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OUR 131<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

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Valerie Armano, 9, of Andover in front of Carnegie Hall in New York City, where she has performed.

## A star in our midst? Local girl, 9, is award-winning piano player

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

Valerie Armano is on her way to becoming a musical star — if she's not there already.

The 9-year-old Bancroft School student received first place for her piano-playing in the Crescendo International Music Competition this year. The Crescendo organization selects outstanding young musicians from across the country and

rewards their dedication to their craft.

Because of her exceptional ability, Valerie has already played at Carnegie Hall in New York City both this year and last year.

Valerie is the daughter of Larysa and Joseph Armano. Her musical journey began four years ago, when, at the age of 5, she began playing and practicing piano.

A popular Mozart solo piano piece called "Für Elise" leads the list of her

favorite songs to play. She also likes to play sonatas, which are brief and technically simple.

When asked about what keeps her motivated to play the piano, Valerie said, "Mom and dad — just kidding. Music is beautiful."

Valerie practices playing the piano every day and likes the crescendo approach to learning how to play.

"Crescendo is an

instruction to increase the volume in a part of the song, sort of like typing and increasing the font size as you type," she said. "A decrescendo is the opposite, where volume decreases. I think it's soothing to hear."

It's not just about the black and white keys for this gifted musician.

"I love reading. Mom calls me her book worm," Valerie said, "and I love my friends and cousins and, of course, TV."

## The march toward election day

### Candidates make final push in Andover races

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

With Andover's town election less than two weeks away, the field of candidates has narrowed and those who remain are working hard on the campaign trail.

Two incumbents — School Committee Chair Joel Blumstein and Punchard Free School Trustee Cynthia Milne — have decided not to seek re-election.

This leaves two contested races. Two people — incumbent Laura Gregory and Stephen Prochniak — are running for one seat on the Select Board. Three people — Shishan Wang, Lauren Conoscenti and Amy Hafensteiner — are vying for one spot on the School Committee.

With Milne out of the race for trustee of the Punchard Free School, Paul MacKay and Donald Schroeder are running for two open seats on that board.

With the campaign winding down toward election day — Tuesday, March 24 — candidates are making their final pitches to voters.

"We are certainly doing the traditional Saturday morning sign-holding," said Gregory, explaining that her supporters have been holding campaign signs outside the Old Town Hall and the library.

Gregory, a 52-year-old attorney who works for the Boston law firm Sloane & Walsh, is opposed by Prochniak, a 21-year-old student at UMass Boston studying politics who is also a member of the National Guard. Gregory said her opponent lacks the experience needed to serve on the Select Board. "He is very enthusiastic and I think would be a great addition to many things in town," she said of Prochniak. "I am just concerned he doesn't have the experience to be on the Select Board at this time, and he is also a college student in Boston and he has a worse commute than I do."

Prochniak said he decided to run when two area residents approached him to tell him that Gregory was running unopposed. His motivation to help the community, he said, originated from his days volunteering at a shelter following the Merrimack Valley gas crisis in 2018.

To those who question his inexperience, Prochniak said, "That's a fair thought. People have a right to question the candidates running for office. I am not just your average 21-year-old. At the risk of sounding egotistical, I joined the army when I was 17. I know what it's like to have real responsibility and I hope that they would trust in me because of that."

In the School Committee See **ELECTION**, Page 2

## Committee turns to state for high school funds

### Town makes 8th attempt for assistance with new facility

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

The School Committee is moving forward with its plan to renovate or entirely replace Andover High School by seeking funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the eighth time.

At the March 5 School Committee meeting, Mark Johnson, chair of the Andover High School Feasibility Study Committee, suggested submitting another statement of interest to the MSBA for funding.

The MSBA has rejected the town's last seven such See **FUNDS**, Page 2

## On to the championship game!



CARL RUSSO/staff photo

The Andover High girls basketball team won a spot in the Division 1 state title game Tuesday night. The Warriors beat Bridgewater-Raynham 52-44 in the Division 1 semifinal game at the TD Garden in Boston. Here, Andover players celebrate after the game. The Warriors will play Franklin High in the championship game Saturday at the DCU Center in Worcester. See complete coverage of Tuesday's semifinal victory at eagletribune.com.

## After much debate, 5G coming to Andover

### Selectmen approve first equipment for new technology in town

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

The latest generation of wireless cellular technology, known as 5G, is coming to Andover.

After several meetings and much debate, the Select Board on Monday night decided to allow AT&T to install the first 5G device in town. It will be placed on a utility pole outside the IRS building on Lowell Street.

The installation of the device has raised concern among the Select Board and the public because the 5G antenna gives off radiation.

Initially, AT&T attorney Michael Dolan of the firm Brown Rudnick, who has been representing the company at Select Board meetings, argued the device is compliant with the Federal Communication Commission's allowable limits for radiation emissions simply because of its small size and distance off the ground.

"At 25 feet (off the ground), it's less than 1 percent of the

See **5G**, Page 2



Courtesy photo

AT&T's 5G device in Andover will look similar to the one on this pole in Chatham. On top of the pole is the antenna. A utility box is attached partway down the pole.

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# State ramping up response to COVID-19

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Staff Writer

The state is ramping up its response to the coronavirus as the number of confirmed cases of the deadly new contagion continues to rise around the world.

Gov. Charlie Baker said the state has taken a number of steps that include setting up a self-quarantine process; messaging about the virus on public transit; providing guidance to local health boards, schools and hospitals; and getting approval for testing kits to expedite the diagnosis of potentially infected individuals.

Baker acknowledged that news about the spread of the virus has many people worried, but he said the risk in Massachusetts remains low. He urged people to take precautions such as washing their hands, sanitizing surfaces, avoiding contact with sick

people and self-quarantining if they believe they might be infected.

"I want everyone to know that we are doing everything we can to protect the people of the commonwealth," Baker said. "But I also want people to know that they can prevent against the spread of the disease themselves. Use common sense, practice good personal hygiene, and if you are sick, stay home."

Baker said his administration is recommending that high schools, colleges and universities cancel upcoming international trips to prevent the spread of the virus.

"Taking this precaution will help protect the students and the commonwealth, as we are home to such a large number of colleges and universities," he said.

Steve Poftak, general manager of the MBTA, said the transit agency plans to begin cleaning and disinfection of

contact areas such as handrails, seats and fare collection equipment on buses, subway cars and trains daily. He said the plan also calls for installing hand sanitizers at MBTA stations.

Poftak said the commuter rail, which is operated by Keolis Commuter Services, has already been cleaning and disinfecting its train cars.

Massport CEO Lisa Wieland said Logan Airport is screening passengers, informing travelers about personal hygiene and has added sanitizer stations in the airport.

Lawmakers have heard testimony from state health officials and experts on infectious diseases as part of a legislative oversight hearing.

The new virus, first identified in Wuhan, China, has infected about 91,000 people and caused more than 3,100 deaths — mostly in China — as of Wednesday, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention.

Cases of the virus, which leads to a disease called COVID-19, have been confirmed in more than 60 countries.

In the U.S. there have been 91 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, most of them in Washington state, according to the federal agency.

Massachusetts has confirmed at least one case of the illness: a 20-year-old student at the University of Massachusetts Boston who had traveled to Wuhan, China. He is recovering. Another woman in her 20s from Norfolk County tested "presumptive positive" for the virus after returning from a school trip to Italy, officials said.

The state is awaiting confirmation from the CDC to determine if the woman has COVID-19. Both people sought medical care after their return to the state, officials said.

Two other cases of the virus

have been confirmed in New Hampshire, both in Grafton County.

In Massachusetts, more than 700 people have self-quarantined in recent weeks because of possible exposure to the coronavirus, according to the Department of Public Health. Most had recently traveled to China or Italy.

Of those, about 470 people have been cleared and are no longer quarantined, according to health officials.

Baker said he has met with representatives from local health boards, hospitals, first responders and others to discuss the state's preparedness to respond to the illness.

He noted that a supplemental budget he signed last week includes \$95,000 for staffing and supplies at the state's testing lab to process coronavirus tests.

The family of coronaviruses includes infections that cause the common cold but have

evolved into more severe illnesses, health officials say.

Initial symptoms of the new coronavirus include fever, cough, tightness of the chest and shortness of breath.

Currently, there is no vaccine to ward off infection and no specific treatment for those who get sick, aside from managing their symptoms, health officials said.

Human trials of a potential vaccine for COVID-19 are expected to start soon, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Congress recently.

Sen. Ed Markey has filed legislation that would require the federal government to spend \$1 billion over the next three years to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel said Wednesday that a coronavirus vaccine could be a long time away from being readily available for the public.

## Airports take steps to prevent the spread of coronavirus

By MADELINE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

With the spread of coronavirus, travelers are approaching local airports with increased trepidation.

But for the staff at these travel hubs, with a few precautions, it's mostly business as usual.

The new coronavirus, formally known as COVID-19, has spread to more than 60 countries since originating in China. It's infected more than 90,000 people as of Tuesday, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). According to WHO, the virus is harder to spread than flu but causes more severe illness. Right now there are no vaccines to prevent it.

Health officials in communities across the country and the globe are working to contain the respiratory illness at the direction of the WHO.

Coronavirus is spread through person-to-person contact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It can be spread

through close proximity — within six feet — to people who are sick, through sneezing and coughing, according to the CDC.

However, officials are optimistic about containing the spread of the virus here and globally.

"It can be contained — which is why we must do everything we can to contain it," said WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom.

Flights from Boston Logan International Airport to mainland China have been canceled, and other international routes have been disrupted as the virus spreads.

At Boston Logan International Airport, Cathay Pacific has also limited flights to Hong Kong, according to Samantha Decker, spokeswoman for Massachusetts Port Authority.

At the airport "Massport staff have been in regular contact with city, state, and federal public health officials. We are cooperating fully with those partners, including the CDC, and are prepared to provide additional support

as necessary," according to a Massport statement.

The United States has issued warnings to several international locations because of coronavirus, with advice ranging from using caution to avoiding nonessential travel, according to the CDC's website.

The CDC advises Americans not to visit China, Iran, Italy or South Korea because of widespread transmission. Foreign internationals from China and Iran are also not being allowed into the United States.

The CDC recommends that older adults or those who have chronic medical conditions consider postponing travel to Japan, which has ongoing community transmission. The CDC also urges travelers to Hong Kong to use caution, but there is only limited community transmission at this time, according to the CDC.

According to Massport, public health officials continue to say that the risk of coronavirus in Boston is very low. Still, Logan is taking precautions at the airport to prevent the spread of the disease here.

"We have been following proper cleaning and disinfecting protocols in our public facilities, installed additional hand sanitizer dispensers at key locations and recorded a new public service announcement to remind passengers and employees to use good health practices such as washing hands regularly, and covering coughs and sneezes," according to a statement.

Up north at Manchester-Boston Regional airport, there are no international flights. The airport's website doesn't advise of any disruptions, and there are no statements about coronavirus.

As the virus changes and more people get it, local travel agent Jo Toscano said, it's important people check in with the companies providing services like airlines and tours for the latest updates.

"The (traveler) should be in contact with everyone they are traveling with," she said. "It's very complicated and every company is different. Every case is different be it an airline ticket or tour."

## School cleaning emerges as issue while virus spreads

By KATIE LANNAN  
Statehouse News Service

While Massachusetts school districts take steps aimed at preventing the spread of the new coronavirus, a lawmaker on the House budget-writing committee is suggesting the possibility of the state stepping in to support those efforts.

During a hearing on the education components of Gov. Charlie Baker's \$44.6 billion fiscal 2021 budget, House Ways and Means Committee member Rep. Thomas Stanley, D-Waltham, asked state education officials if they anticipate a need for any additional funding associated with the respiratory illness known as COVID-19, or if the costs for schools to respond would "fall on the backs of the districts."

"I'm just thinking there may be a need to hire

more people for cleaning, and down the road, depending on how bad this gets, how many school districts are prepared to have the kids learn from home for a period of time, things like that," the Waltham Democrat said during the hearing at the Malden senior center.

As of late last week, there had been eight cases of the coronavirus in Massachusetts — one confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and seven others identified as "presumptive positive" cases while state officials await results from the CDC.

Earlier last week, Baker urged high schools and colleges to cancel any scheduled international trips in light of the global outbreak. Tens of thousands of COVID-19 cases have been confirmed internationally.

## Candidates forum is March 19 Voters can observe live question-and-answer session

The Andover Townsman and the Service Club of Andover will co-host a candidates forum on Thursday, March 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Andover Safety Center, 32 N. Main St.

This event is open to the

public. The forum will allow voters to hear the candidates answer questions in advance of the March 24 town elections.

The forum will be moderated by Brad Heim of the

Service Club.

Candidates are running for one available seat each on the Select Board, School Committee and Housing Authority. There are two available seats on the Punchard Free School Board of Trustees.

The Service Club plans to have the forum broadcast live by Andover TV on the public access channel Comcast 8, Verizon 47, as well as live streamed at andovertv.org/livestreams. It will also be recorded for later viewing on VOD (video on demand) that can be found at andovertv.org.

## ELECTION

■ Continued from Page 1

race, Hafensteiner, a mother of three children under the age of 7, said she hopes to bring her experience as a high-level recruiter to the School Committee. Hafensteiner moved to Andover in 2010 in part, she said, because of the school system.

"I am just very invested in the success of our public schools," she said.

"I felt like there was a gap in knowledge and perspective" on the School Committee, she said. "It's handy to have lawyers and analysts on the School Committee, but I feel ... my expertise wasn't there and I wanted

to help."

Another School Committee candidate who wants to bring her professional skills to the committee is Lauren Conoscenti, an assistant director at Tufts Office of Institutional Research who has a doctorate in psychology from Harvard University.

"I am a data scientist and one of the things I am excited to have the chance to do is use my data visualization skills to create a public facing interactive dashboard with budget information that can help us better understand what our budget is, how we have been spending money, how we compare to other districts and how we compare over time," Conoscenti said.

Another person in the race, Shishan Wang who has a doctorate degree in food science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said he'd like to bring his skills as a research scientist to the School Committee. He said he wants to improve science and math curriculum in Andover's elementary schools.

"I want to my skills to advance our public schools and give back to the community," Wang said. "I have been here for 12 years and my kids have been from K (kindergarten) to 12 and I know there are some pros and cons to the public schools."

Polls will be open March 24 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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## FUNDS

■ Continued from Page 1

requests.

If this new request doesn't pan out, Johnson said the committee should seek funding from taxpayers at a Special Town Meeting next January to cover the cost of a feasibility study and schematic design.

School Committee Chair Joel Blumstein said the high school needs to be replaced or renovated largely because it's overcrowded.

"[There are] 1,800 students in a building that should have only about 1,400," he said.

Also, Blumstein said there is "no insulation and [it's] very cold in the winter months and very warm in the hotter months."

In addition, Johnson mentioned adding a pool to the high school.

The overall project is estimated to cost as much as \$40 million dollars.

Blumstein said that the MSBA has been shooting down the committee's

requests for funding because of the way the group calculates utilization and overcrowding at schools. The Andover High School Feasibility Study Committee found the school to be at 120 percent capacity, while the MSBA says the schools is really at 83 percent.

In addition, Blumstein said West Elementary School is receiving funding from the organization and because of that, the MSBA doesn't want to send more money Andover schools.

And even though the

probability of receiving funding from the MSBA is low, the committee has decided to persist nonetheless.

"Even if we have a 2, 3, or 4% chance of being accepted, it may be worth putting it in and at the same time really going out in the community starting to prepare for a Town Meeting vote either for a town-funded project or an MSBA project," said Johnson.

The School Committee approved Johnson's request to submit another statement of interest to the MSBA.

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## 5G

■ Continued from Page 1

FCC allowable (emissions) limit," Dolan said in a prior meeting.

In earlier meetings, Dolan also rejected the board's request for AT&T to pay for independent, third-party testing of the device, which needs to be re-certified on an annual basis with the town. Dolan said if the town wanted to do this testing, Andover would have to pay for it.

"We have an obligation to comply with the FCC guidelines as far as emissions,"

said Dolan at a prior meeting. "We will comply and it is our position with thousands of these (devices) across the country, that if the town or city would like to perform its own peer review of our results or do independent testing, that is of course, welcomed, but that is not a charge that we feel is appropriate for us to pay."

At Monday night's meeting, however, Dolan and town Attorney Thomas Urbelis appeared to come to a consensus. During the meeting, Urbelis read a motion drafted between the attorneys. The motion would allow AT&T to install the 5G device in

Andover as long as each year during the re-certification process, AT&T signs a document "under the pains and penalties of perjury" that states the device remains in compliance with all FCC regulations, including those for radiation emissions.

"I am confident that the conversations with the board have resulted in a process that will be safe for residents while providing better cell service," said Select Board member Dan Koh.

A spokesperson for AT&T said the company are unsure of when exactly the device is going to be installed in town.



# Andover equestrian gallops to top spot of local non-profit

BY SEAN MURPHY  
Staff Writer

An Andover woman has been chosen to head up a long-time therapeutic riding center in North Andover. Windrush Farm has chosen Lucy Vaill as the new board president to replace Boxford resident Bob Gore, according to leaders of



Lucy Vaill of Andover

the farm. "I am honored and excited to have been given this opportunity," said Vaill. "Windrush has a very talented team and I look forward to working with them in the years ahead."

Since 1964, Windrush Farm has been a leading center for therapeutic riding and horse-related activities for children and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional challenges.

Vaill, who lives in Andover with her husband, Tim, has been a Windrush board member and volunteer for

years. She is a longtime equestrian.

"We are fortunate to have (Lucy) as our new president," said Janet Nittmann, chief executive officer of the riding center, "as Windrush continues to expand its programs and services."

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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 *Townsmen*:

**100 years ago — March 19, 1920**  
The American Woolen Company, the Lawrence Pump and Engine company, the Smith and Dover Manufacturing Company and the M.T. Stevens and Sons company are named among the 300 New England manufacturing concerns which were presented certificates of honor, recently awarded by the war department. Each certificate was accompanied by a brief citation noting the service rendered in furnishing

supplies for the successful prosecution of the World War.

The town of Andover is probably going to begin its construction work on main roads within the next few weeks. The general impression is that Main Street is to receive consideration as the chief highway of the town. Beginning at the top of Andover Hill, undoubtedly, we are to have the same type of construction carried on as that which has been followed on the state highway that ends at the junction of Hidden Road.

The *Townsmen* features an advertisement for "Birth of a Nation" playing at the Colonial Theatre, Monday and Tuesday March 22 and 23.

**75 years ago — March 15, 1945**  
A Town Meeting that

definitely did exercise its own mind on Monday night added a new public service in the form of garbage collection, laid the foundation for a long-range sewer and water pre-tentary program, and expanded its recreational program. At the time, it killed the move to appropriate any sum of money for observing the town's Tercentenary 1945.

Andover casualties are mounting. The first local man to pay the supreme sacrifice over Japan, is Second Lieut. Robert W. Haigh, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Haigh of Washington avenue. Lt. John Walter Reading of 303 Andover St. was killed on Feb. 26 in France. Word was received by the parents of Pfc. John W. Neil of 23 Balmoral St. that their son

is reported missing in action in Germany since Feb. 23.

As a result of the action taken at Town Meeting to increase the appropriation of the local Fire Department, Fire Chief C. Edward Buchan has announced that he will appoint four new regular men to the Fire Department for duty at the Central fire station.

**50 years ago — March 19, 1970**

North Andover may be purchasing water from Andover after the town completes construction of a water treatment plant. The town manager was given authorization to proceed with the filing of requests for federal assistance for the proposed \$4,000,000 water treatment plant Monday night by the board. The plant, needed by the town by

1972, would take water from the Merrimack River, treat it, then place it in Haggett's Pond, Andover's main reservoir.

Joshua L. Miner, III, Frederick A. Stott, and John Richards, II, of Phillips Academy, are Andover area captains working on the Appalachian Mountain Club general campaign to complete its \$1,250,000 Hut Development program.

**25 years ago — March 23, 1995**

Dressed in a work apron splattered with paint from the day's projects, Andover High School art teacher Dolores Dunning is easygoing and pleasant as she speaks to her fifth-period ceramics class. Personable and well-spoken, she exudes a vigor that belies her 53 years, and she is well-liked by her students. Ms.

Dunning is also a minority, a member of the Aleut tribe. Offended by the practices of some students, such as the use of feathers during school spirit and sporting events, she favors a change from the school's Warrior logo. But she would like to see the students, school council, faculty and School Committee work together toward a solution.

The Massachusetts Highway Department has approved preliminary plans to reduce Route 28 from four lanes to two lanes in from of the Phillips Academy campus. It is slated to become a two lane highway from the North Reading town line to downtown Andover, said Chrysa Meyers, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Highway Department.

# West Middle School students get a nose for news

SPECIAL TO THE TOWNSMAN

Sixth-grade students at West Middle School talked about the makings of a news story on a recent Wednesday morning with David Joyner, executive editor of the North of Boston Media Group, whose newspapers include the *Andover Townsman*.

Each Wednesday morning 30 sixth-graders gather in the school cafeteria to take part in a time-honored morning activity — eating breakfast and reading the newspaper.

All are members of the current events flex class, a non-graded course that supports academic goals and skills,



Courtesy photo

Sixth-grade students in Tara Brink and Emily Thompson's current events flex class at West Middle School gather for a photo with David Joyner, executive editor of the North of Boston Media Group, which publishes the *Andover Townsman*, after a discussion about what makes stories newsworthy.

which is co-taught by math teacher Tara Brink and social studies teacher Emily Thompson.

Working in groups, the students select a story from the *Townsmen* then read it thoroughly, discuss to it, present a summary to the entire group and take questions. Students work on many skills during the class — civic engagement, non-fiction reading, identifying core ideas, group cooperation and planning,

and public speaking.

They also enjoy a second breakfast from the cafeteria.

On Feb. 12, Joyner visited the class to talk about how to identify whether a story is newsworthy, and how journalists determine what to cover and what not to cover.

The *Andover Townsman* provides the newspapers as part of its Newspapers in Education program. Once the students are finished reading and discussing the newspapers, the faculty takes copies.

# Police: Andover couple victims of landscaper charged with witness intimidation, forgery

BY PAUL TENNANT  
Staff Writer

A landscaper who accused a local couple of failing to pay him for his services used a forged court document to threaten them with a small claims action, police said.

Ralph Hancock, 57, of 39 Muriel Court, Bradford, was arrested the night of Feb. 26 and charged with forgery of a document, uttering a false instrument and witness intimidation. "None of it is true," Hancock said of the charges against him. He said he is confident that he will be exonerated.

Deirdre Pizzarella, of 354 River Road, said she and her husband, Juan Morales, moved into their home last summer, according to a report filed by Officer Daniel Devine. The sellers recommended that they hire Hancock Landscaping to continue doing the yard work.

Hancock said he took care of the property for 10 years.

Pizzarella told police she and her husband hired Hancock to mow their lawn

in September, but they were not satisfied with his work, according to the report. Pizzarella said she paid Hancock but declined further services from him.

Hancock, however, insisted the couple owed him \$80, the report states. Pizzarella said that when she returned to her home for lunch Feb. 26, she found an envelope in her mailbox that was inscribed with "served 2/25/20 Constable N (illegible)."

Inside the envelope was a blue Statement of Small Claims and Notice of Trial form which listed Ralph Hancock through Hancock Landscaping as the plaintiff and Morales as the defendant. The form claimed Morales owed Hancock \$100. The form appeared to be signed by Keith McDonough, a clerk magistrate at Lawrence District Court, according to the report.

Police Lt. Chad Cooper consulted Patrick Goff, who is also a clerk magistrate at the court. Goff said that in the place where McDonough's name was written, there should have been a stamp with Judge

Rooney's signature, police said.

"After examining this form, it appeared that the entire form was filled out by Ralph Hancock as an attempt to intimidate Mr. Morales and Ms. Pizzarella to pay the fees that he claimed they owed," the police report said. "It was apparent that this form was passed on to Ms. Pizzarella and Mr. Morales as a court document that had been filed with the court when it actually hadn't been."

During Hancock's interview with police, he said he had been the landscaper for the previous owners of 354 River Road "for years." He said he had issued six invoices to Morales and Pizzarella for work he had done without any response, according to the report.

Hancock pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in Lawrence District Court on Feb. 27. Judge Michael Brooks continued the case until April 30 and ordered that the matter be transferred to another court.

The judge released Hancock on his own recognizance.

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OBITUARIES

Mrs. Jacquelyn Ann "Jackie" (White) Starks, 85 Years

March 31, 1934 - February 21, 2020

Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother

ANDOVER — Mrs. Jacquelyn Ann "Jackie" (White) Starks, of Andover, and beloved wife of the late Merton Starks, passed away in Hospice with family by her side on Friday, February 21, 2020. She was 85 years old. Jackie was the longtime companion of Henry Lester Hilton of Andover, who passed away in 2001.



Mrs. Jacquelyn A. "Jackie" Starks

Born in Saugus, Massachusetts, on March 31, 1934, she was the beloved daughter of the late George and Mary (Cook) White. Jackie had many hobbies including knitting, crochet and sewing, cooking, gardening and taking care of friends and neighbors. She loved animals and was a long term employee of Demoulas Supermarket in Andover. Above all, Jackie loved spending time with her large extended family and her many friends in the Andover area.

Jackie is survived by her sister: Mary White of Lynn. She is also survived by her six children, 14 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren: Keith Starks and wife Laurel of Humarock, Mass.; granddaughter Lyndsey Starks of Somerville and grandson Tyler Starks of Roanoke, Va.; Waneta Shotter and her husband Jack of North Andover; grandson Jonah Shotter of Colorado; granddaughter Michael Pellenz and her husband Jeff of North Andover; great-grandchildren Dylan, Asher, and Willow; granddaughter Cody O'Connor and her husband Robbie of Methuen; great-grandson Greyson; grandson Noah Shotter of Andover. George Starks and his wife Nancy of Valley

Lee, Md.; granddaughter Katie Hostetler and her husband Jason of Valley Lee, Md.; great-grandchildren Cole and Kylie; grandson Randy Mattingly of Gloucester, Va.; great-granddaughter Kirsten; Ruth Starks of Andover; granddaughter Erin and her husband Jerome of Exeter, N.H.; great-grandson Jerome; granddaughter Kerry Kennedy and her husband Stewart of Marblehead; great-grandchildren Declan and Lucy. Philip Starks and his wife Caroline Blackie of North Andover; grandsons William and Matthew, Penny Starks and her partner Ed Gaines of North Andover; grandsons Finn and Oliver. She was also the sister of the late Bill White of Lynn and Margaret White of Nahant and loving niece of William and Rose White of Nahant.

A private family service was held in her honor at the Burke Magliozzi Funeral Home of Andover. For additional information, please visit www.burkemagliozzi.com.

Elizabeth A. Marciano

November 23, 1932 - February 29, 2020

WOODSTOCK — Elizabeth Ann (LaFlame) Marciano, of Woodstock, Vt., formerly of Lecanto, FL, Standish, Maine, and Andover, Mass., passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 29, 2020.



Born in Athol, Massachusetts on November 23, 1932, to James Henry Carl LaFlame and Sadie Ruany (Goodwin) LaFlame, Betty graduated from Leominster High School in 1950 and State Teachers College at Fitchburg in 1954, and began her teaching career in Newton, Mass.

In 1959 she married Richard "Dick" Marciano, and that same year they also welcomed the arrival of the first of their five children and built a home in west Andover, Massachusetts, where they were founding members of St. Robert's Bellarmine Parish, a faith community that would be one of the pillars of their lives throughout their years in Andover.

In 1970, after taking ten years off from teaching to concentrate on motherhood and family life, Betty began what would turn into 26 years of teaching at Sanborn Elementary School, mostly second grade, the deep bonds that she formed with her colleagues there becoming another pillar of the family's life in town.

In the late 1970s, Betty and Dick became involved in Marriage Encounter and then Engaged Encounter, giving weekend retreats to reinforce

the communication skills that form the basis of healthy marriages, which they would for more than twenty years.

After retirement in 1997, they spent the summers at their home in Standish, Maine, and winters in Lecanto, Florida.

As she began to slow physically, she decided to move back north so as not to burden her Florida friends. Her eldest daughter Robyn and her husband Karl welcomed her into their home in Woodstock, Vt.

She was predeceased by her husband and is survived by her brother H. James LaFlame (Swansea, Mass.), five children and their spouses, Robyn and Karl Huck (Woodstock), Richard and Nancy Marciano (Buxton, Maine), Jay and Liane Marciano (Amherst, N.H. and Bonn, Germany), John and Allison Marciano (Andover), and Elizabeth and Jonathan Ross (Standish, Maine), as well as eleven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many loving friends and relatives.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, 14 March 2020, at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont, with a reception immediately following in the church's fellowship hall.

The Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock is assisting in arrangements. An on line guest book can be found at cabotfh.com

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

Helen A Best, 93

January 22, 1927 - March 1, 2020

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA — Helen Best, 93, passed away on March 1, 2020, after a brief illness. Helen was born to John and Sarah Schneider in Seattle and raised in Suquamish, Wash. After graduating from Seattle University, Helen taught chemistry and physics to the children of American servicemen in Japan where she met George Best, a USAF pilot. They were married in 1955 and raised their eight children at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.



Helen had many talents and hobbies, including sewing, baking, and community service, especially to support her Catholic parishes. She taught CCD, conscripted her sons to altar service, and volunteered at a nursing home for aging nuns. At night she would sew for hours making clothes for her five daughters and three sons.

From September to May Helen served as a house counselor, nurturing young women through adolescence as if they were her own. Every summer Helen returned home to the Pacific Northwest to visit friends and relatives, and serve as helmsperson, gal-

ley chef, and deckhand on the family's salmon troller. When she was not at sea, Helen and her family picked native northwest blackberries or dug for razor clams on Grays Harbor beaches.

Helen had an unusually pleasant personality. She was warm, friendly, understanding, independent, and wise. She lived a wonderfully full life and was loved by all.

Survivors are her husband, George Best; children Sarah (Kevin) Darmofal, Mary (Phil) Russell, William (Marina) Best, Anne (Paul) Penberthy, Margaret (Don) Worden, Catherine (Stephen) Slack, John (Michele) Best; and grandchildren Caitrin Slack, Tom (Sarah) Darmofal, Patrick Slack, Sean Penberthy, Sarah (Matthew) Morris, Joseph Russell, Robert Best, Rachael Worden, Conor Slack, Maggie Slack, and Claire Best.

She was preceded in death by her son, Robert; brothers John, Richard, Robert; and sister Mary Anne.

A Mass for Helen will be held at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church on Friday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m.

POLICE LOG

The following items were taken from logs on file at the Andover Police Department:

MONDAY, MARCH 2

**Motor vehicle theft:** Frontage Road, 2:24 a.m.  
**Vandalism:** Shawsheen Road, 10:56 a.m.  
**Citation issued:** For speeding, Chandler Road, 11:55 a.m.  
**Facebook scam reported:** Main Street, 4:10 p.m.  
**Citation issued:** Inspection violation, North Main Street, 8:10 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

**Citation issued:** No registration in possession, North Main Street, 6:14 a.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, High Plain Road, 7:43 a.m.  
**Attempted breaking and entry:** Raagini Indian Bistro, 209 North Main St., 11:12 a.m.  
**Unwanted person removed:** North Main Street, 11:29 a.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, Main Street, 2:32 p.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, North Main Street, 4:22 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

**Woman threatened with knife:** Stevens Street, 9:31 a.m.  
**Vandalism:** Shawsheen Road, 9:55 a.m.  
**Citation issued:** For speeding, Dascomb Road, 11:50 a.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, Shawsheen Road, 1:32 p.m.  
**Citation issued:** For following too closely, Dascomb Road, 1:35 p.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** With injury, Harold Parker Road, 6:16 p.m.  
**Driver's license stolen from locker room:** Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., 7:03 p.m.  
**Car strikes utility pole:** One person injured, 7:25 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**Hit-and-run crash:** Brickstone Square, 8:58 a.m.  
**Two-car crash:** No injuries, 11:13 a.m.  
**Hit-and-run crash:** Walnut Avenue, 2:13 p.m.  
**Hit-and-run crash:** North

Main Street, 3:46 p.m.  
**Two-vehicle crash:** Possible injury, River Road, 10:53 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, River Street, 6:36 a.m.  
**Illegal dumping:** North Main Street, 10:21 a.m.  
**Citation issued:** Parking in the wrong direction, Memorial Circle, 2:14 p.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, South Main Street, 4:41 p.m.  
**Sewage backup in basement:** Essex Street, Water Department notified, 5:15 p.m.  
**Hit-and-run crash:** North Main Street, 7:06 p.m.  
**Criminal complaint sought:** For driving after license suspension, failure to use car when starting, North Main Street, 9:52 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, Main Street, 11:26 a.m.  
**Citation issued:** For expired inspection sticker, South Main Street, 11:40 a.m.  
**Motor vehicle crash:** No injuries, Union Street, 12:09 p.m.  
**Stolen motor vehicle recovered:** North Main Street, 12:49 p.m.  
**FedEx truck knocks down utility pole:** No injuries, Charlotte Drive, 1:03 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

**Electrical box vandalized:** Phillips Academy, South Main Street, 10:08 a.m.  
**Citation issued:** For right on red, seat belt violations, North Main Street, 4:08 p.m.  
**Citation issued:** For speeding, North Main Street, 5:07 p.m.  
**Citation issued:** For blocking a fire hydrant, Main Street, 6 p.m.  
**Citation issued:** For failure to wear a seat belt, North Main Street, 7:19 p.m.  
**Resident finds ammunition:** Was discovered in home, given to police, Maple Avenue, 7:28 p.m.  
**Two-vehicle crash:** Driver bleeding from hand and transported to Lawrence General Hospital, both vehicles towed, North Main Street, 8:17 p.m.

Head-on crash injures three people

Elderly woman seriously hurt

By PAUL TENNANT  
Staff Writer

Three people suffered injuries in a head-on collision on Route 125 near Route 28 in

Andover shortly before 4 p.m. Friday of last week.

An 87-year-old woman suffered serious injuries, according to fire Deputy Chief Al DelDotto. All three

victims were transported to Lawrence General Hospital. Two Andover ambulances, as well as a third from the North Reading Fire Department, transported the victims.

The other two victims were males, one of whom is 16 years old, the deputy chief

said. Engines 1 and 2 and Ladder 1 went to the accident, which was reported at 3:49 p.m. Andover and state police investigated the crash and directed traffic.

The scene was cleared by 4:30 p.m., officials said.

One person injured in single-car crash

By PAUL TENNANT  
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — One person was taken to Lawrence

General Hospital for treatment of minor injuries after a car ended up on its side near Harold Parker State Forest on Wednesday evening of

last week, police said. Another occupant of the vehicle declined medical treatment, police said. The accident happened around

6:20 p.m. at Harold Parker and Jenkins roads. Engines 1 and 2, Ladder 1 and the ambulance responded.



TERRY DATE/Staff photo

Customers flock to the Global gas station on Route 114 on Monday afternoon to buy unleaded regular gas for \$1.99 per gallon.

Drivers take advantage of low gas prices  
Flock to local station as price drops below \$2 per gallon

By TERRY DATE  
Staff Writer

Rattled oil markets sent regular gasoline prices tumbling to under \$2 Monday at a few local gas stations, including Global gas on Route 114 near Interstate 495.

By mid-afternoon, Global co-owner Mason Nour was waving a throng of motorists to pumps to keep vehicles from backing too far into the street.

"Look at this. It is unbelievable," he said.

Motorists jockeyed for position in lines stretching in both directions.

At the far end of the parking lot of the station, just over the North Andover line into Lawrence, a gas delivery truck was finishing up filling the underground fuel reservoir.

Among customers gassing up at the pumps was Miguel Brito of Lawrence in his Chrysler SUV. His son, Kerlin,

called him with good news.

"Dad, go fill up," Brito said his son told him, noting Global had dropped its price another dime since only Sunday, from \$2.09 to \$1.99.

In the next line over, waiting his turn in his white Acura, was Buzz Dunn, an Andover resident for 30 years before moving to Cambridge.

"I think it's great. I'll take it while I can," Dunn said of the prices, then linked the precipitous drop in gas to the great uncertainty in the world.

Mary Maguire, Massachusetts spokesperson for AAA Northeast, said the dramatic drop in gas prices is due an even more dramatic drop in crude oil prices amid treacherous global uncertainty brought on by tension and fear over the spread of the new coronavirus.

Crude oil has dropped by almost 25 percent a barrel recently, to about \$30.

Maguire said motorists would be advised to shop for gas.

The range in per-gallon prices in the latest AAA survey for unleaded regular is 80 cents, from a low of \$2.09 to a high of \$2.89.

Gasoline prices in Massachusetts are down seven cents this week, according to AAA Northeast. That is a significant drop, Maguire said.

AAA Northeast's March 9 survey of prices in Massachusetts finds self-serve, regular unleaded averaging \$2.36 per gallon. Massachusetts prices are 2 cents below the national average of \$2.38.

Nour has the freedom to lower his prices faster than most service stations because of the frequency with which he gets deliveries of gas.

Gas prices are typically based on the previous day's closing price of oil.

A station down the street

was charging \$2.09 a gallon.

Nour and his brother, Osama Nour, have owned the Global station since 2010.

The last time he recalls gas being under \$2 was about five years ago.

Nour said he saw losses in his investments on a day that saw stock market prices tumble — but he is doing well selling gas.

Customers are happy to pay the lower prices. A few told him they hadn't planned on buying gas Monday but were swayed by the \$1.99 pump price.

"They are happy, having fun with it," he said.

Jeanine Rousseau of Methuen was filling up her Toyota Prius, a gas/electric hybrid, with which she gets 50 miles to the gallon.

She's glad the price of oil is dropping, but recognizes it is not a good thing that markets are so volatile in the world.

"It's a real mess," she said.

REAL ESTATE SALES

**450 Brookside Drive, Unit M:** Michael H. Sutton to Justin R. Allen, \$179,700  
**1 Mohawk Road:** Guzowski Margo L Est and Michelle A. Litavis to Eric J. and Leah

Soll, \$645,000  
**19 Mohawk Road:** Wilson Kathleen L Est and Nicholas Forgone to Bruno Martins and M J. DaSilva-Martins, \$660,000



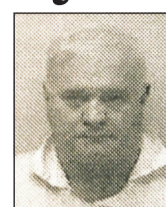
# Police: War-renactor shows up drunk at court for sobriety check

By ALLISON CORNEAU AND  
MIKE LABELLA  
Staff Writers

## He was charged earlier with arriving drunk for school show

A Revolutionary War re-enactor, who was arrested influence this week after he a Boxford elementary school, of last week in plain clothes, failed his first court-ordered not his Revolutionary War alcohol screening just hours after a judge released him from custody. Denis Cormier, 60, of Dracut appeared in Haverhill District Court on Wednesday

of last week in plain clothes, not his Revolutionary War garb, after registering .1% on his court-ordered alcohol test. The legal limit is .08%. Judge Allen Swan ordered Cormier to submit to daily screenings after he was arrested just after 9 a.m. on Tuesday of last week in the parking lot of Spofford Elementary School in Boxford.



Denis Cormier

arrested just after 9 a.m. on Tuesday of last week in the parking lot of Spofford Elementary School in Boxford.

After failing last Wednesday's alcohol test, Cormier again appeared before Swan, and was taken into custody and sent to a court-ordered 28-day detox program at the request of Assistant District Attorney John DePaulo.

Court officials said it appeared Cormier took an Uber to Haverhill District Court for his screening, which was conducted mid-day last Wednesday.

According to a police report by Boxford Detective Brian Neeley, last Tuesday Cormier showed up 30 minutes late for his presentation on war history for sixth-graders and was asked to leave by the school Principal Kathryn Castonguay.

Neeley and police Chief James Riter responded to the school and interviewed Cormier, who said he only had coffee to drink, according to the report.

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# Opinion

## Fine for gas disaster should stay local

Columbia Gas, its parent company and insurers have been writing checks for nearly a year and a half to pay for the outbreak of gas fires and explosions that damaged more than 130 buildings, injured more than two-dozen people and killed a teenage boy in the Merrimack Valley. Some of the biggest payments have yet to come — namely the settlement of a class action for a proposed \$143 million.

All of the money has gone, and will go, to residents, businesses and the communities of Andover, North Andover and Lawrence for losses associated with the Sept. 13, 2018 disaster. One of the utility's next checks — a \$53 million fine it agreed to pay as part of a criminal plea — should stay in the region too.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr appears to be in a unique position to make sure that happens. We expect him to ensure justice is served.

As things stand, the utility's fine is bound for a massive fund that soaks up penalties paid to the federal government, as well as bonds forfeited in cases where people violate terms of their release. Created by the Crime Victims Act of 1984, the fund is meant to help people targeted by criminals. It supports a range of programs and services, including more than 130 in Massachusetts, such as counseling for victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking.

But, as Statehouse reporter Christian M. Wade learned, the fund also gets tapped by Congress for reasons unrelated to crime, punishment and the overall sense of justice for victims. Five years ago it was hit for \$1.5 billion to reconcile a budget with the Obama administration. In just six years time, the fund has shrunk from \$12 billion to \$3 billion.

To take nothing from the noble act of supporting crime victims, or the worthy programs that get cash from this government fund, the single criminal count lodged against Columbia Gas by U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling targeted its violations of the 1968 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act.

Its "victims" were not targets of abuse, however colorful one could be in describing the region's treatment by the gas utility. Instead they were people scarred by fire; friends and loved ones of Leonel Rondon, killed when a house exploded and toppled onto his car; families forced out of their homes for weeks and months on end while the gas system was repaired; and an entire region traumatized by the potential for its natural gas network to turn suddenly, violently against them.

"We cannot forget the people who are at the heart of this tragedy," state Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, told Wade, "and sending the funds to the communities affected instead of national, general funds will ensure that we make everyone whole."

Simply steering the money to a new destination may not be so easy. Doing so, it appears, could literally take an act of Congress. A more plausible scenario floated by the state's congressional delegation could be ensuring the money at least goes to the region's police and fire departments, thus covering the "salaries of personnel who provide services to the victims of crime" while also helping those on the receiving end of the gas disaster. That's something it would appear Barr can do himself.

"The Merrimack Valley's first responders and the people affected by the wrongdoing of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts deserve nothing less," stated the letter sent by Rep. Lori Trahan and other members of the state's Washington delegation.

The money also would be more appropriately spent on programs that ensure the Merrimack Valley and regions like it are protected from failures of old natural gas systems, and from the poor record keeping that preceded the explosions and fires of September 2018. Of course, doing that also may require the coordinated effort of some 535 people not exactly known for working together.

The Merrimack Valley has been compensated for the gas disaster, to the extent that money can compensate for lives lost, injured and disrupted. Last spring, NiSource, the parent company of Columbia Gas, estimated the costs of repairs and settlements were well in excess of \$1 billion — a number that has since grown.

But fairness dictates the \$53 million the company must turn over to the federal government also come back to help the communities affected by the disaster, and not simply get deposited into the U.S. Treasury.

## Plaster casts come to Andover



**Tom Adams**

Andover Center for History & Culture

The art form of reproducing famous sculptures in plaster dates back to the 16th century when Leone Leoni assembled a collection of casts in Milan. Such private collections, however, remained modest and uncommon for over two centuries. Fueled by a growing interest in Greek and Roman classics and all things Neoclassical, the popularity of plaster casts reached a peak in the 19th century. The low cost of casts made it possible for museums and public and private schools to collect accurate replicas of great works of art and architecture for study and classroom decoration.

The History Center's collection includes four plaster casts made by Boston-based P.P. Caproni & Brother. Pietro Paulo Caproni was a master craftsman who traveled to Europe to make molds directly from masterpieces in museums including the Louvre, the National Museum in Athens, the Vatican, the Uffizi Gallery and the British Museum. By 1911, the firm's collection had grown to more than 4,000 pieces. Reproductions

of the collection were sold to museums (including Boston's Museum of Fine Arts), schools and private collectors.

The story of the History Center's four plaster casts — Brutus by Michelangelo, Relief by Della Robbia, Scroll, Monument of Lysicrates, and Minerva from the Louvre collection — started with the P.P. Caproni & Brothers Plastic Arts Boston U.S.A. medallions that were embedded in the plaster on the back of the two plaster masques. Each cast also bears a product number stamp, which identifies the subject and original artist.

Two plaster masques and the scroll were donated to the History Center by John Vorhees Holt in 1935. A graduate of Punchard School, Holt was one of 15 people who signed the Historical Society's Charter of Incorporation in 1911. He served as president of the Andover Historical Society from 1926 to 1936.

In 1929, during his presidency, the Historical Society acquired the Amos Blanchard House at 97 Main St. Following his "personal interest in Andover's past and present," Holt served as a trustee of the Punchard High School's Fund, was elected librarian of the society and oversaw the growing collections, exhibitions and loans. The Andover Home for Aged People also benefited from his service.

The 1899, 1900, 1907 and 1910 Andover School



Courtesy photo

These images made of plaster are part of the History Center's collection.

Committee reports include lists of artwork purchased by the School Department and, at times, teachers and students. Plaster statuary, busts and reliefs and photographs of artwork, paintings and buildings, and engravings were purchased for every Andover school.

These committee reports expressed that "The teachers generally throughout the town are not only greatly interested in making their school rooms attractive, but have, in some cases, made efforts to become more familiar with art, not alone for personal culture, but also that they be more intelligent judges of what would be best for their schools. The very cordial aid given to the teachers of the John Dove School by the public will encourage teachers of other buildings in their efforts also."

By the 1930s, plaster casts were falling out of favor. Museums and collectors began seeking out original works of art. Museums and schools set about removing plaster casts. When the new Punchard High School was opened in 1935, some of the plaster casts did not move to the new school, although we know that a large head of the goddess Minerva, also in the History Center's collection, continued to grace the Latin classroom until the 1960s.

For nearly 200 years, plaster casts were used in this country to transmit the artistic and cultural values of Western civilization to generations of Americans. Plaster casts of ancient sculpture are seldom encountered today in America. The Andover History Center collection of plaster casts remains a notable exception.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Conoscenti would be good addition to School Committee.

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to encourage voters to elect Lauren Conoscenti to the Andover School Committee.

I've gotten to know Lauren over the last few years as we've served in volunteer capacities. We first bonded over our shared childhoods on Long Island (don't hold that against her!), but it's her intelligence and hardworking spirit that have continued to impress me. I was thrilled when Lauren decided to run for School Committee because I know she will strongly contribute to the committee from her first meeting.

With a nod to baseball spring training, I believe that Lauren's skills and experience stand out from other candidates in such a way as to make her a "triple threat" when approaching school issues. First, she has a clinical background in psychology which gives her the ability to be an important "listening ear" on the School Committee, whether for parents, students, teachers, residents or anyone who needs it. This skill has enabled her to pursue constructive solutions on both

professional and volunteer committees, past and present. Second, and just as importantly, Lauren is a skilled data analyst, currently serving as assistant director of the Office of Institutional Research at Tufts University. In this setting, she provides data, topical research and analytical support to various university stakeholders, particularly in the areas of student outcomes and program evaluations. Finally, Lauren has two children in Andover elementary schools, with the younger child in first grade. Lauren is in it for the long haul, and would be a much-needed voice for elementary school parents on the committee.

In summary, Lauren is a skilled listener, a data guru and a committed elementary school parent — the "triple threat" Andover's School Committee needs. Please join me in voting for Lauren Conoscenti for School Committee on Tuesday, March 24.

**CHRISTINA BANTA**  
15 Gavin Circle

### Town Meeting should support mill district plan

Editor, Townsman:

In 2017, before the new DPW facility on Campanelli Drive was completed and the Old

Town Yard on Lewis Street had been vacated, Town Meeting turned down a request to authorize the Select Board to sell or lease the old 3-acre yard. The reason for that vote was that the town had no guardrails for redeveloping this crucial parcel. Design guidelines required by the zoning-bylaw for the Historic Mill District (HMD) hadn't been written, nor had public discussion begun on how to select a developer or evaluate a development proposal.

To the credit of town officials and a host of resident volunteers, all that has changed.

With input from dozens of public forums over the last two years, design guidelines were adopted by the Planning Board; advice was solicited from residents, boards and consultants; and a Request for Proposals (RFP) and a Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) have been drafted, redrafted, and made available at public meetings and the town website, setting forth a clear, fair, community-driven process for soliciting developers and choosing a development plan.

We can attest, from our own participation in the process, that the draft RFP and LDA are firmly grounded in the economic, aesthetic, cultural, and environmental

■ See more letters to the editor, Page 12.

objectives articulated in the Historic Mill District by-law and the design guidelines, and voiced by residents. The selection procedures are drawn from the most rigorous provisions of the state statute governing municipal land dispositions.

The primary aim of this disposition, as articulated in the RFP, is to realize an attractive and vibrant destination for residents and visitors, with iconic and memorable features celebrating Andover's character and history, distinguishing the site and catalyzing the revitalization of the 100-acre mill district. The selection criteria, coupled with commitments that will bind the selected developer under the LDA, empower the town to achieve these objectives.

The RFP and LDA are not light reading, and doubtless most residents will not have time to study them as closely as we have. We hope that these documents garner the endorsements they deserve, and that Town Meeting in April will vote to authorize their issuance.

**REBECCA BACKMAN**  
**STEPHEN COTTON**  
Andover

## WEB QUESTION

The coronavirus outbreak is causing cancellations and closures throughout Massachusetts, which had 92 presumed and confirmed cases as of Tuesday afternoon. Offices are sending employees home to work remotely, colleges are directing students to finish their semester's coursework online, and events such as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in South Boston are being cancelled in hopes of curtailing the virus. With so many precautions, how concerned are you about the new coronavirus?

**VERY CONCERNED:** With no known treatment or widely available testing, containing this potentially dangerous virus is paramount. I'm washing my hands regularly, disinfecting every surface, trying not to touch my face and avoiding big crowds.

**MODERATELY:** The coronavirus is serious, and precautions

are important, but let's not overreact. I'm not necessarily changing my vacation plans.

**NOT MUCH:** The coronavirus may pose a danger to seniors and people with weakened immune systems, but most who are sick basically suffer a bad case of flu. It's all a little too much drama.

### Last week's question

Columbia Gas agreed to settle a criminal charge for violating the Pipeline Safety Act in connection with the Sept. 13, 2018 gas disaster in Andover, North Andover and south Lawrence. It was fined \$53 million and forced to accept federal oversight for three years. In the meantime, its parent company, utility giant NiSource, will be forced to sell off the subsidiary and surrender any profits from the deal.

In light of all the settlements that Columbia Gas has already reached — with families affected by the disaster, with the three communities involved, and in a class-action case — were the single criminal count and the punishment just?

**YES:** Columbia Gas of Massachusetts will soon be no more, replaced by Eversource. Forcing NiSource to leave the state, along with the fine, are fair outcomes for its mismanagement before and immediately after the disaster. (7 votes)

**NO:** The charges and fines should've been steeper. Columbia Gas and its leadership were let off the hook far too easily. Besides, most of that money is now headed for a federal crime victims fund, not back to the communities that suffered. (15 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 Sean Murphy** at 978-691-8727, or smurphy@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

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# TownsBeat



The Kelly Girls entertain a full house at the event in the library.

SEAN MURPHY/Staff photos



Melissa Kerwin plays her fiddle with delight as The Kelly Girls dazzle a full house with Celtic favorites.



Singing an Irish tune at the event are The Kelly Girls, from left, Christine Hatch, banjo; Nancy Beaudette, acoustic guitar; Aisling Keating, flute; and Melinda Kerwin, fiddle.

## New England Celtic band dazzles at the library

It wasn't your typical Sunday afternoon of peace and quiet at Memorial Hall Library — at least not on the top floor. "We invite you to clap your hands and sing along," said musician Aisling Keating in a noticeable Irish brogue. "This is one time you can break the library rules and make some noise." The crowd obliged as the four-woman band, The Kelly Girls, entertained a full house of music enthusiasts with a laundry list of Celtic favorites just in time for St. Patrick's Day. — Sean Murphy



Canadian singer-songwriter Nancy Beaudette of The Kelly Girls sings a Celtic tune — and looks the part too.



Celtic music lovers applaud.



Two music lovers enjoy the Irish sounds.



A packed audience shows some love to The Kelly Girls a four-piece Celtic band performing at the event.



Dublin native Aisling Keating plays the whistle with her group, The Kelly Girls.



# Using theater to fight cancer

## Andover woman lands role in musical classic

BY SEAN MURPHY  
Staff Writer

Suzanne Cassidy Neuman knows more than a thing or two about cancer.

"I lost my dad to cancer," she said, "and my mom was a 50-year survivor of breast cancer."

Cassidy Neuman is also no stranger to the world of theater. The Andover actor and singer has been cast in the role of Reno, the nightclub singer, in the 1934 musical classic, "Anything Goes," which happens to be produced by Voices of Hope,

a local non-profit organization that raises money for cancer research through theatrical performances.

"More than 12 people in my immediate and extended family have had cancer," she said. "Some have survived, others have been lost to the disease, so I think it's important to do my part to raise money through Voices of Hope to support cancer research."

"Anything Goes" comes to the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly on Saturday, April 4, at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, April 5, at 2 p.m.

Proceeds benefit cancer research being conducted at the Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies and Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the theater box office at 978-232-7200, online at [www.nsmt.org](http://www.nsmt.org) or in person at the theater, 54 Dunham Road, Beverly.

Cassidy Neuman not only acts on stage — she also works behind the scenes of theater productions. She was recently hired as the assistant director and choreographer of the West Middle

### IF YOU GO

**What:** The musical "Anything Goes"  
**Who:** Presented by the Voices of Hope organization  
**When:** Saturday, April 4, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m.  
**Where:** North Shore Music Theater, 54 Dunham Road, Beverly  
**Tickets:** \$40, \$50 and \$75 at the theater box office, by calling 978-232-7200, or online at [www.nsmt.org](http://www.nsmt.org)

School production of "School House Rock Live!"



Suzanne Cassidy Neuman of Andover

Courtesy photo



FILE PHOTO

The characters from the iconic 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz" inspire a production this month by Andover students.

# Yellow Brick Road leads to West Middle School

## Student theater group presents 'The Wizard of Oz - Young Performers Edition'

BY SEAN MURPHY  
Staff Writer

### IF YOU GO

The start of spring brings blooming buds and warm weather. In Andover, spring also means the rebirth of great theater from some talented youngsters.

The South Cooperative Theater — a group of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders from South Elementary School — will present "The Wizard of Oz - Young Performers Edition" on Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 15, at 1 p.m. at West Middle School auditorium.

The annual play from the theater group is a rite of passage into spring. There's no place like Andover, as Dorothy, Toto and the gang

**What:** "The Wizard of Oz - Young Performers Edition"  
**Who:** The South Cooperative Theater  
**When:** Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 15, at 1 p.m.  
**Where:** West Middle School auditorium, 70 Shawshen Road  
**Tickets:** \$10 each, available at the door on show day or before the performances at Andover Bookstore, 74 Main St.

travel over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home.

Tickets are \$10 and can be bought at the door or before the event at the Andover Bookstore.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### EVENTS

#### THROUGH MARCH 28

**Elect to Connect 2020 with the new monthly MHL Family Book Club for families with children ages 5-9,** at Andover's Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St. Each month families will read a book together and meet to discuss the book with other

families and do a related activity. Order and read the monthly selection together before the meeting on Saturday, March 28, at 2:30 p.m.

This year's theme focuses on books and movies through the decades. March's decade is the 1920s, and the book is "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams Bianco.

Register at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar). Questions? Email Beth Kerrigan at [bkerrigan@mhl.org](mailto:bkerrigan@mhl.org).

#### MARCH 10

**Elect to Connect 2020 (Digital Detox): Silent Book Club,** 7 to 8:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Library Activity Room, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Enjoy a quiet, tech-free zone. Based on Silent Book Clubs as reported by NPR, participants come with a book or magazine, and will read between a bell at 7 p.m. and a bell at 8 p.m. People are welcome to chat with each other at that time. Chairs and tables will be set up; anyone who prefers to sit on the floor may feel free to bring something. Information: Kimberly Lynn, [klynn@mhl.org](mailto:klynn@mhl.org).

**Andover Democratic Town Committee Caucus,** 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Memorial Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Information: Pam Poindexter, 978-828-2067.

#### MARCH 10 TO 13

**Merrimack Valley YMCA Life-guard Certification Course,** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover, to meet the needs of college and private school students during March break. Participants must be 16 years old. Cost: members, \$300; community, \$375. Information: Dan Burke, 978-685-3541, ext. 417. [dburke@mvmymca.org](mailto:dburke@mvmymca.org); [mvmymca.org](http://mvmymca.org).

#### MARCH 11

**Red Cross Blood Drive,** 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College, 100 Elliot Way, Haverhill. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

**Elect to Connect 2020: "Pain Explained/Explain Pain,"** 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. U.S. Marine Corps veteran Eric Hayford, PT, DPT, will cover modern models of pain management and how to provide the treatment essentials for overcoming pain and returning to normal life. Hayford received his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Franklin Pierce University and has extensive experience working in the rehabilitative spectrum. Registration required at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar).

#### MARCH 12

**Elect to Connect 2020: "The**

**Healing Mind: Meditation in Motion" Documentary Screening,** 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Tai Chi and Qigong are centuries-old martial art forms. The short documentary explores how the practice of these ancient forms of movement with their focus on mindfulness are helping seriously ill patients, with particular benefit for many of the side-effects associated with fibromyalgia, arthritis and cancer treatments. The filmmaker, Andover resident Betsy Beaven will give a demo, and provide an opportunity to ask questions. Sign up at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar).

**Andover Seed Library Lecture Series: "Learning to Love Poison Ivy & Why Native Trees Matter,"** 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Cathy Harragian of Organic Garden Design will discuss ways to safely remove poison ivy, and Andover resident Marc Fournier, Andover's former deputy director of Public Works & Highway Superintendent, now arborist/horticulturist at The Trustees of Reservations' Mytoi Japanese Garden, will discuss why it's important to plant native trees and shrubs in your home landscape. Door prizes; pick up seeds and catalogues. Sign up at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar). Information: Reference Desk, 978-623-8430, [rdesk@mhl.org](mailto:rdesk@mhl.org).

#### MARCH 14

**Annual corned beef & cabbage dinner for college scholarships,** 5 to 6:30 p.m., West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover. This annual corned beef dinner featuring Thwaite's Market of Methuen house-made New England-style corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, drinks and an assortment of desserts. Cost: adults, \$15; children 12 and under, \$10. All proceeds to benefit college scholarships for members of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. Information: [westparishchurch.org/scholarships](mailto:westparishchurch.org/scholarships)

#### MARCH 15

**Andover Striders/Winners' Circle Run to the Beach 30K ("Go!n Down the Road Feelin' Bad Run,")** 10 a.m. at North Andover VFW, 32 Park St. (Route 125) to Winners' Circle Sports Bar, 211 Elm St. (Route 110), Salisbury. Water at 5, 10, and 15 miles; bring your watch, as

you will be timing yourself. Feel free to jump in or out at any distance. There are no awards, no entry fee, no numbers, no T-shirts, no medals, no charities, no USATF, no registration, and no race directors. Information: Dave "Icky" LaBrode, 978-376-8289, [ickylabrode@verizon.net](mailto:ickylabrode@verizon.net).

#### MARCH 16

**Andover WECAN Environmental Forum,** 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. State and local officials will discuss local environmental issues. Participants include Sen. Barry Finegold, Rep. Tram Nguyen, select board chair, Laura Gregory, and Andover sustainability coordinator, Joyce Losick-Yang. Information: Mary Pritchard, [pritchard.me@gmail.com](mailto:pritchard.me@gmail.com)

#### MARCH 17

**Red Cross Blood Drive,** 2 to 7 p.m. at Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

#### MARCH 18

**Northern Essex Registry of Deeds Office Hours,** 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Public Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Staff from the Northern Essex Registry of Deeds will be on hand to answer questions, provide information, and retrieve documents. Information: Janice Phillips, 978-557-1900, ext. 1921; [Janice.Phillips@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:Janice.Phillips@sec.state.ma.us).

#### MARCH 19

**Red Cross Blood Drive,** 1:30 to 7 p.m. at Merrimack College Sakowich Center, Turnpike St., North Andover. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

**Andover Seed Library Lecture Series: "Gardener's Guide to Native & Invasive Plants,"** 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Native plants are low maintenance, support wildlife, and many are edible. Nancy Pau, wildlife biologist at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, will share some of the best native plants for New England gardens and will also touch on local invasive plants and how to control them. Door prizes; pick up seeds and catalogues. Sign up at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar). Information: Reference Desk, 978-623-8430, [rdesk@mhl.org](mailto:rdesk@mhl.org)

#### MARCH 21, APRIL 16

**"Upstairs, Downstairs tour,"** 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Andover Center for History & Culture, 97 Main St. Tour through the 200-year-old Amos Blanchard House, including not just the period rooms, but also through the private "off-limits" areas, including third-floor rooms where collection items are stored. Learn about the history and architectural details of the house and stories of the Blanchard family and the other residents of the house. Limited to 2-10 guests. Information: 978-475-2236, [andoverhistoryandculture.org/upstairs-downstairs](http://andoverhistoryandculture.org/upstairs-downstairs).

#### MARCH 23, 27

**Digital Detox Book Discussion: "Digital Minimalism,"** 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. "Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World," by Cal Newport is a New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Publishers Weekly, and USA Today bestseller. Registration required at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar). Information: Kim Lynn, 978-623-8412, [klynn@mhl.org](mailto:klynn@mhl.org), [calnewport.com](http://calnewport.com).

#### MARCH 24

**Red Cross Blood Drive,** 1:30 to 7 p.m. at Andover Town House, 20 Main St., Andover. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

#### MARCH 26

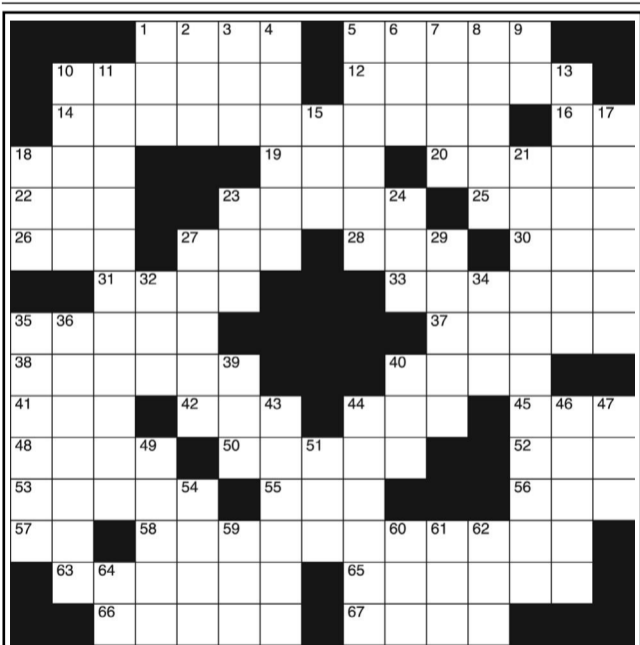
**Red Cross Blood Drive,** 2 to 7 p.m. at St. Augustine Church, 35 Essex St., Andover. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

#### MARCH 28

**Andover Seed Library Lecture Series: "Andover Gardens! In the Backyard, Front Yard, Containers & Community Gardens,"** 10 to 11:30 a.m. Get a head start on this year's garden. A panel of some of Andover's most experienced backyard gardeners will share their successes and failures and answer questions. Plenty of ready-to-go seed packets and 2020 garden catalogs. Register at [mhl.org/calendar](http://mhl.org/calendar). Information: Reference Desk, 978-623-8430, [rdesk@mhl.org](mailto:rdesk@mhl.org).

#### APRIL 1, MAY 6, JUNE 3

**Monthly foster care information sessions at Department of Children and Families,** first Wednesday See CALENDAR, Page 11



### CLUES ACROSS

- Currency of Guinea
- Avert something bad
- Sounds
- Immediate dangers
- Legendary Tar Heels coach
- Californium
- Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
- Coastal Scottish town
- Triangular lower back bones
- Trouble
- A way to smile
- Something that is not what it seems
- Of she
- Temporary living quarters
- Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Indicates near
- Spiritual leader
- Soup dish

### CLUES DOWN

- Not naturally outgoing
- Measuring instrument
- Minor dust-ups
- Strongly alkaline solution
- Extreme scarcity of food
- Dash
- Philly culinary specialty
- Popular lager \_\_ Adams
- Snitch
- Trimmed

### Solution in Classified Section

- Philippine island
- No longer fashionable
- Peaks
- Alabama football team
- \_\_ King Cole
- Digital audiotape
- Open trough
- The woman
- Cools down
- Turkic language
- Body part
- Pulse steadily
- Embedded computer hardware company
- Indicates shape
- Thou (plural)
- Odd and remarkable
- An evening party
- National capital of Zambia
- Tantalizes
- Dark brown or black

- Greek god of desire
- Take to the limit
- Cool!
- Sound mental health
- Native American group
- Test for high schoolers
- Rocky peak
- Preferences
- Bother
- Call attention to (slang)
- Snake-like fish
- Bulgarian capital
- Don't know when yet
- Italian Seaport
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Where to bathe
- Equal, prefix
- Beverage container
- Denotes openness

3/12/20



# Lawmakers reviewing bill for recovery coach certification

## Involves reviewing credentials of people entering the emerging profession

By MIKE LABELLA  
Staff Writer

A proposal made by Gov. Charlie Baker to create a professional licensing process for recovery coaches is before the Legislature. A 15-member Recovery Coach Commission, created as part of a sweeping opioid bill signed into law by Baker in 2018, has been studying and making recommendations concerning the creation of a Board of Registration of Recovery Coaches to review the credentials of people moving into the emerging profession.

Baker's related legislation — "An Act to improve health care by investing in VALUE" — was filed in October and is being considered in the Statehouse. It includes a provision to establish the board in an effort to standardize recovery coach requirements in hopes of increasing insurance reimbursement for struggling

addicts. Some private insurers have been testing the use of recovery coaches in partnership with health care providers or nonprofit groups, but the current lack of standards means most insurers are still unwilling to pay for their services.

Baker and Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders testified in support of the bill before the Joint Health Care Financing Committee at the end of January, according to Terry McCormack, deputy communications director for Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

Sudders noted in her testimony that "in 11 of our hospital emergency departments throughout the Commonwealth, an individual struggling with both substance use and behavioral health challenges may be paired up with a recovery coach — but each recovery coach's training may be different since no agreed-upon standard currently exists that is accepted by commercial insurance."

She added, "Based on recommendations from the legislatively created Recovery Coach Commission, we propose the establishment of a

state Board of Registration of Recovery Coaches to credential and standardize the recovery coach position to promote insurance reimbursement — while still protecting the personalized and unique perspective that recovery coaches offer."

During a 2018 visit to Beverly Hospital, Baker highlighted the role recovery coaches play, noting they are "critically important to our efforts to strengthen the significant reforms we implemented over the last two years to fight the opioid epidemic and have proven to significantly help guide an individual's path to treatment and recovery," according to a statement from the governor's office.

"They not only link patients to treatment, but also serve as trusted confidants through shared experiences and are an invaluable resource for helping individuals achieve long-term recovery," Baker said.

Recovery coaches have been around for decades, originally as volunteers who had beaten alcoholism or drug addiction and wanted to help others. Health officials have turned to them more frequently as the state continues to confront a

wave of opioid addiction. One of the recommendations in the bill is that recovery coaches should have "lived experience" as former addicts, but should be in sustained recovery for at least two years before working with patients. Advocates say it's important that any certification for the coaches not be so rigid as to prevent former addicts who want to help others from getting involved.

David Toto of Salem, New Hampshire, a certified addiction recovery coach, is in his third year with Methuen's Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI). A paid volunteer, he is in his 25th year of recovery from alcohol and drugs.

Toto said he agrees with the creation of a certification process, but questions the recommendation that a recovery coach have a minimum of two years of sustained sobriety.

"My recommendation would be five years," he said. "If you're in AA, the recommendation would be to find a sponsor with double-digit sobriety because it takes so long to get well. I've seen too many people fail in the two-year range. It may not apply

to everyone, but from what I've seen, it takes at least five years (for a person in recovery) to build good habits."

State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, D-Methuen, said she supports Baker's proposal. "There is tremendous need for recovery coaches," Campbell said Friday. "When an individual is doing all they can to fight an addiction, we owe them coaches that are qualified and competent. Recovery coaches are supporting individuals at the most vulnerable time in their brutal fight against their addiction."

State Sen. Diana DiZogio, D-Methuen, said Friday she also supports the legislation.

"Through their use of shared understanding, respect and mutual empowerment to help others through the rehabilitation process, recovery coaches have played an invaluable role, especially in recent years amidst the opioid epidemic," she said. "As it stands, a lack of standards for the profession means many private insurers will not pay for their services."

"A certification process, with standardized training and education, would integrate recovery coaches into the health care system and help families battling addiction access the care that they need," she continued.

### CALENDAR

Continued from Page 10

of the month, at 3 Ferry St., Bradford. There is a need for foster homes in the Haverhill area. Information: Danielle Maloney, 978-557-2739, danielle.maloney@state.ma.us.

#### APRIL 4

**New England Vintage Fishing Tackle Show**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tewksbury/Andover Holiday Inn, 4 Highwood Drive, Tewksbury. Presented by the National Fishing Lure

Collectors Club, one of the largest vintage tackle shows in New England, featuring freshwater and saltwater vintage fishing gear including lures, rods, reels, decoys, flies, bobbers, tackle boxes. Collectors from Maine to New York will be there with their old tackle and to answer any questions about old fishing tackle. Author Steve Voit will be signing copies of his book, "Fly Fishing Treasures." Admission: \$5. Information: nflcc.org.

#### MAY 14

**YWCA Northeastern**

**Massachusetts Tribute to Women luncheon**, noon to 2 p.m. at Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. Each May, YWCA of Northeastern Massachusetts honors a select group of remarkable women who contribute to the communities within its service areas. The event also helps the YWCA raise much-needed funds for its more than 26 programs. People can help by advertising in the program book and sponsoring, donating to and attending the event. Information: Jeanne Osborn,

978-687-0331, ext. 1045, or visit ywcanema.org and follow the Tribute tab.

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# Gas disaster lawyers contest reduced fees

## Attorneys in \$143M settlement for Andover, Valley make case to judge

BY JILL HARMACINSKI  
Staff Writer

Attorneys involved in the \$143 million Merrimack Valley gas disaster settlement want another opportunity to address the presiding judge, in part concerning their proposed payment of \$28 million in legal fees and expenses.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, a vocal opponent of that payment, has asked Judge James Lang to cut the \$28 million by at least 75%.

By his estimate, Rivera

said attorneys involved in the settlement are making \$44,000 daily for their work since the gas disaster on Sept. 13, 2018.

"No one wants to deny them the money they are owed. But there is no way this should be a windfall for these attorneys," Rivera said last week.

He noted gas disaster victims went without heat, lived in temporarily trailers, and celebrated Thanksgiving Day in a public park — among other losses.

The four attorneys

involved in the class action lawsuit, including lead attorney John Roddy of Bailey and Glasser LLP in Boston, filed a motion last Tuesday in Salem Superior Court asking if they could file a "7-page supplemental memorandum."

In the supplemental memorandum, the attorneys say they will "concisely address" issues brought up at the final settlement hearing, which happened the week before, including two very recent cases directly related to Rivera's request for a

reduction to the legal fees.

It was unclear last week if the judge would accept the memorandum.

Rivera said if they are allowed to file, his attorneys will be filing a response.

"If they can do it, I will do it," Rivera said.

Neither Roddy nor a spokesperson for the class-action attorneys could be reached for comment for this story.

Two weeks ago, after some 4-1/2 hours of testimony, the judge took the matter under advisement

and is expected to formally rule on the settlement, potentially paving the way for thousands of dollars of lump sum and itemized payments for gas disaster victims in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence.

The average payment to a family of four is estimated to be \$8,750, Lang said.

A total of 11,077 claims have been filed to date from residents and businesses in the three affected communities. That figure includes 10,432 residential claims and 645 claims from area

businesses that suffered losses or went out of business altogether.

The claims, which encompass 35,000 people, ran the gamut — spoiled food, payments for lodging, property damage, and other losses and costs — according to final hearing testimony.

During the Sept. 13, 2018, gas disaster, caused by overpressurization of gas lines, Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence was killed, three firefighters and 19 civilians were hurt, and damages estimated at \$1 billion happened.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Conoscenti right for School Committee because she 'can build bridges'

Editor, Townsman:

I am 100% in support of Lauren Conoscenti in her election bid for School Committee. I met Lauren a few years ago when she began volunteering with the A Better Chance of Andover (ABC). The ABC program gives young women of color an open door to educational opportunity. Lauren impressed me from the get-go! She is a solid and effective team player who cares deeply about equal access to education. I was so impressed that I began following her trajectory as she waded into the many issues involving the difficult decisions facing Andover's school system. Lauren's letters to the editor, her attendance at School Committee meetings, her deep dive into data, and the conversations we had convinced me that Lauren is a superb choice for School Committee.

I find Lauren's approach to the decisions ahead — new school facilities, curriculum choices, the hiring of a new superintendent, and so on — to be measured, insightful, and well researched. Lauren brings to the table not only her skills collecting and analyzing data but also her ability to listen to a broad range of views stemming from her work as a psychologist. As I mentioned, she is a team player who can build bridges around contentious issues. It is a rare pairing of the expertise we need on the School Committee!

Lauren says it best: "We have many big decisions to make in the coming years; our choices must be sustainable, cost effective, and right the first time." I'm with Lauren!

MARY PRITCHARD  
Andover

#### Conoscenti is best candidate for School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

As the former superintendent of Andover Public Schools, I urge you to vote for Lauren Conoscenti for School Committee. Three people are running for one opening on the committee, and she is — by far — the most qualified. She will bring to the committee her highly crafted skills as a data analyst that includes expertise in data visualization and data communication. She believes good decisions are the product of thoughtful analytic strategy, but equally values effective communication to the community. Lauren would be immensely helpful to the superintendent, and while I was blessed to work with many highly qualified School Committee people, her talents are exceptional, and I would have been thrilled to have had this expertise on the School Committee.

She has been active in our schools for several years as a member of the South School Improvement Council and South School PTO. Her volunteer work on behalf of young people includes six years as a Girl Scout troop leader and volunteering at the ABC House. She is involved in other town activities, regularly attending Town Meeting, and as a member of the Andover Community Garden Association.

People who know Lauren well describe her as curious, analytic, data driven, logical, a creative problem solver, collaborative and cooperative.

Lauren volunteers her time readily and generously, eagerly stepping forward to lend a hand when needed. She is humble, always admitting when she doesn't know something, and always eager to learn more.

Please vote for Lauren. She will bring solid data analysis skills, significant knowledge of our community, and a strong commitment to supporting our children and schools. She will be a friendly, open, respectful member of the School Committee. And as a mother of two young children, when referring to her commitment to our schools, she often says, with a warm smile, "I am in it for the long haul."

CLAUDIA BACH  
Andover

#### Conoscenti would bring informed decisions to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to endorse Lauren Conoscenti for the Andover School Committee.

Eleven years ago, I met a new neighbor, Lauren Conoscenti, and I was impressed. Working full-time and managing a young family, my first impression of Lauren was as a dynamic, highly intelligent, energetic leader with an independent and positive voice. She shared with me on many occasions her desire to become a part of the Town of Andover, make an impact on her town and serve her community.

Over the years, she took action to see that through. Lauren has become increasingly involved in Andover, serving as a Girl Scout leader and with various school and community organizations. I have seen her work tirelessly as a volunteer at South School, serving on the South School Improvement Council and numerous other committees. I have both admired and been in awe of Lauren's enthusiasm and her ability to handle many roles and responsibilities — all while juggling a job as a data scientist at Tufts University.

As she takes on this new challenge, Lauren has spent significant time learning about the work of the School Committee, the important issues presently facing our schools, and connecting with Andover residents and leadership to understand their needs. She has also talked with School Committee members in other towns to learn how they have addressed similar challenges. I know that Lauren is open-minded, will analyze each issue, listen and consider all sides, gather and synthesize information, and then make an informed decision. Additionally, she has a terrific ability to bring people together.

Lauren brings a unique skill set to the Andover School Committee and will be a great addition. Please join me in voting for Lauren Conoscenti for School Committee on March 24 to ensure that Andover continues to deliver high-quality education that serves the needs of everyone.

ANDREA MONDERER  
Andover

#### Gregory, Conoscenti best choices in election

Editor, Townsman:

On Tuesday, March 24, Andover will hold its local elections. Voters will have the opportunity to cast one vote for the School Committee and one vote for the Select Board. Two candidates have distinguished themselves in

their races: Please join me in voting for Laura Gregory for Select Board and Lauren Conoscenti for School Committee.

I look forward to continuing to work with Laura Gregory, the current chair of the Andover Select Board, who is running for re-election. Laura has worked tirelessly for our community. During her three years on the board, she has demonstrated the leadership that created a respectful and collaborative working environment, ensuring that the board could move forward together and focus on resolving our most pressing issues. She also spearheaded the name change to Select Board to more accurately reflect the composition of the board, and moved environmental, climate, and sustainability issues to the forefront. Re-electing Laura will allow my office to continue our strong partnership with her in representing Andover's interests on Beacon Hill.

An inclusive and strong school district is critical to the vitality of our communities. It is important to me that a candidate not only shares this value, but that they have demonstrated leadership in and commitment to Andover. Lauren, a mother of two South Elementary students and a data scientist in higher education, is that candidate. We share a commitment to making public education accessible to all and working collaboratively to ensure that our schools are well funded. Furthermore, Lauren is an enthusiastic volunteer in her children's schools and in local organizations, such as ABC House, Girl Scouts, and the Andover Community Garden. She has gained respect through her hard work and her ability to connect with many different groups in town. I look forward to working with her to bring positive, sustainable change to Andover.

Vote for Lauren and Laura on March 24, 2020!

STATE REP. TRAM NGUYEN  
18th Essex District  
Andover

#### Gregory deserves re-election to Select Board

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing in support of my wife Laura Gregory's candidacy for re-election. Over the last three years, I have seen Laura put in countless hours in her role as a selectwoman. In addition to preparing for and participating in Select Board meetings, she has also spent many hours attending other meetings and events in town, as well as speaking individually with residents. She put in months negotiating the North Reading water agreement, including multiple nights with negotiations going past midnight. Laura works hard for you every day.

It was difficult for me to watch during Laura's first year on the board because many of their discussions were hostile and unproductive. Laura was frustrated because the board wasn't able to do its job. Although she continues to put in significant hours, including more this past year as the chair, Laura knows that the hours are more productive and helpful for the town.

Laura, along with her colleagues, has worked hard to restore civility to the Select Board. Because of that effort, the board has shifted its focus to what it should have been all along: carrying on the business of the town and making the best future for

Andover and its residents. Please join me in voting to send Laura Gregory back to the Select Board on March 24.

NIK GREGORY  
Andover

#### Hafensteiner offers 'fresh approach' to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

Andover can do better. In fact, Andover MUST do better. Please join me in voting Amy Hafensteiner for School Committee on Tuesday, March 24.

As a seven-year Andover resident, I've seen some recent issues in Andover that have caused me to question my family's choice to raise our children here. As my kids attend Andover Public Schools, I wonder again if it was the right choice to settle down in the same town my husband grew up in and his family invested years of teaching and coaching. My gut says it was the right choice, yet I still am eager for change.

Amy brings a fresh approach and perspective to a School Committee that desperately needs change. While watching the debate on March 5, I was impressed with Amy's articulation of having no fear to question the status quo of current School Committee members. Considering recent ways of working and communicating with the town on issues, this kind of representation is crucial. Let's focus on positive school news and not the negative PR messes of recent years. We need to reopen the lines of communication with teachers and families. I believe Amy is just the candidate needed to spark this progress.

Amy's background in human resources lends itself to improve our hiring needs and processes that our existing committee does not currently have. Her commitment to communication will only improve community outreach and transparency for decision making. With a recent endorsement from The Andover Education Association, Amy has the support of teachers who understand the needs of our children and will value their input.

It's time we change the course and put Andover Public Schools back on track. If you share this as a goal and priority, please vote AMY FOR ALL on March 24.

ELIZABETH VICKERS  
Andover

#### Laura Gregory right choice for Select Board

Editor, Townsman:

Why am I supporting Laura Gregory for Select Board? Laura Gregory has the experience and vision to lead Andover.

She has spearheaded efforts to make strategic investments in Andover's future, specifically our infrastructure and facilities, economic development, climate resilience and schools. She welcomes the richness and diversity of Andover's residents, encouraging inclusiveness and respectful dialogue.

She understands that strategic and smart growth are the path to a robust local economy, stronger business tax base, and long-term financial sustainability, as well as to more quality social and cultural amenities. She has a track record of collaborating with other local leaders, as well as regional leaders and state representatives, to develop mutually beneficial partnerships and successfully advocate for funding for our community.

She knows that the

challenges we face need solutions that reflect the highest and best use of our resources, while also benefiting the entire community. She also knows that those solutions require listening, discussion and compromise.

Laura is a tireless worker who deeply understands the responsibilities a Select Board member has to both the current residents and taxpayers as well as to future generations.

On Tuesday, March 24, I hope others will join me and head to the polls to cast a vote for Laura Gregory.

MORGAN VON PRELLE PECELLI  
Andover

#### Prochniak right choice for Select Board

Editor, Townsman:

This year, I am voting for Stephen Prochniak in the Select Board election.

During the Columbia Gas disaster in 2018, I watched him at the Senior Center take the initiative to set up a table with a laptop and map, and answer the many questions of Andover's citizens; particularly the question as to when people could return to their homes.

He used his military training, sharp bearing, and true passion to make positive impacts on the victims of the disaster. He was quick on his feet and displayed a calm demeanor; he helped to soothe fears by disseminating the information residents needed. As a volunteer during that awful week, I am extremely grateful for the work he did. He was truly an unsung hero that September.

I have witnessed him at our town meetings where his comments were thoughtful and succinct. He displayed a vast knowledge of Andover and its issues. I was impressed with his ability to adapt to the conversation, and deliver a statement that shaped the discussion.

Stephen is a focused individual, who has seen our town's spending increase and recognizes the need to keep the rate of tax increase in check and question proposed expenditures. I know I can trust him to be a voice for fiscal responsibility. He will fight for the residents who are concerned about their rapidly growing property tax bill.

Finally, he is someone who will bring new energy to the board. His devotion to this town and its people is vast. I cannot wait to cast my vote for him on March 24, and I ask you to join me.

JANE GIFUN  
Andover

#### Gregory's leadership to Select Board 'vital'

Editor, Townsman:

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Select Board with Chairwoman Laura Gregory for almost a year. In that time, I've learned so much from her leadership, perspective and passion for Andover.

Whether it be her thoughtful comments on a wide range of issues to the time she has taken to help me with the learning curve of the Select Board, our town is lucky to have Laura serve. With all of the critical issues facing Andover in the future, Laura's experience and collaborative approach will be vital. I respectfully ask my fellow residents to join me in voting for Laura on March 24.

DANIEL KOH  
Andover Select Board member

#### Hafensteiner best choice for School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

■ See more letters to the editor, Page 7.

I am writing this letter in support of Amy Hafensteiner, candidate for School Committee.

I'd like to tell you about the Amy that I know and the tremendous value and perspective she has gifted to me. I believe this will paint the picture of who Amy is at the core, in her everyday life, and why this makes her the top candidate for School Committee.

I met Amy at a playground in Andover in the spring of 2014. We both were there with our two young sons. Amy approached me at the playground and began a friendly conversation. She has a warm demeanor and she builds trust immediately because she's paying attention to the details. This is how Amy approaches every person she meets: with care, consideration, and an intuitive nature that makes you feel heard on the simplest interaction. She is a positive force in our community, and initiating friendly contact with me that day is just one example of who she is.

As I've gotten to know Amy, I see that behind her caring disposition is an intelligent, analytical powerhouse with more energy than anyone I have ever met. She thrives at balancing motherhood with a full-time career and being an active member of the community.

If a topic comes up in our town or our school, Amy will research it until she understands all sides. She isn't about taking sides; she strives to find a way forward where we all can do well. I often rely on her perspective because she has taken the time to extensively understand and provide a balanced point of view. As a fellow HR colleague, Amy has shared her approach to talent acquisition with me, which is routed in best practices, analytics and innovation. I learn from Amy because she is curious and a life-long learner.

I am confident that our town will benefit from having her on the School Committee. She brings a new perspective with the balance of understanding that if we unify our community and let all voices be heard, we will be better for it.

TARA BODINE  
Andover

#### Gregory brings 'reasoned decisions' to Select Board

Editor, Townsman:

I would like to add my voice to the many who have expressed support for the re-election of Laura Gregory for the Andover Select Board.

I have been pleased with her calm voice and reasoned decisions as she has served our town over these past three years. Her leadership as Chair and willingness to take on issues such as the North Reading water agreement have given me confidence that she deserves another three-year term.

I appreciate the steady progress Andover has made in resolving several lingering issues (e.g. the Ballardvale Fire Station) under the guidance of our Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. The Select Board has worked well with him. Thus, I hope you will join me in support of Laura Gregory as we all work together to create a sound and vibrant future for Andover.

Please vote on Tuesday, March 24.

TINA GIRDWOOD  
Andover





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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, Massachusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time. ITEM IFB No. 038/03-20/185 GENERAL BIDS for Memorial Hall Library First Floor Bathroom Renovation DCAMM Certification in General Building Construction and Update Statement are required on this bid.

GENERAL BID OPENING April 6, 2020 11:00 AM FILED SUB-BID OPENING March 27, 2020 11:00 AM

FILED SUB-BIDS for the following Sub-Trades: PLUMBING DCAMM Certification in Plumbing and Update Statement are required on this bid. Bid Documents may be obtained only on the Central Purchasing Department webpage located at www.andoverma.gov/bids. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, or BID BOND issued by a responsible bank or trust company licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts in the amount of 5% of the total bid. A Pre-Bid Walk through will be held for all interested parties on March 20, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover, MA 01810. Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town. Theresa Peznola Purchasing Agent AT - 3/12/20

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed Bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, Massachusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the Bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each Bid and for a consistency of time, the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time. ITEM IFB No. 036/03-20/301 Contract 1 - 2020 Water Main Improvements 11:00 AM Bidding Documents may be obtained on or after March 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., electronically at no cost by registering via email with the Engineer at dandrews@woodardcurran.com with the subject line "Andover MA - Contract 1 - 2020 Water Main Improvements" to be included on the bidders list. Instructions for accessing the Bidding Documents will then be provided by email. A Pre-Bid conference will not be held. A Bid Security in the amount of 5% of the total Bid will be required. DWSRF #4120 - Contract 1 - 2020 Water Main Improvements includes, but is not limited to, the construction of new 16-inch through 4-inch ductile iron water main, including all related gate valves, hydrants, fittings, service connections; and all materials and equipment, services and construction inherent to the Work. The Work for the Project shall be substantially complete by November 16, 2020 and completed and ready for final payment by December 18, 2020. Prevailing wage rates as issued by the Director of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Labor Standards under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27D inclusive, as amended, apply to this Project. It is the responsibility of the Bidders, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on prevailing wage rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under the resulting Contract. Federal Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the United States Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act also apply to this Project per SRP requirements. The bidding and award of this Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39M and the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39S. This Project is to be funded in part with monies made available by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and is to be funded in part by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust"), and compliance with the following is required: Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Retrofit Program; the American Iron and Steel requirements of P.L. 113-76 (the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014); Davis-Bacon Act and wage requirements; and other MassDEP/DMS provisions and policies. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals are not applicable to this Project. No Bidder may withdraw his Bid for a period of thirty (30) work days after the date set for the opening thereof. Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all Bids or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town. Theresa Peznola Purchasing Agent AT - 3/12/20

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE IMPORTANT

GLOSSARY OF TERMS Default: Failure to fulfill an obligation, especially the obligation to make payments when due to a lender. Encumbrance: A right attached to the property of another that may lessen its value, such as a lien, mortgage, or easement. Foreclosure: The legal process of terminating an owner's interest in property, usually as the result of a default under a mortgage. Foreclosure may be accomplished by order of a court or by the statutory process known as foreclosure by advertisement (also known as a power of sale foreclosure). Lien: A legal claim asserted against the property of another, usually as security for a debt or obligation. Mortgage: A lien granted by the owner of property to provide security for a debt or obligation. Power of Sale: A clause commonly written into a mortgage authorizing the mortgagee to advertise and sell the property in the event of default. The process is governed by statute, but is not supervised by any court. Probate: The court procedure in which a decedent's liabilities are settled and her assets are distributed to her heirs. Public Notice: Notice given to the public or persons affected regarding certain types of legal proceedings, usually by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation. This notice is usually required in matters that concern the public. Disclaimer: The foregoing terms and definitions are provided merely as a guide to the reader and are not offered as authoritative definitions of legal terms.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Select Board of the Town of Andover will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Select Board Conference Room of the Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, Massachusetts on the matter of the discontinuance of that portion of Lewis Street as a public way as shown as "Portion of Lewis Street to be Discontinued 6,722 S.F. +/-" on Plan of Land entitled "Discontinuance Plan, Portion of Lewis Street, Andover, Mass. Prepared for: Town of Andover, Date: March 2, 2017, Scale "=40", Andover Consultants, Inc., 1 East River Place, Methuen, Mass., 01844," a copy of which Plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Laura M. Gregory, Chairman Andover Select Board AT - 3/12/20

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7:45 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlet Street, on a modification to an application submitted by CA Investment Trust for a Special Permit for New Multi-Family Construction Attached Cluster Development under Section 7.3. of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. Said application is a request to modify the approved 27-unit development to a 28-unit development named Frenchman's Reserve located at 90 Beacon Street (Roberts Drive), on property owned by CA Investment Trust specifically identified as Assessors' Map 107 Lot 18. The application may be examined in the Planning Department during normal business hours. ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD Zachary Bergeron, Chairman AT - 3/5, 3/12/20

NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION AND TIER II CLASSIFICATION 139 River Road

Andover, Massachusetts MADEP Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-35487 Pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) Section 310 CMR 40.0480, an Initial Site Investigation has been performed at the above referenced location. A release of oil and/or hazardous materials (OHM) has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site (defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, Section 2). This site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0520(2). Response actions at this site will be conducted by Global Partners LP (Global), who has employed Mr. Scott VanderSea (LSP No. 3978) to manage response actions in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000). M.G.L. c. 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan provide additional opportunities for public notice of and involvement in decisions regarding response actions at disposal sites: 1) The Board of Selectman and Board of Health of the community in which the site is located will be notified of major milestones and events, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1403; and 2) Upon receipt of a petition from ten (10) or more residents of the municipality in which the disposal site is located, or of a municipality potentially affected by a disposal site, a plan for involving the public in decisions regarding response actions at the site will be prepared and implemented pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1405. To obtain more information on this disposal site and the opportunities for public involvement during response actions, please contact Mr. Scott VanderSea, L.S.P., Corporate Environmental Advisors (CEA), 21 East Main Street, Suite 201, Westborough, MA 01581, at (508) 835-8822. AT - 3/12/20

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**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR / LEAD TEACHER**  
Position manages a weekday morning preschool program operated by St. Ann's Parish in Peabody. Responsibilities include: management and lead teacher duties such as maintaining required documentation, staff management, implementation of age appropriate curriculum, budget preparation and responding to various forms of communication. Must have strong leadership, organizational and communication skills. Comprehensive knowledge of EEC state education standards and licensing requirements. Applicants should have experience as a Director / Lead Teacher, EEC certification, and Preschool lead teacher DT or D11 certification. This is a part-time position that follows the Peabody Public School calendar. Send resume and cover letter by email to: stannpreschool01@gmail.com Deadline to apply is March 25, 2020.

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# Sports



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Andover's Shea Krekorian lifts the Division 1 North trophy high above her head as she celebrates with her teammates after Saturday's win over Cambridge.

## NORTH CHAMPS!

### Girls basketball wins a North title three years in the making

BY KYLE GAUDETTE  
kgaudette@eagletribune.com

LOWELL — Shea Krekorian and Brooke Hardock already knew what it felt like to be Division 1 North champions. They just didn't get the perks that go along with it.

Three years ago as freshmen, they were on the Andover team that got to hoist a Sectional trophy.

Only, they did it on Whittier Tech's home court, as the traditional North finals site — the Tsongas Center — was being used for the Hockey East tournament.

What more, Krekorian, Hardock and the rest of those Warriors were robbed of a chance to play at the TD Garden in the state semifinal due to a snowstorm and instead lost to Braintree at WPI.

Having a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity ripped away because of some foul weather hurt bad.

But three years later, now as the lone seniors on Andover's roster, Krekorian and Hardock made their dream a reality.

The seniors helped lead sixth-seed Andover to a 57-52 win over Cambridge in Saturday's Division



Andover's Shea Krekorian looks to make a play during Saturday's Division 1 North final. The senior helped the Warriors earn a 57-52 win.

1 North final under the bright lights of the Tsongas. The Warriors were scheduled to play under the even brighter

lights of the TD Garden on Tuesday taking on South champion Bridgewater-Raynham in the state semis.

"It's just as special winning (the North finals), but it's kind of redemption that we get the chance to play at the Garden," said Krekorian. "None of us knew if we'd get another chance to play there."

Like they have all tournament, the Warriors (18-6) stayed poised under the heaviest of pressure.

Freshman Amelia Hanscom scored 13 of her team-high 15 points in the first half to help Andover take a 25-19 lead, but fifth-seeded Cambridge (19-5) cut it to 38-36 after three. Whenever the Falcons — who never took the lead — made a run in the fourth, however, the Warriors always answered.

Like when star Cambridge guards Sophia Vital (21 points) and Kizziah Ruff (16 points) combined for a 5-0 run to tie the game at 42-42, only to have junior Tatum Shaw convert a tough bucket to put Andover right back on top on its next possession.

Or when a Vital bucket made it a one-point game with just under two minutes left, but Shaw (14 points) drained a long 3-pointer to make it 52-48.

And like they have all tournament, the Warriors

#### MVC DOMINANCE

The Merrimack Valley Conference has won five of the last six Division 1 North titles.

Year	Team
2019-20	Andover
2018-19	Central Catholic
2017-18	Central Catholic
2016-17	Andover
2015-16	Woburn
2014-15	Andover

hit their free throws to ice it away.

"We really just had to band together and work as a team," said Shaw. "We all believed that we could do it, and we all wanted to win it."

Right after Shaw finished with that answer, Krekorian was quick to chime in.

"And the composure from our underclassmen, to be able to stay composed in the last couple minutes when we were back and forth," she said.

And she was absolutely right.

Hanscom was a force driving to the basket in the first half, and fellow freshman Anna Foley, who finished with 12 points and three huge blocks, had a big bucket to put the Warriors up 54-48 with 1:17

left. "None of us really lost hope," said Hardock. "We all just had really good energy and kept it through the whole game."

The Warriors certainly had plenty of energy after the final buzzer, when the entire team swarmed to the River Hawk logo at half court to celebrate their Division 1 North crown. After a season of hard work, and a hard-fought 32-minute game on Saturday, the Warriors and third-year head coach Alan Hibino were presented a title to take back with them to 80 Shawsheen Road.

A title that, for Krekorian and Hardock, was three years in the making.

"It's awesome," said Krekorian. "We knew we could do it, and we just had to be disciplined and play tough, and that's what we did."

#### Andover 57, Cambridge 52

**Division 1 North Finals**  
Andover (57): Anna Foley 5-2-12, Amelia Hanscom 7-1-15, Tatum Shaw 5-3-14, Shea Krekorian 2-0-5, Brooke Hardock 5-0-11, Morgan Shirley 0-0-0, Marissa Kobelski 0-0-0. Totals 24-6-57  
Cambridge (52): Sophia Vital 8-3-21, Gianni Daniels 3-1-7, Kizziah Ruff 6-1-16, Selah Harris 2-0-6, Ella Simonsen 1-0-2, Desaree Valdez-Siffa 0-0-0, Patricia Merritt 0-0-0, Ciani Taylor-McDonald 0-0-0. Totals 20-5-52  
3-pointers: A — Shaw, Krekorian, Hardock; CC — Ruff 3, Harris 2, Vital 2  
Andover (18-6): 14 11 13 19 — 57  
Cambridge (19-5): 10 9 17 16 — 52



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover head coach, Alan Hibino shouts instructions to his players during the Division 1 North semifinals. Hibino has led the Warriors to outstanding success.

## Girls hoops cool under pressure in North semifinal win over Chelmsford

BY KYLE GAUDETTE  
kgaudette@eagletribune.com

TEWKSBURY — As Andover girls basketball coach Alan Hibino reflected on his team's Division 1 North tournament run, he admits to having a lot to be proud of.

Lets start with the youth. The No. 6 Warriors (17-6), who earned a 42-36 North semifinal victory over Chelmsford last Wednesday, start two freshmen in Amelia Hanscom and Anna Foley. Hanscom (8 points, 12 rebounds) didn't come off the floor last Wednesday night, and after a missed free throw with six seconds left it was the 6-foot-2 Foley who came up with an offensive rebound and layup that virtually put the game away at 40-36.

"I just went up and got it and put it back," said Foley, who finished with 8

points and 8 rebounds. "It all worked out in the end."

Now lets talk about the poise.

Forget starting two freshman and having another sophomore, Morgan Shirley, who plays big minutes off the bench for a second. During the regular season, the Warriors played in only two games that were decided by five points or less.

Point being, as Hibino put it: "We either won by a lot or lost by a lot."

But during the first three games of their postseason run, the Warriors trailed Arlington heading into the fourth quarter in the first round, and saw late leads shrink to one-possession games against both Central Catholic in the quarters and Chelmsford.

Now throw in that adversity — in the playoffs, mind you — and add back in the

underclassmen on the court.

That all sounds like a recipe for disaster.

But whether it's senior Shea Krekorian (game-high 11 points) ripping down an offensive rebound that set up Foley's eventual game-sealing heroics, junior Tatum Shaw coming away with crucial steals or Hanscom making clutch free throws in the final seconds, the Warriors always stayed impressively calm under pressure.

"This state tournament run, it's been gut checks," said Hibino. "We get up, they come back, we make a little run and then they make a little run. ... I thank my seniors, Shea and Brooke (Hardock). I don't know their numbers tonight, but they're the ones I trust most with the ball in their hands."

"And how about the freshmen! Amelia tonight, she was the most cool, calm

and collected of everybody, including her coach!"

Added Hanscom: "It's honestly just been an amazing experience. All of our teammates have helped support us coming into this program, and just playing with everyone and having this excitement every game has just helped us all play our best."

"It's a dream come true. We're so excited. Ever since our win over Central Catholic we've just been on an overload of emotions and excitement. So we're just ready to go."

#### Andover 42, Chelmsford 36

**Division 1 North Semifinals**  
Andover (42): Tatum Shaw 3-0-8, Amelia Hanscom 1-6-8, Shea Krekorian 4-2-11, Brooke Hardock 3-0-7, Anna Foley 4-0-8, Morgan Shirley 0-0-0, Marissa Kobelski 0-0-0. Totals 15-8-42  
Chelmsford (36): Kat Slattery 0-0-0, Meghan Goode 3-0-7, Hannah Polce 2-5-9, Kate Krueger 4-0-9, Ellen Angwin 3-0-6, Sarah Lachance 0-1-1, Abbey Quirbach 2-0-4. Totals 14-6-36  
3-pointers: A — Shaw 2, Krekorian, Hardock; C — Goode, Krueger  
Andover (17-6): 17 7 8 10 — 42  
Chelmsford (20-3): 8 9 10 9 — 36



# Local stores run low or are out of sanitizing products

BY BREANNA EDELSTEIN  
Staff Writer

There's plenty of milk and eggs. This time, New Englanders have cleared shelves of hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes.

Most area stores — including Walgreens, CVS, Target and Market Basket — are struggling to keep up with demand for sanitizing products as cases of coronavirus pop up in the U.S.

As of Wednesday, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said there were close to 93,000 reported cases of the respiratory illness globally, and more than 3,100 deaths.

More than 80 cases across the U.S. have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The impacts close to home are obvious.

At a North Andover CVS, there's a conspicuously empty shelf between aerosols and spray bottles of germ-fighters. It's where disinfecting wipes should be.

A store employee shook her head when asked about it — the location cannot keep up with the demand.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has repeatedly advised people to wipe down commonly touched surfaces. And if lathering hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds is not doable after coming into contact with another person or shared object, gel-based hand sanitizers are best.

A spokesperson for the CVS corporate offices said in a prepared statement, "We are working with our suppliers to meet customer demand for hand sanitizers and masks."

The need to limit the sale of products that are in high demand is "under review," according to the spokesperson.

Others have already taken that step.

Though it has no locations in New England, the Kroger grocery chain has implemented a ration system for certain products.

"Due to high demand and to support all customers, we will

be limiting the number of sanitization, cold and flu-related products to five per order," a statement on the company's website reads.

They can't even say if they will be able to fulfill each request.

"Your order may be modified at the time of pickup or delivery," according to the statement.

A sign at the North Andover Market Basket, propped on a display of soap, thanks

customers for their patience while hand sanitizer remains out of stock.

Target CEO Brian Cornell provided an update to workers during a corporate meeting last week.

"We're monitoring the situation hour by hour as conditions evolve," he said.

He described "aggressive shopping across the country" in Target stores, and expects it to continue over the next few weeks.



A sign at Market Basket apologizes to customers for a shortage in hand sanitizer. Stores are struggling to keep up with public demand for products that help prevent coronavirus.

BREANNA EDELSTEIN/Staff photo

"So, we're working closely with our domestic vendors, with our partners to make sure that we're elevating inventory in preparation for what we think is going to be a continued demand for stock-up items," he said.

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Partly sunny	Showers	Mostly sunny	Plenty of sun	Clouds and sun	Cloudy; not as cool	Partly sunny
<b>High: 49°</b> <b>Low: 38°</b>	<b>High: 56°</b> <b>Low: 36°</b>	<b>High: 52°</b> <b>Low: 29°</b>	<b>High: 46°</b> <b>Low: 24°</b>	<b>High: 43°</b> <b>Low: 34°</b>	<b>High: 56°</b> <b>Low: 48°</b>	<b>High: 58°</b> <b>Low: 43°</b>



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