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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 41

AUGUST 13, 2020

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Deadly explosions hit home for Lebanese community

BY JILL HARMACINSKI AND GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
Staff Writers

Some 5,400 miles separate the Merrimack Valley from Beirut. But when a deadly blast devastated the city in Lebanon last week, it was merely a matter of minutes before grave concern arose among Lebanese immigrants and descendants here.

Bassam Vagher, owner of the Gulf Station on Main Street, said he spent much of the

week processing what is happening on the other side of the world.

"I feel terrible. It's been a long 48 hours," said Vagher last Thursday in the wake of the Tuesday, Aug. 4, blasts.

He was raised in a town called Anfeh about an hour north of Beirut and came to America 30 years ago.

"We've been working very hard calling everybody trying to get help," he said. "And we got a lot of help actually from Andover See **LEBANON**, Page 2



Bassam Vagher, owner of the Gulf gas station on Main Street in Andover, is encouraging people to donate to the Saint George Hospital University Medical Center in Beirut, Lebanon, following the deadly explosion that shook the country last week. Vagher came to the United States from Lebanon 30 years ago.

GENEVIEVE DiNATALE/Staff photo



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Members of the Merrimack Valley People for Peace gather for their annual silent vigil in front of Old Town Hall in Andover. The vigil commemorated the 75th anniversary of the use of nuclear weapons on the cities of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki in Japan that help end World War II.

Memories of war, then peace

Merrimack Valley People for Peace held a silent vigil in front of the Old Town Hall on Aug. 6 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Members gathered in a circle for a prayer at the end of the annual event.

A nonprofit, Merrimack Valley People for Peace advocates for peace, justice and environmental matters. Members of the group come from Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, Reading, Lowell, Haverhill, Amesbury, Newbury, and Newburyport.



Henry Misserville of Andover speaks with his fellow members of Merrimack Valley People for Peace as they gather in a circle for a prayer at the end of their annual silent vigil in front of Old Town Hall in Andover.

Committee picks hybrid school model

Remote Learning Academy will be available for parents

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
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and Tracey Spruce, voted against the hybrid model.

The School Committee voted 3-2 in favor of a hybrid model for reopening the public school system in the fall.

A "Remote Academy" will also be available for parents who decide their children will take classes remotely and not physically attend school.

"The hybrid model is the best of both worlds in a sense," said Superintendent Sheldon Berman, who recommended it to the School Committee.

He said the model enables "students and teachers to meet face-to-face and to work face-to-face."

The decision was made at Monday night's School Committee meeting. Two members, Paul Murphy

Spruce, who was in support of an online model, says the risks outweigh the rewards of returning to school.

"The reason I voted to start remotely is because I haven't seen any scientific studies confirming it is safe to gather indoors, in large groups, even with masks, hand hygiene, and physical distance," said Spruce. "The anecdotal data seems to support it is safe, but that's just not the same as a longitudinal scientific study."

Spruce added that she would have preferred to phase in a hybrid model over the course of the school year.

"I would have liked to see the district phase in groups of students by need and See **SCHOOL**, Page 2

Andover Town Meeting now set for Sept. 12

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
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public health determinations underlying the Governor's orders and advisory support, if not compel, a determination that there would be a health risk to Andover voters, particularly those over 65 years old and those with underlying health conditions, in attending Town Meeting on August 22, 2020."

ANDOVER — Town Meeting has been postponed once again.

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty has changed the date of Town Meeting from Aug. 22 to Sept. 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Andover High School Campus on Shawsheen Road.

"In making this Declaration, I note that Governor Charles D. Baker's Declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth made on March 10, 2020 remains in effect," Doherty wrote in a statement. "...the

Doherty, who ultimately decides when Town Meeting will be held, said that she made this decision following "consultation" with the Select Board, Town Manager, Town

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New Andover High principal finds her calling

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

true passion."

Caitlin Brown wanted to be an attorney, but as she spent time working for the Foxborough Public School system, she discovered she wanted something different.

"I started as a long-term sub and I thought I wanted to be a lawyer," she said. "I got into law school, but had spent time volunteering and tutoring kids and I realized my

Brown worked for Foxborough High School for about 11 years before coming to Andover High. She spent about eight years as a social studies teacher in Foxborough, three as a soccer coach for the girls' varsity soccer team and she was the school's athletic director for three years.

Then in July of 2016, Brown was hired as the assistant principal at

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Caitlin Brown is the new principal at Andover High School.



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SCHOOL

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grade, starting with special education and cohorts of kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade," she said. "I think that would have allowed us to test out the logistics of the hybrid model and minimize the potential risks of bringing an entire cohort back at once."

Meanwhile, Berman says that the hybrid model is not infallible, but largely safe because the school system has followed all the official safety guidance coming from the Centers for Disease Control and the rate of positive COVID-19 tests in Andover and across the state is actually "pretty low."

"We are following all the CDC and local health protocols. Rita Casper, our nurse coordinator, has done a terrific job in putting forward protocols that are going to be effective for us," Berman said.

In the hybrid model, which is effectively a schedule of combined in-person and online learning, all students will be divided into two cohorts (called cohorts A and B).

Cohort A will attend school Monday and Tuesday and Cohort B will attend school Thursday and Friday. Meanwhile on Wednesday, there will be

online learning for both cohorts A and B. School officials say that having both groups home on Wednesday will allow for deep cleaning of the schools to take place. In addition, kindergarten to grade 5 siblings will be kept in the same cohorts in the fall. Siblings who take the bus together may sit in the same seats as well.

The School Committee recently submitted a report to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education detailing back-to-school plans; DESE required all schools in the state to come up with in-person, hybrid and entirely online options.

The Andover School Committee then voted on their preferred model Monday after submitting the report.

School officials say that in the coming days the district is going to provide further details on both the hybrid and Remote Academy return-to-school options to those in the APS school community through email and on the Andover Public Schools website.

For those interested, the Return-to-School Task Force is going to hold a public forum Thursday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.

The forum can be watched on Andover public access TV (Comcast channel 99, Verizon channel 43) or live-streamed at www.andovertv.org.

Plan is to move historic house to South Main Street

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

A local developer who bought a 160-year-old historic house from Phillips Academy has said since he bought it last year that he wants to move it somewhere else in town, rather than demolishing it. Now, he has a moving plan.

Developer Doug Ahern of Andover is teaming with local Realtor Bill Buck. They presented the plans for moving the house to the Preservation Commission at a recent meeting.

The historic house built in 1860 is located at 1 Judson Road, off Bartlet Street, in the Academy Hill National Historic District of Andover. According to the plan, it would be moved to a lot at 275 S. Main St.

Ahern bought the house last year from the Trustees of Phillips Academy for \$850,000. He and his family live on Argilla Road but want to move closer to downtown, he has said.

That's why he wants to move the historic property



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

The historic home at 1 Judson Rd. in Andover which the new owner plans to move to a different location.

from 1 Judson Road and build his new home there, within walking distance of downtown.

The commission was to take up the house moving plans again at the Tuesday, Aug. 11, meeting, which was after the deadline for this story.

"The review of plans for 1

Judson Road was continued to the next meeting," Preservation Chair Karen Van Welden-Herman wrote in an email.

If approved, it would be the second time Buck has moved a historic house to the lot at 275 S. Main St. In the summer of 2017, a historic bungalow on Porter

Road was moved to make way for a new housing development.

While the bungalow was successfully moved to the site three years ago, an entire side of it collapsed within days. It was eventually removed from the site and it's been vacant ever since.

BROWN

Continued from Page 1

Andover High School, a position she held for four years before being promoted to principal this summer after former Principal Philip Conrad left to take on a new role as Bedford Public Schools superintendent.

"I was so fortunate to have Phil as a mentor," Brown said. "He was so valuable to my professional development."

Brown's goals for the upcoming school year are to manage the reopening of the high school and support students and their families in the difficult process during the pandemic.

"As hard as this is, as we try to manage everything, I think I am really grateful for the people who are

supporting me, for the people who are around me, from superintendent to the assistant superintendent," she said. "And that's been very beneficial for me in this very unique time in history."

As for what she would like to change at the school, she said that's up to the community to decide.

"Even though I was an assistant principal here, I never want to come in here thinking that I have all the answers and that I know what needs to be changed," Brown said.

"I think one of the things I really want to do is collaborate with our faculty, and with our students and with our parent community to make Andover High School where they see it and identify areas (of improvement) for them."



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Jocelyn Maroun Sfeir and her husband, Richard Sfeir, own Jocelyn's restaurant in Salem, N.H. They are among a large, local Lebanese community with their eyes on Beirut after last week's deadly explosion.

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LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

Mums Facebook (page)."

International aid flights were sent to Beirut as leaders there struggled to deal with the widespread damage and shocking aftermath of two explosions that killed at least 220 people and injured some 7,000 more.

It's unclear what caused the explosions in a waterfront warehouse. The investigation is focusing on how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive chemical used in fertilizers, came to be stored at the facility for six years and why nothing was done about it.

Losses are estimated to be between \$10 billion to \$15 billion, Beirut Gov. Marwan Abboud told Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath, adding that nearly 300,000



GENEVIEVE DINATALE/ Staff photo

Bassam Vagher, owner of the Gulf gas station on Main Street in Andover, is encouraging people to donate to the Saint George Hospital University Medical Center in Beirut, Lebanon, following the deadly explosion that shook the country.

people are homeless.

"My parents are devastated. My parents said, 'God Bless America.' Thank God we came here," said Jocelyn Maroun Sfeir, a Methuen native who owns Jocelyn's restaurant in Salem, N.H.

She said her brother and his wife had planned to go to Lebanon to have their baby baptized this summer, but postponed the trip due to the pandemic.

"Many people go to Lebanon for the summer," she said, speaking of her Lebanese relatives and friends.

Maroun Sfeir said she has been monitoring news coverage and speaking with friends and relatives about the destruction. She and her husband, Richard Sfeir, who came to the United States 11 years ago, have hundreds of relatives and friends in Lebanon, she said.

Along with reports of blown-out buildings and

shattered glass throughout the city, Maroun Sfeir said she is also hearing accounts of generosity and kindness. People opened their living rooms to others, she said, caring for the wounded. Others helped neighbors clean up the rubble and cooked for one another.

"The air is toxic and yet they are focused on getting each other on their feet," she said. She encourages people here who would like to help to donate directly to the Red Cross in Lebanon.

Michael Geha, a Lebanese immigrant living in Haverhill and owner of the Phoenician restaurant, worries that donations to Lebanon could be stolen.

"I feel bad but what are we going to do?" questioned Geha, who came to the United States 30 years ago.

Geha was directly impacted by the explosions, losing a friend. Some of his family members were injured also, he said.

Too many houses, too many streets, too many cars, all down broken," he said.

In Andover, Vagher has been focused on raising donations for the Saint George Hospital University Medical Center in Beirut.

He said the hospital — the biggest and oldest in Lebanon — was seriously damaged.

He said people are donating money both to the hospital and the Red Cross.

He heard about the damage to the hospital through a childhood friend, Dr. Alexandre Nehme, the hospital's chief medical officer, he said. All seven buildings on its campus were severely damaged, forcing it to close for the first time in 200 years.

"It never stopped working, ever, even during the Lebanese civil war," Vagher said. "They need some money to get back on their feet."

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MEETING

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Clerk, Director of Public Health, Police Chief, and Fire Chief.

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

Rondon gas safety bill passes US Senate

Legislation named after Lawrence teen killed in 2018 disaster

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

A proposal to require monitors to supervise work on natural gas systems has passed the U.S. Senate as part of a pipeline safety bill. The measure named after Leonel Rondon, the Lawrence teenager killed in the Sept. 13, 2018 Merrimack Valley gas disaster, calls for other safety measures such as the instillation of pressure monitoring devices so that utility employees can quickly shut off gas flow in an emergency, among other provisions. The bill's primary sponsor, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Malden, said measure is aimed at averting future disasters. "The natural gas explosions were preventable, caused by carelessness, lax

oversight, and the prioritization of profit over public safety," Markey said in a statement. "The passage of this legislation through the Senate is a critical step toward accountability for bad actors and safer systems for all." A similar proposal was filed in the House of Representatives by Reps. Lori Trahan, D-Westford, and Seth Moulton, D-Salem, but hasn't come up for a vote. Increased monitoring of gas work was one recommendation by the National Transportation Safety Board in the aftermath of the disaster. Investigators found that the disaster had been preceded by years of glaring mistakes by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, including shoddy record keeping.

The swell of overpressurized gas through lines beneath Lawrence, Andover and North Andover fueled fires and explosions that destroyed five homes, damaged 131 properties, injured three firefighters and 19 civilians, and forced the evacuations of 50,000 people. The total cost of the disaster to Columbia Gas, its parent company and insurers has been estimated at more than \$1.6 billion. Approval of the measure comes as progress on many gas safety bills on Beacon Hill has sputtered amid the pandemic response. Dozens of bills calling for beefed up state regulations and better monitoring of natural gas systems are languishing in legislative committees. The state House of Representatives tucked a

proposal from Rep. Frank Moran, D-Lawrence, into a sweeping climate change bill it approved last week. Moran's plan calls for requiring state regulators to improve monitoring of gas lines, requiring utilities to have enough staff to respond to emergencies, and accelerating repairs to gas leaks. Gov. Charlie Baker has also taken steps to ensure the safety of the state's gas pipelines. He signed a new law last year requiring gas projects be reviewed by a certified professional engineer — also a recommendation from federal regulators. *Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cnihi.com.*

Income taxes battle begins to brew

NH governor challenges measure to keep remotely working residents paying Mass.

By MADELINE HUGHES
Staff Writer

When the Boston software company Alex Mordach worked for completely closed its office due to the pandemic, the Atkinson, New Hampshire, resident changed his filing status so he wouldn't have to pay Massachusetts income taxes while working from home. His change of employment conditions allowed him to reap a financial benefit of living in New Hampshire: no income tax. "I always felt like I was putting into something that I was never getting anything out of it," Mordach said. "This seems more like politics than practicality for me. Because taxes are about paying to pave the streets (and other government services). ... Those putting burden on the system should be paying."

safety and should not be penalized for their actions. I strongly encourage the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to withdraw this anti-worker tax rule change." At the federal level Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., introduced the Multi-State Worker Tax Fairness Act with Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., to clarify people only have to pay taxes to the state where they physically work. "At a time when many New Hampshire residents are teleworking from home in order to keep their families and their communities safe, it is completely unfair for Massachusetts to levy an income tax on these workers," Pappas said in a statement Friday. "The Multi-State Workers Tax Fairness Act eliminates overly complex and unfair burden on the system and ensures that employees will only be subject to the tax laws of their state when they telework. As we come together to deal with the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, I will continue to fight for the interests of Granite State families. I hope we can build bipartisan support for this bill, which would provide relief from unfair out-of-state taxes."

Because his previously-Boston-based employer actually shut down its physical offices, Mordach's welcome break from the 5% Massachusetts tax is allowable. However, thousands of other Granite Staters are expected to continue paying Massachusetts income taxes when working remotely from their New Hampshire homes because of an emergency order due to the pandemic. Over the past week, New Hampshire legislators from both sides of the aisle have voiced disapproval of the order. Massachusetts originally put it in place in April, and then last week extended it through the end of 2020 or 90 days after the state of emergency is lifted, whichever is first. The order says that anyone working remotely since March 10 specifically because of the pandemic who would otherwise be working in an office must still pay Massachusetts income taxes.

Wednesday Gov. Chris Sununu asked the New Hampshire Attorney General to investigate the legality of the rule. "We need to maintain that New Hampshire advantage at all costs," Republican Gov. Chris Sununu said in a statement Wednesday. "We will take immediate steps to stop any attempts to impose income taxes on Granite Staters in a manner that violates the law or the New Hampshire or United States Constitution."

There's a lot at stake. The rule could affect more than 80,000 New Hampshire residents who normally commute to Massachusetts for work, according to a study by New Hampshire Employment Security. Other legislators are echoing Sununu in asking for Massachusetts to review the rule. State Sens. Dan Feltes, D-Concord, chair of Senate Ways and Means Committee, and Lou D'Allesandro, D-Manchester, chair of Senate Finance Committee, both sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. "It is completely unfair to charge New Hampshire workers the Massachusetts income tax while they are not working in Massachusetts," said Feltes, a gubernatorial candidate, in a statement. "These workers are acting in everyone's best interest when it comes to public health and

In Atkinson, Mordach agrees that especially in tougher economic times, the money staying in the pockets of New Hampshire residents is important. "If they can get that little extra money back in their check it would make a difference," Mordach said. Previously New Hampshire residents who work in Massachusetts did not have to pay the Bay State's income tax if they could prove they were working remotely from home, according to Travis Terry, owner of the accounting firm Travis Terry CPA & Co. in Salem, New Hampshire. "Typically when filing taxes at the end of the year, Terry and other accountants could get those taxes refunded to New Hampshire residents. With the emergency rule, that may no longer be the case, he said. But, as Terry said, there's time to figure it out. "It's a 2020 issue, so we wouldn't be doing those taxes until April," he said.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue is holding a virtual public hearing for the order at 10 a.m. on Aug. 27. More information can be found at mass.gov/service-details/notice-of-public-hearing-august-27-2020.

Tractor trailer carrying fries bursts into flames

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

A tractor trailer carrying frozen french fries burst into flames Monday after running over a mattress that got caught in its wheel and brake area on Interstate 495. Andover Fire Rescue responded to the scene around 6:44 p.m. after several motorists on I-495 called in the fire, which took place in the southbound lane close to the Andover cloverleaf, according to a press release from Andover Fire Rescue. The Tewksbury, Lawrence and North Andover fire departments assisted in extinguishing the blaze, which officials say was tricky to put out. "Due to the fire's location on the highway, there was no available water supply and fire trucks had to shuttle water from the nearest fire hydrant located off of the highway in order to extinguish the fire," according to the statement. It was put out around



The tractor trailer pictured above carry frozen french fries burst into flames on I-495 in Andover Monday evening.

7:55 p.m., requiring about 4,000 gallons of water to extinguish. While the trailer and french fry shipment were destroyed, the tractor was saved. No one was injured.

"This was an extensive fire with an added layer of coordination and complexity since there wasn't a fire hydrant at the immediate scene," Andover Fire Rescue Chief Michael

Mansfield said in a statement. "Andover fire did a great job today, and I'm grateful for the other departments who were able to provide coverage during the blaze."

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

Susan McKelliget Andover Center for History & Culture

100 Years Ago: Aug. 13, 1920
Fourteen-year-old

John Witkoskie of Bruce Street, Lawrence, who was arrested Monday after he had entered the home of assistant Postmaster Frank S. McDonald on Chestnut Street where he had obtained \$40 in cash from a bureau, is wanted by the Lawrence, Haverhill and Methuen police on charges of breaking and entering residences and stores in those cities. Monday morning about 8 o'clock Mrs. McDonald was surprised to find a youth in her home and on asking him what he wanted, he said he thought it was a two-tenement house and he was looking for the party upstairs. Mrs. McDonald became suspicious and locking the door ordered the intruder to remain while she went upstairs and investigated. She found that \$40 was missing from her bureau and descending to the ground floor found that the youth had disappeared. She gave the alarm and notified her husband who with others joined in the chase and finally captured the thief on

Summer Street. Walter Seacole has sold his two-tenement house at the corner of North Main and Harding streets to Robert Franz of Marland village. The sale was made through the W.H. Higgins real estate agency.

75 Years Ago: Aug. 9, 1945
Because of the events of the past few days, the Andover Council of Churches announced Thursday that when peace comes, a union service of thanksgiving will be held in Christ church.

A tin can collection will be held Sunday, Aug. 19, starting at 1 p.m. and householders should have the cans on the curb by noon. It is hoped that the junior high school boys who assisted with the collections previously will report to the parking area at the playstead by 12:30 p.m.

Police Officer David Gillespie, involved in an altercation in South Lawrence

two weeks ago, submitted his resignation to the selectmen on Wednesday. It was accepted by the board.

Plans are almost completed for the gala three-day carnival of the Andover Servicemen's Fund Association to be held at the playstead August 23, 24 and 25. Tickets may be secured from Miss Birdsell in Mr. Winslow's office at the Town House or at the Shaw House on Main street.

50 Years Ago: Aug. 20, 1970
A photo caption reads, "Andover is well represented at Camp Nokomis, a Y.M.C.A. camp on Bear Island Lake Winnepesaukee, N.H. These senior campers are, Sally Francis, Joyce Abugov, Donna Diodati, Karen Weber, Diane Hartman, Carolyn Ramsdell, Susie Beroz, Elizabeth Jacobs, Jane Caswell, Karen Caughey, Carol Christopher and Robin Stupack."

The Recreation Department is assisting with the work of turning the former Central Fire Station (then located behind Old Town Hall) into a drop-in center for the young people of the town. The Student Activities Committee is in charge of the program to make the old fire station into an attractive meeting place.

Andover police arrested three youths—one of them a juvenile — in the parking lot of the Internal Revenue Service headquarters on Lowell Street early Wednesday morning and charged them with breaking into automobiles of IRS employees.

It's only a few days now until the playgrounds and the formal program at Poms Pond end for the season. Highlight of the playground season came Wednesday when some 200 boys and girls were taken to Canobie Lake in five buses for the annual Recreation Department outing.

TRACKING CORONAVIRUS

Here are the number of coronavirus case from towns and cities around the region as of Aug. 8.

ANDOVER	Total cases: 331	Deaths: 54
HAVERTHILL	Total cases: 1,283	Deaths: 66
LAWRENCE	Total cases: 3,824	Deaths: 134
METHUEN	Total cases: 1,086	Deaths: 63
NORTH ANDOVER	Total cases: 371	Deaths: 38

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Editor's Note: Owing to the COVID-19 situation, many events have been postponed or rescheduled, which has

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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.

AUG. 14
Rotary of Andover: Weekly meeting (7:15 to 7:30 a.m., breakfast; 7:45 to 8:15 a.m., presentation including Q&A; 8:15 to 8:30 a.m., conclusion/networking) at Lanam Club, 260 North Main St. Featured

speaker is Sheldon Berman, superintendent of Andover Public Schools. Guests and new members welcome — call Doug Mercurio, 978-276-3100; for information, visit RotaryAndover.com.

AUG 21
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce: Business Assistance Series Webinar Virtual Networking Mixer to promote your business, 10 a.m. Free; optional \$5 contribution appreciated. Register at web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-Webinar-Virtual-

Networking-Mixer-5030/details.
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast, 8 to 9:15 a.m. under the tent at Village Square Restaurant, 109 S. Main St. Cost \$10 for members, nonmembers \$20. For more information, visit web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/Networking-Breakfast-at-Village-Square-Restaurant-5029/ details.

SEPT. 21
Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce: 2020 Agritourism Conference at Smolak Farms, 315 S. Bradford St., North Andover, 8 to 9:15 a.m. With Keiko Matsudo Orrall, executive director, Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. Cost: optional \$5 fee. Register at web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-2020-Agritourism-Conference-with-Keiko-Matsudo-Orrall-Executive-Director-MA-Office-of-Travel-and-Tourism-5031/ details

■ BUSINESS BRIEF CASE

MVCC hosts golf tournament

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and Bank of New England hosted a socially distanced Golf Spectacular on Aug. 3. Golfers had the chance to network and make new business connections, promote their companies, enjoy the fresh air, and ate dinner at the Indian Ridge Country Club.

Collins joins Big Sister Boston board of directors

Kevin Collins of Andover recently joined the Big Sister Boston board of directors. Collins joins 26 current volunteer board members in providing fiscal and strategic oversight to the girl-serving mentoring organization that serves more than 4,200 women and girls annually throughout greater Boston. Collins is currently the chief advancement officer at Saint John's Preparatory School and brings with him a wealth of experience in fundraising and communications that will aid in driving revenue in support of Big Sister Boston's mission. Collins will support the implementation of Big Sister Boston's strategic plan, which includes initiatives to increase individual giving, create pathways for professional growth within the organization, provide more volunteer opportunities to Boston's corporate sector and leverage new technology to consolidate databases and streamline workflow and communications. Big Sister Boston is the only independently supported Big Brothers Big Sisters of America agency out of more than 250 across the country to solely serve women and girls and was recognized by BBBSA's Leadership Council as the 2015 National Agency of the Year. For more information, visit bigsister.org. For more information, visit lupolicompanies.com.

Entrepreneur launches K-beauty line in U.S.

Dermafirm USA, Inc. has announced the U.S. launch of BIOTOC, a new K-beauty skincare line that is a less invasive alternative to injectables. Originally slated for business-to-business, the company pivoted to direct-to-consumer due to COVID-19 stay-at-home behaviors. BIOTOC is a professional-grade, anti-aging facial treatment that's been reshaped to cater to consumers embracing the self-care trend. The line first launched in June in Korea to very positive reviews and is has begun officially fulfilling online orders in the U.S. market. Dermafirm, a South Korean cosmetic company, designated the U.S. as the first international market for this luxury line launch, following its home launch on Korea's GS SHOP, the HSN equivalent.



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Opinion

A near miss by Isaias

Winds were fierce but the remnants of Hurricane Isaias that blew through New England last week were less remarkable for any damage they caused locally than for what they may portend.

The storm tossed branches, patio furniture and a few trees. Here in town, a tree toppled over Clark Road and tangled into some wires. In Haverhill, a massive tree tipped onto Mayor James Fiorentini's house on Macon Avenue. Luckily, he reported, there was no major damage.

And over on the ninth hole at Ould Newbury Golf Club, the loss of a large limb signaled the probable demise of a hickory tree with a penchant for reaching out and grabbing golf balls. Club pro Jim Hilton told reporter Heather Alterisio it doesn't look like the tree can be saved — a blessing for many golfers, to be sure.

If you live in western Massachusetts, the passage of Isaias wasn't such a breezy affair and was more serious.

As of last Friday afternoon, nearly 5,000 National Grid customers between Worcester and Springfield were still waiting for the lights to come back on, nearly three days after the fact. It was a marked improvement from the nearly quarter-million in Massachusetts who lost power at the height of the tropical storm.

And, to be sure, the damages and outages around here paled by comparison to the havoc created by the storm in New York and New Jersey. An Eversource official in Connecticut conceded at a press conference on Friday that the storm's track had been "a little bit" of a surprise and its winds were "more significant" than expected, according to the Hartford Courant. About 323,000 people in that state were still without power Friday evening, down from about 1 million just after the storm passed.

Gov. Ned Lamont vented frustration at delays just in getting an estimate for when power would be restored — information that wasn't expected until Saturday.

"Tomorrow? You can't even tell us when my town might get electricity until tomorrow?" he said.

While this particular storm may be barely memorable in the Merrimack Valley, the struggles of others sound sharply familiar. It wasn't three years ago that a wind storm blew up into the Northeast, pulling down trees and power lines as it went, leaving thousands of people in the dark. That outage lasted four days in some parts of Andover. And that storm didn't even have a name.

In the aftermath, National Grid, which had to replace 311 poles, 90 transformers and 32,000 feet of line lost to that bout of weather, issued a report noting it had been caught off guard.

It's only a matter of time — probably just a matter of weeks — before it happens again.

Our pessimism is well founded. Researchers at Colorado State University say they're expecting a hurricane season with twice as many storms, both overall and intense storms, as we see in a normal year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, meanwhile, is telling people to brace for an "extremely active" hurricane season.

As if all the remote working and remote schooling brought on by COVID-19 precautions needed another layer of complication, what's going to happen when we're spending our days waiting for an estimate for when the power will be restored?

When the unnamed windstorm plunged many in this region into darkness a few years ago, a number of local leaders called on local electric utilities to be faster and clearer with information about when power will be restored. Let's hope they've learned their lesson.

We'd all do well to pack away some flashlights, batteries and extra provisions that don't need to be cooked with electricity, just to prepare for a major storm. Because if a big hurricane is going to hit and tear up trees and knock out power for nearly a week, well, this seems to be the year for something like that to happen.

Coming up on Andover's 375th birthday



Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History & Culture

It was 1946, and the town of Andover was flush from celebrating the end of the war and in a mood to give a nod to the town's 300th Birthday.

Throughout that year, there were parades, festivities and all manner of testimonials to the land that Chief Cutshumache is said to have "begot himself a coat and six English pounds — the cost to him being only what has now become the town of Andover."

The town seal and flag depict this scene.

The Andover Townsman editor at the time, Elmer Grover, sought to honor the Town's 300th with a souvenir book intended to show the future townspeople what Andover was like in 1946.

Dedications in grateful memory for those who fought in World War II were a big part of that story.

The folks who worked to put this book together, "Andover, What It Was, What It Is," wanted to show what had gone on in the past. But just as importantly, they had a keen eye toward the future.

Grover noted that "we couldn't help but wonder if 50 years from now another editor of the Townsman might be reprinting part of this book to show the Andoverites of 1996 how funny were the people and the customs of the Andover of 1946."

I suppose he couldn't even imagine jumping ahead to what will be Andover's 375th birthday next year.

At the time, downtown Andover was going through the beginnings of change — later known as a grander scale as urban development.

Where buildings were concerned, what was old was considered ugly and what was sleek, new and modern was all the rage.

A number of mansions

along Main Street, mainly Victorian in style, were pulled down and replaced by parking lots, service stations and retail shops. Those shops included Sutherlands, Phinney's TV and Records, Yankee Lady, Mary Ann's Card & Yarn Shop, and William's Jewelry.

At the corner of High and Elm Streets was the Square and Compass Club built in the Italianate style as the former Flint family mansion, then serving as the Masonic building and housing other organizations. It was replaced with the current brick and glass office building known as the Standard International Building, 1 Elm St.

Perhaps the most well known attempt to swap out a handsome brick building for a more modern counterpart is the Old Town Hall. The stories are legion of the attempt by many in town to tear this "barn" down and remove the "eyesore" that some felt it to be, as well as the story about how it was saved — and only narrowly — from the wrecking ball.

The Town House/Old Town Hall was certainly on

the mind of Grover back in 1946. He worried how in 1996 the editor would feel about that "disgrace" if it was still around.

The true measure of how many in the town felt was summed up as, "It looks very much like it will take lightning or an atomic bomb to really get rid of a monstrosity that most everybody in town ridicules, but about which nobody does anything about."

I think most of us "future" Andoverites are happy that the Town House was not leveled by either lightning or bomb, and most importantly was not taken down by the passing fashion for a certain type of "modern" look that all too many towns and cities have today.

What looked "old fashioned" and outdated then in our town, today looks pretty good.

An editorial about how the town looks in 2021 during its next big birthday will no doubt surprise future generations of Andoverites, as sometimes history does repeat itself.

The problem with Andover's open Town Meeting

Richard Howe

We Americans are proud of our democracy, and in this election year we are selecting leaders from president down to the local School Committee. At every level, we select office holders to represent us when they decide important issues impacting our nation, our state or our community.

This is true all across the country — except in New England. Here many small towns have a unique form of government called the open town meeting.

In this structure, the legislative body is not made up of members elected by the voters, but rather the voters themselves, or at least those who are able and willing to attend open town meeting for two or three spring evenings, lasting about three hours each night.

With open town meeting, those voters who can't attend in person lose their chance to vote. Perhaps these are voters

who work at night, or are too tired from a day of work to attend, or want to spend time with their families, or are attending a child's sports game or dance recital, or who prefer not to go out at night.

All of those absent voters are unrepresented at town meeting.

An average Andover Town Meeting includes about 500 voters, though attendance has been as low as 250 on two occasions in the past 10 years. Yet even with 500 present, that means about 98% of our town's registered voters are not participating.

To many of us, this doesn't seem like "the purest form of democracy" that open town meeting supporters are so proud of.

Fortunately, last September, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan appointed a Town Governance Study Committee of 10 Andover citizens charged with "studying and proposing beneficial amendments to the town's charter, bylaws and governing practices."

To assist in the committee's fact-finding and analysis, Flanagan provided consulting help from two experienced former municipal officials, Bernard Lynch and John Petrin of Community Paradigm Associates LLC. The consultants outlined three alternative forms of local government besides open town meeting -- representative town meeting, council/manager and council/mayor.

They noted that Massachusetts local government does not follow the trends in the rest of the country. Nationwide 55% of municipalities now have the council/manager form, and another 34% have the council/mayor form.

Town Meetings, both open and representative forms, exist only in New England.

In Massachusetts, the consultants noted, Andover is the only town with more than 30,000 residents that still has an open town meeting. Andover's population is now more than 36,000 and has grown about 10% in the

past 10 years. Of communities above 30,000 population, 33 cities, most of them older and larger, have the council/mayor form.

Ten municipalities above 30,000 have representative town meetings, and nine have the council/manager form.

All of them elect leaders to represent them in deciding on all important municipal issues.

Except Andover. What do all these other cities and towns know that we haven't realized yet?

Richard Howe, who has attended Town Meeting regularly since moving to Andover 18 years ago, was a member of the town Finance Committee for six years. His local government experience also includes serving as an alderman in Melrose, town administrator in Easton, representative town meeting member in Lexington and executive director of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humility and work ethic drive Moran's fight for district

Editor, Townsman:

Rep. Frank Moran has earned my vote for state representative of the 17th Essex District to represent Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, and I humbly ask that your readers join me. Here is why.

As mayor in Lawrence and a constituent that lives in this district, I have had a

front row seat to the leadership that Moran brings to our communities.

When it was time to fight for more funds for English classes for new immigrants, Moran was there. When it was time to fight for the rail trail that will eventually pass through Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, Moran was there.

Voting to bring much needed education funding to our communities, Moran was there. Running basketball tournaments for our

youth, supporting families during the Merrimack Valley gas crisis and bringing masks to our seniors to protect them from COVID-19 — Moran has been there for us.

Moran watched his immigrant parents build a life in Lawrence after coming here from the Dominican Republic.

So he bagged groceries at Market Basket while in high school. He married his high school sweetheart. They went on to build a life

together where he would coach his son's Little League team when he wasn't working at Honeywell, and later building a successful real estate business.

Today we need people in our state government that will fight for our priorities. Moran has done that. That is why he has earned my vote and why I urge readers to vote for Rep. Frank Moran in the Democratic primary on Sept. 1.

MAYOR DAN RIVERA
Lawrence

WEB QUESTION

How are you voting this fall?

Due to the pandemic, Secretary of State Bill Galvin sent vote-by-mail applications for the Sept. 1 primaries and the Nov. 3 general election to all registered voters in Massachusetts. Voters who want to avoid contact with people at the polls may complete and return the application to the town clerk, who will then send them a ballot.

Will you vote from the comfort of your home, or in person?

Note: For information about how to cast your ballot, how to register to vote, how to vote early and updated polling locations, visit www.andoverma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=388 or call the town clerk's office at (978) 623-8230.

VOTING BY MAIL: I'm doing my civic duty but I'm not taking chances. I'm filling in my ballot at home and returning it by mail.

VOTING EARLY: I'm voting in person but I'll avoid the big crowds at the polls by voting early, from Aug. 22 through Aug. 28 for the primary election, down at the high school's field house.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY: If we can figure out how to eat dinner at a restaurant safely, we can vote safely. I'm casting my ballot in person on Election Day at my voting precinct.

Last week's question
Is it safe to go back to school?

A 60-person task force spent weeks hammering out plans to send Andover children

back to school in September under one of three possible premises — a return to class, remote learning or some hybrid thereof.

Setting aside the complicated logistics, many parents, teachers and school officials are concerned about the health risks associated with putting children on buses and sending them back in the middle of a pandemic. Others worry that students are getting lost without a physical connection to the classroom.

Which is the best course for Andover?

TIME TO GO BACK: Andover students and teachers should be able to go back to class with the proper precautions — mask-wearing, social distancing, testing and

quarantines when necessary. It won't be easy but classroom learning beats the alternatives. **(24 votes)**

LITTLE OF BOTH: It's impractical to bring everyone back at once, so let's find a plan that sends some kids back on some days. This limits exposure, thus protecting the health of teachers and students. It also preserves some of the benefits of in-class time. **(22 votes)**

REMOTE LEARNING: There's no safe way to send your kid to school, whether it's with every other kid in the district or only certain kids on certain days. Those plans aren't safe for teachers or really the community. Remote learning may be limited but it is the safest option. **(29 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, bcantwell@andovertownsmen.com

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

■ **Reporter Genevieve DiNatale** at 978-691-8723, or gdnatale@andovertownsmen.com

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

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

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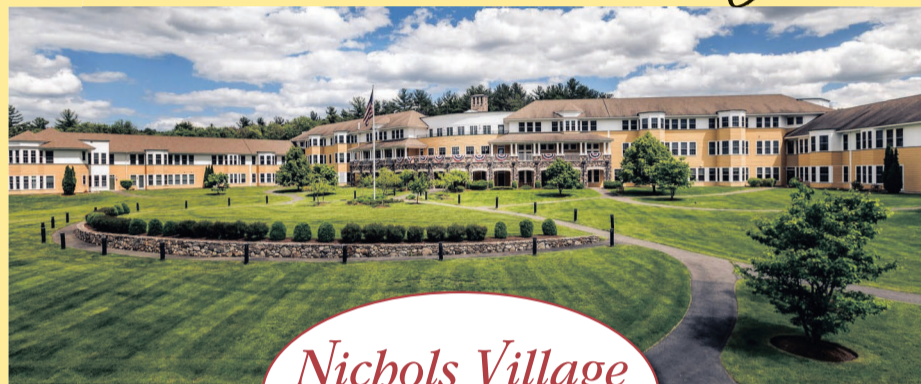
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6th District candidates spar in lively debate

By ETHAN FORMAN
Staff Writer

A question about promoting women in politics had two challengers to incumbent U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton,



Seth Moulton



Angus McQuilken



Jamie Zahlaway Belsito

Topsfield.

The debate, in which candidates tried to differentiate themselves on issues ranging from climate change, the Black Lives Matter movement, policing reform and trains and transportation, had candidates sparring from remote locations via Zoom due to safety concerns due to the pandemic. The debate, broadcast by 1623 Studios in Gloucester, was moderated by The Salem News Editor David Olson. The Salem News is a sister paper to the Andover Townsman.

Belsito, a trustee of Salem State University and a nationwide advocate for mental health and maternal mental health, pointed out that Moulton had twice wanted Pelosi to step down as the Democratic leader. So, she called his office.

"The congressman, not once but twice called for Nancy Pelosi to step down," she said. "I had a very big issue with that because the women in this district did not feel represented. And that really is it. It was a white man calling out a woman who had put her blood, sweat and tears to get to the place where she was at."

A lot of women in the district are still angry at Moulton's challenge to Pelosi, Belsito said.

"And yes, I will use the word 'angry,' because we deserve to be angry when we are told to sit in a corner, or sit at the child's table," Belsito said.

"Seth, I just have to say," McQuilken said, "trying to

NGUYEN TO MODERATE NEXT DEBATE

The next conversation-style debate will be hosted by the Route 3/93 DTC Coalition, moderated by State Rep. Tram Nguyen, D-Andover, on Aug. 13, 7 to 9 p.m. at North Andover CAM, 70 Main St., North Andover. There will be no audience due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the debate will be streamed live and taped for future playing.

oust the first women ever to hold the position of speaker of the House of the United States out of ego and ambition was simply the wrong priority, and I think just to emphasize again one of the differences between us is our priorities."

"David, I think I deserve a chance to respond to that," said Moulton, who got a minute to rebut this accusation.

"I was elected on a promise to bring new leaders to Washington, and I've kept my word," Moulton said. "Now, Nancy Pelosi is doing a very good job of standing up to Donald Trump and I've praised her for that. After we reached a deal between us to ensure that our new generation would have a voice, I voted for her, and I voted for her three times. There is a time to be on the same team and a time to vote for captain."

Moulton touted his ability to get his legislation in bills and attract more than a \$1 billion to the district.

"Pelosi has clearly moved beyond this leadership fight. I've moved beyond it," Moulton said. "The only people who want to drag us backward into it are my opponents."

The back and forth came after Olson asked candidates what they would do to ensure women's voices are heard and their rights protected.

Moulton, who grew up in Marblehead, spoke about his Serve America organization's effort in the midterms "to support and elect the most diverse class, freshman class, in the House of Representatives in American history." This included may service-oriented and veteran women.

McQuilken said because of his daughter, he felt strongly about women having a seat at the table in policy making.

"I want her to have every opportunity to lead, and to play a role in society to make society better," said McQuilken, who said he has worked his entire career to help women get elected. He managed the campaign of former Democratic state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, the state's first openly lesbian senator.

"Together, we had the opportunity to lead the fight for marriage equality," McQuilken said. He noted he spent four years running advocacy programs for Planned Parenthood and served as the chairman of the Massachusetts Coalition for Choice.

"We took on important fights, and we won," McQuilken said.

Moulton came back at Belsito, saying that in 2014, she was "working hard" to get

Wakefield Republican Richard Tisei elected to Congress against him in the general election. Tisei, Moulton said, promised to vote against Pelosi, while he said he voted for her.

Belsito rebutted Moulton, saying he held a joint fundraiser in Danvers with Tisei after Moulton won "and that we weren't going to have these sparring issues between Democrats and Republicans."

"I also want to bring up the fact that I did support Tisei," Belsito said. She did so because he was backed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, which at the time backed postpartum depression legislation, an issue she "almost lost her life to," and has dedicated her efforts to over the past several years.

Tisei, she said, used to represent Reading, the town she grew up in, as a state senator from 1991 to 2011.

Not all the fire was aimed at Moulton, however.

McQuilken said he was the only life-long progressive Democrat in the race, co-founding the Young Democrats of Massachusetts, serving on the Democratic State Committee and as deputy communications director for the Democratic National Convention Committee.

He brought up past Tweets from Belsito's personal account "and I'm just shocked at what you have had to say about Democrats." He asked how she could present herself as a progressive Democrat when her history appeared to be aligned with the Republican party, and that she was appointed a Salem State trustee by a Republican governor, Charlie Baker. Belsito has said she was unenrolled before becoming a Democrat in 2016.

"So, Angus, when you can start talking about the issues, instead of the fact you lost a seat down the South Shore, and then moved to Weston and then moved up here and is now running for a district you know nothing about, then we can talk," Belsito said.

The Northern Essex Debate premiered on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.

The 6th Congressional District debate was sponsored by a coalition of 12 city and town Democratic committees and Indivisible RISE Newburyport, the Indivisible MA 06 Collaborative and the North Shore Committee of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus. These organizations represent Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, Topsfield and West Newbury.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, AUG. 13**
- RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Saint Augustine Church, 35 Essex St., Andover. Urgent need for blood. All blood product donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies, providing insight into possible past exposure to this coronavirus. Only those feeling healthy and well should present to donate, and appointments are strongly encouraged. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcross-blood.org.
 - MONDAY, AUG. 17**
 - MOVIE NIGHT MONDAYS ON HAMPTON BEACH**, large screen next to the playground, at dusk. All movies are family-friendly; bring a blanket or chair to sit on and refreshments or snacks. Due to Covid-19, wear a mask and/or practice social distancing. Free. Aug 17, "Frozen II," 7:41 p.m.; Aug. 24, "Arctic Dogs," 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 31, "Toy Story 4," 7:18 p.m. For updates, visit facebook.com/HamptonNHBeach.
- THURSDAY, AUG. 20**
- VIRTUAL DEATH CAFE**, 3 p.m. A monthly afternoon of open, lively, and insightful discussion about death (adults only, please). While not a support group nor a venue for bereavement, a Death Cafe seeks to provide an unscripted, nonjudgmental platform for those wishing to explore the many facets of this often-taboo subject. Hosted by Andover resident Richard Davis. Space is limited, register by calling 978-623-8430; Zoom link will be sent the morning of the event. For more information, contact Stefani Traina at straina@mhl.org or 978-623-8451.
 - SATURDAY, AUG. 22**
 - SIXTH ANNUAL BLUES FESTIVAL**, Londonderry Commons, corner of and Pillsbury roads, Londonderry, noon to 4 p.m. Featuring Adam McMahon Blues Band, Larry Dougher Blues Band, Dr. Harp's All Veteran Blues Band. Free. Proceeds to benefit Combat Vets Organization. For more information, visit combatvetshv1.org and combatvets52.com/.




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Craft brewers await vote on distribution deal

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Craft brewers and beer wholesalers are nudging lawmakers to sign off on a deal to resolve a decade-long dispute over distribution rights, warning that a delay will worsen the microbrew industry's economic situation.

Last month, the sides reached an agreement to give small brewers more flexibility and backed a legislative proposal to establish what they say is a fairer process of resolving disputes.

The Massachusetts Senate approved the deal 40-0 two weeks ago, but the House of Representatives hasn't taken it up yet.

Sam Hendler, president of

"We're on the one yard line. We're really hoping they can figure out a way to get this done for us as soon as possible to provide some flexibility and relief for brewers."

Sam Hendler, president of the Massachusetts Brewers Guild

the Massachusetts Brewers Guild and a lead negotiator on the deal, said he remains hopeful that the House will approve the settlement and send it to Gov. Charlie Baker for consideration.

"We're on the one yard line," he said. "We're really hoping they can figure out a way to get this done for us as soon as possible to provide some flexibility and relief for brewers."

Microbrewers are struggling amid the economic

fallout from the coronavirus, he said, and some won't survive if they have to wait much longer.

Hendler, a co-founder of Jack's Abby and Springdale Beer Company in Framingham, said he doesn't think the settlement has hit any last-minute snags.

House Speaker Robert DeLeo, D-Winthrop, has encouraged the sides to settle the dispute, and there doesn't appear to be any vocal opposition.

"Honestly, I think it's just a matter of putting it up for a vote," he said. "We understand that that lawmakers have a lot on their plate right now."

Massachusetts is the birthplace of the craft-beer revolution and now boasts more than 200 microbreweries, including local companies like The Tap in Haverhill, Oak and Iron in Andover, among several others in the Merrimack Valley and beyond.

But craft beer purveyors have fought for years for independence from strict provisions of a nearly 50-year-old law binding them to distribution agreements.

Under the state's three-tier alcohol distribution

system, beer funnels from supplier through wholesaler to the shelves of package stores. Brewers are locked into franchise agreements with wholesalers after six months of doing business. Those who want to sever a relationship must appeal to the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission and show "good cause."

The state doesn't require brewers to use a wholesaler, but many choose to do so, given the challenges of breaking into an already crowded beer market.

Under the new deal, breweries that produce fewer than 250,000 barrels of beer in a year would be allowed to terminate their wholesaler contracts by giving

30 days' notice and paying "fair market value" for their brand rights. Brewers would have to buy back the wholesaler's inventory and promotional materials, among other requirements.

Hendler said while some craft brewers are surviving the pandemic with retail sales, others that operate taprooms shutdown by the state of emergency are struggling.

"That really goes to the heart of the issue that the settlement seeks to resolve," he said. "Brewers need flexibility to survive this unprecedented challenge."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites.

Critics warn of cost of Mass. climate change bills

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Lawmakers will huddle to work out differences between plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but critics worry that any proposal will drive up consumer costs and slow recovery of the state's pandemic-battered economy.

Last week, the state House of Representatives approved a sweeping climate change bill that puts Massachusetts on a path toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and sets targets for solar energy expansion, power grid modernization and energy efficiency.

The Senate approved an even more aggressive bill in January, before the coronavirus outbreak, also calling for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and deadlines for the state to impose carbon-pricing plans for the transportation sector, commercial buildings and homes.

Differences between the bills must still be worked out by a six-member conference committee, and advocates on both sides are gearing up for a behind-the-scenes fight.

Critics of the plans say they will raise energy prices and create other costs for businesses and consumers by limiting the kinds of appliances they can buy.

"Businesses are struggling to keep their doors open at this point," said Chris Carozzi, state director for the National Federation of Independent Businesses. "Tacking on any additional costs would be very problematic."

He said environmental and energy policies that drive up costs will hold back the economy.

"We don't know how long recovery will take, so lawmakers should think very carefully about approving anything that increases costs," Carozzi said.

Meanwhile, environmentalists are pushing for tougher rules to move the state away from its reliance on fossil fuels for heat and electricity.

"There's no doubt it's going to require a significant investment to achieve 100% renewable energy," said Ben Hellerstein, of Environment Massachusetts. "But the longer we delay making this transition, the more costly and difficult it will become."

The state's 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

Gov. Charlie Baker and legislative leaders agreed to push for a "net-zero" carbon economy by 2050, where emissions from gas-guzzling cars and home heating oil are substantially replaced by electric vehicles and by energy from wind, solar and other renewable sources.

To help accomplish that, the House and Senate proposals would authorize a carbon-pricing system, such as the regional Transportation and Climate Initiative the Baker administration has championed.

Baker has scoffed at the idea of increasing taxes amid the pandemic, but he still supports the regional initiative that would be funded, in part, by increasing gas taxes.

The conservative Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance said plans being negotiated by lawmakers would be a "back door" to climate tax proposals that will drive up costs.

"The sheer amount of new and higher taxes, along with the increased layers of regulations, will position Massachusetts as the most

expensive and highly taxed state in the country," said MassFiscal spokesman Paul Craney.

Christian M. Wade covers

the Massachusetts Statehouse for The Salem News and its sister newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cni.com.



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OBITUARIES

Joan Lewis Orrick, 83

October 3, 1936 - July 26, 2020

ANDOVER — Joan Lewis Orrick, a longtime resident of Andover, died Sunday, July 26, following complications that developed after she began cancer treatment. She was 83.

Born Joan Roda Lewis in Nyack, N.Y., she spent much of her childhood in Washington, Conn., the oldest of three girls, on a poultry farm run by her father.

She graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1958 with a degree in nursing. She moved to Boston and worked as a registered nurse at Mass General, a few blocks from her apartment. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Nick, at a single's mixer in Boston.

They married and bought a house in Andover in 1970, where they stayed for the next 50 years. They had two children, Jennifer and Dave, and became active in the community. Joan served as president of the Andona Society from 1980 to 1982. Occasionally, she donned a clown suit for Clown Town -- to the delight of her kids.

Joan worked as a nurse, mostly at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford, until she retired in her seventies. But caregiving was more than just a professional calling for her; her identity was wrapped in it. At home, she often took on the role of neighborhood nurse, tending to the bee stings, scrapes and cuts of neighborhood children. She took in her father, Ernie, in the last years of his life. And when Nick was struck with a neurological disorder, she strode into the role of caring for him without hesitation.

Last year, Nick and Joan moved into Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover. Nick died there in May,

with Joan at his bedside. She loved the ballet, classical music and reading. For years she was a dedicated skier, and winters were often scheduled around ski weekends with family and friends. She had the travel bug, and a ski trip to Europe and Wyoming was always on the horizon.

In her younger years, she played tennis, before matriculating to golf. In later years, she treasured time with her three grandchildren, Ali, Bella and Tima -- all of whom looked forward to the Christmas tradition of her homemade grasshopper pie.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck, Joan went to temporarily live with her daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Fred Carter, and two granddaughters, in Salem, N.H. Those months would prove to be a treasure.

This spring, Joan was diagnosed with cancer. Shortly after she began chemotherapy, she developed an infection that led her to Mass General. She died peacefully there, in a room overlooking the Charles River Esplanade, blocks from her old apartment, with her two children at her bedside.

She was preceded in death by her husband Nick and sister Jane. Survivors include sister, Ann Wallin of Fairfield, Conn.; son, Dave of St. Paul, Minn., daughter, Jennifer Carter of Salem, N.H., three grandchildren, two nephews, and numerous cousins.

She was cremated and her ashes will be scattered in accordance with her wishes. A memorial will be planned when it's safe to do so.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Cancer Society.



The group forms a circle for conversation and prayer at the vigil.

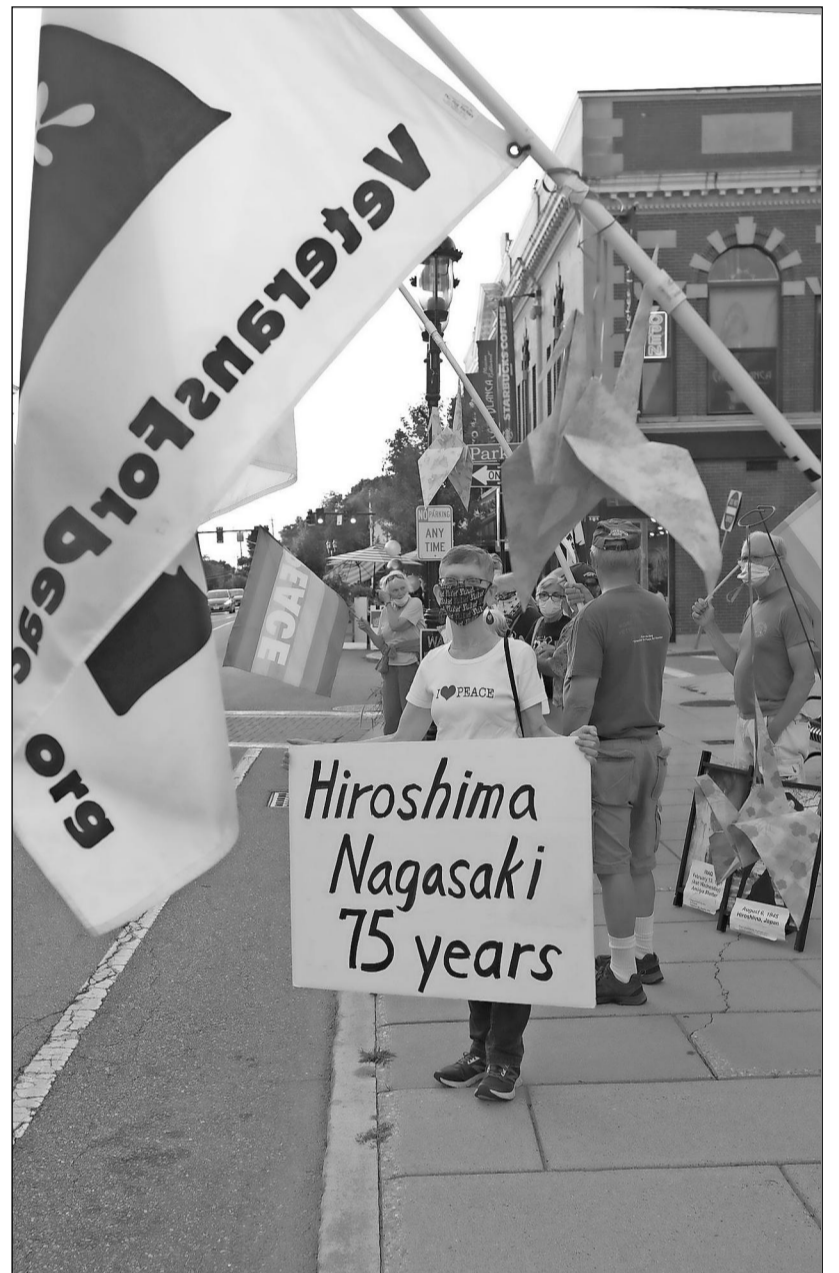
Moments of silence keep memories alive

PHOTOS BY TIM JEAN

Members of Merrimack Valley People for Peace assembled in front of Old Town Hall on Aug. 6 for a silent vigil to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the use of nuclear weapons on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan that helped end World War II.



Members of the Merrimack Valley People for Peace hold signs communicating their messages.



A participant displays a sign as one of the Merrimack Valley People for Peace flags hang in the foreground.

POLICE LOG

SUNDAY, AUG. 9

Suspicious Activity: A caller reports her dog walker told her that she arrived at her home and her father was sitting on the couch inside the house. The caller reported that her father does not live at the house and never has. Her parents were divorced in 2017 and her mother purchased the house after the divorce. The caller and her mother were out of town. An officer checked the house with the dog sitter and didn't find anyone, Lincoln Street, 10:44 p.m.

Suspicious Activity: A caller requested to speak to an officer saying that someone texted him pictures of body parts, Lowell Street, 8:59 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 8

Suspicious Activity: A caller reports that someone in MA 7RKF60 took pictures and a video of her children that were out playing field hockey, Hay Bale Road, 5:07 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7

Request Officer: A caller reports a man in a running vehicle sleeping in her driveway, Andover Street, 7:18 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

Vandalism: Report of vandalism at the ropes course next to the soccer fields. Detectives took photos, Shawsheen Road, 4:30 p.m.

Request Officer: A manager at MKS Instruments Inc. requested an officer after firing an employee who became angry and yelled at them, Shattuck Road, 11:36 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5

Well Being Check: A caller reported a gold Toyota Camara with four people sleeping in it parked next to a dumpster. Police report that the car has temporary Maine plates and inside the vehicle officers recovered property from a victim in Maine. A summons was issued, Tech Drive, 7:35 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 4

Service Request: An officer reports that a trash bag was hit by a vehicle and trash is all over the road. The Highway Department was left a message, Abbott Street, 12:05 a.m.

Unwanted Guest: A resident said that the construction workers at his home are refusing to leave after he told them to go. An officer reports that the workers were assisted in retrieving the rest of their tools, Jordyn Lane, 11:19 a.m.

Service Request: A stop sign was missing, the DPW was

notified, Chandler Road, 11:26 a.m.

Service Request: A fire deputy reports that a tree is down blocking half the road, Tree Department was notified, Shawsheen Road, 4:23 p.m.

Unwanted Guest: A front desk employee requested an officer to remove a woman who threw food at her and stole some items. An officer reports that the woman was given a verbal no trespass warning, Tech Drive, 5:52 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 3

Suspicious Activity: A caller reported a man in a gold Ford who appeared to be taking drugs parked in front of the CVS. Officers report that the man was summoned for possession of a Class A substance, Main Street, 7:05 a.m.

Threats: An employee called in to talk to an officer about an issue with another employee, Burt Road, 8:34 a.m.

Crash: A caller reported that a moving truck door hit their vehicle, Lincoln Street, 12:43 p.m.

Service Request: A caller reports a pole down with trees on fire. National Grid was notified and Fire Department is on the scene, River Street, 3:28 p.m.

Request Officer: A caller reports that when he stopped to ask a man who happened to be in the middle of the street if he was okay, the man jumped into his car and threatened him, Bailey Road, 1:39 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 2

Noise Complaint: A caller reported a large party. A sergeant reported to the scene and found a small gathering that was taken inside. There was a complaint about someone getting pushed, Twin Brooks Circle, 2:14 a.m.

Suspicious Activity: A resident reports that a car was parked in his driveway for 45 minutes. The driver then got out and walked around their home. The caller then found a soda can with a note on it. An officer reports that a young man had left a love note on a can of Sprite, Haggetts Pond Road, 12:53 a.m.

Motor Vehicle Complaint: A caller reports that he got a call from his cousin who, while delivering newspapers, found his vehicle that was stolen out of Lawrence, Casimere Street, 5:51 a.m.

Dog Complaint: A caller reports that he found a bull dog and has it on his porch, Boston Road, 9:17 a.m.

Baker puts 'high-risk' communities on notice

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Gov. Charlie Baker is putting more than two dozen cities and towns with rising COVID-19 infection rates on notice that they will be subject to beefed-up enforcement of the state's reopening rules.

Baker said at least 33 communities, including Lawrence, have average daily infection rates higher than the four cases per 100,000 residents the state is using as a benchmark based on federal health guidelines.

"The good news is that the vast majority of communities are experiencing low COVID case numbers, and most are seeing trends that are moving in the right direction," Baker told reporters at a Statehouse briefing Tuesday. "However, there are about 33 communities ... that will require specific strategies to battle COVID-19."

Baker said the state's intention isn't to shame communities but to direct federal and state aid to help them

battle the virus and enforce the reopening rules. Access to businesses, parks or playgrounds also may be limited in higher-risk communities if infections can be traced back to those venues.

The Baker administration released a color-coded map showing communities near or over the high-risk mark. Four cities shaded red — Revere, Chelsea, Everett and Lynn — report a daily infection rate of eight or more cases per 100,000 residents.

Twenty-nine others shaded yellow — including Salem, Lawrence, Peabody, Middleton and Georgetown — report an infection rate of more than four cases per 100,000 residents, when adjusting for their actual populations, which in all cases are significantly smaller.

A number of other cities and towns were shaded green on the state's map to indicate fewer than four cases per 100,000. They include Gloucester, Methuen, Haverhill, Andover, North Andover, Ipswich and

Swampscott, the governor's hometown.

Most communities in the state were not shaded, meaning they have fewer than five total cases of COVID-19.

Baker's announcement comes as his administration puts the brakes on reopening amid an uptick in COVID-19 infections. Beginning Tuesday, the size of outdoor gatherings allowed in Massachusetts dropped from 100 to 50 at both public and private locations.

A new executive order signed by Baker on Friday requires everyone over age 2 to wear a face covering at organized gatherings of more than 10 people involving more than one household.

The Baker administration is also postponing step two of phase 3 of the state's reopening plan in an effort to decrease new virus cases. The changes will affect indoor theaters and recreational venues — such as roller skating rinks, laser tag and trampoline parks — which are considered high risk because of

the potential for close contact. State and local police have been given the authority to enforce the reopening rules and issue tickets up to \$500 for each violation.

Baker attributes the recent uptick, in part, to COVID-19 clusters caused by parties and other large gatherings where people were not wearing face coverings or social distancing.

As of Tuesday, Massachusetts had reported 112,969 virus cases and 8,529 deaths since the outbreak began in mid-March.

Geoff Beckwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, said the governor's decision to identify communities at higher risk makes sense.

"The state has finite resources to battle this virus," he said. "So this targeted approach will make sure that the administration is providing the support to cities and towns where there may be greater than average spread of infections."

Police investigate altercation on Whittier Street

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Police are investigating an altercation that took place between two men on Whittier Street late Friday night.

Andover police

spokesperson Lieutenant Edward Guy said a resident of 60 Whittier St. came out of his home that night when he heard a man and woman screaming at each other during a party down the street.

Guy said the 60 Whittier St. resident encountered a

young Black-Hispanic man leaving the party and the two began arguing.

After the argument, the young man got into his car, backed into a curb, popped two of his tires and drove off, Guy said.

Guy added that the

incident had nothing to do with the race of the individuals involved.

"There was nothing racially motivated," Guy said. "He blew his tires as he backed up and hit a curb."

Guy said the incident remains under investigation.

Man reports getting texts of dismembered body parts

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

A resident of Lowell Street called police Sunday saying he had received four or five text messages

containing photos of dismembered body parts, police say.

Andover police spokesperson Lieutenant Edward Guy said the text messages also included information

about the recipient's family. "Based on recent similar incidents, it appears this is a type of phishing scam in an attempt to extort money," Guy stated.

The Andover Police

Department is currently investigating this incident. Anyone who receives messages like these is asked to contact the Andover Police Department at 978-475-0411.



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Townspeople



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Sarah Foley indicates how old her daughter, Naomi, will be on her birthday on Wednesday, August 12. Naomi was beating the heat on Tuesday with her mother and grandparents at Poms Pond.

HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT

Temperatures in the 90s sent people in Andover out in search of a cool spot on Tuesday.

Friends gathered for socially distant visits in the shade of trees at The Park

while kids paddled in Poms Pond.

The heat wave impacting much of New England kept things in the Merrimack Valley toasty for the first half of the week.



A Poms Pond lifeguard keeps her eye on the swimmers as they beat the heat Tuesday afternoon.



Hudson Dascoli, 4, splashes around to beat the heat at Poms Pond.



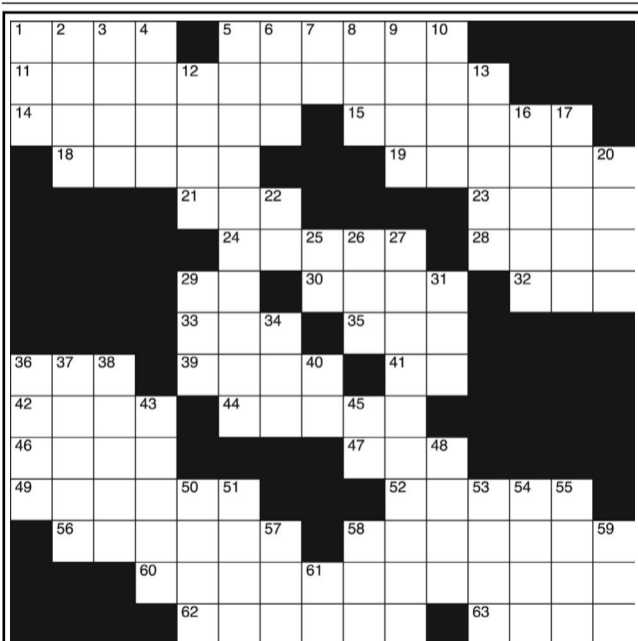
Sam Worley, left and Frank Nigh, friends for 30 years find a bench in the shade at The Park Tuesday afternoon. Sam, originally from Texas, knows a cowboy hat will keep the hot sun off your head.



A Poms Pond paddler makes her way across the pond.



Tracey Galat, left and Veronica McLean are surrounded by shade in The Park on Tuesday afternoon.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular musical awards show
5. Speech in one's honor
11. A state of poor nutrition
14. Not ingested
15. More lacking in taste
18. "Popeye" cartoonist
19. Helps to reduce speed
21. January 1 greeting (abbr.)
23. Georgian currency
24. Proverb expressing a truth
28. Jewish calendar month
29. Volume measurement
30. Fair-skinned
32. Patti Hearst's captors
33. Have already done
35. Touch lightly

CLUES DOWN

1. U.S. military school
2. Controls
3. Away from wind
4. Grab quickly
5. Being everlasting
6. Vase
7. Atomic #3
8. Type of medication
9. Encircle with a belt
10. Belonging to you
12. American state
13. City in Zambia
16. Good Gosh!
17. Of the country
20. Helsinki district
22. 36 inches
25. Reporters' group
26. The voice of Olaf
27. Explains in detail

Solution in Classified Section

36. Autonomic nervous system
39. Plant part
41. College degree
42. Military alliance
44. Tokyo's former name
46. Carpenter's tool
47. Before
49. Consent to receive
52. Passages
56. The Duke of Edinburgh
58. Utter repeatedly
60. Linked together in a chain
62. Quality that evokes pity
63. Maintained possession of
29. Tooth caregiver
31. One point south of due east
34. Scottish river
36. Elsa's sister
37. Civil Rights group
38. Line of poetry
40. Doctor
43. Fatty acid
45. Avatar (abbr.)
48. Awe-inspiring garden
50. Fall down
51. Rock icon Turner
53. Asian country (alt. sp.)
54. UK museum network
55. Stairs have at least one
57. Part of (abbr.)
58. Simpson trial judge
59. Sun up in New York
61. Exclamation of surprise

8/13/20

Parents demand classroom time for their children

By MIKE LABELLA
Staff Writer

NORTH ANDOVER — Some parents say the town's plan for the coming school year fails to provide students with enough classroom time.

The parents say too little time with teachers and fellow students would hurt their children's ability to learn, and also put too much stress on families. They are demanding their children attend school full time, or at least be given more classroom time than school officials are currently planning in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

The parents made their demands known at a protest in front of the town's school administrative offices last Tuesday evening. The protest, where parents held signs in the rain, began with four parents who were later

“Given the current information available to us at this time, and after much consideration, we are recommending the hybrid models outlined in this plan.”

North Andover School Superintendent Gregg Gilligan

joined by several others. The school district's plan calls for students in elementary through high school to attend school two partial days per week, with online remote learning from home the rest of the time, and for kindergarten students to attend school for half days.

Parent Jack Kacvinsky said he and other parents are asking for a full return to classrooms or as close to that as possible.

“I'm not totally against a hybrid model as you have to have some wiggle room,” he said of a mix of classroom and remote learning, which

is part of the school district plan.

“But can't something more can be done to get our kids back in the classroom” for additional days or hours of the school week? he asked.

Kacvinsky said that in response to a survey sent to parents asking their opinions on the reopening of schools, 41% percent of the 1,364 responders said they were very likely to allow their children to return to classroom learning this fall, while 21.4% responded they were likely to do the same.

“In all, 62 percent of parents indicated they were in

favor of full-time, in-person learning,” Kacvinsky said.

He said 8.1 percent of parents indicated they were very unlikely to allow their children to return to school for in-person learning, 10 percent said they were unlikely to do so, while 19.5 percent were undecided.

While they gathered Tuesday night and held signs in support of classroom learning, the parents said School Superintendent Gregg Gilligan met with them briefly prior to the 6 p.m. School Committee meeting.

Parent Sean Richard explained that remote learning did not work for his family when schools closed in the spring due to the COVID-19 crisis. He said a hybrid learning model would be better than a fully remote model in which students would learn online from home every day.

“My biggest concern with

remote learning is asking young children especially to focus on a computer screen when in many cases you don't have a parent who can log them in, review computer apps and look over their shoulders,” he said. “Parents aren't trained teachers and many won't have the time.”

Richard said he appreciated Gilligan spending a few minutes in the rain chatting with the parents and listening to their concerns.

“He has a lot of competing pressures and priorities, and obviously the teachers union has a very different position than a majority of parents, but I hope that whatever decision is made, there is a chance to reconsider the approach as we go through the fall,” Richard said.

In a letter to parents, Gilligan noted that guidelines from state Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley

directed each school district to develop three models for the coming school year: A remote learning model, a hybrid model, and in-person learning in classrooms. A comprehensive plan was due to be submitted by the town to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and also to be released to the school community. The plan is subject to change, Gilligan said.

“We understand that throughout the year, depending on guidance from DESE as well as the Department of Health, all three models may be used, and that we may need to pivot seamlessly between the models at any given time,” Gilligan told parents. “Given the current information available to us at this time, and after much consideration, we are recommending the hybrid models outlined in this plan.”

UMass tells most students not to return to Amherst campus

By KATIE LANNAN
State House News Service

In a reversal announced 18 days before the start of the fall semester, officials at the flagship University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst said Aug. 6 they would no longer repopulate their residence halls with students taking online classes.

In late June, the school announced a reopening plan under which most classes would be held remotely except for labs, studios and other courses that require hands-on work. Students were nonetheless invited to return to the large campus, where dorms and dining halls would operate under new health and safety precautions.

At the time, Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy said school officials had heard “loud and clear” from students that they wanted to be in and around campus.

Citing worsening conditions around COVID-19

nationally and the risk of having to close campus mid-semester, Subbaswamy sent a message to students and their families Thursday night, informing them the school will not offer housing to students whose courses are entirely remote.

Only students who are taking “essential face-to-face classes” will be granted access to dorms and other campus facilities, Subbaswamy wrote. He said school officials “strongly urge” students taking remote courses not to return to the Amherst area. Classes begin Aug. 24.

“I realize that today's announcement will cause disruption for many of you and is a major departure from the plan we released in June,” Subbaswamy wrote.

“Our intention at that time, with our plans to conduct most classes remotely while inviting all students back to campus, was to strike a balance between the immersive residential experience so important to our students'

“Quite simply, when we make a clear-eyed assessment of the public health data and comparable reopening attempts that are playing out across the country, we feel that we have no choice but to make the difficult decision to enact these changes to our fall plan.”

UMass Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy

development and the health and safety of the entire community in the Amherst area,” he continued. “Unfortunately, despite our best efforts and detailed planning, the proliferation of the pandemic has left us with no choice but to pursue this more stringent approach.”

The chancellor said situations involving students who are dependent on campus housing and dining, those in health care fields, and international students with specific visa requirements “will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and in most instances will be accommodated.”

“Quite simply, when we make a clear-eyed assessment of the public health data and comparable reopening attempts that are playing out across the country, we feel that we have no choice but to make the difficult decision to enact these changes to our fall plan,” according to Subbaswamy. “Our deliberations were also informed by the health and safety concerns expressed by our faculty and staff and by the citizens and leadership in our host community, Amherst.”

UMass Amherst had more than 24,000 undergraduates enrolled as of fall 2019, plus

more than 7,000 graduate students and more than 1,400 full-time faculty members. In June, school officials said they expected about 14% of the student body would be enrolled in the labs, studios and performances that require face-to-face instruction.

The acceleration of the COVID-19 pandemic within the United States has prompted other Massachusetts schools to rethink their fall plans as well.

Northampton's Smith College, which had been planning for on-campus instruction, announced Wednesday it would instead offer all fall courses remotely, and Williams College, in Williamstown, on Thursday issued a strict set of rules under which students will be

quarantined in their dorms until receiving two negative COVID-19 tests and unable to leave campus, including for shopping trips, through at least September.

Mount Holyoke College on Friday announced it would not bring students back to campus in the fall, with President Sonya Stephens writing that “the current path of COVID-19 in the United States, and its devastating consequences, present too great a risk to our reopening plan.”

In Boston, City Councilor Kenzie Bok wrote this week to the presidents of Northeastern University and Boston University, asking them to hold classes remotely instead of bringing students back to campus and into the city's neighborhoods.



Please recycle this newspaper.

Joppa Flats offers family programs

NEWBURYPORT – Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center has started family-friendly, in-person programs to safely round out the summer in Greater Newburyport.

Designed with educational fun and pandemic-era safe practices in mind, these are small-group activities for families with children ages 7 to 11.

Education coordinator Lisa Hutchings invites families to join her in the Joppa Flats riverside backyard to build a nature habitat model, using water, earth and live animals.

Each session will include no more than nine participants, all adult-child combinations.

Date-specific focuses are tide pools on Aug. 18 and 20, salt marshes on Aug. 25 and 27, and ponds on Sept. 1 and 3. There will be a morning session and an afternoon



Courtesy photo

Tide pool creatures like this hermit snail will be featured in upcoming in-person programs for children at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport.

session on each day the program is offered.

Preregistration is required at www.massaudubon.org. Member prices are \$6 per adult and \$5 per child; nonmember prices are \$8 per adult and \$7 per

child. Joppa Flats Education Center is at One Plum Island Turnpike. Call 978-462-9998 for information about additional programs and events or visit the website at www.massaudubon.org.

Merrimack Valley teachers unite in support of remote learning

By JILL HARMACINSKI
jharmacinski@eagletribune.com

Hundreds of teachers from across the region are endorsing remote learning to start the school year.

The announcement by Merrimack Valley Educators United, a coalition of local teachers unions, comes as many Merrimack Valley school districts hope to adopt a hybrid schedule which includes some days of in-school learning.

The divide over in-person and remote learning practices comes as COVID-19 remains an issue, including in the city of Lawrence, which has some of the highest infection levels in the state.

“The safe return to learning in September must be guided by science — not by a school calendar. Learning must resume by starting school fully remote before moving to hybrid models, only

when buildings are safe, and eventually to 100% in-person, including an eventual end to remote learning for all when COVID-19 is considered no longer a substantial public health threat,” according to the statement, which was voted on Monday night and shared on social media Tuesday morning.

Teachers unions from Amesbury, Andover, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Pentucket regional school district and Tewksbury all endorsed the statement.

In Lawrence, teachers union members on Tuesday held another demonstration in response to Lawrence's proposed school reopening plans. The teachers, wearing masks and socially distanced, met near City Hall.

Last Wednesday, union members held a similar protest in regard to the plans outside the Parthum School.

Lawrence's plans, which

include a hybrid model, are expected to be voted on Wednesday evening. However, the 1,300 members of the Lawrence Teachers Union say they are eager to return to school but oppose an in-school learning plan for health and safety reasons.

Andover, Haverhill and North Andover have hybrid plans to start the school year, while Methuen endorsed a remote start.

In the coalition's statement, teachers said “our buildings do not yet meet the adequate health and safety standards needed to return to classrooms and campuses.”

“While a pandemic has raged and spread throughout our communities these past several months, our local and state officials have so far failed to make the investments and infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure a safe return to school,” the statement read.

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Sports

SUMMER ACE

Andover's Gillette impressing in summer baseball

BY MATT WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

While most baseball players are sitting at home without a league to play in, due to the coronavirus, Andover's Cedric Gillette is delivering a stellar summer.

The former Andover High ace is pitching for the North Shore Navigators of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. The team plays out of Lynn, Mass.

Entering the week, Gillette had pitched in four games for the Navigators this summer, four starts and one relief appearance. He owned a 1-1 record with a 3.17 earned run average and 12 strikeouts in 17 innings.

His best summer outing so far was allowing one run and three hits in five innings against the Brockton Rox.

Gillette is heading into his junior season at Merrimack College. Before the spring was shut down by the coronavirus, he was 2-0 with 14 strikeouts in 22.2 innings for the Warriors as a sophomore.

Here, he talks about pitching and his summer on the mound:

What's been the most unique or memorable part about this season so far? What's the energy like being back out there competing?

I think the coolest part of



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Cedric Gillette was a star for Andover High. Now he's excelling for the North Shore Navigators.

being out here is that there are a lot of local players. I get the opportunity to play with a bunch of kids that I used to compete against and considered rivals and opponents, so it's cool to get to play with them and see the way they operate. Kids that I used to want to beat now are my teammates and I root for them.

The energy being back is really good. It's fun to be back out here playing baseball after there wasn't a whole lot to do being stuck in the house for a while.

What's your favorite park to play in, whether it's from high school, Futures League or

college, and what makes that place special?

Fraser Field (home of the North Shore Navigators) is my favorite park to play in because the Fraser faithful are my favorite fans.

Any equipment preferences or must haves, whether it's glove, bat, spikes, etc?

I've been using the same glove since I was a sophomore in high school. It's beat down pretty badly, but I won't switch gloves because I like it. I always wear ankle socks, no matter what.

If you could talk to anyone from anytime in baseball, who would you want to chat with and what would you ask?

I'd probably go with guys like (Red Sox great) Pedro Martinez or (Atlanta Braves legend) Greg Maddux. They were really good pitchers and especially guys who had great changeups. I'd try to just see if I can learn anything from them to become a better pitcher, but probably one of those kinds of guys that really commanded the zone and had dominant seasons.

What did/would you choose for your walk-up or bullpen entrance music and is there any meaning behind it?

I went with Sirius by The Alan Parsons Project, the old Jordan Bulls intro song. I've been using it since my freshman year of high school so no one can say I'm on The



EMMA CARMAN/North Shore Navigators

Andover's Cedric Gillette is excelling this summer for the North Shore Navigators after losing much of his sophomore year at Merrimack College to the coronavirus.

Last Dance bandwagon.

Who's someone you really looked up to as a kid that you still admire, whether it's in sports or just in general?

I'd say Paul Pierce. I went to a lot of Celtics games

when I was a kid and I really liked him because he was someone who stayed in Boston, didn't leave in free agency and won us a championship.

What's your major and/or

favorite class in college?

My major is political science with a minor in pre-law. My favorite class was statistics because it had a lot of applications to sports, which I really enjoyed.

ANDOVER ARCHIVES: GOLDEN WARRIOR BOYS LACROSSE

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 look at boys lacrosse:

Andover boys lacrosse was there at the start of the lacrosse boom of the early 2000s.

The Golden Warrior varsity team began play in 1999, led by head coach Wayne Puglisi. He continued to coach the Blue and Gold through the 2019 season, building a stellar 243-145 record.

Early stars included Buddy Farnham (AHS 2006), who is best known for his football excellence, playing two seasons for the New England Patriots practice squad. But he was also a

bigtime lacrosse recruit — he set a then-Andover High record with 56 goals as a senior — before choosing Brown football.

Some of the top scorers in Andover history include Jake Lakos, who broke Farnham's record with 64 goals in 2014, George Cardillo (43 goals in 2015), Brendan Croston (51 goals in 2015) and Brendan Hughes (53 goals in 2007).

Andover has also featured some outstanding midfielders like two-time Merrimack Valley Conference MVP John Oteri (AHS 2014), Alex Marshall — who was a top lacrosse recruit before shooting Florida State football — and Michael Biddle (AHS 2017).

Both of Puglisi's children starred for the Warriors, Ryan (AHS 2017) as a defender and CJ (AHS 2019) as a goalie.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Andover's Tyler Weeks delivers a massive hit against a Londonderry opponent.



TIM JEAN/Staff file photo

Wayne Puglisi led the Andover boys lacrosse program from its inception through the 2019 season.



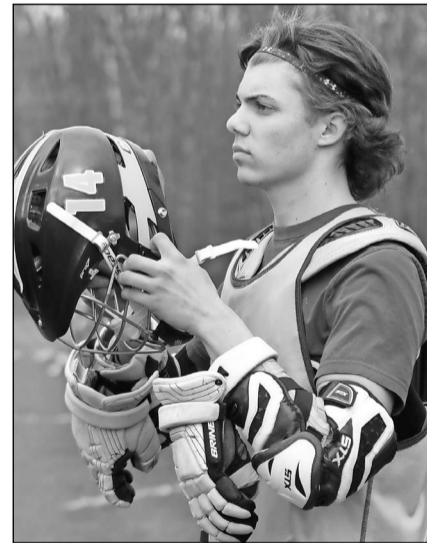
STAFF FILE PHOTO

John Oteri did it all as a midfielder for Andover High.



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Defenders, clockwise from left, Alex Marshall, Chris Tully, Brian Duffy and goalie Walter Pappas were all Andover standouts.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo.

Jake Lakos was one of the most dangerous goal scorers in Andover boys lacrosse history.



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Buddy Farnham was a record-setting football star, but he also dazzled on the lacrosse field.



TIM JEAN/Staff file photo

Brendan Hughes was a dynamic scorer for Andover, who played with a rugged style.



TIM JEAN/Staff file photo

Few defenders could slow down Andover's George Cardillo when he had the ball.

Trait talk: What's inherited and what's created

Family Matters

Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor,
I ran across your article after having a discussion with my fiancée.

She has a teenage son who is exhibiting some very selfish behaviors. Long story short, I feel that he can be set on the right path by reinforcing more altruistic behavior and creating more opportunities for these positive actions.

She thinks that selfishness is a trait passed on from her son's father's side in that some of their behavior is on the selfish side

and, as such, nothing we do will change his behavior.

I ran across your article because I was looking for something that would prove or disprove her mindset. I am not looking at the human nature survival point, but rather whether something like selfishness is a trait that can be passed on through the gene pool from parent to child. Your thoughts?

Future Stepdad

Dear Future,
Thank you for your provocative email. We are a combination of genetics and experience.

Personally, it seems to me there is ample evidence for traits. Being more "selfish" may be one, but is more likely a combination of inheritance and experience. For example, suppose one's neurology

predisposes toward caution or awareness of the reaction of others. Then, through a variety of experiences, which might include overindulgence, a behavior of self-entitlement is created.

You allude, for example to altruism. In my opinion, no human behavior, no matter how saintly, is completely altruistic. There is always some degree of self-centered reward in any human act. This is healthy narcissism.

Of course, there is such a thing as malignant and character-disordered narcissism, but that is another column.

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.

Teachers push for remote learning

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Teachers unions are calling for a remote start to the school year, citing rising levels of COVID-19 transmission in the state.

On Monday, the Massachusetts chapter of the American Federation of Teachers said its board has voted to push for remote learning to delay a return of students to classrooms in September.

"We miss our students terribly, and we all wish we could be back in the classroom with them," said Beth Kontos, the union's president and a Salem educator. "But it's become clear in the last few weeks that an in-person return to schools would unacceptably put the health and safety of our students, their families and educators at risk."

The union, which represents about 23,000 teachers, cited the state's rising transmission rates, which have increased slightly in recent weeks, as reason for the

remote start. It also pointed to delays in obtaining COVID-19 test results and a "lack of adequate ventilation and space for social distancing in school buildings."

The move followed similar calls by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, which represents about 110,000 educators, as well as local teachers unions.

The recently formed North of Boston Educator Action Network, a coalition of local teachers unions, called for the development of a "high-quality" remote learning system until schools are deemed to be safe for students, staff and teachers.

"Faced with a pandemic that is actively spreading to children, teens and adults, we know that it is not safe to return to in-person learning at this time," the group said in a statement. "As educators we cannot risk a premature return to in-person learning that will result in educators and students with their families getting sick and dying."

Education Commissioner Jeff Riley last week gave

districts up to two weeks to delay the start of school to prepare for returning students. Districts must begin the academic year no later than Sept. 16.

Under the state's reopening guidelines, students in the second grade and up — as well as teachers, staff and other adults — will be required to wear masks and maintain physical distance in school buildings. Desks should be facing one direction and a minimum of three feet apart, ideally six feet apart.

Riley has told school administrators to prepare three sets of plans for the fall: a full return to in-person classroom, a hybrid of in-person and remote learning, and fully remote learning. Districts are required to submit final plans to the state by Aug. 10.

Tom Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, said the union pressure and concerns about a resurgence of the virus in fall have "shifted the sands" in the debate about bringing students back to class.

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