



VALENTINE'S
CONCERT FOR
THOSE 'MADLY'
IN LOVE

PAGE 4



FLU,
CORONAVIRUS
FEARS HALT
CHINESE EVENT

PAGE 5



KYLE ROCKER
REACHES
HISTORIC
SCORING MARK

PAGE 15

OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 13

JANUARY 30, 2020

\$1.00

Community rallies to fund funeral for 'Gabe'

Family of ex-Andover High sports star thankful for support



FILE PHOTO

Gabe Hernandez smiles for a photo with his mom, Irene Guillermo, and 12-year-old sister Sadie.

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN
Staff Writer

Thousands of dollars in donations have made it possible for Gabriel "Gabe" Hernandez's family to plan a celebration of life for the 22-year-old man who was a sports star for Andover High in his teen years.

Hernandez's mom, Irene Guillermo, said the support after her only son's death is "what the world needs more of." Without it, she

would have been forced into the least expensive funeral option.

Hernandez, a 2015 Andover High School graduate and accomplished athlete, most recently lived in Methuen with his mom. He died last week after several days of intensive care for injuries suffered when he was thrown from a car on North Lowell Street in Methuen.

Well aware of the pain-taking decisions Guillermo

faced concerning funeral arrangements, two of her longtime friends started an online fundraiser. Within a day it collected \$28,433 from 396 donors, well past the \$10,000 goal.

Guillermo, a woman of strong faith, is grateful she can now offer a mercy meal, choose a casket, and honor her son properly.

"I remember initially thinking of the least expensive way to do this. This was all so unexpected," Guill-

ermo said tearfully. "That's not what you want as a mother. But I had to be real."

Police remain unsure if Hernandez was driving when the crash happened, or if 19-year-old Matthew Spanner, the only other person in the car, was at the wheel. He was also ejected, then treated for his injuries at a local hospital. He has since been released, according to police.

Methuen police Chief

Joseph Solomon said a determination will be made about who was driving after input from Massachusetts State Police and an accident reconstruction team that worked at the scene.

Guillermo said her son and Spanner were new friends who started working together at a construction site about a month ago.

The two bonded quickly and Hernandez introduced Spanner to his religious

See GABE, Page 3

Red carpet treatment

Local musician experiences whirlwind of Grammys as nominee

By TERRY DATE
Staff Writer

The other New England musician — legendary pianist Chick Corea, born in Chelsea — won the 2020 Grammy Award Sunday for Best Latin Jazz Album.

But John Finbury — who was raised in Haverhill and lives in Andover — won a whirlwind experience by sheer dint of being nominated in the category, for his album "Sorte!"

Finbury and his wife, Patty Brayden, got swept up in a weekend of moments. They included pre- and post-Grammy events, renewing and making friends and Sunday's ceremonies at the Staples Center.

Delight met sadness there in the convergence of arriving Grammy celebrants and thousands of fans mourning the death of NBA star and Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant.

Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna Maria Onore Bryant, were killed Sunday morning 30 miles from Los Angeles in a helicopter crash.

For more than a decade
See GRAMMYS, Page 2



Courtesy photo

John Finbury of Andover and his wife, Patty Brayden, stand on the red carpet Sunday before the 2020 Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Finbury was nominated for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Parents to have more say in school start times

Group will advise school officials on changes

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

As Andover continues to debate changes to school start times — and the possibility of older students going to school later than their younger counterparts — parents will have a big voice in the issue.

An advisory group of 13 parents has been formed by Andover school principals and PTOs to provide feedback on the issue to the

School Department.

The School Committee is considering changing the times because some experts say that biologically, high school students need more sleep time than they usually get. Students of that age generally have trouble getting to sleep at night, and therefore have difficulty waking up in the morning for an early start to school, some experts say.

That feedback from the
See PARENTS, Page 2

Koh files papers, unsure of run for Congress

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

ANDOVER — Selectman Dan Koh has filed campaign committee documents, a requirement to run for federal office. However, he said



Dan Koh

he's unsure whether he'll run for Congress even though he filed. "I haven't decided yet if I'm going to run for Congress," he said. "It was purely administrative. My wife had been my treasurer

since the campaign was founded, but my compliance person was taking over that role and had to file a form to officially take over. That would have happened regardless of whether or not I decided to run."

Koh, who was the former chief of staff for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, attempted to fill the void left by retiring Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas in 2018, but lost the 3rd Congressional Democratic primary to Lori Trahan by 145 votes after a recount.

However, it was later found that Trahan had used \$300,000 transferred from joint accounts and from joint accounts and

See KOH, Page 2

Vocational training, jobs on the way

Governor celebrates plan for Greater Lawrence Tech

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

Gov. Charlie Baker is squarely behind vocational education, and he used Andover as the place to make that clear.

The governor made his first visit to the Greater Lawrence Technical School last week to take a tour and celebrate the Career Tech Initiative, a \$15 million program he announced during his recent State of the Commonwealth address.

"As the lieutenant governor and I were heading in today, we talked to three kids who were waiting for the bus," Baker said last Thursday from a podium in the school library. "We said, 'What are you interested in? What are you doing?' One of them wants to be a plumber, one of them wants to be an electrician, one of them wants to do metal work. I said, 'That's very interesting. You know what? You're going to make a lot more than the governor!'"

The goal of the initiative is to provide classes in three groupings during the day and evening at Greater

Lawrence Tech to train an additional 20,000 residents in the technical trades over the next four years.

Traditionally, technical schools like Greater Lawrence offer one group of classes per day to high school students. If a school is approved for the Career Tech Initiative, two groups of classes will be devoted to training high school students each day, and an additional group of classes will be added for adults. The program still has to be approved by the House and Senate in the upcoming state budget, scheduled to be finalized by July.

"This is going to be such a joyful program that's going to be transformational for many," said Rosalin Acosta, the state's secretary of labor and workforce development. "We know there are 200,000 jobs in Massachusetts and there are only about 110,000 people looking for work."

Stressing the importance of training in the technical trades was Douglas Fogg, vice president of operations for Straumann, a dental implant company based in Andover. He spoke at



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

During his visit to Greater Lawrence Technical High School, Gov. Charlie Baker meets Ingrid Santiago of Lawrence, a mother of four and part-time adult student in the medical assistant program at the school.

the Greater Lawrence Technical School event.

"It's a win for the people," Fogg said. "It's a business
See BAKER, Page 2

INDEX

Classified.....	13-14
Crossword.....	10
Editorial.....	7
Letters.....	7
Obituaries.....	5
Police Log.....	5
Sports.....	15
Townsbeat.....	9-10
Townpeople.....	11



"Owning a home is a keystone of wealth; both financial affluence and emotional security."
- Suze Orman

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Courtesy photos

John Finbury of Andover poses for photos before the Grammy Awards ceremony on Sunday with singer and lyricist Thalma de Freitas of Sao Paulo, Brazil. De Freitas sings on the Finbury album, "Sorte!," nominated in the Best Latin Jazz Album category. Fellow New Englander Chick Corea won the award.

GRAMMYS

Continued from Page 1

Bryant had made the Staples Center a basketball stage.

"Everybody was wearing Kobe jerseys," Finbury said. "Everyone was shocked."

The 62nd Grammy Awards, presented by The Recording Academy, went on.

Most of the gold-plated statuettes, including those in Finbury's category, were given during the premiere ceremony in the afternoon.

Finbury, in a blue tuxedo, and his wife, in a sparkly, gray gown arrived to the red carpet by limousine from the nearby Millennium Biltmore Hotel in old Los Angeles.

The carpet stretched some 75 yards, flanked by more than 100 media folks toting cameras and microphones.

The carpet color was enhanced.

"It's the reddest you've ever seen," Finbury said.

On their carpet walk they saw musicians David Crosby, Jacob Collier and Tanya Tucker.

Over the weekend, Finbury and Brayden met old friends

and made new ones.

Old ones included Ned Claf-lin, a musician and producer, and Tom Vickers, a recording label artist and repertory person.

New ones included Mickey Smith Jr., a music educator from Louisiana who won the Grammy in the Educator of the Year category.

Twice at the Biltmore the couple shared an elevator with a musician they have long since liked and often go to see, American blues musician Keb' Mo'.

Keb' Mo' is a regular at the Tupelo Music Hall in Derry and at the Blue Ocean Music Hall in Salisbury.

Keb' Mo' by the way, won a Grammy for Best Americana Album, "Oklahoma."

Finbury didn't have a chance to meet musical idol Chick Corea, but he did get to hear him perform live.

Corea and The Spanish Heart Band played the song "Armondo's Rhumba," for which Corea, 78, was awarded the Grammy.

Corea has been nominated some 60 times and won 23 Grammys, putting him among the all-time winners.

Finbury knew who he was up against in the Grammy competition and was proud to be among the nominees, which also included Wynton Marsalis.

Still, Finbury's heart pounded as the winner was announced.

The singer and lyricist on "Sorte!" is Thalma de Freitas of São Paulo, Brazil.

Finbury and de Freitas fielded questions from media, many of them from Spanish news outlets.

The album "Sorte!" marries American and South American sensibilities, particularly jazz and Brazilian samba, forging a musical union between genres with a long-standing history of coming together.

The word "Sorte," pronounced "SORchee" — means luck or serendipity.

Other highlights from Finbury's Grammy adventure included the nominee reception on Saturday at the Ebell of Los Angeles Club, a club founded by and for women.

Other exciting moments were main ceremony musical performances including a tribute to Prince by Usher,



Grammy Award nominee David Crosby, left, walks the red carpet on Sunday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Fellow nominee John Finbury of Andover and his wife, Patty Brayden, did a little star watching while they strolled the red carpet.



Patty Brayden of Andover poses for a photo on Sunday at the 2020 Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

and Aerosmith reuniting with Run-D.M.C. on the hit "Walk this Way."

Finbury has been making music since childhood and is hitting his stride in his 60s.

He was about 5-years-old when the first Grammy Award ceremonies were held, in 1959.

In 2016, Finbury was nominated for a Latin Grammy for the song "A Chama Verde," a Brazilian phrase meaning "the green flash."

He has two albums coming out this year, the instrumental "American Nocturns" and an as yet-to-be titled Latin Jazz album.

To learn more about Finbury's music visit his website, greenflashmusic.com.

The album "Sorte!" can be heard on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, Youtube and other music platforms.

PARENTS

Continued from Page 1

parents group will go to the School Start Times Working Group. That group consists of school staff members headed up by Sandra Trach,

assistant superintendent of teaching and learning. The Parent Advisory Group was formed to provide feedback about the potential drawbacks and benefits of drawing the school start times. The parent group will also provide school

start time proposals.

School officials said the parent advisory group has members from across the school community. The group is composed of one parent from Shawshen school, a parent from each school that has kindergarten through eighth-grade classes, three parents from Andover High School and one parent to represent special education students.

At School Committee meetings, the debate has pitted elementary school parents against middle and high school parents as they joust over what age group

would be helped or hurt by the proposed changes. Some parents of elementary school students have said they don't want their children getting off the school bus in the darkness late in the afternoon during the winter.

"I think it's a great idea," said Joel Blumstein, chairman of the School Committee. "I think it's really important. This has been a controversial issue. We've had a lot of parent input already, but... this group is going to get much more into the details."

The parents in the

advisory group are: Andrew Adams, Lynn Andelman, John Barry, Nancy Buckley, Charlene Clark, Vikas Choudhary, Kathy Luz Cote, Dave Crow, Kathleen Fergus, Matthew Nigrelli, Patricia Rich, Kate Squillacioti, and Ruihua Yin.

School officials said the school each parent is associated with is not being released to the public to protect the parents' confidentiality. However, anyone who wants to submit input to the group is welcome to email this address: schoolstarttimes@andoverma.us.

As Andover considers the

school start time changes, the School Committee has established guidelines which include: not picking up any bus-transported students before 7 a.m.; starting both the middle and high schools 20 minutes later than the current start time, with a goal of beginning the school day at 8:30 a.m.; and setting the elementary school start time no earlier than the high school's current start time of 7:44 a.m.

The School Committee will eventually vote whether to change the starting times.

Andover Townsman
Established 1887
ISSN 1524-1432
USPS 025-440

Published Thursdays by North of Boston Media Group

33 Chestnut St.
Andover, MA
978-475-7000

Ad fax 978-475-5731 • News fax 978-470-2819

E-mail: townsman@andovertownsm.com
Web: andovertownsm.com

Periodical postage paid at Andover, MA, and additional mailing office.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Andover Townsman, 100 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845
Subscription - One year, \$52; two years \$90
College subscription - One college year, \$35

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Advertising copy must be in the office by Monday at 5 p.m.
Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.
No cancellations honored after these deadlines.

BAKER

Continued from Page 1

win for us. We need it to grow our business."

Straumann has a relationship with Greater Lawrence Tech's machine technology program and said his company has hired at least 14 students from the school over

the years. "In making the dental implants, our primary task, or job if you will, is doing high-tech, computer-controlled machining," he said, "and we need people who know how to use this equipment."

Also in attendance at the Career Tech Initiative launch were Greater Lawrence Tech Superintendent John Lavoie; Mike Kennealy, state secretary of housing and economic development; and state Secretary of Education James Peyser.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Applauding during the governor's visit are Marilyn Fitzgerald, former facilities and aquatic director at Greater Lawrence Technical High School, and Leo Lamontagne, a Greater Lawrence Technical High School Committee member for more than 30 years and also a member of the school's class of 1974.

KOH

Continued from Page 1

her husband's business accounts to help finance the final days of her closely won election, which prompted the Campaign Legal Center, a Washington D.C.-based watchdog, to file a complaint

with the Federal Election Commission against her.

Trahan has defended the legality of the loan saying the money was a joint asset.

Months later, Koh ran for a seat on Andover's Select Board and won.

Yet, the ambitious 35-year-old selectman is steadfast in his ambivalence, saying the committee documents he recently filed are nothing new.

"... It wasn't a new committee," he said. "It was an amendment to an existing. Many former candidates who might run in the future have committees that remain open. It's pretty commonplace. Especially since I haven't decided whether or not I am running this time, it doesn't make sense to shut down."

PUBLIC NOTICE

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2020.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2019 but may require some touch-up work in 2020:

Andover

Treatment Periods

January 27, 2020 – May 29, 2020	May 29, 2020 - Oct 16, 2020	Oct 16, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020
CST	Foliar	CST
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Dormant Stem	Basal	Dormant Stem
	Cut stubble	

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
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Gabriel Hernandez drives to the hoop in basketball action when playing for Andover High in 2015.

GABE

Continued from Page 3

community at Granite United Church in Salem, New Hampshire.

Guillermo has learned of more people her son affected in the church community and elsewhere. Many of the stories have found her through Facebook and the GoFundMe page.

"One of his friends sent a message to me that said, 'I want you to know that you raised a really loving, caring son who helped me through some of the toughest parts of my life,'" Guillermo said. "They told me that even though he's gone, they'll always live by the advice that he gave."

While in high school, Hernandez was known for his commitment to his teammates, playing basketball and also leading the 2014 Andover High baseball team to a Division I North title.

Hernandez was a captain of the team and a star player, his baseball coach Dan Grams recalled.

"He was one of the best players I ever had," Grams



FILE PHOTOS

Gabe Hernandez during his Andover High baseball days.

said. "There's an expression from (pro baseball legend) Ernie Banks — 'It's a beautiful day out, let's play two.' Gabe was the type of baseball player that wanted to play all the time."

Guillermo said she will miss cheering her son on in what would have been his future endeavors.

"I'm going to pick up his torch instead of letting the fire die out," she said. "I'm going to continue to impact more people."

Hernandez also leaves behind a 12-year-old sister, Sadie, and his dad, William Hernandez.

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IN THE NEWS

FUSION LEARNING CENTER • 3 DUNDEE PARK DRIVE • ANDOVER



Head of School, Michelle Houlihan, works with students in Fusion's STEM station to explore new and creative educational opportunities.

**Unlocking their potential
Fusion Learning Center helps empower students to soar**

Since opening its doors in September, Fusion Learning Center of Andover has quickly made a splash in the region.

Michelle Houlihan, Head of School states that Fusion works with students with varying skill levels in all grades, but specifically grades 6 to 12 and offers a range of support services to help children embark on a path to academic success and independent life-long learning.

Currently, Fusion serves students from across the Merrimack Valley, North Shore and New Hampshire enrolled in its programs. Families can enroll at any time during the calendar year.

A nationwide program, Fusion works with students — and their schools — to create customized tutoring packages based on each child's needs, teacher expectations and the course curriculum.

One of the most popular aspects of Fusion is the Homework Café Club. This is a membership based program where students work on assignments individually or with peers in a comfortable, lounge-like setting. Fusion educators are on hand to assist and answer questions notes Houlihan.

Houlihan states, "As children enter middle and high school and coursework becomes increasingly difficult, parents are often happy to hear such a program like Fusion is available. It takes the 'home' out of homework. Students go home and the work is done, and no one is stressed."

When a student enrolls in the Homework Café Club they have access to all of the next level resources the club has to offer. With the help of our expert academic team, students receive extensive support in a fun and encouraging community. It is a great place for state-of-the-art workspaces, on-demand homework help, tutoring and mentoring with skilled experts, and access to industry standard science labs, music and art studios. We are currently partnering with schools to create a successful academic journey for our students. Homework Café Club is available in drop-in sessions as well.

The mentoring, tutoring and academic coaching programs, as well as Homework Café Club present new and create educational opportunities for students.

"Every student is unique and has their own story — we meet each student where they are: academically, socially, and emotionally and empower students to achieve their own definition of success and what it looks like for them" says Michelle.

Students who attend Fusion come from various backgrounds, Houlihan says. Some



Sometimes paper and pencil just doesn't do it. Here is an 8th grade student taking advantage of Fusion's work spaces and bringing his math assignments to life.

may need support, while others seek to learn a subject not offered at their school. Others may need tutoring services as they cannot attend school full time due to a medical leave. Fusion also offers support and enrichment to home-school and online learning curriculums, Houlihan says.

Fusion educators form a relationship with each student to learn about what excites him or her, and what each requires in order to reach his or her full academic potential, Houlihan continues. This includes ensuring that each student has emotional support and is tending to his or her mental health and well-being.

Through the tutoring/mentoring program, students facing some difficulty in a particular subject receive one-on-one attention during sessions with a Fusion educator. The center offers tutoring in more than 250 courses, including core subjects and electives.

Students can also use the tutoring services to accelerate in a subject or try an enrichment program not offered at their school.

Fusion's academic coaches work with students to create personalized short-term and long-range plans for learning and life skills, as well as a plan to improve executive function.

As Fusion Learning Center continues to integrate itself in the community, Houlihan says its educators are looking ahead

to its future. The Fusion model includes both learning centers and full-time private schools. Fusion Andover will be resubmitting their application to the Andover school district to become a full-time accredited academy.

In the meantime, the staff is relishing the chance to offer local students additional academic support as they field inquiries from interested families.

"The families of Andover and its surrounding communities are eager to have Fusion open as a full-time academy. We are filling a need in Andover and the team is looking forward to a bright future ahead. I am excited to give families an option for their children which has proven successful around the country," Houlihan says.

FUSION LEARNING CENTER

Where: 3 Dundee Park Dr., Suite 102, Andover, MA
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andover.fusionacademy.com

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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 – Feb. 6, 1920

Andover housekeepers are often heard to exclaim, "If there were only a food exchange in Andover!" For some time, Andover has felt the need for a new lunch room, and such a place will be opened in the immediate future on Post Office Avenue, two doors from Andover Square. It will be known as The Lunch Box, and will be under the management of a committee representing the Smith College Alumnae of Andover. The profits will go toward the Smith Endowment Fund and will serve simple, well-cooked, nourishing and attractive food, at reasonable prices, and will be served on the cafeteria plan.

A recent announcement that all exams held by the United States Civil Service Commission will be open to "both men and women" has drawn special attention to government opportunities or employment. Ever since the beginning of the world war, women have greatly outnumbered men in the department at Washington, the estimates showing that they have held from 60 to 75 percent of the clerical positions. When the Civil Service Commission was established in 1883, the act creating it provided that the women may, in the discretion of the head of any department, be appointed to clerkships thereby authorized by law, upon the same requisites and conditions and with the same compensation as prescribed for men.

75 years ago – Feb. 1, 1945

The next in the East-West series of lectures, being given under the auspices of the Society of Inquiry at Phillips Academy, will take place on Friday evening, Feb. 9, in George Washington Hall at 8:30. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, first lady of India and sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, India Congress leader, will be the speaker. She is the first Indian leader to be allowed to come to this country since the war.

Sgt. Abraham Lincoln Sharpe, former manager of the Ballardvale baseball team, has been reported missing in action in Belgium since

Dec. 17, according to word sent by the War Department to his brother, Ralph Sharpe. Before his induction to the military, he was employed in the Shawsheen dye house.

Non-financial articles included in the town warrant include asking for the appointment of a committee of five to study the recreational administration program and facilities. Another asks the acceptance of Fowler Street, near Walker Avenue. Another asks the acceptance of a gift of two boats and other equipment. The usual war bond purchase article will be in, too, with the amount to be decided later.

50 years ago – Feb 5, 1970

The 1970 tax picture for Andover is bleak, as of the moment, with a big increase possible, according to Dr. Albert J. Greenberg, chairman of the Finance Committee. Factors to be considered include an increased School Department budget and the effect of federal and state cutbacks in aid to the town, particularly in the area of education, where President Nixon vetoed a HUD request.

The admonition of Selectman Roger W. Collins to his colleagues last week on the new town hall issue is probably a good one. While opposing Chairman Robert A. Watters, who had moved that a new town hall be constructed within the funds provided, Collins said he was glad the matter had come up, for he felt it was time to "fish or cut bait" on the matter. Watters wanted the building constructed on the property bounded by Park, Barnard and Bartlet streets, within the money provided by town meeting a few years ago totaling \$550,000. Three members of the board, including Collings, opposed him, asking that a study be made by the Planning Board before any action is taken. The study is to include the downtown parking problem as well.

25 years ago – Feb. 9, 1995

After reportedly being insulted by a 14-year-old Andover teen Friday afternoon, Feb. 3, a 17-year-old employee of Bruegger's Bagel Bakery allegedly punched and kicked the boy in the head. The incident took place in front of Chocolate by Design on Main Street.

A front-page photo shows Patrick Hess and Andrea DiBenedetto, host and hostess of the Andover High contest this Saturday night at the Collins Center. The fundraiser for the junior class begins at 7 p.m. The cost is \$5.

Victorian Treats owner Lucy Bernardin shows off some of her treats in her new shop at 68 Park St. Her shop was formerly located in the Bernardin Insurance building on Main Street. The move allowed Ms. Bernardin to double the size of her store and there is plenty of parking.



COURTESY PHOTO

The group performs a concert.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

'Truly, Madly, Deeply' is theme of Valentine concert

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Love — what else? — will be the theme of an upcoming Valentine's concert in Andover, and organizers insist the music will win your heart.

As always, guests will find chocolate hearts waiting for them in the audience seats at West Parish Church. That's a Valentine tradition for the concert host, Mistral, as this holiday is important to the performing group.

"We begin the new year with our next concert, 'Truly, Madly, Deeply,' which is our annual tribute to love," said Mistral artistic director Julie

IF YOU GO

What: 'Truly, Madly, Deeply' – a Valentine's chamber music concert
Who: The Mistral musical group
When: Saturday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m.
Where: West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover.
Cost \$38, \$10 for students

Scolnik. "There's Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes, Bolcom's 'The Serpent's Kiss' and a selection of arias by Rossini, Mozart, Bishop and Lehar. It really is a program that is sure to win your heart — perfect for

Valentine's Day."

The concert is Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4 p.m. at West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover.

Two pianists share one keyboard for four-hand piano playing, while acclaimed singers are matched with esteemed instrumentalists for a show that's likely to have some serious toe-tapping during "The Serpent's Kiss" by American composer William Bolcom, Scolnik said. "Infectiously fun jazzy fantasy-rag," is how she described the interpretation of Bolcom's piece, adding

the show's music is funny, sad and just perfect for a Valentine's date.

"It's an entirely romantic program," she said.

Scolnik founded Mistral in Andover in 1997. She has since moved to Brookline where Mistral music continues to bring "unstuffy, unpredictable and unmatched" classical music to audiences, she said. The group also continues to perform regularly in Andover — Scolnik says the town is very dear to her.

"Mistral performances are always a little eccentric, stubbornly personal, impassioned, and committed to invigorating old traditions with an ever-youthful perspective," Scolnik said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The many faces of Mistral – these people will be performing.

Climate change at local level is focus of talk in Andover

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Everybody, it seems, is talking about climate change.

Presidential candidates toss the issue around at

debates. Scientists warn of the risks to our planet if nations fail to quickly adopt methods to fight it.

Local kids study it in current events and science classes.

And now members of the local Garden Club plan to discuss the effects of climate change on plants in Andover and the region.

Dr. Amy Weidensaul, director of Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary who has more than 20 years of experience in the environmental field, will speak about the effects of climate change at the next Andover Garden Club meeting.

The meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. at South Church, 41 Central St., Andover.



Dr. Amy Weidensaul

Weidensaul will speak about the effects climate change has had on local flora and fauna. In addition, she will provide suggestions on how people can reduce their carbon footprints.

Prior to her current position, Weidensaul served as deputy director for conservation and education at Audubon Pennsylvania and was director of the Shehan Audubon Center at Audubon Maryland-D.C.

She has served as the outdoor center director of South Mountain YMCA near Reading, Pennsylvania. She has also been

involved in environmental issues at the state level in Pennsylvania.

In 2011, she received the Together Green Fellowship for conservation leadership.

Weidensaul has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Hampshire, a master's degree in education from Lehigh University and a PhD in environmental studies from Antioch University.

The Garden Club event where she appears will begin with a social gathering and refreshments, followed by a brief business meeting and the program.

The public is welcome. A \$10 donation from non-members is requested. That covers the cost of refreshments for them.

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From Andover to Phoenix

Local educator brings her expertise of gifted and talented students to national stage

Janis Baron knows what makes kids tick — especially those who are the brightest of the brightest.

She's preparing to share that knowledge with educators from around the country.

Baron, director of Andover's popular summer programs for kids, is a guest speaker at the upcoming conference for the Arizona Gifted and Talented Association.

Baron is a longtime Andover resident and long-time director of the Kaleidoscope and KITE summer programs for children in Andover.

She will present one of the

major sessions at the two-day conference titled "20/20 Vision: Creators and Innovators in Gifted Education." The conference will be held in Phoenix Feb. 6 and 7.

Baron's workshop is titled "I'm Done; What Do I Do Now?" She said the workshop identifies practical classroom strategies that can help teachers in kindergarten to grade 12 as they challenge their above-grade-level learners.

An experienced staff development consultant, Baron is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association for Gifted Education.



FILE PHOTO

Janis Baron shows photos of children she has taken in recent years.

 Please recycle this newspaper.



Courtesy photo

Conservators Amanda Maloney and Terra Huber perform treatment on a work of art at the conservation lab in Andover.

Feds invest \$350,000 in Andover center

Organization works to preserve historical materials

It's modern money, but it helps preserve the past.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center, located at Brickstone Square in Andover, has received a grant for its preservation work.

The non-profit center has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The endowment's grants are used to provide preservation training, assessments, consultations, free



Walter Newman works at the conservation center in Andover where efforts were made to preserve and restore materials and documents from Ernest Hemingway's 22-year residency in Cuba.

FILE PHOTO

web resources and disaster assistance to cultural institutions nationwide, said company marketing manager Julie Martin.

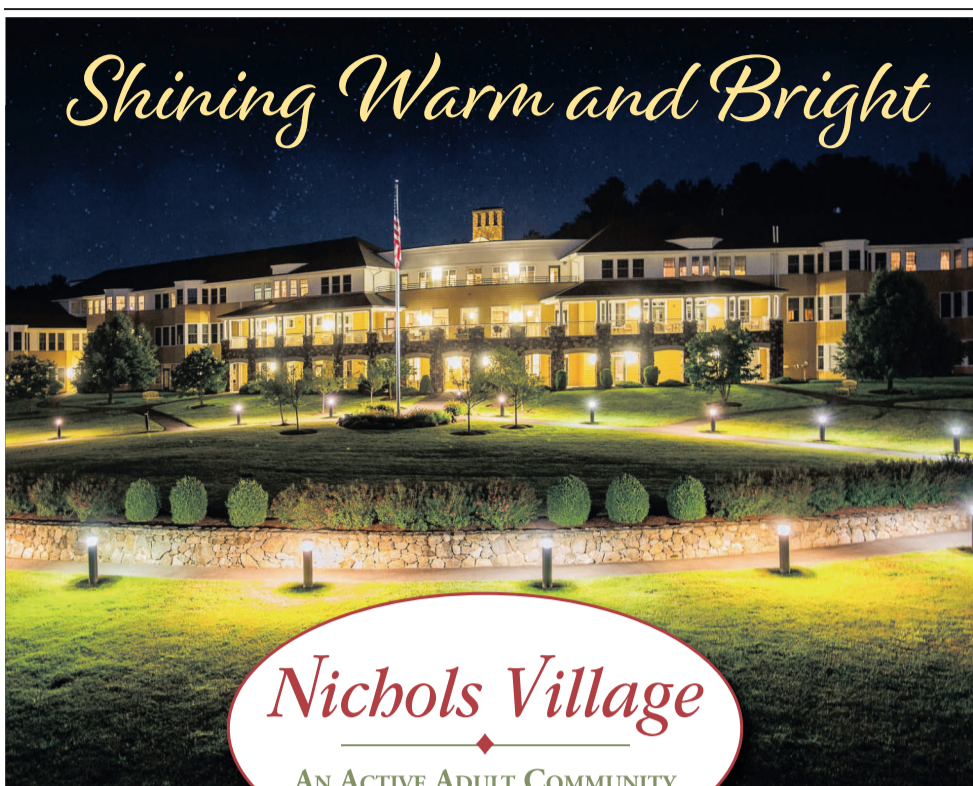
She said the Andover center's preservation services

department helps hundreds of cultural organizations and local government agencies each year learn to care for their valued paper and media-based collections such as bound volumes, maps, documents, photographs, AV recordings, digital collections and works of art on paper.

"A special project for the new grant is to develop a series of hands-on workshops on disaster planning and response to be presented in federally declared disaster areas along the Atlantic coast," Martin said.

The center's mission is to improve the conservation and preservation efforts of museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, municipal clerks' offices and other government agencies.

The center's website is www.nedcc.org.



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Opinion

A skate for Colleen

The memory of a teacher who died much too young is now preserved on the ice.

Colleen Ritzer of Andover was an enthusiastic, inspiring, 24-year-old Danvers High School math teacher whose murder in October 2013 shocked both communities, the one where she lived and the one where she worked. Tributes to her are maintained in a variety of ways and places — a memorial scholarship for aspiring teachers and the annual Step up for Colleen road race, held here in Andover each spring, among them.

But there's another, which happens whenever the girls hockey teams from Andover and Danvers play.

In their first game together, a few months after Ritzer's death, the teams pulled on pink jerseys with Ritzer's name on the back, laced their skates with pink laces, and wrapped their sticks with pink tape. Pink was Ritzer's favorite color.

It was a tribute to both the fallen math teacher and her little sister, Laura, who at the time was a senior skating for Andover.

"The girls really ran it, and it was great for both communities," said Brian Seabury, then coach of the Danvers squad, which is a combined team with students from Beverly High School. "It goes to show how much Ms. Ritzer meant to them."

As does the fact the icebound tribute still happens when the teams play, as they did last week at the Breakaway Ice Center in Tewksbury — pink jerseys, pink laces and pink tape included. The fans wear pink. Each player passes a pink carnation to Ritzer's parents, Peggie and Tom. Money is raised for the scholarship fund. This year, the Danvers/Beverly team won the game, 3-1.

Nothing stokes a good, old-fashioned rivalry between towns like high school hockey — all prep sports, really. But nothing draws them closer together.

The small pink touches are a nice nod to Ritzer's memory in this annual game.

But, surely, pink or no pink, flowers or no flowers, her legacy will be honored in some small way anytime these two teams compete.

Weak campaign watchdog

Partisan divisiveness doesn't get much thicker than it is now in the chamber of the U.S. Senate, where President Donald Trump's impeachment trial is taking place. But look about 10 blocks north of the Capitol and you'll find another example of the political gridlock that has hamstrung Washington. While not on the scale of a presidential impeachment, it also has far-reaching effects, including in Andover and the Merrimack Valley.

The six-member Federal Election Commission has only three active members, all of whom are "holdovers" who've served out the terms of their original appointments and are thus eligible to be replaced. This is a problem because it takes the votes of four members to get anything done beyond day-to-day administration.

The commission is the country's campaign finance watchdog. Without a full complement, or even just the fourth member needed for a quorum, a lot of paperwork is piling up.

This includes a formal complaint by the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center that Rep. Lori Trahan used her husband's money to shore up her campaign just before her narrow win in the 2018 Democratic primary. The outcome of that complaint, one way or another, is important not just to Trahan but to voters in her Merrimack Valley district. As it is, the House Ethics Committee is also investigating. It shouldn't have the only say in the matter.

The Trahan case isn't the only issue left in limbo, either. As of the first of December, more than 100 enforcement cases were stacked up before the commission, according to an annual update by outgoing Chairwoman Ellen L. Weintraub.

The commission is designed to be a bipartisan referee; no more than three members can belong to the same party. But its decisions and the process of filling its seats bend to the same political forces as everything else inside the Beltway. Ideally, the president makes appointments to the commission, and the Senate confirms them. Neither has been happening of late, at least not fully.

A group of frustrated attorneys with clients across the political spectrum recently sent a letter urging Trump and congressional leaders to break the impasse. They pointed out the obvious timing, at the beginning of a presidential election year, with the commission at its busiest. Without its work, confidence in a national election process already burdened by skepticism could further weaken.

The absence of a functioning Federal Election Commission is not only an embarrassing commentary on our national politics, it's an implied invitation to corruption. The White House and Senate have a lot on their plates, but they need to find the time and political will to fully staff the commission.

WEB QUESTION

Andover is one of many communities whose residents are confronting opioid addiction and its effects, and many people have doses of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone on hand just in case a friend or family member needs it. Sen. Joan Lovely says that puts a target on them as far as insurance companies are concerned. The Salem Democrat wants to prevent insurers from denying coverage, or charging higher rates, just because someone has a naloxone prescription.

What do you think?

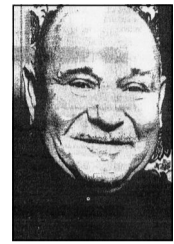
IMPORTANT MEDS: Naloxone (also known by its brand name Narcan) is a valuable tool in dealing with the epidemic of addiction, and it has saved untold lives. We should be encouraging, not discouraging, its use. Of course, insurers shouldn't penalize family members or friends of addicts for having it on hand.



By Tom Adams

Andover Center for History & Culture

Born in the Italian Alps near the Swiss border in 1903, Dino Valz was the son of a stone mason.



Dino Valz

As a child, his family immigrated to Barre, Vermont. Dino always treasured his Italian roots making a dozen trips back to his beloved, idyllic Piedicavallo village. He discovered a love for writing at an early age and wrote often of his native culture. His long-running column on fellow Italian immigrants who settled in Barre was published in a Vermont newspaper.

Valz arrived in Andover in 1925 with his Harvard

College degree, flat broke, and looking for a job. He found one at the Andover Press. It lasted for more than 20 years.

Seated on the corner of Chestnut and Main streets, the Andover Press was then the largest publisher of college yearbooks in the country. Dino was hired to do two things. First, he helped college kids get their yearbook through the laborious printing process — a process the kids knew nothing of. Dino, on the other hand, knew "a wee bit about printing" and a whole lot about writing and editing. Secondly, he wrote editorials for the Andover Townsman that expressed the opinions of his boss and newspaper editor, Phillip P. Cole.

Through his work, Dino gained a reputation as a writer and an editor who got it done right. In 1943, he brought his experience to Sutherland Abbott, a Boston-based advertising agency. Dino served as the company's media director, buying and budgeting advertising space in periodicals. Widely known and respected, he was named Boston's Advertising Man of

the Year in 1956.

For 31 years beginning in 1937, Dino quietly moonlighted as a part-time instructor in the publications department at Simmons College in Boston. He lectured undergraduates at the women's liberal arts college on the technical aspects of editing and publishing. He created The Valz Project, requiring all program seniors to plan and budget, then develop and deliver their own publication. It was the final test for these graduates before facing the challenges present in the real world. Dino's legacy as an educator lives on in the lives of his students and those they've touched — all more viable and proficient with the written and spoken word.

Dino retired in 1971. He was never one to sit still for long, so his retirement was exhausting. Volunteering at the Andover Historical Society, he suggested to then-president Dorothy Hill that the society have a monthly newsletter mailed directly to each member. Between Dorothy and the board, the newsletter was born. Dino was named editor and given full responsibility for

design, content and production. Further, he was appointed to a seat on the board. "It was literally a one-man show, from dreaming up the ideas to proofreading the page proofs — from A to Z," Valz recalled. Before he was finished, he'd served 15 years creating and editing 60 issues. In all, the newsletter he lobbied for and created ran for 41 years (1975-2017) and 162 issues.

Dino loved living in Andover. It carried over in his sense of civic duty. He was active in town politics, faithfully attending Town Meeting and even once running for the School Committee — losing to Bill Doherty. He served as president of the Andover Taxpayers Association and as a director of the Andover Co-Op during the 1960s.

Dino G. Valz is remembered fondly wherever he hung his hat. Perhaps Karen Herman, past Andover Historical Society president, said it best: Dino was "a man who knew his business and held everyone to his standards. He will be sadly missed, especially his warm smile and the way he filled a room with his presence."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

were signing their death warrants. They surely would have been the first to be tortured and hanged if we had not prevailed in the ensuing war.

Oppressed people in other parts of the world must do as we did, claiming and fighting for their own independence from whatever forms of oppression they find themselves under.

We may help them, but we cannot do it for them nor should we deprive them of the fruits of such labors.

DR. JANE AXELROD
Andover

Democrats have no legal standing in impeachment trial

Editor, Townsman:

Democrats in the U.S. Congress have a serious problem. They want to remove President Trump from office through the impeachment provision in our Constitution. Ongoing investigations and documents show that they have been plotting to do so from the moment he won the election. First it was the clandestine Russia Collusion claim, then obstruction of justice for firing Comey and finally an unidentified whistleblower's reaction to what was heard second hand about a phone call with the Ukrainians.

Their problem starts with the Constitution's specific requirements for impeachment. First, the House of Representatives must "accuse" the president of one of four specific "crimes," then present the "accusation" to the Senate for a trial. Only then, if the Senate agrees by a two-thirds majority vote that one of the four "crimes" has been committed, can the president be removed from office.

Here are the Democrats' serious problems. The two articles for impeachment they have sent to the Senate ("abuse of power" and "obstruction of Congress") are not among the four specified

"crimes," nor are they actual "crimes" to be found anywhere in our penal codes. Then the Democrats would need 20 of the Republican senators to agree with them. In any case, all of this would be "unconstitutional."

You needn't agree with me. The biggest problem the Democrats face is preeminent lawyer/legal scholar Alan Dershowitz, who has been called "one of the most prominent and consistent defenders of civil liberties in America." In his 2018 book "The Case Against Impeachment," Professor Dershowitz states, "The whims of Congress cannot overrule the words of the Constitution," also that they "cannot make up crimes for partisan advantage." He states that whereas no one is above the law, no one (including the president) is below the law. Our Constitution protects everyone from abuses of our judicial system.

Professor Dershowitz joined the team of President Trump's lawyers to defend our Constitution. He emphatically claims the Democrats have presented no evidence of any kind to support seeking the removal of President Trump from office through impeachment. Now shunned by old "friends," he is a courageous man.

ROY DOBBELAAR
Andover

Plan for mill district respects neighborhood's character

Editor, Townsman:

As a member of the Historic Mill District Task Force, I want to share how our work has focused on preserving the neighborhood context and the character of future development in the Historic Mill District. Public conversations have been of primary importance throughout the process. This continues to be true as Town Meeting votes this spring to authorize sale

of the Old Town Yard.

The Historic Mill District encompasses a portion of the National Register of Historic Places known as the Andover Village Industrial District. This area includes 19th century brick mills, former railroad structures and clapboard and shingle buildings once used to house factory workers and other tradespeople. Moving forward, the community has clearly expressed a desire that the Historic Mill District be developed for mixed use, including housing, retail, offices, cultural spaces, recreation and open space.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) guiding redevelopment of the Old Town Yard seeks to protect the existing character of the mill district. Under the express terms of the RFP, new development should complement, enhance and be anchored within the context of the district. The RFP states that the "historic mill buildings create a strong aesthetic fabric and architectural style The Town seeks a development that includes an outstanding design with iconic and memorable features and character."

Design guidelines and the recently completed place-making plan were developed to keep the keystone historic buildings in focus, create pedestrian connections to the Shawheen River and downtown, and improve commuter access to the MBTA.

In the future, during the permitting of any proposed development, Andover's Design Review Board will emphasize appropriate building scale, massing and use of complementary materials that blend with the existing historic architecture.

We believe this approach will successfully revitalize the Historic Mill District in a manner that respects the character of this important part of Andover.

KAREN HERMAN
Historic Mill District Task Force
Andover Preservation
Commission chair

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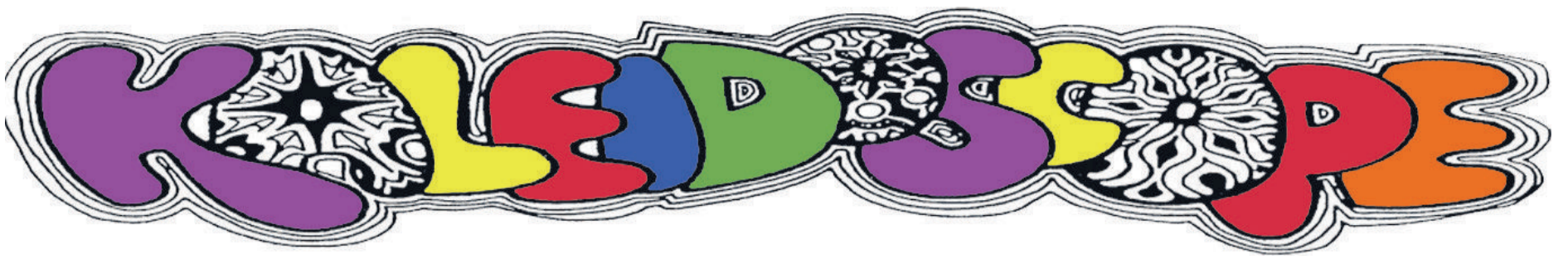
Publisher
Karen Andreas

Editor
Bill Cantwell

Published Thursdays by
North of Boston Media Group
33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810
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News fax: 978-470-2819

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TownsBeat



Ralph Cornelius Bledsoe recites a portion of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech during the celebration.

MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photos

Promoting community unity



Darrien Myers sings during the event.

Andover Baptist Church hosted its 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Unity Celebration on Jan. 20.

The theme of the event was "sustaining the legacy of Dr. King's dream." The message was delivered by entrepreneur and bestselling author Kevin D. Johnson, president and CEO of Johnson Media Inc.

Performing musical artists included the Andover Baptist Church Unity Choir, the Andover High School Chamber Choir, Cantor Idan Irelander of Temple Emanuel Andover, and The Choral Majority.

Each year, the church hosts a breakfast and a speaker series to salute the late civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968.

Also taking place that day was the annual breakfast hosted by the NAACP Merrimack Valley Branch, which was held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Old River Road and featured the theme, "Leading the Fight for Equality."



Robin Lindahl of Lawrence lifts her head in prayer during the event.



Members of The Choral Majority Choir -- from right, Devorah Smith, Denise Wynn and Sheri Welch -- sing during the unity celebration.

Townspeople



Andover's Aidan Cammann drives to the hoop against Lawrence's Jeremiah Melendez.



Andover captain Kyle Rocker is fouled while driving to the basket against Lawrence captain Brandon Goris, left, and Carlos Pabon.

Tough loss for Warriors

Two evenly matched teams.
Two sets of fans who were equally loud.
Two schools with strong basketball traditions.
But there could be only one winner.

■ See more game photos on Page 12.

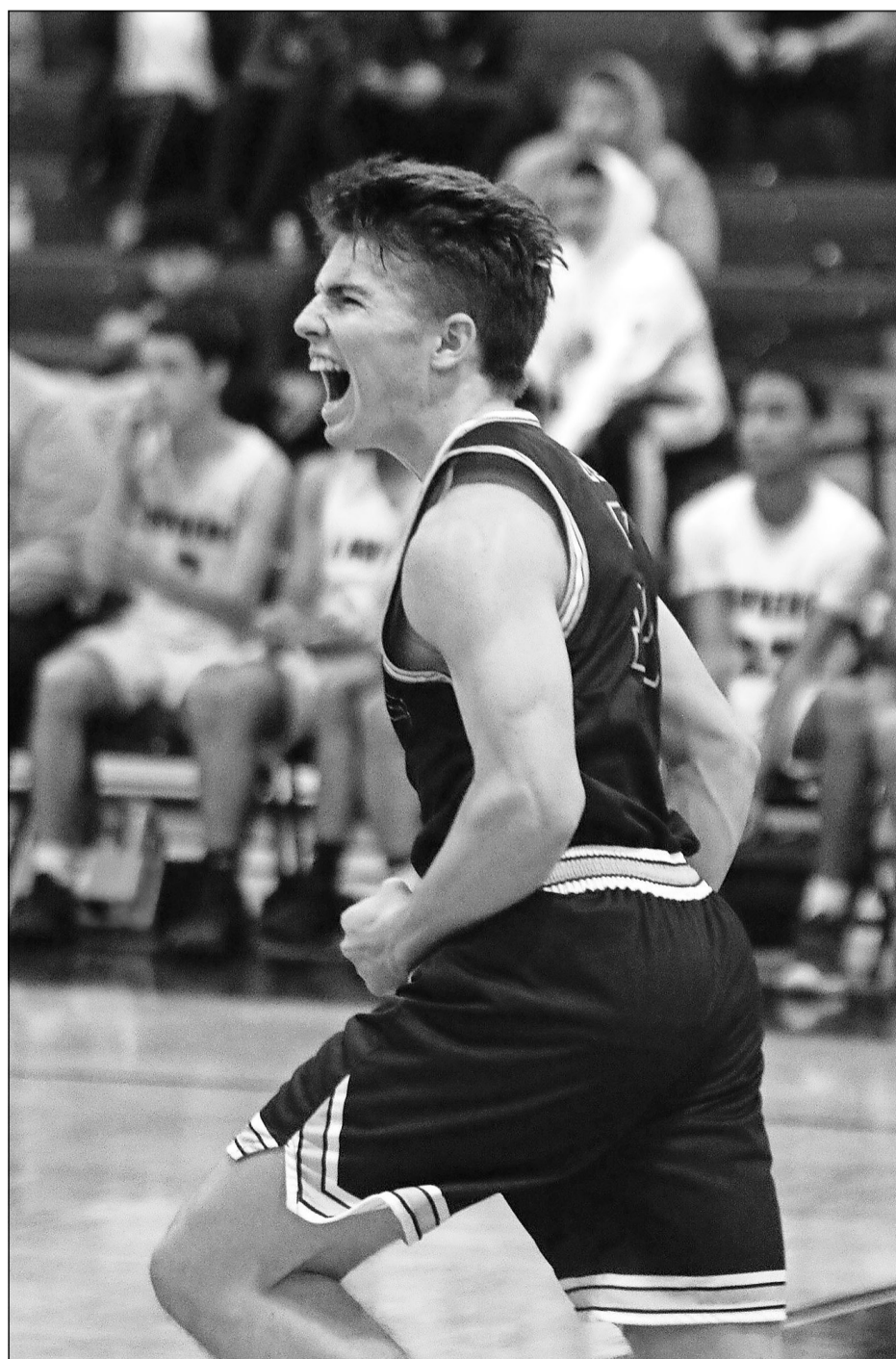
And it was a bitter ending for the Andover High Warriors, who narrowly dropped a hard-fought match to Lawrence High. With both teams shining, Lawrence was slightly better, defeating Andover 67-63 in recent boys basketball action.



Andover captain Michael Slayton fights for a loose ball with Jeremiah Melendez of Lawrence High.



Andover's Aidan Cammann blocks a shot by Lawrence High captain Gabriel Zorrilla.



Andover High captain Charlie McCarthy celebrates after scoring a basket.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Andover High captain Kyle Rocker takes a three-point jump shot as he is surrounded by Lawrence defenders.



Lawrence High's Jeremiah Melendez takes a jump shot over Aiden Cammann of Andover High.

Taking their best shots

This was a tough loss to take. Andover High's recent boys basketball game against Lawrence High was a close one, with Lawrence edging out a 67-63 win. The Warriors and Lancers fought it out with tenacious defense and explosive offense, with Lawrence winding up on top.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 10

would like to expose their children to different languages and cultures at an early age. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.
FEB. 4, 18, MARCH 3, 17

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 chargers,

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FEB. 7

Rep. Tram Nguyen office hours, 10 to 11 a.m. at Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Contact: Diane Reimer, 978-771-3992.

FEB. 13, 27, MARCH 12, 26

Toastmasters Ballardvale Club Meeting, noon to 1 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays at OSRAM, 200 Ballardvale St., Wilmington. Meet at

visitors' desk in the lobby of Entrance 2. Guests are welcome. Information: Ellen Fan, 617-447-3505, ellen.fan@smith-nephew.com.

FEB. 14, MARCH 12, APRIL 9

Writers Group, 7 p.m. second Thursdays at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Open to new members. Information: writersgroupmhl@gmail.com.

FEB. 21, MARCH 20, APRIL 17

Musical Morning with Peter Sheridan, 10 a.m. third Fridays 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.

FEB. 27, MARCH 26

Thinking Thursday, for Ages 5 to 8, 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. fourth Thursdays at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Combines stories and science and a craft to bring home. Register at mhl.org/calendar. Space is limited.

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or a lifetime senior federal parks pass can be obtained for \$80 (\$10 fee for online and mail applications). Information: nps.gov for more information.

Registration for ESOL (English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages), Citizenship Preparation and English Communication and Employment classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (former Asian Center), 439 S. Union St., Building 2, Level B, Lawrence. Morning or evening classes; call MVIEC at 978-683-7316. For more information, visit mviec.org.

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Real Estate

HOMES

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Brand new to market - 4-room 2004 Ranch house with full basement on nice 1/4 lot in solid, quiet neighborhood. Needs TLC to sparkle. Eat in kitchen, good room sizes. \$275,000
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AMESBURY
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Gloucester - Situated in a quiet area near downtown, this two-bedroom single-family colonial home features an open kitchen to dining area and spacious laundry room, second floor full bath with two bedrooms on opposing sides. Amenities include two-zone natural gas heating, mud-room, parking and a splendid lot area. This home requires updating and awaits its new owner to call it home. Easy access to shopping, beaches, Route 128 and railway. \$200,000

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SOLD!
GLOUCESTER - Sweet 7 room Victorian on quiet street with harbor views. Gorgeous fir floors, tall ceilings, 3 bdms, 2 full baths, first floor office/4th bedroom, new windows, heat, roof, paint, Beacon Hill yard. Full useful basement and full attic, excellent storage & condition plenty of character! \$397,500
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HOMES

Under Contract!
NEWBURY - Handsome landmark 1875 farmhouse overlooking the Parker River and gorgeous saltmarsh lands in permanent conservation. 4.1 acres, 9+ rooms, four bedrooms, 3 baths, every room a river view! Dock opportunity, newer roof and heating plant. Needs updating. Walk-up attic, full basement. Oak and pine floors, 35' heated "porch" brings the river and wide landscape into immediate view. Three outbuildings, amazing stone walls! First time available in over half a century. \$878,000.
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Quiz for Landlords/Property Owners

This week's answers to last week's questions:

- Max fee you can charge an applicant: \$0 (zero dollars)
- Max Security Deposit - 1 month's rent (regardless of credit history)
- Max Pet Fee: \$0 (zero dollars) It's illegal in Massachusetts
- Last month's rent - yes, you have to pay interest on that, too.

Don't unknowingly break the law. Fair Housing laws matter!

Do you have a question for next week? Email, call or text and our Property Management team may publish your questions and answer, next week!

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Sports

ROCKER JOINS GREATS

Boys basketball star tops 1,000 career points

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@eagletribune.com

In the illustrious history of Andover High basketball, only nine boys had ever topped 1,000 career points heading into last week.

On Friday, Kyle Rocker became the 10th Golden Warrior to reach that historic mark.

The 6-foot-2 senior guard tossed in a driving layup late in a win over rival Methuen, giving him 1,001 career points with half of his final high school season still remaining.

"The emotions were crazy," said Rocker, who finished the night with 1,003 points. "It was always a dream of mine to get a thousand points."

Rocker became the first Golden Warrior boy to reach the milestone since E.J. Perry IV (1,153 career points) topped the mark in 2017. Dave Giribaldi (1,072 career points) joined the group in 2015.

Andover High Hall of Famer Chris Vetrano (class of 2004) owns the Golden Warrior boys record with 2,090 career points.

The overall school record belongs to three-time Division 1 state champion Nicole Boudreau (class of 2012). The future Boston College star tallied 2,200 career points in four varsity seasons.

Eight other Golden Warrior girls have reached the mark, most recently Gia Bramanti (1,029 career points) last winter and current Merrimack College star Alyssa Casey (1,197 points) in 2017.

"That was the first thing I put on my list when I came to high school, to get to a thousand points," said Rocker. "To actually get it is surreal."

It has been quite a winter and career for Rocker, who was promoted to the varsity team midway through his freshman season.

"I will just say this: he came into Andover High School as a little boy," coach David Fazio said. "He's going to leave Andover High School as a grown, intelligent player/person. I have so much

ANDOVER 1,000-POINT SCORERS

BOYS: 1. Chris Vetrano '04, 2,090; 2. Tommy McLaughlin '01, 1,564 (missed senior year due to injury); 3. Tim Perry '85, 1,401; 4. E.J. Perry IV '17, 1,149 (played 7 games as a senior before reporting for BC football); 5. Greg Vetrano '06, 1,086; 6. Joe Bramanti '11, 1,084; 7. David Giribaldi '15, 1,072; 8. Eric Danis '95, 1,044; 9. Jack Barrett '04, 1,003 (scored additional 75 points as a freshman at Reading); 10. Kyle Rocker '20, 1,003

GIRLS: 1. Nicole Boudreau '12, 2,200; 2. Charlotte Muller '98, 1,616; 3. Jenny Muller '03, 1,498; 4. Natalie Gomez-Martinez '11, 1,412; 5. Devon Caveney '13, 1,205; 6. Alyssa Casey '17, 1,197; 7. Megan Thomann '08, 1,173; 8. Ashley McLaughlin '04, 1,150; 9. Gia Bramanti '19, 1,029

Stats compiled by Michael Muldoon

admiration for him."

Rocker has been red hot the winter, entering the week averaging a career-high 18.5 points per game with 26 3-pointers, both team-highs for the 8-5 Golden Warriors.

He has scored at least 10 points in all but two games this season and topped 15 points 12 times. He's scored more than 20 points five times. Hit biggest games have been a career-best 36-point explosion in a win over Chelmsford, 28 points against Division 1 North frontrunner Lawrence and 25 points against MVC Division 2 favorite Haverhill.

But scoring is nothing new for Rocker.

He averaged 17.6 points a game and hit 56 3-pointers, both team-highs, on his way to All-MVC honors last year as a junior. As a sophomore he averaged 14.7 points a game and hit 37 3-pointers. As a freshman he played in 10 games, including a 13-point night against Acton-Boxboro.

"I think shooting the ball is my greatest strength," said Rocker last year. "Pull-ups,



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover's Kyle Rocker drives to the hoop during a win over Methuen on Friday. Rocker topped 1,000 career points during the victory.



Courtesy photo

Kyle Rocker, middle (No. 5), celebrates with head coach Dave Fazio (holding the ball) and his team after topping 1,000 career points on Friday against Methuen.

floaters, 3-pointers. I'll also take it inside some, and I know how to find my teammates."

Scoring, like basketball, is in his blood.

Rocker's dad, Kazi Rocker, averaged 13.5 points as a senior for the Hillies in 1995.

His twin, Kwam Rocker, averaged 14.5 points a game.

"CONGRATULATIONS my son," Kazi posted on Kyle's Twitter page. "WE Did It... I'm #ProudOfYou on becoming the newest member of the 1,000 Point Club at Andover High School. ...

Great Accomplishment."

Fazio is also thankful for Rocker's work as a captain and leader.

"He's National Honor Society," said Fazio. "He's a hard worker. He listens, and he handles my wrath. He's very serious about his

academics and he's very serious about his athletics. But, in the locker room with his teammates, he's been known to cut a rug. I'm really proud of him."

Contact David Willis at @DWillisET or DWillis@eagletribune.com.

Ballou and Major lead wrestling to tourney win

WRESTLING

Due to an injuries, Andover's Sean Ballou and Brendan Major were both forced to bump up in weight classes. Both delivered with three pins as Andover captured the Duxbury Duals on Saturday, defeating Lowell 42-36 in the finals, to improve to 13-1 on the season.

Ballous bumped up from 170 to 195 and Major from 195 to 220. Brothers Kelvin Davila and Jonathan Davila each added three wins, while Miles Fraser, Connor Sheehan and AJ Heidtke had two wins each.

"I am very proud of them and could not be happier with their performance," said Andover coach Mike Bolduc. "I challenged them and they answered."

Sean Hellman won the 120-pound weight class with a pin at 4:57, and five other Andover athletes earned wins by forfeit as the Golden Warriors beat Dracut 36-28 last Wednesday.

GIRLS TRACK

Parrott takes second

Jodi Parrott placed second in the 55 hurdles (8.54), defeating the defending New England outdoor champion, at the MSTCA Coaches Invitational on Sunday. Molly Kiley was sixth in the mile (5:18.72) and Angela McNeeley was fifth in the high jump (5-0) for the Golden Warriors.

BOYS TRACK

Makiej shines

Michael Makiej continued to shine, taking third in the high jump with a 6-4

at the MSTCA Coaches Invitational on Sunday. Jack Drake was sixth in the same event with a jump of 6-2.

SWIMMING

Qian leads the way

William Qian won the 100 breaststroke (1:05.64) and Kenneth Siu took the 50 freestyle (1:54.12) to help Andover beat North Reading 94-58 last Monday. Adding wins for the Golden Warriors were Ryan Zhu (200 IM), David Blanch (diving), Adam Medjamia (100 butterfly) and Dylan Wang (500 freestyle).

Pat Currie won the 100 backstroke (1:00.05), Dennis Tang took the 50 freestyle (24.23), William Qian won the 100 butterfly (57.39) and they teamed with Adam Medjamia to win the 200 medley relay, but Andover lost to Chelmsford 99-87 on Friday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cammann on fire

Aidan Cammann tallied 17 points to help lead Andover to a 65-54 win over Haverhill last Tuesday. Kyle Rocker added a game-high 25 points for the winners.

"I thought my sophomore center (Cammann) played great," said Andover head coach Dave Fazio. "He was tough and aggressive in there and that's what we need."

Michael Slayton hit three 3-pointers on his way to 13 points as Andover beat Methuen 65-53 on Friday. Aidan Cammann scored a game-high 21 points and Kyle Rocker continued to roll with 18 points



Andover's Brendan Major, right, scored huge victories at a higher weight class over the weekend.
TIM JEAN/Staff photo

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Shaw, Hardock heat up

Tatum Shaw scored 18 points, including four 3-pointers, and Andover cruised past Haverhill 64-38 last Tuesday. Brooke Hardock added 13 points and Shea Krekorian scored 11 points for the winners.

Four Andover players scored in double-figures in a 61-29 win over Methuen on Friday. Brooke Hardock (11 points), Tatum Shaw (game-high 16 points), Anna Foley (10 points) and Amelia Hanscom (10 points) each had big days.

GYMNASTICS

Francis in third

Maddy Francis was second in the bars (8.8) and third in the all-around (33.6), but Andover fell to North Andover 138.15-135.5 on Friday. Paige Bukowski was second in the beam, Ksenia Kessler was third in the beam and Colleen Carzo was third in the vault and floor exercise for the Golden Warriors.

BOYS HOCKEY

Warriors fall short

Evan Arpin, Steve Ingram and Leo Byers

each scored a goal, but Andover lost to Cathedral 5-3 on Saturday.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Adams' efforts for naught

Despite a Lauren Adams goal, Andover lost to Beverly 3-1 last Monday. Lilian Jagger made 15 saves for the Golden Warriors.

Lauren Adams scored another goal, but Andover fell to Boston Latin 3-1 on Saturday.

Tong lead Warriors

Kenny Tong placed a team-best 15th overall (25.96) as Andover fell to North Andover (91-44) and Manchester Essex (75-60) on Thursday.

GIRLS SKIING

Andover splits

Andover rolled past Haverhill (130-5), but fell to Georgetown (75-60) last Wednesday.

Andover lost to Georgetown (84-51) and Masconomet (118-17) on Friday.

ANDOVER HIGH SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Boys Skiing
Andover at St. John's Prep, 3:30 p.m.

Boys Swimming
Andover at Haverhill, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Boys Skiing
Andover at Manchester, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Girls Basketball
Revere at Andover, 2 p.m.
Girls Ice Hockey
Methuen at Andover, 7:10 p.m.
Wrestling
Andover at Malden Catholic, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Girls Gymnastics
Andover at North Andover, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Skiing
Andover at Swampscott, 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Boys Basketball
Andover at North Andover, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball
North Andover at Andover, 7 p.m.
Boys Skiing
Andover at Austin Prep, 3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Boys Ice Hockey
St. John's Prep at Andover, 8 p.m.
Girls Ice Hockey
Billerica at Andover, 7:20 p.m.
Wrestling
Masconomet at Andover, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Girls Gymnastics
Central Catholic at Andover, 5:30 p.m.

Gov. Baker's budget increases local aid, school money

Boost expected for Andover, other Valley communities

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Staff Writer

Andover, other Massachusetts communities and their schools will see more money from the state under Gov. Charlie Baker's preliminary 2021 budget unveiled last week.

Baker's \$44.6 billion spending package boosts funding for cities and towns by \$31.6 million, to \$1.16 billion.

Meanwhile, it increases Chapter 70 funding for local schools by \$303.5 million, to nearly \$5.5 billion.

"This plan is fiscally responsible, protects taxpayers and makes key investments in education, our workforce, transportation and our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic," Baker told reporters in a briefing last Wednesday.

The spending plan, which requires the Legislature's approval, doesn't call for raising taxes. It boosts a "rainy day" reserve fund to more than \$4.3 billion.

Baker proposes increasing the per-ride assessment for Uber, Lyft and other such services from 20 cents to \$1 in the next fiscal year, generating an estimated \$120 million. The changes, which require legislative approval, would increase the state's share of the funds to 70%, carving out 30% of the revenue for cities and towns.

The services coordinated 81.3 million rides statewide in 2018, according to the Department of Public Utilities, generating more than \$16 million worth of fees.

Baker said the increase will raise more money for local governments from ride-hailing services he says contribute to traffic congestion and roadway degradation.

"You're talking about wear and tear on our roads and bridges that needs to be supported through some other mechanism," Baker told reporters.

The Baker administration also plans to earmark about \$73 million from the new fees to improve safety and

reliability on MBTA trains, buses and subway cars.

Public school districts will see \$355 million in new funding from the budget -- the first payment toward a \$1.5 billion, seven-year overhaul of the state's public education funding formula.

The Baker administration expects to lose \$95 million in the next fiscal year from decreased sales tax collections on vaping products as a result of his temporary ban and new regulations that outlawed sales of flavored vaping products.

The state will also get about \$96 million less from a scheduled drop in the personal income tax rate from 5.05% to 5%, Baker administration officials said.

Among other key points of Baker's budget proposal are

- \$8.4 million in funding to transform 15 vocational high schools into "career technical institutes" that will train 20,000 workers over the next four years

- \$55.1 million increase in funding for the Department of Early Education and Care, for a total of \$761.9 million

- \$135 million in new funding for the MBTA to improve service and reliability

- \$74.8 million to expand MassHealth substance treatment services for individuals with addictions

- \$40 million increase to the state Department of Transportation's budget for roadway ice and snow removal

The budget for the fiscal year that begins in July represents a 2.8% increase over this year's spending, administration officials said.

Reaction to the preliminary spending package was mixed.

Marie-Frances Rivera, president of the nonpartisan Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, praised Baker's proposals to boost education and transportation funding, but suggested the budget lacks new revenue sources to pay for the initiatives.

"The key to sustaining

these promises is new, progressive revenue," she said in a statement. "As revenue growth continues to slow, it's hard to tell how the governor's proposed investments will be sustained over the long-term."

The Fund Our Future campaign, a group representing parents, students and educators, praised the governor's spending proposals for public schools but criticized his plans for state-run universities and community colleges, calling the funding levels inadequate.

"The marginal campus budget increases and minuscule new college affordability initiatives he proposes fall far short of the major investments needed to remedy our state's public higher education funding crisis," the group said in a statement.

Unlike the past several budget cycles, some economists are warning that the state could face a revenue shortfall in the next year.

The pro-business Massachusetts Taxpayer's Foundation has predicted a \$880 million gap between projected revenues and expenses next fiscal year, driven mostly by a slowdown in overall tax revenue growth. The group suggested that lawmakers may have to consider "tax increases or spending cuts" to balance the state's annual operating budget.



Gov. Charlie Baker

FILE PHOTO

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Plenty of sun	Partly sunny	Rain and snow	Snow or flurries	Mostly sunny	Cloudy	Wintry mix
High: 34° Low: 20°	High: 42° Low: 24°	High: 40° Low: 29°	High: 43° Low: 30°	High: 48° Low: 31°	High: 51° Low: 39°	High: 52° Low: 25°

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