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PAGE 10

OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 37

JULY 16, 2020

\$1.00

Nguyen faces backlash over Black Lives Matter video



BY BREANNA EDELSTEIN
Staff Writer

Commenters accuse Andover lawmaker of supporting communists

State Rep. Tram Nguyen and her family say they are battling hate speech in the wake of her public support of Black Lives Matter. Nguyen, the first Vietnamese American elected to the Massachusetts Legislature, said a small but vocal group of local Vietnamese Americans launched a social media attack after she advocated for BLM in a video to constituents. “I expressed my support for Black Lives Matter, and specifically talked about the importance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to stand in solidarity with our Black neighbors and friends, for racial justice and economic justice,” she said. The Facebook page of Bao Chau Kelley, with 5,000 followers, denounced Nguyen’s stance and drew attention from thousands more social media users across the world. Kelley did not respond to requests for comment or this story. The people posting comments critical of Nguyen say she is aligning with “American communists and domestic terrorists BLM” who are hurting the United States, despite the fact that the U.S. provided her a place to escape the hardships of her native country.

State Rep. Tram Nguyen

See BACKLASH, Page 2

Fire chief: AC unit incorrectly plugged in caused blaze



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Smoke rises from several parts of the house with firefighters on the scene.

FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

A house on Vine Street, destroying the building. Fire officials said the cause of last week’s blaze was an air conditioner not plugged directly into a wall outlet. Such a direct connection, instead of using a power strip or extension cord, is necessary because of the amount of power drawn by an air conditioner, officials said. “We are entering a very hot and humid stretch of weather,” Mansfield said. “It is critically important that air conditioners be plugged directly into a wall outlet that is designed to carry the heavy electrical load. Do not plug air conditioners into power strips or extension cords.” The house at 26 Vine St. See FIRE, Page 2

Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield is warning residents to make sure their air conditioners are properly plugged in after fire ripped through

Teachers’ jobs uncertain amid budget cuts

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

spending. Superintendent Sheldon Berman announced the anticipated cut in a recent public hearing on the proposed budget.

School districts across the region face an uncertain future as they try to prepare for the upcoming academic year. As the COVID-19 crisis continues, it’s unclear what mode of teaching will be used — children back in classrooms or learning remotely from home, or perhaps a mix of both. What will the physical arrangement of classrooms be distant and safe? Will there be sports and other after-school activities. If so how, will they operate to keep students healthy? In Andover, another question has emerged. It is leaving teachers and other school staff members uncertain of their pay and even whether they will have jobs in the upcoming academic year. Many employees of Andover public schools are at risk of suffering pay cuts or losing their positions entirely because the proposed school budget for the 2020-21 year includes a \$1.1 million cut in personnel

Lt. accused of racial incident still on leave

Town manager withholding name due to ‘personnel matter’

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

His name has not been released by the town, despite requests from The Eagle-Tribune to do so as a matter of public interest. “We are working toward a resolution with the residents,” Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said. “I’ll release more information paid administrative leave. See INCIDENT, Page 2

Teens describe bias, racism they face at school

Andover High students share their school experiences of discrimination

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

their experiences. It has amassed 743 followers since it was created in early June. Incidents described on the account range in severity. A July 7 post from a student who will be a senior in the fall says: “Every time we read a book with the n-word, the whole class would look at me and try to hide their laughs.” See BIAS, Page 2

A social media account created by a minority student at Andover High School is highlighting anonymous reports of discrimination, racism and bias carried out by students and staff in the halls of the school. The Instagram account “Black at Andover High School” describes itself as a place for students and alumni to share



The text of one student’s story shared anonymously on the site.

Courtesy photo

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BACKLASH

Continued from Page 1

Nguyen recorded a follow-up video, explaining “this group opposes my support of the Black Lives Matter movement and my values as a Democrat, which they equate to socialism and communism.”

“They are attempting to brand me, among other things, as a traitor to the Vietnamese American community, as stupid for standing in solidarity with BLM, and as a dishonor to my parents and family,” Nguyen said.

Nguyen, a Democrat, was a legal aid attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services before her election to the state Legislature in 2018. She said this political push-back — amid extreme, national racial tension — is incomparable to her past experiences.

“The frustrating thing about all of this is that it’s not just a difference of opinions,” she said. “It’s the language used. It’s personal attacks on me and my family — my father particularly.”

Nguyen’s sister, Tami Nguyen, 24, reiterated that criticisms are not unusual in the political ring, “but this is next level.”

“We have all (as a family) been aware of the criticism she would receive when she was first running for office. We signed up for that. She talked to us about it,” Tami Nguyen said. “But now the hatred for my sister has blown up across the world because of these Facebook posts.”

Translated from Vietnamese by Kelley, the initial post about Nguyen says: “It is a shame that her father was an officer of South Vietnam ... and was imprisoned by the (North) Vietnamese communists.”

It goes on to say: “They escaped Vietnam so that she can live in freedom and democracy and have a better future, yet this Massachusetts (representative) embraced the American communists and domestic terrorists BLM.”

Tami Nguyen explained that her father was a second lieutenant police officer in Saigon from 1973 to 1975. He served as an undercover agent, posing as a student at a law school to expose communists and keep the area safe and secure for students.

The Viet Cong exposed him in April 1975, and held him prisoner for eight years before U.S. President Ronald Reagan worked to free soldiers and officers and allow them to emigrate to America, according to Tami Nguyen.

The state representative said of the social media criticism, “I can’t let this shutter my ability to represent and my ability to serve.”

“I’m proud of the accomplishments of Vietnamese Americans and I know our community has contributed much to the commonwealth and nation,” she said. “And at the same time, I know that there is work to be done to address anti-Blackness in parts of our community. We do not live in a world where being one thing prevents us from being another. None of us is one dimensional.”



Tewksbury firefighters arrive at the blaze to help Andover firefighters.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

was destroyed by a fire that was started by the electrical problem and further complicated by propane tanks stored in the home, fire officials said. Those tanks increases the fire’s intensity after it broke out, officials said.

The fire, which officials said began just before 7:30 p.m. Wednesday of last week, caused an estimated \$350,000 in damage to the single-family home.

Two residents, a male and a female, were in the home at the time of the fire, officials said. Both made it out safely, but the male was treated for minor injuries at the scene, officials said.

The fire resulted from the air conditioner’s electrical malfunction, according to a press release from the state’s Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

“The fire originated in a breezeway where a window air conditioner was plugged into a four-way extension cord,” the release said. “Propane tanks stored in the area fueled the fire.”

Andover firefighters were assisted at the blaze by Lawrence and Tewksbury firefighters.



Firefighters use ladders to attack the blaze.

The blaze was investigated by Andover fire officials, the Andover Police Department and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

INCIDENT

Continued from Page 1

at that time.”

Flanagan said he is withholding the name “because it’s an ongoing personnel matter,” and that the fire lieutenant is “not currently working.”

He said Gabby Batista, the Andover resident who was approached at her mailbox, has not filed a police report. However, after viewing the video himself, Flanagan placed the fire lieutenant on paid administrative leave.

Batista, who could not be reached for comment Monday, told The Eagle-Tribune at the time that she went to pick up her mail from her Andover residence before heading out with her friend

June 2. After she did so, she said, a white man in a black Chevy Tahoe started following them.

Batista said she stopped her car and asked the man, “Sir, can I help you?”

She said he responded by saying, “You just took mail from that house.”

Batista said she told the man she lived there. Then, she and her friend returned home and the man followed them, even driving into her driveway where she caught him on camera.

In the video, which now has had 29.6 thousand views on Twitter, Batista can be heard saying, “This is literally none of your business.”

The man responds, “I just wanted to make sure someone wasn’t stealing something.”

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STAFFING

Continued from Page 1

memo also went out June 12. “A priority of the School Committee during this pandemic has been to maintain school staff and avoid the layoffs other Massachusetts districts have been forced to implement,” the memo reads. “We intend to uphold this commitment to our teachers.”

Kieser said the personnel cuts would affect both union

and non-union employees. She said they are looking at staffing as a potential area to make budget cuts because “personnel is the largest part of the district’s budget and an area where we have some flexibility for reduction of costs.”

The proposed school budget for the upcoming year is \$89.2 million, an increase of nearly 3.9% over the previous year. Due to the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, however, cuts including those by Town

Manager Andrew Flanagan are forcing Berman to reduce the proposed budget for the 2020-21 year.

Berman said he plans to cover many of the cuts and other budget shortfalls with the \$1.1 million reduction in personnel spending, leaving teachers and other school workers uncertain of their futures.

He said talks with unions will determine if the \$1.1 million cut can be made.

“We are in negotiations and we hope that we can

reduce our personnel cost by \$1.1 million,” Berman said during the budget hearing.

With respect to how Berman plans to cut personnel costs without necessarily cutting jobs, Kieser said, “We have many options for reduction in personnel costs. Over the years, we have been able to achieve this through attrition and retirements.”

Berman has asked the School Committee not to vote on the budget until Andover finds out how much state aid the schools will receive.

BIAS

Continued from Page 1

A post from a student who will be a junior reads: “I was on my way to math class

and a random teacher came up to me and said ‘*random girl’s name* don’t forget our meeting.’ I didn’t know what she was talking about but proceeded to carry on my day. Only later realized she mixed me up with another black student at the school. She walked into my math class. Looked at me. Realized I wasn’t the person she thought I was but didn’t apologize.”

Gabrielle Erawoc, 15, an Andover High student who created the account, said it was inspired by similar accounts created by minority students at private schools.

“We feel like we have done everything we can,” Gabrielle said. “So, we are making these Instagram pages because that’s how a lot of things are blowing up. We can get a lot of attention. We are making these pages to let people share their stories, not only safely, but anonymously.”

She also shares the posts on Twitter under the handle @blackatahs.

Andover school officials could not be reached for comment about the Instagram posts on Sunday.

A district-wide letter sent this week by principals of the high school and Andover’s three middle schools however, acknowledged

recent social media posts and pledged action to “dismantle bias and racism, and build an inclusive and respectful community.”

“We are disheartened and concerned to read about our current and former students’ experiences of bias, racism and hate language in Andover Public Schools,” the principals wrote. “We stand together with our school community to stand up and speak out against all acts of hate. To the students who have posted their personal experiences — we hear you.”

Gabrielle, who is African American, is entering her sophomore year at Andover High. She is from Atlanta and attends Andover High as part of the “A Better Chance” program, which places talented minority students in private and public schools with college preparatory programs around the country. The Andover High program is hosting seven girls.

Gabrielle said she sometimes feels “out of place” at Andover High because of her race, but she’s enjoyed her experience overall.

She said she found out about these Instagram accounts through other students in the program.

“You get to connect with a lot of students through the

program that go to boarding schools, private schools, so we just knew through them that they are making these pages and we thought, ‘Oh, we should make one,’” she said.

Gabrielle said one of the “main inspirations” is a similar Instagram account called “Black at Andover” created by students at Phillips Academy. That page had 4,425 followers as of July 1. Its administrator declined to comment for this story.

Gabrielle said she accepts anonymous submissions for the Andover High page through a Google form.

“People just go there. They don’t put their name. They just put their graduating year and they submit their stories there,” she said.

She takes each submission and turns it into a post.

Gabrielle said it’s best to allow students anonymity to avoid retaliation.

“There is that chance of being harassed and bullied,” she said. “It would just cause more harm.”

“Everything just needs to be uncensored, and everybody just needs to feel like they have a voice,” she said. “So, I post every single story that is submitted.”

The Instagram page can be viewed at <https://www.instagram.com/blackatandoverhigh>.

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Columbia Gas contractor hits gas main, forcing 13 to evacuate

Another problem for company that caused disaster in Andover, Valley

By BILL KIRK
Staff Writer

Thirteen people were evacuated from four homes on Oak Street in Lawrence last week after a contractor working for Columbia Gas hit an old gas line while attempting to install a new one, the fire chief said.

According to Chief Brian Moriarty, a crew from Feeney Brothers Utilities Services, which has been working on replacing old gas lines in the city for the gas company, hit the old line in the vicinity of 6 Oak St. at about 10:40 a.m. last Thursday morning.

Moriarty said gas leaked into the surrounding sewer system but did not enter any of the homes.

However, out of "an abundance of caution," the residents of four homes were directed to the Center, formerly the senior center, on Haverhill Street.

After the gas was turned off and cleared from the area, the residents were allowed to return home by around 11:30 a.m., Moriarty said.

Columbia Gas is working to repair the damaged

pipe and continues installing new pipes in the area, the chief said. Nobody was injured and there was no damage to report, other than the broken pipe, Moriarty said.

Columbia Gas is scheduled to stop all work in the area as of Nov. 1, 2020, as part of a deal the company struck with state and federal authorities. The company is being sold to Eversource.

The gas company accepted responsibility for the fires and explosions that hit Andover, North Andover and Lawrence on Sept. 13, 2018, which killed one person, injured hundreds, and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

The accident, caused by over-pressurized gas lines, forced hundreds of businesses to close until their gas appliances could be replaced and reattached to the gas line system.

Thousands of homes faced similar problems as homeowners went without heat and/or hot water for months while they waited for the company to replace their damaged appliances, including stoves, hot water heaters and furnaces.

Lawyer waives fee for more gas disaster victims

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

An attorney who represented victims from the Merrimack Valley Gas Disaster is again waiving his fees for representing clients in the \$143 million class action settlement, he said.

Complaints were filed with Attorney General Maura Healey and local officials earlier this summer after attorney David Raimondo told clients he would be assessing an 11% fee out of their settlement checks from the class action suit.

Faced with the concerns, Raimondo previously agreed to waive the fee for those receiving lump-sum payments from the settlement.

On Monday, Raimondo said he would also be waiving his fee for clients awaiting itemized payments. Those checks are expected to be dispersed in September.

Raimondo said clients "felt the retainer they signed was not sufficiently explained to them" when the matter became a consolidated, class action suit.

He assisted roughly 175 clients from Andover, North Andover and Lawrence after the Sept. 13, 2018 gas disaster. However, he said he is not considered "class counsel" and therefore is not entitled to the \$26.1 million set aside in the settlement for legal fees and administrative costs.

"I got burned. Unfortunately, I'm not permitted to take fees," Raimondo said in a phone interview Monday, stressing he provided his clients with "personal representation," which included handling claims with insurance companies and public adjusters, contractors and having their gas restored and appliances repaired.

However, much of the work he did was then repeated by class action attorneys, he said.

"Ethically this is the best thing I can do for my clients.

... Waive my fees," said Raimondo.

Clients that want Raimondo to challenge or appeal their payments can still work with him moving forward but will be subject to fees, he said.

"They can continue with me or handle on their own," he said. "I wish everyone the best with their claims. ... And I hope they do well based on what I've done and the information they provided to me."

The average gas settlement payment is \$8,000. Eleven percent of that payment is \$880.

In a June 24 Sunday Eagle-Tribune article, some victims awaiting payment said they were being asked to pay the 11% fee to get their checks, which are compensation for everything from spoiled food and property damage, to lodging costs, mental anguish and other fallout.

State Sen. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, who victims reached out to for assistance, was pleased to hear of Raimondo's decision when reached Monday.

"Nothing can make these claimants truly whole but relinquishing the 11% fee is a significant step in the right direction. I am pleased that full payments of these itemized claims can now be made to those whom they are rightfully due," DiZoglio said.

The gas disaster, caused by overpressurized lines operated by Columbia Gas, resulted in the death of Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence. Three firefighters and 19 civilians were hurt. Damages in Andover, Lawrence and North Andover are estimated at \$1 billion.

About 50,000 people were forced to evacuate. Five homes were destroyed and 131 properties damaged, according to findings by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.

Small gesture transforms into widespread mission

Woman shops for others, collects donations for Lazarus House

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN
Staff Writer

Audra Hebert's idea was to deliver groceries to a few familiar faces; clients who have supported her small pet business and are now uncomfortable leaving home to face the coronavirus pandemic.

What she continues to accomplish is much more.

Hebert, 42, has delivered food and other essentials to nearly 20 households — with more in the queue — and inspired others to donate goods and money to Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence.

The effort started when Hebert was forced, along much of the rest of society, to temporarily abandon work March 13.

"It was good for a week or so to get a break. I had been really busy," she said. "But I was getting restless, and I was noticing through Facebook that people were stressed and anxious, period. But really freaking out over trying to get simple groceries."

The same sudden stress was felt at food pantries, including Lazarus House, with a long-standing reputation for feeding the masses with community support.

"School food drives, church drives, collections at businesses before everyone goes on vacation, all of those donations trickled or stopped," said Lazarus Food Pantry Manager Ken Campbell.

Hebert was motivated by her faith in the church. Hearing from clients afraid to venture out and face the virus, even to run quick errands, solidified what she would do.

Social media pages typically used to advertise Hebert's dog walking and pet sitting services turned into a beacon for those feeling trapped.

She watched Facebook "do it's thing," landing strangers in need with her information.

"The thing with what I'm doing is that it's free," she said. "I just want to be helpful. I felt like I needed to be helpful to others."

But gracious clients and strangers were handing her money as a means to say thank you.

"I prayed on it and thought about what to do with their contributions," Hebert said. "I noticed a post about Lazarus House the next day."

She started mentioning the new partnership to those she was shopping for. A man grateful for Hebert's front-door deliveries wrote a check right away for \$1,500.

He brought the idea to his employer, who went on to donate \$4,000 to the Boston Food Bank, according to Hebert.

"It's this ripple effect of kindness that I was just so shocked and encouraged by," she said.

Weeks later, before putting away another delivery of groceries, the same man wrote another check to Lazarus House, this one for \$1,000.

Others who gave Hebert smaller amounts — usually ranging from \$10 to \$25 — allowed her to buy diapers, baby formula and non-perishable foods Lazarus House was short on.

Nine times she pulled up to the Lawrence food pantry in her Subaru Crosstrek packed with donations.

"I put the back seats down and fill it with as much as I can," she said. "There have been some weeks it's been so packed, it's crazy. It's like a clown car of food."

Campbell said the outpouring of support has motivated him and a skeleton crew allowed in the building due to strict safety precautions.

"We have five people in



Courtesy photos

Audra Hebert of Andover smiles with a car full of goods to be donated to Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence.

our food pantry now. Normally it's a significant number of volunteers coming in to help stock shelves, distribute, unload and sort," Campbell said. "And it appears that it's going to stay this way for quite some time."

The money Hebert handed over to Campbell, including \$2,500 from the one client, will be used to purchase food, according to Campbell.

Instead of the normal shopping experience Lazarus tries to create for those in need, all foods — pasta, rice, canned vegetables, soups, and canned tuna and chicken — are being boxed up and distributed with social distancing requirements in mind.

"Her efforts and the response of her neighbors and friends have really been quite spectacular," Campbell said of Hebert. "It's these types of things that are keeping us going."

Hebert encourages others to support those around them in whatever way they can.



A load of supplies that Audra Hebert collected is put onto a conveyor belt and collected inside the Lazarus facility.



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REAL ESTATE SALES

26 Algonquin Ave.: Charles and Lauren Duerr to Eric and Ashlee Lazzari, \$829,000
6 Atlantic Ave., Unit 6: Sergei Kozlov and Olga Orlova to Evgeny M. Fedotov and Alina V. Solonnikova, \$660,000
61 Birch Road: Clark F. and Maura M. Smidt to Eric W. Skeffington, \$829,900

12 Bowdoin Road: David R. Lamattina and Yraima Agreda-Lamattina to Jason Silva and Kelly M. Wright, \$642,000
31 Chester St.: Justin M. Bishop and Stefania C. Paladino to Melissa K. Chiozzi and Lawrence C. Fleming, \$640,000

1 Glenn Cove: Kelly Ann Burns FT and Kelly A. Burns to Jonathan M. and Lindsay M. Konjoian, \$699,900
8 Heritage Lane: Timothy P. and Michelle Curran to Arthur F Jr & U Cannon RET and Arthur F. Cannon, \$1,117,500
151 High Plain Road: PJS Construction LLC to Christopher R. and Meredith G. Papineau, \$605,000

6 Korinthian Way: Cohen Arnold Est and Lori Newman to Sean Segreve and Jasmine A. Garcia, \$600,000
27 Lincoln Circle W.: Frank Groosman and A M. Wauters-Machteld to Mark A. Ventre, \$690,000
100 Main St., Unit M: Matthew W. and Cristina M. Addesa to Michael Bruno, \$265,000

4 Meadow View Lane: William C. and Kathleen C. Geary to Deborah A. Goodie T and Luther S. Goodie, \$1,035,000
5 Suffolk Circle: Anthony J. and Debra A. Christopher to Sergei Kozlov and Olga Orlova, \$920,000

70 Washington Park Drive, Unit 11: Jian W. Shi to Frontline Realty Inc, \$195,000

All Those Years Ago

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

100 years ago – July 23, 1920

The sale of Musgrove Block by Mrs. John H. Flint to Louis Resnik, along with the buildings on Post Office Avenue occupied by the Lunch Box, the Chinese Laundry, and the barber shop, is the largest transaction in real estate in Andover for many years. Musgrove Block, which was built more than 25 years ago, contains stores, offices, rooms of the Andover Club, and the assembly halls of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Scottish Clans and G.A.R.

Members of the Fire Engine Company recently presented Charles Hill, the retired chief of the Fire Engineers, with a handsome watch fob. It is decorated on one side with Masonic emblems and on the other with the Odd Fellows emblem.

75 years ago – July 19, 1945

Kenneth K. McKiniry, physical instructor in the schools, was named

head coach of football and baseball at Punchard High School by the School Committee when it met in special session Monday night. The appointment will be in addition to his other duties, making his salary \$3,100 — an increase of \$400.

An electric iron which had not been turned off caused minor damage to the home of Melville Holden, Red Spring Road, on Tuesday morning. There was no one home at the time, but a neighbor, Frances Ratyna, 12, noticed the smoke and notified Mrs. John R. Sullivan, another neighbor, who sounded Box 56 at 9 a.m.

The Andover Canning Center will open on July 30 at the Free Church, the delayed start because of the lateness of the fruit and vegetable seasons this year. The center is open to all Andover residents. Vegetables and fruit may be brought to the church and canned there with the up-to-date equipment and conveniences that the center provides. For a small charge, the work will be done by

workers at the center.

50 years ago – July 23, 1970

Plans are moving ahead for the construction of a water treatment plant on Haggett's Pond to supply the town and possibly the region with water taken from the Merrimack River, coupled with the town's resources. Local officials are seeking \$1.5 million from the federal government to assist in construction of the plant, which is estimated to cost nearly \$4 million when completed.

Winners of prizes from the new Andover office of the Lawrence Cooperative Bank are John Anderson, 20 High Street, color TV; Mrs. William J. Coderre, 37 Stinson Road, clock radio; Mrs. Walter J. Anderson, 14 Shipman Road, Kodak instamatic camera; Patricia Tine, 12 Westwind Road, Kodak instamatic camera; James Higgins, Timothy Drive, Rollfast bicycle; Barry Bronson, 35 Juniper Road, Anso camera; and Bonnie Hanby, 1 Summer St., Anso camera.

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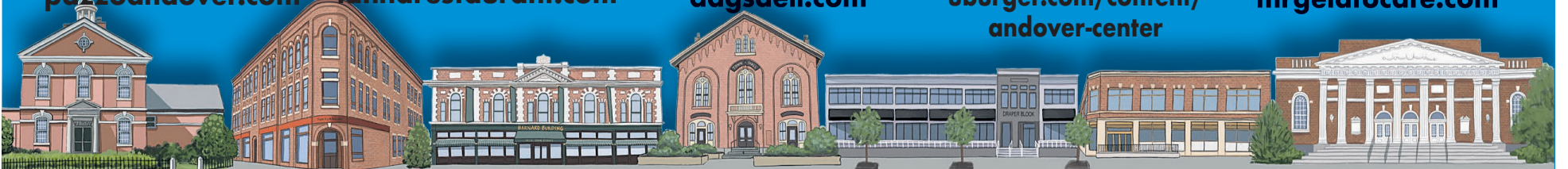
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Plastic bag bans resume as state lifts rules

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Green groups are praising the Baker administration's move to cancel restrictions on reusable grocery bags, clearing the way for local bans on plastic shopping bags to resume, despite concerns for the safety of grocery store workers.

Restrictions on reusable bags were part of a raft of orders signed by Gov. Charlie Baker in late March and April to prevent spread of the coronavirus. The state rescinded the limits last week as it proceeded with reopening plans.

That allows shoppers to again bring their reusable plastic bags into stores, and nearly 140 communities that have adopted bans on single-use plastic bags may again enforce them.

Environmental groups say the temporary rules set back efforts to reduce the overall amount of plastic being sent to landfills, driving up solid waste costs for cities and towns.

They welcomed the decision to rescind the orders. "This is good for the environment, public health,

reducing waste, and for protecting both workers and shoppers," said Janet Domenitz, executive director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group.

Environmentalists weren't pleased with Baker's executive orders in the first place, but they did not oppose them, citing a lack of certainty about how the virus is transmitted. Those groups began to speak up, however, amid mounting evidence that the virus doesn't survive on

plastic surfaces.

"Experts from around the world have stated that no known cases of COVID-19 have been linked to any surface, including reusable bags," said Kirstie Pecci, director of the Conservation Law Foundation's Zero Waste project. "We know single use bags, cups and food ware are not going to protect us from COVID-19."

The food industry hoped to keep the temporary rules in place a while longer to protect grocery workers and

give them time to transition back to earlier limits.

"We knew this was only temporary but we hoped for a little more time to adjust to the changes," said Brian Houghton, senior vice president for governmental affairs and communications for the Massachusetts Food Association. "We've always said this isn't about the environment, but the health and safety of the workers."

Houghton said stores can still prevent employees from handling reusable bags

-- a policy that some grocery chains put into place before Baker's order.

Last month, the state Department of Environmental Protection lifted a ban on bottle and can redemptions, requiring retailers to accept returned beverage containers.

Nearly 140 Massachusetts communities ban single-use plastic bags in retail stores including supermarkets.

Before the outbreak, lawmakers were considering a statewide ban that would

allow retailers to charge a 10 cent fee for paper bags, thus encouraging shoppers to bring reusable bags to the store with them.

Domenitz said she hopes a statewide ban will come up for a vote before the July 31 end of formal legislative sessions, but time is running out.

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



Son needs 'boots-on-the-ground' counseling

Family Matters

Larry Larsen

Dear Doctor,

My 18-year-old son is a user of marijuana — every day, all day. He also is vaping flavored stuff. He was in a psychiatric hospital



twice during his last year of high school. He is coughing terribly and won't go to the doctors or talk to his therapist. He is argumentative about everything. He won't clean his room, and he won't do his laundry. I am so stressed out every day. I just don't know what, if anything, I can do to help him. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

End of Rope

Dear End of Rope,

You do need help. Your situation is parenting an entitled, addicted and probably depressed young man.

If you continue to accept his unacceptable behavior, you will be encouraging a co-dependent relationship. By doing nothing, you are making his dependence and bad behavior more intractable.

You need help and not that of a passive, well-meaning psychotherapist. My suggestion would be for you to seek referrals in your community for a drug counseling service. I suspect there may be more drugging happening than you know. The real help will be in the form of direct intervention. You need a "boots-on-the-ground" kind of counseling and support regimen.

The goals need to be thought out. First, being employed strikes me as essential. He is out of high school and of age to work. An active helper can work with you on this objective. He needs to stop using substances. They are not helping his depression.

I also suspect he hates his own behavior and knows he needs help. Your goal will be to set limits, offer support without encouraging co-dependence and work on the task of his eventual management of his life.

Nothing will happen without action. Arguing will not help. The road ahead is tough, but you need to be active. Do not wait any longer.

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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Townspeople

Local coaching legend Fitzgerald named Commonwealth Heroine

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Longtime Andover High School swim coach Marilyn Fitzgerald was selected as one of this year's Commonwealth Heroines.

Every year, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women announces their selection of Commonwealth Heroines based on nominations that often come from the state legislature. This year's winners were announced on June 24.

"I went on the site that listed all of the women that received this award and its very humbling to be put in a category with them," said Fitzgerald. "I have always thought that I knew why I was doing all of it but, the bottom line is for me, it's always been about the kids."

According to a report from the commission that announced this year's winners, those selected to be Commonwealth Heroines "perform unheralded acts daily that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities and towns better places to live."

Fitzgerald was nominated this year by state Rep. Frank Moran.

"First of all, the fact that Frank Moran nominated me was an honor in itself," said Fitzgerald. "I have known Frank for many years now through my being on the School Committee at Greater Lawrence Tech, I am the rep from Andover on the committee, and Frank is not only a graduate of the Tech, but he is such an advocate for the kids."

Fitzgerald, who retired in December 2018, was the swim coach at Andover High for 27 years. Shortly after her retirement, she was named the National Girls Swimming Coach of the Year by the National High School Coaches Association, or NHSCA.

Andover High's swim team won 18 state titles under Fitzgerald's watch. Fitzgerald was also a volunteer at the Merrimack Valley YMCA for decades.

As for her key to coaching success, Fitzgerald said, "I knew that every single one of the girls that I coached could do more than she thought she could do and when that day came when they were able to succeed beyond what they believed it was magic."



Bridal stylists Hannah Wood, left, fixes the veil for soon-to-be bride Nia Espinosa, who is a member of the Army National Guard 141 Medical Company based out of Connecticut



Bridal intern stylists Audrey Tobin, left, and Sabrina Hogan pick out wedding gowns for brides to try on.

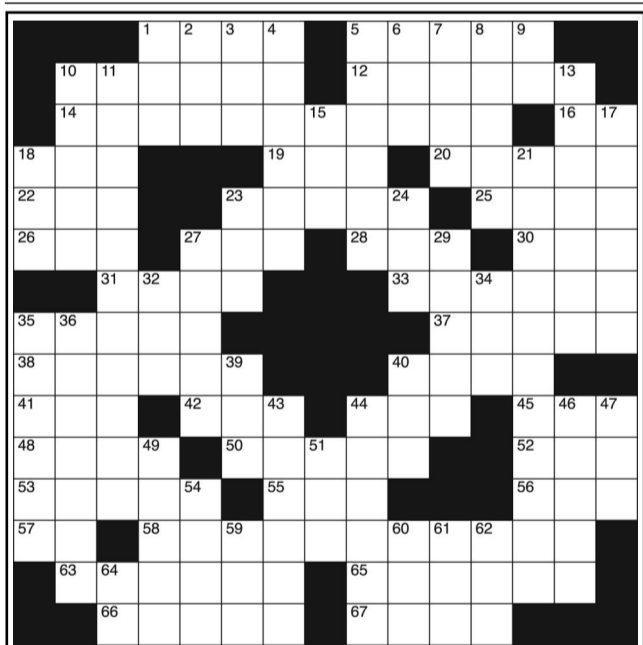


There are hundreds of wedding gowns for brides to try on at Brides Across America in Andover.



Eagle-Tribune file photo

Former Andover swim coach Marilyn Fitzgerald is pictured here in 1996 with former Andover High athletes Kalley Thomas, Meghan Donahue, Pamela Muller, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Dana Sawyer, Jenna Blongiewicz, Kim Provencal, Rebecca Parks, Brenna O'Connor, Heidi Brooks and Jacqui Sawyer.



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- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Tire measurement
- Affirmative
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- One point north of due east
- A type of "pet"
- Tech giant
- European nation
- Fencing swords

Solution in Classified Section

- Acquired
- Origin
- Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
- Pouch
- Peter's last name
- Inclined
- Palestinian territory __ Strip
- A type of syrup
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Weather Underground activist
- Run batted in
- Frozen water
- Sodium
- Philly specialty
- Cuts the wool off
- Rules
- Icelandic literary works
- Tattled

CLUES DOWN

- "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- Actors' organization
- Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
- Ranch (Spanish)
- Beginning
- Index
- Portuguese wine
- A feudal superior
- Military brach (abbr.)
- Lithuanian given name
- A way to become different
- Able to be domesticated
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Hosts film festival
- Shows you how to get there
- Arranged alphabetically
- S. Thai isthmus
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Woods
- Make yourself attractive

- Concealed
- Large primate
- A favorite saying of a sect or political group
- Tropical fruits
- Obstruct
- Car mechanics group
- Stroke gently
- They're in your toolbox
- Throws
- One and only
- In a way, bent
- "Downton Abbey" broadcaster
- Herring-like fish
- A major division of geological time
- Vast body of water
- Cannister
- Encourage
- The man



Nia Espinosa, who is a member of the Army National Guard 141 Medical Company based out of Connecticut, holds up the wedding gown she selected for free at Brides Across America in Andover.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Giving away even more gowns Brides Across America expands its mission

The Andover-based nonprofit organization Brides Across America is now giving away free wedding gowns to healthcare professionals and first responders who are working amid the coronavirus crisis.

"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.

Around 100 brides-to-be have taken advantage of the organization's new service so far, she said.

The nonprofit has been giving away free wedding gowns to military personal for several years. The pandemic inspired the group to add COVID-19 front line healthcare workers and first responders to the mission.

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.

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



Bridal stylist Hannah Wood fixes the train for Nia Espinosa.



Bridal intern stylists Audrey Tobin holds up one of the many wedding gowns available for free to COVID-19 front line healthcare workers and first responders who will be getting married.

Townspeople



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Joshua Quispe, 7, dumps water on himself to cool off as his mother, Madga Quispe of Methuen, records him.



Daniel Garcia, 4, left, and his friend Dylan Joyce, 4, both of Methuen, play in the water.

COOL SPOT ON A HOT DAY

Despite some restriction due to the pandemic, Andover's Poms Pond has been a welcome place to cool off for people from all around the region. The pandemic-related regulations include keeping the snack bar closed and not renting boats, at least for the time being. The number of cars in the parking lot and people on the beach are being limited. And beach-goers are asked to maintain social distance and wear a mask while they are going onto or off the beach and into the bathrooms. Pond hours are noon to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.



Emely Lopez, 9, of Methuen, takes a swim.

Sports

DUTCHMEN HONOR

Puglisi earns prestigious Union College athletic award

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

For Andover's Ryan Puglisi, earning one of Union College's most prestigious



Ryan Puglisi

scholar-athlete awards was as much an honor as it was a call to action.

Earlier this month, Puglisi, a junior, became

the first men's lacrosse player to receive Union's Ritterbush Award, which honors "The student who best exemplifies 'mente et corpore' — sound mind and sound body — the attributes of a scholar-athlete." One male and one female athlete from the school take home the award each year.

"I had the chance to talk to (businessman) Stephen Ritterbush (Union, class of 1968)," said Puglisi. "He reminded me to always live life like an adventure, and to make sure that what I do, whether it is work related or not, brings me happiness and joy. Otherwise, what is the point?"

"That is something that I've always tried to live by. But, for some reason, his delivery and stories, and the way he relayed this message really resonated with me, and will truly be something I live by for the rest of my life."

Puglisi has already built an impressive resume.

A former Andover High (class of 2017) star — and son of longtime Golden Warriors coach Wayne Puglisi — Ryan was five games into his third spring as a starter for the Union lacrosse team when the season was



UNION COLLEGE ATHLETICS/Ross LaDue photos

Andover's Ryan Puglisi looks to pass the ball for Union College. A star on the field and in the classroom, Puglisi earned a major award this spring.

cancelled due to the coronavirus. Union (4-1) was ranked No. 10 in the country prior to the stoppage.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound defender was All-Liberty League in 2019, finishing second on the team with 23 caused turnovers and added 32 ground balls. Union advanced to the third round of the NCAA Division 3 tournament, and finished No. 12 in the country. As a freshman, he appeared in all 15 games for Dutchmen, making six starts.

"In my eyes, the defense is the backbone of the team," said Puglisi. "It's not only our play that we need to make sure is on point. We need to be able to communicate everything. We never



Andover's Ryan Puglisi, right, is a star defender for Union College. He also excels in his studies as a mechanical engineering major.

know who will be in front of us. We have to be able to adjust on the fly and keep everyone in line.

"The pace of play in college is so much faster than

high school. The level jump was shocking. It hits you quick and you need to adapt fast. I'm proud of my athletic or academic accomplishments, but I'm more proud

of the person Union has helped mold in the process."

LACROSSE FAMILY BUSINESS

Growing up, and then at Andover High, lacrosse was a family affair for the Puglis.

Wayne, Ryan's father, spent 20 seasons as Golden Warriors head boys lacrosse coach (2000-19). He compiled a 243-145 record.

Ryan broke into Andover's lineup as a starting defender as a sophomore in 2015. He was twice named All-MVC (2016-17), and as a senior was named to the All-Eastern Massachusetts Lacrosse Coaches Association team, leading Andover

ACADEMIC STAR

Union College lacrosse star Ryan Puglisi won the school's Ritterbush Award for his work on the field and in the classroom.

The mechanical engineering major boasts a 3.819 grade point average. He's a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. He is currently interning at Raytheon.

"I take immense pride in my studies," he said. "Lacrosse isn't going to pay the bills after college, so making sure I have my work straight is always first priority. I wouldn't say I'm studying all hours of the night, but I have without a doubt had some late nights. As a mechanical engineer there is never an easy class or term."

to a 16-5 record.

"Playing for my dad will forever be the greatest thing I've ever done," said Ryan, who also played varsity basketball. "He taught me so many lessons through lacrosse that will always be a part of who I am. Having my dad as my coach, he told me I would have to work twice as hard for everything I wanted to achieve. That is something I will carry with me forever."

In his final two high school seasons, Ryan shared the field with his brother, now-Springfield College goalie C.J. Puglisi (AHS, 2019).

"I'll never forget how happy and proud it made my dad to see his two sons playing side by side," said Ryan. "I remember our car rides home blasting the same song after every win and the deadly silence after every loss. I remember the memories I made playing alongside my brother and father the most."

ANDOVER ARCHIVES: GOLDEN WARRIOR BOYS TRACK GREATS

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

Perhaps no team in Massachusetts, regardless of sport, has been more dominant over the past two decades than Andover High boys track.

Under the watchful eye of Hall of Fame head coach Peter Comeau and late top assistant Art Iworsley, the Golden Warriors have fielded some of the most dominant teams and individual athletes in the state year after year.

At the start of the 2000's, Bruce Brown set school records in both the 200 (21.98, still the record) and 100 dash (10.7 hand timed). The latter record was topped by state champion Christopher McConnell (10.75 automatic timed) in 2010. McConnell, one of the most decorated sprinters in state history, also anchored the school's No. 1 4x100 relay (42.37).

Andover saw a pair of dominant hurdlers run side-by-side in Sebastian Silveria and Sean Caveney. Both 2015 graduates, Silveria set a school record in the 110 hurdles (14.21) and Caveney set the record in the 300 hurdles (54.33).

Mark Zavrl picked up the javelin late, but set a school record (193-8) in 2013. Matt McDermott had been groomed to throw the discus for years, and finished his career with a school-record 170-0.

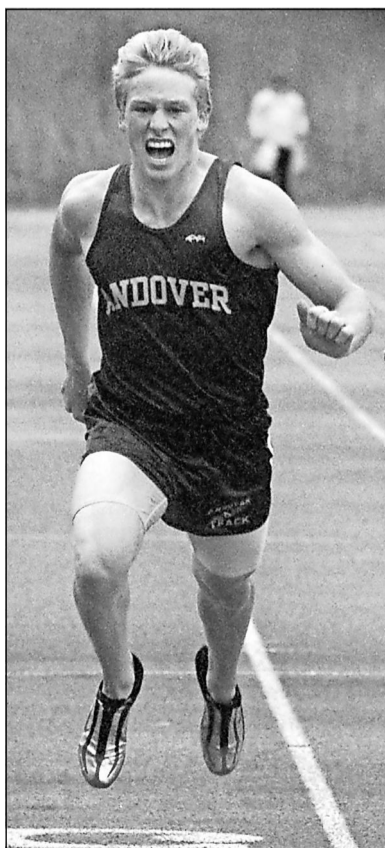
And when twin brothers Mark and Adam Vetere (AHS 2010) were competing for Andover, they often only had each other to compete with. Mark owns the school record (15-6) while Adam is No. 3 in school history (14-0).



Andover High's Matt McDermott became Andover's all-time leader in the discus in 2018.



Mark Zavrl picked up the javelin late, but still set an Andover High record in 2013 that still stands.



Bruce Brown was a superstar sprinter at the start of the 2000's, as Andover became a powerhouse.



Andover's Christopher McConnell was a record-setting, state champion sprinter who set the school record in the 100 dash in 2010.



Mark Vetere, pictured, and his twin brother Adam Vetere were two of the best pole vaulters in state history.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			HOT	HOT		
Clouds and sun	A t-storm in spots	Partial sunshine	A t-storm possible	T-storms possible	A t-storm possible	A t-storm possible
High: 76° Low: 62°	High: 79° Low: 66°	High: 91° Low: 68°	High: 97° Low: 74°	High: 97° Low: 71°	High: 91° Low: 73°	High: 90° Low: 71°

Forecasts and graphics provided by [AcuWeather.com](http://www.AcuWeather.com) ©2020

Bill to expand mail-in voting, early voting signed into law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bill aimed at expanding voter access and safety during the remaining 2020 elections, including the Sept. 1 state primary and Nov. 3 general election, has been signed into law by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker.

Under the new law, all registered voters who want to vote by mail will be able to do so. In addition, in-person voting will be expanded, in an effort to make voting more convenient, and also reduce the risk of crowding in polling places.

For the first time, in-person early voting will also be available for the state primary, from August 22 to 28.

The in-person early voting period for the November state election has been expanded to include two weekends, and will be held October 17 to 30.

Canobie Lake Park prepares for opening

Number of visitors limited, sanitizing efforts increase

BY MADELINE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Masked employees were testing roller coasters, cleaning and prepping Canobie Lake Park on a recent July morning that would typically have lured guests to the lakeside amusement venue.

They were preparing for the park's opening on July 16 — two months later than expected after the COVID-19

pandemic closed the entertainment industry.

"It's not going to be the product (guests) have known and loved for the past 100 years — it's different," said Chris Nicoli, media and entertainment manager for the park in Salem, New Hampshire.

This summer there won't be a crowded day at the park because visitors will be required to make reservations to ensure the park

doesn't exceed 25% capacity anytime in the first few weeks, Nicoli said. Once in the park, guests over the age of 3 will be required to wear a face covering such as a surgical mask or cloth mask anytime they are not on a ride, eating or in a mask-free rest area. Despite the changes, employees are working to make the 65-acre outdoor space a great entertainment venue, Nicoli said. Instead of hula-hooping

and dancing close to people, the park's Fun Squad is going to don Ghostbuster-like backpacks full of hand sanitizer that they can spray and help encourage social distancing while still having fun, Nicoli said. There will also be a lot of social distancing markers and staff ensuring that groups stay at least six feet from each other, he said.

"People don't need to come to an amusement park — it's not essential — but they are going to come because they know we are going to do it right, and feel safe," Nicoli said.

Park guests and employees will be screened for potential COVID-19 symptoms before they enter the park. Their temperature will be taken and they will be asked a series of questions, Nicoli said.

He said employees will also be separated into groups to work together in specific areas, making it easier to contact trace if someone gets sick. This method is designed to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak, he said.

Despite this year being different, Nicoli was encouraged by employees' responses during the months while state officials were deciding if amusement parks in the state could open. Within 24



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Canobie Lake Park workers Victoria Brady, left, and Grace Pierog get familiar with the Yankee Cannonball roller coaster.

hours of an announcement that Canobie would accept job applications for seasonal workers, more than 500 people applied, he said.

Canobie has enough employees to open the park, though the park is still hiring, Nicoli said. Interviews and training are all being held virtually, he said, however, the family-like camaraderie between employees still exists, and that is essential to the park's safety, he said.

Staff member Sarah Hills, 19, of Danville was happily cleaning a photo booth at the park recently. Having worked at the park for five years, she was happy to return, and knows her job description includes more cleaning this year as the park takes extra precautions, she said.

"We owe it to our guests, team and community to have

a safe environment," Nicoli said, while explaining the state and federal guidelines the park is abiding by. "Our guests need us now more than ever with kids having been out of school and people being at home, and we have to prove to our guests that we can do this in a proper way."

Canobie is encouraging people particularly from high-risk groups to come to the park only when they feel safe, Nicoli said, explaining that 2020 season passes and tickets will be honored next year. The park has made an instructional video posted on its website that describes what the expectations for guests are for people to decide if they want to visit this year, he said.

Gov. Chris Sununu allowed amusement parks across the state to open as of June 29.



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