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OUR 130<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 35

JULY 2, 2020

\$1.00

## Andover drug company to pay \$11 million to state

### AG: Pharmacy irresponsible in filling prescriptions

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@eagletribune.com

A national mail-order pharmacy based in Andover has reached an \$11 million settlement over a lawsuit brought by the state of Massachusetts, Attorney General

Maura Healey said last week. Injured Workers Pharmacy has agreed to pay the money to the state, subject to court approval, Healey said. "Injured Workers Pharmacy created an illegal operation that put dispensing speed and volume over

patient and public safety," Healey said. "They dispensed thousands of prescriptions for dangerous drugs, including opioids like fentanyl, with a shocking lack of regard for whether those prescriptions were legitimate. "Combating the opioid epidemic remains a top priority of my office and we will aggressively pursue those who break our laws to profit from this crisis," Healey said.

The settlement comes nearly a year after Healey's office announced it was investigating Injured Workers Pharmacy, which markets drugs and sells them to workers' compensation patients. The pharmacy handled the most amount of opioids in Massachusetts between 2006 and 2012 — 34.2 million oxycodone and hydrocodone pills, according to the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

The company said it did not have to admit any wrongdoing in the settlement. "This agreement emphasizes IWP's commitment to a comprehensive and best in class compliance program and to preventing the abuse and misuse of controlled substances; it also eliminates the cost and time associated with a lengthy legal case and allows IWP to focus on providing best in class service

to its patients," reads a written statement from Diana Pisciotta, spokesperson for the pharmacy. Healey's office said the pharmacy violated Massachusetts consumer protection laws by not having proper policies in place to determine if the prescriptions were legitimate and using unlawful marketing practices like paying law See PHARMACY, Page 2

## Former Andover High standout Tucker now battling ALS



This photo from 2017 shows a healthy David Tucker with his wife, Sabine, and daughters Autumn and Secoya. A year ago, the former Andover High star running back came down with symptoms that were later diagnosed as ALS.

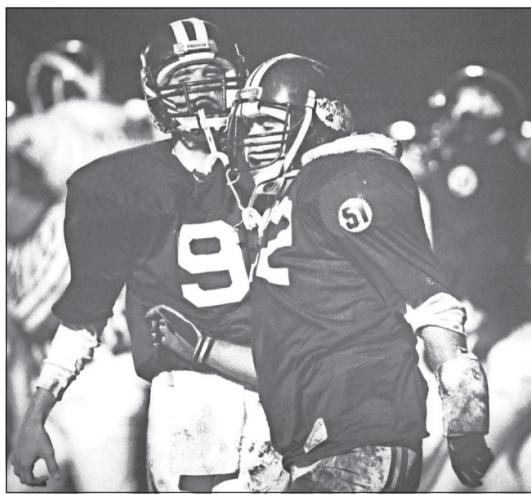
By BILL BURT  
bburt@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — In the fall of 1989, David Tucker was the kind of kid everyone envied. He came from a well-known Andover family. His dad, Mike, was a successful businessman. His mom, Susan, was a popular state representative, and later a state senator.

He had good looks, great grades, a pleasant personality and humility. And he was tough. Man, he was tough.

"I have a lot of David Tucker stories on the football field, but the one I'll never forget was the North Andover game," said Pat Finn, who was then Andover High School's quarterback. "They were undefeated and very good," said Finn. "Hunter Lochman blocked a punt, and David scored two plays later. By the end of the half David had three touchdowns. He got a fourth in the second half. And I don't know how many tackles he made at middle linebacker; it seemed like he made every

See TUCKER, Page 2



David Tucker, right, celebrates after a big play during his senior season with Andover High football in 1989. Tucker led the area with 14 touchdowns and 12 tackles per game.

## Fall goal is getting kids back to school

### State calls for 3 plans; Berman to hold public forum

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
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It looks like students are most likely returning to school in the fall. In a statement addressed to Andover Public School students and their families, Superintendent Sheldon Berman announced that Gov. Charlie Baker and Jeffrey Riley, the commissioner of The Massachusetts Department of Elementary

and Secondary Education, "announce(d) initial guidance for districts across Massachusetts to re-open schools for the 2020-21 school year." Details for how schools should plan the re-opening process were outlined in a report DESE released last week, called "Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance." The aim? To bring back as many students as possible. "Our goal for the fall is to See SCHOOL, Page 2

## Report cites slow progress fixing gas leaks

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

The state's aging natural gas pipelines are still riddled with thousands of potentially dangerous and damaging leaks, according to a new report. The report, compiled by environmental groups using data from publicly regulated

utilities, found at least 15,728 gas leaks statewide at the end of 2019, some of them dating back several years. A majority are "grade 3" leaks, considered the least dangerous, but the report's authors note that any leaking combustible gas is a hazard. "Gas leaks are potentially explosive, kill trees, harm human health and release destructive greenhouse

See GAS LEAKS, Page 2

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## SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

safely bring back as many students as possible to in-person school settings, to maximize learning and address our students' holistic needs," Riley wrote in the report.

Berman said a public forum about Andover schools' fall re-opening is planned for later in the summer.

All districts and schools in the state are required to submit three different fall reopening plans to DESE by August.

The first is an in-person learning model that would bring all students back to school at once with new safety requirements. The second plan would include a hybrid learning model in which students would alternate between in-person and remote learning, perhaps on a weekly basis. The third plan is a re-opening model that would be entirely online.

"Districts and schools must be prepared to be flexible and ready to pivot if circumstances change significantly," Riley wrote. "For this reason, districts and schools must plan not only for in-person learning, but also hybrid models... and also full remote learning."

Riley stated that based on the available medical literature "the rate of in-school transmission is low."

"At this time, the evidence suggests schools have not played a significant role in COVID-19 transmission and that children, particularly younger children, are less likely than adults to be infected with COVID-19. Furthermore, if they become infected, it appears children may be less likely to transmit COVID-19 to others," the report said.

Riley has left it up to families to decide whether their children should return to school buildings or not.

"Families, in consultation with their medical providers, will ultimately make the decision as to whether their children will attend in-person instruction, or whether their children will continue with remote learning," wrote Riley.

Families are also responsible for taking the temperature

*"Families, in consultation with their medical providers, will ultimately make the decision as to whether their children will attend in-person instruction, or whether their children will continue with remote learning," wrote Riley.*

of their children before sending them to school in the morning.

"Screening procedures are not required at the point of entry to the school," the report said. Later adding, "... temperature checks are not recommended as screening for all students due to the high likelihood of potential false positive and false negative results."

If students return to school in the fall, there will be new health and safety requirements including:

- **Mask enforcement** for students in second grade and above, as well as all faculty and staff. Masks must be provided by the families, but the schools will have extras if necessary

- **Social distancing** requirements of a minimum of 3 feet. The report states that while the CDC recommends a 6-foot separation, the World Health Organization has recommended 3 feet. So in ideal school setting circumstances, students should stand 6 feet apart and when that is not feasible students should stay 3 feet apart

- **All students**, faculty and staff are required to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival at school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks and before dismissal

In addition, DESE is asking schools to separate desks 6 feet apart in classrooms. And if necessary, schools should consider using their libraries, cafeterias and auditoriums as classrooms in order to reduce class size and/or enable additional distancing.

More information regarding the re-opening process statewide is expected to be released by DESE in July.

## GAS LEAKS

Continued from Page 1

gas," said Audrey Schulman, president of the Home Energy Efficiency Team, a Cambridge nonprofit that mapped the data.

To be sure, the report shows utilities made progress fixing gas leaks last year, with at least 11,401 repairs.

A 2014 law requires the utilities to track and grade all gas leaks on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being most serious, and immediately repair the most hazardous. The law also requires utilities to share the information with the public.

Utilities say the majority of leaks are minor and pose no safety threat. Serious eruptions of gas lines, often reported by residents, are dealt with swiftly, they say.

Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, said the lack of progress on fixing leaks since the 2018 Merrimack

## LEAKING GAS:

Here's some information on gas leaks, which was compiled using 2019 data from publicly regulated utilities.

City/town	Repaired gas leaks	Un-repaired gas leaks
Andover	54	75
Lawrence	214	97
North Andover	49	38
Methuen	243	126
Haverhill	93	147
<b>Total statewide</b>	<b>11,401</b>	<b>15,728</b>

Source: Home Energy Efficiency Team/Gas Leaks Allies

Valley gas fires and explosions is troubling.

"There's still way too many leaks," he said. "We know it's inevitable there will be some gas leaks, but we need a stronger commitment to fixing them."

The latest HEET report, posted at [heetma.org/gas-leaks/gas-leak-maps](http://heetma.org/gas-leaks/gas-leak-maps), includes an interactive map allowing viewers to search by town and zoom-in on neighborhoods.

Utilities say they're addressing the smaller leaks by replacing old iron distribution pipes with newer plastic and coated steel pipes, which are less prone

to leaking.

Eversource spokesman Reid Lamberty said his company monitors all of its leaks and "goes above and beyond state and federal requirements."

"We survey more frequently than required and repair hazardous leaks immediately," he said. "Most outstanding leaks on our system are classified as Grade 3, non-hazardous leaks, and most of these will be removed or repaired over the next several years with future system enhancement projects."

Data from the HEET report shows that Eversource repaired 1,147 leaks last year

and had another 2,583 leaks that were un-repaired. Eversource is in the process of acquiring Columbia Gas of Massachusetts in a \$1.1 billion deal.

Columbia Gas reported repairs of 2,604 leaks in 2019, with another 1,946 left un-repaired at the end of the year.

A spokeswoman for National Grid said the company has ramped up efforts to replace miles of gas lines, which are among the nation's oldest.

"Accelerating the rate of main replacements is the best long-term approach to reducing leaks on the gas system and enhancing overall safe operations," National Grid spokeswoman Christine Milligan said in a statement. "Over time, accelerated main replacement will significantly reduce leak rates."

But Milligan said upgrades come "at a significant cost."

"The challenge is balancing the need to invest in our gas system while, at the same time, maintaining stable gas rates for our customers," she said.

## TUCKER

Continued from Page 1

tackle that game."

Tucker led Andover to an improbable, 41-0 win that night.

"He was a man among boys," said Finn.

Asked to describe his style after that game, Tucker called himself "a punishing runner that tries to hit them harder than they hit me."

In his book "The Word 'Quit' Does Not Exist," Andover High coach Dick Collins summed him up much the same: "Andover never had a tougher and harder running back than Dave Tucker."

Now, three decades later, Tucker, 49, still has his good looks and pleasant smile. But now he's in the fight of his life.

Tucker has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, the same illness that Pete Frates battled. He's weak and can barely speak. He needs the aide of a 24-hour caregiver. When he isn't chair ridden, he's bed ridden.

The stress of the degenerative disease is bad enough. It's been much harder, especially for Tucker's family, due to the pandemic.

And, according to his wife and a doctor who has been giving Tucker experimental treatments, the head injuries he suffered while playing football — particularly due to his rock 'em, sock 'em style — likely had something to do with his contracting ALS.

"I wouldn't wish it upon a worst enemy," said his wife of 14 years, Sabine (pronounced Sa-BEE-nay), who resides in northern California with their two daughters, Siena and Autumn.

"It's a condition that starts to strip you of your everything," she said. "It's vicious. It's terrifying. It starts to take away everything from you."

### Tucker's transformation

Tucker's football journey took him to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where his older brother and fellow Eagle-Tribune All-Star, Mark Tucker, was playing baseball.

His football experience there wasn't as enthralling as high school, however. Tucker was playing in an archaic, single-wing offense, in which he was essentially an offensive lineman.

It was the beginning of a transformation into the next part of his life.

The bruises and concussions that David suffered as an "all-in" footballer took their toll, and at the tail end of his college years they propelled him into an inquiry of healing.

He developed a sense of self, according to his wife, and had a spiritual awakening.

That led him to join the Peace Corps, which he was serving when he

## SUPPORTING DAVID TUCKER

Medical costs for David Tucker's fight against ALS have skyrocketed. Routine care and services offer upward of \$22,000 per month. Travel for treatments and the procedures themselves cost more than \$50,000, as a doctor not only tries to slow the growth of the ALS but improve Tucker's quality of life.

Tucker lives in the San Francisco area with his wife, Sabine, and daughters, Secoya and Autumn.

Family friend Catherine Gray has set up a GoFundMe.com page to defray Tucker's medical expenses. See [www.gofundme.com/f/jwxfy-support-for-the-tucker-family](http://www.gofundme.com/f/jwxfy-support-for-the-tucker-family) for more information.

encountered Sabine during a chance meeting in Costa Rica.

"It was Thanksgiving in 1995, we were in the capital city, San Jose, at a Peace Corps event," she recalled. "We were both there, said 'hi,' nothing special."

Nearly four years later, both were living in the San Francisco area when they ran into each other again, this time at a gathering of a mutual friend. David was working for a non-profit focused on helping indigenous people in the rainforests in Ecuador.

"I remembered his eyes being so clear," she said. "There was something so sweet, kind and tender about him. He told me about his high school days and love of football, and then his spiritual journey that followed."

"I remembered saying, 'I never would have gone for you in high school,'" she said. They have been together ever since.

They married about six years later, in 2005. They've had two daughters, Secoya, now 11, and Autumn, 9.

In 2012, they moved to Ecuador, near the Amazon forests, so their girls could experience their parents' connection to nature.

After two "enriching" years there, said Sabine, they returned to San Francisco, it the girls could begin attending a Waldorf school, with its heavy emphasis on art and music, and where they could focus on a collaborative community and relationships.

Football was long gone but David held onto exercise — weight training, toning, yoga, running and a natural diet.

### Sudden falls

Then, about 18 months ago, around Christmas of 2018, he mentioned problems he was having with his right foot. It sometimes dragged.

"He would tell me, but I wasn't quite aware," said Sabine. "It wasn't anything that stood out or was noticeable to me."

They had gone to a retreat for their anniversary in April 2019 when everything changed. He stumbled to the ground while walking on a small hill.

A week or so later, while at home, he fell again.

They sought out a neurologist, getting an appointment in late May, then another on June 3.

Sabine said she remembers the day because she'd come home early from her father's birthday party.

"They had done some muscle testing. David was quite strong. The fear was that it was ALS," she said. "But they tested for so many things — like mold, Lyme disease, toxic metals, different toxins. He was bitten by a tick two years earlier."

Each month since then has been worse.

"He basically became helpless," said Sabine.

"Here was this beautiful, strong man months earlier. Now he can't feed himself."

"Everything happened so quickly," she said.

### 'I had to do something'

David has had support, though. A close family friend, Catherine Gray, who'd worked in the same non-profit circles, took a lead role in not only helping care for him but also in searching for solutions, including a doctors who would treat him.

Catherine had a family and job of her own, but she wanted to help with David's care.

"David is one of the nicest people I've ever met," said Catherine. "Everyone that knows him feels the same way. He's a kind, caring man. And this is devastating, tough to see."

"I had to do something," he said.

It wasn't long before David needed 24-hour care. Last fall he moved to a handicapped accessible apartment closer to Catherine and his new full-time caregiver. It's about 40 minutes away from Sabine and their daughters.

"It was not easy being away from us, but it was necessary," said Sabine. "With everything we have at home, especially the girls and school, and my job, it was better that he could be with a caregiver who focused on David. He came home for Christmas, which was wonderful."

### Experimental treatment

As it became clear that David had ALS, Catherine started to look for answers.

She'd lost two close friends to the disease, and nothing seemed to work, she said. So she started researching doctors who not only treat the devastating disease but are seeking solutions.

David's supporters found two doctors, including one in particular, Dr. Marc Abreu, whom Catherine said has "developed a cutting-edge treatment that is having miraculous results."

"They are much more than neurologists and experts in their field," she said. "They are kind, sensitive, holy men who are deeply spiritual and understood David the minute they saw him."

Abreu is a neurologist who has spent more than two decades researching the thermal dynamics of the brain. As a Yale University researcher, he was the first to measure brain temperature, non-invasively, in 2003. He has since started a private company, Brain Tunnelgenix Technologies Corp., just outside of Miami, Florida, where he works with patients suffering a variety of diseases, from multiple sclerosis to stroke.

Abreu said David's case is notable because, as with other ALS patients, damage from repeated concussions was not so much the issue as was the "eruption of the brain blood barrier." Without

healing after a concussion, he said, the brain degenerates.

"Once you have the compression, once you have any of those injuries, you should not be back on the field within 72 hours," he said. "But what I'm hearing is they immediately went back."

"I believe that is an ultimate trigger for ALS," he said.

Abreu's experimental therapy involves using a thermal tunnel to apply heat to the brain, via a conductor applied to the head, in a process that lasts anywhere from 90 minutes to six hours, he said.

Abreu said he has treated David four times over the past six months, postponing another visit due to the coronavirus.

He said there is potential to restore some of his function. "David came to us very advanced (with ALS)," he said. "But he has made some progress. His speech has improved some. It's challenging."

So is the cost.

Sabine said monthly expenses for David's care are about \$22,000. His cross-country trips and visits to Abreu's offices are another \$50,000 each.

"David has insurance, and it covers some things," she said. "But it doesn't cover the caretaker. It doesn't cover a lot of our big expenses, including Dr. Abreu's (services)."

### Unbearable

After two decades of a calm, inspiring life together, Sabine said the last six months, particularly the last three, have been torture.

Battling ALS is one thing. The coronavirus often has made it unbearable.

"I cry every day," she said. "The virus has made this 10 times more difficult than it already was. I had to stop working. I had to become a teacher for my girls. And I'm trying to teach while my husband is struggling mightily with ALS."

"It's been the worst experience of my life," she said. "... I have to show a strong face for my daughters. I have to."

Mike, 84, and wife Sue Tucker, 75, are also going through difficult health issues of their own.

They lost their other son in December 2017 to a heart attack suffered while he was vacationing in Florida. David ended up going to Florida, having his brother cremated, and bringing his ashes back with him to the West Coast.

"(Mark's death) was tough on everyone," said Sabine. "David took it really hard. So did his parents. That was a tough time for all of us."

David's prognosis has also been painful for his parents, who still live on Farwood Drive, home to so many sports gatherings back in the day.

"It's been the toughest time of our lives," Mike said recently.

Thousands of miles away, their son, whom his high school quarterback called as "tough as they come," battles on.

"The best part of David, as great as he was, he never cared about the accolades," said Finn. "He never had an ego. That part of David has always been with him — even today."

Bill Burt is Executive Sports Editor of The Eagle-Tribune. Email him at [bburt@eagletribune.com](mailto:bburt@eagletribune.com).

## PHARMACY

Continued from Page 1

firms for patient referrals, according to court documents.

As a nationwide mail-order pharmacy catering to workers' compensation patients, the company was below average in its volume of opioids handled, the pharmacy's statement says. Since the investigation, the company has been cooperating with the state, according to the statement. It has also changed its leadership and updated its guidelines in handling prescriptions since 2017.

The \$11 million settlement also provides stipulations for changes to the pharmacy's business practices. As follows the company must:

- **hire a full-time** compliance officer to help identify red-flag prescription behavior;

- **have a data** analyst and software to help identify at-risk prescribers and patients;

- **enact measures** to help at-risk patients, including hiring pain management specialists to help review patients' treatment plans with their doctors;

- **offer to dispense** naloxone, a drug used to treat overdoses, at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient, according to Healey's office;

- **take precautions** to identify problematic prescribers,

including using data and dispensing software that allows pharmacists to see a prescriber's entire history, according to Healey's office.

- **disincentivize filling** prescriptions of controlled substances by eliminating compensation based on volume and stopping payments for referrals, Healey's office said.

The company has denied that there was compensation based on selling specific drugs, but also stopped certain marketing agreements in 2017.

"Sales and marketing efforts focused solely on educating clinicians and attorneys around the benefits of a specialized workers' compensation pharmacy," reads the pharmacy's statement.

Healey said her office will check on the pharmacy's progress through a one-year compliance audit.

Congresswoman Lori Trahan, D-Westford, thanked Healey for her work in this case against the Andover pharmacy. She reiterated that cases like this are why Congress needs to pass the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act, which she introduced in the House.

The legislation has similar goals to the settlement agreement.

"Ending the opioid crisis is hard enough when everyone is working together," Trahan tweeted. "Injured Workers Pharmacy took full advantage of this crisis to increase their profits at their customers' expense. I'm grateful to @MassAGO for her work to hold IWP accountable."



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# Town readies in case of water restrictions

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

About 14,000 residents have been issued a code red call from the town asking people to “consider conserving water when possible.”

The code red call is a communication requirement of Andover’s Water Use Restriction Bylaw, which was implemented as part Phase 3 of the town’s water management plan. Members of the Select Board voted unanimously June 22 to approve the bylaw. Town officials say there

has been an increasing demand for water as a result of the recent hot temperatures and dry weather; that, coupled with the fact that more people are at home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Water use restrictions for the town are implemented in three phases, as follows:

- Phase 1 (Watch)**
  - \* Voluntary conservation at the 25 largest water users;
  - \* Restrict outside water use at municipal facilities (primarily irrigation).
- Phase 2 (Warning)**
  - \* Mandatory restrictions of 25

largest users;
 

- \* Appeal for voluntary conservation of all users;
- \* Use of any necessary communication channels.

**Phase 3 (Emergency)**

- \* Implements the Town of Andover Water Use Restriction Bylaw;
- \* Enforceable limitations on the use of municipal water during periods of water shortages or drought conditions.

**Phase 4 (Critical)**

- \* Implements maximum response to a water supply emergency;

\* All phases of the drought management plan for conservation measures and restrictions are intensified

Phases 1 and 2 were implemented by the town June 19. The only actual restrictions placed, however, were on the top 25 water users in town. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan says the implementation of Phase 3 doesn’t mean further water restrictions will be placed on residents, it simply allows the town to place certain restrictions if necessary.

Potential water restrictions

under Phase 3 include the following:

- \* Restricting outdoor water use only during periods of low demand, such as at night or early in the morning;
- \* Odd and even day outdoor water use where your address — odd or even — corresponds with the day when you can use the water;
- \* An option for a full outdoor water-use ban.

“We are at a point in the process given the current conditions that this is still a very manageable situation and we don’t expect to

go beyond the mandatory restrictions with our 25 largest users,” Flanagan said.

Phase 3 also includes the implementation of possible fines for not restricting water use, but the board said no fines have ever been issued in the town’s history.

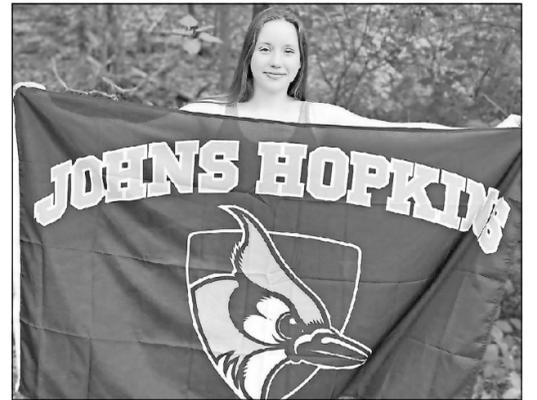
Flanagan said there has been a “historic use” of water as of late.

However, Flanagan said that although these further restriction options are now in place, it’s “not anticipated any additional restrictions will be necessary.”



Stephanie and Andy Dorsey of Andover, owners of the Andover Bees & Honey, help customers.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Courtesy photo

Sydney Gregory holds a Johns Hopkins University flag. She plans to attend the university in the fall to study chemistry. Recently she got some help paying tuition from the Merrimack Valley Credit Union. She was selected by the organization as one of its \$1,000 scholarship recipients.

## Johns Hopkins bound grad wins \$1,000 scholarship

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Sydney Gregory, a recent graduate of Andover High School, was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship from the Merrimack Valley Credit Union. Gregory will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall, where she plans to study chemistry.

According to a press release from the credit union, Gregory is just one of 15 students selected for the scholarship this year.

The competition was pretty fierce, too. The bank received 178 applications from 66 different high schools from its field of membership both north and south of Boston.

“Choosing the 15 scholarship recipients was especially difficult this year, as we had so many impressive applicants,” said John Howard, president & CEO of Merrimack Valley Credit Union.

“The scholarship recipients were selected because of their commitment to education and to their community both in and out of school. While many had to modify how they demonstrated that commitment in the past few months — through

remote learning and finding other ways to help in the community — we are confident that the flexibility and resiliency they have shown these past few months will prove useful not only in college, but also in their careers.”

The bank selected the scholarship recipients based on their academic performance, commitment to community service, work experience, letters of recommendation and an essay they were required to write about what they would do if they ran Merrimack Valley Credit Union.

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## To market, to market

### Farmers Market sets up at South Church

The Andover Farmers Market opened for the season June 20, with more than a dozen vendors setting up shop in the South Church Parking lot.

Prior to opening day organizers posted a map on social media and asked those planning to visit to take a screen shot to use as they navigated one-way aisles to visit booths.

“The Andover Farmers Market is a vibrant hub connecting local farmers, artisans and the community through the joy of local food,” the group writes on its Facebook page. “Whether you come for carrots or conversation, it is a place to nourish the body, mind and spirit.”

The market is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays through October, this year at South Church, 41 Central St.



The Andover Farmers Market has moved to the South Church Parking lot this year. Organizers issued special guidelines for safely navigating it.



Customers look over the vegetables from Farmer Dave’s.



Sarah Kraunelis, right, is a student at Essex Aggie who works for Pleasant Valley Gardens in Methuen.

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# Opinion

## Surprise fee on gas settlement money

It would be understatement to say that 11,077 residential and business customers of Columbia Gas in Andover, Lawrence and North Andover were anticipating the arrival of their cut of the company's \$143 million class action settlement.

The money was meant to compensate for losses related to the September 2018 gas disaster, from damage to buildings and homes to the emotional and psychological tolls of those who lived through it.

But the payments were especially timely in light of a pandemic, soaring unemployment and a simmering recession.

In fact, lawyers involved in the process sped up the first batch of payments due to the effects of COVID-19.

But for some 175 people, those checks were held up, and they stood to lose 11% right off the top.

The reason was money owed the attorney they'd hired soon after the disaster, David Raimondo. He's a private lawyer not among those who worked on the class-action case and who were set to divide \$26.1 million from the utility's payout for legal and administrative costs.

Of course, that's not a distinction that matters much to Raimondo's clients. Luckily, after some hue and cry — and consultation with other lawyers, including Attorney General Maura Healey's office — he told a reporter he'd had a change of heart and decided it best just to drop the fees and send people their money.

The \$880 fee that Raimondo would've charged against the average settlement check of \$8,000 represented about two and a half weeks worth of per capita income in Lawrence, where well over half of those who filed claims live or work.

State Sen. Diana DiZoglio called the fee "suspicious and exorbitant," and she questioned whether everyone being assessed the charge had a signed agreement to cover Raimondo's contingency.

Thanks go to DiZoglio for pressing Healey to look into the matter. While it's still not clear that Raimondo ever should have assessed his fees in the first place, the important thing is that he reversed course and did what was right in the end.

## Tax dollars on wheels

Nothing focuses the municipal mind quite like the promise of money. And what local leaders saw in the Department of Public Utilities' report on the use of transportation networks probably wasn't how much demand has grown for services such as Uber and Lyft. It was in dollars counted and dollars that could have been.

The bottom line was 91.1 million trips taken via Uber and Lyft in Massachusetts last year. That represented a 12% increase from the prior year, with the biggest rates of growth not in Boston and Cambridge but gateway cities and smaller communities.

In the Merrimack Valley and North Shore, there were nearly 1 million more trips — about a quarter more from year to year, according to our analysis. Rides starting in our region averaged about 5 1/2 miles in length, and lasted just under 15 minutes.

As importantly in city hall, each trip was taxed at 20 cents, with proceeds split between the state and the community where the ride began. The fee was most lucrative for places with the most rides — cities such as Lynn (its share was nearly \$94,000), Lawrence (more than \$56,000) and Salem (\$48,000).

But every community saw something, including \$15,237 for rides originating in Andover.

If Gov. Charlie Baker gets his way, city and town halls will see an even greater windfall. Baker's fiscal 2021 budget proposes bumping the fee to \$1, cutting in cities and towns on 30 cents of that, with the remainder going to shore up the MBTA. Doing so last year would've netted \$827,000 more for cities and towns in our region.

The asterisk is COVID-19. Pandemic-related shutdowns stifled travel and commuting, as well as rides on Uber and Lyft. It's certain that fees won't bring in anywhere near as much this year, even if Baker's plan succeeds and every community wrangles three dimes per passenger instead of one.

The mere fact that local budgets are strained by early stages of recession is no good reason to raise the fee. Everyone's hurting — including people who use Uber and Lyft.

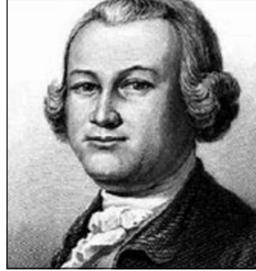
Still, Baker's search for a revenue source to shore up a needy public transit system is compelling, and as budgets get tighter, the dollar signs behind each of those "Uber" and "Lyft" stickers on passing cars will be harder to resist.

## James Otis: The forgotten patriot



Jennifer Scheer

Andover Center for History and Culture



James Otis

How is it that the man John Adams called the most important American of the 1760s, the man who popularized the idea that taxation without representation is tyranny, has been largely forgotten by history?

James Otis lived the type of life Hollywood loves — full of drama, twists and turns.

He was brilliant. He fought for the underdogs with passionate speeches that ultimately led to America's independence.

And his death in Andover was, well, a little spooky. The answer probably lies in a challenge that our modern society continues to struggle with — mental illness.

Born in 1725, Otis graduated from Harvard at the age of 18 and began practicing law. He developed a reputation as a brilliant lawyer and in 1760 was appointed advocate general

of the Admiralty Court. At that time, smuggling had become common in New England. British customs officials were granted writs of assistance, which authorized them to search any house for smuggled goods without giving a reason and without being responsible for any damage they caused.

A group of outraged colonists challenged the writs. As advocate general, Otis would have had to argue in favor of the writs, but he resigned.

Some say he quit in protest. Another story has it that he resigned when his father was denied the position of chief justice that had been promised to him. Whatever the real reason, there's no dispute about what happened next.

Otis took the merchants' case pro bono and argued against the writs in a fiery

and eloquent, five-hour speech.

He failed to win the case, but his oration sparked something much bigger. A 25-year-old Adams was in the audience, and as he later wrote, "Then and there the child Independence was born."

And historian John T. Morse described it as "the first log of the pile which afterward made the great blaze of the revolution."

Otis' popularity soared. He expanded his arguments and published several patriotic pamphlets and became increasingly involved in the fight against British control.

But he also started exhibiting erratic behavior. Gov. Thomas Hutchinson wrote in his diary about an appearance Otis made in the Massachusetts Legislature opposing a vote: "Otis appeared and spoke so well against it that he prevented its passing, as otherwise it would have. ... He dressed himself very decently on that occasion, but soon returned to his sordid dress and demeanor about the streets."

In 1769, Otis became enraged when four British customs collectors complained about him. He accused them of slander in *The Boston Gazette* and threatened to "break (the

head" of Commissioner John Robinson.

He found Robinson at the British Coffee House near Boston's Long Wharf, and there was a fight leaving Otis with a scar so deep "you could lay a finger in it." The injury exacerbated Otis' mental illness, and he retreated from public life.

As a lifelong friend of the Osgood family, he installed himself at their Andover home to recuperate, though he did venture out in 1775 to fight in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Here's where it gets strange. Otis is reported to have said to his sister, "I hope, when God Almighty in his righteous providence shall take me out of time into eternity, that it will be by a flash of lightning."

On May 23, 1783, at the Osgood Farm, as Otis stood in a doorway telling a story, a single cloud suddenly formed and a bolt of lightning struck, killing him instantly without leaving a mark on his body or harming anyone else. Then the cloud disappeared.

Otis is buried at the Old Granary Burial Ground in Boston alongside many other Revolutionary-era patriots, but his story is unique and important to America's history.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Select Board should focus on reform, not a letter

Editor, Townsman:

The June 4 Townsman carried the headline, "Vispoli under scrutiny for tax-related letter to editor."

Thank God we have Alex Vispoli on the Select Board.

One gets the feeling that he is being criticized for all of the red flags raised about spending throughout the year. And here we go again, as he questions the current tax increase proposal.

Really, the elephant on the table once again is the unfunded liabilities, specifically the pension fund. Throwing a million dollars or so at it each year is like emptying a barrel of water with a tablespoon.

The root cause of all this unfunded liability has been and continues to be the town's pension system and the over-generous payouts it allows.

One does not hear a murmur about pension reform from the Select Board. And if there happens to be a plan afoot, the taxpayers of Andover know little if anything about it.

Rather than not being shy

about expressing their displeasure with a fellow selectman, it would be refreshing if these people put away their spoons and propose some real reform.

JOSEPH I. PONTI  
Andover

### Town's Juneteenth celebration deserved coverage

Editor, Townsman:

I was surprised to read last week's Townsman and see no coverage of the Juneteenth celebration that was hosted at Doherty Field on June 19 by the group Merrimack Valley Black and Brown Voices.

In these days where racial inequality and the issues of Black people in the United States are in the headlines of most newspapers across our land, and where so many white people are learning about the struggles of their Black neighbors, it is discouraging that the Townsman chose not to run this timely local story.

To many, the inequality that is demonstrated every day against Black people is well known. Unfortunately, to many who have grown up in a predominantly white

community, like Andover, there is too little awareness and too little action to call out racism where it occurs.

The Juneteenth Celebration, which was attended by hundreds of local residents (many of whom were white and likely experiencing Juneteenth for the first time) was an encouraging sign that we can become part of the solution.

Yet, for the Townsman to miss this opportunity to make an even wider audience aware of the event and the issues facing our community is beyond disappointing.

We can do better.

BILL PUTNAM  
Andover

### Hartwell needed on town Retirement Board

Editor, Townsman:

A solicitation for applicants for Andover's Retirement Board has just been announced. It would, however, be a big mistake to try to replace Thomas Hartwell and his crucial knowledge and background.

In his time on the board, Hartwell has rendered priceless service to Andover by calling attention to the

financial abyss we're facing because of overly optimistic assumptions made during the recent decades, and by charting a path forward to rescue us from a crushing debt load.

This is an especially critical time needing his expertise, as our unemployed, our fixed-income residents and our taxpayers are facing special stress. The unemployment rate threatens historical highs, and the federal \$2.2 trillion coronavirus bailout will cost us \$17,110 per household.

Uncontrolled town debt would be a brutal burden for current residents to bear, and it might discourage prospective newcomers as well as our children from trying to live here.

(I should mention that this is a general rather than personal concern, as my children left Andover long ago, having greatly enjoyed and benefited from our town and its school system.)

As has been evident from information in the Andover Townsman, Hartwell has unique and exceptionally appropriate qualifications for the position.

For the sake of Andover's future, reappointing him is the best course.

PAUL M. LAPSA  
Andover

## WEB QUESTION

Can we lose the masks already?

We've been masked for months now. Under Gov. Charlie Baker's current order, we're supposed to wear masks if we cannot keep at least 6 feet of separation with other people. And, to enter stores, masks are required. But not everyone seems to wear one, and other states are not nearly as strident in enforcing this measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Is it time for Massachusetts to ease up?

**NO MORE MASKS:** If you want to wear a mask to keep from getting COVID-19, that's your choice. But with the state's case numbers flattened, why should this be forced on the rest of us?

**KEEP THEM ON:** Numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Massachusetts have gone down for a reason, and with case

numbers going up in other parts of the country, this isn't the time to ease up. Besides, masks don't just protect you, they help prevent you from infecting other people.

**MASKS AND MORE:** Not only should we all wear masks in close company, and in indoor public spaces, we should fine those who don't comply. If you're not wearing a mask at this point, it's a matter of rebellion that endangers other people.

**Last week's question**

What do you think of the outdoor dining that is spilling off the sidewalks downtown and into Main Street?

Restaurants started reopening from coronavirus-forced shutdowns on a limited basis a couple of weeks ago, offering outdoor seating even though indoor service still wasn't an option. Some

converted parking lots into under-tent dining. Others started serving diners on Main Street, where the town barricaded on-street parking to give eateries more room for tables and guests. What do you think of the new al fresco arrangement?

**BON APPÉTIT:** After weeks of carryout and delivery, I'm so happy to sit down at a table and order a meal, it doesn't much matter where my table is situated. Besides, sitting alongside the sidewalk on Main Street is an unusual, European-like experience. Hopefully they'll stay even after the coronavirus is gone. (32 votes)

**UNAPPEALING:** I may be glad to eat in a local restaurant, but I'm less glad to sit next to traffic while I do it. I also miss the parking spaces that have disappeared on Main Street. Here's looking forward to the return of indoor dining. (8 votes)

## READER ACCESS

### EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

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**REPORTER JUDY WAKEFIELD** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

**SPORTS WRITER DAVE WILLIS** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsmen.com.

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**Andover Townsman**  
Established 1887

**Publisher**  
Karen Andreas

**Editor**  
Bill Cantwell

Published Thursdays by  
North of Boston Media Group  
33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810  
978-475-7000 •  
News fax: 978-470-2819  
E-mail bcantwell@andovertownsmen.com  
www.andovertownsmen.com

# Straight talk on pandemic builds resilient kids

## Family Matters

Larry Larsen



**Dear Doctor,**  
 Our first — and so far only — child is due to start kindergarten this year. Given the pandemic,

the need for social distancing and the worry about transmitting the virus, we are concerned about the effect this will have on our daughter. She is bright and active and will love school as she did preschool. We do not want fear and worry to affect her as she grows and matures. Any thoughts would help.

**New Parents**

**Dear New Parents:**

Let's begin by acknowledging that the protocols for how kindergarten will

be organized and conducted is quite unknown to me as it must be for you. One thing is certain. I have never known a 5-year-old who is adept at "social distancing."

Your concern is completely understandable. The fact that you have asked the question bodes well. It means you are aware and alert to the likelihood that your daughter will have a unique experience in her young life.

In my profession, I have watched children grow and develop in all kinds of situations and circumstances. One thing always encourages and, at times, amazes me. This is resilience. Shielding children from the challenging and difficult seems to work against developing resilience.

This is where you come in. In simple and clear words, teach your daughter about her responsibility to care for herself and others

with respect to the virus. If you do so with fear, she will respond accordingly. If you do so with clarity and brevity, she will likely absorb the issue and move on. Please do not harp or lecture.

Communicate with the school and her teacher. It is very likely the pandemic will be part of the curriculum. "Now, boys and girls, what do we have to do on the playground?" will likely be a common refrain in the classroom. Children that age are very rule oriented and will repeat the instructions, whatever they may be.

Your positive verve and interest will serve your daughter well. Be there and do your best to enrich her young life. This will pass.

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

### UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS, WORKSHOPS

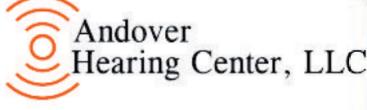
*Editor's Note: Owing to the COVID-19 situation, many events have been postponed or rescheduled, which has been noted where possible. It is recommended that potential attendees contact the event hosts directly to determine if the event will take place. In addition, many organizations have been scheduling virtual events and webinars, which are included below.*

**JULY 2**

Northeast Massachusetts SCORE free webinar, "How To Protect & Grow the Value of Your Business During a Pandemic," 11 a.m. Ashley Micciche, a certified business exit planner and CEO of True North Retirement Advisors, will help business owners understand the value of their business today, as well as how to take

advantage of opportunities that exist for business owners to protect and grow their business value. Visit

nemassachusetts.score.org/event/how-protect-grow-value-your-business-during-pandemic.





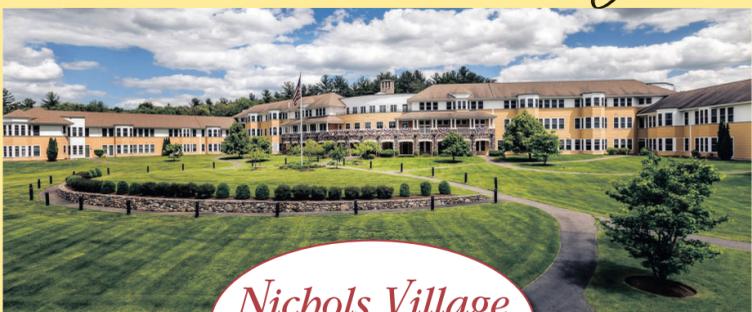
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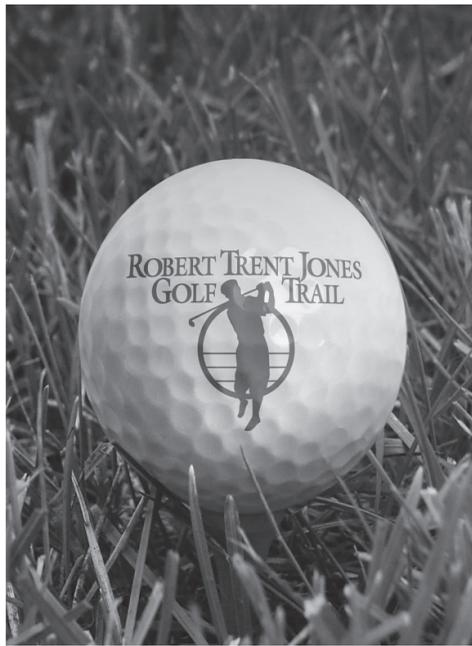
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OBITUARIES

Richard H. Dube, 69

May 27, 1951 - June 24, 2020

**NORTH ANDOVER, MA** — Richard H. Dube passed away peacefully from Alzheimer's disease on June 24, 2020, with his loving wife of 44 years, Nancy (Goguen) Dube, by his side.

A longtime resident of Andover, Richard was born in Lynn, Mass., and was predeceased by his parents Henry Dube and Jean (Gardner) Dube. Richard served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1971-1973 and was a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover.

Richard enjoyed sailing, gardening, carpentry, home improvement projects and Sunday dinners with the family. He volunteered for the Meals on Wheels Program at the Andover Senior Center and was a guest greeter at Cor Unum Meals Center in Lawrence. An avid reader, he visited the Memorial Hall Library every day. Richard loved to walk and his favorite, oft repeated route was Andover's Main Street. Richard lived with Alzheimer's for more than 12 years. His ever-present optimism, quiet strength and sense of humor kept the disease at bay for many years and was a tribute to his determination to live life to the fullest despite its challenges.

In addition to his wife Nan-



cy, Richard is survived by his siblings, John Dube and partner Patricia Roche of North Andover, Joanne Pendergast and spouse William Pendergast of Methuen and Jeanne Lombardo and spouse David Lombardo of North Andover; as well as his sister-in-law, Christine Rock and spouse Christopher Rock of North Andover. Richard was the beloved uncle to eight nieces and nephews; and several grand nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral services at Conte Funeral Home in North Andover will be private. Contributions in Richard's name may be made to the Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main Street, Andover, MA 01810



Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago: July 2, 1920

Thousands of the employees of the American Woolen Company have been royally entertained by company President William M. Wood at his beautiful estate in Shawsheen village during the past week. Last Friday afternoon he was host to more than 2,000 of the young men and women under 20 years of age who are employed at the Wood, Washington, Ayer, and Prospect mills of Lawrence. The guests were conveyed to Andover in 13 special cars which they left at the turnout, and forming in procession with Ignatius McNulty as chief marshal. They were headed by the American Woolen Company band and two beautiful floats marched to "Arden".

The South Church picnic, postponed from the previous week, was held at Pomp's Pond last Saturday and was a comparatively small gathering. Bathing and canoeing were the chief diversions. Ice cream cones were served throughout the afternoon and a basket

lunch was enjoyed among the pines at 6 p.m.

At least half a dozen attempts to break and enter is the record for the night preceding Tuesday in Andover. The persistent thief was evidently in pressing need of an automobile, as after numerous attempts he succeeded in getting away with a new Buick automobile belonging to Edmund B. Haynes of 12 Locke St., although he wakened the neighborhood in doing so.

75 Years Ago: June 28, 1945

"Are Clothes Modern?" is the title of the newest exhibition at the Addison gallery. The exhibit, which attracted considerable attention recently in New York, is on tour from the Museum of Modern Art of that city. Supplementary displays include Carriage Trade Shop Andover; Cherry and Webb, Lawrence; Michael Jay's Shop, Andover; A.B. Sutherland Company, Lawrence, Selden Worsteds Mills, Methuen; M.T. Stevens and Sons, North Andover and Tyer Rubber Company, Andover.

The opening of the playground season on Monday will be marked by several

feature attractions. The twilight baseball league which has been running under the auspices of the Andover Guild will continue during July and August under playground management. Several returning servicemen have already played in these league games. A fourth town playground will be opened on Monday on the Indian Ridge school grounds.

**Partial editorial:** Does anybody remember way back in March when a Town Meeting did a bit of rebelling and decided to inaugurate a long overdue garbage collection policy here in Andover? We really showed quite emphatically that we wanted the town to collect our garbage, and it's getting a little difficult for people to understand why no start has been made on the collection in spite of the fact that the contract was awarded some time ago.

50 years Ago: July 2, 1970

It's going to be a good old-fashioned Fourth of July in Andover this year, as the town and the Andover Service Club combine to provide entertainment for all ages beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday. All of the events will be at the Andover

Playstead and park, beginning with a softball game between the Gillette Allstars and the town of Andover Allstars. One of the outstanding features of the day that it is designed to be a real old-fashioned Fourth, with the maximum price of 10 cents on all items such as rides, refreshments and, yes, even hot dogs.

A photo shows Larry Douglas of Ballardvale at his transmission equipment, through which he puts parents of Andover boys serving overseas, particularly Vietnam, in touch with home. The radiograms allow relatives or friends to know where their sons are, or if they are heading home. He has been operating the radio since he was 12.

**From part of an advertisement for Rose Glen Ice Cream:** "It was July 2, 1960, and we were undertaking something entirely new to us. We were inexperienced in the retail ice cream business and so were the 10 wonderful young people who came to work for us. Jointly, we made some mistakes those first few months (once one of our girls actually made a banana split without bananas!). But, with our conscientious help and the quality products we served, business grew ...

POLICE LOG

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

**Stuck Railroad Gates:** A caller reported that the railroad gates are stuck down and trains have not gone past, Andover Street, 6:01 p.m.

**Deer Hit By Car:** A caller reported a car hit a deer. When officers responded to the scene, they noticed that the deer was stuck under the vehicle, Lowell Street, 4 p.m.

**Animal Complaint:** A caller reported two raccoons in the yard, Pepperidge Circle, 2:47 p.m.

**Downed Wires:** A caller reported a downed wire in the roadway, Poor Street, 10:27 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

**Vandalism:** A caller reported that someone smashed a window in her apartment, Longwood Drive, 6:29 p.m.

**Request Officer:** A caller reported a middle-aged man in a blue shirt was skateboarding in traffic and has almost been hit several times, Central Street, 2:40 p.m.

**B&E Building:** A caller would like to report a past B&E that he noticed on his camera recordings. On Saturday night, the caller said that a man had ripped down the camera and entered the church, Essex Street, 12:50 p.m.

**Identity Fraud:** A caller reported unemployment fraud, Bradley Road, 11:06 a.m.

MONDAY, JULY 22

**Suspicious Activity:** A resident reported that her backyard lights keep going on and off and it's making her nervous, Kensington Street, 11:06 p.m.

**Suspicious Activity:** A caller reported that someone shot a BB through his window, Penobscott Way, 4:53 p.m.

**Car Accident:** A 911 caller reported a crash with one vehicle on its side, Cross Street, 6:09 p.m.

**Well Being Check:** A caller reported a woman in her 40s yelling and talking to herself, she was transported to Holy Family Hospital for a mental health evaluation, Andover Street, 9:54 a.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

**Noise Complaint:** A caller reported hearing gun shots in the area. Police responded to the scene and heard nothing, Greenwood Road, 8:52 p.m.

**Unwanted Guest:** A man called 911 to report that a woman he brought home the night before is refusing to leave and is now watering plants in his backyard and knocking on his windows. The woman was escorted off the property by police, Dale Street, 12:03 p.m.

**Larceny:** A caller reports that a sprinkler was stolen from his front yard, Summer Street, 11:07 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

**Harassment:** A woman called in to report that she is having problems with another woman who lives in the same house with her. She claims that her housemate has been having conversations with her that she doesn't want to have, Maple Avenue, 10:16 p.m.

**Noise Complaint:** Caller reports fireworks have been going off near her house for about 20 minutes. Officers responded to the scene and found nothing, Morningside Drive, 10:52 p.m.

**Scam:** A walk-in reported he had fallen victim to a scam, Francis Drive, 2:23 p.m.

**Animal Complaint:** A caller reported seeing a dead raccoon on the side of the road with babies hanging off it. A lieutenant picked up the raccoon, no babies were present, River Road, 2:26 p.m.

**Motor Vehicle Complaint:** An employee at Raytheon reports a male driving a white pickup truck was at the beginning of the property outside with his pants down while he was looking for his phone. The caller said the man then got back into his truck and drove toward the guard shack, but then crossed the grass and left taking a right turn onto Route 133. A caller got the plate from another person. The state police were notified, Lowell Street, 12:28 a.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

**Suspicious Activity:** Two callers reported hearing either gunshots or fireworks coming from the area. Police responded to the scene and found nothing, Jenkins Road, 10:20 p.m.

**Car Accident:** Report of a two-car crash with no injuries, River Street, 2:47 p.m.

**Suspicious Activity:** A large "Black Lives Matter" banner was attached to a stone wall at Phillips Academy. Public safety wasn't aware and will look into it, Main Street, 6:31 a.m.

**Disabled Motor Vehicle:** Someone reported a disabled vehicle in the road. It was towed at the owner's request, Andover Street, 12:10 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

**Well-Being Check:** A caller reported that her daughter received a Snapchat message from another child who made suicidal statements, River Road, 11:10 p.m.

**Service Request:** Multiple callers reported that the lights are out, North Main Street, 4:15 p.m.

**Car Accident:** A caller reported a truck was stuck in some wires, Verizon was notified, Holly Terrace, 1:12 p.m.

**Scam:** A caller reported that she was called by someone from Dallas, Texas, who asked for her personal information, Haverhill Street, 11:27 a.m.

St. Augustine Parish parishioner tests positive for virus after attending service

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Since St. Augustine Parish resumed celebration of public masses, at least one person in attendance has tested positive for the coronavirus after going to Mass.

In an announcement to

the parish community, church officials said an individual who attended the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, June 20, and the 8 a.m. Mass on Thursday, June 25, has tested positive for COVID-19.

Church officials were made aware of this June 26 and assured parishioners

that the probability of having contracted the virus is low.

"Given the parish's adherence to safety protocols, including the wearing of masks, social distancing, and sanitizing according to the CDC protocols, there is a very low probability that anyone else in attendance

at either of those Masses would have been infected via transmission from this individual," according to a statement.

The statement advises anyone who attended those Masses and has concerns to check with their primary care physician about testing options.

Ranked choice voting, right to repair closer to ballot

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

**BOSTON** — Proposals to update the state's "right to repair" law and implement ranked-choice voting are edging closer to the November ballot, as backers of a plan to expand beer and wine sales abruptly end their effort.

Wednesday was the deadline to submit voters' signatures to the secretary of state's office to certify questions for the Nov. 3 ballot. Backers of several referendums say they've cleared the necessary hurdles.

Their proposals include switching from the state's current election system to a ranked-choice method in which voters may list candidates by order of preference. The method applies to races with more than two candidates, knocking out last-place candidates and redistributing their support

until someone piles up a clear majority.

Supporters say ranked-choice voting ensures winning candidates have broad support, while critics say it's confusing and leads to sleepy political campaigns.

Organizers of the effort say they've submitted in excess of the 13,347 required signatures.

"The groundswell of support in the commonwealth tells us that there is a powerful appetite for reforms that put more power in the hands of regular citizens, and we hope to capture that and build momentum for the cause heading into November," said Brian Bass, director of Ranked Choice Voting for Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, backers of a plan to settle a dispute between car makers and independent repair shops are also expecting to make the ballot.

The Right to Repair

Coalition wants to update a 2012 law requiring car companies to share up-to-date diagnostic information with independent mechanics. The group argues that automakers are fleecing the public by using wireless technology to gather data and steer repairs toward dealers.

Opponents say allowing more people to access that data could compromise privacy and security for vehicle owners.

A question that won't appear on the November ballot is a proposal by Cumberland Farms to expand beer and wine sales.

The Westborough company said in a statement that "disruptions to the retail sector caused by COVID-19" prompted it to pull back on an effort to allow more liquor licenses. The company said it met the signature requirements but chose to focus on putting the question before voters in 2022.

It faced opposition from package stores which argued that flooding the market with big competitors would drive out mom-and-pop "packies."

Meanwhile, the status of a fourth referendum, seeking to increase funding for nursing homes, wasn't clear and organizers couldn't be reached for comment.

All four proposals cleared other hurdles to get on the ballot, including a legal review by the attorney general's office and a previous round of signature gathering.

A Supreme Judicial Court ruling in April allowed proponents to solicit digital signatures rather than actual, pen-on-paper signatures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for the North of Boston Media Group. Email him at cwade@cnhi.com.

Libraries cautiously reopening to the public

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse reporter

**BOSTON** — In the auditorium at Lawrence Public Library, hundreds of books are stacked on tables and sorted by the dates they were returned.

Unlike check-out counters at grocery stores or turnstiles at MBTA stations, books can't be cleaned or disinfected after being handled without risking damage to the binding or paper, so they must be quarantined to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

"Our auditorium used to be filled with people, but now it's filled with books," said Jessica Vilas Novas, the library's director. "Our book-drop is emptied every morning, and we keep them in the auditorium for at least 72 hours before they can be checked out again."

The precautions illustrate the barriers that libraries across the state face as they slowly begin to reopen after months of being closed. "There isn't enough

research right now to tell us how long the virus can live on plastic or paper surfaces, so most libraries are taking the items out of the book return for anywhere between three to seven days," said Nora Blake, president-elect of the Massachusetts Library Association. "It's one of many challenges we're facing."

Under the state's phased plan of reopening from shutdowns triggered by COVID-19, libraries are allowed to operate with curbside service only. Books other materials must be checked out prior to pick up.

Public access to library buildings must be limited to the circulation desk. Physical barriers have to be installed in offices to maintain distance between library workers, who should work in staggered shifts to avoid contact. Masks are required for workers and patrons, unless a medical condition prevents them from being worn.

Books that have been returned should be removed

from service for 24 hours, under the state guidelines, though most libraries are holding onto them longer.

Rob Favini, head of library advisory and development at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, said libraries are trying to figure out how they can safely reopen under the current state guidelines. He said it's not clear when libraries will fully reopen, and many will face myriad challenges doing so.

"It's not likely we'll flick a switch one day and everyone will be back to doing the same thing," he said. "The reopening process is going to take time."

Beyond the initial reopening phase, it's not clear when or under what conditions the public will be allowed to physically return to browse for books, conduct research or use the computers.

In Lawrence, Novas said the library is approaching reopening cautiously. The facility has two locations in the city that was among the

communities in the state hardest hit by the COVID-19 outbreak. The library plans to start curbside pick up beginning June 29 and will allow some public services, such as faxing and copying.

"We know those services are important, especially with so many people looking for work," she said. "So we wanted to bring them back."

Still, the library has cancelled in-person youth programs and classes for the remainder of the year, and it doesn't plan to rent out its rooms to private groups.

"The pandemic is going to be with us for a while, so regardless of when we reopen to the public we're going to continue to do curbside pickup," she said. "We want to minimize the risk to people in public spaces."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cnhi.com.

# Townspeople

## REVIVING THE ARCH

### West Parish Garden Cemetery needs donations for massive job

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
 gdnatale@eagletribune.com

The beauty of the stone arch that serves as the entryway of the West Parish Garden Cemetery on Reservation Road is currently obstructed by scaffolding.

On Feb. 27, a wind storm that tore through the area peeled off a third of the copper roof cap of the arch, causing significant damage to the entire structure.

Now the arch is under major repairs at a substantial cost and the cemetery board of directors is seeking donations from the public.

"When the roof cap was peeled off it came down on the ground and it was a third that had come off," said West Parish board of directors member James Batchelder. "The rest of it had shifted so we were forced to remove the entire cap."

After that work was done, he said, "We realized that there was significant damage to the top of the arch and it was going to be a lot more involved than we had originally thought."

The storm also shifted the keystone and a few other cap stones which are going to have to be removed and reset.

According to Batchelder, the keystone alone is 10 feet long, 4 inches thick, 2 feet high and it weighs in at 5,400 pounds.

The stones of the arch, like the surrounding walls, are not easily replaced. They are made of Milford pink granite, a special kind of granite from Milford, Massachusetts, that appears gray in the sunlight and turns pink in the rain.

The quarries where the granite was harvested from the late 19th century to around 1940 no longer exist, Batchelder said.

He added that the insurance company will only



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

The West Parish Garden Cemetery arch is under major repairs at a substantial cost and the board of directors is seeking donations from the public. "If everyone in town donates \$25, we should be able to cover the cost," said board of directors member James Batchelder.

cover the cost of restoring the copper cap. The scaffolding that was installed by Vertex, an engineering firm, cost \$22,000 alone. It's anticipated that restoring the arch will cost the board about \$100,000 in total.

Batchelder said they need help from residents willing to chip in and make donations to help defray this unexpected cost.

"If everyone in town donates \$25 we should be able to cover the cost," he said.

To help visit <http://westparishgardencemetery.org> and specify that the donation is for "arch restoration." You can also call (978) 475-3902.



"When the roof cap was peeled off, it came down on the ground, and it was a third that had come off," said West Parish Board of Directors member James Batchelder. "The rest of it had shifted, so we were forced to remove the entire cap."



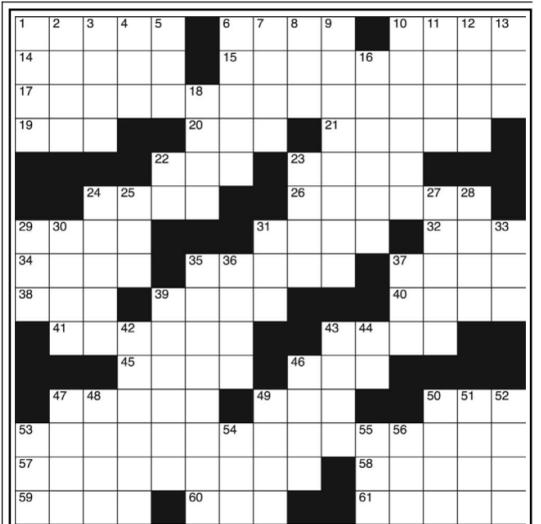
One of the two gates of the Arch at West Parish Garden Cemetery is surrounded by scaffolding because work is being done to replace the capstones after being damaged in the winter.



The stones of the arch, like the surrounding walls, are made of Milford pink granite.



The arch at West Parish Garden Cemetery is surrounded by scaffolding because work is being done to replace the capstones and other damage from a February storm.



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Cyprinids
6. Icelandic literary works
10. Break in half
14. Japanese mushroom
15. Have offspring
17. Not feeling well
19. A very large body of water
20. Witch
21. Behemoth
22. Speak negatively of
23. Absence of difficulty
24. Pampering places
26. Drives
29. Truck that delivers beer
31. Makes
32. A team's best pitcher
34. \_\_\_ Carvey, comedian
35. Seas

#### Solution in Classified Section

37. S. American plants
38. Time zone
39. Deviate
40. No longer are
41. Moving in slowly
43. Patrick and Glover are two
45. Living quarters
46. Taxi
47. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Not happy
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Give way to anxiety
59. Greek war god
60. 2K lbs.
61. Word of farewell

#### CLUES DOWN

1. \_\_\_ ex Machina
2. WWII diarist Frank
3. Concluding passage
4. Supplement with difficulty
5. Title of respect
6. Cubic measures
7. Remnant
8. \_\_\_ Jones
9. Salts of acetic acid
10. Long, upholstered seat
11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
13. Prefix denoting "in a"
16. Propels upward
18. What we are talking about
22. Prosecutor
23. Employee stock ownership plan
24. He brings kids presents
25. Burmese monetary unit
27. Hurries
28. Injury remnant
29. Tooth caregiver
30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane
31. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
33. Midway between east and southeast
35. Most excellent
36. Heat units
37. Possess legally
39. Food items
42. Skeletal structures
43. Challenge to do something bold
44. Blood type
46. Farmer \_\_\_, songwriter
47. Farmer (Dutch)
48. Clare Booth \_\_\_, American writer
49. Piers Anthony's protagonist
50. Malaysian coastal city
51. Hairstyle
52. NY-based department store
53. Geosciences organization (abbr.)
54. Brazilian city
55. Niger-Congo languages
56. Gesture



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Ralph Blesdoe reads the "I Have a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King Jr. while being recorded on video at the North Andover Common.

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## 'Social unrest with a new lens' July 4 speeches echo nation's independence, struggles

By MIKE LABELLA  
mlabella@eagletribune.com

**NORTH ANDOVER** — This Independence Day, history will come to life in North Andover.

Words from past struggles over racial injustice will echo from generations ago, reflecting challenges faced by today's society.

Two local historical groups will offer a July 4 presentation of some of nation's most revered documents and cherished speeches.

The town's Historical Society and the Friends of the 1836 Meeting House will present the event Independence Day at 9 a.m. and noon on local cable TV — North Andover CAM's Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 24, and Andover TV's Comcast Channel 8



State Rep. Tram Nguyen reads a historic speech at the North Andover Common while being recorded on a video.

and Verizon Channel 47.

The event, called the Fourth of July Reading of the Declaration of Independence, was recently recorded on the Town Common to be shown on the holiday. It features readings of the Declaration of Independence, an abbreviated version of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, a shortened version of "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" speech by Frederick Douglass, and President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

"We are hopeful that our program's inclusion of historical speeches from two of the greatest orators of color will encourage our viewers to reflect upon today's social unrest with a new lens that U.S. history provides," said John Lennhoff, a member of the 1836 Meeting House Board of Directors.

Organizers said they hope to make the reading an annual event.

Lennhoff said the idea for the event originated with North Andover Historical Society board member James Worden.

"James had witnessed a reading of the Declaration of Independence in the town of Templeton (Massachusetts) and thought we should bring it to North Andover," Lennhoff said.

In a typical year, this event could have been held at the North Parish Church or on the Town Common as part of a Fourth of July celebration with the public invited. But because of the COVID-19 crisis, the best format was to record and broadcast a video reading, Lennhoff said.

"This is not a typical year in more ways than just the COVID virus," he said. "There is broad global unrest and protesting because of long-simmering racial injustice and economic inequality. In reflecting upon a reading of the Declaration of Independence and freedom from a long list of grievances, we thought it would be appropriate to include other historical readings related to people of color in America."

This idea was reinforced by the Rev. Lee Bluemel, minister of the North

Parish Church, who has seen Andover High School physics teacher Ralph Blesdoe perform Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. In Blesdoe's presentation, he connected the Declaration of Independence to racial inequality through a series of historic documents and speeches, Lennhoff said. "The selection of the Emancipation Proclamation was an obvious choice to complement the Declaration of Independence," Lennhoff said. "In discussing our program with the Racial Justice Team at North Parish Church, we added 'The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro' by Frederick Douglass."

Douglass, who escaped from slavery, became an American social reformer, abolitionist, public speaker and statesman who gained notoriety for his antislavery writings.

Lennhoff said Blesdoe was asked to add a modern speech to the July 4 program, so he is performing the "I Have a Dream" speech, which King presented at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Reading the Declaration of Independence are: Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo; state Rep. Tram Nguyen, D-Andover; Mayara Reis, co-founder of the Merrimack Valley Black and Brown Voices and Allies; and young North Andover residents Henry Choi-Wright, Ellise Nealey and Amar Worden and his sister Priya Worden.

Excerpts from Douglass' 1852 speech are read by Reis and fellow Merrimack Valley Black and Brown Voices and Allies co-founder Elizabeth Walther-Grant of Andover. This speech, which originally lasted about 70 minutes, has been edited down to seven minutes, while retaining the primary message, Lennhoff said.

DiSalvo and Nguyen read Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation from 1863, and Blesdoe reads an abbreviated version of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

To learn more about the historical society and the friends of the meeting house, visit online at [northandoverhistoricalsociety.org](http://northandoverhistoricalsociety.org) and [1836meetinghouse.org](http://1836meetinghouse.org).

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# Public outcry follows PD participation in 'All Lives Matter' event

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

METHUEN — What was billed as a rolling car rally to support local police in Dracut and Methuen on Wednesday evening is now being criticized because of signs and slogans pasted on cars and trucks saying “Build a Wall,” “All Lives Matter” and “Blue Lives Matter.”

Police Chief Joseph Solomon put out a statement Friday that the department helped coordinate traffic for the event but had nothing to do with organizing it. He also disavowed some of the slogans photographed on some of the cars and trucks. “The Methuen Police Department does not avow itself to the misguided doctrine of ‘all lives matter,’” he said. “And we denounce the statement ‘build the wall’ as it is a clear attack on immigrant families. The Methuen Police Department

does not concern itself with a person’s immigration status when it responds to save a life or stop a crime in progress.”

Nonetheless, the event, and the police and city’s response to it, has ignited a firestorm on social media, with hundreds of comments on Facebook and thousands on the department’s Instagram account.

Many of the comments are critical of the department, calling it racist, among other things.

The Facebook post had a picture of a truck with an enormous sign on the side saying, “All Lives Matter,” while the Instagram post had a picture of a poster on a car saying, “Blue Lives Matter.”

The rolling rally comes on the heels of a peaceful “Black Lives Matter” demonstration held last weekend that was attended by hundreds of people, including Mayor Neil Perry.

At a city-sponsored forum

on racism held Thursday — the day after the rolling rally — speakers lambasted the Police Department for what looked like an endorsement of racist rhetoric.

“Just when I didn’t think Methuen could get any worse or more ignorant, there is a rally in the streets, saying ‘Build a Wall,’” said Bronwyn Crocker, one of about a dozen audience members who spoke at the event. “Are you kidding me?”

Another speaker, Kelsey Shibilila, also lashed out at police for giving the impression the department somehow endorsed some of the rhetoric on display during the rolling rally.

“Having this rally for police, with MAGA (“Make America Great Again”) signs, and ‘Build the Wall,’ and ‘All Lives Matter,’ it is racist,” she said. “Our Police Department publicly thanked them. They had Facebook postings thanking people for how wonderful the

rally was. That is racism.” Based on Facebook posts, the pro-police car parade appears to have been originally organized by John Zimini, a former Dracut selectman.

He can be seen on a video leading the parade, honking his horn and whooping it up as he drove through Methuen and Dracut. Zimini did not return a message for comment.

According to Tom Duggan, publisher of the Valley Patriot and one of the organizers of the event, the parade was merely a way to thank the police “for putting their lives on the line every day of the week.”

He said he called Solomon just before the parade set off from Dracut with a convoy of vehicles estimated at anywhere from 25 to 100.

Solomon, he said, promised to have a couple of cruisers stationed outside the Police Department as the convoy passed.

“I said, ‘Have a couple guys out there waving, so you guys know we were there,’” Duggan said. “There were two cars with lights going and three or four people outside waving and taking pictures, including a couple of civilians.”

He said the rally “had nothing to do with racism.”

“A bunch of people got worked up because somebody in our caravan had a Trump sign on their truck,” Duggan said. “One truck out of the 100 vehicles we had a Trump sign, a bunch of flags, and slogans. If you get upset about a Trump sign, maybe look at your own side, burning down buildings and toppling statues.”

Solomon said in his statement that after the event he learned there were signs and slogans that weren’t commensurate with the values of the department.

“The rolling rally lasted approximately two minutes and drove by our police

station without incident,” he wrote in his statement, which also appeared on the department’s Facebook page. “No one from the event stopped at the Police Department.”

“After the event, the department was made aware that one of the vehicles in the rally was adorned with several politically charged signs. The association of this vehicle and the rally with the Police Department has led to understandable anger from several residents,” he stated.

“The Methuen Police Department does not associate itself with or endorse politically charged or divisive language,” he continued.

“We are disappointed that what the organizers told the department was intended to be a positive, community-building message of support for the members of the department was instead overshadowed.”



Courtesy photos

Kaileigh DeCosta, left, of Merrimack and her aunt Adina Sulesky of Plaistow arrived together at Northern Essex Community College to pick up their diplomas and graduation packages, which included a sign for the lawn of their home.

# Finding a way to celebrate



Northern Essex President Lane Glenn spends time with student Omayra Gonzalez of Lawrence, who visited the college’s Haverhill campus to pick up her diploma and box of graduation gifts.



Each celebration package contains a NECC sweatshirt, blanket, an NECC mask, an alumni decal, celebration photo graphics and other items.

Despite the pandemic, Northern Essex Community College graduates — 600 strong — received their diplomas and congratulations recently.

NECC held two days of event where the students visited the school to receive their diplomas and a variety of gifts, including congratulatory posters for the lawns of their homes.

There’s more to come. The school plans a virtual graduation and related events for later in the year.

# Fireworks complaints skyrocket around region

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

An explosion in the use of fireworks in the Merrimack Valley — as well as across the country — has put sleepless residents on edge and police on high alert.

In Methuen from March 1 to June 22, there have been 48 fireworks complaints made to the Police Department, compared to just nine during the same period last year, police Chief Joseph Solomon said.

“We have had a lot of calls,” Solomon said, adding that there have been no arrests or citations given out.

By the time officers arrive at a particular location, he explained, the scofflaws have usually fled the scene with their contraband fireworks.

It’s not just Methuen. Across the Merrimack Valley, in Boston, and most other large, urban areas, fireworks complaints have risen in the order of 2,000 to 3,000 percent in the last few months.

Some say complaints about the use of high-end pyrotechnics started back in February and has only grown worse as the weather has warmed up and people leave their windows open at night.

The reasons given for the jump in the use of fireworks — which are illegal in Massachusetts — range from simple boredom amid the stay-at-home orders due to coronavirus, to the approaching July 4th holiday, during which most civic-sponsored shows have been canceled. Others have opined that the fireworks are somehow connected to the Black Lives Matter movement, although local police say they have seen no indication of that.

Unfortunately, there doesn’t seem to be much police can do other than educate people on the dangers of fireworks and occasionally arrest or cite people for breaking the law.

Methuen police, for example, sent out a press release last week notifying residents that fireworks are illegal and people with them are subject to arrest, citations and fines.

In Lawrence, where fireworks complaints are up by 3,000% for the first five-and-a-half months of this year compared to the same period last year, arrests have been made, according to police Chief Roy Vasque.

His force implemented somewhat of a crackdown and has arrested four people, summonsed five and given out 10 citations in recent weeks, according to police spokesman Tom Cuddy. The department has also seized two cruiser trunks full of the illegal explosives, including a 5-foot-tall rocket. Vasque said many of the fireworks

being confiscated are much more sophisticated than what he’s seen in the past.

“It’s not the little firecrackers like we had when we were kids,” he said. “They are going up 100 feet or more. It must cost good money for people to light these.”

Making matters worse is that the seized fireworks have to be collected and disposed of by the Massachusetts State Police bomb squad at considerable expense to taxpayers.

Vasque said the city has done a leaflet drop in neighborhoods printed in both English and Spanish on the subject of the dangers and consequences of fireworks. The flyers provide phone numbers of tip lines. The city has also run public service announcements on Spanish radio imploring people to stop using fireworks.

In Haverhill, Mayor James Fiorentini announced a “zero tolerance” policy this week, mandating that police cite anyone found lighting off fireworks.

Lawrence police reports show a pattern of people lighting off fireworks in the middle of the road with their cars nearby.

“People in vehicles are stopping at different places, setting off the fireworks, and then taking off,” Vasque said.

In one June 13 case that led to a charge of unlawful possession of fireworks and disturbing the peace, police saw fireworks going off in the vicinity of Franklin and Cross streets. In front of 160 Franklin St. they found multiple empty containers of fireworks in the road and a man standing nearby, according to a police report. The man admitted owning and having lit off the fireworks, and police saw that he had more in his trunk. When they seized the fireworks, he became verbally abusive, the report states.

Later, at around 11:15 p.m., the same officers returned to the scene where they saw two men lighting more fireworks in front of 160 Franklin St. They approached the men and found one of them to be the same person from the earlier incident. This time however, he denied owning the fireworks, according to the report. Police picked up the empty containers and issued a citation.

Vasque said he and chiefs in other border towns have spoken to officials in New Hampshire, where fireworks are legal, about the problem. Since it’s assumed that many Massachusetts

“It’s not the little firecrackers like we had when we were kid. They are going up 100 feet or more. It must cost good money for people to light these.”

Lawrence police Chief Roy Vasque

residents are crossing the border to buy fireworks they are talking about possibly setting up some kind of sting that would stop people with Massachusetts plates in the parking lots of vendors.

“We are working with the authorities up there,” Vasque said. “Massachusetts residents are not supposed to transport fireworks over state lines. We’ve told them we have a problem. We are bringing it to their attention.”

The late-night use of fireworks has become a nationwide issue, with reports coming from all over the country, especially urban areas of Boston, New York City, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Boston police received 1,445 fireworks complaints in the first week of June, compared with just 22 in the same week last year, the Boston Herald reported. Complaints in May were also up by more than 2,300 percent compared with May 2019, according to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

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ADS in this category  
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Ads appearing in this section may or may not deliver to this entire market. Prices may reflect a "Local" delivery area only and may be higher at an extended delivery area.

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ANTIQUE 1950s KITCHEN SET, Original Table and 4 chairs. Yellow, chrome legs. extra leaf. \$500. Call 617-921-6751

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**CASH FOR RECORD ALBUMS**  
33LPs & 45s WANTED. Call George (617) 633-2682

**STAIRLIFTS WANTED**  
TO BUY, in good condition.  
Call Richard 603-236-1227

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**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**  
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**WARNING**  
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GMC JIMMY RARE 1977  
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GLOUCESTER - Sweet 7 room Victorian on quiet street with harbor views. Gorgeous fir floors, tall ceilings, 3 bdms, 2 full baths, first floor office/ 4th bedroom, new windows, heat, paint, Beacon Hill yard. Full finished basement and full attic, excellent storage & condition plenty of character! \$397,500

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

**RIVER VALLEY R.E.**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Docket No. ES20P1406EA  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Essex Probate and Family Court  
36 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
(978)744-1020

**Estate of: John McClintock**  
Also Known as: John R.D. McClintock, John Robert Dale McClintock  
Date of Death: 05/01/2020  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stella McClintock of North Andover MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: Stella McClintock of North Andover MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/03/2020.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPervised ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS INFORMAL PROBATE COURT (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 17, 2020  
Pamela A Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**  
Essex Division  
36 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
(978) 744-1020  
Docket No. ES20P1435EA  
Estate of:  
Colin Michael Cronin  
Also Known As:  
Colin Cronin  
Date of Death:  
November 26, 2018  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of  
Petitioner Michael Cronin of North Andover, MA  
Petitioner Julie Cronin of North Andover, MA  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
Michael Cronin of North Andover, MA  
Julie Cronin of North Andover, MA  
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
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8 Unit Office Building & 2 Acre Lot.....\$879,000  
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8 Acres/House Commercial needs work \$29K  
35 Acres Derry NH Bld Homes.....\$459,000  
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5 Bedroom and 3 Bedroom homes on 3 Acres Commercial Land in Londonderry.....\$1,100,000  
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RETAIL & OFFICES FOR LEASE:  
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Office Space 2 rooms So. NH.....\$495 mo.  
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**REAL ESTATE BROKERS/AGENTS**  
**Quiz for Landlords/Property Owners**  
This week's answers to last week's questions:  
● Max fee you can charge an applicant: \$0 (zero dollars)  
● Max Security Deposit - 1 month's rent (regardless of credit history)  
● Max Pet Fee: \$0 (zero dollars)  
It's illegal in Massachusetts  
● Last month's rent - yes, you have to pay interest on that, too.  
Don't unknowingly break the law. Fair Housing laws matter!  
Do you have a question for next week? Email, call or text and our Property Management team may publish your questions and answer, next week!

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WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 17, 2020  
Pamela A Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate

# Sports

## THE BIG TIME CALLS

### Andover's Lachance, Hughes honored to be picked in USHL Draft

By DAVID WILLIS  
 Staff Writer

The world-renowned United States Hockey League may soon receive a major infusion of Andover talent.

On May 4, Phillips Academy star forward William Hughes of Andover was selected by Sioux City in the seventh round of the USHL Phase 1 "Futures" Draft, limited to athletes born in 2004.

A day later, former Andover High star and current Tabor Academy standout Shane Lachance was picked by Tri-City in the ninth round of the USHL Phase 2 Draft.

"I'm thrilled to be drafted into the USHL," said Lachance of the USA's premier junior hockey league. "Looking at NHL and Division 1 college rosters, it's unbelievable how many players have come through this league. Having an opportunity to follow the paths that some of the best players in the world have taken is definitely an honor for me."

Added Hughes — who like Lachance is a 16-year-old forward — "I am super excited to be drafted into the USHL. It is a great opportunity and I feel honored to be selected."

#### LACHANCE THRILLED

Lachance had to wait the extra day to be picked in the USHL Draft, because he was born in August of 2003.

The Tri-City (Nebraska) Storm then made him the 128th overall pick in the Phase 2 Draft.

"A couple USHL teams had called me to tell me they were interested," he said. "I had a feeling I may get picked, but I wasn't sure when. My family and I were watching the draft online. I saw my name pop up on the screen and it was a very exciting moment. Shortly after the selection, I got a phone call from (Storm) coach (Anthony) Noreen. This was an extremely exhilarating feeling."

#### FAMILY TIES

Family inspired the love of hockey in Andover's William Hughes and Shane Lachance.

Lachance's father is 13-year NHL player Scott Lachance, and his brother is Wesleyan University standout Jake Lachance.

"Having someone, like my father, so close to you who has been through every level of hockey is something that I am grateful for," said Shane, whose grandfather is 40-year Boston University hockey coach Jack Parker.

"Being able to learn from my dad is a huge advantage. And Jake, like my father, is someone I look to in life. When I was younger, I used to follow Jake around and I wanted to do everything that he did. That hasn't changed much to this day."

Hughes' brother, Michael Hughes, was a standout defenseman for Brooks, who now plays lacrosse for Providence College.

"Before my brother, no one in my family played hockey," said William. "I would go to all of Michael's games, and as I was sitting in the stands with my parents, I remember saying I wanted to play hockey."

Lachance is coming off an impressive debut winter for Tabor, scoring 13 goals and adding nine assists as a repeat sophomore.

Prior to that, Lachance starred for two seasons at Andover High, earning All-MVC honors in 2018-19 (six goals, 15 assists). As a freshman, he helped the Golden Warriors earn their first Super 8 berth.

"I learned a tremendous amount from my two years at Andover High," said Lachance, whose father is longtime NHL defenseman Scott Lachance. "I was lucky enough to create many special bonds with friends. After my sophomore year, I felt it was time for a change. I needed a bigger challenge. Transferring to Tabor was the best decision I could have made."

Lachance doesn't yet know when he may take on his next challenge in the USHL.

"The USHL is definitely a league that I could see myself playing in," he said. "I feel as though, with my style of play, I'm a good fit for the league. Being the country's premier junior league, the USHL presents a great opportunity in terms of acceleration of my game and exposure in order to get to the next level, which is something that I am super excited about."

#### HUGHES PUMPED

Phillips Academy star Hughes knew he was on the USHL's radar, but wasn't sure quite what to expect heading into the Draft.

"During the season (for Phillips) there were lots of USHL scouts that would come to my games, and leading up to the draft I received a lot of phone calls from different teams," he said. "Before the draft, I had a pretty good idea I was going to be selected, but nothing was guaranteed."

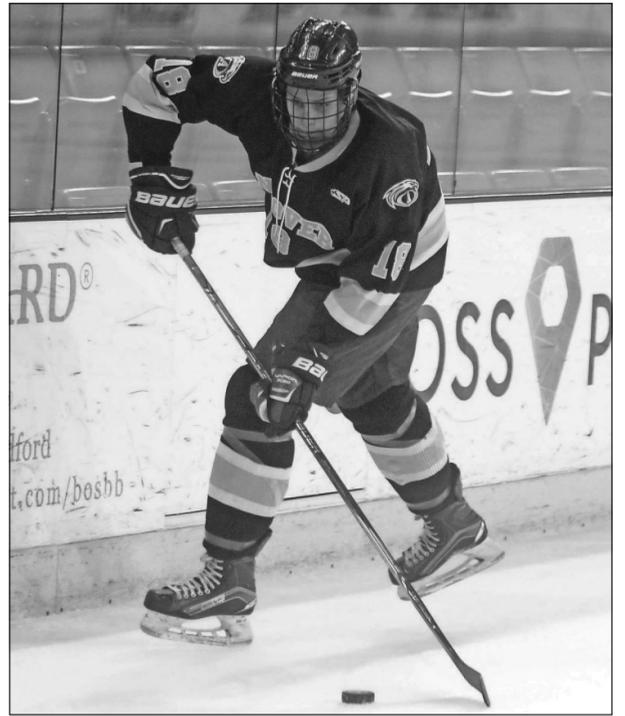
The Sioux City (Iowa) Muskeeters made Hughes the No. 92 overall in the Phase 1 draft.

"I found out I was drafted while watching the draft on my computer," he said. "I also received a phone call from the general manager, Andy Johnson, as well as the head coach (Luke Strand)."

Hughes is coming off a sophomore season where he scored 10 goals and added 13 assists for the Big Blue.

"Phillips has one of the most difficult hockey schedules in prep hockey," he said. "The energy and excitement on and off the ice for the Exeter game was crazy. I'm very proud of the season we had. I'm focused on Phillips for now, but having the chance to play in the USHL is very exciting and a great opportunity."

TWITTER: @DWillisET



Staff File Photo

Shane Lachance looks to make a play with the puck while playing for Andover High. Lachance now plays for Tabor Academy, and was drafted by Tri-City in the USHL Draft.



COURTESY PHOTO

William Hughes was an Eagle-Tribune All-Star during the winter of Phillips Academy. He was drafted by Sioux City in the USHL Draft.

## ANDOVER ARCHIVES: GOLDEN WARRIOR SOFTBALL

*Editor's Note: Throughout the summer, The Andover Townsman will take a look back at Andover High stars from the past 20 years through pictures. This week, we start with Andover High softball.*

Taylor Farris and Shannon Tully might be in the Andover High Hall of Fame for their field hockey state titles, but both were also stars on the softball diamond at Andover High. Tully was a standout catcher, Farris was a pitcher

and both could do damage at the plate. Speaking of stellar hitters, catcher Tori Roche was a star slugger for Andover High, and continued that success at Babson. Sisters Paige and Megan Hartnett

both did it all for Andover, at the plate, in the field and on the mound, and most recently Alexa Pacy was one of Massachusetts' most dangerous hitters. She followed in the tradition of the likes of Molly Awiszus and Meaghan McCarthy.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo.

Andover seniors, from left, Shannon Tully, Molly Awiszus, Lauren Le Blanc, Taylor Farris and Shannon Murphy celebrate in 2012.



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff file photo. Molly Awiszus (class of 2012) did it all for Andover High.



TIM JEAN/Staff File Photo

Meaghan McCarthy makes a great play for Andover High back in 2008.



TIM JEAN/Staff File Photo

Shortstop Alexa Pacy (class of 2019) transferred from New Hampshire softball power Salem and became a star at Andover.



Staff File Photo

Jill Powers, center, and Andover celebrate a victory in 2017.



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo Megan Hartnett (class of 2017) was a utility player who could hit, field and even pitch.



CARL RUSSO/Staff File Photo.

Tori Roche (class of 2016) was a force behind the plate and with a bat in her hands. She went on to star at Babson.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Warmer with a shower	Cooler but pleasant	Clouds and sun	A t-storm possible	A t-storm possible	A t-storm possible	T-storms possible
<b>High: 87°</b> <b>Low: 66°</b>	<b>High: 73°</b> <b>Low: 59°</b>	<b>High: 76°</b> <b>Low: 57°</b>	<b>High: 78°</b> <b>Low: 60°</b>	<b>High: 82°</b> <b>Low: 64°</b>	<b>High: 84°</b> <b>Low: 63°</b>	<b>High: 87°</b> <b>Low: 66°</b>

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# Ready, set, get reading

It was anything but a typical end to the school year for area students. And as summer gets fully underway, the backslide on learning that often occurs during vacation seems to have already gotten a head start.

One of the most effective ways for children to keep their minds sharp over the summer is by reading.

Pearson Education says evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better on reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure also bears more influence on a child's academic performance than his or her social or economic background.

Here are ways that parents can encourage kids to start turning some pages:

■ **Set up a reading time.** Children should have a set time each day that they devote to reading. Many find a regular

reading time later in the evening before bed or as a precursor to other activities, such as watching television or playing video games, can help make reading a priority.

■ **Keep fresh reading materials.** Stock the house with new books, magazines, newspapers and graphic novels. The more reading materials children have access to, the more likely they are to become habitual readers.

■ **Pick up a book yourself.** Children learn by example. Parents should read, as well. Choose books and periodicals over time spent on digital devices.

■ **Read in the world around you.** Stop and read signs, menus, cereal boxes, billboards and anything with the written word. Jot down difficult words, and look them up together and discuss the definitions.

■ **Consult with a teacher or library staff.** Educators have tools they use to assess reading levels and abilities. Knowing a child's reading level and choosing the appropriate reading materials for that level can set kids up for success.

# Kid-approved summer page-turners

Looking for something new to engage a young reader? Check out this year's nominees for the Massachusetts Children's Book Award.

Sponsored by Salem State University, the annual award honors books that promote reading for pleasure among students in grades four through six.

This year's winner — "The Crossover" by Kwame Alexander — tells the story of the Bell twins, who are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences — Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks — both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart.

A middle-grade novel, "The Crossover" is the past winner of the Newbery Medal and other awards.

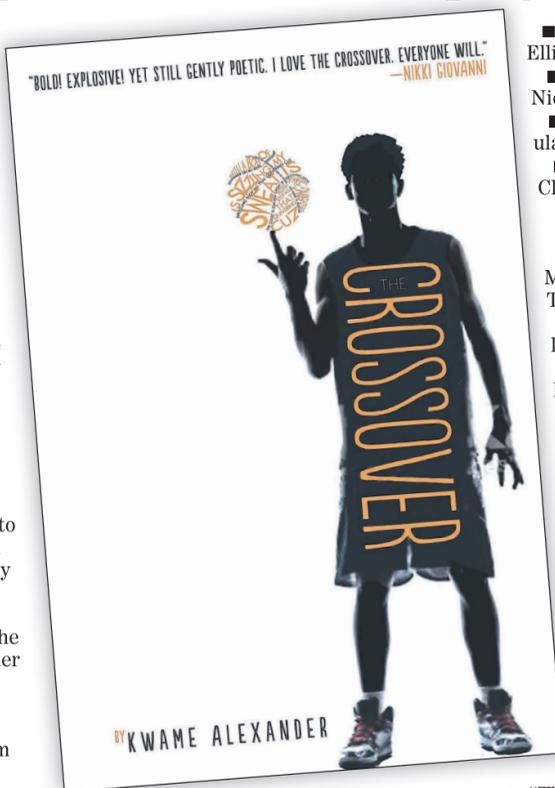
The Massachusetts Children's Book Award Program was founded by Dr. Helen Constant in 1975 to encourage children in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades to read great books.

The winning title is chosen by students in those grades, who are given a "master list" of book titles.

Children are eligible to vote if they have read, or have heard read aloud, at least five of the books on the list.

Here are the other nominees for the 2020 Massachusetts Children's Book Award:

■ "Abigail Adams, Pirate of the



COURTESY IMAGE

"The Crossover" by Kwame Alexander was chosen by young readers as the winner of the 2020 Massachusetts Children's Book Award.

Caribbean," by Steve Sheinkin

■ "The Book of Boy," by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

■ "The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker," by Matilda Woods

■ "Checked," by Cynthia Kadohata

■ "Dragons in a Bag," by Zetta Elliot

■ "The End of the Wild," by Nicole Helget

■ "Explorer Academy: The Nebula Secret," by Trudi Trueit

■ "Finding Langston," by Lesa Cline-Ransome

■ "Front Desk," by Kelly Yang

■ "Guts," by Raina Telgemeier

■ "I Survived ... the Great Molasses Flood, 1919" by Lauren Tarshis

■ "The Journey of Little Charlie," by Christopher Paul Curtis

■ "Lifeboat 12," by Susan Hood

■ "The Night Diary," by Veera Hiranandani

■ "Pie in the Sky," by Remy Lai

■ "Sal and Gabi Break the Universe," by Carlos Hernandez

■ "She Dared: Bethany Hamilton," by Jenni L. Walsh

■ "The Sky at Our Feet," by Nadia Hashimi

■ "Song for a Whale," by Lynne Kelly

■ "Stargazing," by Jen Wang

■ "The Thrifty Guide to the American Revolution," by Jonathan W. Stokes

■ "The Truth as Told," by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

■ "Unbound," by Ann E. Burg

■ "The Unsung Hero of Birdsong USA," by Brenda Woods

■ "You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!" by Alex Gino

Reading a good book? Tell us about it. Share your summer reads with the Kids Corner page by emailing Sonya Vartabedian at [svartabedian@northofboston.com](mailto:svartabedian@northofboston.com). Don't forget to include your name, age and hometown, too.



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