

LOCAL TEEN **DOCUMENTING** LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

PAGE 2



POP CULTURE. **PANDEMICS GO WAY BACK** 

**PAGE 14** 



**FAMILY BOASTS** 3 ATHLETIC **STARS** 

PAGE 13

OUR 131ST YEAR

## ndover Townsman

Issue No. 25 **APRIL 23, 2020** 

## Delivery service a slam-dunk for injured basketball star

By BILL BURT

bburt@andovertownsman.com

away line from her father that

the stay-at-home order due something?"

stuck at her Andover home and business major needed. ANDOVER - It was a throw- out of sorts.

sent a bored Alyssa Casey into ing to do something," said the Facebook offering my services former Andover High basketball — that I'd pick up and deliver On the mend from ACL sur- star and 2017-18 Northeast-10 groceries," Casey said. gery, the Merrimack College Rookie of the Year. "And my basketball player hasn't been dad said, 'Nobody wants to added. "I started to get request able to exercise much since the leave the house. Why don't you after request." January procedure. Then came pick up and deliver groceries or

to the coronavirus crisis, and That came in mid-March. It Casey was feeling even more was the push that the junior

"I ended up posting some-"I said something about need-thing on 'Andover Mums' on

"It absolutely took off," she

Casey named her new See **DELIVERY**, Page 11





TIM JEAN/Staff photo

### GENEROUS REWARDS

### Girl donates 10 pizzas, gets parade for 10th birthday

By Genevieve DiNatale gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

alia LeBranti made the most of turning 10 during a pandemic. The West Elementary

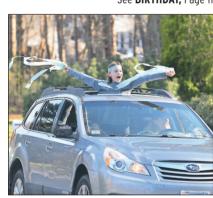
student spent her birthday last Wednesday chatting with friends and family on Zoom, then her family surprised her with a car parade

outside their home ■ See more on Penacook Place. photos. Page 7. "We feel like it was

a special birthday for her and it was unique," said Calia's mother, Nadine. "And as much as we want to be with our friends and family, we made the best of it."

Eighteen cars drove past the LeBranti's home. Calia's friends held signs outside the windows and one took it to another level, gripping blue streamers while standing up through a sunroof.

And as much as Calia enjoyed the celebration, she also wanted to give back. So, this year she decided to donate most of her birthday money to See **BIRTHDAY**, Page 11



In honor of Calia's generosity, friends surprised her with a birthday parade.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Calia LeBranti, 10, of Andover waves to her friends as they drive by. She celebrated her birthday on April 15. On behalf of her birthday she donated some of her birthday money to Lawrence General Hospital. She wanted to help the doctors, nurses, custodians and security personnel who are on the front line fighting Covid-19.

#### Friends don't let friends get lonely while distancing

By MIKE LABELLA Staff Writer

One group of former Andover High School classmates is finding ways to stay connected during the coronavirus crisis, getting together regularly for online chats while they await the end of social distancing so they can resume their frequent family get-togethers.

Residents Todd and Christine Murray, along with Christine's close friend and neighbor Bridget Mason, recently even managed to share a happy hour while maintaining social

See **FRIENDS**, Page 11

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From left, Andover residents Todd and Christine Murray, along with Bridget Mason, get together for a happy hour while maintaining social distancing.

SEAN MURPHY/Staff photo

Take a Virtual Jour

## **Officials** praise residents

## Say Andover doing good job 'flattening that curve'

By BILL KIRK bkirk@eagletribune.com

cials remain cautiously slow the spread." optimistic about limiting As of late last week, the spread of COVID-19, there were around 50 posias local public health sta-tive cases of coronavirus tistics show the number of reported in town. A number cases leveling or remaining of firefighters who had been somewhat steady.

town is out of the woods.

"People around here are doing a good job of

flattening that curve," said Health Director Tom Carbone. "It won't elimi-ANDOVER — Town offi- nate the virus, but it will

quarantined after exposure But that doesn't mean the to the virus had all been cleared to return to work. Meanwhile, there had

See ANDOVER, Page 3

## Health leaders give warning of 2nd wave of virus

Professor: It's too soon to start talking about reopening economy

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse Reporter

the coronavirus may become the curve." seasonal and resurface again 2009 with swine flu.

caution against rushing to

ease virus control measures. "We're not even at the peak yet in Massachusetts, BOSTON — As the state and the rates of infection battles a surge in COVID-19 are still going up," said Dr. cases and deaths, experts Howard Koh, a professor warn of a second wave of at Harvard University's infections if social distanc- T.H. Chan School for Public ing restrictions are lifted too Health. "So any discussions about reopening the econ-This week, the U.S. Cen- omy can't even begin until ters For Disease Control said we're on the other side of

Koh, a former assistant in the fall, as happened in secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Experts say testing capac- Services, said while the curity needs to ramp up and rent modeling suggests there

See WAVE, Page 11

## HOME OF THE WEEK

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## Family life needs clarity during COVID-19

#### **Family Matters**

Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor, We are in our house almost 24 hours a day. The problem is two kids

who are driving us crazy. Our oldest, a boy, is 11. His sister is one year younger. The school work is the first thing to stress us out every day. They both attend a parochial school, and the online instruction is about three hours a day for each of them. Then we hear, "I'm bored." When we say, "go do your homework," they complain. The two of them always did fine with each other. Now, fighting happens every single day. We are getting tired of punishing and yelling and would really like some ideas.

#### Mom and Dad Dear Mom and Dad,

Imagine you are in the air looking down at your house and family, and you have just asked yourself the question: "How do we

help manage our kids?" Objectivity is nourished by distance. You are very close to the situation. Try a few strategies, but be aware that stress is a part of this isolation.

Start with making the family a clear group. Call everyone together and review the situation. What is clear and conscious is

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Plan one thing every day to do as a family. This might be anything from a board game to a walk.

always preferable. Get suggestions from everyone. Do not allow blaming or accusing; that includes you as parents.

Organize a very specific daily pattern. If you wish, prepare a family calendar. Clearly spell out the time for completing assignments. Then plan what time will be available for each person in the family. This will be time alone in separate spaces. It might be spent on a hobby, video games, television, movies, or arts and crafts. It should be an individual thing. Both kids might enjoy a solitary sport such as shooting baskets in the driveway.

Plan one thing every day to do as a family. This might be anything from a board game to a walk.

The human mind is like a shelf. If there is enough on it, there will be less time for a fight. Fill the shelf,

and it will help. This will pass, but a stressful time for a family may also be a time for

Dr. Larry Larsen is an Andover psychologist. If you would like to ask a question, or respond to one, email him at lrryllrsn@ CS.com.

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#### Silence in the street

LOCAL



A typically bustling scene is eerily quiet in downtown Boston near the Prudential building, as Andover High School junior Hannah Goff took to the streets with her camera recently to capture life during a pandemic. Hannah's photos are part of her journal offering a glimpse into the mind of a local teenager living through the COVID-19 crisis.

#### **▶** Coronavirus crisis briefs

## **Initiative helps** photographers, rewards workers

BOSTON — Professional a postal vehicle or carrier. photographer Seana Wilfor themselves, now through their world through the mail. April 24. All sessions will

tive called "ONE For ONE said. Gratitude Sessions" with the

community. to the Merrimack Valley, place for retrieval

Northshore and Seacoast. "I'm happy to be giving mail. families something to look forward to once this has we can keep the mail moving subsided, and honored to be while keeping our employa part of a global movement ees, and the public, safe," along with hundreds of other Rakes added. photographers doing the

same.' The benefits of this initia- set up for cultural tive are twofold. It's a way for photographers to give back nonprofit groups to those essential front-line lifestyle shoot season.

#### Postal workers ask that residents keep their distance

The U.S. Postal Service Program. is asking people to not

Mike Rakes, district manliamson has joined a global ager for the U.S. Postal Serinitiative to gift a photo ses- vice, Greater Boston District, sion to an essential worker said postal employees are every time a local resident working hard to ensure respurchases a family session idents stay connected with

"For everyone's safety, our take place after the social employees are following the distancing restrictions have social distancing precautions recommended by the Anastasia Chomlack is Centers for Disease Control the photographer who ini- and Prevention (CDC) and tially launched the initia- local health officials," he

If a delivery requires a siggoal of gifting 10 sessions nature, carriers will knock to essential workers in her on the door rather than touching the bell. They will Since launching April maintain a safe distance, and 1, over 300 photographers instead of asking for a signahave shown interest and ture on their mobile device, sought more information. they'll ask for the resident's Williamson said she is name. The carrier will leave thrilled to bring her project the mail or package in a safe

Rakes said the CDC, World "When I came across this Health Organization, as well initiative, my little family as the Surgeon General indihad just all recovered from cate there is currently no coronavirus, and I lit up evidence that COVID-19 is inside," Williamson said. being spread through the

"With social distancing.

## Grant program

In the first week of the workers, and to create some coronavirus crisis, Massacashflow for themselves as chusetts nonprofit cultural photographers lose much of organizations reported a their planned business over loss of \$55.7 million from the upcoming wedding and event cancellations, layoffs and venue closures. As this For more information health crisis continues, the about this initiative and future of these organizations to nominate a family, visit - which help bring commuonline at seana-williamson. nities to life – is becoming more dire.

To support the nonprofits, Essex County Community Foundation has launch the Essex County Creative Nonprofit Resiliency Grant

Seeded with \$100,000 from approach mail carriers to ECCF's Creative County accept delivery and to let Initiative, the program will carriers leave the mailbox provide one-time grants before collecting their mail. to Essex County cultural With schools not in ses- nonprofits that anchor the sion, children should also be area's vulnerable and vitally encouraged not to approach important cultural communities. The program will target small and mid-sized arts and cultural organizations with deep roots in their communities that serve the economically vulnerable and are taking a long view toward recovery and sustainability.

> For more information and to help sustain vital creative nonprofits by making a donation, visit eccf. org/creative-county.

**Essex County nonprofits** whose mission is to support arts and culture - and that have been directly affected by the COVID-19 crisis — may apply for awards, which range from

## State expands resources for victims of abuse

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON - State and local leaders are urging people to stay indoors to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. For some people, however, home isn't the safest place.

Advocacy groups are concerned about a possible rise in incidents of domestic or sexual violence.

"Think about that for a moment — being home, isolating or quarantining, or working from home, living with an abuser, and the harmed," Tripp said. impact that that has on your steps of social distancing and staying home have left surdomestic violence particularly vulnerable."

lence, is among a growing briefing. chorus of people worried sexual assault.

have declined. While the gency rooms. reason is unclear, some trapped at home with abus- the limits of our healthcare ers are afraid to reach out system, please know that for assistance.

during disasters, like Hurri- walk you through the colcane Katrina, incidents of lection process and connect domestic and sexual vio- you directly with a trained Tripp, a spokeswoman for support," she said Thursday. Jane Doe Inc., also known If you or someone you and Domestic Violence.

which suggests that abuse 877-521-2601. is continuing during the Christian M. Wade covers outbreak.

cerns that someone is being cwade@cnhi.com

66 In some circumstances, these necessary steps of social distancing and staying home have left survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence particularly vulnerable."

Lt. Gov. Karen Polito

Polito, too, said she is mental and physical abili- troubled by a drop in calls ties," Lt. Gov. Karen Polito to crisis centers and wants said Thursday. "In some cir- to assure those in abucumstances, these necessary sive situations that help is widely available.

"We know that sexual vivors of sexual assault and assault and domestic violence continues, unfortunately. What we are Polito, who leads the Gov- concerned about is the lack ernor's Council on Sexual of reporting," Polito said Assault and Domestic Vio-during the Thursday press

Polito said domestic viothat victims may feel so iso- lence programs and rape lated that they do not reach crisis centers are still proout for help. The state is viding services remotely expanding a 24/7, toll-free while physical locations domestic violence hotline are closed. Courts are to include more resources still accepting requests and support for survivors of for emergency restraining orders and other assis-Advocates say they are tance. And sexual assault troubled by the fact that nurse examiners are still calls to hotlines appear to available in many emer-

"Even during this diffispeculate that victims cult time, as we deal with there are trained profes-"History has shown us that sionals that can assist you, lence increase," said Toni advocate for follow up and

as the Massachusetts Coali- know is in need of sexual or tion Against Sexual Assault domestic violence services, call 877-785-2020 or visit Some police departments www.janedoe.org/findhelp. are fielding more reports of The SafeLink TTY number domestic abuse, she said, for the hearing impaired is

the Massachusetts State-"Sometimes they're get- house for North of Boston ting calls from friends and Media Group's newspapers neighbors who have con- and websites. Email him at

## All Those Years Ago

#### Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago: April 30, 1920 If it is fair on Sunday evening, remember to look for the total eclipse of the moon between 8:15 and 9:25.

Box 28 was rung in on Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock and the local Fire Department responded to a chimney fire at the home of Amos B. Loomer. The blaze was extinguished with chemicals and little damage resulted.

Eighteen-year- old Lillian Karolyn of 34 Chestnut St., Lawrence, was apparently in a stupor when found at the Frederickson home last week. In her story to police, she said that she was attacked and gagged Wednesday night while riding with a stranger. Later, she confessed that she had bound her own scarf around her mouth and went to the Frederickson home instead of being placed there by her assailant as she originally stated.

75 Years Ago: April 26, 1945 The nomination of Ste-

phen S. Boland, candidate for appointment as postmaster, has been sent to the Senate by President Harry S. Truman, it was recently made known. Mr. Boland, who has been acting postmaster since last July, headed the eligible list for the permanent appointment.

It is expected that Andover will exceed her clothing drive quota by one-third, with more than 17,000 pounds of usable clothing already collected, and articles will being left at the Central Fire station. Members of the Service

Club worked Sunday afternoon in sorting the clothing and Wednesday afternoon a group of boys from Phillips Academy

aided in the work. Arthur Jowett, wellknown member of the Andover Police Department since 1928 and a past -commander of the American Legion, died early Friday morning, April 27, at the Chelsea Soldiers Home

hospital. The new police cruiser voted at the annual town meeting in March has arrived at the local police station. It is a DeSoto make.

50 Years Ago: April 30, 1970 Robert McQuade, 36 Gleason St., has been named director of the Public Works Department by Town Manger J. Maynard Austin, with the approval of the selectmen. McQuade, in this new position, will take over the water and sewer department, succeeding Donald J. Bassett who resigned as of April 1.

Another exciting Big Show is in the making for Clown Town. By popular demand, Rex Trailer will return to be the star attraction at the Memorial Auditorium at East Junior High school on May 16. Rex Trailer has enjoyed a long career in the television field starting in New York in 1948.

Andover seems to be a prime target for the Legislature when it comes to redistricting procedures. The latest apparent move, unless Gov. Francis W. Sargent vetoes the proposal, is to align Andover in the State senatorial district which includes Lawrence and Methuen. This would remove Sen. James P. Rurak from serving Andover.





funded, but it could be

Selectman Alex Vispoli

"Revenues will take a

that the budget currently

hike — a number he had

navirus throwing a monkey

As it is, both the town

town really is in a holding

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**ANDOVER** 

| Continued from Page 1

been no cases reported among municipal or school employees.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said residents are paying attention to ing face masks in public ners in teaching. places. He said a spate of

global issue, but everybody students.' here gets it that commuengaged with us."

crisis, as disruptive and last Thursday. deadly as it is, has had some positive impacts. In us," he said. particular, he said, teachers have stepped up to the according to school and challenge of what he called town officials, is that the cent," Vispoli said, referse. but uses a blend of tech- the town budget. nology, from videoconfer- In particular, said Fla- wrench into budget planthe right path.

jumping from one virtual aid. meeting or conference call to another. "Our staff will already announcing layoffs be highly capable of inte- and furloughs for town and grating technology going school employees as the forward."

Second, he said, is the

we've experienced has been cal year 2021, which starts extraordinary," he said, not- July 1, 2020. ing that teachers are working in teams, planning as severely disrupted," Bergroups, sharing information man said. "But we won't and responsibilities.

somebody else will come in generous budget." behind them," he said.

66 It's a tiny piece in a global issue, but everybody here gets it that community spread is very real, and so they are taking necessary precautions. >>

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan

Another positive aspect "I think we are in good directives put out by state of the crisis is that parents position through June 30 and local officials, using have become much stronger mainly because we were social distancing and wear- and more necessary part- conservative with our rev-

"Because we are shar- "We implemented a spendwarm weather brought out ing the work with parents, ing freeze to mitigate any a few people who weren't they have a much larger expected revenue shortfall" complying with the 6-foot role," Berman said. "We this year. "Regarding next social distancing at parks have asked teachers to year, we are in a holding and playgrounds, but those provide learning targets pattern. I'm looking at the issues have been resolved. for parents, so they can reality that state aid, in "It's a tiny piece in a make those targets clear to the best case, will be level-

But it hasn't been easy, reduced." nity spread is very real, and Berman said. The situation so they are taking neces- even required impact bar- said the preliminary 2021 sary precautions," he said. gaining with the teachers budget, reviewed by select-"The residents are very union which resulted in a men in February, will have memorandum of under- to be reduced. School Superintendent standing that was agreed Sheldon Berman said the to by the School Committee large hit," he said, adding

"This was a big lift for calls for a 4.6 percent tax

Making matters worse, hoped would be lower. "remote learning," which economic shutdown is likely ring to budget talks last isn't online learning, per to have a serious impact on summer. But with the coro-

encing to telephone calls, nagan, local revenue from ning, it's anybody's guess to keep in touch with stu- the hotel/motel tax, along what might happen next. dents and to keep them on with the meals tax, will be way down, while revenue elections and Town Meet-"If there is a silver lin- from the state in the form ing have been postponed ing, it's two-fold," said Ber- of the sales tax will also be indefinitely. Until those man, who spends his days off, likely meaning less local two events can happen, the

> Some communities are pattern. crisis cuts into town coffers.

Neither Flanagan nor spirit of teamwork that has Berman foresee problems prevailed in the past five in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The "The collaboration that real impact will be for fis-

"The economy has been know until mid-May. I "If somebody becomes ill, assume it isn't going to be

Flanagan agreed.

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**College Counselor** 



College Update for High School Students THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS IS CHANGING

- · SAT has cancelled the June 6th test date
- SAT will likely be taken online (at home) in the fall
- · ACT has added 2 new test dates: June 20th and July 25th
- ACT will be offering a practice at-home test as early as August
- PSAT for 10th and 11th graders will be available sometime in October
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### Communities work to track path of COVID-19 virus

By BILL KIRK Staff Writer

LOCAL

it, the city could be con-Merrimack Valley.

ing no chances.

In addition to declarembraced a robust program Andover. of tracking and tracing peohave been exposed to it.

Armano says he has as many as 15 people, including the city nurse, public school he said. nurses and even building person who is positive" for the disease.

With about 600 people test- Usually, just the public health of our school nurses." ing positive for the coronavi- nurse could do it. Both clerks,

In Haverhill, tracking and health nurses and two school sidered the hot-spot of the tracing has been going on nurses. since the pandemic began, As such, officials are tak- according to Public Health the outbreak, the state was Nurse Mary Connolly.

ing a state of emergency, dozen people are making and all the contacts every Mayor Dan Rivera and Act- calls, keeping track. The day. ing Inspectional Services same kind of work is going Director Mike Armano have on in Andover and North

Bill Buckley, who heads ple who are either suffering up inspectional services in phone calls a day." from the disease, or who Methuen, including public nurses, said his staff is load and because additional "straight out."

"This is unprecedented,"

"These are difficult calls "We started about 10 to make," he said. "In most victims and their contacts days ago," he said. "We did cases, people are either very and then isolating, quarantinthe initial triage, and we sick, or scared that they've ing and testing them so they are still doing that. When been diagnosed, or worried don't pass it along to others. you have a big public emer- about being treated as a the state has a much better

stretched. ... People who nor- work our health agent and mally wouldn't make these public nurse have done, with calls are now making calls. assistance from of every one

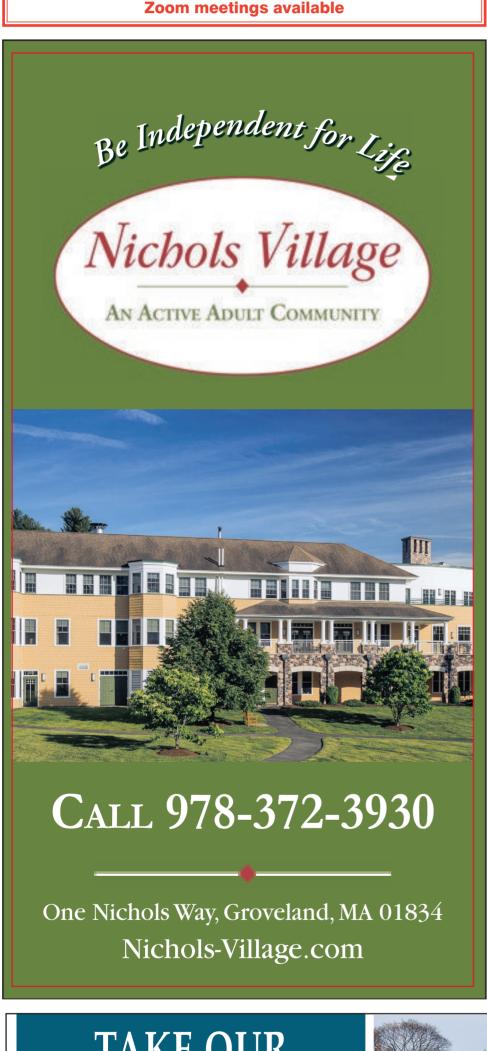
In Andover, Health Direcrus in Lawrence and a dozen inspectors — everybody has tor Tom Carbone said his or more dying because of stepped up." team includes two public team includes two public

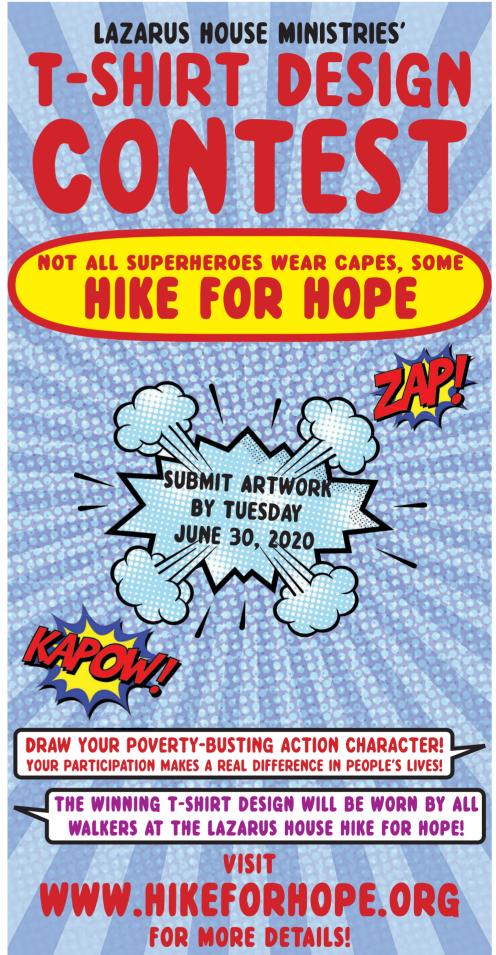
> During the initial stages of requiring the nurses to touch And in Methuen, up to a base with all the active cases

> > "Now, they said we don't need to contact everybody every day," Carbone said. "We don't need to make 200

Because of the heavy workdata is being sought about victims, Gov. Charlie Baker announced a plan last week He notes that sometimes to hire 1,000 people to do inspectors, calling "every things get emotional on the what he called "enhanced contact tracing.'

By identifying coronavirus gency, your resources are contact. I am so proud of the chance of beating the virus.

















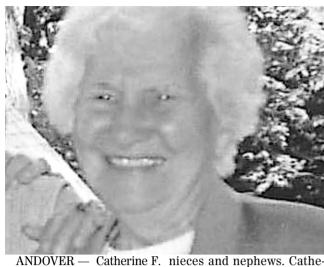
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#### Catherine F. "Rena" Coleman, 94

November 15, 1925 - April 13, 2020



Covid 19 at the age of 94.

(Elsie) Coleman.

man and Christopher Cole- book visit www.lehmanreen. man and many grand nieces com. and nephews and great grand

"Rena" Coleman, formerly of rine was a retired employee of Brighton, died April 13, 2020 of the Gillette Corporation. She loved her family and friends Born on November 15, 1925, and never forgot to rememshe was the devoted and lov- ber a birthday with a card. ing daughter of the late John She was also known as Kitty J. Coleman and Ellen Mary to her friends In lieu of flow ers, please make donations to: Survived by her beloved St. Columbkille's Church 321 sister, Mary (Coleman) Maye Market St. Brighton, MA 02135 of Andover and sister in law, or to Catholic TV P.O. Box Patricia Coleman of Braintree. 9196, Watertown, MA 02471. Predeceased by her brothers, The family is extremely grate-John J Coleman and Paul F. ful to the caregivers on Floor Coleman and sister, Elsie C. 3A of the Mary Immaculate Cronin. Cherished Aunt Rena Nursing/Restorative Center to Dr. John J. Coleman III, in Lawrence for their concern Mary Ellen Whyte, Jane Her- and kindness during her time get, Patricia Wheeler, Kath- in their care. Eternal gratitude leen Cook, Christine Cronin- to the Maye family for all they Tocci, Lee Ellen Shea, John have done for Rena over the Stephen Cronin, Robert Maye, years. Burial will be private. Peter Coleman, Paul Maye, A Funeral Mass celebrating Kevin Coleman, Janet Kelley, Catherine's life will be sched-Paul Coleman, Steven Cole- ule at a later date. For guest-

Mrs. Ruth McBirney Crow

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ARRANGEMENTS: A private

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## Mrs. Ruth McBirney Crow,

January 8, 1952 - April 17, 2020 Beloved Wife, Mother, Sister

LAWRENCE, FORMER-LY OF ANDOVER — Ruth McBirney Crow, a resident of Lawrence, formerly of Andover, passed away suddenly at her home on Friday morning, April 17, 2020. She was the beloved wife of John W. Crow and loving mother of Timothy J. Crow. She was 68 years old.

Ruthie was born in Quincy, on January 8, 1952, the beloved daughter of the late William and Ruth (Powers) McBirney. She was a graduate of Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree. She received her bachelor's degree from Framingham State College, Class of 1973, and followed that with a long and successful career as a payroll manager. A very self-husband, John, she is surless person, she was always vived by her loving son, Timowilling to help anyone in need thy J. Crow of Andover. She and volunteered countless will be greatly missed by her hours as a member of the Mer-cherished siblings: William rimack Valley Trauma Inter- McBirney of Florida, Judith vention Program (TIP).

Ruth was a kind and gentle of Hanover, John McBirney animal lover once taking in and his partner, Mary Ellen abandoned rabbits and rais- Olson of Hull, Ellen and her ing them as her pets. She trea- husband, Francis McNeice of sured her dog Mac, named Falmouth. She dearly loved with a nod to her cherished her many nieces and nephews Irish ancestry, and he brought including Lisa, Bill, Jack, Cara, her many years of love and Sean, Jen, Tricia, Paul and the support. An enthusiastic gar- late Kathryn McBirney. dener, she enjoyed planting flowers, trees and shrubs.

She will be dearly missed by held in the West Parish Garden her close friends and neigh- Cemetery in Andover. Arrangebors Denise Berthiaume. Pat ments have been entrusted to the Lynch and Jim DiBenedetto. Burke-Magliozzi Funeral Home of Ruthie truly loved getting Andover. In lieu of flowers, please together with her brothers, consider a contribution, in Ruth's sisters and their spouses at name, to the Merrimack Valley the Cape where her favorite Trauma Intervention Program cosmopolitan cocktail was fol- or the MSPCA, 400 Broadway, lowed by the legendary fried Methuen, MA 01844. 978-687onion rings and fish and chips 7453, methuen@mspca.org. For dinner at the Flying Bridge in additional information, please Falmouth.

#### **ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES**

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

#### Patricia L. "Pat" Hutson, 68

NEWS/OBITUARIES

December 5, 1951 - April 17, 2020

ANDOVER — BSN, age 68, of Andover, passed away Friday, April 17 at home surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Cambridge to the late Leona Hutson, Pat resided in Belmont, Medford, Boston and New York City working in the music industry prior to pursuing an acting career. She returned to Massachusetts to have and raise her daughter and follow a new career in Nursing. She worked many years at Newton-Wellesley Hospital before her recent retirement in February. She recently completed coursework, earning her BS in Nursing at Dunphy and her husband, Bob She will receive her degree other cousins. posthumously.

She leaves her daughter Em- at a later date. ily of Andover, a sister, Sandy reen Ryan and her husband, 01810. Fletcher of Mystic, Sharon



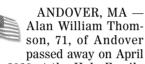
Framingham State University of Ridgefield, Ct., Linda Manin May, but graduation cer- tone and her husband, Joe emonies have been postponed. of Woburn, Mass. and many

Private services will be held

In lieu of flowers, donations Badger of Parrish, Florida, may be made to: Challenge Emily's father, Sam Mercurio Unlimited at Ironstone Farm, of Framingham, cousins, Mau- 450 Lowell St., Andover, MA

#### Alan William Thomson, 71

May 24, 1948 - April 16, 2020



passed away on April 16, 2020 at the Holy Family Hospital in Methuen. He was born on May 24, 1948 to the late Alexander and Grace (Cairns) Thomson.

Alan graduated from Andover High School in 1966 and then joined the United States Navy serving from 1967 until 1970 on the USS Kittyhawk. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Alan worked at Glennie's Dairy in North Andover, the J.W. Daly/Cardinal Health company for over 20 years and Radi Medical Com- garden beds at their home. as a crossing guard for the town of Andover

the Vietnam era. He loved to their safety. be part of any gathering and

He enjoyed summer vaca- Thomson. tions at York Beach, cruising and road trips exploring new places. Alan's favorite screen cooking shows honing his culi- MA 01844. nary skills. Many hours were his wife cultivating beautiful homes.com.



pany. Most recently he served Given all the jobs he had after graduation his favorite had to be the crossing guard post at He was extremely proud of St. Augustine School. He was his Scottish heritage and his very protective of the children service in the US Navy during keeping a watchful eye out for

Alan was the beloved husbeing an Andover "Townie." band of Susan Anne (Mack-He never missed a Memorial lin) Thomson with whom he Day or Santa Claus parade. shared almost 42 years of mar-Never at a loss for words, Alan riage. He is survived by sevmost enjoyed his time with his eral sisters-in-law and brothfamily and friends. He loved ers-in-law as well as several to be part of any gathering and nieces, nephews, great nieces, was known for his storytell- great nephews and cousins. ing, sense of humor, positive He was predeceased by his outlook and genuine kindness. brother. Alexander "Sonny"

**ARRANGEMENTS: All services** will be private.

Memorial contributions may be time included classic action made to the M.S.P.C.A. at Nevins films as well as Food Network Farm, 400 Broadway, Methuen,

To leave on-line condolences, spent outside together with please visit www.contefuneral-

#### **■ POLICE LOG**

The following items were reported from logs on file at the **Andover Police Department:** MONDAY, APRIL 13

Downed wires, Rocky Hill rial Circle, 11:29 p.m. Road, 6:43 p.m.

Pasho Street, 6:12 p.m. Tree resting on telephone

wire, Woburn Street, 5:52 Road, 2:43 p.m.

wire, High Street, 5:50 p.m. Tree fell on wires and cut Road, 10:13 a.m.

power, Chandler Road, 3:45

Caller reported a pest control car driving out of control, Dascomb Road, 3:06

Altercation reported, Stevens Street, 1:21 p.m.

Citation issued for harsh and objectionable vehicle Road, 4:16 p.m. noise, Red Spring Road, 1:06

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 14

False alarm, Campanelli Road, 7:09 p.m.

Noise complaint, Memo-

Vandalism on a motor Tree branch in roadway, vehicle, Elm Street, 2:50

Trespassing, Shawsheen

Parking complaint, Mari-Tree resting on telephone lyn Road, 1:24 p.m.

Credit card fraud, Lovejoy

Dog complaint, River

Road, 9:23 a.m. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Noise complaint, Dale

Street, 10:19 p.m. Child custody issue. Woodview Way, 7:14 p.m.

Citation - red light, River Vandalism, Elm Street,

#### By BILL KIRK Right place, right time. That certainly was the started by a welder's torch. case last Wednesday morn-The law requires a fire ing when Andover Fire- watch by a trained profesfighter Phil Boulanger was sional whenever welding or on a paid, private detail metal cutting is being done where he was keeping at a construction site, Manwatch over welding opera- sfield said. He said firefight-

by welder's torch

Main St. At about 8:52 a.m., Bou-

welding on a beam in the the 27 Main St. building. ceiling of a business in the

firefighters was on scene as incident. smoke began billowing from the site.

called btone Fitness.

the building. No one was ing this incident." injured.

on fire watch as a result of firefighters responded to a state law passed several the fire.

years ago prompted by the deaths of two Boston firefighters who perished in 2014 while fighting a fire

tions inside a building ers go through extensive under construction at 27 training to become certified to oversee welding.

He said it's the second langer detected a fire that time a fire has started due was ignited as a result of to a welding torch inside

Members of the Lawrence, roughly block-long complex. Tewksbury and Wilmington He immediately called it Fire Departments answered in, and within three min- a mutual aid call to provide utes, a full complement of station coverage during the

"Fortunately, no one was injured this morning The fire was extinguished and our firefighters were by 9:26 a.m., but not before able to swiftly get this about \$100,000 in damage fire under control," Manswas done to the building field said. "Thanks to the and some of the businesses firefighter on detail at the inside it, including a gym welding site, this fire was immediately reported, "There was smoke and allowing our crews to water damage and a ceil- respond instantly. I'd also ing had to be taken down to like to thank the crews expose the fire," said Fire from Lawrence, Tewks-Chief Michael Mansfield, bury and Wilmington who adding that about 20 peo- responded and provided ple were evacuated from station coverage for us dur-

A portion of Main Street He said Boulanger was was temporarily closed as



Police say there were lots of cars parked and many people on the beaches over the weekend in Plum Island and Salisbury.

## People flock beaches disregard guidelines to stay at home

By Dave Rogers Staff Writer

Salisbury and Newbury traffic. officials were expected to separately discuss new good weather Sunday brought hundreds of people there. to Salisbury Beach and Plum Island.

"It was crazy, extremely busy. Obviously people police Chief Michael Reilly said Monday morning.

ily restricted in an effort to according to Fowler. limit crowds of people and to hitting 60 degrees-plus Sun- not," he said day and people across the

there is no longer an option Fowler added. at least until the coronavigone.

Charlie Baker ordered the called a "happy medium." closure of parking lots at all and Recreation managed tancing," Reilly said. coastal beach reservations at the southern tip of Plum of it." Island.

closed down the Plum Island this seriously."

Point parking lot while the town of Salisbury closed the entire Broadway area to

Salisbury police Chief Thomas Fowler said motorstrategies to keep people ists instead parked along away from beaches after Ocean Front South and walked to the beaches from

"I guess people just can't help themselves," Fowler said.

Complicating matters for aren't paying attention to Salisbury officials is the the quarantine," Newbury presence of a private parking lot adjacent to the Seaglass restaurant. The owner Parking on Plum Island placed traffic cones across and around Salisbury the entrance but people Beach was already heav- moved them to gain access,

"It's very difficult, we slow the spread of COVID- would hope people would 19. But with temperatures play by the rules, but they're

Fowler said he would be region reaching their break-contacting Town Manager ing point in terms of stay-at- Neil Harrington and Board home orders, the temptation of Selectmen members on to take a road trip proved too Monday with his report and much, according to officials. to figure out ways to further On Friday, Parker River restrict beach parking. One National Wildlife Refuge possible solution was placofficials announced the clo- ing physical barriers along sure of the entrance gate to Ocean Front South parking motor vehicles. The refuge spots. Closing Ocean Front remains open to pedestri- South is virtually impossible ans and cyclists but parking since residents live there,

Reilly, who is Newbury's rus pandemic has come and emergency management director, said town officials Earlier this month, Gov. want to meet at what he

"We don't want to punish Department of Conservation those following social dis-

He said his officers tickto reduce congestion on eted and towed cars Sunday, state beaches. Local ones some featuring New York include Salisbury Beach license plates. He also said State Reservation and the people were lugging beach Sandy Point Reservation furniture and "making a day

'We don't enjoy doing it," Around the same time, Reilly said regarding towing officials in Newburyport cars. "It's a matter of taking

Please recycle this newspaper.

#### Hospitals struggle to keep pace with cost of fighting virus does not take into account Last week the Ameri- immense, and health care

By Christian Wade

hospitals are hemorrhaging chases of new equipment, of Registered Nurses and more than \$46 million a day supplies and resources to American Hospital Asso- Tuesday that despite initial as they battle the COVID-19 expand capacity," Steve ciation issued a statement fears, the the state's hospitals virus outbreak, and more Walsh, the association's pres- saying hospitals should be "will not be overwhelmed" relief is needed to keep them ident, said in a statement. afloat, according to a trade

represents 70 hospitals, estithan \$1.4 billion a month.

"These staggering figures patients."

the added costs hospitals can College of Surgeons, organizations, physicians and are shouldering related to American Society of Anes- nurses must be prepared to BOSTON — The state's COVID-19, including pur-thesiologists, Association meet this demand.'

hospitals could lose an esti- straight days of reductions in social distancing and other The Massachusetts Health mated \$5 billion through July, the number of virus cases. & Hospital Association, which according to the association.

mates that Massachusetts' hits to hospitals has been tial, surgeries postponed due acute care hospitals and the state's temporary ban to the pandemic," the groups than \$800 million into affiliated physician groups on elective surgeries, which said. "When the first wave of MassHealth, the state's are collectively losing more was intended to free up intention this pandemic is behind us. Medicaid program, to help sive care beds for COVID-19 the pent-up patient demand support safety-net hospitals

One of the financial biggest their needed, but not essen-successful. for surgical care may be during the outbreak.

Gov. Charlie Baker said

allowed to resume elective by the virus. He said govern-Collectively the state's surgery if there have been 14 ment mandated closures, efforts to mitigate the spread "Many patients have had of COVID-19 have been

Baker has pumped more



## ERY *or* tak

It's time for the family to enjoy a great meal from your favorite Andover restaurant... <u>Again!</u>



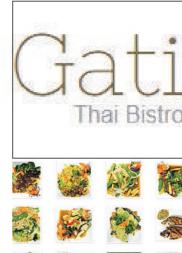


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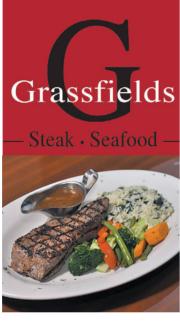


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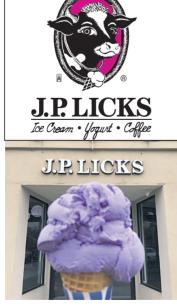


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# We can't wait to see you... Again!

#### THE TOWNSMAN Thursday, April 23, 2020 7

## Townspeople

## CELEBRATING WITH CALIA



A friend makes the best use of a sunroof as he videos the parade organized for Calia LeBranti's birthday.

LeBranti was honored for her 10th birthday

— and her generosity — Wednesday, April 15, by family, friends and neighbors who organized a socially distant parade for her.

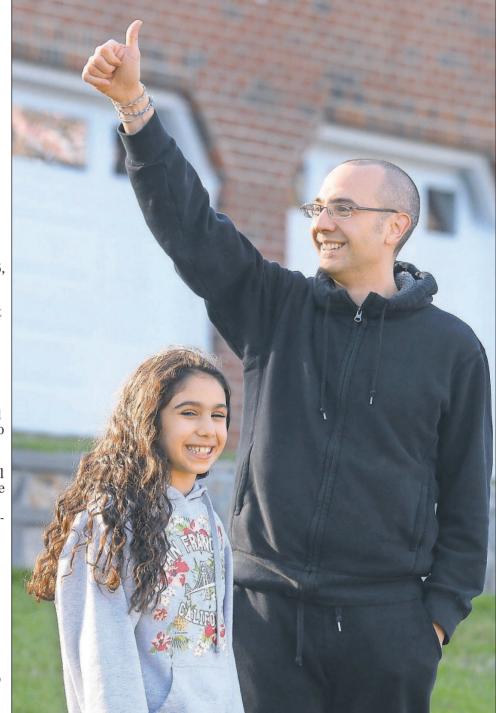
Calia wanted to help with the fight against coronavirus, specifically by doing something for the doctors, nurses, custodians and security personnel who are on the front lines. So her family inquired with Lawrence General Hospital to see how she could do so.

Pizza please, the family was told.

Calia donated her birthday money and the family bought 10 pizzas to be delivered to LGH.

The surprised workers had something for Calia, too: They sang her a robust rendition of "Happy Birthday" to show their gratitude for her gesture.

(Check out the video at andovertownsman.



Calia's dad, Rich LeBranti, gives the birthday parade a big thumbs-up.



Calia's, mother and father, Rich and Nedine LeBranti, and her sister, Elisia, 11, enjoy the birthday parade.



A friend holds a poster made of sparkles, flowers and hearts as she passes by Calia LeBranti's



Jada Dela Cruz, 12, left, and her sister J'lynn Perry, 18, wish Calia a happy birthday from afar.

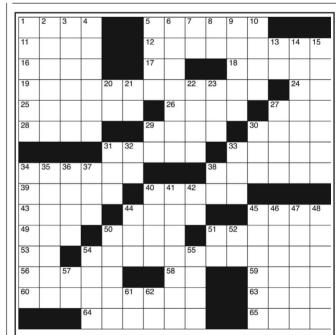


Kelly Parsons and her 15 month-old baby, Evelyn, are neighbors of the LeBranti family in Andover.



Calia waves to her friends as they drive by.

Staff photos by Carl Russo



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Curved symmetrical structure 5. One's partner in marriage
- 11. Male admirer 12. Spend in a period of dormancy
- 16. Popular Easter meal 17. Doc
- 18. Bearing a heavy load
- 19. Gratitude 24. The Mount Rushmore State
- 25. Driving
- 26. Girl 27. British thermal unit 28. Makes a mistake
- 29. A defined length of time 30. Lions do it
- 31. Large quantities 33. Become less intense
- 34. Famed peninsula
- 38. Emerges

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Remove body tissue
- 3. Roadside living quarters
- 4. Excessive self-confidence
- 5. Lapp 6. Bicycled 7. Entrance to a passage
- 8. Western U.S. state
- 9. Grain towers 10. "Westworld" actress
- Rachel Wood
- 13. Commercial
- 14. One who left a will
- 15. Makes it through 20. Within (prefix)

21. Sea patrol (abbr.)

22. Cigarettes (slang) 23. A doctrine

27. Constrictor snakes

29. Atomic #73

30. Baseball stat

31. Female sibling

32. A soft gray metal (abbr.)

- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid 42. Millihenry
- 44. Populous Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- 45. Widen 46. Magical potion
- 47. Acknowledging
  - 48. Private romantic rendezvous
  - 50. Cavalry sword
  - 51. Terabyte 52. Artificial intelligence

Solution in Classified Section

39. Rare Hawaiian geese

44. Measures speed of an

49. Midway between west

50. Monetary unit of Samoa

engine (abbr.) 45. Yankee hero Bucky

and northwest

51. Makes clothing

53. Spielberg's alien

58. Cools your house

59. Imaginary line

60. New convert

64. Wore away

65. Work units

35. Go in again

38. Blood type

54. Agreeable to the taste

56. Injury treatment protocol

63. Some do it to their windows

33. Southern constellation 34. Belgian city

37. A place for sleeping

36. In a different, more positive way

40. Syrian news agency (abbr.)

40. Dance style

43. Drove

- 54. Bullfighting maneuver 55. Breezed through
- 57. Santa says it three times 61. \_\_ and behold

62, 36 inches (abbr.)

4/23/20



LOCAL

## **Doctors fear sick**

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse reporter

BOSTON -- People who need medical help are putting off has also expanded remote going to the doctor amid the access to physicians by COVID-19 outbreak over fears requiring insurers to cover of contracting the virus, health medically necessary tele-

swamped with COVID-19 based Buoy Health to make patients, and many doctors the company's online sympoffices have cancelled check- tom-checking tool available to ups and other routine visits Massachusetts residents, free as health care facilities limit of charge. public access to avoid further

the precautions, coupled with off seeking treatment. public fear, are keeping people

state's physicians, is urging quate access to treatment. people not to forgo necessary health care treatment.

edented public health crisis, health care due to the panpatients should not be afraid to demic, according to a recent seek care from their physician poll by the American Cancer and health care team when Society Cancer Action Netneeded, especially in urgent work. At least 13% of cancer situations," said Dr. Maryanne patients in treatment have Bombaugh, the society's pres- had care delayed, the survey ident. "It is more important found. than ever for our patients to be as healthy as possible, and for- pandemic stretch well beyond going appropriate and timely those diagnosed and suffercare from their physician could ing from COVID-19 and are prove dangerous."

are in place to protect patients, many of whom can't afford and most doctors are still treatment delays," Lisa Lacreachable by phone, or via asse, the society's president, tele-health and in-person said in a statement visits

Massachusetts is in the midst of a surge of COVID-19 infections, with more than 38,077 cases as of Sunday and 1,706 deaths.

Gov. Charlie Baker says the state prepared to juggle COVID-19 patients and normal emergency room visits. He told reporters last week that his administration's efforts to expand hospital capacity by setting up regional field hospitals and

canceling non-elective surgeries "make it possible to do both."

The Baker administration health services. The state has Emergency rooms are also partnered with Boston-

Physicians groups say telespread of the respiratory health is meant as a guide, and those with serious medi-But health officials worry cal conditions shouldn't put

Meanwhile, health care who need help from seeking it. advocates say cancer patients The Massachusetts Medical and others with serious ail-Society, which represents the ments are not getting ade-

Fifty percent of cancer patients and survivors "Even during this unprec-reported some impact to their

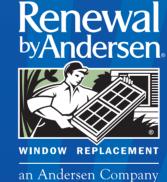
"The health effects of this having an acute and adverse The group says safeguards impact on cancer patients,











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## Opinion

## Make nursing home data available

With hundreds of people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities dying from COVID-19 in the past month, family members, residents and staff at the homes need access to the details on a daily basis.

At least 378 residents of these facilities had died as of last week, based on data released by the state Department of Public Health, accounting for more than 40% of all the deaths from the disease in the state so far.

Depending on where you look, that number could be low.

Since COVID-19 testing began in the town of Belmont, a full 59% of those who tested positive lived in some type of long-term care facility, according to reports. The Boston suburb of 26,000 people has seen 13 deaths from COVID-19 as of last week, and all of the victims lived in Belmont Manor, a long-term care

Although nursing homes have been reporting data on staff and patients who tested positive and those who died, the state Department of Public Health has been slow to release specifics about which nursing homes have been impacted and the rates of infection and fatalities in those buildings.

The tragic deaths of 25 residents of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, and five at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home in recent weeks, gave everyone a stark view of how rapidly the coronavirus could tear through a place where older people live in close quarters. Reports of deaths at other nursing homes are coming in almost

The risk isn't only to residents of these places, which is why family members and staff need to have ready access to the latest information.

The state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services recently set up the Massachusetts Nursing Home Family Resource Line -- (617) 660-5399 -- open from 9 to 5, seven days a week, to provide information about nursing homes. The phone service is a start but it doesn't address the need for the state Department of Public Health to include specific nursing homes or assisted living centers in its daily updates on COVID-19 cases and deaths.

If a nursing home is seeing a growing number of cases, it's vital the public knows about it.

### Give distillers a break

In the best of times, craft distilleries blend up boutique whiskey, gin and other spirits that a connoisseur will find nowhere else. Theirs is a deep history in Massachusetts, which in the 18th century was the country's leading rum exporter.

Now the state has at least 18 commercial distilleries, and many have joined the effort to battle COVID-19. Like the shoemaker creating masks for health care workers, or the clothing factory fashioning gowns, distillers are creating custom blends of scarce hand sanitizer. Many sell, and sometimes give, the cleaner to nursing homes. social service groups and others whose work puts them in direct contact with people vulnerable to the coronavirus.

And they deserve the state's support for their efforts. A distillers group is asking for a break on the excise tax

its members pay on the alcohol they use to make hand sanitizer, now \$4.05 per gallon. The group also wants permission to ship directly to Massachusetts consumers, assuming use of systems that confirm customers' ages. Distillers also want the state to expand the permission it has already given restaurants to sell take-out bottles of beer and wine to include mixed drinks sold in secure containers.

Other states — California, Washington, Kentucky, Virginia and New York — have made similar allowances, according to the distillers, many of which have lost threequarters or more of their business due to the closures of restaurants and tasting rooms in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Excise tax relief should be straightforward for businesses working to protect the public, and the state should hurry to grant it. When distilleries do sell sanitizer to non-profit groups and health agencies, they often do so at cost, which is to say they make no profit.

Lawmakers and the Baker administration should carefully consider the other measures, too, to the extent they sustain businesses that provide an important public service.

## Andover Stories – The First Decade



#### **Tom Adams** and Gail Ralston

Andover Center for History and Culture

History is about telling stories, passing knowledge down from generation to generation.

The Andover Stories column began as a simple idea to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Andover Historical Societv. The society formed a committee to explore the idea and develop a plan. Once done, the committee approached the Townsman to see if there was a level of interest. The Townsman jumped in with both feet and agreed to run the column every week for two

Our job was to identify interesting topics (the hardest part was whittling the topics down to 104!), recruit writers and then research and write the columns. An intrepid group Shawsheen Village.

of writers signed on - Joan Patrakis, Jim Batchelder, Don Robb, Gail Ralston, Mike Simo and Tom Adams and we were off and running.

We discovered, at the end of two years, there were so many more stories to tell. We didn't want to stop. The Townsman agreed.

Over the past 10 years, 264 columns written by 38 writers have appeared. The topics were broad sweeping – the people, places and events that shaped the Andover we know today. The stories told of remarkable people doing remarkable things. The stories were funny, informative and sometimes even inspirational.

The stories were a reminder of a simpler time. But all of these stories fostered a pride in being part of the Andover community.

Don Robb wrote the first column — "Telling Stories is Our Mission" — charting the early history of the historical society and leaving a taste for the column's direction. Don wrote a dozen columns on topics including "Samuel Smith & America," "The Coming of Route 495" and several on

Joan Patrakis contributed 11 columns ranging from "What We Did for Fun" to "Scoundrels and Scamps" to Andover's part in the Civil War.

In his nine columns, Jim Batchelder told of the settling of the town, our public schools and downtown Main Street. Joan and Jim both served as our fact-checkers

Mike Simo told stories about the Shawsheen National Soccer Champs, Tyer Rubber Company and Francis Dane. Tom Adams penned

nearly 40 columns telling stories about such town figures as Josh Miner, Addison LeBoutillier and J. Everett Collins. He also wrote about Andover's postal service, the Moncrieff Cochran Bird Sanctuary, Howard Johnson's, Dundee Park and the Historic Mill District.

Gail Ralston wore several very important hats. Serving as our editor-inchief, Gail also managed our relationship with the Townsman and contributed an astounding 108 columns. Among those were articles on Andover Moonshine in the 1920s, a more sobering story on the Spanish Flu,

and a timely story on the "Draper Block - Best Location in Town.'

While the Andover Stories crew is excited to be celebrating its first decade, we are even more excited about the columns just waiting to be written. We have developed, and continue to seed, a list of topics that we hope will interest the Townsman's readers.

Many thanks are due for the support of the Townsman and editors Bill Kirk and Bill Cantwell. They have made the Andover Stories column an absolute pleasure to write.

We must also thank Elaine Clements and the Andover Center for History and Culture Board of Directors for the encouragement and contributions they have made over the past 10 years. And to vou. our reader, for giving us an audience. Thank you!

As we head into the second decade, and with our writer pool of nearly 40, there is always room for more. We are continuing to deepen this important talent reservoir. If you'd like to join our team, please call the Andover Center for History and Culture – we'd love to hear from you!

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### The U.S. - and Andover - need a fully funded WHO

Editor, Townsman:

As a future physician, I home of Andover.

The WHO currently has country on the list. those vaccines are available, to properly respond. I want to be able to use them here, in Andover.

business.

we will lose access to these

Meanwhile, other countries will reopen. Their chil-

keep funding for the WHO.

I need WHO's vaccine for matters to US.

#### COVID-19 crisis a test for Trump administration

Editor, Townsman:

The COVID-19 pandemic pandemic. was saddened to learn that is ravaging the world, but funding the World Health pitals on Earth, it's affecting ernment to coordinate ment of Public Works. Organization. While its the United States the most, the spread of resources to far away in Switzerland, its ter, there are almost 600,000 been forced to compete with work touches lives around documented cases in the one another for necessary the globe, including in our country, which is over three supplies, thus driving prices

as the virus was starting to fewer supplies than needed. town. They will be our best tool spread across the country, do everything they can to essentially unnoticed for days of the request. weeks.

University National Security Coun- president. Andover cil, which has consistently received high praise from

experts. Despite this, within the

past year, Trump disbanded it, leaving us unprepared Editor, Townsman: and vulnerable to this

als, and more than 70 others unique suffering is Presi- are "not satisfied" with the such joy. in development. The minute dent Donald Trump's failure actions Trump has taken

This is the case for most to keep our community safe the Trump administration governors, as our state of and reopen Main Street for insisted on having the U.S. Massachusetts, for example, Centers for Disease Control has received only 17% of its If we stop funding WHO, and Prevention make their requested personal protecown tests rather than simply tive equipment as of the end accept ones from the WHO. of March. However, some This left us with a criti- states with governors that cal lack of test kits (in fact, Trump likes haven't faced dren will go to schools while the lowest per capita of any similar difficulties, as Florours remain locked indoors, industrialized nation) at a ida (with renowned Trump I ask U.S. Rep. Lori Tra-critical testing period, thus loyalist Ron DeSantis as govhan, Sens. Elizabeth War- allowing the already conta- ernor) received everything ren, and Edward Markey to gious coronavirus to spread they asked for within three

Presidencies are made Following the concern in crisis. Trump's failed our community. The WHO over Ebola in 2014, Presi-response to this one proves dent Barack Obama founded what many of us have ANDREW MESHNICK an emergency pandemic known all along: he is sim-Medical student, Georgetown response agency within the ply unqualified to be our

> **MATTHEW ALLEN** Andover

#### our nation's public health Thank you for Easter Bunny's parade

What a nice gesture. A thank-you to the Andover Trump has also failed to Fire Rescue, Andover Police the United States will stop despite having the best hos- mobilize the federal gov- Department and the Depart-

When I looked out my headquarters may seem As of the writing of this let-states, as they have often window and saw the parade go by, it put a smile on my face.

I can only imagine how times as many as the next up. Even a Republican gov- thrilled the children must ernor, Larry Hogan, admit- have been to share in that three vaccines in clinical tri- And the reason for this ted he and other governors moment, bringing them

Again, a thank-you to all with regards to state govern- for brightening up our day, At the beginning of March, ments, leaving them with far and for all you do in our

> **KAREN-ANN GLENNON** Andover

#### **LETTERS POLICY**

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition. Mail to:

33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810 Fax to: 978-470-2819 E-mail: townsman@andovertownsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-

mail, not as an attachment.

#### **WEB QUESTION**

quarantined and playing in empty stadiums in Arizona. all the games on turf. of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, catch the coronavirus. They shouldn't do it. and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

What do you think?

**PLAY BALL**: We could all use baseball — especially con-

Major League Baseball is reported to be working up a but if you can't go see the Sox play at Fenway, why bother? think? Should masking up be mandatory? plan to play a shortened season in a "bubble," with teams Baseball in a bubble isn't natural. They'll probably play

#### Last week's question

Gov. Charlie Baker urges everyone to wear a mask or more from those around you. (6 votes) sidering the grinding boredom that comes with social dis- when going out in public, but clearly not all are taking tancing, not leaving the house, and cancelled concerts and his advice. Masks are intended to protect wearers — and tive equipment are key for health care workers and first sporting events. It would all be a little easier to swallow if the people around them — from the spread of the coro- responders, but less so people who already practice social we could turn on the television and watch a live ballgame. navirus. But if you're walking around town, and even in distancing. There's enough to be anxious about without WHAT'S THE POINT: Watching baseball on television is fun, some stores, you'll see people doing without. What do you worrying who's wearing a mask. (9 votes)

WEAR A MASK - Or don't leave your house. If someone isn't invested in protecting themselves and others, they The plan to revive the national pastime, which is not yet TOO DANGEROUS: No mater how many angels they put in at least should spare the rest of us from their presence finalized, has won praises of Dr. Anthony Fauci, director the outfield, it's a matter of time before all of the players especially in places where it's nearly impossible to keep adequate separation. (36 votes)

> **DON'T WEAR A MASK** — Don't wear a mask if you don't want to, but at least ensure you're keeping six feet of separation

> **UNNECESSARY** — Masks, gloves and other personal protec-

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#### LOCAL/FROM PAGE ONE



BRYAN EATON/Staff photo

Local school buses will remain idle after Gov. Charlie Baker announced schools would remain closed for the rest of the school year.

## Baker shuts down schools until fall

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse reporter

Charlie Baker announced much as possible.' Tuesday, as the state con-

Baker said public and prithis school year. vate K-12 schools, which urged students to continue to in keeping schools closed. stay home and practice social distancing.

ground associated with the rie Najimy said. COVID-19 pandemic," he said virus to others.'

Baker said state-licensed opened for the children of schools and "non-essential"

Jeff Riley said the state will from being overwhelmed. update guidance to school Baker has already

"This has been an drop in cases for at least 14 and websites.

unprecedented interruption days before it eases other to an entire generation of restrictions. students," Riley said at the The Department of Public BOSTON — Schools won't briefing. "And we want to Health has tracked a five-day

tinues to battle a surge in will be allowed to use a 17 to 1,556 on Tuesday. COVID-19 infections and credit/no credit system for In all more than 41,199

were set to reopen May 4, will ers Association, the state's 19 deaths have been stay closed for the remainder largest teachers union, said attributed to COVID-19 in of the academic year, and he Baker made the "right call" Massachusetts.

"It's the right thing to do our communities across the shuddered to at least May 4. considering the facts on the state," MTA President Mer-

ment of Education.

Baker declared a state of Emergency day care centers steps that have shuttered stay-at-home advisories.

districts on ways to keep stu- extended the shutdown the Massachusetts Statedents engaged and expand order once and warns the house for North of Boston state would need to see a Media Group's newspapers

reopen until the fall, Gov. minimize learning loss as decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases reported Riley said school districts each day, from 2,262 on April

> grading for the remainder of cases have been reported since the start of the out-The Massachusetts Teach- break, and 1,961 COVID-

> Baker has taken no action "It was a necessary deci- to reopen "non-essential" sion to protect the health of businesses, which remain

President Donald Trump has encouraged governors The state had already to start easing restrictions, at a briefing. "We believe stu-cancelled this year's MCAS and states such as Georgia dents cannot return safely exams after receiving a and Colorado are moving and avoid transmitting this waiver from the U.S. Depart- to allow some businesses to reopen.

Baker said Tuesday the day cares will also remain emergency on March 10 and state will make its own deciclosed, at least until June 28. has taken other preventative sions about when to ease

"We're focused on mannurses, first-responders and businesses across the state. aging our way through the other front-line personnel He said the actions are cru- surge," he said. "The goal battling the virus will remain cial to curbing the spread of going forward is going to the virus and preventing the establish prerequisites about Education Commissioner state's health care system when it is safe and appropriate to open the doors.

Christian M. Wade covers

## Residents want Plum Island closed

### Online petition seeks police enforcement

By Dave Rogers Staff Writer

NEWBURYPORT - Almost 600 people signed an online petition calling for the temporary closure of Plum Island to everyone but residents, a response to what petitioners say is an invasion of unwanted visitors at a time when the governor is asking people to stay home.

"We are asking for the Newburyport Police Department to enforce the protection of our dunes as well as the safety of our health by eliminating the ability for tourists to congregate at Plum Island Point disregardtion, found on change.org.

Tarah Cammett, a Newburyport resident who away. began the petition, said the round and adhere to recom- tocols are necessary. mended social distancing.

during other high-volume cials concede. times, as well as better signs and even physical barriers.

deterring people," Cammett table at this point."

ing her to take action.



The Newbury Department of Public Works put no parking signs on both sides of Plum Island Turnpike on Tuesday morning.

ing current city and state this morning to discuss how parking lots at all Departmandates," reads the peti- to move forward, know- ment of Conservation and

plea was not about keeping and figure out what to do but at the southern tip of the people off the beaches but we need Newbury's support," making sure they respect the Holaday said, adding that she residents who live there year- agrees new enforcement pro-

"We don't think we have and Newburyport officials, visitors are removing sawa private world," Cammett who share duties on Plum horses and parking there Island, have been discuss- anyway. And while city park-Cammett said she and oth- ing the possibility of closing ing enforcement workers ers would like to see a greater the island to everyone but have issued tickets, it hasn't police presence along Plum residents, but such a move stopped people from as far Island Point on weekends and would prove daunting, offi-

"We're hoping that doesn't The blinking light on Plum Chief Michael Reilly said. officers wrote seven tickets Island Turnpike isn't exactly "But everything is on the

She sent a lengthy email to already been sharply cur- Murray said. "The biggest Newburyport Mayor Donna tailed to limit crowds of peo- issue was Plum Island Turn-Holaday on Sunday, implor- ple and to slow the spread of pike and that was Newbury." COVID-19. The Parker River

ing current measures are Recreation-managed coastal not keeping enough people beach reservations to reduce congestion on state beaches. "We are going to regroup which include Sandy Point island.

About the same time, officials in Newburyport closed the Plum Island Point park-In recent weeks, Newbury ing lot, but Cammett said away as New York and Maine from parking there.

Newburyport City Marshal happen," Newbury police Mark Murray said his police Sunday

'We're ticketing the cars Parking on Plum Island has that are illegally parked,"

On Sunday, hundreds of That action could take National Wildlife Refuge people drove onto the barplace as soon as today after parking lots were closed Fri-rier island, clogging Plum Holaday said she would day and earlier this month. Island Turnpike by parkbe meeting with city and Gov. Charlie Baker ing their vehicles and then Newbury officials remotely ordered the closure of walking over to the beaches.



Alyssa Casey of Andover, unloads groceries from her car to a designated spot outside a home in Andover. The Merrimack College student and basketball star, who wears a mask and gloves while shopping, started her own delivery service during the coronavirus crisis.

#### **DELIVERY**

■ Continued from Page 1

business 20 percent of the bill, or 25 estly, we'll go anywhere." percent for locations outside of a 10-mile range.

in excess of \$30,000 and she had hired five people to help. she said. "I didn't realize how she added. "Alyssa fills sort of how I feel about play-They wear protective masks appreciative and grateful in the blanks. She goes to ing basketball. I love everyand latex gloves while shop- people would be. It makes me the pharmacy, the grocery thing about it." ping and drop off bags at a feel like I'm doing something store. ... When we ran out designated location at the good for the community.'

customer's home.

trips," she said. "It started come at a better time. out mostly at Market Bas-

Casey said the appreciation teenage children. has received for her services pany had made deliveries along with earning the cash. are doing school online, so the next day and then get-

"I get cards, gifts, flowers,"

'We've done over 100 said the service couldn't have up.'

"DoorToDoor ket, Stop & Shop and Whole ately when I saw the post on at Merrimack College, her Delivery" and launched an Foods. But we've also hit Andover Mums and now I own business has given her associated Facebook page. Butcher Boy, CVS and picked rely on her," said Sheri Mar- real-life experience. She structured her prices at up food at restaurants. Hon-tin, who lives in Andover

of propane, I called her and bburt@eagletribune.com.

One satisfied customer she went out and filled it

Casey said while she has "I reached out immedi- learned a lot about business

"I've always had that with her husband and two entrepreneurial spirit," she said. "This has definitely got "I'm helping take care of me thinking. I love working As of Tuesday, her com- has been extremely fulfilling, my parents and the kids for myself. I love planning we have a lot going on," ting up in the morning. It's

You can email Bill Burt at

■ Continued from Page 1

will be additional waves of determine whether the coronavirus becomes a persistent concern.

"There are so many variables," he said. "It will depend on how intensely we continue social distancing measures, what the rate of the transmission of the virus is, and whether we're getting rising immunity levels in order to give the know they're sick," he said. general population some protection.'

Koh said expanded test- to return to normalcy." ing is crucial to determining

infected," he said.

There is currently no be a year or more away.

people should get used to the outbreak. living with the coronavirus, respiratory illnesses.

ers in the future."

Society's Committee on Pubcan spread undetected.

be transmitted before they cwade@cnhi.com

66 It infects people and can be transmitted before they know they're sick. So it's going to be difficult to know when it will be safe to return to normalcy. ??

Dr. James Broadhurst

"So it's going to be difficult to know when it will be safe

In Washington, a battle how widespread the initial over reopening the nation's wave of infections has been. economy is heating up, as "We still don't even know President Donald Trump how many people have been pushes to start easing restrictions in early May.

Gov. Charlie Baker, who antiviral medicine for the is weighing whether to respiratory illness, and the extend a May 4 deadline to medical community has lift stay-at-home orders and warned that a vaccine could reopen schools and nonessential businesses, said Dr. James Broadhurst, this week he is concerned a family physician who about rushing to loosen teaches at the University social distancing restricof Massachusetts Medical tions before Massachusetts School at Worcester, said gets through the worst of

"I know it's difficult for like the flu and seasonal everybody to hear this ... but this virus obviously 'We've had SARS and doesn't work on a sched-MERS, and now we've got ule," Baker told reporters this one" he said. "If it's not last week. "But it can be this respiratory disease, killed when we all do our there certainly will be oth- jobs to slow the spread. I know it's been a long time, Broadhurst, who chairs but letting up now would the Massachusetts Medical only result in greater harm."

Christian M. Wade covers lic Health, said unlike influ- the Massachusetts Stateenza, COVID-19 outbreaks house for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers "It infects people and can and websites. Email him at

#### **BIRTHDAY**

■ Continued from Page 1

Lawrence General Hospital in order to assist those working from Sal's Pizza and donated on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I just wanted to do somehave to deal with the people they sang "happy birthday." that are sick."

Lawrence General Hospital ing 24/7.

donate. Hospital officials responded by saying they'd like some pizza. So, Calia bought 10 pizzas

and asked how they could

them to the hospital workers in the COVID-19 units of LGH. The free meal didn't go

thing for people doing the unnoticed. The health care COVID-19 stuff," said Calia. "I workers who enjoyed Calia's felt bad they could have been gift responded by sending her sick or something and they a "thank you" video where "They are heroes," said

In order to fulfill her birth- Calia. "They have to help all day wish, Calia's family called the people and they are work-

#### **FRIENDS** ■ Continued from Page 1

distancing. It didn't replace the cook-

outs they share regularly with fellow graduates of Andover High School's Class of 1994, but it was better than nothing. 'We all sat on the front

wall of our Washington Avenue home and enjoyed drinks," Murray said. "We all needed a quick hour of

socializing while having some laughs and enjoying each others company from 6 feet away." In normal times, this

group of 10 friends and a dozen or so children gets together up-close-andpersonal often and has been doing so for 15-plus years. For the most part the adults all grew up and graduated high school together.

"We just can't cut the cord," Todd Murray said, reminiscing about how

things usually are. "We'll have someone over for a cookout, or they will hold one. It's like a revolving door as to who is hosting the get-together."

Of course that all changed about a month ago, when Gov Charlie Baker ordered social distancing to slow the the social distancing rules spread of the coronavirus.

"It's been tough and I feel really bad for the kids who are stuck in their houses," Todd said. "As a parent, we're trying to keep our

own three children aware of what's happening. We try to stay positive and keep them busy with activities such as daily walks.' The whole tight-knit

group makes time to stay close via text chains and Zoom visits, too. And when are finally lifted, Todd predicts a memorable event.

We're going to have one hell of a party," he said. "And we'll probably need to call for Uber rides.



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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that two
public hearings will be convened
on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 7:30
p.m., by the Planning Board through
remote participation, the meeting
can be viewed through Andover TV
Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon
Channel 45, on applications submit-Channel 45, on applications submitted by Alpha Development Corp for a 2-lot Definitive Subdivision Plan and a Special Permit for Earth Movement under Section 6.3 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. Members of the public who wish to participate may do so by calling 978-623-8650 or emailapplications are for property located at 95 Sunset Rock Road owned by Richard and Barbara Moody more specifically identified as Assessors Map 99, Lot 2.

Chapter 127 of the Acts of 1999, the Andover Contributory Retirement Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 8:00 AM for the purpose of deciding whether to elect to grant retirees from the Town of Andover a cost of living increase. Please check Andover Retirement's website the morning of the meeting to find out if the A copy of the application and plan may be requested through the Planning Department planning@ando-verma.gov or 978-623-8650 Monday through Friday during normal busi ness hours.

THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Zachary Bergeron, Chairman AT - 4/23, 4/30/2020

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J Barrett & Company 978-239-6207 Miscellaneous

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Well-developed interpersonal skills Self-starter with a positive can do attitude
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#### www.andovertownsman.com **AUTOS**

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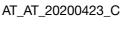
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PROFESSIONAL

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General PC skills
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Compensation & Benefits:



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Rick Petralia

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est traffic flow in Gloucester, both vehicular

and pedestrian. U-shaped driveway, exit wrap-ping the building, 12-car off-street parking, Ideal for a coffee shop, retail or office space. Interior has high ceilings and 2,138 square feet

with center area surrounded by rooms on all four corners. Other amenities include 3-phase electric with 400 Amps, central air, half bath, storage and a rear exit.Triple-Net (NNN)

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## **Sports**

## FANTASTIC FAMILY

### Andover's Resendiz siblings have dazzled all over New England

By Kyle Gaudette sports@eagletribune.com

The debate over who has the best jump shot in Andover's Resendiz household probably will never be settled.

"I do," said oldest sibling Nick, a senior at the Cheshire School.

"My dad says it's my older brother, but I think I do,' said middle child Katie, a repeat-sophomore at Groton

Yeah, things can get pretty competitive in this household in Andover, especially when you throw youngest sibling Danny, an eighth-grader at the Wood Hill Middle School, into the mix. But something all three can agree on is that they come from a pretty talented family.

#### **HIT FOR 'FOOTBALL** CYCLE'

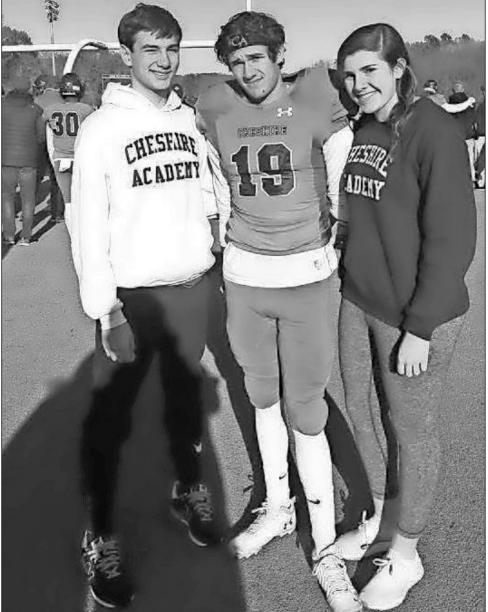
Oldest child Nick spent two years playing football and basketball at Andover High before transferring to the Tilton School, where he reclassified as a sophomore.

He saw some minutes on a loaded basketball team, but truly broke out on the football field. With only around 250 people at the school, the 6-foot-1 Resendiz had to do a bit of everything for an under-manned squad.

In his repeat-sophomore season, he came away with an impressive six interceptions in only six games. Then, last year as a junior, he was moved to quarterback and was team MVP.

"He kind of hit for the football cycle," laughed father Gus, a lawyer as well as a board member at the Lawrence Boys & Girls Club. "He had a kickoff return touchdown and puni returns. ... When he got team MVP, he was involved in all but two touchdowns

for the whole season." But after his junior year, the coach at Tilton stepped down, and Nick decided to transfer to Cheshire (Conn.). He permanently made the switch to wide receiver this past fall, and was catching passes from quarterback Jack Brandon, who has a scholarship offer from Ohio State.



The Resendiz family have raised three talented athletes. From left: youngest Danny, oldest Nick and middle child Katie.

"It was a different level of football," said Nick, who is narrowing down his options between local Division 2 and 3 offers. "It was a whole different level of intensity during the preseason.'

#### **CHANGE OF SCENERY WORKS WONDERS**

Middle child Katie started her high school career at powerhouse Tabor Academy, where she played alongside seven Division 1 commits. One was North Andover's Nirel Lougbo, cousin of Wabissa Bede, who is now a freshman at Marquette.

So you could say the competition was tough.

But Resendiz learned a lot Club team as well as his

during her two years there. AAU team for a specific And after transferring to Groton before the start of this school year, where she is repeating her sophomore year, she is now starring. The 5-foot-10 guard averaged 12.2 points and 10.1 rebounds, and was named an ISL All-Star.

"I was definitely a more confident player this year than I'd ever been," said Resendiz. "I love it at Groton. Academically, they push you to be your best, which is what I care about

#### **PLAYING FOR HAMMEL**

Danny, the youngest Resendiz child, has worn No. 31 for his Boys & Girls reason.

It's the number legendary coach Bert Hammel wore during his playing days at Bentley, and Resendiz was lucky enough to have Hammel as a sixth-grade coach before his passing.

"He brought the same enthusiasm for us that he did for his college players,' said Resendiz, a hot-shot 6-footer who can do a bit of everything on the court. "He would tell me all of the things I did good and bad after each game.'

Resendiz is hoping that No. 31 will be available next year at Andover High, where he'll attend to play for coach Dave Fazio.

"I looked at prep schools



Andover's Katie Resendiz is coming off a breakout sophomore year at Groton School. Older brother Nick is a senior wide receiver for the Cheshire football team, and younger brother Danny will be a talented incoming freshman at Andover High.



Andover's **Nick Resendiz** starred at Tilton before transferring to Cheshire this year. He'll be playing football in college, and his two younger sibling, Katie and Danny, are both talented basketball players. COURTESY PHOTO

#### **MEET THE FAMILY**

Gus Resendiz: Father. Lawyer. Board member at Lawrence Boys & Girls Club. Rowed at Northeastern.

Mary Resendiz: Mother. Works in Health Center at Brooks. Played basketball at Burlington High and UMass Lowell.

Nick Resendiz: Oldest child. Played football at Andover High (2

years), Tilton (2 years) and Cheshire (1 year). Katie Resendiz: Middle child. Played basketball at Tabor (2 years)

and Groton (1 year). Current sophomore at Groton. Danny Resendiz: Youngest child. Played basketball at B&G Club. Ris-

ing incoming freshman at Andover High.

like my siblings, but I Andover," said Resendiz.

#### **FAMILY UNIT**

All three Resendiz kids agree that growing up around the other two has only made them better.

We always would go at it in the driveway," laughed Danny. "Being the youngest, I'd always get beat on a little. But it's fun."

And the athletic genes don't stop in the immediate better."

family. Their cousin is Alex thought it was best to go to Fleury, the record-setting Eagle-Tribune track MVP who is headed to Harvard.

> But by the looks of things, the Resendiz family is headed for successful athletic and academic futures as well. We always go to each

other's games and cheer for each other," said Katie. "We definitely compete with each other, but we all push each other to be

US vs. Wirus

10 Ouestions with people from the world of sports

## 10 questions with former Andover hockey star Sarah Oteri

By David Willis dwillis@eagletribune.com

Editor's Note: With high school sports postponed indefinitely, we're checking in with athletes and coaches from the Andover sports community about how they are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.



Sarah Oteri was one of the first true stars of the Andover High girls varsity hockey team. A four-year star for the Golden War-

Sarah Oteri

riors (class of 2010), Oteri scored 92 career goals, including 35 in her All-Scholastic senior season. She was an All-MVC selection three times (2008-10), leading area girls in scoring each season. She was also an All-MVC pick in field hockey,

After playing club hockey at UMass Amherst, Oteri returned to the Merrimack Valley. She first worked as an assistant coach for Andover, before becoming one of the state's premier girls hockey head coaches.

In five seasons as Methuen/ Tewksbury girls hockey's head coach, Oteri has led the Red Rangers to a 91-12-15 record. Last winter, her squad won the 2019 Division 1 state



Sarah Oteri, top left wearing a scarf, has turned Methuen/ Tewksbury girls hockey into one of the state's premier powers.

championship.

Oteri took the time to answer questions about how he's doing during the coronavirus outbreak:

NAME: Sarah Oteri **CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Haverhill JOB/SPORT: Methuen High math teacher; head girls hockey coach, Methuen/

#### Tewksbury 1. How has the shutdown of sports affected you personally?

I've had a lot of contact with our spring athletes and coaches. I'm trying to help them stay positive and cope with the current situation. I also miss watching sports on television, following sports stories, and seeing my athletes.

2. Who do you know who is more affected than yourself by having no

Absolutely the senior athletes, I feel so sorry for them. Also, the spring coaches. You prepare all year for your season and, for them not to be able to compete and showcase their preparation, is really tough.

I also feel for the hockey state finalists who did not get to play in their championship game, I can't even imagine being in that situation. Every athlete wants the chance to prove they are the best.

3. Under normal circumstances, what would you be doing right now? I would be teaching and

preparing summer hockey showcases and fall hockey teams. I would be getting back she was really looking forinto a relaxed routine without my friends and family.

#### 4. Is this an important time in the hockey offseason?

In terms of sports, we (hockey coaches) are probably in the best situation. However, the longer this crisis goes on, the more hockey will be impacted. Athletes are missing tryouts for fall half-season teams. There are also many showcases and tournaments coming up that hockey players need for recruitment.

Lastly, spring and summer is such a great time to work on fundamentals (edge work, shooting, strength, puck control) that we don't always get to work on during the high school season. Most hockey players are not used to being off the ice for this long.

#### 5. Which sport do you miss the

I miss hockey! I miss skating and watching the NHL. I also miss spring sports at Methuen High School. I was hoping to catch many softball and lacrosse games.

#### 6. Which players on your team do vou feel are most affected by the suspension of sports?

All of my seniors: Kaja Hollingsworth, Brenna Greene, Ryan Quinn, Katelyn DiMambro, Lydia Pendleton, Madi Sjostedt, Abby O'Keefe, Tori

Schille, Claudia Crowe. I've spoken to Brenna Greene and ward to this lacrosse season. high school hockey and seeing Also, Claudia Crowe was such a great teammate for us this winter and it was time for her to shine in softball.

#### 7. With no NBA, NHL or March Madness, how are you getting your sports fix these days?

I've been watching our 2019-2020 Hudl Highlights. Our Methuen Boosters purchased Hudl for us this year and it greatly benefited our athletes in terms of preparation and development. I might rewatch our 2019 state championship win. I was also able to video conference with many of our current players and some former players. It was really nice to see their faces and hear from them.

8. To support local restaurants, where have you ordered takeout from parents.

#### or would like to?

I live in Haverhill and love Kruegers Flatbread. I also absolutely plan on supporting Bada Bing as they were so supportive of our team at this time last year so I want to be a teammate right back!

#### 9. What's your go-to movie or show to stream?

I watch Survivor, I need to get my competition in. I also read a lot of books, I am on book six of quarantine life. I've been listening to many sports podcasts, which helps during this time of no sports.

#### 10. What will be the thing you'll most want to do right away postcoronavirus crisis?

I want to get back in the classroom and back on the ice. I hope I am able to see all nine of our seniors walk across the stage at graduation. I also want to go out to dinner with my

#### **SEND US YOUR** TOWN SPORTS NEWS

The Townsman wants to spotlight the triumphs, and tragedies, of Andover's local sports teams and athletes.

We're asking coaches, players, parents and fans to send us photos as well as highlights from all the week's sporting games and events. Items can range from a shout-out for a top player or team, a spectacular play or sports milestone or even some candid shots from a game or practice.

We also want to hear ideas for stories on athletes or a big game that The Townsman should feature in its pages.

Send your photos, highlights and story ideas to townsman@andovertownsman.com or call 978-475-7000, ext. 8733. We look forward to

## Current reality mirrors pop culture history

LOCAL

By WILL BROADDUS Staff Writer

e have been here before, if only in our imaginations.

As strange as it seems to be living in a moment when the streets are empty and people are wary of one other, such scenes have been conjured by writers and artists for centuries.

That means anyone who wants to look closer at what's going on, but through the safe filter of fiction, has a range of options.

A recent — and highly realistic — film to watch is "Contagion" from 2011, which was created in consultation with health experts and reflected contemporary experiences with epidemics such as SARS.

On a purely sensational level, the movie "World War Z" from 2013 depicts a zombie apocalypse in which a shrinking band of survivors tries to outrun a plague that turns people into flesh-eating ghouls. These are not the sluggish, foot-dragging zombies of George Romero's classic "Night of the Living Dead" from 1968, but a ravenous onslaught, devouring everyone in its path.

If comedy is not too hard to take, the film "Osmosis Jones" from 2001 gives a vivid explanation of how our bodies fight infection. If that sounds like a dull documentary, the drama inside the body is animated and features the voices of Chris Rock and Laurence Fishburne, respectively, as a white cell and an invading virus named Thrax.

Going back a few decades, viewers can find "The Andromeda Strain," one of the most popular films and books from the 1970s, about a deadly virus from outer space that comes to earth in the American Southwest. The early scenes, where men in hazmat suits enter a town where there are only two survivors, are unforgettable.

Another film from that era, 1971's "Omega Man" with Charlton Heston, features a scientist who had worked on a viral agent that



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Many people have been watching the 2011 thriller "Contagion," which contains several parallels to the current situation.

escaped and killed everyone or almost everyone — on the planet except himself. By day, he searches for survivors, while at night, he battles a group of mutants called "The Family," which is out to kill

Pictured here is Jude Law as Alan Krumwiede.

Post-apocalyptic settings have also been featured in recent novels, such as "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel, which came out in 2014. The plot follows a troupe of actors who are trying to save civilization by performing for what's left of the world's population, after a virus has killed millions.

There are also new novels about epidemics that are making their way to market, including "The End of October" by Lawrence Wright and 'The City We Became" by N.K. Jemisin, both of which were begun before COVID-19 had been named.

But while readers wait for those, they may want to consider some books that have been around for centuries.

One is Giovanni Boccaccio's "The Decameron," which was written shortly after the arrival of the Black Death in Italy in 1348 and serves as a user's manual for sheltering in place. After detailing the horrors and breakdown he saw in

Florence, where thousands were killed by bubonic plague, Boccaccio introduces us to 10 young men and women who flee the city for a villa, where they take turns

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telling stories.

Salem's Nathaniel Hawthorne contributed to this genre with the story "Lady Eleanore's Mantle," which he published in "Twice-Told Tales" in 1842. Like much of Hawthorne's fiction, the story is set in Colonial times and focuses on a wealthy woman who comes to Massachusetts from England wearing a beautiful mantle. The garment was laced with smallpox virus by the woman who created it, unleashing an epidemic on American shores.

"There is no other fear so horrible and unhumanizing as that which makes man dread to breathe Heaven's vital air, lest it be poison, or to grasp the hand of a brother or friend, lest the gripe of the pestilence should touch him," Hawthorne writes.

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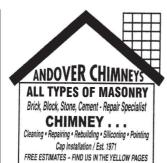
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