we aren't moving quickly enough," said Carol Oldham, executive director of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, an environmental nonprofit that is working with cities and towns to help them ban gas hookups. "They're

saying, 'If the state isn't going to take aggressive actions, then we're going to do it.'"

Oldham said at least 15 communities are in various stages of drafting similar restrictions.

Most are awaiting the outcome of a legal review of Brookline's ban by Attorney General Maura Healey's office, which is required to approve town bylaws before they take effect. A Healey spokeswoman said Wednesday said the office has not yet received the Brookline bylaw.

The push to ban gas hookups is a new strategy for opponents of fossil fuels, who have

until recently focused their efforts on blocking regional pipeline projects.

Many of the proposals are based on a Berkeley, California ordinance, which last summer approved the first such ban in the country.

To be sure, the bans face resistance, not to mention the possibility of legal challenges, from the fossil fuel industry, restaurateurs, real estate developers and business interests. They argue that banning gas hookups will drive up construction costs and hamper economic development, while doing little for

the environment.

Tom Kiley, president of the Northeast Gas Association, calls the effort "shortsighted" and said it will limit consumers' options.

"Consumers like choice, and they like natural gas," he said. "We're not opposed to renewables, but these bans could hurt these communities and especially hurt low-income people."

Stephen Dodge, executive director of the New England Petroleum Council, said the efforts ignore the advantages of natural gas.

"Natural gas and bio-heat

remain essential to a transitioning and evolving energy marketplace, supporting additional renewables development while remaining a cheap and environmentally friendly option," Dodge said in a statement. "New England families deserve better than misguided ordinances that could increase household energy costs and limit the very fuel that is driving U.S. emissions down to their lowest levels in a generation."

Meanwhile, real estate developers say gas bans could exacerbate an already significant housing shortage.

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget Andover Center for History and Culture

The following items were taken from past editions of the Townsman.

100 years ago — Jan. 16, 1920
According to statistics in the

records of Town Clerk George A. Higgins, 1919 has been a very good year in Andover. Not in the last 25 years and probably never in the history of the town have there been so many marriages recorded, and there has been an increase in the number of births and a decrease in the number of deaths. With the exception of

nine deaths from influenza early in the year, there were almost no deaths from contagious diseases, and only three from tuberculosis.

The Fire Department answered a call from Box 4 on Friday at 5:23 p.m. for a chimney fire in the house on the northerly corner of Harding and Main streets. A collection of soot at

the base of the chimney which had been burning for some time ignited the woodwork, but the fire was extinguished before any great damage was done.

75 years ago — Jan. 18, 1945

The Andover quota for the March of Dimes has been set at \$100 and local residents are urged to be generous in their contributions to the Infantile Paralysis Drive, which is now on. Churches, stores and other convenient locations have been supplied with coin collectors for dime contributions and the Andover Savings Bank and the Andover National Bank will receive cash contributions of one dollar or more.

Local boys who already know how to swim and are registered at the Andover Guild are included in an invitation to swim in the pool at

Phillips Academy on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10.

The sum of \$21,000 will be sought in a special warrant article at Town Meeting in March, in accordance with plans made by the 300th Anniversary Committee at a recent meeting. J. Everett Collins, chairman of the Music Committee, recommended a budgetary figure of \$2,000 for this item, and Burton S. Flagg, chairman of the pageant committee, recommended \$2,000 for a large pageant to be given at the play stand.

50 years ago — Jan. 22, 1970

When Don Bassett walked into the Townsman office last week and announced he was resigning as water-sewer superintendent, it gave the managing editor of the newspaper cause for thought about other leavings in the last year and a half — School Superintendent Edward Erickson announced his retirement; Town Manager Richard J. Bowen resigned and went to Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Town Clerk Irving O. Piper will retire in March; and school cafeteria director Florence McGrath retired Jan. 1. In addition, Spring Grove Cemetery Superintendent Nelson Townsend told the town manager he was ready to retire as

of the first of the year; Selectman Philip K. Allen announced he would not seek re-election; School Committeeman William A. Doherty decided he would not be a candidate; and the principal of South school has moved on to Swampscott.

A photo shows Elaine Caselden, Julie Ann Fox and Lesley Downs skating on one of the local ponds.

25 years ago — Jan. 19, 1995

Two private contractors hired by the town for sanding and salting Andover's roads are being investigated for allegedly using the town's salt and sand on private roads while on town time.

Mary Lyman has followed in the footsteps of fellow School Committee member Bill Huston by declining to run for re-election, leaving a second seat on the committee undefended by an incumbent.

Joseph Horan of the Disabled American Veterans, Ronald Hajj of the American Legion and John Doherty of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posed recently at town offices with a model of the Elm Green Veterans Memorial. If \$5,000 more is raised in addition to the \$45,000 already raised, the amount will be matched and construction of the memorial will begin in the spring.

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New system would allow residents to buy renewable energy

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

electricity that has been generated by burning fossil fuels may soon have the opportunity to put their money where their

principles are. If Andover adopts the Community Choice Aggregation program, ratepayers will have

the right to specify that more of their power will come from renewable sources, such as solar and wind, rather than oil, coal or natural gas.

Of the electricity used by Andover residents, 16% already comes from renewable sources. State law requires this.

About 50 people attended a forum on Community Choice Aggregation at Memorial Hall Library last week. Deputy Town Manager Michael Lindstrom pointed out that making Andover a "greener" community is among the "defined goals of the Select Board."

Here's how the program works:

If the town decides to adopt this approach, the Select Board will contract with a company that will arrange for the purchase of electricity from renewable sources.

National Grid will still deliver the electricity through its transmission lines, according to Patrick Roche of Good Energy, a consulting firm hired by the town. The electricity, however, will be generated by "green" sources along with the traditional fossil fuel operations.

Roche pointed out that National Grid does not

generate power itself, but gets it from a variety of sources.

Community Choice Aggregation is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

If Town Meeting votes to adopt the program, the Select Board will set an additional percentage, beyond the mandatory 16%, that must be renewable. Individual ratepayers will be permitted to "opt up" and pay for more renewable electricity; or "opt down" and pay for less "green" current, according to Lindstrom and Roche.

Massachusetts' goal is to obtain at least 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2050, according to Roche.

"Some states have more aggressive goals," he said.

The cities and towns that have adopted the Community Choice Aggregation program have saved more than \$65 million, according to Roche.

"We can't guarantee savings," he said.

The 16% renewable energy required by the state must come from plants that were built after 1997. They must also be located in New England, New York or Canada, Roche said.

Besides wind and solar, low-impact hydro-electric power,

anaerobic digestive systems and biomass qualify as renewable, he said. Nuclear power, which does not produce emissions, currently does not qualify, he said.

David Cook said the Merrimack River falls in Lawrence might be a source of renewable energy. Roche said that prospect is worth investigating.

Fred Snell asked how many of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns have adopted Community Choice Aggregation. Roche said 120 of them have active aggregation programs.

Joyce Losick-Yang, recently hired as the town's sustainability coordinator, said Andover is "surrounded" by towns that have already adopted the program, including North Andover and Tewksbury.

"It is past time," she said, for Andover to follow suit.


Selectman Alex Vispoli said he likes the idea of giving ratepayers a choice as to how much renewable energy they wish to buy.

The annual Town Meeting will be asked to vote whether to authorize the Select Board to go forward with the program. The first night of Town Meeting is April 27.

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Opinion

‘We are all Jews here’

It was not a traditional bill-signing ceremony at the Statehouse last week.

Such events are usually festive, with crowds of smiling elected officials, aides and assorted hangers on gathered around the governor’s desk for a photo opportunity.

The signing of a supplemental budget bill last Monday was a solemn affair. Included in the \$452 million spending plan was a distressing sign of the times -- an extra \$1 million to help houses of worship and other nonprofits defend against shootings, stabbings and other hateful attacks.

“There’s no place for this stuff in Massachusetts,” Gov. Charlie Baker said at the bill signing. “We have the backs of those who are here to practice their faith and to live their lives without worrying about being assaulted or, in some cases, maimed or killed because of those beliefs.”

The \$1 million, added to \$500,000 already set aside in the traditional budget, will be used to help pay for small-scale security upgrades at local churches, mosques and synagogues.

The need for such spending has become distressingly clear over the past few years, following a spate of attacks on the Jewish community, including shooting rampages at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018, and at a synagogue in Poway, California, in April. A series of anti-Semitic attacks in the New York City area late last year culminated in a mass stabbing at the home of a Hasidic rabbi during a Hanukkah celebration on Dec. 28.

The Merrimack Valley and North Shore have not been immune. Communities from Peabody to Marblehead to Andover have all confronted disturbing signs of anti-Semitism in recent months, from hateful graffiti to the public taunting of rabbis to the firing of BBs through synagogue glass. Responding to such attacks can be exhausting, and many synagogues don’t have enough money to upgrade their security.

“Everyone is trying to raise money to protect themselves,” Laurie Tishler Mindlin, executive director of the Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation, told Statehouse reporter Christian Wade. “Some might need an armed guard for events, while others might be looking to add a surveillance camera or a buzzer to screen people at the front door.”

The commitment to extra security spending on the part of the state is commendable, yet most of the officials at the bill signing recognized they were treating the symptoms of anti-Semitism.

Rooting out the hate is a thornier issue. “It’s sad that there is such a need for this,” Marblehead state Rep. Lori Ehrlich said. “But coming forward with assistance and standing together as we sends a strong signal that the leaders of Massachusetts have zero tolerance for bigotry and hate.”

Ehrlich is correct. Combating anti-Semitism requires resistance from every citizen. An attack on the Jewish community is an attack on all of us, and the additional safety spending by the state sends a signal that we will not allow our neighbors to become victims.

Last week saw the anniversary of a turning point in the Battle of the Bulge, the last gasp of Nazi Germany’s military ambitions. On Jan. 8, 1945, the German army began a large-scale withdrawal of the Ardennes Forest.

The outcome of that battle was not always a sure thing. The German’s surprise attack had caught the Allies off guard, and in the early days of the battle, many soldiers were captured and became prisoners of war.

One of them was Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds of the 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division. Edmonds found himself the senior noncommissioned officer among the 1,275 prisoners at Stalag IX-A. On the prisoners’ first day at the camp, Jewish POWs were ordered to assemble for their captors. Instead, Edmonds ordered that every prisoner assemble.

The furious camp commandant held a gun to Edmonds’ head and threatened to pull the trigger unless he singled out the Jews.

Still Edmonds refused, telling the commandant, “We are all Jews here.”

Edmonds’ act likely saved the lives of the 200 or so men under his command. It also provided a lesson that echoes from the frigid Belgian forest of World War II to the polished, ornate executive offices of the Massachusetts Statehouse. We are in this together.

“We are all Jews here.”

The Leonard Woods House: A Historic Treasure



By Gail Ralston

Andover Center for History & Culture

The Leonard Woods House and its namesake have a long and storied history on the Phillips Academy campus and the surrounding area.

With the academy established in 1778, the Andover Theological Seminary came along in 1808, settling “up on the hill.” Leonard Woods was one of the first five theologians inaugurated as professors of various areas of biblical study. Woods was named the Abbot Professor of Christian Theology.

Born to Samuel and Abigail Whitney Woods on June 19, 1774, in Princeton, Massachusetts, Leonard A. Woods set out early to pursue a faith-based profession. Woods graduated from Harvard Divinity College in 1796. He was ordained minister of the Congregational Church in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1798. Historically, he is known as upholding Orthodox Calvinism, a movement strongly supported by the founders of the academy.

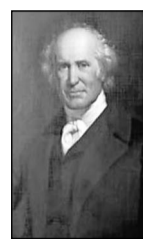
The opportunity to join the newly-formed seminary in Andover was one he couldn’t refuse. The

trustees of the seminary strengthened their offers to the important theologians of the day by building each and his family his own home on campus should they join the faculty. Woods’ first home was completed in 1816 and located at 193 Main St., today known as Pease House after a later campus minister.

During his time at this location, Woods helped to establish the American Tract Society, the American Education Society, and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He also gained the reputation as an able dialectician and authored several volumes, including “Lectures on the Inspiration of the Scriptures” (1829).

By 1920, Leonard and Abigail Woods had moved into a new home, located on the northeast corner lot of the present Cochran Chapel at Phillips Academy. At that time, Bartlet Street continued through the center of campus, behind the main seminary buildings. Behind the Woods house stood Samaritan House, which had served as the seminary infirmary, as well as a home for the school principals.

In the 1920s remodeling of campus, Samaritan House was moved across



Leonard Woods



COURTESY PHOTOS/Andover Center for History & Culture

The Leonard Woods House at 1 Judson Ave.

Main Street to School Street. To allow for the construction of the new chapel, the Woods House was moved down Bartlet Street to 1 Judson Ave. This location signified yet another important part of the seminary history.

To begin with, the entire area between today’s Bartlet, Judson, Chapel Avenue and Rabbit Pond was one of three working farms on campus, established by the 1830s and known alternately as the Seminary Farm, the Chandler Farm and, later, Harrington House Farm. These farms were maintained by the school to grow produce for the campus, as well as to provide work for scholarship students at both the academy and the seminary. Cows once grazed leisurely on the exact spot where the Woods Home now stands.

The site surrounding Rabbit Pond was also known as Missionary Woods, where seminary boys would go to pray and

to reflect. Six students, one of whom was Adoniram Judson, after whom the street was named, gathered in 1810, dedicated to establishing the American Board of Foreign Missions. Leonard Woods served as one of the ministers who ordained these special six as the first to set out from the seminary for missionary work.

One hundred years later, in 1910, Charles Carpenter, himself a missionary from the seminary, celebrated this anniversary by finding a boulder in Andover’s Carmel Woods, and “driving” it down the street to a spot along Rabbit Pond where it stands today, in remembrance of those brave souls who brought the Word of God to foreign countries.

The home at 1 Judson Ave. certainly has quite the story to tell and, hopefully, it will be around for many more years as a symbol to the dedication and to the faith of those early theologians at the Andover Seminary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trahan’s big lie

Editor, Townsman:

When questioned in March about the sources of a last minute influx of cash (\$371,000) to propel Rep. Trahan from a distant fourth place to a very narrow victory, let’s remember her lie. She defiantly and even indignantly told us, her constituents, that the funds came from her earnings as CEO and sole employee of Concire.

This explanation always defied logic. She refused to name even one client that provided her with a very large income, all while running a full-time Congressional campaign. Her story just didn’t ring true to many people. Now she’s hoping we forget this lie and believe her new lie: that her husband, David Trahan, gave her the money and this is okay. Of course it’s a clear violation of campaign finance laws to everyone else. If it’s so okay, why did Rep. Trahan lie about it month after month, including an adamant statement to the Boston Globe that her husband didn’t give her the money. Now it’s been reported that they aren’t cooperating with the

investigation. Why did she lie? Because she knew it wasn’t okay.

The citizens of the 3rd Congressional District deserve better. We have no idea where the funds now in question originated from. Now is the time for a complete review of the Trahan finances as they pertain to her campaign. Ironically, Rep. Trahan ran her campaign on the need for complete transparency in government. Cheating to win can never be acceptable in the world’s greatest democracy.

LINDA BLAKE
Andover

Department of Justice should investigate Trahan

Editor, Townsman:

Is this how we want to be represented in Washington?

The Eagle-Tribune dedicated its first OpEd of 2020 to Ms. Trahan’s 2018 campaign finance mess, the worst in Massachusetts election history. The Boston Globe has run front-page articles on her constantly changing story about the source of a \$300,000 loan to her campaign. The bipartisan Office of Congressional Ethics investigated

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

and then voted 5-0 that she likely broke the law in getting elected, and recommended further inquiry. Rep. Trahan refused to cooperate with that investigation of an earlier one by the Federal Election Commission. Instead she spent over \$150,000 to denounce the OCE, which was founded by the grassroots pro-democracy group Common Cause.

For nine months, she told voters that campaign loans came from her earnings as a consultant — until the OCE found they actually came from her husband. Then she wrote an OpEd to “set the record straight.” That is, let me change my story. Again.

This is our representative to Congress — non-cooperative, combative, non-transparent.

This kind of thing never happened to Niki or Paul Tsongas or Marty Meehan.

In Florida, Republican Rep. Spano won a close 2018 election. Then in November, the Department of Justice launched a criminal investigation into illegal loans he received, a smaller amount than Trahan’s loans. He won by a 6% margin. She won by 0.1%. Should the DOJ investigate Trahan?

Please join me in requesting an investigation by the DOJ, Boston District, Mr. Andrew Lelling, Esq. at the Moakley Building in Boston. When it becomes okay to win an election by cheating, voters don’t just lose their vote. They lose their democracy.

GENE BLAKE
Andover

WEB QUESTION

The Fire Department’s new ladder truck rolled back into town last week, having been modified so it will fit beneath the Horn Bridge at the end of Central Street. Just days earlier, the firefighters union posted an online photo of a milk carton featuring the “missing” truck. The union has pointed to the truck — originally delivered, it was too tall to fit under the bridge — among other complaints about the department’s leadership, leading to last fall’s “no confidence” vote in Fire Chief Michael Mansfield.

Is the new truck a badge of pride or a symbol of problems within the department?

PRIDE: Andover taxpayers shelled out \$1.2 million for that truck, which is outfitted with the latest firefighting technology. So what if it wasn’t right the first time? The town sent it back, the manufacturer fixed the problem. It’s a source of pride and everyone in town should get to ride on it, at least once.

PROBLEM: Issues with the truck — that it arrived too tall to fit beneath the bridge, and the amount of time needed to

fix it — were a black eye for the department and its leadership. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan and the Select Board should take a deeper look into how this happened and the chief’s role.

POLITICS: This whole ladder truck thing is blown way out of proportion. What will the union do next, paint the rock in front of the High School? The town has bigger fish to fry.

Last week’s question
It’s resolution season, which means countless personal vows to eat less and exercise more. Imagine if the town of Andover made a similar commitment to focus on a specific area for improvement in 2020. If it did, what should that area be?

SERVICES: From the Youth Center to Senior Center to Andover Recreation’s programs, everybody in town can find something to do. What if there were even more classes, activities and opportunities? (3 votes)

SAFETY: Public safety is a central mission of the town government, but our fire and police could use even more

resources and attention. (5 votes)

INFRASTRUCTURE: We have good streets and sidewalks in Andover, but age and weather always take a toll. The town would be better off with newer surfaces. (5 votes)

TAX AND FINANCE: Andover may be healthy financially but pensions and post-retirement health benefits could be budget busters. The town should work to get further ahead of these obligations — and figure out how to lower taxes along the way. (13 votes)

SCHOOLS: Andover kids are lucky with myriad opportunities at every level of education. Imagine how much better their experiences could be with expanded programs and updated facilities. (7 votes)

PUBLIC HEALTH: Let’s resolve to be healthier together, whether it’s taking goat yoga classes, discouraging kids from vaping, or finding new avenues to address the opioid crisis. (1 vote)

SOMETHING ELSE: The area that should get the town’s attention simply isn’t on this editor’s list. (2 votes)

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

■ **Editor Bill Cantwell**
for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-946-2215, bcantwell@andovertownsmen.com

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

■ **Reporter Jessica Valeriani** at 978-691-8723, or jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

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

■ **Account Executive David Schultz** at 978-946-2152 or dschultz@andovertownsmen.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

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

ADVERTISING

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

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TownsBeat



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover's Henry Grebe (number 11), Aidan Ritter (21), pitcher Arvin Nunez, right, and catcher Nolan Schirmer (23) celebrate defeating Lawrence during the Div. 1 North Semifinal baseball.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Larry Napolitano has a heart-to-heart talk with his son Sean after Andover American lost to North Andover in the second game of the District 14 Little League finals.



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Thirteen-year-old Hannah Ratner is bundled up against the cold while sledding on Dec. 12 at Andover High School.

Images of Andover

Photos of the year capture personal moments

The Townsman's top photos of 2019 showed the exhilaration of winning and the agony of defeat. They included unique moments shared by people and animals, and people enjoying a visit with Mother Nature. Above all, the images — chosen by our photographers as their favorites — were eye-catching and gave our readers a few moments of enjoyment. See more photos of the year on page 10.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

A baby goat walks on people's backs as Elise Hellman of Andover looks up during an outdoor yoga class in The Park in Andover. The Andover Recreation Department event featured baby goats from Chip-in Farm in Bedford.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Jessica Cavallaro of Andover struggles to hold Butterscotch, as the goat tries to wiggle free during a goat yoga session-event featuring baby goats from Chip-in Farm in Bedford.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Peter Rawinski, a MassWildlife fisheries technician, watches Jack Messiner, 7, practice casting at Poms Pond on Aug. 19 during a MassWildlife fishing demonstration.

More Townsman photos of the year

The Townsman's photos of the year for 2019 showed what the town has to offer — from fine dining to a fine day fishing at the lake.

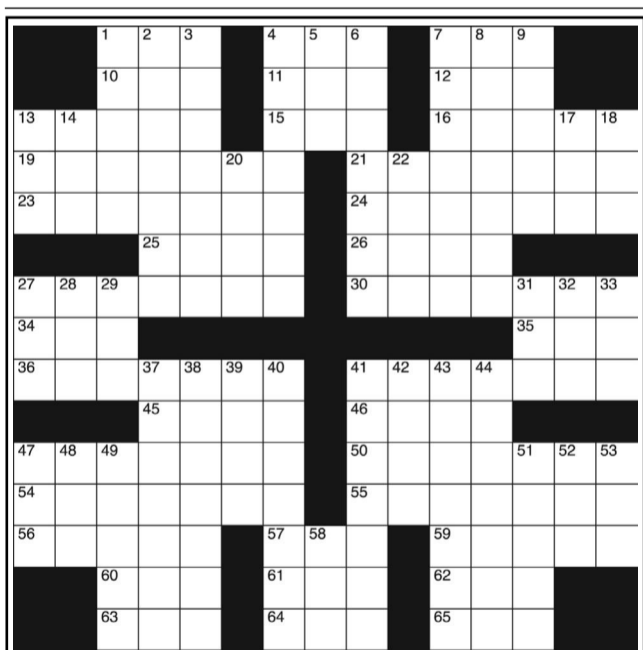
These images are among those chosen by our photographers as their best.

See more photos of the year on page 9



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Crack'd Kitchen & Coffee owner Danny Azzarello holds up two of the new Andover restaurant's signature breakfast sandwiches.



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Public broadcaster
- 4. Hit lightly
- 7. Keyboard key
- 10. Grain
- 11. Make a mistake
- 12. To the ___ degree
- 13. Endure without complaint
- 15. Chinese-American actress Ling
- 16. Edible stomach lining
- 19. Sunrooms
- 21. Feared
- 23. Most eager
- 24. Excessive chatting session
- 25. MLB ace
- 26. Major Central European river
- 27. Muscular weaknesses
- 30. Where seedlings germinate
- 34. Former monetary unit of the EU
- 35. Personal ads abbreviation
- 36. Mythical animal

- 41. Members of Orthodox Jewish sect
- 45. German city
- 46. Algerian coastal city
- 47. Military men
- 50. Salt of sulfuric acid
- 54. Rhododendrons
- 55. Mixture
- 56. Recommended quantities
- 57. 007's creator
- 59. Men
- 60. Kids need it
- 61. Midway between east and east-northeast
- 62. OJ trial judge
- 63. Yes vote
- 64. USDA branch that manages the FCIC
- 65. Create with cloth

CLUES DOWN

- 1. English seaport
- 2. What's owed
- 3. Sound systems
- 4. Elections feature them
- 5. Southern constellation
- 6. London and Brooklyn are two
- 7. One-time Ugandan capital
- 8. Attacked with bombs
- 9. Rebuke
- 13. Expression of disappointment
- 14. A way to work the soil
- 17. The human foot
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 20. A small island
- 22. Abnormal rattling sound
- 27. Make lively
- 28. A team's best pitcher
- 29. It goes on the floor

- 31. Not good
- 32. Peyton's little brother
- 33. Barrier that holds back water
- 37. Move quickly
- 38. Deteriorate with age
- 39. Colorless crystalline compound
- 40. Cheekier
- 41. Expresses praise or joy
- 42. Famed boxing promoter
- 43. Cured sausages
- 44. Fill with air or gas
- 47. Angry
- 48. Chemistry prefix
- 49. Practitioner of Jamaican religion
- 51. Softly bright or radiant
- 52. Buffer solution used to separate nucleic acids
- 53. First responder group
- 58. Defensive nuclear weapon

1/16/20



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Nine-year-old James Bailey of Andover jumps into the water on Aug. 25, the last day of the swimming season at Pomp's Pond in Andover.

Townspeople

Got a sweet tooth? Then Evening of Sweet Indulgence is for you

The yummiest of fundraisers happens in about two weeks.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, the best of the Merrimack Valley's culinary flair happens at the Evening of Sweet Indulgence fundraiser for Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley, located in Dundee Park, Andover. The event will be held at The Double Tree by Hilton, 123 Old River Road, Andover, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$40 per person.

Guests can sample a variety of appetizers and desserts from local restaurants, caterers and bakeries during this fundraiser event. Guests can vote on the two prestigious awards of the night: Best Dessert in the Merrimack Valley and Best Appetizer of the Evening.

Participating businesses from Andover include Caffè Nero, Raagini's Indian Bistro, and Samuel's at Andover Inn. Goodies from Burtons Grill and Bar, Lowell Burger Company, Salvatore's Restaurant, Tuscan Kitchen Catering and Edible Arrangements are also included.

Billy Costa from KISS108FM and the TV show "Dining Playbook" hosts the event.

The event will include a disc jockey, live entertainment, raffles and silent and live auctions. This marks the eighth anniversary of "Sweet Indulgence" and many businesses have been supported by the event over those years. Businesses impacted by the 2018 gas crisis will be recognized this year.

Purchase tickets at SweetIndulgenceInfo@comcast.net or 978-482-7945. See the latest info at www.SweetIndulgence.Info.



From left, volunteer Andy Lazar, Annie Wu of Pink Tree Sweets with her push-up pop cakes and Jon Brody, event chairman, all from Andover,

FILE PHOTO

State gives Andover schools passing grades

Report: No improvements needed in special education, civil rights, English language learning

By MIKE LABELLA
Staff Writer

Andover schools have received passing grades from the state in the areas of special education, civil rights and English language learning.

Officials from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education visited Andover schools recently to review several programs and found the district to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed,

local school officials said. State education officials noted that "no corrective action is required at this time," according to a release from the Andover School Department.

All Massachusetts school districts and charter schools participate in the public school monitoring process every six years to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations in three categories: special education, civil rights and English

language learning, Andover school officials said.

Each district and charter school also receives a mid-cycle review after three years.

The district is required to submit extensive documentation to the state before an onsite visit and review, school officials said.

In December 2019, state representatives visited Andover schools. After the review of documentation and the visit, state education officials concluded the

district was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed and that no corrective action on the part of the district is required at this time, school officials said.

In 2014, Andover schools began significant work to address the state's findings of multiple issues needing corrective action in special education, civil rights and English language learning, local school officials said.

"I am extremely pleased with DESE's findings," said

Andover Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman. "The 2019 report is a result of the hard work and efforts of Dr. Sara Stetson, assistant superintendent of student services, Sandra Trach, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, and World Language Program Coordinator, Jorge Allen."

Stetson said that this year, Andover schools achieved a perfect report in the 33 areas reviewed by the state, in addition to the

federal requirements. "I am very proud of the work our department coordinators, educational team facilitators, teachers, and specialists put into a deep review of their practices and the development of new processes and procedures," Stetson said.

"The professionalism with which they took on this work has been commendable," she said. "I look forward to leading the work on Andover's next set of compliance reviews."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS THROUGH FEB. 24

Winter Reading Club 2019 at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Pick up a Winter Reading Bingo Board at the Children's, Teen, and Reference desks and fill out a row in any direction to win a free book; complete the entire sheet to enter the drawing to win the grand prize: a gift card to Andover Bookstore. The bingo board is for all ages and includes activities that younger children can do with parents, as well as teens and adults on their own. Information and recommendations: mhl.org/winter-reading-club-2019.
JAN. 14

Parent to Parent: "Dear Evan Hansen," 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. A discussion of "Dear Evan Hansen," the novelization of the hit musical, for teens in grades 6-12 and their parents/caregivers. School Library Journal suggests the book for readers in grades 7 and up and writes, "Evan's angst-ridden, often wry narrative is spot on for older teens, and explores the ideas of finding your community and

contributing to it." Information: Anna/Renata, 978-623-8432, ya@mhl.org.
JAN. 15 TO FEB. 19

Growing Through Grief, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays for six weeks, at a location to be disclosed on registration. Grieving the death of a loved one is universal; how each of us grieves is a unique experience. This group, open to all, offers emotional and educational support. Registration required; call Lu Bonanno, Beacon Hospice, at 978-837-3333 or email lucille.bonanno@amedisys.com.
JAN. 16

"Get Organized in the New Year," 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall Library's Memorial Hall, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Learn decluttering and organizing techniques from professional organizer Marilyn Cruickshank. Register at mhl.org/calendar. Information: 978-623-8430, rdesk@mhl.org.
JAN. 17

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat service, 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 514 Main St., Haverhill. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this musical

celebration of freedom and faith, which is presented by the synagogue in partnership with Calvary Baptist Church. Cantor Vera Broekhuysen and rabbinic intern Jennifer Stevens will conduct the service; members of the Greater Haverhill Clergy Association will also participate, as well as the Temple Emanu-El Choir, Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, and the Bradford Christian Academy High School Choir. Oneg Shabbat (social hour) to follow. Information: Nancy LaFleur, 978-373-3861; TempleEmanu-El.org.
JAN. 18, 19

Move for the Movement: A Dance Celebration to Benefit the American Cancer Society, two shows per day, at noon and 6 p.m., featuring 10 and nine schools and companies respectively, at J. Everett Collins Center for the Performing Arts, Andover High School, 100 Shawsheen Road. A noncompetitive dance exhibition that brings together dancers and choreographers from around New England to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Tickets: \$15. Information and reservations: move4tm.org.

JAN. 20

13th annual MLK Jr. Day Unity Celebration, "Sustaining the Legend," 11 a.m. at Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St. With speaker author and entrepreneur Kevin D. Johnson, from Atlanta, Ga., and performing artists Andover Baptist Church Unity Choir, Andover High School Chamber Choir, Cantor Idan Irelander and the Choral Majority. Information: andover-baptist-church.org.
Jan. 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 3

Reading with Annie, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. For children able to read on their own. Sessions are 15 minutes long, and only the child who is reading is allowed in the room with Annie and her handler. Registration and information: mhl.org/calendar.
JAN. 22

Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover. Appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.
JAN. 23

Red Cross Blood Drive, 2 to 7

p.m., St. Augustine Church, 35 Essex St., Andover. Appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

JAN. 25

German Pot Roast Dinner for college scholarships, 5 to 6:30 p.m., West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover. Authentic German pot roast (sauerkraut), homemade egg noodles (spaetzle), red cabbage (rotkraut), applesauce, bratwurst and sauerkraut, drinks and desserts assortments. Adults \$15; children 12 and under, \$5. All proceeds to benefit college scholarships for members of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence. Seventy-eight scholarships totaling \$57,000 have been donated since 2013. Scholarship details: westparishchurch.org/scholarships.
JAN. 26

Summer Opportunities Fair, noon to 3 p.m., at The Snyder Center, Phillips Academy Campus, 180 Main St., Andover. Representatives from more than 100 summer programs for middle and high school students will be present to talk with interested students and their

families. Free, no registration required; sponsored by the Parents of Students of Phillips Academy. Information: pspaandover.org.

Andover Choral Society opens 90th season with Hayden's "The Creation," 3 p.m. at the West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road, Andover. Oratorio depicting the creation of the world, with text from the Book of Genesis, the Book of Psalms, and John Milton's "Paradise Lost." Tickets: adults, \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door; EBT card holders and students, \$5; group rate available. Information, tickets: andoverchoralsociety.org/concerts.
JAN. 28

An evening with bestselling author Jenna Blum, 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Blum will discuss her latest book, "The Lost Family." Her first novel, "Those Who Save Us" (2002), was a bestseller and the #1 best-selling novel in Holland in 2011. One of Oprah's Top 30 Women Writers. Books will be available for purchase. Information: jennablum.com. Registration: mhl.org/calendar.

See CALENDAR, Page 12



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Math teacher Alan Hibino, right, talks to members of the Andover High School Quiz Team, from left: Vishnu Suresh, Naren Savkur, Ashwin Ganesh, Kush Shah, Abhinav Bapanapalli and Jennie Wang.

Public invited to Andover High appearance on TV's 'High School Quiz Show'

The public is welcome to attend the taping of Andover High School's appearance on the "High School Quiz Show,"

hosted by WGBH with television personality Billy Costa. "We're hoping to get a good crowd to join the studio

audience for the taping," said Emily Balk of WGBH media relations.

The tapings are free and

open to the public.

Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP online at eventbrite.com. Search for

"High School Quiz Show."

The taping is Sunday, Jan. 26, when Andover takes on Wellesley High School.

Andover Baptist Church to host annual Martin Luther King service

Andover Baptist Church will hold the 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Unity Celebration Monday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

The guest speaker is Kevin D. Johnson, president and CEO of Johnson Media Inc., a marketing and communications firm that has worked with brands including Coca-Cola, Brooks Brothers and Microsoft.

Performers will include the Andover Baptist Church Unity Choir; Andover High School Chamber Choir; Idan Irelander, cantor at Andover's Temple Emanuel; and the Choral Majority.

Johnson is author of "The Entrepreneur Mind," which describes 100 beliefs, characteristics and habits of successful entrepreneurs. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and is pursuing an executive MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management.

Johnson lives in Alpharetta, Georgia, an Atlanta suburb, and is a member of his city's Recreation Commission.

Director: Stevens Estate could be 'highly profitable'

Property is a gem of the Merrimack Valley

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

The Stevens Estate has the potential to make money by hosting more wedding receptions and other social gatherings – but a larger staff is needed to promote the property, according to Joanna Ouellette, director of the property.

"I believe it could be a highly profitable place," Ouellette told the Stevens Estate Long-Term Advisory Committee last week.

Since July 2015, Ouellette has been director of the estate in North Andover. The property is considered a gem of the Merrimack Valley.

Ever since town Finance Director Lyne Savage reported last April that the estate has been losing money, the town has been wrestling with the challenge of what to do with the property.

Ouellette said that in addition to hosting wedding receptions, the estate is "a nice place to have a

reunion." North Andover residents might find it to be an appealing venue for their class reunions, she said.

To make a profit, the estate needs to be marketed, according to Ouellette.

"Right now we don't have a sales person," she said.

Having the ability to offer catering would also make the property more profitable, she added. When a wedding reception or other social event takes place at the estate, a catering company provides the food.

The Willowdale Estate at Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield offers "in-house catering," she said. The Willowdale Estate is owned by the state and leased to a private company that hosts wedding receptions and other parties.

John Mabon, who represents the Conservation Commission on the Stevens Estate Long-Term Advisory Committee, asked Ouellette about her five-year plan. She said that among other goals, she wants to attract more "high-end weddings."



FILE PHOTO

The director of Stevens Estate in North Andover says she believes the property could become highly profitable, but the town will need to invest in personnel to make it happen.

Former Selectman Donald Stewart pointed out that a cell tower is located on the Stevens Estate property. The revenue from the tower goes into the town's general fund, according to Stewart.

"The money should go to the Stevens Estate," he said.

"I think we need to explore all revenue sources," said James Lafond, chairman of the committee. The town needs to determine if it can continue running the estate,

he said.

Andrew Shapiro, the town's new community and economic development director, is working on a questionnaire that will be sent to residents to get their opinions on how to handle the Stevens Estate.

Jennifer Luz said the survey should give respondents the opportunity to provide open-ended answers to questions.

"I think it's important that

we know our goals before sending out a survey," Mabon said.

Committee members said they want to find out more about other town- and city-owned facilities in the area that host social events. These include the Old Andover Town Hall and the Commons 1854 in Topsfield.

"It there's a model out there that's working, let's not reinvent the wheel," Lafond said.

The committee will hold its next meeting Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Elegant Banquets, a Connecticut company, submitted a proposal to lease the Stevens Estate from the town and renovate it into a larger facility. The June 18 special Town Meeting overwhelmingly rejected the plan.

The Stevens Estate posted a \$136,341 loss for the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to Shapiro.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

JAN. 30, FEB. 13, APRIL 2

Talon Club Comedy Series, 8 p.m. at Talon Club at Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, 300 Arcand Drive, Lowell. Jan. 30: headliner Carolyn Riley, Liam McGurk, Alex Giampappa, Max Schulz, Connor Sullivan. Feb. 13: headliner Dan Boulger, Jeff Koe, Mark Gallagher, Phoebe Angle, James Hamilton, Connor Sullivan. April 2: headliner Lamont Price, Chris D. Andrew Della Volpe, Brian Higginbottom, Katlin McPhee, Connor Sullivan. Tickets: general admission, \$15; students, \$10; tables must be purchased in sets of four and cost \$60. Information: 866-722-8780, tsongascenter.com/events.php
FEB. 1

Congregation Beth Israel of Andover presents "An Evening of Sweet Indulgence...and More," 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom, 123 Old River Road, Andover. Host Billy Costa from KISS108FM celebrates the event's eighth anniversary with the best of a variety of appetizers and desserts from local restaurants, caterers and

bakeries. DJ, live entertainment, raffles, silent and live auction, cash bar. Cost, general admission: \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door; reserved seating (advance purchase only): \$45; tables of 10, \$450. Information: SweetIndulgence.Info; tickets: 978-482-7945, SweetIndulgenceInfo@comcast.net.
FEB. 23

13th annual Maria's Frozen Shamrock 3 Mile Run, 11 a.m. at Maria's Family Restaurant, 81 Essex St., Haverhill. First of three Frozen Shamrock races (other two, March 1 and 8). Cost: \$40; \$45 post entry (if available); register online for all three for \$110, and get a \$10 discount; running club discount: \$90. Sign up with a friend for entire series and receive a Hardman Super Bag. Custom T-shirts to the first 600 entries. Information: runthewildrover.com.

EXHIBITS THROUGH JULY 31

Phillips Andover's Addison Gallery exhibitions: "Come As You Are: American Youth," through March 8; "Man Up! Visualizing Masculinity in 19th-Century America," through April 5; "A Wilderness Distant from Ourselves: Art and Ecology in 19th-Century America," through July 31;

opening Feb. 1: "Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work 1940-1950," at Addison Gallery of American Art, 180 Main St., Andover. Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday (while school is in session); 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays, national holidays, Dec. 24 and the month of August. Free; donations appreciated. Information: 978-749-4015, addison@andover.edu, addison.andover.edu/Pages/default.aspx.

REGULAR MEETINGS JAN. 11, 18, 25; FEB. 1

Family Yoga, 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. Saturdays, for walkers to age 5 with an adult & kids 6-11, at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. A lively form of yoga that involves child-friendly yoga poses, games, stories, songs and mini-relaxation to end the class. Teaches breathing techniques and stretching. Registration required at mhl.org/calendar.
JAN. 11, FEB. 8

Jr. Green Gatherings, 9:30 to 11 a.m. for children ages 4-8. The Andover Garden Club, in collaboration with the Memorial Hall Library Children's Room, hosts a

book reading and related activities about nature and gardening. Contact Erin Taylor at erintaylor@erinsbotanical.com. Parents are welcome, too.
JAN. 12, 19, 26; FEB. 2

Overeaters Anonymous, 5 to 6 p.m. Sundays at Ballard Vale United Church, 23 Clark Road, Andover. Information: 781-641-2303, oambi.org.
JAN. 13, 27; FEB. 3, 10

Conversational English, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. For non-native speakers of English who have studied formal English and would like to practice their speaking and listening skills. To register, contact Carolyn Fantini at 978-475-4602.
JAN. 14, 21, 28; FEB. 4

Revive and Thrive - Dementia and Memory-Supportive Fitness Program, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, at Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover. Emily Kearns, PhD will facilitate this weekly program. Information: 978-604-0830.
Andover Toastmasters Club, noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in the Morse Conference room at Raytheon IDS, Essex Building, 350 Lowell St.,

Andover. Need to improve your speaking, presentation, or leadership skills? Need to overcome your fear of public speaking? Guests are always welcome. Information: andovertoastmastersclub.toastmastersclubs.org.
JAN. 15, 22, 29; FEB. 5

Merrimack Valley Camera Club, 7:30 to 9 p.m. (socializing, 7 p.m.) Wednesdays at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St., North Andover. The club holds frequent hands-on workshops, field trips — including some overnights, photo-related activities, presentations and competitions; most are open to the public. Information: mvcameraclub.org.
JAN. 16, 30; FEB. 13, 27

Career Networking Group, 10 to 11:30 a.m. alternate Thursdays in Memorial Hall Library Ground Level Alcove 1, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Expand your network of business contacts, share ideas, and learn about effective job search strategies. Facilitated by certified career coach Arleen Bradley. Information: 978-623-8430, rdesk@mhl.org, mhl.calendar.org.
JAN. 17, FEB. 21, MARCH 20

Musical Morning with Peter Sheridan, 10 a.m. on the

third Friday of the month at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. A children's musician for 20 years, Peter performs at many libraries, day care centers and schools. He plays guitar, accordion, harmonica and other instruments and uses puppets and books in his program. No registration needed.
JAN. 21; FEB. 4, 18; MARCH 3

Device Advice for Adults, 7 to 8 p.m. first and third Tuesdays at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Bring your technology questions to the Reference Desk. Get help with the basics for iPads, cellphones, laptops, Kindles and other e-readers. Bring your charges, usernames and passwords. If unable to attend, stop by the Reference Desk anytime for device assistance. Information: 978-623-8440, mhl.org.
JAN. 22, 29; FEB. 5, 12

Junior Friends of Memorial Hall Library, for ages 8-11, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Junior Friends work together to plan programs for younger children and do other projects to help the library. Contact Miss Kate at 978-623-8440 or kdugan@mhl.org.

Sports

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Davila brothers helping wrestling team make history on the mat

By DAVE DYER
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — Andover's wrestling team delivered two more big wins over the weekend, improving to 8-1 on the season that's on track to become the best in program history.

"We're making history," exclaimed Andover 195-pounder Brendan Major, who was 3-0 on the day with three pins.

Indeed, the win over Methuen Saturday was the first ever for Andover over the Rangers, after previously beating North Andover and Chelmsford for the first time.

After a fine 20-8 campaign last year the Warriors were expecting another strong season, but they've clearly stepped it up a notch. And one of the biggest reasons is one major fact — two Davilas are better than one.

After a breakout junior season (over 30 wins) last winter, senior Kelvin Davila is one of the top 152-pounders in the state, leading a strong upper middle weight lineup that includes still-unbeaten Elias Maita, Sean Ballou and Major.

That string of standouts now starts a weight class earlier at 145 pounds with Davila's brother, Jonathan, a sophomore who missed nearly all of last season due to a pair of concussions.

Despite the layoff, Jonathan is enjoying a tremendous season, posting an 18-2 record with — after three pins Saturday — over a dozen falls to his credit. It's better than one could expect after missing a year on the mat, but he says the time off was not detrimental at all.

"At home, me and my brother are always rolling around and we watch a lot of wrestling," said Jonathan.

Both brothers are also top football players. Kelvin, a safety, was an All-Scholastic last fall, finishing second on the team in both total tackles (71) and solo tackles (33). Jonathan, a cornerback, led the Golden Warriors with four interceptions — one on Thanksgiving Day — while adding 33 tackles in the fall.

The rolling around has obviously helped Kelvin as well. Although he enjoyed a strong first three seasons on the mat, he's struggled at times in the biggest matches. But he's wrestling like a man on a mission this year and has only lost twice thus far, one a 3-2 decision to Chelmsford star Evan Goodall.



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Andover brothers Kelvin, left, and Jonathan Davila provide a dynamic one-two punch at 145 and 152 pounds. They were both unbeaten Saturday and each has just two losses this season.

"I'm wrestling a lot smarter this year," said Kelvin. "I've been working a lot with Elias (Maita) and that's making me better. We're excited by how we're doing and we just want the team to keep winning."

"In the postseason, I'm looking for a state championship. I've come up short before but I think I can do it this year."

As for Jonathan, he wants "to win state like my brother."

Andover coach Mike Bolduc believes the brothers are both capable and they have a common denominator.

"They both are just wicked athletes," said Bolduc, who believes that Jonathan is a little ahead of where Kelvin was as a sophomore. "They can get in bad positions and work themselves out of it."

The Davila brothers are from a wrestling family. Father Melvin wrestled at Lawrence High and their uncle, Ozzy Morales, has a long track record in the sport and is currently an assistant at Lawrence. Now, Kelvin and Jonathan are adding their own chapters.

SHOWDOWN to Andover

Andover and Methuen were both undefeated prior to Saturday, and the



The emergence of sophomore Jonathan Davila, top against Tewksbury, has been a major reason Andover wrestling is off to its best start in program history.

showdown every bit lived up to expectations.

The Golden Warriors edged the Rangers 42-40, their first win in program history over the perennially

tough squad.

For Andover, Maita continued his superb season with three pins, with one coming up a weight class at 170, to join the Davila

brothers and Major with perfect records.

Andover takes two

Team scores: Andover 53, Lowell 22; Tewksbury 41, Andover 36; Andover 42, Methuen 40

Andover records:
105: Mitch Keany 0-3 113: Hudson Fraser 1-2;
120: Sean Hellman 2-1 126: Theo Krueger 1-2
132: Lukas Kaufman-LaDuc 2-1 138: Miles Fraser 1-2;
145: Jonathan Davila 3-0, 3 pins; 152: Kelvin Davila 3-0, 2 pins; 160: Elias Maita 3-0; 170: Sean Ballou 2-1; 182: Connor Sheehan 1-1; 195: Brendan Major 3-0; 220: Yasser Maita 0-2; HVY: AJ Heidtke 1-2
Records: Methuen 7-2, Andover 8-1

Makiej, Kiley earn track victories

BOYS TRACK

Michael Makiej won the high jump with a 6-4 — six inches better than the No. 2 finisher — to lead Andover at a Merrimack Valley Conference meet last Thursday. Golden Warrior Cameron Kirn took third in the 600 (1:26.57).

GIRLS TRACK

Andover's Molly Kiley won the 2-mile (11:50.16) to pace Andover at an MVC meet last Thursday. Leila Boudries added a third in the 2-mile (12:09.59) while Hannah Jordan was fifth in the 55 dash (7.97) and Angela McNeely was fifth in the high jump (4-10).

GIRLS HOCKEY

Adams, Gemmell score winners

Lauren Adams scored her second goal of the game with two minutes left to lift Andover over Hanover 3-2 last Wednesday. Kate Gemmell also scored for the Warriors, while Lillian Jagger made 13 saves.

Kate Gemmell scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, and Lillian Jagger made it stand up with 28 saves as Andover topped Westford Academy 3-2 on Thursday. Sarah Carleo and Lauren Adams each added a goal



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover's Michael Makiej, here clearing the bar in the high jump last spring, scored a big MVC win last week.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocker, Cammann score big

Kyle Rocker erupted for 36 points to send Andover to an 84-58 win over Chelmsford last Tuesday. Richie Shahtanian scored 15 points and Aidan Cammann added 13 points for the winners.

Aidan Cammann scored 23 points to lead Andover to an 82-37 drubbing of Dracut on Friday. Richie Shahtanian added 14 points for the winners (5-3).

WRESTLING

Davilas lead the way

Andover tuned up for a big test against Methuen with

a 64-12 romp over Billerica last Wednesday. Kelvin Davila's 36-second pin at 152 pounds started a string of seven straight falls for the Warriors. That include a 29-second pin for Sean Ballou (170 pounds), a 36-second pin for Connor Sheehan (182) and a 58-second pin for AJ Heidtke (heavyweight).

Jonathan Davila (145 pounds) was 3-0 with three pins and brother Kelvin Davila (152 pounds) was 3-0 with two pins as Andover beat Lowell (53-22) and Methuen (42-40) but lost to Tewksbury (41-36) on Saturday. Elias Maita (160) and Brendan Major (195) each also added three wins for the Warriors.

BOYS HOCKEY

Quill dominates

JJ Quill starred in net to lead Andover to a 3-0 win over archrival Central Catholic on Saturday.

Steve Ingram scored twice, but Andover lost to Westford Academy 9-2 last Wednesday.

Girls Gymnastics

Kessler stars

Ksenia Kessler won the vault (8.8), bars (8.4) and all-around (32.3) to lead Andover to a 132-124 win over Lowell last Monday. Maddy Francis won the floor exercise (8.55) and Amanda Morin took the beam (8.65) for the winners.

BOYS SWIMMING

Cook takes win

Ryan Cook won the 100 breaststroke in 1:02.43, but Andover lost to St. John's Prep 93-85 last Wednesday. Henry Campbell, Adam Medjamia, William Qian and Dennis Tang teamed to win the 200 medley relay.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Shaw nets 18

Tatum Shaw scored 18 points, but Andover lost to Chelmsford 44-39 last Tuesday. Anna Foley added 10 points for the Warriors.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Ashley Chiango, left making a play on the puck against Methuen/Tewksbury, and Andover have a big matchup with unbeaten Haverhill/Pentucket/North Andover.

ANDOVER HIGH SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JAN. 16	Girls Ice Hockey
Boys Skiing	Beverly at Andover, 1:45 p.m.
Andover at Manchester, 3:30 p.m.	Boys Swimming
	North Andover at Andover, 3:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, JAN. 17	TUESDAY, JAN. 21
Boys Basketball	Boys Basketball
Andover at Lowell, 7 p.m.	Haverhill at Andover, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball	Girls Basketball
Lowell at Andover, 7 p.m.	Andover at Haverhill, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, JAN. 18	WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22
Boys Ice Hockey	Girls Skiing
Waltham at Andover, 7:50 p.m.	Andover at Georgetown, 3:30 p.m.
Girls Ice Hockey	Wrestling
Haverhill at Andover, 11:45 a.m.	Dracut at Andover, 6:30 p.m.
Boys Indoor Track	THURSDAY, JAN. 23
Lawrence at Andover, 10 a.m.	Boys Skiing
Girls Indoor Track	Andover at Manchester, 3:30 p.m.
Lawrence at Andover, 10 a.m.	
Wrestling	
Andover at Woburn, 10 a.m.	
MONDAY, JAN. 20	

Superintendent: Spending for special needs students drives up Andover school budget

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — Superintendent Sheldon Berman has presented a budget to the School Committee that falls within the fiscal guidelines set by Town Manager Andrew Flanagan.

Berman's proposed spending plan for the fiscal year that will begin July 1 totals \$89 million, an increase of nearly 3.6% over the budget for the current period. Flanagan recommended an increase of 3.86%, which would bring the total to \$89.2 million.

The numbers could easily change, however. Berman noted that it is not

yet known how much of an impact settlements with school workers' unions will have on school spending.

The School Committee and the Andover Education Association are negotiating wages for the teachers.

Berman identified several areas that have added significantly to the budget. The cost of transporting special education students increased by \$627,526, he said.

Step and track changes for teachers added another \$1.25 million, according to his budget. Legal costs for negotiations increased by \$75,000, while transportation for homeless students rose by \$45,000.

The athletics budget climbed by \$99,306.

Additional meetings on the spending plan are scheduled before the School Committee votes.

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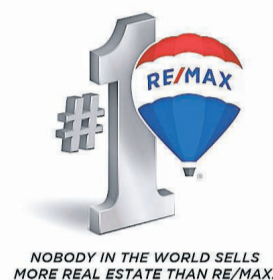
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
A shower or two	Sunny; much colder	P.M. snow, up to 1"	Morning snow showers	Colder with sunshine	Partly sunny	Plenty of sun
High: 45° Low: 14°	High: 22° Low: 7°	High: 28° Low: 26°	High: 41° Low: 17°	High: 25° Low: 7°	High: 22° Low: 8°	High: 25° Low: 11°

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