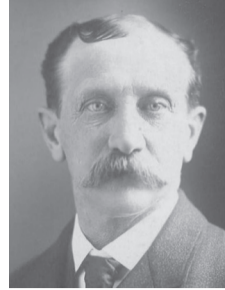




LOCAL KIDS
EXCITED TO BE
ON TV QUIZ
SHOW

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1918 FLU
PANDEMIC'S
IMPACT ON
ANDOVER

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VIRUS CRISIS
HEARTBREAKING
FOR ANDOVER
STAR

PAGE 13

OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 22

APRIL 2, 2020

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LEARNING TO LIVE IN CRISIS

Community braces for the long haul

By SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

As the nation and world struggle against the coronavirus pandemic, closer to home people are striving to embrace the "new normal" — living apart while protecting themselves and others against the virus.

In Andover, more than a dozen people have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Homes are being transformed into online classrooms and makeshift work spaces.

And everyone is wondering what will happen next, as experts predict the crisis will continue into

the foreseeable future.

Here's a closer look at developments in Andover:

Fifteen residents have been diagnosed with the virus, according to information on the town website at the Townsman's Tuesday press time. That number increased from a total of two cases the previous week. In Massachusetts, the number of confirmed cases is approaching 6,000, while the number of recorded COVID-19 deaths has reached 56.

A Raytheon employee at the company's Andover facility has contracted the virus. Five other company employees and one

- More inside**
- **Town firefighter infected with virus.** Page 6
 - **Neighbors escape cabin fever.** Page 7
 - **Local teen reflects on pandemic.** Page 9
 - **Families use Facebook to escape crisis.** Page 8
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 - **Raytheon workers have virus.** Page 3

business partner from two area Raytheon facilities have also

tested positive, the company said. Employees who may have been in contact with the infected workers have been notified to self-quarantine for two weeks.

Andover residents can get doctor's orders over the phone to test for COVID-19. Those who feel they need testing can get a risk assessment by calling 978-946-8409. If a doctor's order is issued, Andover residents can get drive-through testing at screening tents outside Lawrence General Hospital and Holy Family Hospital in Haverhill.

Schools remain closed until at least May 4. Students are continuing their learning online. The school

district is offering free breakfast and lunch for pick-up outside Andover High School and at other locations around town. A listing of food drop-off times and locations can be found at www.aps1.net.

The Andover Police Department Facebook and Twitter pages have links to indoor activities for families, as Gov. Baker's stay-at-home order remains in effect. Updates on confirmed coronavirus cases in Andover and COVID-19 testing sites are also available on these pages.

Local businesses are fighting to survive. Restaurants continue See **COMMUNITY**, Page 2

Cut off by COVID-19

Senior homes bridge gap between families, loved ones

By SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise with no end in sight.

The pandemic has shut the doors of Andover schools, restaurants and other businesses. But perhaps nowhere has the pain of disruptions caused by the crisis been felt more acutely than hospitals and other medical facilities, specifically those that cater to the memory-impaired.

Lack of communication over a period of time can be stressful to anyone, but the absence of contact between families and their loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia can be devastating, health officials say.

Here are ways local homes for the elderly are easing that emotional pain:

A small act of kindness
"This is a challenging time for our residents who are somewhat isolated, not able to see their families like See **SENIORS**, Page 2



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Arthur Thibault of Methuen waves to his relatives from a window during his surprise 75th birthday celebration at the Bear Mountain skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Andover on Monday. Thibault's relatives weren't allowed to visit him face-to-face due to the threat of COVID-19, so they staged the celebration from outside the building.

'The show must go on'

By SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

As the number of people affected and infected by the coronavirus continues to rise across the region, businesses in Andover are making tough choices.

Images of businesses struggling because of crisis. Page 11.

Coffee lovers who frequent downtown Main Street for their caffeine fix took another hit last week as Caffe Nero closed its doors on March 27, joining Starbucks which shut down earlier this month.

"The company thinks this is the best thing to do right now," said Didier Coyer, Caffe Nero store manager, from inside the empty establishment. "We have no idea right now how long we will be closed, but we will be bringing all of our team members back when the



SEAN MURPHY/Staff photo

A social distancing sign on the counter and a smiling Paul D'Agostino Jr. greet customers at D'Agostino's Deli on Main Street. The deli remains open seven days a week with reduced hours.

store reopens."

All is not lost for latte lovers, as the Ultimate Perk remains open in the center of town.

On a pre-coronavirus day, See **SHOW**, Page 2

Boy's goal: Bring birthday parties to needy kids, despite crisis

By SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

Twelve-year-old Drake Tarlow keeps a busy schedule.

"I love to play tennis. I love to ski a lot and I have this new interest in basketball," said the Pike School seventh-grader who holds a second-degree black belt in karate. "But school work always comes first."

"Totally typical kid," said Drake's mom, Dana.

For the last few months, this typical kid has been exercising his selfless side, donating time and money

to a charitable organization called Birthday Wishes. The non-profit, which operates out of Natick, brings birthday parties to kids in homeless shelters and transitional living facilities — but the coronavirus has blown out the candles of any on-site celebrations for the foreseeable future.

"It is in the interest of the health and safety of our partners and stakeholders ... that we will not be delivering

our program during the month of April," said Lisa Vasiloff, executive director and co-founder of Birthday Wishes. "If we can't do our usual parties, at the very least we'll plan on delivering our birthday boxes for the month of May."

As a Birthday Wishes volunteer, Drake puts together what the organization calls a Birthday-in-a-Box. The company distributes See **PARTIES**, Page 3



Twelve-year-old Drake Tarlow is surrounded by more than a dozen birthday bags and boxes to be distributed to children in homeless shelters and transitional housing facilities throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

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MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Relatives of Arthur Thibault of Methuen celebrate his birthday outside the elderly complex where he is staying. From left are his brother-in-law Dale Witkum, his sisters Fran Naffah and Pauline Dubois, and his brother-in-law Al Naffah, who brought signs, balloons and a cake.



Courtesy photo

Organizing a batch of potted plants ready for delivery are Erin DiCarlo, left, and Lauren Watts of Dovetail Companies, which provides support for senior citizens who have recently moved into elderly housing complexes.

SENIORS

Continued from Page 1

they're used to," said Karla Rossi, executive director at Stone Hill at Andover, an assisted living and memory care facility. "We're trying to give them some degree of normalcy here at the community."

Normalcy arrived at Stone Hill, and five other area senior living facilities recently, in the form of 500 hand-delivered potted flowers with individual notes of encouragement. The plants came courtesy of Northeast Nursery of Peabody, and Erin DiCarlo and Lauren Watts of Dovetail Companies, a business devoted to helping older adults transition to senior living communities.

"We're hearing from our peer elder care providers, as well as family members, that people are feeling saddened and overwhelmed," said DiCarlo, a certified dementia practitioner. "We wanted to do a small act of kindness to help brighten people's day, so I thought maybe a flower could let someone know that we're thinking of them."

For one of the residents at Stone Hill, that seemingly small gesture made an immediate impact.

"They're really wonderful people to bring us flowers," said Bo Kennedy, who moved to Stone Hill with his wife in July. "Barbara and I have each other, but there are a lot of single residents here, so a gift like that goes a long way."

Singing in the rain

Arthur Thibault of Methuen fell recently and fractured some ribs. In early March, he was transferred from a hospital to Bear Mountain at Andover, a skilled-nursing facility that provides short-term rehabilitation and long-term care. "Before the fall, every day, without fail, his sisters take him everywhere. They take good care of him," said Thibault's brother-in-law Al Naffah.

"Then he goes into the facility and he doesn't see anybody," Naffah said, referring to restrictions prohibiting visitors due to the virus. "He feels abandoned. We haven't seen him in three weeks."

On March 30, Thibault

turned 75, and his family wasn't going to let him spend his special day alone. Despite not being allowed to enter the building, Thibault's three siblings and their spouses gathered outside the facility in a light drizzle to sing happy birthday.

"I think it's a fabulous idea," said Connie Paulis, executive director of Bear Mountain at Andover. "This is a family who's unable to see their family member right now at the facility, so they came up with a way to continue to celebrate his birthday and make him feel special."

Technology to the rescue

Assisted living and memory care facilities like Bridges by EPOCH at Andover are keeping families connected with their loved ones through technology.

"It's not good keeping memory-impaired residents socially isolated, so we're doing our best to stimulate them and keep them engaged and entertained," said Traci Simpson, wellness director at Bridges.

A company called IN2L has created a platform using what they call

person-centered engagement technology. It caters to the specific needs of senior-living communities. Each community is outfitted with two large screens and a laptop for each resident, to bridge the gap between residents and the outside world.

"With IN2L we're actually able to tailor the tablet to every resident's profile," said Traci Simpson, wellness director at the Bridges Andover location. "We talk to the families and then we upload the resident's favorite music, games, hobbies and even family pictures — all the things that they love."

The company also uses a technology platform called TeleHealth Services, allowing patients to see doctors virtually, on a laptop, in the comfort of their own apartment.

"We're still fully operational within all our communities," said Adele Pepin, vice president of marketing of EPOCH Senior Living, parent company of all 10 Bridges by EPOCH and four Waterstone facilities. "We're utilizing technology in all the ways we can to keep the day to day flowing."



Courtesy photo

Showing off the potted plants they are about to deliver are Lauren Watts, left, vice president and director of operations for Dovetail Companies, and Erin DiCarlo, founder and president of the business, which supports older adults transitioning into senior living communities.



SEAN MURPHY/Staff photo

Ann's Cleaners on Railroad Street remains open with reduced hours. The dry cleaning business has retained all its employees despite a staggering drop in customers.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

Ann's Cleaners on Railroad Street served up to 175 customers. In the last two weeks the dry cleaning store, which has been deemed an essential business, is averaging 10 to 12 customers per day. Despite the losses, not only is Ann's staying open with amended hours, the business is taking an extra step to support the community during the crisis.

"We are providing a 15 percent discount to first responders for all their hard work, effort and dedication in aiding those in need of care and help," said Pete An, a member of the family that owns the business. "In gratitude for them putting their lives on the line, we want to show them our appreciation, respect and, most importantly, love."

D'Agostino's Delicatessen

on Main Street has chosen to stay open seven days a week, but with reduced hours. One reason D'Agostino's has been able to stay afloat is a shift in sales, resulting in fewer losses at the cash register.

"Foot traffic is down severely for everyday walk-ins ordering a sandwich which hurts, but orders for cold cuts, pastas, eat-and-serve trays are up," said Paul D'Agostino Jr., a member of the family that owns the deli.

Despite all the precautions and recommendations to help people steer clear of the virus, Nicholas D'Agostino, another family member, believes Andover residents can still come together safely to support each other.

"People need to be able to get out of the house for a walk to someplace they're familiar with for that five or 10 minutes," he said. "Come see us. We'd appreciate it. The show must go on."

COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

offering takeout meals, while the governor's rule against customers dining

inside restaurants remains in effect. Many businesses are closed due to the governor's order that all non-essential businesses remain closed to May 4. Owners of those businesses are looking at offers of federal loans to help them survive, as their workers join millions of people nationally applying for unemployment benefits.

The run on supermarkets continues, with shoppers

emptying shelves of items such as toilet paper and easy-to-cook food like pasta. Market Baskets and other stores are encouraging customers to observe the 6-foot social distancing rule. During peak business hours, Whole Foods Market has been allowing no more than 80 customers inside the store at one time.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is collecting food and personal care items at the Andover/North Andover YMCA on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Much of Andover looks like a ghost town, with the usually

bustling downtown quiet except for people stopping at restaurants for takeout orders and to visit banks. Houses of worship and playgrounds remain closed.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, in a message on the town's website, encourages residents to continue social distancing measures, to practice good hand hygiene and to stay at home if they are not feeling well. As more coronavirus tests become available, the number of positive cases in the region is expected to rise. As these cases are identified, local

public health officials will be in contact with those people to ensure they are receiving appropriate care. According to the town website, most people who become sick with the virus recover at home. Once they have recovered, they will no longer be under isolation restrictions.

The state has launched an online portal where people and companies can easily donate or sell personal protective equipment and volunteer to support the fight against COVID-19 in Massachusetts. This effort will ensure that front-line responders get the protective equipment they need.

"While there is a deep sense of concern for our future and an inevitable fear of the unknown, I believe that the town is prepared to weather this storm," Flanagan said of the crisis. "We have taken all of the appropriate steps to maintain continuity of operations and are prepared to continue to provide essential services."

Despite being faced with plummeting sales numbers, some Andover businesses have managed to stay open. "This amazing community of retailers, restaurant owners and service professionals survived the gas crisis in 2018, and now they have to face more adversity," said Ann Ormond, director

of business, arts and culture for the town. "So many residents and local essential workers have been amazing, ordering takeout, buying gift cards and shopping online."

Business people looking for resources can view the town website and click the business tab for more information, Ormond said.

School closures have forced educators to adopt a teaching style tailored toward the strong suit of this generation of students — online learning.

"In the first phase of the closure from March 16 to April 3, our educators provided review and enrichment learning activities," said School Superintendent Sheldon Berman. "Beginning on April 6, the district will be providing a deeper level of support and additional resources for our students and families."

To ensure all students hit the ground running in the next phase, Andover schools reached out to families on the school district website recently, offering Chromebook computers and free internet access to students who need that support.

"We will be able to provide more structure and routine for our students," said Berman. "Our goal is to offer all our students the support to continue their learning."

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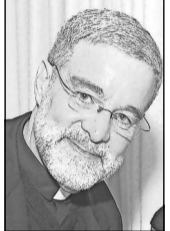
Andover pastor cleared of sexual abuse charge, returns to church

Gori reinstated at St. Augustine

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

The Rev. Peter Gori has been reinstated as pastor of St. Augustine Church, the Archdiocese of Boston announced this week.

Gori is expected to resume his duties by Sunday — which is Palm Sunday — according to Cardinal Sean O'Malley, archbishop of Boston.



Rev. Peter Gori

Gori, a member of the Order of St. Augustine since 1973, was placed on administrative leave in April 2019 after a man, now in his 40s, claimed that Gori and another priest, the Rev. William Waters, sexually abused him more than 30 years ago.

"I assure you, as I assured the provincial, that the accusation is false," Gori wrote in a letter to parishioners when the allegation surfaced. The provincial, the regional leader of Augustinian priests in the eastern U.S., had informed Gori of the accusation.

The Augustinian order relied on an independent investigator, Praesidium Inc., as well as the order's independent review board in concluding the allegation could not be substantiated, according to a press release issued by the Archdiocese of Boston.

The alleged dates of abuse did not coincide with Gori's assignment history and the alleged victim, who could not recall details of the abuse, declined to continue participating in the investigation, according to the archdiocese.

"I am pleased that the independent investigation has been completed after a thorough review of the

facts," O'Malley said. "The church's commitment to achieving a fair and just resolution is of critical importance in respecting the rights of all the parties involved. Father Gori has enjoyed over 40 years of ministry as an Augustinian and in the Archdiocese of Boston. We join the parishioners of St. Augustine in welcoming Father Gori home."

Gori said every allegation of sexual abuse must be taken seriously.

"Most priests live good and faithful lives. In my 40 years of priestly ministry, I have tried to live a good and faithful life," he said. "I am very happy to return to my parish home of St. Augustine. I have missed parish life and our wonderful parishioners. I am grateful to be able to begin with the promise of Easter at hand. Please pray for all victims of sexual abuse as they seek to heal and pray for our priests who serve the people of God joyfully."

Gori was appointed pastor of St. Augustine in 2009. He was also assigned there from 1988 to 1992.

Gori was raised in Reading and attended Austin Preparatory School, which is run by the Augustinians. He had assignments in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., New York and Rome before his first stint at St. Augustine.

Gori earned a doctorate in canon law and served on the Metropolitan Tribunal of the archdiocese.

After the abuse allegations, Waters was also placed on leave. He was assigned to several Merrimack Valley parishes before being transferred to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Terrence Donilon, secretary of communications and public affairs for the Archdiocese of Boston, said Monday evening he was not sure about Waters' status.

Employee at Raytheon in Andover tests positive for coronavirus

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
Staff Writer

A Raytheon employee working at the defense giant's Andover facility has contracted the coronavirus, the company said.

In a statement released by the company, public relations manager Jonathan Murphy said six employees and one business partner at the company have contracted the virus.

In addition to the one employee at the Andover facility, five employees at the company's Woburn site and a business partner at Raytheon's Tewksbury facility tested positive for COVID-19, the statement said.

Murphy said the company has taken precautions to contain further spread of the virus.

"As a precaution to ensure the health and

safety of our employees, we temporarily closed the affected areas to conduct enhanced cleaning measures, including contact tracing," he said.

In addition, people who may have been in contact with the infected workers have been notified and told to self-quarantine for two weeks, according to the statement. Raytheon's medical personnel are monitoring their health.

The employees who work in the areas where the infected employees did their jobs are now working from home, the company said.

Kevin Legere, president of the Local 1505 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers — the union representing Raytheon employees — said the company is required to stay open because it's a national defense contractor.

Gov. Baker: Prepare for virus surge

Governor extends non-essential work shutdown, stay-at-home advisory to May 4

By CHRISTIAN WADE
Staff Writer

Gov. Charlie Baker is extending a shutdown of non-essential businesses and a stay-at-home advisory until May 4, as the state braces for an expected surge in COVID-19 cases.

Baker said extending his executive order, which was scheduled to expire April 7, by nearly a month is necessary to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and ensure the state has the resources to respond to the outbreak.

He's also extending a "stay-at-home" advisory and a ban on public gatherings of more than 10 people.

The updated order took effect at noon Wednesday.

"We appreciate the huge impact on our economy and our daily lives that these decisions have, and they have not been made lightly," Baker told reporters at a Tuesday briefing. "I know this is difficult to hear, but we need everyone to continue to go without being around your family and friends for your own health and safety, for the health and safety of your family, your friends and others."

Businesses considered essential and allowed to remain open include supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations and manufacturers of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. On Wednesday,

the state released an updated list of essential businesses.

Among other industries deemed essential are law enforcement, fire and other first-responders, energy, transportation, communications and information technology, financial services and news media.

In addition to the expanded shutdown order, Baker issued a new directive prohibiting hotels and short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Home Away from booking for vacation or leisure purposes.

"People should really be using common sense on this one and should not be going on vacation right now," he told reporters.

On March 10, Baker declared a state of emergency that gave him authority to shut down schools and businesses in response to a spike in the number of coronavirus cases in Massachusetts.

Several days later, he issued another executive order banning dine-in services, effectively forcing bars and some restaurants to offer delivery or takeout service, and banned gatherings of more than 250 people.

He has since tightened the limits on public gatherings to 10 people.

A week later, Baker ordered all non-essential businesses to close until April 7 and issued a "stay at home" advisory urging people not to leave their homes unless they



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

As the coronavirus continues to spread, Gov. Charlie Baker says he expects a peak in cases mid-April. Work to combat the crisis continues, such as the health care worker above at the drive-up testing station at Holy Family Hospital in Haverhill.

need food, medicine or other essential items.

Businesses that violate the restrictions get a warning for a first offense, a fine of up to \$300 for a second offense, and criminal penalties, including fines of up to \$500 or imprisonment.

Public schools across Massachusetts remain closed until May 4 under a separate executive order.

Business groups said the extended shutdown will require the state to provide additional financial relief to business owners beyond offering low-interest government loans.

"Most of these business owners experienced immeasurable financial loss after closing in recent weeks and wonder what the situation will be in another month and whether they can ever reopen," said Christopher

Carlozzi, state director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses. "To help, the state should now begin considering what other measures it can take to ensure small business survival during the pandemic."

The conservative pro-business group Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance said the state government should "immediately offer temporary tax and regulatory relief" to help struggling businesses.

"Any effort by our state leaders to extend the emergency order must come with a clear plan for these businesses, their employees and families," Paul Craney, the group's spokesman said. "It is a scary time for all of us, but the small business owners are fighting a two-front war — stay healthy and stay in business."

'Calling all scientists': Experts volunteer for virus fight

By ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

Michael Wells was looking for a chance to use his scientific training to help fight the coronavirus when — on the same day the pandemic forced his lab to temporarily close — he decided to create his own opportunity.

"CALLING ALL SCIENTISTS," he tweeted on March 18. "Help me in creating a national database of researchers willing and able to aid in local COVID-19 efforts. This info will be a resource for institutions/ (government) agencies upon their request."

That's how the 34-year-old neuroscientist at the Broad

Institute and Harvard University launched a national effort to marshal scientists to volunteer in the fight against the virus.

Less than 10 days later, more than 7,000 scientists had joined Wells' database. Organizations and governmental departments in a dozen states, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, have tapped into the information. Wells is also working with End-Coronavirus.org, a project of the research-focused New England Complex Systems Institute, to help maximize the usefulness of the volunteer scientist cavalry he has assembled.

As health care workers

risk their own lives to treat patients and some scientists work toward a vaccine, Wells' database offers a way forward for other science professionals who want to be of use. Scientists are asked to match their specific training with potential needs in the battle against the disease, including experience with RNA viruses such as the coronavirus.

Wells, an Ohio native, has lived for nearly a decade in the research hotbed of Cambridge, Massachusetts. He created the database, he explained, in part to help ensure that in places without access to nearby major academic centers, governmental entities and institutions

— and by association, citizens — can tap into scientific knowledge.

"Scientists are a tremendous resource for this country. And it's not something that should just be confined to the coasts," Wells said. "It's something that everyone should be able to benefit from."

His project isn't the only one looking to match scientists eager to help battle the virus with opportunities to use their skills — regional efforts were already underway when Wells first created his Google spreadsheet.

One focus of the project is to identify volunteer scientists qualified to be deployed like "cavalry" to hotspots to

conduct tests. The database also asks if scientists are able to donate testing materials, such as RNA extraction kits and nasal swabs, an acknowledgement that a lack of testing capacity at labs and supplies is also a concern.

Wells has experience in virus research, but the database includes experts from multiple backgrounds, including bioinformatics experts who can help localities and other researchers more effectively map and visualize data on the effects of the pandemic.

Organizations or governmental entities have to request access to the full version of the database.

Requests unrelated to the pandemic, such as companies scouting potential employees, have been denied.

Wells and his collaborators acknowledge to scientists who sign onto the database that while they "hope that every single one of you get the opportunity to use your advanced skills in the fight against this outbreak," it's likely that many who enlist won't be called upon.

No matter how the database is used, Wells said, scientists "want to be part of the solution to this global problem." The database, he said, ensures "that when we're called upon, we're ready to go right away."



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Drake Tarlow places napkins and paper plates into one of the birthday boxes he's creating for Birthday Wishes, a charity for homeless children and their families. The boxes have different themes to appeal to the varied interests of girls and boys.

PARTIES

■ Continued from Page 1

200 ready-made boxes every month. Each box contains a cake pan, cake mix, frosting, plates, utensils and napkins — the basic elements of a birthday party — and costs about \$20 to assemble.

"I've always had big birthday parties with all my friends," said Drake, an only child who lives in Salem, New Hampshire. "It was really shocking when I discovered that some people don't celebrate birthdays at all."

Drake's family attends Temple Emanuel in Andover. With a bar mitzvah birthday of his own arriving in April, Drake searched for a charity that could make a huge impact. Drake's mother said part of the bar mitzvah is making sure to do good deeds for your community, so picking the right charity was important.

"We went through a lot of different choices, but this one just struck me," said Drake. "I don't know how to

explain it, but it was a feeling that I had that I wanted to do this."

"Drake is why we exist," Vasiloff said of Birthday Wishes, which has been helping children celebrate their special day since 2005. "He's what personifies our organization."

Fortunately, Drake has a solid network of support to help fund his cause, from his karate dojo to his Pike School classmates.

"I posted it on Instagram and a bunch of my friends from school decided they wanted to donate," Drake said. "They've been really helpful."

Each day, Drake chips away here and there, assembling one Birthday-in-a-Box at a time. His original goal was to make 33 boxes, but thanks to some generous donations he more than doubled that output.

"The neat thing about this project is that you don't just go and collect the money and you're done," Dana Tarlow said. "You have to manage the inventory, know how much you're spending and where to shop for certain

things."

Gov. Charlie Baker's recent order closing all non-essential businesses has narrowed Drake's options of where he can purchase birthday box items.

"We are currently looking at Amazon, Walmart and other online options to buy the products at a good price," said Drake. "Since each box can be built for about \$20, we are setting up a Venmo account and also considering PayPal for donations."

Drake said he envisions making boxes for another year and a half or even longer before trying his hand at another worthwhile cause.

"I could still see donating to this one," Drake said, "even if I end up doing something else."

"I didn't want it to be an obligation, but I wanted him to understand the importance of this as a lifelong goal of giving," Drake's mom said. "It's cooler than I ever thought."

Drake is determined to keep making boxes despite the obstacles put in his path by the coronavirus crisis. He'll continue posting on

social media to get the word out to family and friends, he said.

"We know it's hard for people to donate right now, so even a dollar or two helps put these birthday boxes together," said Drake. "More than ever it could still put a smile on kids' faces."

Birthday Wishes is accepting cash donations and other in-kind support. For more information, go to www.birthdaywishes.org.

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Sale Extended!

One-Month-Only

Window & Patio Door Flash

SALE

These days, many of us feel like our home is our **safe haven**. So, to help you make your home more **comfortable**, Renewal by Andersen has **extended** our Flash Sale until April 19th. And please know that all of our employees are taking steps to make this project **safe and seamless**. If you would rather not have us visit your home right now, we are now offering **virtual appointments!**



Sale extended to April 19th

Buy one window or patio door, get one window or patio door

40% OFF¹

Minimum purchase of four.

PLUS

\$100 OFF
every window and patio door¹

No minimum purchase required.

★ **Don't pay anything for** ★
★ **TWO YEARS** with our financing! ★

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 24 months.



- We understand if you don't want a project manager in your home right now. If you have a computer or tablet, we're now offering **virtual appointments** so you don't have to miss out on this sale!
- **Don't cut corners** and put in those low-end vinyl windows. Our Fibrex® composite window material is twice as strong as vinyl.*
- With this financing, get new windows now but **don't pay for them for two whole years!**

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/19/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 24 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 3/1/2020 and 4/19/2020. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the order. Additional \$100 off each window or patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 4/19/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.

OBITUARIES

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.

Edward Weil, 90

November 14, 1929 - March 18, 2020

BREA, CA — Ed Weil died on March 18th at the age of 90 after a brief hospital stay. Ed always approached life with a glass 'half-full' attitude, which carried him through the challenges of his last years.

He was born in November 1929 into an uncertain and volatile world, as today we again face a time of unraveling.

Ed was a beloved husband to Julie, father to Andy (Betsy), David (Susan), Bob (Libby) and Diane Roberts (Jeff), and grandfather to Haley Weil, Joe D'Attomo, Ellie D'Attomo, Rachel Weil, Sarah Weil, Ben Weil, Claire Weil, Laura Weil, Josh Roberts and Cody (Lauren) Roberts.

Ed grew up with his parents Katherine and Edward and older sister Babette in Highland Park, IL until he was 7-years-old. His parents then purchased a 227-acre farm in Mundelein, IL. Ed attended Wharton at the University of Pennsylvania for two years, and then after hitchhiking with a friend across the country, enrolled in Stanford University, graduating in the Class of '51. After graduation, he was drafted in the Army and served on a base in South Korea during the Korean War.

Ed and Julie were married on March 2, 1958 and recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. They first settled in Highland Park, IL, and then moved to Andover, MA in 1967. Ed loved to play sports – in-



cluding skiing, volleyball, tennis, bike riding, fishing and golf – and coached his children's Little League and basketball teams. He was an avid reader and an encyclopedic source of information. He valued the teachings of Judaism and taught Sunday School for over 25 years. And, he loved the outdoors, global traveling with Julie and introduced his family to the joys of the mountains in Sun Valley, ID.

There was a graveside service on March 23rd at the Ketchum Cemetery in Idaho for close family members.

Donations in his honor can be directed to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger (mazon.org), the National Kidney Foundation (nki.org), or a local charity addressing community needs in this time of stress.

Dorothy "Dossie" M. Rennie, 78

August 10, 1941 - March 13, 2020

ANDOVER — "Dossie" passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on March 13th, 2020. She was 78 years old.

Born and raised in Chelsea, she was the beloved daughter of the late Joseph and Doris (née; Lewin) Flavin. She attended the Chelsea Schools, and soon after married her high school sweetheart, Russell A. Rennie. Dossie and Russ raised their own family, making their home on Spencer Ave. in Chelsea for over 30 years. Dossie also worked as a telephone response operator with 3M Alarm Company. After retirement Russ and Dossie enjoyed many years in Sumner, Maine. She was a member of the Sumner Women's Sewing and Quilting Club and enjoyed many hours helping neighbors and friends in the Sumner community. In her later years, she and Russ moved to Andover, MA with Nan, Marc, and Mike, where they enjoyed making new friends at the Center at Punchard Senior Center. In her lifetime "Dossie" enjoyed quilting, baking and a good game of Cribbage. She was widowed in 2017 after 58 years of marriage when Russ passed away peacefully at home with his family. She was the forever beloved mother of Timothy P. Rennie and his wife Carrie of Merrimack, Nanette (Ren-



nie) Fournier and her husband R. Marc of Andover, Lorell A. (Rennie) Lawrence of Berwick, Maine, and Russell A. Rennie Jr. and his wife, Karen of North Conway, N.H. Dossie was the cherished grandmother of Sarah, Megan, and Jacob Lawrence, Michael Conte, and Abigail Fournier. She was the dear sister of Geraldine and her husband Alan Gopen in Texas, also sister to Barbara and Jack in California. She was also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: A memorial gathering and celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dossie Rennie's memory may be made to **Compassus Hospice, 790 Turnpike Street, Suite 202, North Andover, MA 01845.**

James F. Towle, 75

April 1, 1944 - March 20, 2020

ANDOVER, MA-YORK, MAINE — James F. Towle passed away on March 20, 2020.

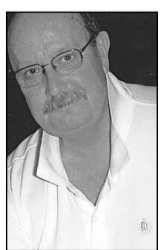
He was predeceased by his parents Alexander and Rosalie (Hilton) Towle and his sister, Robin Towle. He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Carol (Caruso) Towle as well as his three daughters, Michele Barrett married to John of Arnold, MD, Melissa Towle of Arnold, MD, and Lindsay Towle of Westfield, Mass. He also leaves his brother, Richard Towle and his wife Jeannine of Hilo, Hawaii. He was the loving grandfather of Jack and Alex Barrett with whom he enjoyed fantasy football and discussing other

sports. He was an avid Boston sports fan.

He was affectionally known as Dr. Golf since he owned and operated a custom-made golf club shop. Besides his family, two of his passions were golf and Wreaths Across America. He organized a WAA ceremony at the First Parish Cemetery in York in 2016 and continued until Christmas of 2019.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wreaths Across America at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MPILF52](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/)

Funeral services will be held at a later date. Visit www.lucaseatonfuneralhome.com.



REAL ESTATE SALES

26 Fleming Ave.: Fleming Ave Andover LLC to Carlos and Gloria Hayon, \$776,443
209 Greenwood Road: Lorraine Finn to Andrea Saunders-Correa and Hercilio Correa,

\$450,000
174 Haverhill St., Unit 316: Giata RT and Mary V. Giata to Rachel Pierce, \$345,000
40 Linwood St.: Lucien&Barbara Lussier LT

Officials say person infected with coronavirus traveled by bus

By MADELINE HUGHES
Staff Writer

New Hampshire health officials say a person who tested positive for the coronavirus recently traveled on Concord Coach bus lines in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, potentially exposing other riders.

The Department of Health and Human Services said the person rode

buses on these dates:

— March 11 on a 3:15 a.m. bus from Concord, New Hampshire, with stops at Boston Express Londonderry, South Station in Boston, and Logan Airport.

— March 13 on a 5:40 p.m. bus from Logan Airport, with stops at South Station in Boston and the New Hampshire communities of Concord, Tilton, Plymouth, Lincoln and Littleton.

— March 14 on a 5 a.m. bus from Concord, New Hampshire, with stops at Boston Express Londonderry, Boston Express Salem, South Station in Boston and Logan Airport.

— March 16 on a 1:40 p.m. bus from Logan Airport, with stops at South Station in Boston and Concord, New Hampshire.

The department said in the release last week that

people potentially exposed should stay at home and monitor their health for fever or respiratory illness. Any person who was on those buses and has developed symptoms should stay away from other people and immediately contact their health care provider.

Guidance for self-quarantine is available at: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/residents/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf>.

Governor orders ban on utility shutoffs

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

Amid the intense stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, Massachusetts residents need not worry about having their electricity, gas or water shut off.

Gov. Charlie Baker has ordered the state Department of Public Utilities to temporarily prohibit investor-owned



Gov. Charlie Baker

companies from terminating their services to customers for failure to pay their bills.

The prohibition will last until the state of emergency is lifted or the Department of Public Utilities determines otherwise. The agency on March 13 requested a moratorium on utility shutoffs to residential customers.

The new order will expand the moratorium to include any customers of investor-owned utilities, including businesses, during the state of emergency.

"Protecting the health and safety of Massachusetts

residents remains the Baker-Polito administration's highest priority and this order will ensure the continued availability of gas, electric and water service to all ratepayers during the state of emergency," said Matthew Nelson, chairman of the Department of Public Utilities. "(The) action will also protect residents and businesses from added economic pressure during these difficult and uncertain times."

The order also prohibits investor-owned utility companies from sending communications that threaten

to shut off gas, electric or water service to any of their customers for failure to pay a bill.

Any company that fails to comply with these orders may be assessed penalties of up to \$1 million per violation.

The Department of Public Utilities formally requested March 13 that residential competitive electricity suppliers and licensed electricity brokers also cease door-to-door marketing to ensure that proper risk management protocols have been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Number of first-time gun buyers increases

'People are asking 'How do I protect myself if the government can't?'

By MADELINE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Across the region, gun store owners say they are seeing an increase in sales, particularly from first-time buyers.

"They are concerned about the way things seem to be shaping up," said Brian Barry, owner of Next Level Firearms in Salem, New Hampshire.

State and local police say they have also noticed an uptick in background checks and permits. At the federal level, background checks are taking longer, seemingly because more guns are also being sold elsewhere, according to local gun shop owners.

Barry said people are scared about crime increasing with the potential for inmates to be released from prison early and a bad economy looming.

"People are asking 'How do I protect myself if the government can't?'" Barry said. "Even in non-turbulent times, you are your first responder."

Last week Barry saw the typical 15- to 20-minute process to do a background

check for a handgun purchase take anywhere from five hours to the next day, he said.

The federal background check needed for a long gun purchase typically takes a minute or two. Just over a week ago, it was taking about six hours and at one point the system was "overwhelmed and not working," he said.

The Salem Police Department processes permits for local people, though gun owners are not required to have those permits. "We have seen an uptick in pistol permits," Deputy Chief Joel Dolan said, explaining that the worker processing the permits have felt stress from the recent increase.

As the town shuts down many non-essential services, the department will continue to process the permits within the 14-day time period, as required by law, Dolan said.

New Hampshire State Police have also received a large increase in requests to process the background checks for handguns.

"We've had record numbers in the last two days,



FILE PHOTO

Guns sales are on the rise as the virus crisis continues.

to the point where we are still tallying them up," Lt. Michael McQuade said last week.

Mike Baracci, owner of Second Amendment Arms in Windham, said his sales have also been brisk recently.

"There's nothing left," he said when asked about his supply early last week. "People are buying them for home protection because it's uncertain times. The regulars are already hunkered down and were prepared for a run (on ammo and guns)."

With the increase in sales, particularly to first-time owners, Barry and Baracci are trying to help people understand they have to train to use a gun

responsibly.

"I tell people, 'It's your right, but you have to be careful with it,'" Barry said. "Shooting blindly into a dark room isn't something I'd suggest as self-defense."

While first-time gun buyers are buying firearms, classes aren't happening at local businesses. Gun and Sport North in Salem posted a COVID-19 update to its Facebook page saying, "Classes postponed temporarily. Watch for updates. Thank you and stay safe."

"Guns aren't a practical answer to the world's problems, but they are a practical answer when someone is threatening you or your loved ones," Barry said.

Andover company to lay off 20 workers
Philips North America sends notices to employees

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — Layoffs are right around the corner for 20 employees working at Philips North America's Andover site.

According to government labor officials, notices were sent to the employees on March 4 saying they'll be out of a job in May.

The so-called WARN notices are advance

warnings given to employees as layoffs or corporate closures approach. Companies with more than 100 employees are required by law to give affected employees 60 days notice prior to a layoff.

Philips is an international company that manufactures, markets and sells health care, lighting and consumer lifestyle products. Philips employs 19,000 people worldwide.

According to Mario Fante, a senior press officer at Philips, the layoffs at the company's Minuteman Road location in Andover were a long time coming.

In a written statement, Fante said, "This action is based on a previously announced transition of part of our patient monitoring and analytics operations in Andover, dating from September 2018."

He said Philips at that

time announced that about 100 positions based in Andover would be transferred to Pennsylvania by July of this year.

"The WARN Act notice of 20 positions affected by May 2020 is the first phase of this transition," Fante said. "Philips is working closely with affected employees, to carefully manage the transition and ensure appropriate assistance and resources are available at this time."

POLICE LOG

The following information was taken from logs on file at the Andover Police Department:

- MONDAY, MARCH 23**
Tires, rims stolen from vehicle: Magnolia Avenue, 6:43 a.m.
Pickup truck stolen: Taken from Lawrence, rips up field in Andover, Bullfinch Drive, 10:22 a.m.
Silver Honda stolen: Cheever Circle, 11:49 a.m.
Illegal burning: Murray Hill Lane, 11:59 a.m.
Vehicle crashes into pole: Lowell Street, 11:12 p.m.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 24**
Complaint from elderly
- resident:** Plow left a 3-foot pile of snow in front of the driveway, Princeton Avenue, 7:47 a.m.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**
Caller reports hitting a wild turkey: Abbott Street, 10:23 a.m.
Out-of-control woman: Lowell Street, 5:07 p.m.
Disorderly person: Salem Street, 5:56 p.m.
Erratic driver reported: Call transferred to Massachusetts State Police, Interstate 93, 6:18 p.m.
Threats reported: Powder Mill Square, 7:05 p.m.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 26**
Caller reports loose dog: Animal control officer transports dog to veterinary hospital and notifies owner, Ballardvale Road, 5:16 p.m.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 27**
Window broken by BB: Cardinal Lane, 9:36 a.m.
Identity fraud: Jenkins Road, 2:14 p.m.
Resident says white van drove on lawn: Police investigating, Blanchard Street, 11:29 p.m.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 28**
Single-vehicle crash with injury: Osgood Street, 2:59 a.m.
- Intoxicated woman:** Police asked to check, Hidden Road, 10:46 a.m.
Wallet turned in at police station: Phillips Street, 11:57 a.m.
Hit-and-run crash: Lowell Street, 6:51 p.m.
Man with screw driver: Is seen walking around lot, police call for ambulance because he has been taking PCP and other drugs, Frontage Road, 10:05 p.m.
- SUNDAY, MARCH 29**
Chimney fire: Woburn Street, 10:30 a.m.
Fraudulent check: Highland Road, 4:50 p.m.

and Barbara A. Lussier to Matthew W. and Cristina M. Addesa, \$530,000
279 Salem St.: Ruscowski RT and Stephen H. Ruscowski to Zubeda B. Khan,

\$505,000
18 Stratford Road: Christian T. Bachmann to Courtney Varner and Timothy Lorden, \$530,000
18 Summer St., Unit 1: Aaron

Schwartz and Lisa Smith to Michele M. Odonnell, \$690,000
47 Summer St.: Rita B. Petrella to Brendan J. and Lauren M. Doherty, \$655,000

6 Windemere Drive: Xuefeng Yu and Zi Liao to Nan J. Pern and Pauline Chhooi, \$678,000
6 Windsor St.: AP Beck-Andover Realty to Surette Realty LLC, \$941,500

■ CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY COLUMN

AVIS Trustees postpone annual dinner

ANDOVER — The AVIS Trustees have postponed their annual dinner, which was scheduled for April 14, due to the coronavirus.

The organization plans on rescheduling for the fall, but an official date has not been set yet.

Habitat for Humanity needs support

LAWRENCE — In the wake of the pandemic, Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is reaching out to the community for support.

Due to social distancing, Habitat for Humanity has lost revenue from programs such as Corporate Team Builds and other fundraisers, as well as the temporary closure of the Merrimack Valley ReStore. All this has happened while seven partner families await affordable shelter.

Please make a donation today to ensure the program can continue to help local families who need a safe place to live.

You can donate online at merrimackvalleyhabitat.org.

Massachusetts Bar Exam postponed

The Supreme Judicial Court and the Board of Bar Examiners announced that, due to the ongoing public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Massachusetts bar examination will not be administered on July 28 and July 29 as previously scheduled.

The bar exam has been postponed until fall, on dates to be determined.

The Board of Bar Examiners, in consultation with the Supreme Judicial Court, will continue to closely monitor public health and safety guidelines, including prohibitions against large gatherings, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the event that limitations on large gatherings continue to interfere with a fall administration of the Massachusetts bar examination, alternative means for testing of applicants for Massachusetts bar admission will be announced.

The Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners is established by Massachusetts General Law to evaluate the qualifications of persons seeking admission to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Central Catholic connects with students remotely

LAWRENCE — Central Catholic High School announced it has made some significant adjustments to prioritize the health and safety of its school community and beyond.

As of March 27, Central Catholic had no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, and it appeared no one from the school community had been exposed, said Chief Advancement Officer David Erwin.

To stay connected while the campus is closed through April 7, faculty, staff and administration transitioned on March 18 to remote learning (online) via Zoom technology in order to ensure a continuation of education. The school's faculty trained and created lesson plans specifically for remote learning environments and will continue to improve the program.

The school administration is sending daily communication to students, parents, faculty and staff regarding COVID-19. These updates share the latest information on CCHS resources, event postponements, "grab and go" food locations for students, and relevant health information.

Central President Christopher Sullivan is also sending video messages to the students regularly at centralcatholic.net/be-well.

Central created an online resource for the community to learn about the variety of ways the school is adjusting to COVID-19. Central Catholic's department of building and grounds has been working to maintain a deep cleaning and disinfecting schedule throughout campus.

RMV enforces no walk-in policy

LAWRENCE — Effective March 27, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is enforcing a strict no walk-in policy at its eight service centers open to the general public, including the center in Lawrence.

The only transactions that will be processed at service centers are those that require an in-person transaction, including Commercial Driving Licenses or Permits (CDLs / CLPs), some new registrations, out-of-state conversions and new Mass IDs.

Customers who need to complete these transactions will be required to make an online appointment reservation, and customers arriving without an appointment will be asked to leave and make an

appointment online to return at a future date.

Appointment reservations can be made online at Mass.Gov/RMV in the myRMV Online Service Center under "Make or Cancel a Reservation." Customers who make an appointment will be sent a confirmation email that they should be prepared to show on arrival at their designated time at a specific service center.

The RMV offers many services online, including renewing motor vehicle registrations, and customers needing these services will only be serviced online at this time. If the service can be completed online, the RMV will not process the transaction in a service center. Renewals for standard driver's license and ID credentials can be performed online at Mass.Gov/RMV along with more than 40 other transactions that can be conducted online, over the phone, or by mail.

Bedford veterans medical center closes outpatient clinics

BEDFORD — Veterans Affairs Medical Center has announced that effective March 30, all of its Community Based Outpatient Clinics, or CBOCs, will close temporarily due to COVID-19.

Haverhill and Lynn will conduct face-to-face visits as an exception only, if deemed a necessity by your provider. Walk-in appointments will not be accepted. All CBOC providers and staff have been converted to virtual care and veterans are recommended to use telehealth, either phone or video for their scheduled appointments. Veterans receiving healthcare from Bedford VAMC are asked to use one of their online tools for routine or non-urgent concerns. Using Secure Messaging, send a secure message to your provider about any health concern or question. Download VA Video Connect. Your provider may ask you to consider telehealth for an upcoming appointment. By downloading and learning about the VA Video Connect app now, you can prepare yourself.

VA continues to strongly encourage veterans, staff members and their families to take everyday precautions to protect against respiratory illnesses caused by COVID-19, the flu and the common cold.

For more information, questions or concerns, contact the Bedford VAMC Telephone Care Line, available 24 hours a day, at 1-800-838-6331. The Veterans Crisis Line is also 24/7 for urgent issues at 1-800-273-8255, then press 1. Visit online at bedford.va.gov.

Andover firefighter tests positive for COVID-19

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

Those who worked alongside victim have been notified

An Andover firefighter has tested positive for coronavirus, COVID-19, and is in self-quarantine at his home, according to a union official.

Eric Teichert, fire union president, said he was notified Monday night that a

firefighter in his union had tested positive. Teichert did not identify the firefighter.

Other firefighters who worked with the victim last week were notified, Teichert said.

COVID-19, which is at a pandemic level across the globe, can cause intense respiratory system problems and possibly even death.

Teichert noted all Andover firefighters are

"uneasy with the situation" surrounding COVID-19.

He said, however, firefighters "are taking precautions to protect ourselves and the public. ... We will not hesitate to do our job."

"I do not want people to be fearful," Teichert said. "We are going to do our job. We are going to do what we are trained to do."

When asked about the firefighter who tested positive for COVID-19, Fire

Chief Michael Mansfield referred all questions to Town Manager Andrew Flanagan.

Flanagan, in an email to The Eagle-Tribune, said he could not "comment on the circumstances of any resident or town employee who may have tested positive."

He did say the town has "protocols in place that provide us with the ability to maintain continuity of operations of every department and division should someone be tested positive and are prepared to make the appropriate accommodations for the employee or any employee he/she may have come in contact with."

He continued, "Andover town employees have shown extraordinary commitment to ensure that there have been no interruptions in service and deserve credit for their continued work on the front lines of the town's response to the crisis. We are prepared to manage any situation in which an employee is exposed and/or tested positive and will evaluate the needs on a case by case basis."



FILE PHOTO

Social Security offices are closed due to the coronavirus crisis.

Social Security offices closed due to virus crisis
Andover people can call Lawrence Social Security office for help

By PAUL TENNANT
Staff Writer

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all Social Security offices across the nation have been closed since St. Patrick's Day.

Many people rely on personal visits to their nearest Social Security office to apply for Medicare or retirement benefits or have questions answered – so they have been forced to use other means to get help. Going online is one method. One can apply for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits, check the

status of an application or appeal, request a replacement Social Security card or print a benefit verification letter by visiting the website ssa.gov/online.

The website also has a section for frequently asked questions.

People who do not have access to the internet can call their local Social Security office. Residents of Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and Methuen, as well as the New Hampshire communities of Salem and Windham, can call the Social Security office in Lawrence at 1-877-669-3127.

The TTY number for those who are deaf or hard of hearing is 1-978-794-9696.

Residents of Haverhill, Groveland, Georgetown, Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton and Plaistow, can call the Haverhill office at 1-866-964-4324. The TTY number is 1-800-325-0778.

Derry and Londonderry residents can call the Manchester, New Hampshire, office at 1-866-814-5408. The TTY number is 1-800-325-0778.

People who live in Pelham can call the Social Security office in Lowell at 1-877-746-9850. TTY is 1-978-458-5702.

The Portsmouth office at 1-888-397-9796 handles Social Security matters for residents of Sandown. TTY is 1-603-436-3086.

The staffs of representatives in Congress can also help people apply for Social Security benefits and resolve problems with the agency. Those who live in the 3rd Congressional District, which includes Lawrence, Andover, Methuen and Haverhill, can call the Lowell office of Congresswoman Lori Trahan at 978-459-0101.

Residents of the 6th District, which covers North Andover, Groveland and Georgetown, can call the Salem office of their congressman, Seth Moulton, at 1-978-531-1669.

Those who live in Danville, Derry, Hampstead, Kingston, Londonderry, Newton, Plaistow and Sandown covered by the 1st District, can call the office of Congressman Chris Pappas at 1-603-935-6710.

Atkinson, Pelham and Salem, New Hampshire, are in the 2nd District, represented by Congresswoman Annie Kuster. The number for her Nashua office is 1-603-595-2006.

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TownsBeat



SEAN MURPHY/Staff photos

It's a meeting of the canines as three members of the Witte family, left, with their pooch, Gracie, say hello to Rob Schreiber and his hound, Huckleberry, right, on Whittier Street.

Residents cope with cabin fever

By SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

While all organized sporting events are postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new sport has emerged: Combating cabin fever, an endeavor that comes in many forms.

"I'm doing okay, trying to get him outside as much as possible," said Chris Dangremond, who was out for a run, pushing his son Owen in a jogging stroller one day last week.

For the more casual athlete, a leisurely amble was in order.

"I just wear this so I can prevent getting sick," Katie Higgins said of the surgical mask that accompanies her on every trip outdoors. "It's a lovely day for a walk, and I'm feeling pretty good."

For those who chose to slow their roll completely, taking a seat on a front porch or a park bench was the perfect activity.

"People are being very respectful, even though there's a lot of stress," said Martha Walsh, chatting with her lifelong friend Sue Redgate on a bench on Main Street.

"There are a lot of people who are very lonely, so it's good to get out," Redgate said.

"We're keeping ourselves busy with activities that we otherwise don't have time for," said Ali Jackson, who was stripping the surface off an antique cabinet in front of the Wolcott Avenue home she shares with her husband, Reid. "We're trying to see the silver lining in the situation and trying to stay as positive as possible."



The weather was perfect for the DiStefano family to toss a ball at The Park in Andover. They are, from left, mom McKenzie, 2-year-old Myles and dad Dan.



Following social distancing guidelines and catching up on current events are humans, from left; Martha Walsh, and Sue Redgate. Enjoying some sunshine are canines, from left; Sally and Beau.



Enjoying a sun-splashed day on their front porch are Patty and John Burke of Chestnut Street.



Outdoor home improvement is on display as Ali Jackson of Wolcott Avenue strips the surface off an old cabinet.



Catching some rays and breaking a sweat is dad, Chris Dangremond, while son, Owen, takes a ride in the shade.

Andover High makes TV quiz show quarterfinals

Fear not — these students in groups were filmed before coronavirus crisis

BY SEAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

If you happened to catch Andover High School's triumphant return to High School Quiz Show last Saturday night on WGBH public television, you may have been confused.

The show featuring a group of student-contestants and a packed studio audience clearly ignored the rules of social distancing called for by the coronavirus crisis.

Fear not. The 17-team tournament — a single-elimination, academic team competition for Massachusetts high school students — was prerecorded over two weekends in late January and early February, before the coronavirus took hold.

With its qualifying-round victory over Wellesley High School, Andover moves on to the quarterfinals to take on the winner of Belmont High School vs. Salem Academy Charter School, in a match that will air in early May on WGBH2.

"It felt great because it was a great team win," said Kush Shah, an Andover High senior and first-year team member. "All four of us made contributions to the victory, and we were in control most of the game."

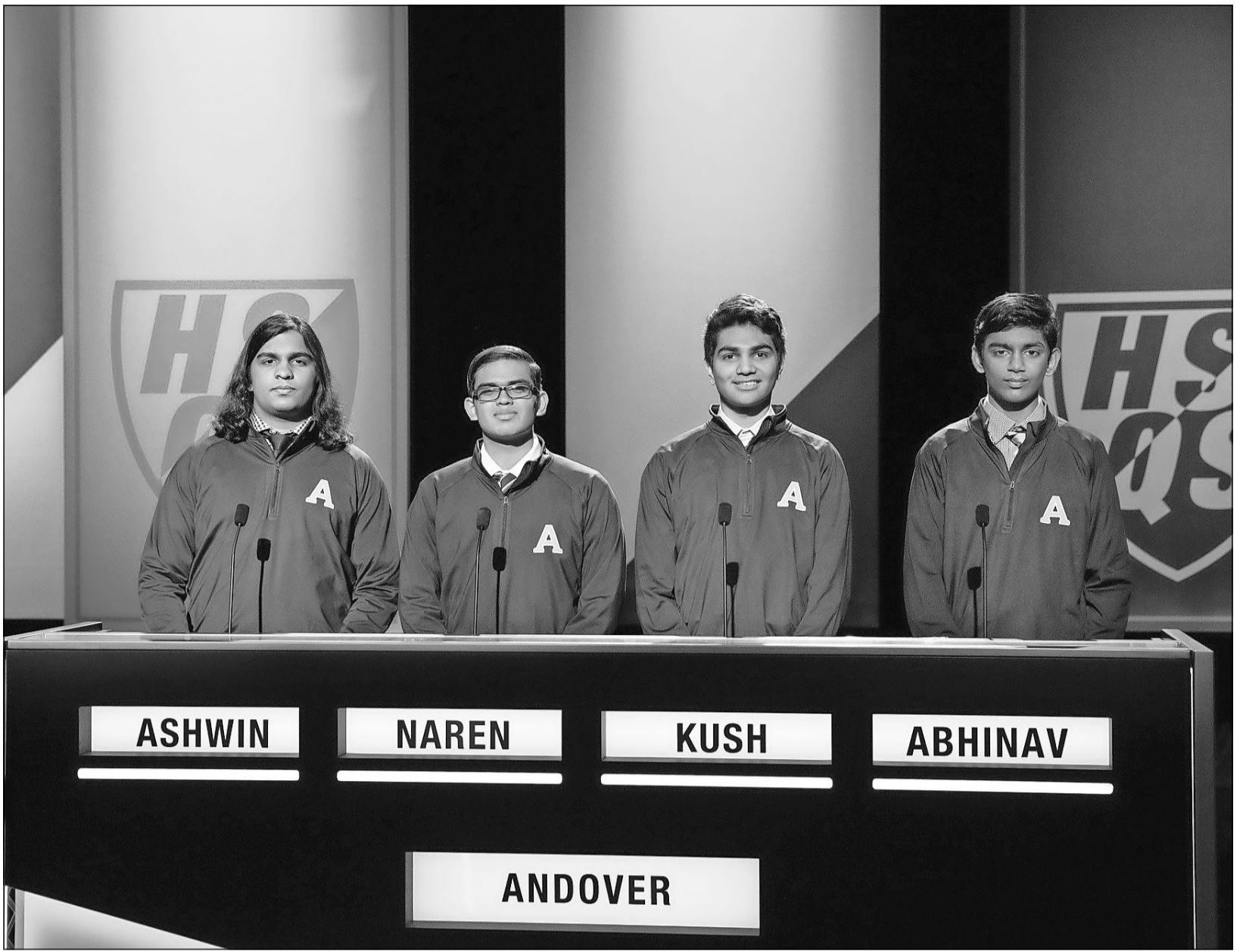
This is Andover's fourth trip to the show, which is in its 11th season. The team looks to improve upon its semi-final finish in 2019.

"To be back in the tournament for the fourth time is a great achievement by our students and for our quiz team club," Alan Hibino wrote in an email. Hibino coaches the team with his wife, Krista.

The club, which had only four students five years ago, has grown to more than 15 students.

"The students work very hard during our after-school team practices," Hibino wrote in his email. "They put in countless hours of studying and preparation outside of school to ensure they are ready for the event."

Each of the 16 teams still in the competition is comprised of four students and two alternates. The teams compete in a four-round tournament to crown the Massachusetts state champion. The winner heads to a two-round invitational tournament that includes the Connecticut,



At the set of the show are Andover High School Quiz Team members, from left, Ashwin Ganesh, Naren Savkur, Kush Shah and Abhinav Bapanapalli.



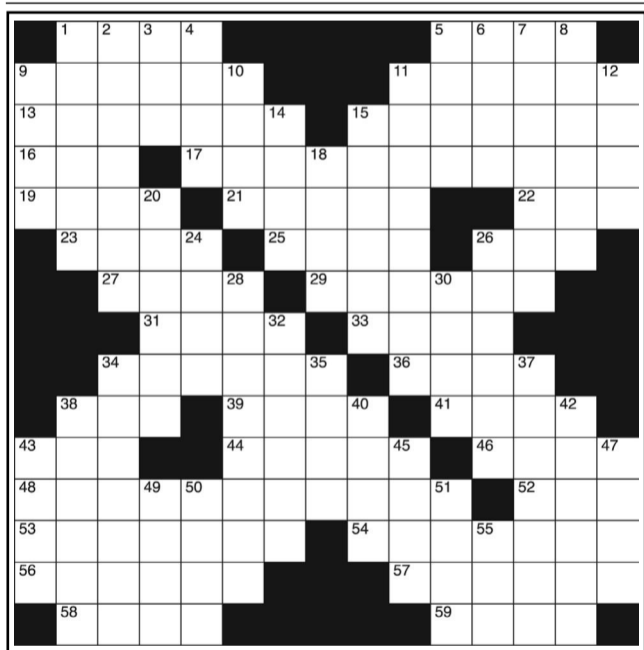
Joining the audience at the show are Andover High Quiz Team members, from front row, left, alternates Vishnu Suresh and Jennie Wang, and team coach Alan Hibino.



Excitement abounds as the studio audience joins Andover High School math teacher and quiz team coach Alan Hibino, left, and High School Quiz Show host Billy Costa in wild applause.

New Hampshire and Rhode Island state champions. Andover won that tournament in 2018.

"Winning against Wellesley (is this year's qualifying round which aired last weekend) was a great feeling," said Ashwin Ganesh, a senior making his first appearance on the High School Quiz Show. "It was nice to be able to follow in the footsteps of the people who



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Canadian law enforcers
- 5. Actor Idris
- 9. Cut or bruise
- 11. Vegetables
- 13. Aircraft delivery
- 15. To make obsolete
- 16. Things similar to those already noted
- 17. Columbus is a famous one
- 19. Age group
- 21. Denotes nature of sound
- 22. Klutz
- 23. Uninteresting
- 25. Computer manufacturer
- 26. 2,000 lbs.
- 27. Genus of seabirds
- 29. Emerges
- 31. Baseball stat
- 33. Witnesses

Solution in Classified Section

- 34. Observed
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. Former OSS
- 39. Small Eurasian deer
- 41. Wife of Sparta's king
- 43. Ballplayer accessory
- 44. Temporary cessation of breathing
- 46. Where construction workers ply their trade
- 48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine
- 52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- 53. Widens
- 54. Detection
- 56. Period of inactivity
- 57. Tomato and vodka are two
- 58. Greek war god
- 59. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Chummed
- 2. Seal bottles
- 3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 4. Meat from a pig (French)
- 5. Within
- 6. Walk in a slow pace
- 7. Cries
- 8. About Andes
- 9. Fishermen use it
- 10. Expresses delight
- 11. Shouts
- 12. Feudal agricultural laborer
- 14. Sailboat
- 15. Small Eurasian willows
- 18. S. American native people
- 20. Extreme disgust
- 24. Nonsense (slang)
- 26. Produce male reproductive cells

- 28. Computes
- 30. Pop singer
- 32. Weds secretly
- 34. Having two poles
- 35. Yankee hero Bucky
- 37. Building
- 38. Per __, each
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Makes amends
- 43. Scoundrels
- 45. Baseball's best pitchers
- 47. Some are scrambled
- 49. Emit coherent radiation
- 50. Singer Redding
- 51. Break
- 55. Institute legal proceedings against

Local online virus support group draws thousands of followers

BY GENEVIEVE DINATALE
Staff Writer

While forcing people to keep their distance from each other, the coronavirus crisis has, in some ways, brought people closer together.

When the pandemic first hit, celebrities like singer/songwriter Lizzo held a public meditation online and John Legend performed a concert for fans through his laptop.

But it's not just celebrities. The same thing's happening right here in Andover. Liz Bills, a Haverhill-based musician who was on "American Idol," will be performing in a coronavirus support group on Facebook for those living in Andover on Friday, April 3.

The group — called "Andover/North Andover COVID-19 Community Preparedness & Support" — was started by Alex Bromberg, an Andover resident who ran for Select Board last year. Since the group began, 4,100 people have joined, far exceeding Bromberg's expectations.

"It's interesting what had actually happened with the group," said Bromberg. "I was expecting a few people locally to join the group. ... At first about 100 people an hour were joining."

Bromberg said he created the group so people could share resources that were no longer available.

"When things started getting crazy and it was upgraded to a pandemic, I noticed a lot of resources were being used up quickly, going off the store shelves



Haverhill-based musician Liz Bills, who appeared on "American Idol," is set to perform in a popular coronavirus Facebook group started in Andover.



Group member Darcie Nuttall posted this a photo of free disinfectant spray and toilet paper.



Group member Annie Barber, who posted this photo of a fresh batch of masks, asks if Lowell General Hospital could use them.

and not available to people who need them," he said. "I decided to start a group to both keep people informed and to help people trade and donate resources together within the community."

From story time for kids, to instructions on how to best pleat face masks and where to drop them off as donations, residents have used the group to their advantage. One

member of the group, Liane Allen, even asked for spare "arduinos" for her son, who is working with a team at MIT to build respirators. Officials say arduinos are open hardware development boards that can be used to make and design devices. Other members posted things simple as pictures of free face masks and disinfectant spray.

"I couldn't be happier with the direction the group has taken and people have really stepped up and taken it as a call to action, both providing for people who are in need and also creating ways to both keep everybody sane as well as provide for local hospitals," said Bromberg.

Opinion

Cheers & Jeers for recent newsmakers

CHEERS to the homemade mask makers among us.

Drawing from sewing circles to social networks to industrious teenagers, they've ramped up living room production to see to it that doctors, nurses and other medical workers — as well as people with essential jobs — are protected from the coronavirus.

The Kessels of Andover are among the spread-out corps of volunteer designers and stitchers who've stepped into service amid a national shortage of personal protective equipment. Tammey and daughter Maddie, 17, a senior at Andover High School, saw Rachel Maddow break down the steps involved in creating a homemade mask on her television show. That planted the seed of inspiration.

They've since been sewing cloth masks for health care workers and caregivers, people who work in pharmacies and volunteers at food pantries — pretty much anyone who has seen Tammey Kessel's posts about the washable, reusable masks they leave on their porch for those who need them to come and take. Tammey's son, Scott, 14, an eighth-grader, is also part of the family operation.

"I have taught my children that crafting, or any creating, is a way to show your love," Tammey Kessel told reporter Jill Harmacinski last week. "We want the people wearing our masks to feel that love and support where they are in a hospital, food service, helping a loved one, or whatever.

"We want to do what we can to make our community stronger and feel a little better about things," she said. It's a sentiment — and activity — shared widely.

Members of the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, based in Groveland, are in on the action. Its Sewing Angel Project was looking for other members this past week to join efforts to make masks.

Over the border in Plaistow, New Hampshire, Patricia Hibbard and Audrey Peck created a Facebook group, Plaistow & Friends Making Masks 4 Heroes, that quickly expanded to 100 members. All are somehow invested in producing as many masks as possible — from the actual assembling and sewing, to gathering supplies, to delivering finished products, to just cheering on and celebrating the community effort.

"We just have an overwhelming response," Hibbard told reporter Erin Nolan. "... We are probably saving lives by doing this. That's the only reward we need."

These times of coronavirus have isolated most of us in our homes, and left us feeling unempowered to do much to change the course of this emergency, apart from the obvious six feet of separation we all must keep with any other human being.

Not so the mask makers. Certainly, their volunteer enterprises are a way to keep busy and a welcome distraction in these anxiety-ridden times. More significantly, their masks are symbols of kindness and support for those people with jobs that put them into contact with the infectious virus and the disease it causes.

For their industriousness and community spirit, all of us should be grateful.

Finally, a **JEERS** to anyone among us who, for whatever reason, doesn't feel the need to keep their distance.

By this point, social pressure makes them relatively rare. Most of us got the memo. And anyone still feeling magnetic or clingy or generally oblivious to the pandemic around us is surely confronted before long by dark stares, or perhaps direct confrontation.

But they're not all that rare. You don't need to spend too much time in what used to be a public gathering spot — the grocery store, say, or a downtown sidewalk — before you'll bump into one.

Or perhaps, you'll notice a group of people — younger ones, usually — drawn together a little too closely.

Truth be told, they're probably not reading this newspaper, as it would signal some interest in what's happening around them. But, on the off chance that they are: Back away. Keep your distance. It's a tall order for some, to be sure. But it's not just about your health, it's the health of people around you. We can shake hands, talk face to face, and maybe even hug it out a few weeks from now (hopefully), once the potential for infection is far less.

A Brokenhearted Supermarket

By Hannah Goff

EDITOR'S NOTE: Like thousands of other students in Andover, the Merrimack Valley and beyond, Andover High student Hannah Goff is stuck in limbo. The coronavirus crisis is holding them hostage, keeping them from classrooms and sporting events and even from hanging out together in their neighborhoods. Hannah submitted this reflection to the Townsman, offering a glimpse into the mind of a local teenager living through the crisis.

My name is Hannah Goff. I am 16 years old and a junior at Andover High School. This is my first, and hopefully, last, pandemic to live through, so I decided to document my every day encounters.

Here is one of my journal entries, titled "A Brokenhearted Supermarket."

As we pull up to our local Stop & Shop, I see a vacant parking lot, with 3 to 4 cars, at most. Cautious of our surroundings, we proceed to the entrance. The automatic doors open wide, and a mysterious, eerie breeze hits my face ever so lightly. I stop and stare at the barren shelves and the evident paranoia on every



FILE PHOTO

The Andover Stop & Shop.

customer's face. I mumble to my mom, "This looks like a scene from a movie!" She sarcastically replies, "So it may be."

A once familiar, family-friendly place had transformed in front of my disoriented eyes. At a quicker than usual pace, we make our way over to the dairy section, stocking up on milk, cheese, and butter before it runs out again. My younger brother reluctantly stretches his skinny arm to the back of the fridge, grabbing the last few cartoons of 2% milk.

As we complete our "in preparation of a town lockdown" shopping spree and near the self-checkout line, I notice that all toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and soap have gone extinct.

It is my first, and hopefully, last, pandemic to live through, so the arrogant behavior of others seems reasonable. I could not help but laugh at how quickly toilet paper became symbolic of the coronavirus crisis.

I begin to help my mom bag our groceries when, within the range of my

peripheral vision, I see an elder in the check-out line next to ours.

The worried man was wearing a tight medical-blue face mask over his nose and mouth. Even though it may have been a cautious procedure, I got sudden butterflies, a haunted fluttery sort of feeling that swept through my stomach.

We exit the supermarket, walking six feet behind the person in front of us, looking down at the shiny tiles, wishing that life would return to sanity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Library trustees support selling Old Town Yard

Editor, Townsman:

Town meeting will be asked to approve the sale of the property known as "Old Town Yard" located within the Historic Mill District. Memorial Hall Library, an anchor building for Andover's downtown, is also within the Historic Mill District's boundaries.

The sale of the Old Town Yard represents a generational opportunity in the life of Andover. With thoughtful planning by the Historic Mill District Task Force, this mixed-use district will be further enhanced by pedestrian walkways to provide access to the library, the downtown, the MBTA and the Shawsheen River. In addition, a key objective is improved automobile traffic throughout the area.

Remediation of the infamous seven-way intersection will make it much safer for the hundreds of school children who walk to the library after school every day. New gathering places and open spaces in the area will encourage more people to visit and take advantage of the many things Andover has to offer, including the programs, events and skilled assistance at Memorial Hall Library.

For these reasons, the Board of Library Trustees unanimously voted to support the sale of Old Town Yard articles at the upcoming Town Meeting. Importantly, the Trustees will ensure that the needs of library patrons are met by staying engaged in the district development process.

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES — CHAIR KAREN HERMAN, JOHN HESS, CAROLYN FANTINI, LAURENCE LAMAGNA, MARILYN SANTAGATI, ANTHONY STRACESKI AND MARK YANOWITZ

Schools must address Adverse Childhood Experiences

Editor, Townsman:

In dealing with emotional problems in schools, we often address the symptoms and not the root cause. Most emotional damage occurs as a result of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which in early years hinders learning and emotional growth. Later in life, ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, poor social skills, addiction, poor school performance and lack of success in the work place.

ACEs are associated the early environment of young children, such as living in a dysfunctional

home, growing up in a racially segregated neighborhood, frequently moving, and experiencing food insecurity. These cause toxic stress which can change brain development and affect such things as attention, decision-making, learning, falling to addiction and responding to stress.

In order to deal with ACEs and prevent addiction and other negative behavior, we need to create new environments in our schools that can provide emotional support, friendship and positive experiences that will lead to self-awareness and self-confidence. We need to create spaces that will help our troubled students. The challenge to create these "new spaces" in our schools is overcoming major obstacles for creating a new environment: the demands for academic success, pressure to do well on state and national tests, large class sizes to meet budget limitations, absence of an instructional methodology that helps students deal with ACEs, and lack of a vision by school leaders to make this an educational priority.

These obstacles should not stop us from finding a means to address ACEs in our schools. Considering that the number-one factor in learning is the emotional

state of students, we can develop programs that will improve learning by changing the environment for learning. One option is to establish an after-school program that can provide a "new space" that employs project based learning for troubled students.

RICHARD TROTTA
Andover

Town Meeting article on solar rules a good start

Editor, Townsman:

The 2020 annual Town Meeting warrant contains a proposal for an amendment to the town's solar bylaw. I write in favor of the amendment.

Solar energy has been a topic of much debate in the past, but has become a more acceptable to the populace. The concern many people have is the visual impact of solar panels. We see them on roofs and in very large open spaces, free standing on the ground.

This article, P38, addresses where and under what conditions solar panels may be erected. I favor the article, but am not sure it goes far enough to protect residential areas. Let us pass this measure now to afford some protection in the future.

JAMES SELLERS
Andover

WEB QUESTION

If six feet of separation are the best weapon to stop the coronavirus from spreading, not everyone seems to be fighting this deadly disease together. From random strangers who invade the personal space of others in the grocery store to clutches of teenagers magnetically attracted to one another, you needn't look far for people who aren't practicing safe "social distancing." What's the best approach to keep these people apart?

TICKETS AND FINES: It's time for police to enforce the governor's emergency order, just as they write tickets to jaywalkers and, as of this week, drivers using their cell phones and mobile devices. Nothing else will get these folks to pay attention.

BACK OFF: Tickets and fines are a bit much. Most close talkers and teenagers aren't malicious, they're just social and uninformed. People need reminders — over and over and over and over.

SOCIAL SHAMING: Don't fine or remind them, scorn them. Don't be shy. This is a public health emergency, after all, and their behavior is ultimately dangerous — to others if not themselves.

Last week's question

The same medical experts who tell us to stay in our homes to prevent the spread of the coronavirus also suggest people stay healthy through exercise. Options are limited now that your favorite gym is closed. So, how (and where) are you recreating in these times of coronavirus?

WALKING MY NEIGHBORHOOD: You can't get within six feet of your neighbors, of course, but it's still a good way to stretch your legs and say hello. (20 votes)

AVIS TRAILS: What better time to explore the Andover Village Improvement Society's network of trails? (4 votes)

STROLL DOWNTOWN: The Park is relatively quiet these days,

and the streets are nearly deserted. You can walk around downtown Andover with far more than six feet of space between you and the next person. (5 votes)

CYCLING AND RUNNING: With schools and businesses closed, cyclists and runners may feel like they have the streets and sidewalks to themselves. (5 votes)

STREAMING: You may not be able to go to your exercise class at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, but there are plenty of options to exercise while you stream a class or watch on demand. (1 vote)

HOME WORKOUT: If you had to rationalize buying that nautical machine and all of those free weights to your spouse, well, you're probably feeling pretty smug right about now — and fit. (1 vote)

WHAT EXERCISE? I'm not leaving the house for anything. I walk from one end of the house to the other. (3 votes)

READER ACCESS

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In the Clutches of the Grippe

A look back at the 1918 flu pandemic's impact on Andover — Part I



By Gail Ralston

Andover Historical Society

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the coronavirus crisis continues, Andover Historical Society members who regularly provide columns to the Townsman turn their focus to the 1918 worldwide flu pandemic and its effects close to home.

In 1918, the world experienced the first influenza pandemic that may have caused more casualties than the Black Death. Andover was not immune.

It was estimated that during that year, 500 million people worldwide were infected — about one-third of the planet's population at the time. Though difficult to calculate exactly, 50 million to 100 million of those died from the flu itself or from resulting complications such as pneumonia.

Deaths from influenza in previous years had historically targeted young, old or otherwise immune-weakened patients. This time, though,

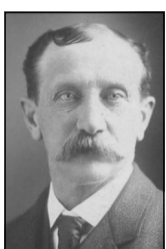
healthy young adults were the victims, and the virus found a fertile playground within the active duty troops gathered for the battles of World War I. Victims often died within hours or days of their symptoms appearing.

In the face of this threat and to maintain wartime morale, reports in the United States and parts of Europe were deliberately downplayed. However, the newspapers were free to report the effect in neutral Spain, creating the false impression that Spain had been hardest hit, and giving the epidemic its nickname — Spanish Flu.

In the United States, the disease was first reported in Kansas in January of 1918. A more virulent strain hit Boston in August. By September, Andover was bracing for the worst.

As compared to surrounding communities such as Salem, Gloucester and Boston, Andover had been fairly free of cases of this widespread "grippe." But the danger was real, and to control this looming threat, the Andover Board of Health on Sept. 26 moved to close public schools, the Colonial Theatre and Memorial Hall Library for an indefinite period.

Andover was the first town in the immediate area to take



John N. Cole

this drastic step. Phillips Academy, though reporting no cases of influenza, took suggested precautions as well.

By early October, the Board of Health, chaired by Charles E. Abbott, ordered that all public services in local churches be canceled. This order soon extended to all public gatherings and to meetings of various lodges. Influenza was added to the list of diseases that doctors were required to report, and this they were expected to do on a daily basis.

Results of this action saw Andover's numbers much lower than those of Lawrence, North Andover and Methuen. As of Oct. 4, "only" 341 cases had been reported in Andover, with "only" seven deaths.

John N. Cole, chairman of Andover's Public Safety Committee, in explaining these low numbers, suggested that the town had an advantage "in the way of high, dry air and good clean streets, homes and working places." Citizens were urged to "take especial care" of themselves. Those needing to care for the sick

were expected to be supplied with — and to wear — surgical masks. The use of paper plates and cups was also urged so they could be burned as soon as they were used.

On Oct. 11, though reports suggested that influenza was under control — with cases standing at 634 — public gatherings were still prohibited. Trained nurses, through the Public Safety Committee, offered voluntary assistance where needed. This assistance included going from house to house on a daily basis where illness was most severe. Mrs. Bartlett Hayes, committee member and Phillips Academy faculty wife, was said to keep eight to 10 quarts of broth ready at all times for those in need.

The rest of October saw a daily average of 20 cases, and more than the average number of persons ill with pneumonia. Of particular concern was the situation that folks convalescing from influenza, seeming on the road to recovery, suddenly would relapse, with their illness developing into severe pneumonia. Serum was supplied to local doctors, who were ready to furnish free inoculations, though a full-scale inoculating station was never needed in Andover.

Next Week: Part 2, Relief in Sight

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

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

100 years ago — April 9, 1920

Andover teachers received another pay raise at the School Committee meeting held Tuesday evening in the board room in the Punchard Building. A flat increase of \$100 per year was voted, dating back to last Monday, with a further increase of \$150 per year effective at the beginning of the school year next September.

Andover school children had a great treat Tuesday morning, when Cho-Cho the health clown — with his strange costume, carmine streaked face and carrot hair — appeared in the hall of the Punchard School to entertain them, and through the entertainment teach them the fundamental laws of good health.

An alarm from Box 11 a little after 11 o'clock this morning called firefighters to a blaze in the old house on F.H. Foster's farm on Central Street. The fire originated near a chimney and the damage done will probably not exceed \$100.

75 years ago — April 5, 1945

Andover suffered the loss of another of her young men Saturday night, when Ensign Andrew P. Hamilton Jr., USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hamilton, 8 Harding St., died of injuries received when the fighter bomber he was piloting on a routine flight crashed at the Wildwood Training Base in Wildwood, New Jersey. Andy was one of the best known of the local young set. He observed his 23rd birthday last Thursday and had recently married Isabella MacFarlane of North Adams.

On Sunday, April 15, Andover will observe Clothing Collection Day in an effort to secure the 12,500 pounds of used and usable clothing that has been set as Andover's quota in the National Clothing Drive. The clothing is to be sent to the

needy people of Europe. Photos and stories coming out of countries occupied there during World War II provide ample testimony of the very great need for clothing.

50 years ago — April 9, 1970

The price of lunch is going up at Andover public schools. The cafeteria director said the quantity and quality of servings will go up, as food and labor costs also rise. The new cost? Thirty cents for an elementary school lunch, and 35 cents for the secondary grades (7 to 12) beginning April 27, the day schools reopen after spring vacation.

A photo shows auctioneer Ralph Sharpe calling for bids on one of the many bicycles auctioned off last Saturday at the police station. Annually the many bikes and other items brought into the station are awarded to the highest bidder, with many a youngster walking away happy.

This year, the students of Andover East Junior High School will present a comedy on April 10 and 11 at Memorial Auditorium. The plot involves the adventures of the inhabitants of a village "crash pad" and a popular rock group called the Bugs.

With the aid of an Indian guru and a little incense, all gain new insights into themselves by discovering what they were in their last incarnations.

25 years ago — April 13, 1995

Parents and teachers remain baffled by Sam Campbell's resignation, but dozens are doing what they can to show the West Middle School principal that if it were up to them, he'd be back next year. Individual parents have questioned school officials about Dr. Campbell's resignation at recent meetings, and this week more than 40 parents signed a letter to the School Department.

Residents at Town Meeting Monday and Tuesday expanded Andover's budget to nearly \$66 million, but didn't give land to a group willing to pay for a youth complex at Recreation Park. Voters also turned down giving land to a group willing to pay to expand the Senior Center.

Andover on hunt for new high school principal Conrad leaving to become Bedford superintendent

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
Staff Writer

The search is on for a new principal of Andover High School.

Last week, Philip Conrad, the school's current principal, accepted a position as superintendent of schools in Bedford.

Conrad announced his departure in an email sent to staff and families Thursday morning of last week.

"I look back on my five years at AHS with great pride," Conrad wrote. "I am grateful to have worked with so many

dedicated faculty and staff, and our committed and conscientious parents and community members. Our students and families are amazing and I am honored to have been a part of the Andover community."

Conrad will begin his new job July 1. Andover Superintendent Sheldon Berman said Andover High must hire someone by then, even if it is on an interim basis.

Berman said he's sad to see Conrad go, but that the move is in the best interests of his career. Berman said Conrad

has done excellent work as Andover High principal.

"Philip Conrad is an exemplary administrator," Berman said. "He has been outstanding at the work he has been able to accomplish at the high school.

... He's done a good job of managing difficult issues and he's done it with a lot of integrity. I think Bedford chose well. He is ready for a superintendency."

Berman said Andover High plans to start a national search for a new principal next week.

Once resumes start coming in, a screening committee

composed of high school parents, teachers, students and administrators will recommend four or five candidates to a committee of administrators, which will narrow down the pool of candidates, Berman said. He said he and the school human resource director will then conduct final interviews.

"It is a little bit late in the year," Berman said of beginning a search for a new principal. "My hope is that Andover is an attractive place to be a principal, and the district is an attractive place to be a part of."



Birds



Birdies



More Birds



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Townspeople



SEAN MURPHY/Staff photos

The hustle and bustle of weekday morning traffic on Main Street has been erased as a direct result of business closures due to the coronavirus.

It's do or die for local businesses

As the number of coronavirus victims across the country grows, Andover businesses are facing a quandary: Remain fully operational or close up shop, cut hours, keep staff or lay off workers.

Some businesses have already shut their doors, hoping to reopen sooner rather than later. The ones that have been able to weather the storm aren't giving up easily.

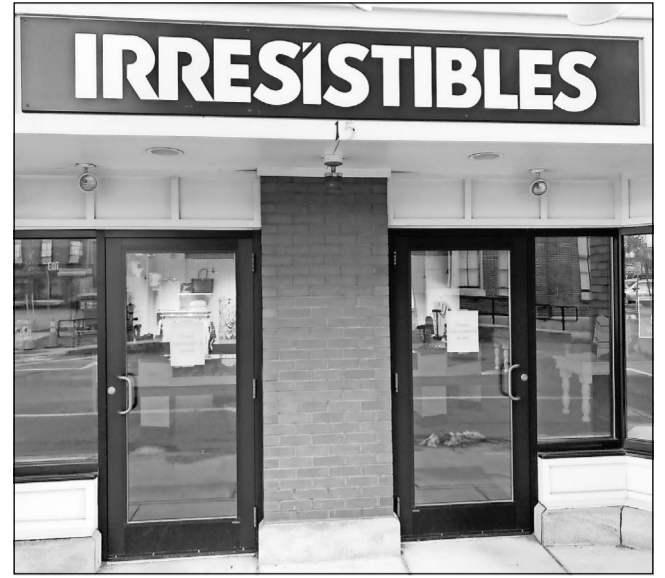
"We've had to cut our staff hours, but we're not letting anyone go," said Peter An, a member of the family that owns Ann's Cleaners. "We want to do the right thing and make sure that all our staff are taken care of in uncontrollable situations like these."

Dunkin' has closed its Main Street location. A sign on the door is directing customers to visit its two other Andover locations.

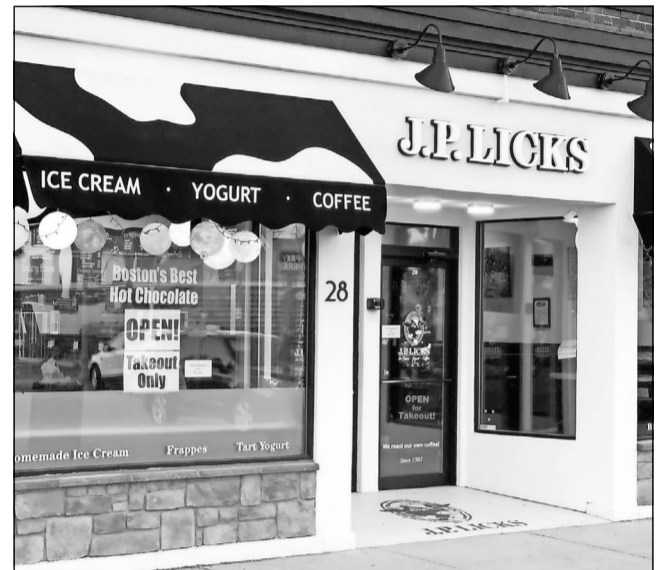
— Sean Murphy



An empty room typically filled with hanging garments is a sign of the times at Ann's Cleaners on Railroad Street.



The signs on the doors of the Irresistibles women's apparel shop on Barnard Street read "Closed - Opening April 1 - Be Well!"



Ice cream lovers rejoice as J.P. Licks on Park Street remains open for takeout.



Applying protective gloves before preparing a sandwich prior to shutting down last Friday is Didier Coyer, manager of Caffe Nero.

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Sports



Photo by Theophil Syslo/Bates College

Andover's John Rex competes in the weight throw for Bates College. The former Phillips Academy star is one of the leaders in the event nationally in Division 3.

Andover's Rex delivered career-best throw for Bates before season cut short

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@eagletribune.com

Andover's John Rex had already arrived in North Carolina, and was preparing to compete at the NCAA Division 3 Track Indoor Championships in mid-March, when the news hit.

His junior indoor track season was done, and the outdoor season was finished before it started due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"I was at NCAAs when we heard the news," said Rex. "I was only a sleep away from competing. It was quite heartbreaking for all of us who had worked so hard to get there, not to mention missing out on the spring season. It was rough."

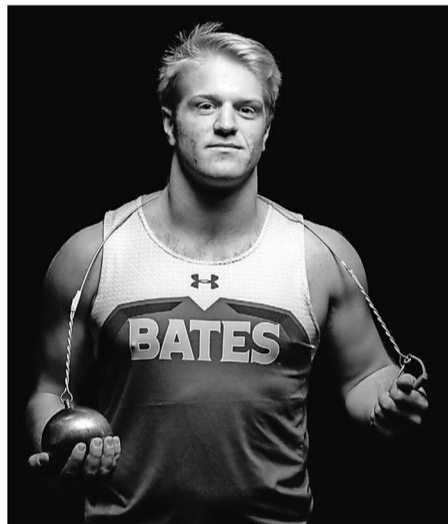
For the Bates College junior, the cancellation of both seasons came just as he was delivering the best throws of his career.

Hampered by tendinitis in his throwing wrist for much of the winter, Rex returned to set personal records in both the shot put (51-0.75) and weight throw (62-6.5) at the New England Division 3 Championships.

He was seeded sixth in the weight throw, the highest non-senior, at NCAA Division 3s in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"I'm very proud of the season I was having prior to the outbreak," said Rex, the son of former Andover High interim football coach John Rex.

"As you get better and better, the



John Rex is a star thrower for Bates College. His top events are the hammer and weight throws.

returns get smaller for sure. So I was fortunate to have had two big PRs this indoor season. I was so looking forward to keeping that momentum going in the outdoor season. I don't have any regrets, but I am sad I won't be able to cash the training in until next year."

A former star in both football as an offensive lineman and track — he threw the shot put 47-7 and discus 140-2.5 as a senior — at Phillips Academy (class of 2017), Rex chose Bates to continue his track career.

"My college counselor was a Bates alum, and I knew I wanted to play sports in college," he said. "I came across the Bates' throws programs

run by head coach Al Fereshetian, who immediately drew me to the school.

"Coach Fereshetian believed in my abilities and saw my potential from the start, and that has served me very well in college. In fact, I realized throwing had been my true passion all along."

When Rex arrived at Bates, he discovered new events for that passion — the hammer throw in the spring and weight throw in the winter.

"They say you don't choose the hammer, the hammer chooses you," he said. "I started throwing it freshman year, and it just seemed to click. Sure, it wasn't pretty at first, but with practice and perseverance I was able to develop quickly into a legitimate hammer-weight thrower. They're almost identical events. The weight is just heavier and shorter, and the hammer is the more technical of the two."

After setting a Bates freshman record in the hammer throw (172-9), Rex continued to improve as a sophomore. He expected that to continue this winter, before he was derailed by injury.

"I developed tendinitis in my wrist due to a few too many shot put throws," he said. "That prevented me from competing for most of the indoor season. I still trained, however, just with lighter implements that didn't put so much pressure on my wrist. Then, I was able to tape my wrist up for the two big meets, states and the New England championships."

PERSONAL RECORD

Here are John Rex's best in all of his events:

Hammer Throw: 190-0

Weight Throw: 62-6.5 (sixth in NCAA Division 3)

Shot Put: 51-0.75

Discus: 143-1

At New England, he won the shot put with the 51-0.75, shattering his previous PR (49-7.25). He also took second in the weight throw with the 62-6.5, again surpassing his old PR (60-8).

"It was definitely the best meet I've ever had," he said. "The kid who beat me in the weight is a good friend of mine. The shot put PR came out of nowhere, but ultimately, I think I just trusted my abilities and the technical adjustments that my coach gave me. I knew I was definitely strong and technical enough to throw that far, but sometimes it's just believing in yourself."

Rex will now set his focus on preparing for his senior year.

"My goals are to train hard this off-season, and next year make a run at being a Division 3 national champion in the weight and hammer," he said. "And I'd like to be an All-American in the shot put. I was looking forward to getting on that podium this year, but the circumstances have taught me to take nothing for granted and train harder, even through hardship."

To the Andover girls basketball team, I never should have doubted you

Kyle Gaudette

Alright, it's time to come clean and apologize.

To coach Alan Hibino and the Andover girls basketball team: I didn't think you could do it.

Actually, before I get into that, first I want to thank the Golden Warriors for going on such a memorable run. I was lucky enough to be there for all five of Andover's playoff games, and it was a treat to watch.

The Warriors were one of the most unselfish, disciplined, poised, hard-working and well-coached teams I've covered, and there's just something about a team that plays its best basketball in the toughest of situations that is so pleasing to watch.

It's the definition of mental toughness.

Which brings me back to the much-needed apology for the 2019-20 Golden Warriors: I'm sorry for not believing!

After needing a fourth-quarter comeback to beat Arlington at home in the first round of the Division 1 North tournament, I gave



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

From left, Andover's Tatum Shaw, Brooke Hardock and Shea Krekorian celebrate with the fans after the Division 1 state semifinals. Sportswriter Kyle Gaudette admitted to doubting the Golden Warriors throughout the tournament, only to be proven wrong time and again.

the Warriors little shot of pulling off an upset at rival Central Catholic in the next round. I mean, was that foolish, though? The Raiders won both regular-season games, were two-time defending North champions, hadn't lost an MVC game in three years and were welcoming back star point guard Nadeshka Bridgewater from a broken hand.

And when Bridgewater and Claudia Porto started raining 3s in the fourth

quarter to cut Andover's lead to just one possession, I thought, "Well, here we go."

But the Warriors never flinched: 63-55.

Well, okay, Andover put it all together for a full 32 minutes and played arguably its best game of the season. But it's just one game, and upsets happen all of the time. And after the emotions of taking out your rival on their home court, were the Warriors poised

for a letdown?

I thought the North semis against Chelmsford — a team that beat Andover by five in the regular season — was a coin flip, but I expected the Warriors to come out slow and run out of steam late.

Wrong again: 42-36.

"You know, Brad Stevens said, after his first NCAA tourney lost, the next year when Butler made the tourney again he said, 'We expect to win a championship,'" said Hibino after that semiset win. "So that's the mindset we have here. Did we expect to make it this far? Yes. We expect to go out and compete every game."

Now the Warriors are in the North finals at the Tsongas Center against Cambridge, who arguably had the best players on the floor in sophomore Sophia Vital and junior Kizziah Ruff. I honestly didn't know too much about Cambridge heading into the game, but knew that guard duo would be tough to deal with.

So, 50-50 again. Meaning if Andover had lost, I wouldn't have been shocked.

But the ball was tipped,

and the Warriors had a lead after every quarter: final, 57-52.

You could stop there and this would already be a great story. You beat your rivals, you got to play in an arena and you won a North title as a surprise No. 6 seed. But now, the Warriors were off to the TD Garden for the state semis.

Awaiting them there was South champion Bridgewater-Raynham. "Okay, the show likely ends here," thought a sportswriter who shouldn't go to Vegas anytime soon.

Again, here me out. Bridgewater-Raynham had lost just twice, and was consistently ranked in the top-5 of the Boston Globe's rankings all winter. The Trojans were led by stellar 6-foot-3 sophomore Shay Bollin, and were coming off a buzzer-beating win in the South finals. Plus, throw in the allure of playing on the TD Garden parquet.

But I guess the Warriors didn't get that memo: final, 52-44.

Which brings us to the state final that was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Warriors

were set to play Franklin (24-0), the undefeated Central champions who were basically the wire-to-wire No. 1-ranked team by the Globe all season, at the DCU Center.

Instead, both teams were announced as co-state champions.

It's a title and accomplishment the Warriors truly deserve for their play this winter. Hibino and his staff, senior co-captains Shea Krekorian and Brooke Hardock, and the rest of the Warriors are true champions.

Spoiler alert though: Gun to my head, I would have picked Franklin.

But if you've learned anything from this column — other than my stupidity — it's that the Warriors wouldn't have cared.

I feel awful that Krekorian and Hardock didn't get a chance to compete for a state title. I feel equally as awful for Bringham and the rest of the Franklin seniors for the same reason.

But I also feel awful that we didn't get to watch the Warriors prove me wrong one more time.

Something tells me they would've.

A post-virus hope for summer: Kayaking on the river

Plum Island group proposes kayak services for Merrimack Valley

By MIKE LABELLA
Staff Writer

Looking ahead to this summer — and hopefully beyond the coronavirus — Merrimack Valley residents may have a new way to enjoy the river.

The organization that made a four-day kayaking trip down the river last year is poised to bring kayaking to the Valley.

Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini gained City Council approval to use \$9,000 from a reserve account to buy a portable booth that would serve as a mini-office for Plum Island Kayak.

The business would use this as a satellite location along Haverhill's downtown boardwalk, next to Riverfront Park off Washington Street.

"Kayaking has been growing each year," said Ken Taylor, owner of Plum Island Kayak. "The river is really an untapped resource for Haverhill where there is hardly any use of the river at all."

He said he would rent kayaks to customers and provide them with information about where to travel on the river and how to time their trips in regard to tide changes.

"We can also provide guided tours where we have it all planned out, including transportation," he said. "Once we get over the virus, people are going to be looking for something to do."

It is expected to take about 10 weeks of lead time to get the project ready for summer, the mayor said.

"I am sensitive to the timing of this request during the ongoing coronavirus public health emergency, but the schedule of construction and delivery of the structure cannot wait if want to be ready by summer," Fiorentini said. "Given the social isolation

created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the chance to provide the public with fun, healthy, outdoors activities on the river once this public health crisis is over has the potential to be a great remedy."

Dougan Sherwood, president and CEO of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, said Plum Island Kayak supported a four-day-long, 117-mile kayaking trip last August down the Merrimack River from Franklin, New Hampshire, to Plum Island. Sherwood was one of several area people who took the trip, including NECC President Lane Glenn and state Sen. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen.

"Plum Island Kayak donated all of the kayaks, paddles, life jackets and more that were used on the trip. We could not have done this trip without them," Sherwood said. "After paddling the entire river, it became clear to me that Haverhill would be a great place for Plum Island Kayak to set up a second location."

The mayor noted the full cost of the kayak booth is \$16,000, but said the city has leftover grant funds it can use to cover the remaining balance. The mobile booth could also be moved and used during the off season for community events in other parts of the downtown, such as the Christmas Stroll, he said.

"In keeping with our vision to increase public access to the Merrimack River and riverfront, we have an agreement for Plum Island Kayak to lease the booth as a place to manage kayak rental operations, conduct sales and secure their equipment," the mayor said, adding that the kayaks would be kept in the water or stored on the city's Capt. Red Slavit Dock behind the Tap restaurant.

"If all goes according to



FILE PHOTO

People enjoy kayaking near a bridge in the Merrimack River.

plan, we hope to have Plum Island Kayak operating in a permanent downtown storefront, similar to their Newburyport location near Michael's Harborside restaurant," Fiorentini said.

The mayor acknowledged the work and support of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, in particular Sherwood, and the city's Harbor Commission in putting together the agreement with Plum Island Kayak.

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High: 46° Low: 41°	High: 49° Low: 37°	High: 48° Low: 33°	High: 56° Low: 36°	High: 51° Low: 39°	High: 58° Low: 42°	High: 58° Low: 46°

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