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OUR 130<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

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CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

**Pike School eighth-grader Drake Tarlow has been putting together birthday boxes, the contents of which are pictured here, for the charitable organization Birthday Wishes. Birthday Wishes, based out of Natick, provides parties to children in homeless shelters and transitional living facilities.**

## Birthday surprises

Working for charity, teen raises spirits of others — and himself

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

What began as an act of charitable giving for one young man's bar mitzvah has turned into his mission.

Drake Tarlow, 13, an eighth-grader at The Pike School, has put together more than 122 birthday boxes and raised about \$1,000 for the nonprofit group Birthday Wishes. The organization, which operates out of Natick, provides birthday parties to children in homeless shelters and transitional living facilities.

"At first it was a bar mitzvah project that I had to do. But when I realized the impact it was making and how much I was doing for the

community it became more than just a bar mitzvah project: It became something I am really passionate about," said Drake, whose own bar mitzvah was postponed until next April because of the coronavirus.

As part of the nonprofit's Birthday-in-a-Box program, Drake packages party supplies and wrapped gifts into ornate containers to be delivered with everything necessary for a birthday party.

"What's in the birthday box are plates, napkins, every single item you can to have a birthday — cake, candles, streamers, tablecloth," said Dana Tarlow, Drake's mother.

And now with all the unexpected downtime arising



Drake Tarlow and his mother, Dana, pose with the contents of 20 birthday boxes that Drake is putting together.

from the pandemic, Drake for a cause they care about. "Now that everybody is hopes that other young people like himself can chip in

See SURPRISES, Page 2

## Schools, union still wrangling over return

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
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The school administration and union remain at odds over whether there should be in-class instruction this fall, and the description of the situation is considerably different depending on who you talk to.

"The school buildings and the conditions of work in anticipation of students are unprepared," said Andover Education Association President Matthew Bach. "There's a serious lack of preparation here. There's still work being done on rooms and HVAC systems. And there was a high level of uncleanness when we entered the buildings last week."

But Superintendent Sheldon Berman said Monday, "There's a lot of repairs and updating that has happened and I am confident we are going to be in good shape in terms of ventilation."

The union requested that prior to members working inside school buildings the district have the HVAC system inspected by "an independent certified HVAC professional."

Members also requested that HVAC be running every

time someone is in the building, according to a "reopening negotiation" posted to the union's website.

"We have asked for a school-by-school analysis of ventilation systems and we are working on that," Berman said.

"We don't have the results of the independent study yet," he added.

Berman said he toured four schools in the district: High Plain Elementary, West Elementary, South Elementary and Sanborn School, where he met with the teachers in their classrooms.

"It was actually quite positive," Berman said. "People are excited to see each other and they are looking forward to seeing their students."

At the end of August, the teacher's union held an emergency meeting where a majority of members voted to begin the year remotely rather than hold classes inside due to COVID-19.

On Aug. 10 the School Committee voted to open in a hybrid model — a combination of in-person and online learning.

Teachers were expected to report to work in the school buildings Monday, See UNION, Page 2

## Mail-in voting balloons turnout

Town clerk reports 9,600 primary ballots turned in

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
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The pandemic didn't put a damper on the turnout for Andover's Sept. 1 elections.

According to Town Clerk Austin Simko, approximately 9,600 residents, or 37%, voted in the primary.

That's the highest turnout for a Primary the town has seen in eight years, he said. It is partially attributed to mail-in voting encouraged by health officials to avoid catching the coronavirus at the polls.

"That was a high turnout because if you look at the September primaries in 2012, we had 3,200 voters. And in the September primary in 2016 we had 1,500 voters," Simko said.

"In 2018 it was a big increase, it was 7,000 voters. (But) to have 9,600 voters, I don't know if that's a record.

It's certainly within the last eight years by far more than we have had," he added.

According to Simko, about 64% of voters — 6,185 — voted early by mail. Also, he said, 10% — 850 people — voted early in person.

Simko said that while some towns may have confused voters who requested ballots by mail and never received them, in Andover the town has a system which allows those who never received their ballots to vote in person.

"We have a system so that we know whether your vote has already been counted based on what you mailed in, so if someone were to show up to vote but had already submitted a mail-in ballot, we know whether that ballot had been counted," Simko said.

"And if it hadn't been See VOTING, Page 2

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## Still waiting on Columbia gas

Frustrated diner owner denied money 2 years after gas disaster

BY BREANNA EDELSTEIN  
Staff Writer

Eli Haddad, the owner of Eli's Place, considers his small breakfast and lunch diner among the luckier businesses in Lawrence.

Despite the historic Merrimack Valley gas disaster of 2018, Haddad has unlocked his doors on Merrimack Street six days a week to pour coffee, fry eggs and flip pancakes.

His was among 645 businesses in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover that reported losses or went out of business altogether after the

See COMPLAINTS, Page 2



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Eli's Place owners Eli Haddad and his wife, Marcia, are disappointed with Columbia Gas two years after the gas disaster impacted their business. They have been waiting on money from the company as reimbursement, but last week learned that money may not be coming at all.



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# Town reports high-risk visitor numbers

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

ANDOVER — More than 800 people traveling from states deemed to be high risk for the transmission of the coronavirus are landing in Andover, according to Director of Public Health Thomas Carbone.

Carbone said that as of Sept. 1, 809 people coming to Andover had filled out the Massachusetts Travel Form. The travel form is part of a set of new orders that became effective Aug. 1.

On the form, which asks visitors to the state to provide their contact information and Massachusetts destination,

travelers are required to state that they will remain in quarantine for 14 days if they have not received a negative coronavirus test within 72 hours of their arrival.

In addition, travelers can say that they plan to get tested for the coronavirus and will remain in quarantine until they get a

negative test result.

Anyone who is required to fill out the form and fails to do so is subject to a \$500-a-day fine.

“There is no forced quarantine,” said Carbone. “(The state’s website) says you should be in quarantine if you have traveled from one of these (high-risk states).”

Forty of the country’s 50 states have been deemed high risk for the coronavirus by Massachusetts.

States that are not high-risk are Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont and West Virginia.

Carbone said that as of the

morning of Sept. 2, there had been 354 total cases of the coronavirus (active and inactive) in Andover. At that time there were about five active cases of the coronavirus in town, he added.

Carbone noted that interstate travel has not been one of the main modes of transmission in Andover.

# Vote-by-mail fuels record turnout in primary

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

More than 1.5 million ballots were cast Tuesday, breaking records for voter turnout in a state primary election.

A majority of those who voted — nearly 1 million — cast ballots by mail or dropped them off at city and town halls, according to state elections officials.

Voting rights groups attributed the record turnout to expanded vote-by-mail and early voting options. They also lauded the outcome as proof that changes to the state’s election laws prompted by the pandemic are working.

“Expanded mail voting helped over a million Bay Staters have their voices heard ... from the safety of their own homes,” said

Kristina Mensik, assistant director of Common Cause Massachusetts. “It’s clear to us that vote-by-mail and early voting for primaries must be here to stay.”

The state’s 4.5 million voters were sent applications that could be used to request ballots for the Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general elections. The mass-mailing of applications was required under a new state law that expanded voting options in light of concerns about the coronavirus.

The law expires Dec. 31. Voting rights advocates say Tuesday’s turnout should convince policymakers to make the changes permanent.

“The record-breaking numbers speak for themselves,” said Janet Domenitz, executive director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, a member of the Voting Modernization

Coalition. “These temporary voting changes have been a huge success, and should be made permanent.”

Much of the interest in Tuesday’s election was fueled by a contentious Democratic primary between incumbent Sen. Ed Markey and challenger Rep. Joe Kennedy III, and a GOP primary for the Senate seat between Kevin O’Connor and Shiva Ayyadurai. Markey and O’Connor will face each other in the Nov. 3 election.

Voters also weighed in on a crowded Democratic race to replace Kennedy in the 4th Congressional District, the outcome of which wasn’t known until Friday morning, in part, because of a deluge of mail-in ballots. The state had to get a court order to continue counting ballots after Election Day.

Massachusetts is among dozens of states that

expanded mail-in voting to prevent crowding at the polls. The decision has been clouded by uncertainty over the Postal Service’s ability to process millions of ballots, however, as well as President Donald Trump’s vocal criticism of voting by mail.

The Postal Service has warned Massachusetts and 46 other states that it cannot ensure all ballots cast by mail in the November elections will arrive in time to be counted.

State election officials haven’t released data on how many mailed ballots were rejected this week due to mistakes or because they were received after Tuesday’s 8 p.m. deadline to submit them to local election clerks.

Ahead of Tuesday’s primary, Secretary of State Bill Galvin, who oversees the elections, urged voters to return mail-in ballots by

dropping them off at city and town halls in person.

Hundreds of thousands of ballot applications were returned to elections offices because they were sent to the wrong addresses or the voters had died or moved away.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Galvin said the primary — and the state’s first test-run of expanded voting by mail — were largely successful.

But he cautioned that the general election could be more challenging. He expects turnout to top 3 million.

“I am very concerned about November. It’s going to be a much larger turnout,” he said. “We have a lot of work ahead of us.”

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

## VOTING

Continued from Page 2

counted, we let you vote in person if that’s what you wanted to do so it’s just all about tracking the ballots as they are tabulated,” he continued.

Simko said accommodating the added mail-in ballots was no easy feat.

Every mail-in ballot in his office involved four transactions, so the 6,185 mail-in ballots added 24,740 transactions for his office, which has been open every weekend since the end of July to handle the influx.

The four transactions are as follows: mailing out the applications; processing the applications; mailing the ballot; and counting the ballots that are mailed.

“We had multiple people working nights every single weekend since the end of July to get out the ballots that people requested by mail,” Simko said.

## UNION

Continued from Page 1

Aug. 31 for a day of professional development.

However, on that day, many union members worked outside. Only after the School Committee voted unanimously to take legal action against the union did teachers return to the classroom.

While union members decided to comply with the district’s request, members took a “no-confidence” vote in Berman.

“Superintendent Berman has shown persistent disregard for educators. He does not respect our professionalism and fails to take a

cooperative approach in addressing the many challenges that face the district,” the statement reads.

But Berman says the union voted no confidence in him because they couldn’t get what they wanted out of their negotiations.

“I have confidence with my relationships with faculty and I think that in a situation like this it is to be expected,” said Berman. “They would like something different to happen and that’s not happening for them.”

Members of the AEA and the School Committee were scheduled to meet Tuesday evening for a confidential negotiation session. Results of that meeting were not available as of press time.



Teachers from the Andover Education Association stand in Elm Square with signs while protesting having to return to working inside school buildings. The AEA president says the school is not safe enough for teachers to work. Students are expected to return to school next week.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

## COMPLAINTS

Continued from Page 1

disaster. Those remaining are

being challenged yet again, this time by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Things have been hard, no doubt,” said Haddad, who

opened his diner 13 years ago. Still, customers have returned and on a recent Wednesday morning were willing to wait 45 minutes before sliding into a booth. It’s a sentiment that Haddad does not take for granted.

But he’s been anticipating more to help his business — payment from Columbia Gas for pain and suffering that started Sept. 13, 2018.

He learned last week that money may not be coming.

Columbia gas was found responsible for an overpressurized gas line that incited mayhem and fires across the Merrimack Valley on a seemingly average Thursday afternoon. About 50,000 people were forced to evacuate.

A federal judge earlier this year ordered the company to pay a \$53 million fine, among other operational penalties. A \$143 million class action lawsuit settled separately included thousands of dollars of lump-sum and itemized payments

for gas disaster victims.

Among them is a disappointed Haddad.

“I heard that September was the month businesses were supposed to be getting paid for the pain and suffering that came from that day and many days after,” he said. “But then I got a letter in the mail.”

That letter, provided to The Eagle-Tribune, reads that Haddad is “deficient in the amount of \$0” after he was reimbursed \$3,300 soon after the disaster. But that money was not for his pain and suffering, he said.

“I was told the initial money was for the food that I lost when I had to run out of the building and wasn’t allowed to come back in,” he said.

“I had just gotten a food delivery that day and lost it all. I gave them the receipts. It was a total of \$3,300. That has nothing to do with the other loss of business, et cetera, that we went through here.”

His diner was forced to close for 13 days after the

disaster — a short stint compared to others — while he awaited inspections and safety approvals.

“We had brand new high pressure lines installed on Merrimack Street the year or so before. All of our meters had new regulators. So that’s why we got lucky,” he said.

Still, for Haddad and so many others who experienced the disaster, the traumatic effects linger, taking a large physical and emotional toll.

“At one point, six weeks or so after I was already given the go-ahead to open up again, I got a call from the police chief saying I had to get down here cause there was another problem,” Haddad said. “I had already closed for the day but I rushed down.”

He was told that Columbia Gas workers in the area were conducting pressure testing when they noticed a high reading coming from his basement.

“They tell me that these guys were working too many hours. They forgot to tighten up six fittings, and that’s what caused the high reading,” Haddad said. “I come down here, and there’s a ton of fire trucks and the Fire Department took all of my doors off the hinges to get in.”

Haddad said he turned to Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera, a vocal ally for gas disaster victims, after that ordeal. He did so again when he received the recent letter from the Columbia Gas settlement administrator.

“This has become par for the course. We have a steady drumbeat of people saying they haven’t gotten paid anything,” said Rivera. “I was

really discouraged to hear what Eli is now being told.”

He explained he has yet to hear of a prior reimbursement disqualifying a business owner from more money through the class action lawsuit.

“The only people who have been paid 100% are the attorneys,” Rivera said. “There are many more people who are waiting to be made whole.”

A Columbia Gas spokesperson said in a statement to The Eagle-Tribune this week, “as required by the court, claims are handled through a settlement claims administrator, not Columbia Gas.”

When asked about Haddad’s case, the plaintiff’s co-lead class counsel John Roddy only explained that the letter Haddad received inadvertently named a deadline to respond.

“We have spoken to the claims administrator (Heffler Claims Group) regarding its August 20, 2020 letter to commercial claimants in which they outline deficiencies in and/or additional information needed to process some claims,” the statement began.

“In that letter, Heffler inadvertently stated September 4, 2020 as the deadline to submit the needed supplemental documentation. The correct deadline is October 4, 2020.”

The letter to Haddad explains that in order to dispute the amount, he needs to provide tax documents dating back to 2017.

Haddad said he plans to cooperate with the claims administrator.

With the two-year anniversary of the gas disaster looming, he’s still hoping he will get the money he is owed.

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**SURPRISES**  
Continued from Page 1  
either online or half-online, everyone has a lot of free time on their hands and it would be really cool if everybody — it doesn’t have to be Birthday Wishes — if they could find a charity that they were really passionate about and they could do a little work for it,” said Drake. “It would make a huge difference in the community.”  
To learn more about Birthday Wishes visit https://birthdaywishes.org/.



REBA SALDANHA/File photo

A tour walks past some of hundreds of hydrangea that are planted on the grounds of West Parish Church.

## Hydrangeas in bloom; public can cut stems

The historical circular hydrangea garden on the grounds of the West Parish Church cemetery will open to the public for its annual stem-cutting event Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public can cut hydrangea stems from the plants that are more than 100 years old. "Cutting is only allowed in Hydrangea Circle, so visitors should follow the signs to this gorgeous area full of blooms," said Sue Regan of West Parish. Visitors must wear a mask and bring their own clippers, as none will be available. Social distancing of 6 feet will also be required. Additionally, there will be a display of pre-cut stems available to purchase on the grass near the West Parish Church located at 129 Reservation Road. This is a free event. Donations are welcome.

## Jimmy Fund walk adjusts for pandemic

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Eighteen Andover residents will be on their treadmills, walking laps in their neighborhood, or hiking a trail to raise money for cancer research.

On Oct. 4, they are taking part in the virtual version of the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk to benefit Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Participants can walk any way they choose.

While the walk may not physically bring people together along the famed Boston Marathon course as it normally does, it will raise a lot of money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Thousands of virtual walkers are taking part this year because of the pandemic.

The event has raised more than \$145 million for Dana-Farber in its 30-plus year history. Money raised supports all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research.

The walk has a \$100 fundraising requirement (\$25 for those 12 years old and younger). Each walker who registers gets a bib and a medal.

Those from Andover taking part are Sreeja Chaparala, Diane Finkenaur, John Finkenaur, James Frey, Simran Grover, Nancy Kendrick, Larry Oliveto, Stan Riemer, Andrew Riemer, Amy Riemer, Joan Sopp, Brian Sopp, Keri Tgavalekos, Elizabeth Waters, Kathleen Yates, Marjorie Andresen, Peter Beatty and Venkata Chaparala. For more information email JimmyFundWalk@DFCLHarvard.edu.

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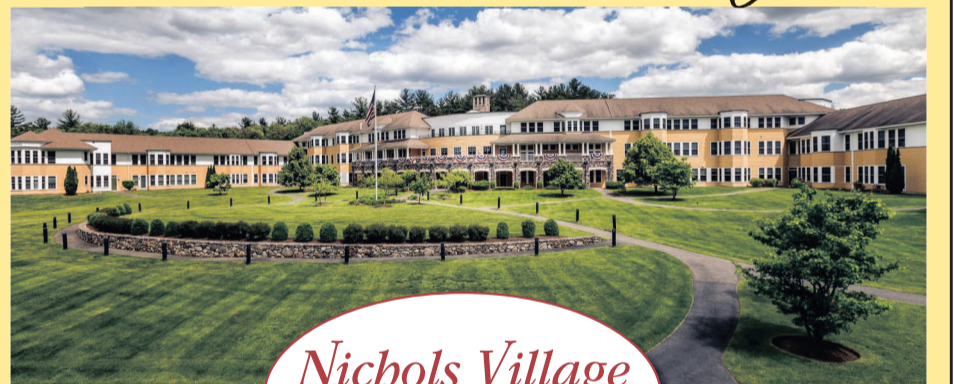
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Information about joining our High Holy Day services with times and dates are listed at our website, [havuratshalom.org](http://havuratshalom.org). If you are interested in joining Havurat Shalom, please go to our website for membership information. You can contact us by email, [info@havuratshalom.org](mailto:info@havuratshalom.org) or by phone: 978-494-2042. L'Shana Tovah!

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# Opinion

## Being prepared

Gov. Charlie Baker's call-up of a thousand members of the Massachusetts National Guard a couple of weeks ago sent chills, stirring still-fresh memories of the rioting and destruction that rolled through the streets of Boston this spring.

The governor caught criticism for being reticent about his reasons. His office did not specify why the soldiers were needed, only that they were on hand "in the event that municipal leaders require their assistance." In hindsight, his precaution and approach are to be commended, not condemned.

*Fortunately, while plenty of small-scale demonstrations occurred, none brought the predicted swarm. Thus, that Monday, Baker sent the Guard members home.*

Baker activated the Guard for the stated purpose of helping with "the preservation of life and property, preservation of order, and to afford protection to persons." Speaking to reporters four days after he activated the Guard, Baker finally allowed that dozens of events were being planned on social media toward that weekend, and some had the potential of drawing "very big numbers" of people.

"And we heard from a number of municipal officials who asked us if we would have people available to support them if those events turned out to be bigger than what they would be able to manage on their own," he said. And so he made the arrangements.

Fortunately, while plenty of small-scale demonstrations occurred, none brought the predicted swarm. Thus, that Monday, Baker sent the Guard members home.

With social unrest that has roiled cities from Wisconsin to Oregon -- and that literally inflamed Boston and Brockton following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody earlier this year -- local officials were right to be concerned. Also understandable was Baker's decision not to speculate on what might or might not happen at demonstrations before they occurred.

The Guard did not parade through the streets or intimidate anyone. They were simply on hand in case things got out of hand. It was better that they be assembled and ready. While no one wants to see the Guard enlisted to control protests, given recent experience, it was good that Baker and his administration were prepared.

## Pencils down

Not stressing over a high-stakes college admissions test is to a high school junior what sleeping late is to a Saturday morning. If the apparent demise of SAT and ACT scores as benchmarks of young human potential were reduced to an analogy once favored by the authors of those exams, maybe it would look something like that.

Or maybe not. The point is it doesn't matter anymore, now that colleges and universities are changing their admissions rules so that the scores are optional or not considered at all. For teenagers assembling college applications, whether the school of their dreams wants them as much as they want it now is less likely to be determined by mastery of algebra, logic problems and archaic vocabulary.

The University of Massachusetts' flagship campus in Amherst is one of the latest to make SAT or ACT scores optional. Its policy takes effect this spring and holds for at least three years. Here's hoping it will be made permanent, there and elsewhere.

The coronavirus prompts the change. Rules on how many people can gather at any one time, not to mention closures of facilities used as testing sites, are scrambling SAT and ACT test schedules. High school students eager to take an exam are struggling to find an opportunity.

To be sure, the storied entrance exams known to darken the dreams of young adults long after-the-fact are fading from fashion without the help of COVID-19. Critics complain that the tests, designed as equalizers among students, instead disadvantage kids without the resources for rigorous test prep. The applicability to students from other countries and cultures also raises doubts. Many colleges already allow students to apply on the basis of grades, recommendations, extracurriculars and essays, and have for several years.

Teenagers shouldn't be ebullient just yet, to take a term from one of those infernal vocabulary lists. The SAT and ACT live on, especially at colleges that still use their scores to guide scholarship decisions. But these connections will also fade with time, until the day that a student's performance on an exam on a given morning doesn't hold oversized sway over the rest of their lives.

## Conflict and revenge between Native Americans, settlers



Gail Ralston

Andover Center for History & Culture

In the Andover area, both the Pentucket and Wamesit tribes were part of the Penacook Confederacy, headed by the powerful Chief Passaconaway. Some sources state that Passaconaway was friendly to newcomers and beneficial to settlers.

The first record of a legal transaction with local natives was the purchase of the town itself. Originally known as "Cochichewick," later re-named Andover for the town where many of the settlers had come from, John Woodbridge, representing the town, gifted "six pounds and a coat" to native Cutshamache. (This image is on Andover's official seal.)

Appearing before the General Court on March 6, 1646, Cutshamache attested to the transaction, although he did not appear to personally have any rights to the land he sold. Said to be a kinsman of Passaconaway, Cutshamache was used by the colonial government for the purpose of deeding away

lands.

Part of the Andover agreement ensured that an Andover Native American named Roger was given certain rights to live in town. Roger's cabin is believed to have been located at the foot of South Church. The local "Rogers Brook" bears his name.

For many years, relationships between the natives and the town seemed good. But the nature of this situation was not to last.

Initially, the two groups were described as "watchful, waiting to see what the future held in store, rather than any active hostility."

Historian Scott Paradise noted, "the seeds of the coming conflict were deeply planted, and the white and red races were to pass from a state of suspicious toleration of each other to a bloody and long drawn-out war."

Andover, however, suffered little, in part because of the town's preparedness.

The first Andover militia was formed in 1658. By 1676, Andover had three or four garrison houses within different sections of the town.

For protection, townsmen rejected the method approved by the General Court for the "erection of a stockade to be built eight feet high from the Charles in Boston to the Concord in Billerica." They believed that



The Andover town seal, adapted through the years, depicts the 1646 transaction between Native Americans and settlers that was the purchase of the town itself. This is the town's current seal.

Courtesy of the Andover Center for History & Culture

"greater protection could be given by strengthening the garrisons and sending parties into the fields to guard the workmen."

This plan was tested in April 1676 when "Ephraim Stevens discovered the enemy about a mile from Bodwell's Ferry (on the Merrimack), but escaped on horse and alarmed the inhabitants." Natives passed along the main road without any "mischief" until they came to the south part of town. Here they killed Joseph Abbot and captured 13-year-old Timothy Abbot, who was kept for several months until returned, "greatly pined with hunger," by a friendly squaw.

The most severe attack on the town occurred during the winter of 1698 and was said to be "a deliberate showing of Indian vengeance." The attack was centered on the home of Captain Pascoe Chubb, who had once "double-crossed an Indian Council and in the fray two Indian

chiefs had been killed." Accounts stated between 30 and 40 natives "surprised the town, killed five persons, burnt two houses and two barns, and set another dwelling house and the meeting house on fire."

After 1700, the natives gradually lessened their hostile attacks and "slowly the citizens of Andover were allowed to till their fields unmolested."

Native history moved forward, ending with Nancy Parker, said to have been the last Native American in Andover. She lived here between 1750 and 1825, at various times on the Merrimack's "Pine Island," close to the Shattuck Farm site, and also at the foot of High Street by Carmel Woods.

According to town records, Parker died at the town's Almshouse on Argyle Street on March 27, 1825, having for many years received aid from the Overseers of the Poor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Berman loses others' confidence because of brutish actions

Editor, Townsman:

As a former Andover teacher, I am likely beyond the reach of the superintendent's retaliation, so I will say what the teachers of Andover dare not. Given Sheldon Berman's apparent penchant for the punitive, theirs is a sensible precaution.

I have never seen a building thrive like West Middle School. Its team structure is a model for others, and academic excellence is the norm. Art, music and statements affirming people's faith, heritage and identity are championed.

As we headed into the summer, Principal Timothy Corkery, a good man and capable administrator, told the West Middle School staff that "this was a hard year, but I think we haven't experienced the hardest part yet."

Sadly he was right. Incredibly, the cause of the hardship isn't COVID-19 but is instead the toxic environment being caused by his superior, who rarely listens to teachers and recently punished his community for advocating for their students.

If Berman's goal was to

cause the town's most caring educators to leave, what better actions could one take than what he's said to have done?

Andover's educators worked outside on Aug. 31 to draw attention to safety concerns. After completing their work, they were informed their pay would be docked. It's reported that Berman also removed the portable toilets teachers brought, and locked the school's doors so that teachers couldn't use those restrooms either.

What type of man does something like this? If true, it is cruel, petty and brutish.

Would you have confidence working under this man?

ADAM DESIMONE  
Watertown

### A teaching job is not an entitlement

Editor, Townsman:

I am concerned by the actions and position of the Andover teachers union and its members for not getting back into their classrooms under the hybrid system approved by the town management and our School Committee.

Having a teaching position in the town of Andover's school system is not an entitlement, and the procedures implemented by the School Committee should be

followed.

I feel as individuals we should all now understand how to protect ourselves from COVID-19 using personal protective equipment and hygiene protocols such as frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers.

Most town residents and employees regularly go into grocery stores, retail stores and other public places, and they have individual responsibility to keep themselves safe.

WILLIAM HASKELL  
Andover

### Andover needs opportunity presented by revamping old town yard

Editor, Townsman:

As a local mom who is always on the lookout for family friendly opportunities, I am writing in support of the Historic Mill District and the three warrant articles that support it at our upcoming fall Town Meeting.

The old town yard will be a wonderful location for a variety of uses -- my favorites being a community gathering space, restaurants with outdoor seating and a place

for kids to run around.

Andover needs this opportunity, right here in the downtown area, for families to spend time with other families throughout the year.

I believe it is important that families have a voice in the future direction of our town. I really appreciated the town's thoughtful approach of gathering input from residents of all ages, but especially the morning meetings with activities for children, so my fellow moms could participate and share ideas.

We love the Design Guidelines that came out of these meetings, that were created especially for this space.

During this difficult time of COVID-19, while we are holding our families a little tighter and keeping closer to home, we really need to keep moving forward and think about our needs, and what comes next.

As a community we've worked hard over the last few years on our vision for this space, and it is clear now more than ever that we need this in our town.

I hope Townsman readers will join me at Town Meeting this fall in support of Articles 15, 16 and 17, and will help see this project move toward completion.

ELLEN TOWNSON  
Andover

## WEB QUESTION

Did the School Department deal fairly with teachers during last week's work action?

A week ago Monday, hundreds of teachers chose not to enter school buildings and instead spent their first work day of the year outside, huddled over their laptops, in protest of building conditions they say are insufficient to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Matt Bach, president of the Andover Education Association, says teachers were told not to use the building's wireless internet service, were not allowed to use port-a-potties provided by the union, and were not allowed inside the buildings to use the restrooms. He has said some teachers were docked a day's pay.

Was the School Department's response fair?

**MORE THAN FAIR:** The teachers' demonstration amounted to an illegal action, since a strike by teachers is illegal under state law. The schools have gone to great lengths to

make the buildings safe, and the teachers should return to work. If they don't -- and sitting on the lawn doesn't count -- they face the consequences.

**TOO HARSH:** The teachers didn't strike, they showed up for work. The School Department's response to their demonstration, reflecting serious concerns for their own safety, was overly aggressive.

### Last Week's Question

Are you relieved that Eversource is buying Columbia Gas of Massachusetts?

Regulators held hearings last week to consider the deal, which is being forced by an agreement negotiated by the attorney general's office following the September 2018 gas disaster.

Eversource, which operates elsewhere in the state, is buying all of the Columbia Gas operation in Massachusetts from

its parent company, NiSource. The deal calls on NiSource to pay \$56 million into a relief fund to wipe out gas debt for 26,000 low-income customers in the state. It also provides funding for the Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund to finance programs, grants and scholarships.

Some soon-to-be former Columbia Gas customers are still distrustful, even with a new company in charge. What do you think?

**FRESH START:** It's a relief to see the Columbia Gas operation sold, removing from our midst the company behind the gas explosions. At the same time, Eversource should heed the lessons learned by its predecessor and operate responsibly. (11 votes)

**STILL NERVOUS:** A gas utility is a gas utility, and the system itself isn't changing. A new operator in charge doesn't make me feel safer or reassured that this won't happen again. (8 votes)

## READER ACCESS

### EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

**EDITOR TRACEY RAUH** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-946-2242, trauh@andovertownsm.com

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

**REPORTER GENEVIEVE DINATALE** at 978-946-2134, or gdinatale@andovertownsm.com

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

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**BUSINESS PLANNER**

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

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 10**

**LAWRENCE** - Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Next Generation Leaders Virtual Roundtable Series with Nutrition in Motion, 11 to noon. Join other young people in business for an exclusive intimate discussion on the keys to personal development, entrepreneurship and opportunities for young people in business. All are welcome to attend for free, but registration is required at [merrimackvalleycham.com/events/MVCC-FREE-Next-Generation-Leaders-Virtual-Roundtable-with-Nutrition-in-Motion-5044/](http://merrimackvalleycham.com/events/MVCC-FREE-Next-Generation-Leaders-Virtual-Roundtable-with-Nutrition-in-Motion-5044/) details or call 978-686-0900. Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 11**

**ANDOVER** - Rotary of Andover weekly meeting features Glenn Preziano, Pres. & Publisher, Merrimack Valley Media Group, 7:15 to 7:30 a.m.; presentation including

Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Guests and new members welcome - call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. [RotaryAndover.com](http://RotaryAndover.com).

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16**

**LAWRENCE** - Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Virtual Economic Development Forum with Mass. Secretary of Housing & Economic Development Mike Kennealy, noon to 1 p.m. "The State of the

State's Economy and How the MV Region Is Moving Forward." Moderator Lane Glenn, president, Northern Essex Community College and chairman, MVCC Economic Development Committee, with a special panel of local businesses. Free, registration required; optional \$5 contribution to the MVCC to help continue these services. Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration. For more information, visit [web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MV-Chamber-Virtual-Economic-Development-Forum-with-Mass-Secretary-of-Housing-Econ-Development-Mike-Kennealy-5043/](http://web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MV-Chamber-Virtual-Economic-Development-Forum-with-Mass-Secretary-of-Housing-Econ-Development-Mike-Kennealy-5043/) details.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 21**

**NORTH ANDOVER** - Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce 2020 Agritourism Conference Outdoors at Smolak Farms, 315 S. Bradford St., 8 to 9:15 a.m. With Keiko Matsudo Orrall, executive director, Massachusetts Office

of Travel and Tourism. In-person attendance is limited; Zoom webinar link is available for those unable to attend. Free; optional \$5 fee. Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration.

Register at [web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-2020-Agritourism-Conference-with-Keiko-Matsudo-Orrall-Executive-Director-MA-Office-of-Travel-and-Tourism-5031/](http://web.merrimackvalleychamber.com/events/MVCC-2020-Agritourism-Conference-with-Keiko-Matsudo-Orrall-Executive-Director-MA-Office-of-Travel-and-Tourism-5031/) details.

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**Erev Rosh Hashanah**  
Friday, September 18  
7:00pm

**First Day of Rosh Hashanah**  
Saturday, September 19  
Children's Service: 3:00pm

**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah**  
Sunday, September 20  
10:00am

**Yom Kippur**  
Wednesday, October 9  
Children's Service: 3:00pm  
Mincha: 4:30pm  
N'eilah: 5:30pm

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

**Thomas J. Garvey, 90**

November 14, 1929 - September 3, 2020

ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS— Irish Historian and beloved member of the Irish Community of Andover, Lawrence and Boston, Thomas J. Garvey passed away at Bear Mountain @ Andover on September 3, 2020. He was born in Andover on November 14, 1929, the son of Patrick J. Garvey and Mary M. (Lynch) who immigrated to the U.S. from Counties Cavan & Leitrim, Ireland. He was educated at St. Augustine Grammar School in Andover and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1948.



Tom was an accomplished, "self taught" musician on piano, organ and button accordion. He played in many bands in circa 1950's in the Boston area including the Tara Ceili Band and also had his own band in the 1960's. He entertained as a pianist at many house parties and functions over the years and also was a fill in organist at many local Catholic Churches. Tom was a radio host for 31 years on WCCM's traditional "Irish Music Tribute" that aired annually on St. Patrick's Day. He was the accompanist piano player for St. Michael's Minstrel Show for many years and a contributor to Boston College's Irish Music Archives.

He was a communicant of St. Augustine's Church in Andover and a very devout Catholic. Tom had a marvelous sense of humor, an amazing memory and was quite the storyteller.

An Army Veteran of the Korean War Tom served as a medic in the Mash Unit. He was honored with a Combat Medical Badge and Bronze Star. He was promoted to Sergeant First Class E-6 while

in Korea. Tom retired from Wang Laboratories in Lowell. His survivors include nephews, Christopher Garvey and wife Diana & their sons of South Carolina & Kevin Garvey of Texas. Special cousins Peggy (Moran) & her husband Jack Fitzgerald, Patsy Garvey, Richard Garvey & wife Maryann, Carmel O'Sullivan (Dublin), Phyllis Doughty (London) & other cherished relatives & friends in the U.S., Ireland, England & Australia. In addition to his parents, he was pre-deceased by his brother John Garvey & sister-in-law, Mary Garvey & their daughter Mary Ellen & several cousins.

**ARRANGEMENTS: Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 from 3:00 to 7:00 at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 35 Merrimack Street, No. Andover. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Augustine's Church, 43 Essex Street, Andover, MA. Burial with military honors will follow at the Veterans' Section of the cemetery. For online condolences and other information please visit us at www.breenfuneralhome.com.**

**Jobless benefits fund in the red  
State unemployment fund has \$750M deficit**

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse reporter

BOSTON -- A state fund that pays for jobless benefits will be more than \$2.4 billion in the hole by the of the year, and that will likely mean higher taxes next year for business owners.

The Unemployment Trust Fund, which totaled \$1.1 billion last year, had a deficit of nearly \$750 million as of July 31 amid a tsunami of unemployment claims tied to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the latest data by the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

By Dec. 31, the deficit could mushroom to \$2.4 billion, the agency said. Next year, the fund could be nearly \$5 billion in the red.

"As a result, Massachusetts will need to rely on advances from the federal unemployment insurance account," the agency noted in a report.

Massachusetts has already borrowed at least \$1.3 billion from the federal government to replenish the fund, according to the U.S. Treasury

Department. The state has also received funds from the federal CARES Act, a pandemic relief package approved by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump.

But businesses that pay into the state's unemployment trust fund will also need to dig deeper to keep it solvent.

Contributions paid by employers are projected to increase by nearly 60% next year, from an average per employee cost of \$539 to \$858, according to the Labor Department's projections. The employer contribution will rise to \$925 over the next four years.

The Baker administration says current contributions aren't sufficient to cover the cost of keeping benefits flowing to the jobless, even with help from the federal government.

Business groups say the tax hikes will add to the financial burden of employers struggling to reopen after months of being shut down.

"It's a huge problem," said Christopher Carozzi, Massachusetts state director of the

National Federation of Independent Businesses. "In one breath, the state is looking to these businesses to create jobs, but it's also making it far more expensive to create that job by increasing unemployment taxes."

While the number of workers filing new unemployment claims has slowed, the state's 16% unemployment rate in July was the highest in the country.

Nearly 1 million jobless workers are still collecting regular state unemployment benefits and federal pandemic-related benefits.

Unemployment benefits in Massachusetts are capped at 30 weeks, though most people only qualify for 26 weeks. How much someone gets from unemployment depends on a number factors, but the weekly benefit generally amounts to half of someone's regular wages.

Jobless workers got an extra \$600 per week for 13 weeks from the federal CARES Act, on top of regular state unemployment benefits. The federal government is also providing

pandemic-related unemployment benefits to jobless workers who don't qualify for state regular benefits.

Greg Sullivan, a senior analyst at the Pioneer Institute, a Boston-based think tank, said the federal government could ease the burden on business owners by reimbursing the state for the trust fund's deficit or forgiving some of the loans.

He said the state Legislature could also borrow money to pay down the deficit or freeze employer contributions to the unemployment trust fund, as it did during the Great Recession.

But saddling business owners with the cost of replenishing the fund would hurt the state's economic recovery, he said.

"It's like throwing an anchor to a drowning person," he said. "These businesses are just starting to recover and they're getting hit with a big bill."

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

**Boxes of bullets, shotgun shells discovered during river cleanup**

BY MIKE LABELLA  
Staff Writer

HAVERRHILL — Rocky Morrison has removed all kinds of things from the Merrimack River and its banks in recent years, including appliances, bicycles, car engines, bed frames, tires, shopping carts and hypodermic needles.

But this is the first time he's found live ammunition — lots of it.

Morrison and another member of the Methuen-based Clean River Project were picking up debris in and along the river in Haverhill Monday when they found a plastic bag containing several boxes of shotgun shells and unused bullets.

"We believe the bag may have recently been thrown from the Basiliere Bridge as we found it on the Bradford side of the river just downstream from the bridge," said Morrison, president of the

Clean River Project which does much work in the Haverhill stretch of the river. "It's a good thing we found it as we would not want to have kids find it and do something crazy and dangerous."

Morrison said the man who was with him Monday, Kevin Gingras, keeps a list of the kinds and quantities of items they collect during river cleanups. In this case, Gingras logged 148 bullets and shotgun shells, Morrison said.

Morrison and Gingras were patrolling the Merrimack and removing trash along Haverhill's riverbank on Labor Day as part of his organization's river-cleaning contract with the city.

They were on the river in their new pontoon boat paid for by the Covanta Energy company and were working their way along the Bradford side of the river, removing whatever debris had collected there.

In just a few hours, Morrison and Gingras collected three large bags of junk that were floating in the water and littering the riverbanks, including plastic and glass bottles, plastic cigarette lighters, disposable shopping bags, hypodermic needles and a propane tank.

"The river is a giant conveyor belt with all kinds of junk floating down from communities upstream and also what people toss in the water in Haverhill," Morrison said.

The two men continued to collect trash and junk from under the Basiliere Bridge on the Bradford side of the river when they spotted a white, plastic bag at the water's edge. Gingras snagged it with a grappling hook.

"It was kind of heavy and he thought it might have contained pieces of a human body," Morrison said. "We never know what we're going to find."

He said Gingras dragged the

bag onto their pontoon boat and out spilled wet boxes of bullets and shotgun shells.

Morrison immediately called the Police Department and then headed to the city's docks behind the Tap Restaurant, where they met officers Daniel McDonagh and Daniel Trocki, who were sent there to retrieve the ammunition.

"They said they didn't think they could trace them back to anyone and would be sending it off for proper disposal," Morrison said. "It was quite a mystery that had all of us wondering why someone would toss a bag of bullets into the river."

Police Capt. Stephen Doherty said the safest way to dispose of unwanted or found ammunition is to contact police.

"Haverhill police appreciate Mr. Morrison promptly notifying us," Doherty said, "so we could properly dispose of this ammunition."

ROTARY MEETINGS

**FRIDAY, Sept. 11**  
Rotary of Andover weekly 7:30 a.m. meeting features Glenn Prezzano, president & publisher, Merrimack Valley Media Group presentation including Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Meetings are also

virtual on Zoom; guests and new members welcome — call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. RotaryAndover.com

**FRIDAY, Sept. 25**  
Rotary of Andover weekly 7:30 a.m. meeting features hypnotist Tommy Lee presentation including Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to

8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Meetings are also virtual on Zoom; guests and new members welcome — call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. RotaryAndover.com

**FRIDAY, Oct. 2**  
Rotary of Andover weekly 7:30 a.m. meeting features Derek Mitchell,

executive director of the Lawrence Partnership presentation including Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Meetings are also virtual on Zoom; guests and new members welcome — call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. RotaryAndover.com

POLICE LOG

**Thursday, Sept. 3**  
Motor Vehicle Stop: Written warning, speed, Lowell Street, 6:27 a.m.

Crash: Two cars were towed following a crash. The plates on the cars were 4410352/NH and V10649/MA. There were no reported injuries, North Main Street, 7:26 a.m.

Harassment: A walk-in reported an issue with the human resources department at the YMCA regarding a phone call. Advice was given, North Main Street, 10:59 a.m.

Vandalism: A caller reported that someone spray painted profanity on her house. Detective in route for photos, Birch Road, 3:13 p.m.

By-law Violation: A caller reports she was out walking by Haggetts Pond Road when she saw a 20 to 25 year old man throw a Frisbee in the water for his dog to retrieve. Officers report he was spoken to and advised that the dog cannot be in the water, Haggetts Pond Road, 6:18 p.m.

Motor Vehicle Complaint: A caller reported that a car sped by him and hit his mailbox. A sergeant reports there was no damage to the mailbox. An officer stopped a car with plates MA 8CY632 on Haggetts Pond Road. The officer reports this was a 17-year-old that got nervous and there was no damage to the car, North Street, 8:12 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 4**  
Unwanted Guest: A CVS staffer reported a man in blue jeans, wearing a blue jacket in the store. Her manager told her that if he comes in to call the police because

he is known for shoplifting. A sergeant reports that he spoke with the manager about a trespass letter, Main Street, 5:29 a.m.

Motor Vehicle Stop: A written warning was issued for a hands-free violation, Main Street, 11:20 a.m.

Motor Vehicle Complaint: A caller reports that a gray sedan was speeding on her street to deliver food to a neighbor and almost hit her children who were riding their bicycles. The caller said the plates of the vehicle were MA REG 1BRA18. Officer reports - negative results. Setting up selective enforcement in the area, Nolllet Drive, 11:52 a.m.

E911 False Call: A caller just wanted to report a vehicle that almost hit her while crossing the road. The caller stated the driver of the vehicle did pull over to apologize and said the sun was in his eyes. The caller was okay with just making the call and did not feel the need to take it any further, Harold Parker Road, 12:26 p.m.

Suspicious Activity: A caller reported a young blonde girl on a motor scooter/ bicycle. The caller said that when she confronted the girl on the bike, the girl yelled at her and drove into the doctor's park, Haverhill Street, 4:50 p.m.

General Service: A caller reported that kids from the college have been ordering grocery delivery to their street and having it dropped off at a house they don't live in. Officer spoke to the caller and will check the neighborhood, Brookfield Road, 5:07 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 5**  
Mental Health: A caller

wanted to speak with an officer about her father giving somebody permission to marry her, Railroad Street, 2:37 a.m.

Vandalism to Mailbox: There was a report of damage to the mailboxes at a few of the houses in the neighborhood. An officer reports that 18 and 20 Burton Farm have damaged mailboxes along with 33 Westwind, Tanglewood Way South, 9:41 a.m.

Larceny: Report of a stolen license plate, Brookfield Road, 10:38 a.m.

Service Request: Report of two stolen stop signs. The DPW was notified, Brookfield Road, 10:48 a.m.

Well Being Check: A walk-in reports a male party jumped into traffic as if he was trying to be hit by a vehicle. An officer checked the area for the male with negative results, Reservation Road, 3:30 p.m.

Harassment: A caller reports that her 11-year-old daughter was being harassed and then was sent an inappropriate photo on her phone, North Street, 9:49 p.m.

Shoplifting: An employee at CVS reports a shoplifter just left the store about six minutes earlier through the rear door wearing a black hoodie with green lettering, and shorts. The shoplifter left on a bicycle. The subject was a white male in his late 20s or early 30s. Officers checked the area first with negative results. Officer Proburger will file, Main Street, 10:01 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 6**  
Motor Vehicle Complaint: Security reports a vehicle

drove onto their property going the wrong way and the female driver is intoxicated. A sergeant reports after speaking to the driver that she was trying to turn around and drove on the grass and security thought she might be impaired. Her sister was on scene to drive her home. The female driver was in a crash earlier that night and did not feel safe driving home, Lowell Street, 1:57 a.m.

Larceny from Motor Vehicle: A caller said someone was stealing tires off their vehicle at their home. An officer reports that the subject(s) were gone upon arrival, North Street, 2:14 a.m.

Mischievous Activity: There was a report of five youths riding dirt bikes in the cemetery. An officer reports they are walking their bikes home and were informed not to dirt bike in the cemetery again, Abbott Street, 2:08 p.m.

Request Officer: There was a report of a male on Bailey Road assaulting a 15-year-old. An officer reports the assault happened in Tewksbury. Tewksbury Police Department is going to investigate, Woodhaven Drive, 2:28 p.m.

Suspicious Activity: A caller from #1 reports a black pick-up truck occupied by a male and a female was just on her street taking pictures of her elderly neighbor's house. She states the truck has since left and had a plate of MA REG: 2PW899. An officer checked the area with negative results, Castle Heights Road, 6:17 p.m.

All those years ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago: Sept. 17, 1920

A truck left stranded without lights near Ballardvale Road caused the wrecking of two other machines Monday evening. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. Because of the rain the driver of the first automobile did not see the truck until he was close upon it and struck the left front hub tearing out the side of his machine.

One thousand, one hundred and eleven children were enrolled in Andover's public schools this week. Of these, 226 were pupils in the Punchard High School, 85 entering as freshmen. This is the largest number of pupils ever attending the high school.

Revised fares on the Lawrence Division of the Eastern Massachusetts Railway went into effect Wednesday and the flat cash fare to Lawrence was increased to 20 cents.

Peter Thiras, who closed his store last week, has made an assignment of his goods and Jacob M. Reed attorney in the Bay State building, Lawrence, has sent out notices to those who ran accounts at the store to pay their bills to him. The closing of the store is much regretted by his Ballardvale patrons.

75 Years Ago: Sept. 14, 1945

An automobile which was stolen last Thursday afternoon in Shawsheen was found abandoned in a wooded section off Lowell Street, Methuen. The car had been stripped and several articles stolen, including a set of golf clubs, two spare tires, a gasoline heater, radio and horn. The machine was stolen when Thomas Noyes, Balmoral Street, left the keys in the car while he went into the

Shawsheen Village post office.

Patriotic flag raising exercises were held at the local schools last Friday morning, with Superintendent of Schools Kenneth L. Sherman delivering an address to the students. Exercises were first held for the pupils of Punchard High School, the junior high school and the Central grade schools, with a group of parents and friends attending.

Abbot Academy will begin its 117th year Tuesday, Sept. 18, with a peak enrollment. As usual, girls are enrolled from all parts of the country, with four local girls entering Abbot for the first time.

50 Years Ago: Sept. 24, 1970

Selectmen have allowed use of the former Central Fire Station (behind the Town House) until Oct. 17. It was originally destined for demolition and turned over to parking spaces once the Fire Department moved into the new public safety center. The young people are hopeful selectmen will allow continued use. Gerry Faro, 11 Marilyn Drive, a senior at Andover High school and a member of the steering committee which supervises activity at the fire station, reports that the place is humming with activity every night.

A photo caption reads: "Dave Hixon intercepts a Danvers pass in the late stages of Saturday's game which Andover lost 22-12. Hixon ran the ball back 40 yards and set up the second score for the Golden Warriors.

The Townsman, in this issue, introduces Anthony Frulla, new principal of Shawsheen School, who has taken over the helm of this 330-pupil school this fall, and was actively engaged in the school administration's work and planning over this summer.

Please recycle this newspaper.

# Townspeople

## Hitting their decks

Skateboard park a perfect place to catch some air

Since 1998, the Andover Community Skate Park, maintained and supported by Andover Youth Services, has offered people of all ages and skateboarding levels the opportunity to enjoy a dynamic atmosphere to advance skills and have fun with friends. It's a great venue to ride a scooter, too.

During the pandemic, people are asked to wear masks through the check-in process and when unable to social distance by 6 feet.

Masks are not required otherwise. Helmets are mandatory.

The park is open from 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



Dylan Correia, 15, of Andover, catches some air.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Penny Flanders, 9, of Andover, learns new techniques from AYS instructor Giovanni Rosano, right.



Deacon Flanders, 6, of Andover, races up a ramp on his scooter at the Andover Community Skate Park.



Kastiel Camire, 8, of Andover, jumps over a speed bump on his scooter.



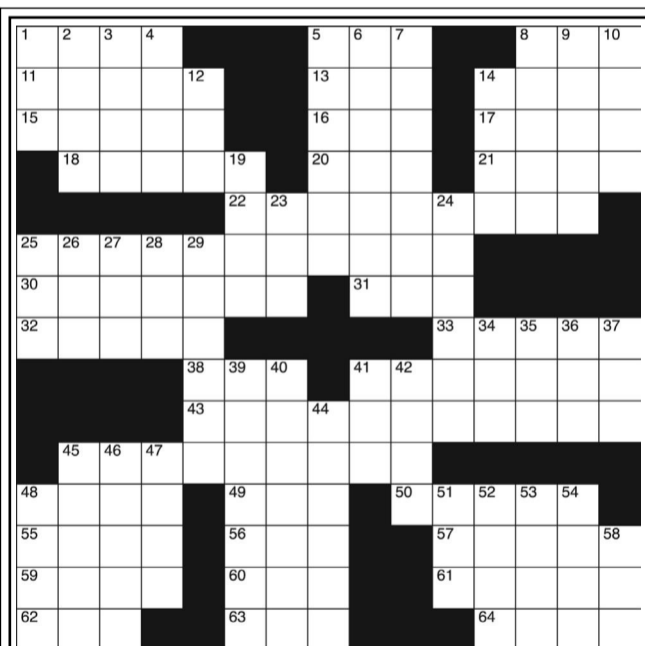
Anish Chidgopkar, 14, of Andover, rolls down a ramp.



Jack Walsh, 10, jumps off a speed bump on his scooter.



Penny Flanders, 9, of Andover, rides down a ramp.



Solution in Classified Section

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greasy powder (abbr.)
- 5. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- 8. Amount of time
- 11. Greeting
- 13. Form of "to be"
- 14. Israeli diplomat
- 15. Outfit
- 16. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 17. Deceptive movement
- 18. Anxious
- 20. Popular Letterman guest
- 21. Saints' signal caller
- 22. Intoxicate
- 25. Relationship
- 30. Ask for one's hand in marriage
- 31. Popular Will Ferrell film
- 32. Gargle
- 33. Warning sensation before migraine
- 38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 41. Erases
- 43. At ease
- 45. Small branch of an artery
- 48. Mother of Hermes
- 49. Body part
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Wellness chants
- 56. Helps little firms
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Peep
- 60. Nellie \_\_, journalist
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Affirmative
- 64. Check

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular kids' game
- 2. Away from wind
- 3. Round water pot
- 4. Drink quickly
- 5. A simple type of jet engine
- 6. Something for nothing
- 7. Painkiller
- 8. Siskel's pal
- 9. Strong spirit distilled in Turkey
- 10. Again
- 12. Imitate
- 14. Icelandic poems
- 19. Jacob \_\_, American journalist
- 23. No (Scottish)
- 24. Newborn
- 25. Credit term
- 26. Nonprofit research group in CA
- 27. Male offspring
- 28. Important baseball stat
- 29. A way to compel
- 34. Fiddler crab
- 35. Jewish equivalent of "Sir"
- 36. Every
- 37. Midway between east and southeast
- 39. Anti-slavery treaty
- 40. A friendly manner
- 41. Military figure (abbr.)
- 42. Area units
- 44. Sudden incursions
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Covered with hoarfrost
- 47. Job
- 48. Donkey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
- 58. Criticize

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# The curtain is slowly rising

## Theater troupes get creative in finding way back to stage

By TERRY DATE  
Staff Writer

For five months the coronavirus has stilled community theaters, leaving stilled players to soliloquy at home in front of foggy bathroom mirrors.

Now, with many virus restrictions lifting, several Merrimack Valley troupes are reappearing, actors edging closer to the stage, eager for lines, musical numbers and action.

The Pentucket Players will present "The Addams Family" outdoors at Winnekenni Castle over Labor Day weekend. Three city-approved shows will be performed with actors in masks before limited audiences, well spaced. The shows will also be live streamed.

Live and online performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-6 at Winnekenni Castle, Castle Road, Haverhill. For tickets and times visit pentucketplayers.org.

This is the theater troupe's second streamed presentation. The first was in May, when members performed 20 Stephen Sondheim songs.

The show made enough money to keep them afloat, and the performers were so happy to be together again that it brought some of them to tears after the show was done, said actors Chris Albrecht of Methuen and Angelica Jeffreys of Newmarket, New Hampshire.

Jeffreys, also the Pentucket board president, said the coronavirus shutdown had been hard for the troupe after 26 years of performing three or four shows annually.

"It was like somebody slammed a door," she said.

The door has opened — at least partially, though not without big challenges. The cast has learned the show in only six weeks instead of three months and largely at home, said Director John Buzzell, a Haverhill resident.

At an in-person rehearsal in Lawrence on Aug. 18, as Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester and the rest of the cast sang, stage manager Patrick Oteri of Merrimack kept close eye on the time.

Every 18 minutes he had to clear the set in Pentucket's fifth-floor mill space and air out the room with fans.

Also, on a weekend earlier this month the Lawrence-based Acting Out! Theater Company put on a student presentation of "Godspell" in a courtyard by their Island Street studio.

The shows, done by 16 actors with Jahmo Chavez of Lawrence as Jesus, played to 30 people.

The cast achieved social distancing through elevation, performing on blocks set up high. The show was an uplifting, moving experience, said audience members and Acting Out! President Linda Schoonmaker.

Schoonmaker's greatest concern is just staying open after having paid for the licensing of seven scripts that have yet to be presented due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Schoonmaker has an adult show, "Spoon River Anthology," planned for the courtyard. They are rehearsing a student show of "Beauty and the Beast" to be filmed and shown at various outdoor venues.

"My goal is to make it to March," Schoonmaker said. "If we can make it to March, maybe we can put a show on. But who knows. It is a total crap-shoot."

"Godspell," which offers directors wide set flexibility (Schoonmaker has seen it performed as a cocktail party and in a junkyard), has been a popular production among theater groups making a coronavirus comeback.

The Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport also performed "Godspell" earlier this month at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury. The shows were drive-in performances. People watched live performances from their vehicles, listening to the vocals on their radios.

"We started seeing the drive-in movies pop up and we thought, 'Why not drive-in theater?'" Firehouse Executive Director John Moynihan told the Newburyport Daily News recently.

"I've wanted to do this for a long



TERRY DATE/Staff photos

Left, Morticia Addams played by Angelica Jeffreys, prepares to take the stage at a rehearsal of "The Addams Family." The Pentucket Players musical is Sept. 4-6 at Winnekenni Castle in Haverhill and available for live streaming.

time and virtual programming is difficult in the summer because people want to be outside."

Another drama group in Lawrence, Spotlight Playhouse, assembled a live cabaret presentation, "Here Comes the Sun," outside at Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover on Aug. 29 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Aug. 30 at 2 p.m.

Last March, Spotlight was poised to present "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" when the curtain fell. Other groups had the same hard luck, and all theater companies have been forced to forego their regularly scheduled 2020 seasons.

Yet, acting enthusiasts are desperate to return to their roles.

Buzzell said there is often some negotiating after the cast has been selected. An actor might not be available to rehearse a particular



Cast members snap their fin fingers at a rehearsal of "The Addams Family."

That wasn't the case with "The Addams Family."

"Everyone accepted their roles on the spot," he said. "Everyone was dying to get back to theater."

# CDC, Trump ban evictions through end of year

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
cwade@cnhi.com

BOSTON — With a state freeze on evictions set to expire next month, renters struggling with the economic fallout from the coronavirus have received a temporary reprieve from the federal government.

The Trump administration issued a directive last week to stop the eviction of some renters though the end of 2020 to prevent spread of the virus. The order was issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which said landlords shall not evict any eligible renter for failure to pay rent.

"Housing stability helps protect public health because homelessness increases the likelihood of individuals moving into close quarters in congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, which then puts individuals at higher risk to COVID-19," the directive states.

To qualify for the protection, renters must earn \$198,000 or less a year for couples filing their tax returns jointly or \$99,000 for single filers. Renters must show they sought assistance to make their payments, are unable to pay rent because of COVID-19 hardship, and are likely to become

homeless if evicted.

The moratorium doesn't exempt tenants from paying rent, nor does it forgive what they owe. Renters would still be responsible for paying back rent.

Doug Quattrochi, executive director of the trade group Mass Landlords, said the order would prolong the economic hardship of property owners struggling to pay their bills.

"There's been a lot of stress and angst, and this will likely only add to it," he said. "They're just kicking the can down the road past the election."

Quattrochi said roughly 20% of the group's members

are in "real serious trouble" because of a lack of rental income. Some are looking to take their properties off the rental market.

His group has formed a council to help struggling landlords recoup financial losses by filing claims in court or "any avenue that will hear it."

Congress passed a \$2.3 trillion pandemic relief package in March that paused evictions in most federal subsidized housing complexes, but the ban has expired.

Last month, Gov. Charlie Baker extended a statewide freeze on evictions and foreclosures by an additional

60 days, throwing a lifeline to struggling renters and homeowners.

Baker said the moratorium, now set to expire Oct. 17, has helped people affected by the pandemic to remain in their homes during the state of emergency.

Under the state's emergency orders, Baker can extend the eviction and foreclosure moratorium by 90 more days.

Similar to President Donald Trump's order, the state moratorium does not exempt tenants or homeowners from paying rent or mortgage, nor does it forgive what they owe.

Under the state order,

landlords can still take legal action against nonpaying tenants, including filing a breach of contract lawsuit for monetary damages.

The Baker administration's order was challenged by landlords in court, but has survived those challenges so far.

Meanwhile, a proposal backed by nearly 90 Democrats in the state Legislature would keep the ban on evictions in place for at least a year after the state of emergency is lifted.

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

# Feast of the Three Saints held despite pandemic

By GENEVIEVE DINATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

LAWRENCE — Ron Vallante, a 68-year-old Italian American, has been going to the Feast of the Three Saints since he was a child.

"Going to the feast is something that's part of us," he said. "Many times, I have asked the three saints for some blessings and believe me, they have come through."

Normally, the Feast of the Three Saints overtakes the streets of Lawrence with the sound of live music, the scent of Italian cuisine and a confetti-covered procession. That confetti was made possible in part by Vallante, who has been shooting it off roofs during the event's procession since he was a teenager.

"Years ago, I started with the confetti off the roofs and I was 14 years old and I did that for like 30 years and I loved it," he said. "I'd get choked up every time we were doing it."

But due to the coronavirus, there won't be any confetti for Vallante to shoot over the procession this year. That's because the event was reduced to a

drive-by viewing of the saint statues in the Corpus Christi parking lot.

"It's something. There are people who wait all year to see the saints," said Tony Palmisano, spokesperson for the St. Alfio Society, which has hosted the feast since 1923.

Both a religious festival and a celebration of Italian culture, the Feast of the Three Saints celebrates three Catholic saints — St. Alfio, St. Filadelfo and St. Cirino — brothers who were martyred for their faith almost 1,800 years ago.

The St. Alfio Society was formed by Sicilian immigrants from Trecastagni who came to Lawrence about the 1890s to work in the textile mills. The feast was a tradition that originated in Trecastagni.

"Trecastagni is the home seat of the three saints in Sicily, so this is their tradition," Palmisano said. "Normally, May 10 is the day that this is celebrated over in Sicily, but because the majority of the Italian Americans back in the early '20s working in the mills could not take the day off, Labor Day weekend was the only time (to hold the event)."

The St. Alfio Society was

more than a conduit of culture for immigrants coming to Lawrence.

In the 1920s, the society was also a lifeline for paying members who didn't have health care. It provided "death benefits" and health care to members who couldn't receive them through their workplace, according to the organization's website.

"Back then, the vast majority that were members of this organization worked in the mills and if you had an accident, there was no such thing as workman's comp," Palmisano explained.

"If you worked, you got paid, you didn't work, you didn't get paid and people had accidents, people had injuries, people had illnesses," he said. "So, the society basically would front the money to that injured person until they got back on their feet."

Today, the St. Alfio Society has continued its rich history of "mutual soccorso," or mutual aid, by providing scholarships and doing charitable work in the community.

"We give out scholarships to local high school students, we support other



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

St. Alfio Society members Domenic Messina of Haverhill, right, and Peter Messina of Methuen (no relation) prepare the statues for the drive-by feast Sunday during the Feast of the Three Saints in Lawrence.

nonprofits, we have been supporters of Lawrence Little League, Lazarus House, Holy Rosary Church," Palmisano said.

But for Vallante, the feast is more than an event put on by a nonprofit — it's a way

of life.

"It just makes you feel like you are really a part of the city and part of the St. Alfio Society," Vallante said, later adding, "Nothing interferes with the feast."

For those who would like

to experience the feast but could not attend, the event's organizers have assembled clips from previous feasts and posted them on the society's Instagram page, [www.instagram.com/3SaintsFeast/](http://www.instagram.com/3SaintsFeast/).

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**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Docket No. ES20P2038EA  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Essex Division  
Estate of: Beverly Ann Buczynski-Kelley  
Also Known As: Beverly Buczynski-Kelley  
Date of Death: July 17, 2020  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Leanne Batten of Haverhill MA  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
Leanne Batten of Haverhill MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
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# Sports

## FABULOUS FARNHAMS

Andover's Farnhams one of Massachusetts' legendary athletic families

MICHAEL MULDOON  
Staff Writer

Who could have envisioned that Robert and Beverly Farnham would create an athletic dynasty?

They weren't noted athletes, and none of their seven Andover-raised children (four boys, three girls) were particularly big. The four boys probably averaged 5-10, 170 pounds — and that may be generous.

Bob has passed, and Beverly passed away this past August, but not before she enjoyed all her children's and grandchildren's successes.

Trying to write about the Farnhams is tricky. Where do you start? There are so many of them and the football, lacrosse, field hockey, ice hockey, baseball and track honors never seem to end.

You could make a strong case that they are the top two-generation athletic family in Massachusetts.

Paul Farnham (Andover High '79) and his boys are fascinating. Paul was probably the smallest of his generation at 5-8, 155 pounds. Yet he was a second-team All-Ivy receiver at Brown and 41 years later still owns the Andover High triple jump record at 46-6.5.

He and wife Elizabeth — her brother is Hall of Fame Andover track athlete/coach Peter Comeau — have three athletic boys. Even if none passes the eye test.

They are 5-4, 5-6 and 5-7 yet all starred for the Golden Warriors and all played college sports.

"You are born into it," said 2008 Andover High grad Paul Joseph Farnham, better known as P.J. "It's a constant competitive landscape. The genes help. We just outwork everyone. There is always a chip on our shoulder. My dad always said you have to do the work when nobody is watching."

P.J.'s brother Patrick is just 5-4, 130 pounds. Certainly, he couldn't have been a star athlete.

Think again. He picked up track as a junior in high school and became one of the top sprinters in area history with bests of 22.09 in the 200 meters, 10.94 in the 100 and an All-State championship in the 4x100 relay.

All-Scholastics, MVC MVPs, Halls of Fames, professional athletes — that's the Farnham legacy. It's more than good genes. That fire burns deep in the soul.

"We didn't have a backyard. My dad cut all the trees down. He built a batting cage," said P.J., who is married to Taryn MacPhail Farnham and lives in Andover.

"We'd hit, hit, hit. My hands would be blood blisters everywhere. We broke 20-plus windows. We broke



Andover's Buddy Farnham (13) with the catch in a 2011 Patriots preseason game.

car windshields. The house would be a mess from Wiffle Ball. There was a fair share of going to the emergency room."

P.J. was a three-year baseball starter at Merrimack College, Pat ran track at UMass Amherst and Cam scored 83 career runs for the Endicott College baseball team and played a year of football for the Gulls after excelling for Andover High as a kick returner.

Cam and P.J. currently are both assistant football and baseball coaches at Andover High.

### BROWN LEGENDS

It's special to be a legendary athletic family in your hometown. It's a rarity, though, to do it at any college. Ever the overachievers, the Farnham boys did it at a Division I Ivy League school. And two played two sports, a rarity indeed.

Family friend, Andover schoolteacher Frank Kennedy, talked up his alma mater, Brown, and soon a legendary pipeline was born.

Bob (Brown '77) and Mark (Brown '80) are in the school's Hall of Fame. Bob earned a tryout with the NFL's Cleveland Browns while Mark was also a two-time Brown MVP in lacrosse.

Paul (Brown '83), a second-team All-Ivy receiver, also played three years of college lacrosse, earning Brown's Most Improved honors. He



Family photo at P.J. Farnham's wedding. From left: Emma, P.J., Glenn, Beverly, Pat, Julie (Glenn's Wife), Lily, and Cam.

is with Bob and Mark in the Andover High Hall of Fame. For 10 straight years, Ivy League defensive backs cursed the Farnhams, all wearing the No. 46 they made famous playing for coach Dick Collins at Andover High.

Youngest brother Glenn is the outlier. Not athletically, but where he worked his magic. He's in the Central Catholic Hall of Fame and played college football at New Haven.

### NEXT GENERATION

The next generation has been similarly successful. Bob's son Bobby Farnham of North Andover played 67 games over three seasons with the National Hockey League's Devils, Penguins and Canadiens. This after starring at Brooks, Phillips and Brown.

At Brown, Bobby (Class of '12) was a top scholar-athlete and wore that same No. 46 on the ice. He now plays for the Belfast Giants in Ireland. Buddy Farnham, Mark's

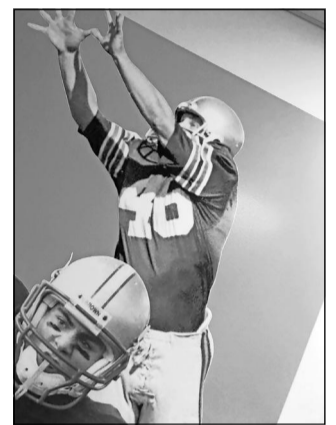
son, spent two years on the Patriots' practice squad. In other words, an injury away from catching Tom Brady passes in a regular-season game.

At Brown, Buddy's legend. That's what they call you when you are New England Player of the Year and have 229 career receptions for 2,895 yards.

He turned down a scholarship to national power Virginia to play football at Brown.



ANDY BAUMGARTNER/Staff photo  
Andover's Pat Farnham (right) won the All-State 4x100 relay title in 2011.



Courtesy photo  
Andover High (AHS '76) and Brown Hall of Famer Mark Farnham with the circus catch for Brown.

### THE GIRLS, TOO

The speed, quickness and drive was passed along to the girls in the next generation.

Bobby's older sister, Cat Farnham, was an Eagle-Tribune All-Star soccer player at Central who played collegiately for Bentley.

Buddy's younger twins sisters, Kate and Anne, starred for the powerhouse Division 1 UMass Amherst lacrosse team. Kate was 2016 A-10 Defensive MVP and Ann was twice second-team All-Conference. Their older sister, Grace, played field hockey at Merrimack.

Former Andover High field hockey star Emma Farnham, like uncles Bobby (Brooks hockey) and Patrick (Andover track), was an Eagle-Tribune MVP. The 5-foot-2 Emma, who is Glenn's daughter, was recruited for lacrosse and field hockey. She plays lacrosse at UMass Amherst.

Emma's sister, Lily, is a promising sophomore field hockey player at Andover. She's the last Farnham in this generation. But there are six very young great-grandchildren.

The Farnhams married into athletic families, too, including the Kobelski, Comeau and Demoulas families. They are well aware of legacy.

"We all had the opportunity to play at a high level. We're proud of it and we're proud of that No. 46," said P.J., whose e-mail account begins with 46Farnham. "It's been going since the mid-'70s. It's a pride thing for the next generation."

TWITTER: @MullyET

## Andover's Bravo stars for FCBL's Navigators, Harvard

BY MATT WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

Andover's Logan Bravo delivered a stellar summer for the North Shore Navigators of the college all-star Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

The infielder hit .328 with two homers, 20 RBIs and six doubles in 38 games this summer.

The former Austin Prep star is heading into his junior season for Harvard University baseball. In 2019, Bravo hit two homers in 20 games for the Crimson. He started all six games for Harvard this spring, recording five hits, before the season was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

Bravo took time to answer some questions during his summer with the Navigators:

**What's your favorite park to play in, and what makes that place special?**

"I've been lucky enough to play at Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium for a game each in high school, and again at Fenway in the Beanpot Tournament my freshman year. As a lifelong Red Sox fan, it was really a dream come true to play there. Fraser Field (in Lynn) also has to be up there."

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

As a Red Sox fan, I was just old enough to remember the 2004 playoff run and World Series championship. That fall as a kindergartener, I wore my baseball pants and Johnny Damon jersey every single day to school. I would love to talk to Johnny Damon about the team's playoff run and also what kind of shampoo he used.

**What did/would you choose for your walk-up song, and is**

**there any meaning behind it?**

The walk-up song I've had for the Navigators both this year and last has been "I Want To Know What Love Is" by Foreigner. A teammate at school had this song for a few games, and it seemed to get a good response from the crowd. I was among those who liked it and without any other standout options, I picked it for last year.

I don't think it would be many guys' first choice, but I've gotten compliments from some players in the league. There even was a little fan club last year who cheered for me simply because of the song. Due to the reception it got last year, I wasn't given much choice to change it for this season, and it's been fun using it again.

**Who's someone you really looked up to as a kid that you still admire?**

Someone who I really admire outside of baseball

is Elon Musk. He's much more popular now, but I was always struck by his work ethic and pursuit of what he believed needed to be done in the world to create an exciting future. I enjoyed reading his biography and every interview of his I can get my hands on. His process and dedication to his work is truly inspiring.

**What's your major and/or favorite class in college?**

I'm an Economics major. A recent class I enjoyed focused on Urban Planning, where we studied history and projects in the United States. We finished the semester with a research paper where I examined the history of why there isn't a circular transit loop around Boston like so many other cities have. As someone who grew up in the Boston area, it was cool to get a more in-depth look at some of the city's history.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo  
Andover's Logan Bravo played in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League for the North Shore Navigators this summer.

# Take the chore out of assigning chores

## Family Matters

Larry Larsen



**Dear Doctor,**  
As a working single mom, I am very busy. I have two wonderful boys, ages

13 and 12. They are active, but they are not really big in the helping department. In fact, I have to say they are not around when cleaning and laundry and putting things away are up for grabs. Any helpful hints?

**Exhausted**

**Dear Exhausted,**  
Fostering independence in the form of self-care and household chore responsibilities is one of the chief

problems of modern parents. Out of love, a parent often tends to do too much and the children too little. So, what can be done?

Start by thinking differently. Loving does not mean creating entitled kids with mom ready to answer every need. It is just the opposite.

Then, it is time for a conversation. Share with them your responsibilities and the pressures you feel.

Make a list of the chores you need to have them help with.

Try not to lecture or be negative. Telling them, "It's high time you two got off your lazy behinds and helped out" would be a real downer.

Let them pick which chores they could assume. For boys that age, cleaning the bathroom will be the hardest to sell. Make

a reasonable list for each boy. Picking up their room should be on each of their lists.

Then do two critical things. First, set a simple, but inevitable, consequence if the chore is not accomplished. Do plan on procrastination and the need for gentle reminders.

Number two is to be positive and to say "thank you." Show your gratitude when

the job is done.

Finally, stick with it. You are doing your sons a favor. They will grow into caring and responsible young men, and a future daughter-in-law will rise up and call you blessed!

*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.*

## Trahan requests EPA change CSO grant guidelines for Merrimack River

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Members of Congress from Massachusetts and New Hampshire joined forces Thursday to write a letter to the EPA seeking more money to clean up the Merrimack River.

Rep. Lori Trahan, D-Lowell, was joined by Congressman Seth Moulton, D-Salem, and New Hampshire Congressman Chris Pappas, D-Manchester,

and Congresswoman Annie Kuster, D-Concord, in calling for changes to a proposed formula that will be used to disperse federal grant funding to states and municipalities to prevent combined sewer overflows, or CSOs.

CSOs occur when heavy rain overwhelms local sanitary sewer systems, causing them to overflow and dump thousands of gallons raw, diluted sewage into the Merrimack River.

There have been several overflows this summer, resulting in health boards along the river advising against fishing or swimming for at least 48 hours following the release.

Their letter, filed on the final day of public comment to the EPA, asks that the grants not be based on total population of a state but on the frequency of overflows.

"Communities along the Merrimack River have been doing everything they can

to limit harmful sewage and stormwater overflows, but more help from the federal government is long overdue," said Congresswoman Trahan.

"Federal funding for CSO projects will go a long way toward helping communities in need, but the current formula proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency will place our communities at a clear disadvantage," she continued. "I'm proud to join with my colleagues to

request changes to the EPA's formula. We will not give up until communities along the Merrimack get the federal assistance they need to tackle this important issue."

States like Florida, where there are few CSO problems because the sewer systems are newer, stand to gain the most because their population is so high, whereas New England states will receive less, even though the sewer systems in the northeast are

generally much older and in need of billions of dollars in repairs and improvements.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council estimates that nearly 800 million gallons of untreated sewage dumped into the Merrimack River from six urban treatment plants in 2018 alone. In the past two months, the Council has announced and The Eagle Tribune has reported on untreated sewage releases in Haverhill and Lawrence.



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