



**POMPS POND
OPEN BUT WITH
RESTRICTIONS**

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**FRIENDS RECALL
FORMER ANDOVER
HIGH STAR
IARRABINO JR.**

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STUDENT
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MGH**

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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

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\$1.00

Organization donates gowns to frontline workers

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

Planning a wedding during the pandemic is hard. But for brides-to-be who are also on the front line fighting the virus, things just got a little bit easier.

The Andover-based nonprofit organization Brides Across America is giving away free wedding gowns to healthcare professionals

who are working directly with coronavirus patients.

Thus far the organization has gifted 95 dresses to healthcare workers, most of whom are in Massachusetts, although they have also included women from as far away as Florida and California.

“What we did was we added the frontline COVID healthcare workers to our existing mission,” said Terry Brumley, a member of the

board of directors.

Brides Across America, which has locations around the nation and is headquartered in Andover, is a charitable organization founded in 2008 by CEO Heidi Janson. Its mission is to gift wedding gowns to those in the military and first responders.

The organization gives away gowns with a hefty price tag, too.



The Andover-based nonprofit Brides Across America has long been providing free wedding dresses to those in the military and first responders. Now the organization has added helping those working on the front lines with COVID patients to its mission. Above is Tayna Pillot, of Lunenburg, trying on a gown at the Andover headquarters in 2019.

AMANDA SABGA/File photo

See **GOWNS**, Page 2

In sickness and in health



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Robert, now 96, and Edith, now 90, Buchanan, of Andover, are pictured a few years back. They both became infected with COVID-19 in the spring. Despite their advanced ages they both recovered and recently had an outdoor visit following their 69th wedding anniversary.

Couple survives COVID-19 in time to mark their 69th anniversary

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

The attractive secretary captured Robert Buchanan's attention all those years ago.

Working in the tower at the Harbor Air Field in Baltimore, Buchanan saw the young woman every day as she left the flight school and walked to a restaurant on site for lunch.

After a first date New Years Eve and an engagement the following Christmas, Robert and Edith Buchanan married June 9, 1951.

The couple recently marked their 69th wedding anniversary after they both survived COVID-19 coronavirus infections in separate Merrimack Valley healthcare facilities.

Robert is 96, Edith 90. They were able to see each other this past week at Mary Immaculate Health Care Services in Lawrence for an outdoor visit for the first time in months.

An Army veteran and retired US Air pilot, Robert is cared for at Mary Immaculate. Meanwhile Edith, a longtime hostess at Kitty's restaurant



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert and Edith Buchanan were married June 9, 1951.

See **COUPLE**, Page 2

HOMETOWN HERO

AHS student, 15, teaches coding

Nair wants to help others during COVID-19 pandemic

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

If necessity is the mother of invention, as Plato wrote, the same could probably said of COVID-19.

The deadly disease that has sidelined millions of students from school, pushed employees out of work and shut down huge

portions of the economy, has also given rise to some great ideas.

Jade Nair, a rising junior at Andover High School, remembers sitting at home after school had been shut down in March, wondering what she could do with her time.

“When the pandemic hit, I was bored,” said the

15-year-old. “School was not normal, there was a lack of intellectual stimulation and I knew I wanted to help out during the pandemic.”

While some students collected canned goods for food pantries, and others gathered Personal Protective Equipment for first-responders, Nair went

See **NAIR**, Page 2

Lawmakers, union want to pause MCAS test

Would put 4-year moratorium on state standardized test

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Amid the disruptions to schools caused by the coronavirus outbreak a renewed push is underway to put the brakes on MCAS testing.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association, which has long sought to ease state's standardized testing requirements, is lobbying hard for bipartisan legislation that would impose a four-year moratorium on the MCAS and suspend the requirement that students must pass the

exam to graduate. Merrie Najimy, the union's president, argues that teachers and students don't need the added stress of high-stakes testing amid lingering effects of the pandemic and the challenges of reopening school in the fall.

She said the pitfalls of remote learning have had an outside effect on low-income and minority students.

“MCAS would do nothing more than reflect those problems. Worse, it would be used as a weapon to deem these

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New town division dedicated to diversity

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
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Town Manager Andrew Flanagan announced that Andover has created a new division of local government focused on diversity and inclusion.

“The division will provide resources and will take dedicated, thoughtful actions and initiatives to promote goals we aspire to in our town,” Flanagan wrote in a statement June 29.

The statement follows recent racist incidents in town that came after George Floyd, a Black man, died while in police custody in Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend. Outrage ensued and race relations

were catapulted back into the national spotlight.

Following Floyd's death, protests swept the nation, including one here in Andover.

Soon after, racist social media posts made by Andover High School students began recirculating. The posts, which were years old, were sent to school administrators and the administration sent them to police. Police at the time said they were looking into them.

In another incident, an off-duty lieutenant with Andover Fire Rescue was placed on paid administrative leave after he was caught on camera accusing a 19-year-old Dominican woman and

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The Andover-based nonprofit Brides Across America has long been providing free wedding dresses to those in the military and first responders.

AMANDA SABGA/
File photo



GOWNS

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“We have dresses obviously that might be in the \$900s or \$800s, but those are discounted anyway. But the average price of a wedding gown today is \$1,500 and up,” Brumley said. “I saw a bride in there on Sunday who had on a designer dress and I think the original price

on that dress was \$2,800.”

Brumley said although Brides Across America doesn't specialize in footwear, sometimes the organization provides shoes to brides, as well.

“We don't have a shoe store, but we try to give them what they need to complete their outfit,” Brumley said.

For more information, call 978-470-4817 or visit www.bridesacrossamerica.com.

MCAS

Continued from Page 1

students and schools as failing,” she said.

The proposal, which has nearly 60 sponsors in the state House and Senate, would create a commission to study alternatives to the MCAS requirements.

If it succeeds, the state wouldn't administer the tests for at least four years, and annual school assessments would no longer be based on students' MCAS results. The state would need a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to be exempted from federal assessment and reporting requirements.

At least two states, Georgia and South Carolina, have announced plans to seek waivers to suspend another round of standardized tests next school year.

“We're talking about testing students at a time when there's already so much disruption to education and emotional trauma as a result of the pandemic,” said Rep. Christina Minicucci, D-North Andover, a co-sponsor of the bill and mother of two school-age children. “This seems like a good time to hit pause.”

Minicucci said the \$32 million the state spends on standardized testing would be better spent on academic development and remote learning.

“Every dollar spent on high-stakes testing is a dollar taken

away from the classroom,” she said.

Gov. Charlie Baker got a federal waiver to cancel the MCAS graduation tests this past spring after closing public and private schools to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Sen. Joan Lovely, D-Salem, who co-chairs the Legislature's Education Committee, hasn't signed onto the proposal but thinks easing some of the state's testing requirements is worth considering. She gets regular complaints from educators, administrators and parents about the impact on students from over-testing.

“They're concerned that's there too much testing, not just MCAS, and that students are only being taught to test,” she said. “It's creating a lot of anxiety.”

Still, Lovely said eliminating the MCAS without a plan “wouldn't be responsible,” and the state would need another way to measure student and school performance.

The MCAS, a hallmark of standardized tests in Massachusetts education for more than 25 years, is required annually for students in grades 3 to 8. Students in the 10th grade must pass the math, English and science exams to graduate from high school.

More than 70,000 students take the MCAS every year.

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

NAIR

Continued from Page 1

with something she loves doing: teaching computer programming.

During a pandemic such as that wrought by the coronavirus, there is perhaps no more perfect subject to teach while also adhering to social distancing guidelines: Coding classes taught by Nair are all done virtually — online.

And the classes have become very popular.

With the backing of Glenn Wilson, assistant director of Andover Youth Services, Nair and some of her friends from the high school robotics club ran a pilot program on coding during the spring.

It had a waiting list of 19. With that kind of demand, AYS has expanded the pilot into a full-grown summer program.

“We have 15 people teaching and we are running four classes — one in Python, one in Java, one in web design and one in CAD (computer-aided design),” Nair said. “I've reached 41 kids with the programs I've started and hopefully this summer we will have another 24 kids added to that number. Clearly there's a lot of demand in the community.”

Nair's foray into coding and teaching didn't happen overnight.

She said it all started when she took a computer science course as a freshman at AHS.

“I've thrown myself into it ever since,” she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jade Nair, a junior at Andover High School, learned coding from online classes and is now teaching other young people in town through a program with Andover Youth Services. She was recently recognized by CNBC as a Homegrown Hero for her work during the COVID-19 crisis.

At the start of her sophomore year, she felt like she wasn't challenged enough by her Java class, something she had taken classes in over the summer. So her teachers suggested she do an independent study.

She ended up working closely with Anil Navkal of Energize Andover, monitoring energy use in public buildings and taking on other projects that required computer expertise.

Navkal advised her to take online courses through the University of Michigan, which she aced.

It was at that point, when the pandemic hit, that she got the teaching bug.

She recruited a handful of middle school girls and began virtual classes in the computer language Python while also continuing

her duties with Energize Andover. As if that weren't enough to keep her busy, she was still studying at AHS, as her sophomore classes continued online.

Soon after that is when she approached Wilson at the youth center, ran the pilot program in the spring, and then got involved teaching classes this summer through AYS.

Her work has given her a glimmer of fame. She's being interviewed by the cable-TV network CNBC for their special program called “Homegrown Heroes.” The program features people nominated by friends, family members or neighbors who have “gone above and beyond ... and are continuing to answer the call” to make things better for those affected by the coronavirus crisis.

While she was nominated by her mother, Sangeeta Nair, the nomination was buttressed by references from Navkal and Wilson, who wrote about Nair's commitment to teaching remotely and helping others learn valuable skills that can be used in the modern era.

“Her contribution to the cause of addressing the needs of the community using her power of software are path-breaking,” Navkal said in his reference letter to CNBC. “Jade is a self-motivated, fast learner. Now she is leading a movement of girls who would not want anything less than a leadership role in data analytics.”

The CNBC TV special featuring Nair and several other Homegrown Heroes, is scheduled to run at 7 p.m. on July 16.

COUPLE

Continued from Page 1

in North Reading, has managed to live at home in Andover with help from family.

She was released from Holy Family Hospital in Methuen following being admitted for coronavirus. After some rehabilitation she has returned home.

“It's just unbelievable. It's just amazing they both recovered,” said Jeanine Labrecque, 60, of her parents.

“I was a wreck. I found out first that my Dad was sick and then my Mom was getting sick and everything just snowballed,” said Labrecque, who lives in Methuen.

“I had definitely prepared for the worst. I made a call to a funeral director,” she added.

COVID-19 can cause mild symptoms in healthy adults but is deadly to older people, especially those with pre-existing conditions.

Robert's condition is frail, Labrecque said. Her mother has some minor health issues and at the start of the pandemic sought treatment. Somewhere along the line, she also became infected.

Both were sick for months, Labrecque said.

Edith had high fevers, lost her sense of smell and taste, and developed pneumonia. At Holy Family Hospital she was never placed on a ventilator, as many COVID-19 patients



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert and Edith Buchanan of Andover.

are, but did need oxygen. “She raved about her care there,” Labrecque said of Holy Family.

Robert also had high fevers as he battled COVID-19, Labrecque said.

On Monday, she was happy to take her mother to see her father for the outdoor visit at Mary Immaculate.

“She hadn't seen him in four months,” Labrecque said. “They are tough. They are both very tough.”

While in better health, Labrecque said her parents enjoyed celebrating special occasions by taking trips to Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut.

“They like to go and get a room there. That was a big thing for them,” she said.

Her father, an avid hunter and fisherman, likes Sam Adams beer, oysters and good food, while her mother enjoys baking, cooking, shopping and looking at photos of her great-grandchildren.

“They make her day when she talks with them or sees videos or photos,” Labrecque said.

She said her father was a Shriner in the Wilmington chapter and played tuba in the group's band.

“He would go to parades



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert and Edith Buchanan recently marked their 69th wedding anniversary after they both survived COVID-19.

and events. ... He practiced every day and loved it,” she said, noting he didn't stop playing until his late 80s.

Grateful her parents recovered, Labrecque said the past several months were difficult due to the no-visitation policies put in place during the pandemic.

She stresses people

should not become complacent about the coronavirus. And, she said, she was pleased to share her parents' story of hope.

“There is so much negativity and so much bad news. It's nice for everyone to hear a good story,” Labrecque said.

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.

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DIVISION

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lifelong Andover resident of stealing mail from her own mailbox.

“As we all know, our

community experienced an incident involving race several weeks ago that had no place in Andover,” Flanagan wrote. “This incident is in the process of being addressed and our focus remains on what will result in the most

acceptable outcome to the resident that was impacted.”

In addition to the creation of the Diversity and Inclusion Division, Flanagan has announced a community forum on racism that's expected to take place in July.

Nesting during lockdown

Red-tailed hawks raise young at Everett Mills

By TERRY DATE
tdate@andovertownsmen.com

LAWRENCE — Greg Chastain looked out the fifth-floor window and into the eyes of two baby hawks nesting on an air conditioner. They tilted their fluffy heads. A month later, anyone below and peering up from Union Street might

have seen the same hawks hopping and flapping their wings like crazy, getting ready for their do-or-die maiden flights.

From mid-March to mid-June the red-tailed hawks went from speckled eggs to downy chicks to serious birds of prey perched 50 feet high on the Everett Mills.

Chastain, founder of Voices of Hope, a musical theater group that raises money for cancer research, photographed the hawks from inside his fifth-floor studio from which he runs the nonprofit, tracking their rapid transformation.

He shared images online with Voices of Hope's 200 members, many of whom were sheltering in place and eager for updates on the chicks' progress.

The group named the chicks Charity and Virtue — and their brassy mom, Reno — after characters in "Anything Goes," the show they were producing until COVID-19 shut it down.

They welcomed the close-up images: Reno feeding rats, mice and pigeons to Charity and Virtue; Reno covering her young ones. The pictures brought the distant cast and crew closer.

At a time when people were stuck in their homes, birds in a nest showed togetherness begetting survival, Chastain said.

"It was ironic," he said. "Even more ironic was the hawks' choice of a nesting spot."

Of all the places for the birds to have built a home at the immense brick mills, they did so outside Chastain's studio — nicknamed "The Nest."

Voices of Hope's emblem is a cardinal. Chastain has a cardinal tattoo below his wrist in memory of his mom, who in 2009 died of pancreatic cancer — and for whom Chastain founded the nonprofit.

In the last few weeks of her life, she and her son talked a lot about a pair of cardinals that had nested outside her home in rural Indiana.

Dedicated to family Nature is as enchanting as it is unforgiving. Only 15% of red-tailed hawks survive their first year, says Marla Isaac, an educator and rehabilitator for the Massachusetts Raptor Center in Taunton.



Courtesy photo

Two baby hawks nest outside a fifth-floor studio at the Everett Mills in Lawrence.

Baby hawks, called eyas, are vulnerable to starvation, falls, and predation, including by hungry owls and raccoons, she said.

Females, which are about 25 percent bigger than males, mate with their partners for life. In the wild a red-tail lives 10 to 15 years. But Isaac, a master falconer, has a hawk named Moe that is 30 years old.

Red-tails rebounded from persecution by farmers in the early part of the 20th century and from pesticides such as DDT at mid-century, said Joan Walsh, head of ornithology for Mass Audubon.

Different varieties of red-tailed hawks live throughout the United States. They have adapted well to suburbia, are dedicated to their young, and are eminently watchable, soaring in grand circles or perching in trees or on light poles.

"They are fabulous birds," said Walsh. "They are basically ubiquitous in Mass, wall to wall. They are part of the Mass story, one of our totem birds."

Lawrence Conservation Commissioner Tennis Lily says the city offers rich opportunities for observing raptors and other birds in parks and on mill buildings, which can act like a natural setting for hawks.

"The brick sides are like cliffs and the street is a canyon," he said.

A spectacle to observe Parishioners at Holy Rosary Church, including Susan and Thomas Witham, were watching the hawks earlier this month.

The church parking lot is directly across the street from the section of mill where the hawks were nesting. The adults would perch on the church.

Chastain said he didn't see the father hawk very often. The mother was a much more regular presence, hunting nearby.

About a month out of their eggs the chicks underwent a dramatic change in appearance. Within a week it looked like they had slipped helmets on their downy heads, changed into hawks with dark heads and penetrating gazes.

Irving Cruz, who works at Holy Rosary, and his dad, who lives across the street

to come face to face with Reno.

She lifted her yellow talons and threw them against the glass, scratching frantically at his face.

Chastain was glad for the barrier.

In early June, Charity and Virtue would perch at the edge of the nest, looking out on the city, opening and closing their wings.

In mid-June, one of the young hawks flew off. The other hawk followed suit a week or so later.

The hawks are likely perched elsewhere, their parents teaching them to hunt, Walsh said. The parents remain with their young until fall. Many red-tail hawks migrate in autumn, riding the airwaves south to places like Jamaica.

They return in late winter. Chastain plans to build a wooden platform above the air conditioner in case the hawks come back next year to raise another family.

Town Meeting likely to be held Sept. 12

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@eagletribune.com

Meeting is in the best interest of the Town of Andover and its citizens," Doherty wrote.

Town Meeting has been postponed once again.

In a recently released statement, Town Moderator Sheila Doherty announced that the meeting, which has already been postponed once, will be postponed again from July 22 to Aug. 22. She added she's likely to postpone it again into September.

Doherty is solely responsible for deciding when Town Meeting should be held, but she is required to discuss potential postponements with the Select Board, the director of the town's Board of Health and with the town's public safety departments.

In the last Select Board meeting, Doherty mentioned postponing Town Meeting to September for safety reasons.

"Given the ability of a rapid spread of the virus, the difficulty of containment, and the risk to vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, I have come to the conclusion that delaying the annual Town

In the June 22 Select Board meeting, Doherty said that special legislation enacted after Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency resulting from the pandemic gives her the right to delay Town Meeting if the warrant hasn't been signed or processed yet.

Doherty added that she can postpone Town Meeting in 30-day increments continually until 30 days after the emergency declaration has been lifted by the governor.

However, in her June 25 release she said, "Mass General Laws Chapter 39, Section 10A, does not give me the authority to continue the Annual Town Meeting for longer than 30 days from the posted date of July 22, 2020, but I do have the authority to issue further continuances, if appropriate."

She added, "I hereby notice all of the likelihood of extending this declaration again on August 22, 2020 to a date on or about September 12, 2020."

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Opinion

Fixing a broken system

The final chapter of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts is being punctuated by dollar signs.

The utility, in the process of being sold to Eversource for \$1.1 billion, continues to pay out fines and settlements in the long shadow of its September 2018 disaster in the Merrimack Valley.

Attorney General Maura Healey last week announced a \$56 million agreement in which Columbia Gas will wipe out debt of about 28,000 low-income customers and fund energy efficiency programs, among other initiatives. That followed closely a judge's sign-off on the company's plea to having violated the federal pipeline safety law — which came with a \$53 million fine.

And, about a month ago, the first checks in the company's \$143 million settlement of a class-action lawsuit were cut to residents of Andover, North Andover and Lawrence directly affected by the gas disaster.

The total cost of the disaster to NiSource, the energy company now in the process of selling off its Columbia Gas of Massachusetts subsidiary, is estimated at more than \$1.6 billion once all the repairs, replacements and legal fees are tallied.

Yet, despite waves of money emanating from the company, when it turns over its local operation by Nov. 1, in line with the terms of its plea agreement, the system it hands over won't be without problems. There are 1,946 of them, to be exact.

That's the number of gas leaks, small to large, spread throughout the company's operation in the state as of the end of 2019, according to a recent report by the Home Energy Efficiency Team. For all of the money Columbia Gas has spent of late, and all the work to upgrade its systems in the gas disaster's aftermath, its infrastructure remains inherently flawed.

That's the nature of natural gas, to be sure. Cycles of freeze and thaw, affecting not just gas lines but the water and soil that surround them, tighten and loosen the pressure on what are, in some cases, antique pipes. Cracks emerge. Gas lines break.

The study, which drew upon data reported by the state's utilities, pointed to 15,728 leaks in gas lines throughout the state at the end of last year. Most were of the "Grade 3" variety, not considered an imminent danger.

Still, no gas leak is good. Said Audrey Schulman, president of the Cambridge group that wrote the report: "Gas leaks are potentially explosive, kill trees, harm human health and release destructive greenhouse gas." They threaten the safety of the environment and people. And there were, on average, 45 to be found in each city and town in Massachusetts at the end of 2019.

Andover had 54 at the end of the year, Lawrence had 97 and North Andover had 38.

The state requires its utilities to monitor the leaks and repair the most serious ones. Columbia Gas fixed 2,604 last year — nearly one-quarter of all the repairs reported by the state's seven natural gas utilities. But as Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, says, the number left to be fixed is "way too many."

The Merrimack Valley gas disaster, which illustrates more seriously than anything the dangers of natural gas, with a teenage boy dead and 19 civilians injured, was not caused by one of these many leaks. The disastrous over-pressurization of gas lines in September 2018 stemmed from failures of record keeping, engineering and adequate safety protocols around a work site in Lawrence.

And, to Healey's credit, her agreement with Columbia Gas requires its successor, Eversource, to hire a consultant to prepare a "decarbonization analysis" in a step toward the state's overall goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The attorney general's settlement extracts commitments that the company will continue, and expand upon, efficiency programs.

The owner of the gas system, at the end of the day, will be focused ironically on reducing overall dependence on natural gas.

But the state's gas infrastructure will remain rickety, leaky and woefully inadequate.

Four months from now, even after the entity known as Columbia Gas of Massachusetts is no more, the state must keep up its intense focus on its gas utilities and force them to speed repairs of these broken pipes.



Doug Cooper

Andover Center for History & Culture

Ironstone farm, on Lowell Street, was established in 1960 to breed and train thoroughbred horses. In the 1970s, owner Richard Donovan began hosting children with disabilities on field trips.

Donovan's act of community service evolved into a thriving horse therapy program that helps many children and adults, myself included.

It's difficult to explain the benefits of horse therapy in only a few words. Basically, the horse's movement mimics the natural movement of a human body. The horse's movement can help the rider's muscles relax, improve their balance and strengthen their core.

I progressed from having two people hold me on the horse to riding with

complete independence.

Along the way, I had a whole lot of fun and met a lot of horses with unique personalities. One horse, Sister, ate a chunk of fence while I was on horseback. My favorite horse, Jody, used to cheat at "red light, green light". He came from out west, and I swear he was a barrel racer.

Ironstone is now providing therapy programs for senior citizens coping with dementia, cancer survivors as well as military veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress, homelessness and substance abuse.

Donovan's old house is being converted into a dormitory for veterans to stay in while on retreat.

Horses mirror the emotions and feelings of the people with whom they interact. A horse provides the person with immediate feedback on how their emotions affect other people.

Involving veterans in farm life will allow them to discover a new purpose. The veterans can help other therapy students, work in the garden or help train a new foal.

Ironstone has changed since I started riding. Initially there were no indoor riding facilities. There were two outdoor rings, white and red, that were named according to the color of the fence. Some classes were held in the unfenced space where the big arena now stands.

There was also a riding trail in the vicinity of the modern day paddock. I remember a rooster named Lance, a nasty farm goose and a goat named Hershey. The donkeys are no longer allowed to roam the property at will, thanks to some notoriety.

I've had many wonderful instructors, especially the late Barbara DeNitto.

When I was riding at Ironstone, we had a Father's Day show every year. Every rider got to participate in two events. There was a rock skipping contest for the fathers. The celebration started off with a bugle, as though we were riding to the hunt. Recently, the farm has been celebrating the Kentucky Derby by having a race for the humans. All proceeds benefit the farm. I was fortunate to

participate in Special Olympics. I competed in the drill team, which is a series of choreographed maneuvers set to music. It didn't make much sense until I watched another group from the edge of the hill.

Over the years, Ironstone has built two indoor arenas and acquired two houses that abut the original property. The small arena, built in 1993, is now a therapy building. I rode horses inside there and had just enough room to trot for a few strides. The larger arena, measuring 80 feet by 200 feet, opened in 2007.

One of the houses is now an arts and education center. This "clubhouse" is a place where younger children can create art, make music and act in theater before exploring the outdoor activities that Ironstone has to offer.

Ironstone relies on support from donations and charitable foundations. Nobody is turned away because they are unable to pay.

To find out more about the farm visit www.ironstonefarm.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to reconsider the format of Town Meeting

Editor, Townsman:

A new format of the Town Meeting needs to happen this year.

First, essential workers who work second shifts or evenings in grocery stores, pharmacies, police and fire departments, nursing homes and hospitals cannot participate. Instead of signs saying, "We salute you," let's put it into practice and give them the opportunity to vote on the town articles.

Second, our citizens who are over 65, especially those over 80, have underlying conditions and/or live with these populations may not risk want to catching the coronavirus.

Even an outdoor meeting is dangerous.

Finally, 2,367 citizens voted in the town election on June 9, despite the pandemic. Many of us used absentee ballots.

Only 536 people attended the 2019 Town Meeting.

Clearly Andover citizens care about their town during a pandemic, however it is difficult to participate in the Town Meeting during a healthy year.

Gathering the citizens of Andover at the same time and in the same place

endangers some citizens and excludes some essential workers.

With the new challenges that face Andover now, it is essential to have a Town Meeting format that allows all of us to participate.

KATHLEEN GRANT
Andover

Headline was insensitive in choice of words

Editor, Townsman:

I was astonished by the headline on the front page of the June 25 Townsman: "Now we can breathe again," the misspelling of "breathe" aside.

Featuring that line, given the "I can't breathe" rallying cry that echoes nationwide in protest of police brutality against African-Americans, was insensitive and irresponsible. And, while I understand that the quote represents the relief of local restaurant owners regarding the resurgence of business due to outdoor dining, it was tone deaf to feature as a headline.

The New York Times recently published an article entitled, "Three Words. 70 Cases. The Tragic History of 'I Can't Breathe.'" The piece goes on to report that over the past decade, at least 70 people have died in law

enforcement custody after uttering the words: "I can't breathe."

The dead ranged in age from 19 to 65. The majority were stopped or held over nonviolent infractions, calls about suspicious behavior or concerns regarding mental health. Over half were black. Now, I am not saying that use of the word "breathe" in a headline should be forbidden forever. I am suggesting, however, that we recognize that in addition to being part of a small town of primarily white citizens here in Andover, we are also part of a much larger, more diverse national community that is being actively and ardently called to recognize that black lives matter.

The words we use to report the news matter, too.

MARTA STIGLIN
Andover

How is Andover rethinking its approach to policing?

Editor, Townsman:

We have lived in Andover for over 40 years and raised our children here. In all those years our interaction with the Andover police (considering our kids traversed their teenage years here) has been respectful and courteous.

But we all live in a larger America, as well, where police action has been abominable and criminal. Innocent Black men, women and children are being killed with impunity on a regular basis.

Black residents in Andover cannot get their mail in their own home without being accosted by an employee of the Fire Department. None of us can feel safe until all of us feel safe.

We have a new American majority made up of people of color, millennials, Gen Z, socially moderates and progressives. We want reform in policing.

In that light I would like to know what the town of Andover is thinking about the way its Police Department functions. What kind of services are our tax dollars supporting within the department? What is our position regarding reducing police presence and instead strengthening social services for the youth, for those dealing with mental health issues, domestic violence and elder care?

What initiative is the town making to ensure residents feel welcome and safe from harassment at schools, at businesses, on the streets and in their homes?

CHAMPA BILWAKESH
Andover

WEB QUESTION

Should schools pause MCAS for four years?

The state's largest teachers union is leading a push for a four-year freeze on MCAS, the standardized tests given to students in grades 3 to 8, and which 10th graders must pass in order to graduate. The state got a waiver on testing requirements for graduation from the U.S. Department of Education this spring. This proposal seek to extend that and suspend all MCAS testing another four years.

Do you think putting MCAS on hiatus is a good idea?

DELAY IT: The Massachusetts Teachers

Association rightly argues that MCAS will distract from the time, money and attention needed to upgrade classroom learning, especially as schools decide how best to mix in-person and remote teaching. No one needs MCAS during a pandemic.

MEASUREMENT NEEDED: When is a standardized test ever convenient? The point of MCAS is to give school districts, state leaders and parents tools to measure what students know and how well schools are doing in teaching them. Any alternative to that will be flimsy. This is no time to freeze MCAS.

Last week's 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? **(25 votes)**

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. **(40 votes)**

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. **(31 votes)**

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

■ **Editor Bill Cantwell** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-691-8733, bkirk@andovertownsman.com

■ **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

■ **Reporter Genevieve DiNitala** at 978-691-8723, or gdnitala@andovertownsman.com

■ **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsman.com

■ **Account Executive David Schultz** at 978-946-2152 or dschultz@andovertownsman.com

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South Church Pride Parade begins a tradition

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

ANDOVER — It didn't take a thunderstorm to bring rainbows to Andover on Sunday.

Banners, flags and color-coordinated balloons adorned the 51 or so cars that took part in South Church's Pride Car Parade. The parade kicked off at noon from South Church and made its way down Central Street, then Main and Phillips streets before ending.

Eileen Forgue, a member of South Church's Pride Committee, came up with the idea to hold a local car parade for Pride Month after the Boston parade was cancelled.

"As a committee we were trying to come up with events to celebrate Pride Month," she said. "And knowing that the Boston parade got cancelled there were so many of these drive-by birthday parades going on I was like, 'Why can't we do one?'"

After approaching Town Manager Andrew Flanagan and the Andover police, Forgue gained permission to put on the parade.

"They were equally enthusiastic about making something happen," Forgue said. "And we had incredible support from the Andover Police Department. Officer Edgerly and I were back and forth a few weeks before the event just discussing what would be a good route and where we would line up cars. And the officers that assisted were very, very helpful."

It wasn't just locals who took part. Two New Yorkers joined, as well.

"There were a couple guys from New York that jumped into the parade,"



This minivan decked out in rainbows took part in South Church's Pride Car Parade Sunday in Andover.

Linda and Joe Corriveau show their support for Pride Month outside their car at South Church's Pride Car Parade, which took place on Sunday in Andover.

"Even if Pride is allowed to happen depending on where we are in the pandemic, I think it would be good to do it again."

Eileen Forgue, a member of South Church's Pride Committee

Forgue said. "They just happened to be in town apparently. They jumped into the parade on Main Street somewhere."

Forgue said it went so well this year that South Church

plans on holding one again.

"Even if Pride is allowed to happen depending on where we are in the pandemic, I think it would be good to do it again," she said.



The cars were lined up and ready to go at South Church's Pride Car Parade, which took place Sunday in Andover.

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OBITUARIES

Kathleen Murphy Hess, 71

August 25, 1948 - July 3, 2020

ANDOVER, MA — Kathleen passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 3, 2020, from complications related to Diabetes, Covid-19 and Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy. Kathleen Mary Murphy was born in Cambridge to John J. Murphy and Eileen (Morgan) Murphy. At an early age she moved with her parents to Watertown. Kathy attended Matignon High School and then Boston College where she received a Bachelor's degree. After college she served in VISTA and helped to start a day care center in New Hampshire. It was this experience that inspired her to get her Master's degree in Education from Boston University and to devote her life to the education of young children. After several jobs in her chosen field, Kathy completed her career by starting the program at Triton Regional School District and then serving 27 years there as Coordinator of Early Childhood Education. She spent several years volunteering to do accreditation surveys for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



Thrift Shop where she continued to make new friends. Kathy enjoyed traveling, theater, music, and other activities but may have been best known as a walker - taking walks at work with co-workers, in Andover with friends, or just around her downtown Andover neighborhood. She enjoyed looking at the gardens and houses on her daily walks.

Kathy is survived by her husband and two sons, Patrick M. Hess and his wife Lauren Olerio of South Portland, Maine, and Kevin A. Hess and his wife Caitlin Kalosky of Chicago. She is also survived by two grandsons, Finnian and Dominic, and two sisters-in-law, Martha Hess Russo of Charlotte and Mary Hess Gault of Indianapolis. Kathy's family would like to thank the staffs of Academy Manor Nursing Home and Kronos Health for their loving care as well as all the friends who supported her over the past year.

ARRANGEMENTS: Funeral Arrangements are with Conte Funeral Homes, 28 Florence Street, Andover. A celebration of Kathy's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Andover Youth Foundation, 40 Whittier Court, Andover; Friends of Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main Street, Andover; or Andover A Better Chance, PO Box 212, Andover.

To leave on-line condolences, please visit www.contefuneralhomes.com.

William McGarry, 73

October 9, 1946 - June 30, 2020

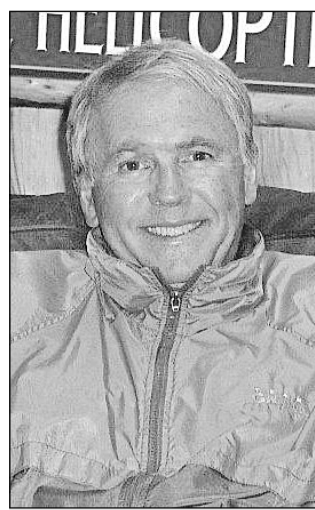
ANDOVER — William McGarry, 73, of Andover, MA, passed away peacefully on June 30th due to complications from a brain aneurysm.

William was born on October 9th, 1946, to Margaret and John McGarry in Brooklyn, NY. He grew up in Rutland, Vermont, and graduated from Lyndon State College in 1968 where he was a sprinter on the track team. He worked as a Quality Control Specialist for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Boston and Lawrence, MA.

He married Penelope (Tanonos) McGarry in 1972 and they have two children, Melanie and Mark, and four grandchildren.

William enjoyed spending time outdoors with his children and grandchildren, running, passionately rooting his Boston sports teams. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was loving and compassionate with everyone he met.

William was predeceased by his parents, John McGarry and Margaret and Vincent Chiriaco. He is survived by his wife, Penelope; his sister, Mary Joan and her husband Michael Morris of Andover; his brothers, John McGarry and his wife Patricia of North Andover; and David Chiriaco and his wife Svenja of Safety Harbor, FL; his two children, Melanie and her husband Mark Cutler of Andover; and Mark and his wife Elizabeth of Boston; and his four grandchildren, Emmie and Sophia Cutler and Mikael and Kieren McGarry. He also left many



nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews as well as a great grand nephew.

ARRANGEMENTS: Please join us in the celebration of William's life. Calling hours will be on Tuesday, July 7th at the Conte Funeral Home located at 28 Florence Street in Andover, MA, from 10am to 12pm. The interment will be on Thursday, July 9th at the Spring Grove Cemetery located at 5 Spring Grove Road in Andover, MA, at 10 am. All attendees will be asked to wear a face covering during the service and maintain social distancing practices. For online condolences please visit www.contefuneralhomes.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Foundation for the Blind, www.afb.com.



ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

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

Joseph Emilio Iarrobino

GLENDALE HEIGHTS, IL

— Joseph "Joe" Emilio Iarrobino died unexpectedly at home on June 25th in Glendale Heights Illinois at the age of 48.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pa. and lived in Cinnaminson, N.J. and Hudson, Ohio before moving to Andover, in the 5th grade. He graduated from Andover High School in 1991 and went on to continue his education at Providence College before transferring to Rollins College where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1995.

His successful business career started in Tampa at the duPont REGISTRY, and continued on in the financial industry, which ultimately led him to settling in the Chicago area.

Joe was an accomplished three sport athlete at Andover High School, where he captained both the baseball and basketball teams, and was elected by his peers to serve as senior class president. One of his biggest joys, along with his teammates, was capturing the state baseball championship in 1991. He continued his baseball career at both Providence College and Rollins College, where he was team captain and set several records.

His greatest accomplishment was being a father to his three boys whom he loved dearly. Joe was an amazing father, son, brother, uncle and friend. He was an active member of AA and loved his community, who became his family support while living away from his hometown. He was a friend to many, and his smile and kind heart will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his sons, Francis "Frankie", Daniel "Danny" and Joseph "JJ" of



Wheaton, Illinois; His father, Joseph W. Iarrobino of Andover; His sister and brother-in-law Jo-Anne and Scott Gibson, also of Andover; His brother and brother-in-law, Jon Derek and Justin Croteau of Weston, Vt.; nieces, Emily Gibson and her fiancé, Jacob Fischer of Reading; and Meghan Gibson of Andover. He also leaves behind many friends including the loving mother of his children, Jennifer Dow Iarrobino of Wheaton, IL; and girlfriend Colleen Connor of Riverside, Ill. He was predeceased by his mother, Jayne Adele Iarrobino with whom he is now resting in peace.

A private service to honor Joe will take place in Wheaton, Ill. on July 17th and memorial services are being planned in both Andover and Winter Park, Fla. for a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to either Iarrobino Boys Education Fund, c/o Enterprise Bank, P.O. Box 631

Andover, MA 01810, or Iarrobino Children's Education Fund, c/o Glen Ellyn Bank & Trust, 357 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Charles Ernest Wilson, 74

February 23, 1946 - June 5, 2020

HAVERHILL, MA — A story to begin a friendship. Originally from No. Andover. Served two tours in Vietnam.

What do you mean "we lost." He will be missed. ARRANGEMENTS: Services to occur at a later date.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

The following passages are taken from past editions of the Townsman.

100 years ago — July 16, 1920

About 40 boys between the ages of 12 and 15 are now enjoying the privileges of Camp Andover at Pomp's Pond. Although there have been boys and girls from Boston camping at the pond before, this year's camp is a larger and more fully organized movement backed by five Congregational churches of Boston.

Through the generosity of William M. Wood, the Smith Mansion in Shawsheen Village has been placed at the disposal of the Cosmopolitan Club of the American Woolen Company and it was opened Monday as a vacation rest home for aged women who are valued employees of the company. The Smith Mansion was purchased several years ago by Mr. Wood. During the temporary industrial shut-down, many women will have the opportunity to enjoy the comfortable house and spacious grounds where much will be done to make them comfortable and happy. A total of 35 women will stay from two to three weeks, depending on the needs of the individual women.

75 years ago — July 12, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Burrige of Bancroft Road were officially notified last week that their son, who had been held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese military authorities, was listed as having been killed in the Pacific on October 24, 1944, when the ship on which he was being transported was sunk. Chief Radioman Burrige enlisted in the Navy on June 26, 1934, and had not seen his parents for 11 years. He was on duty in the Manila Bay area as a radio operator in a

high-powered station when captured by the Japanese.

The annual boxing bouts will be held at the Playstead on Friday evening. All boys who wish to participate are requested to give their names to one of the playground leaders.

Word has come from Boston and Washington that in view of the successful achievement of Andover in the Seventh War Loan, a vessel to be designated as the Andover Ship is in the process of being built, the hull already having been created at the Boston Navy Yard. It is expected that colorful ceremonies will take place at the launching of this ship, around the first of October.

50 years ago — July 16, 1970

The Central fire station will become a youth drop-in center when the firefighters move out. The selectmen Monday night gave permission for such use on a temporary basis after presentation of the proposal by Recreation Director Leslie Bartow, who told the board his department had been looking for such a facility for some time.

On June 27, Joshua L. Miner, president of Outward Bound Inc., was honored by the American Academy of Achievement with its highest award to an Andover educator. The honor was bestowed on Miner for his work in establishing the national experiential educational school system known as Outward Bound.

Some opposition was registered before the Zoning Board of Appeals last Thursday night to a petition by the Andover Lodge of Elks for a special permit to use Fieldstone's restaurant as a private, non-profit clubhouse. The Elks, now located in the rear of a building on Park Street, plan to use the Fieldstone's building as their quarters.

ANDOVER POLICE LOG

Andover police log from June 27 to July 3

JUNE 27

Andover Police assisted State Police with a reported hit-and-run crash on Route 133. The vehicle was found at 111 Greenwood Road with heavy passenger-side damage. One person was taken to the State Police barracks and another person was picked up.

Police Sgt. Richard Crimmins reported at 1:51 a.m. that a silver Chevy pick-up truck failed to stop for a speeding infraction. Minutes later a 911 call came in from 124 Bellevue Road that a truck had crashed into the home then took off toward Tewksbury. The building inspector was called to look at the building. Tewksbury police called to report they found a totaled Chevy pick-up truck at 539 Kendall Road.

JUNE 29

A resident reported at 5:54 p.m. that a red-tailed hawk appeared to be injured in her yard on Sagamore Drive. The Animal Control officer was consulted and said it was a young hawk learning how to fly and had gone back into the woods.

A Scotland Drive man said

he mistakenly dialed 911 at 9:38 p.m. while he was trying to shut off his daughter's phone.

JUNE 30

Philip Menihtas, 20, of 1103 Foxwood Circle, Peabody, was arrested at 4:59 a.m. on Holly Terrace and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, destruction of property worth more than \$1,200 and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. There were no injuries in the accident.

At 8:21 a.m., a 911 caller reported a suspicious bag inside the bandstand at The Park off Bartlet Street. Police investigated and found it was a bag of discarded, stuffed animals. Corduroy may have been among them.

A woman on Sugarbush Lane reported at 12:26 p.m. that a snapping turtle had somehow made it into her fenced yard and she needed help removing it. Police said it was a snap for the turtle to get through the fence on its own.

A resident of Rattlesnake Hill Road called police to say there was a sick turkey lying on its back at their back door. Police said the turkey was able to run off into the woods again and it was just taking a rest.

Someone stole a Trump/Pence sign from the front yard of a home on Haverhill Street, a man reported at 6:33 p.m. He said the person pulled up in front of his house, grabbed the sign and drove off in a gray Volkswagen Jetta. It took a left and was last seen heading east-bound on Route 133.

JULY 1

A caller from North Street reported at 8:21 p.m. that there was a drone hovering over her home. She said it comes from behind their house. Police checked but couldn't find it.

A woman on Railroad Street reported at 10:21 p.m. that she was "petrified" by a rat in her Railroad Street apartment. Police said the office management company was en route to handle the errant rodent.

JULY 2

A caller reported at 9:56 a.m. that there was traffic built up from the food distribution center at the school on Shawsheen Road. An officer was sent to the scene to divert traffic.

A caller reported at 4:23 p.m. that a black BMW went up on the curbing on Walnut Avenue then continued toward North Main

Street with four flat tires. The vehicle was found in North Andover where police checked on the driver.

JULY 3

Nicholas Zucconi, 38, of 11 Mill Lane, Hampton Falls, N.H., was arrested on a warrant after he was reported staggering around Haverhill Street. A caller said he appeared disoriented and possibly under the influence. He was taken to Lawrence General Hospital for a check-up. A female was also taken to the hospital voluntarily.

An employee of the CVS on Main Street called to report a male had just left the store without paying for two bags of items, including deodorant and possibly hair products. He was described as being in his 40s with a pony tail and wearing a striped shirt with long sleeves.

A woman said she was fishing on the Shawsheen River at the end of the Pole Hill Trail near the railroad tracks around 9:39 p.m. when a man dragging a tarp ran toward her. He was described as a thin, white male in his late 20s with a gray hoodie. Officers checked the area but could not find the man or his tarp.

— Compiled by Bill Kirk

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 15

LAWRENCE — Merrimack Valley Chamber of

Commerce Annual Virtual Energy Conference with Massachusetts Energy Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, 10 to 11 a.m. Includes informative energy panel. Free; optional \$5 donation appreciated. For more information, visit web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-Annual-Virtual-Energy-Conference-WMA-Energy-Secretary-Kathleen-Theoharides-5015/details

JULY 22

HAVERHILL — Lunch

with the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, noon to 1:15 p.m. at Maria's Family Restaurant, 81 Essex St. Cost for member, \$20; nonmembers, \$30. For more information, visit web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/Lunch-with-the-MVCC-at-Marias-Family-Restaurant-5016/details

JULY 27

ANDOVER — Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf-Auction Spectacular, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

at Indian Ridge Country Club, 73 Lovejoy Road. Auction donations appreciated, sponsorships available.

Individual golfer: \$195; foursome, \$780; sponsorships available. For more information, call 978-686-0900 or visit web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-Annual-Golf-Tournament-at-Indian-Ridge-Country-Club-5014/details

Have an item for the Business Planner? Email it to news@andovertownsm.com.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. A.M.E.

Please recycle this newspaper.

Townspeople

POND'S OPEN, DIVE IN

Pandemic-related restrictions in place, including no snack bar, boat rentals

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Last week's rain kept potential beach-goers home for much of the week, instead of taking advantage of the opening of Poms Pond.

The Woburn Street town recreation site opened as planned June 29, although it closed early because of the weather.

"Not a great week for opening," Recreation Department Assistant Director Christopher Dempsey said.

There will be pandemic-related regulations this year, including keeping the snack bar closed and not renting boats, at least for the time being.

Here are other details from Dempsey:

Pond passes are being sold on AndoverRec.com. Any resident can buy a summer pass online for \$150 (\$90 for senior citizens). Only credit cards — no cash — will be accepted at the gate for day passes.

The **number of cars** in the parking lot and people on the beach will be limited. Beachgoers will be asked to wear a mask while they are going onto or off the beach and into the bathrooms.

Patrons will be asked to maintain social distance between their group and other groups on the beach and in the water.

To start the summer there will not be any boat rentals or snack shack. This will be re-evaluated as the summer goes on.

Pond hours are noon to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

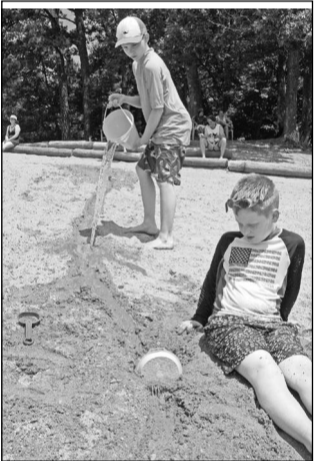


TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Hudson Dascoli, 4, left, and his brother Cole 6, chase small fish along the shoreline at Poms Pond. The pond is officially open for the season with restrictions because of the coronavirus.



Zachary Keller, 6, left and his sister Daphne, 3, play in the water.



James Collins, 10, pours water down a chute in the sand towards his brother Charlie 7, at Poms Pond.



Rielyn Leany, 10, plays in the sand with her brother Finn, 5, at Poms Pond.



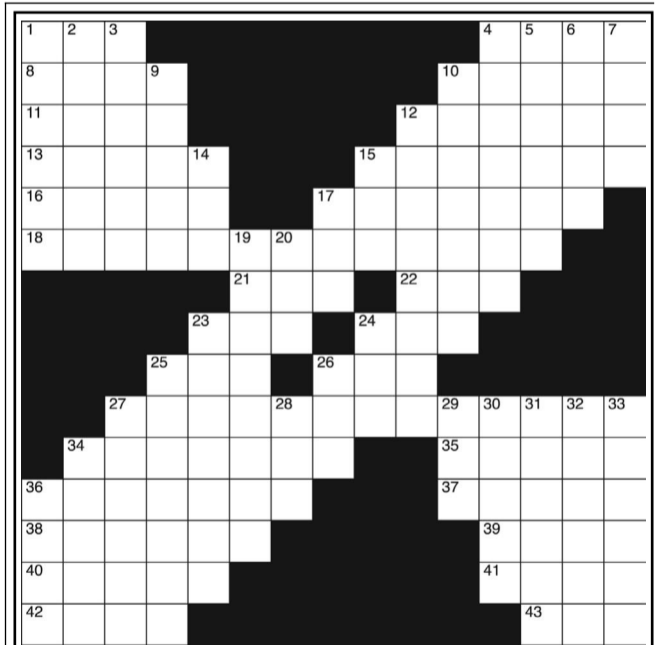
Andover's Poms Pond is officially open for the season with restrictions because of the coronavirus.



Having fun in the water are from left, Parker Aceto, 4, Londyn Webster, 6, and Caroline Aceto, 5.



Lifeguard Steven Parrill, 20, of Andover watches over the swimmers at Poms Pond.



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sound unit
- 4. Trim by cutting
- 8. Small buffalo
- 10. Ancient manuscript
- 11. Look angry or sullen
- 12. Glum
- 13. Northern Zambia peoples
- 15. Central
- 16. Collector of birds' eggs
- 17. Misbehavior
- 18. Top of the line
- 21. Political action committee
- 22. Have already done
- 23. Al Bundy's wife
- 24. Entertainment channel
- 25. Holiday (informal)
- 26. The common gibbon
- 27. Legendary actress
- 34. Seasoned sausages
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Ridiculed
- 37. Three-dimensional arrangement
- 38. Emerged
- 39. Type of protein
- 40. Denmark natives
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Artistic dancing
- 2. Plenty
- 3. Act leisurely
- 4. Serve as a warning
- 5. Admired lovingly
- 6. Leftover oil from distillation process
- 7. Company officer
- 9. Egyptian unit of capacity
- 10. One transmits information
- 12. Middle layer of an embryo
- 14. Form of "to be"
- 15. Cairo Regional Airport
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 19. Sample
- 20. A shirt may have none
- 23. Public gatherings
- 24. Disallow
- 25. Overnight suitcases
- 26. French river
- 27. Where boats dock
- 28. Top of a pot
- 29. Type of drug
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. They go in martinis
- 33. A way to break away
- 34. Intermediate ecological stage
- 36. Baby term for father



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Courtesy photos

Dance Infusion of Andover gained permission, and a grant from the town, to erect a tent in the parking lot outside the business so the owner of the 19 Lupine Road company could offer safe classes during the coronavirus pandemic. The first class under the new tent was held Monday.

State scales back contact tracing program

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

As the number of new coronavirus cases drops, the state is scaling back a program that tracks down people at risk of infection. In April, the state teamed up with the Boston-based nonprofit Partners in Health on an initiative to trace contacts of people with confirmed cases of COVID-19. Gov. Charlie Baker touted it as a first-in-the-nation program that was critical to slowing the spread of the virus. The Baker administration is now shrinking its team of contact tracers. Baker said this week the state has reduced the number of employees working as COVID-19 investigators in recent months as the data continues to improve. He cited the declining numbers of positive test results as reason.

“There’s no question that if your positive test rate goes down from 30% to 2%, you’re going to have less work for those folks to do,” Baker told reporters. The Community Tracing Collaborative was designed to scale down or expand to respond to outbreaks as needed, he said. “If the numbers start to go up, we have the infrastructure in place to scale it back up pretty quickly,” Baker said.

At one point, the program had more than 1,600 workers, some enlisted from private health care networks such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Baker couldn’t say exactly how many contact tracers had accepted voluntary furloughs, but he called the reduction “significant.”

Contact tracing involves identifying people who’ve been in close proximity to someone infected with COVID-19, then asking those people to self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Federal guidelines say anyone who has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19-infected person for more than 15 minutes

should be notified. Investigators have reached out to hundreds of thousands of people since the effort began. They’ve been credited with slowing spread of the virus in Massachusetts.

On Tuesday, the state Department of Public Health reported for the first time in months no new COVID-19-related deaths. The total number of deaths statewide actually decreased, to 8,054, after the state removed some duplicate reports from its records. The agency also reported 114 new confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, for a total of 108,882.

Of the thousands of tests given in a day, about 1.9% are positive, compared to nearly 17% at the beginning of May, according to health officials.

Baker said the data shows the state’s strategy to fighting the virus and reopening the economy is succeeding.

“It’s working for us but we clearly need to stay on our game,” he said. “As I’ve said before, COVID-19 will not be taking a summer vacation.”

Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School for Public Health, said the lack of a COVID-19 vaccine means contact tracing will be around for a while.

He cautions the state against scaling back the program, arguing that it should be a permanent feature of the public health system.

“The state has made a strong commitment to contract tracing, which is a very positive step,” he said. “We need to maintain that, and develop it into a revitalized public health workforce, which has been overlooked and underfunded for way too long.”

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

Andover dance studio reopens — with a twist

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

It’s been almost four months since Olivia and Isla Betts have set foot on the Dance Infusion floor.

They “miss it terribly,” said their mother, Courtney Betts.

So she was thrilled to learn recently that the owner of the studio on 19 Lupine Road, Cindi Worthley, was reopening her business, with one notable difference:

It’s opening under a 55-foot long tent at the back of the parking lot, with enough room — socially distant, of course — for 12 dancers and an instructor.

“I love it,” said Betts. “Outside in a really big tent!”

Like many businesses shuttered by COVID-19, dance studios haven’t been allowed to offer in-person classes because of the high potential for transmitting the deadly virus among staff and students.

Worthley said the studio closed in mid-March and she offered Zoom classes in April, but that it just wasn’t the same.

After a great deal of thought, planning and applying for a town grant, Worthley figured out a way to offer classes in a fun-but-safe way.

Not only is the tent large, but she put 6-by-8-foot pieces of Astro-turf on the floor, and each mat is couple of feet apart, increasing the level of social distancing.

She established a protocol for when the dancers get picked up and dropped off.

For instance, students have to wear masks when they get dropped off and when they enter the tent. Just before the class starts, they put their masks into bags that are then hung on separate hooks, Worthley said.

They have to put their



As of Monday, dancers have returned to in-person classes at Dance Infusion thanks to construction of a 55-foot tent outside the Lupine Road studio.



Dance Infusion, located on Lupine Road, has opened an outdoor studio, complete with social distancing and enough space for up to 12 dancers.

masks back on when the class is over and they leave.

Worthley said she had been searching for a way

to get back to in-person classes. Her landlord approved the idea, and so did the town. She worked with Ann

Ormond, the town’s director of Business, Arts, and Culture, to secure a grant to rent and erect the tent.

“The grant paid for the tent,” she said, noting that the first class was July 6.

It wasn’t a moment too soon for Betts, whose daughters, Olivia, 8, and Isla, 6, couldn’t wait to get back on the dance floor.

“They are very excited to dance again,” Betts said. “To go do something outside of the house and to see their friends.”

She added that they set up a special class with a group of friends for their first class this week.

Betts said she appreciates the thoughtfulness and hard work Worthley put into the endeavor.

“As a parent, I am always trying to balance social distancing and safety with mental health,” she said. “This is a good balance of both. The tent is really big and Cindi thought through a lot of social distancing requirements. It was very well thought out and she’ll adapt as appropriate. As a mom, I appreciate that.”

For more information and to view a video of a dance class under the tent, check out their Facebook page.

Ironstone Farm receives Cummings Foundation grant

By GENEVIEVE DINATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Ironstone Farm’s Challenge Unlimited program won a three-year, \$100,000 Cummings Foundation grant.

Challenge Unlimited is one of 130 Massachusetts-based nonprofits that the Cummings Foundation gave money to this year. In total, 738 nonprofits applied.

Challenge Unlimited is a therapeutic program that uses horseback riding and the farm’s “tranquil environment” to help those with special needs, veterans and others from more than 90 communities in the Merrimack Valley and Boston area.

“We are indescribably grateful for the support of the Cummings Foundation, particularly during this unusual year,” said Deedee O’Brien, executive director of Challenge Unlimited.

According to a press release from Neil Fater, Ironstone Farm’s marketing director, “The Cummings \$20 million grant program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based



Courtesy photo

Ironstone Farm’s nonprofit program Challenge Unlimited received a three-year, \$100,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation.

in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.”

In addition to helping Ironstone Farm continue to run its regular therapeutic programming, the grant will also allow for the expansion of the Head Start preschoolers’ program.

“Our program supporting Head Start preschoolers has been a success and we hope to grow it to support young learners in additional cities with this grant,” said O’Brien.

O’Brien said they would like to expand the Head Start nature program into

additional cities in Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk counties. The Head Start program is run in partnership with Community Teamwork Inc. of Lowell.

To see all 130 winners of this year’s Cummings Grant, visit www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Open eyes and mind to teen’s ascent to adulthood

Family Matters

Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor,
I know teenagers are supposed to be going through a lot, but our son has

changed into a different person. He argues with us over just about everything we ask him to do. He is always out with his friends. He has told us he will be glad when he goes away to college and is away from us. Is this normal, and what should we do?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,
Sit down, take a few deep breaths and admit he is indeed changing. He is slowly, but definitely morphing into an adult. The journey will take time and, frankly, you will also be very happy when he goes away to school. Let me review what I see as the major tasks of the mid- to late-teen years.

First, teens work on achieving independence. This is the eventual separation from parents. The process is unconscious and often stormy, but it will happen. You and your son will develop a new relationship.

Second, teens work on developing a moral compass. They approach

moral choices with strong opinions. Over time, they come to see moral choices in their complexity, not so much black and white as gray.

Third, identity of sexual roles and behavior is very complex, often nurtured in silence and guilt. What is it like to be a man? What is the role of a woman? What if one’s sexual partners differ from the norm?

Fourth, identification of life roles is a journey. What is my vocation? How do I make a meaningful path in my life? Do I want to be a father or mother? Do I wish to have a family?

This will give you a rough idea of what your son is experiencing. Be there for him. Do not hesitate to let him know how much you love him and care. He is becoming a man before your very eyes.

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

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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**
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 with 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 can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
AT - 7/9/20

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Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, Massachusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time.
ITEM
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11:00 AM
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Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town.
Theresa Peznola
Purchasing Agent
AT - 7/9/20

HOMES

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Sports

THE SWEETEST SWING

Andover legend Joe Iarrobino Jr. remembered fondly by closest friends

BILL BURT
Staff Writer

It was a tough week in Andover recently.

Word quickly circulated that one of the greatest baseball players Andover High has produced, Joe Iarrobino Jr., passed away in late June in Chicago at the age of 48.

Dozens of friends stopped by the family's home to pay their respects to the family, including his dad and long-time area coach, Joe Sr., and his best friend and sister, Joanne Gibson.

Joe Jr.'s exploits as an athlete are well-documented. He was a two-sport captain at Andover High and the cornerstone of the school's first-ever baseball state championship. He later starred at Division 2 Rollins College, still in the record books thanks to his incredibly sweet, left-handed swing.

If not for a shoulder injury on a freakish play as a sophomore for Andover High, which affected his throwing motion, he probably would have been drafted.

Joe Jr. is survived by three sons and leaves behind several friends who are still struggling with the news of their former classmate, teammate, uncle, godfather and friend.

Here are six short, personal stories from Joe Jr.'s closest friends, including one of his favorite coaches.

Bettencourt: Joe Jr. among best

Dave Bettencourt has seen and coached them all. At least, it has seemed that way the last four-plus decades.

Joe Iarrobino Jr. is in the top two or three he has ever seen.

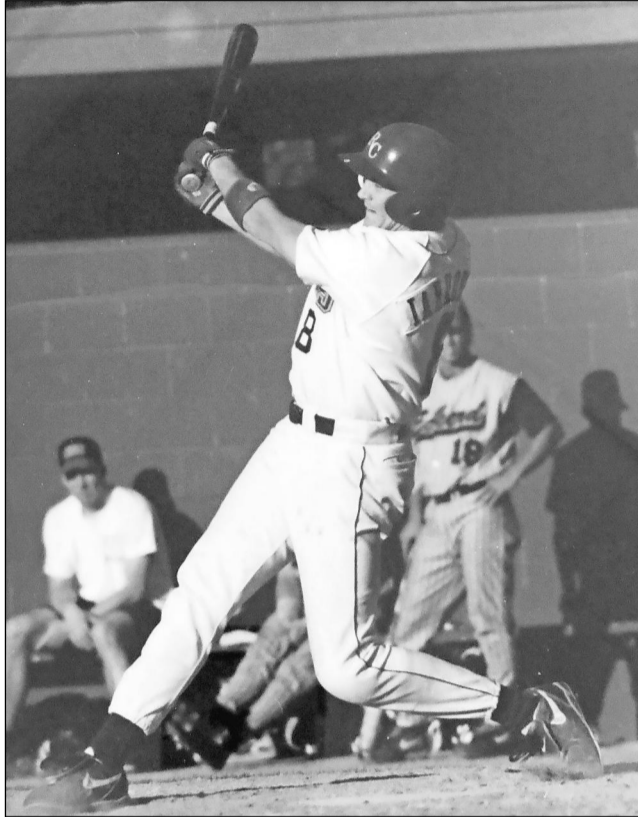
"He was a special baseball player," said Bettencourt, now a part-time coach at Endicott College.

"He was more mature than other kids at the plate," said Bettencourt. "He was more advanced in figuring out pitchers, having a plan, looking for his pitch. He's as good as I've ever seen."

Bettencourt saw the best of the best of Joe Jr. late one Saturday afternoon in early June of 1991.

Andover was in the state final against Milford High.

Joe Jr. had the game's biggest hit, a tying two-run



COURTESY PHOTO

The late Joe Iarrobino Jr. shows off his sweet swing while playing at Rollins College. He was the driving force behind Andover High's first state baseball title.

double in the bottom of the eighth inning, eventually scoring the game-winner for the state championship.

"I remember the moment like it was yesterday," said Bettencourt. "Joe was in the on-deck circle and I was ready to say something. He stops me and says, 'Coach, I got this.' That was Joe. He was ready for the moment and came through. I walked away knowing he was going to do something special."

Andover won the game, 3-2, and Bettencourt was a key part of Joe Jr.'s life the rest of the way.

In fact, on Father's Day, the two talked via phone.

"He sounded better than ever," said Bettencourt. "He was a special man. We had a connection with baseball and talked about baseball. But he was more than about baseball. He cared for his family."

Blank: Joe a brother to me

David Blank, like Joe Jr., played all the major sports growing up in Andover.

But baseball was their special bond. Both were all in at an early age.

"Joe was a stats geek before there were stats geeks," said Blank. "Joe loved to argue about major

league players, who is really great and what stats are important. He was into analytics before we even knew what analytics were."

Blank and Joe Jr. were also an all-time great one-two punch on Andover High's state championship season in 1991.

"Joe's greatest moment was that state final against Milford," recalled Blank. "We were going against their great pitcher, Rick Betty, who was dominating us. We couldn't get to him. ... But Joe finally did, with a single, and that broke the ice. Then he gets that huge two-run double to tie it. He carried us in that game. It was just another game for Joe. He was special."

Blank and Joe Jr. had another connection. Joe Jr. was his daughter Laila's godfather.

As a gift, Joe Jr. bought her a nice cross. A few days ago, Laila put that cross on a bigger chain and is wearing it in honor of her godfather.

"It breaks my heart," said Blank. "When we were both at Florida schools playing college baseball, he would come visit me in Tampa when I was at (South Florida University) and I would go visit him when he was at Rollins (College). We had so many good times together.

This is going to take a while."

Love of music

Joe Jr. wasn't all about baseball. In fact, he was a big music buff. And through music, he had a friend for life from high school in eventual musician Will Dailey.

"In June of 2015, I was playing the biggest concert of my life in Chicago," said Dailey. "It was imperative in Joe's heart that he be there for it. He had been there, supported and encouraged countless peaks and valleys of mine that led to this night over the previous 22 years of friendship."

"Before doors opened that night, I went outside to find him to give him a hug but at that point in his recovery and coping, he physically wasn't able to stick around till show time. I found out in a text when I got off stage that he had to leave. The hug was all that either of us needed."

Dailey was moved that Joe Jr., going through a few personal issues at the time, was very positive in supporting his career.

"His struggles, always present, were never suppressed these last six years. They were on the sleeve," said Dailey. "Every phone call ended with 'I love you,' even the short and hilarious ones. To talk about him in the past tense is difficult, not solely due to the grief and denial but because his love and singular loyalty is so ingrained in me now more than ever."

One Jr. to another

Barry Connors Jr. and Joe Iarrobino Jr. had something in common.

They had dads with powerful, Type-A personalities. The juniors were also very good athletes very early in their lives.

"I've known Joe, literally, since two days after he moved to Andover," said Barry Jr. "I played Legion baseball with him, and was around to watch the unreal athletic run of he and his contemporaries — Brett Hammond, Matt Perry, Dave Blank, Joe Marinaro, Jim Hanning, John Thompson, etc."

"That group of guys was as good, athletically, as any group in MVC history, and Joe was front and center for the ride. I kept up with

his exploits on the baseball field at Rollins as well. His All-American looks, talent and personality made him a star."

Barry Jr. said they really became friends after college while both were attending Florida colleges. Their relationship wasn't all about sports.

"I saw the tweet that noted Joe had one of the sweetest swings you ever saw," said Barry Jr. "I agree. But the beauty of that swing couldn't hold a candle to the beauty of his heart, spirit, and soul."

"While many will remember his baseball prowess, his personality, and the way he lit up a room, the thing I will always remember about Joe is how passionately he loved and cared for the people in his life."

Hammond: Friends, teammates for life

Joe Jr. moved to town in 1984 after the start of the eighth grade basketball season and was added to the team.

Brett Hammond was on that eighth grade team and for the next 36 years felt like he never stopped being Joe Jr.'s teammate.

"They had just moved here from Ohio and Joe was really good," recalled Hammond. "We spent the next eight years as teammates and classmates playing football, basketball and baseball in middle school and high school."

One vivid memory was about baseball. Hammond and Joe Jr. entered their season in 1991 as co-captains.

They had fallen just short of the state finals the year before and Hammond recalled Joe Jr. wouldn't accept anything less than going to Holy Cross's Fitton Field and winning it all.

"We had a great team all the way around," said Hammond. "But Joe was the glue. We rallied around him. In that final game, against a pitcher who would later be on the Red Sox major league roster, Joe was unnerved. He got the big hit. He scored the big run."

Hammond said the fact that it was Andover High baseball's first state title meant the world to everyone, especially Joe Jr.

"Joe actually got a tattoo

on his leg commemorating the historic win," said Hammond. "Sadly, the last time I saw Joe in person was at our induction into the Andover High School Hall of Fame. He was as proud that night as he was when we won 28 years earlier."

College pal Peck: Everybody loved Joe

Tom Peck was teammates with Joe Jr. after he transferred from Providence College, which was eliminating baseball.

They were both part of the Class of 1995 at Rollins College.

Baseball-wise, Joe Jr. was as good a hitter as he ever played with. That's saying something. Peck played three seasons of minor league ball in the Toronto Blue Jays organization after graduating college.

"Joe had a laser-quick bat," recalled Peck who, like Iarrobino, is all over the Rollins College record books.

As a person, Joe Jr., said Peck, owned the room he was in.

"He was the life of the party," said Peck. "He was funny, witty and kind. Everybody loved Joe. He could relate to so many different types of people."

Peck said he and Joe Jr. had a corny handshake before their at bats.

"We joked about it for years," said Peck. "But it was our thing. He wrote 'Heart + Balls' under the brim of his hat. That's how he played. Honestly, every one of our teammates loved Joe."

Peck said he saw a side of Joe that really moved him during his rehearsal dinner in 2002.

"We had someone playing the guitar and singing for entertainment," said Peck. "During a break, Joe jumped on stage, grabbed the guitar, and played and sang a perfect rendition of 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' by Green Day. The crowd went wild!"

Peck said that was Joe Jr. to a T.

"Joe was just awesome. I loved everything about him," said Peck. "I already miss him terribly. He was a very special guy. Anybody that knew him would say the same. They would say they were lucky to know him and that he made them laugh. I will never forget him and I carry him with me. I loved that guy."

ANDOVER ARCHIVES: GOLDEN WARRIORS GIRLS TENNIS STARS

BY DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

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 continue with Andover High girls tennis.

Andover girls tennis has emerged as a powerhouse over the past 20 years.

The Golden Warriors broke through with a state title in 2007, led by the likes of Heather Arvidson, Kristina Black and Rikki Sartor.

Andover then won back-to-back state titles in 2014-15, led by the likes of Pooja Mukund, Laurie-Maude Chenard and Paige Webster under coach Alan Hibino.

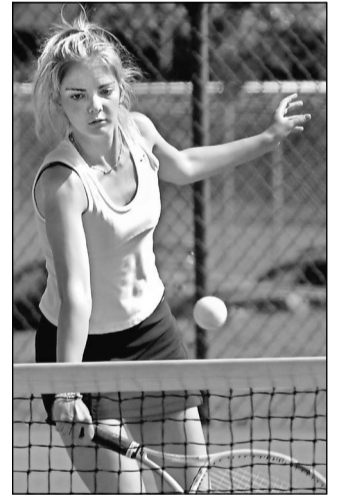
The Golden Warriors were back in the North Final in 2018 and North semifinals last spring, and would have contended for another state title this spring, had it not been for the coronavirus, led by the likes of Isabel Zhou.

Along the way there have been stars like Sydney Ferry, Jill Oppenheim, Marsha Mogilevich, JooHee Yoon and plenty of others.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Andover captains, from left, JooHee Yoon, Heather Arvidson and Kristina Black are presented with the Division 1 state championship trophy in 2007.



CARL RUSSO/Staff File Photo

Marsha Mogilevich starred for Andover High in the early 2000s. Here, she competes in 2004.



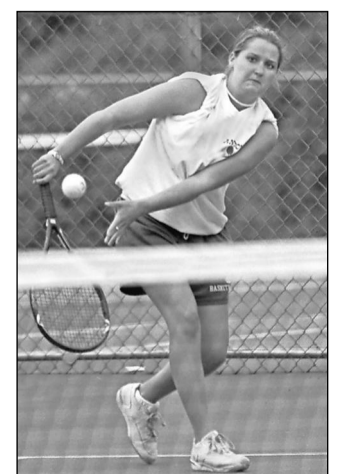
STAFF FILE PHOTO

Andover's Laurie-Maude Chenard, facing the camera, hugs doubles partner Sydney Ferry, after defeating Shrewsbury to win the Div. 1 state title.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Rikki Sartor was a doubles ace for Andover in the mid-2000s.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Jill Oppenheim helped lead Andover to the North final in 2000.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Isabel Zhou would have made Andover High a state championship favorite this spring, if not for the coronavirus pandemic.

Phillips Academy student uses her creativity to raise money for Mass. General

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Erin Kim, 16, a rising sophomore at Phillips Academy, combined her creativity and philanthropic nature to help raise money for Massachusetts General Hospital's Emergency Response

Erin Kim

Fund to help in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Kim, who has been volunteering at Mass. General for about a year decided to start a BeCause fundraising page after she observed hospital workers interacting with coronavirus patients without personal protective equipment (PPE). Kim has raised \$860 thus far.

"I was able to see firsthand that because of this unexpected and urgent situation many of the hospital staff were coming in contact with the COVID-19 patients without

enough masks or protective equipment, so I decided after seeing this situation that it was necessary for me to take action," said Kim.

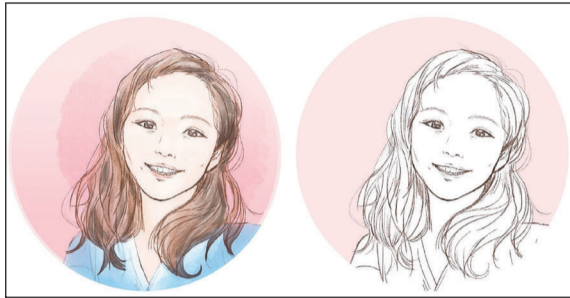
In addition to raising money, Kim has been making masks. So far she's hand sewn about 300 masks, sending 160 of them to the hospital. She also sends masks to those who donate on her BeCause fundraising page.

But it's not just masks that Kim sends to her donors, she also sends carefully crafted caricatures to her donors as well.

"So, when someone donates to my page, I usually email them and ask if they would like a caricature and I ask them to send me a couple pictures and I basically just draw a few inspired by those," she said.

Later adding, "I thought it would be fun to give back to the people who decided to donate to my fundraising page."

If you would like to donate to Kim's page please go to <https://because.massgeneral.org/fundraiser/2735313>.



Here's an example of a caricature that Erin Kim made for those who decide to donate to her fundraising page.



Erin Kim, 16, a rising sophomore at Phillips Academy, sews masks for those who need them. Kim has been making masks, raising money and sending out hand-drawn caricatures to those who donate on her page. Courtesy photos

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Some sun	Partly sunny; humid	Heavy thunderstorms	Chance for rain	Chance of a t-storm	A t-storm possible	A t-storm possible
High: 89° Low: 70°	High: 83° Low: 69°	High: 82° Low: 69°	High: 86° Low: 67°	High: 83° Low: 67°	High: 84° Low: 64°	High: 81° Low: 66°

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