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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 48

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\$1.00

Board members address probe into lieutenant Some dissatisfied with 'not racially motivated' outcome

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

Select Board member Laura Gregory said she is unhappy with the outcome of an investigation conducted by a third party for the town, which concluded that an incident involving an off-duty fire lieutenant and a Dominican woman was not racially motivated.

"I am disappointed in the investigation. It seems to have focused entirely on the intent of the individual involved and it appears to me from the information that I have on this that this is a textbook example of implicit racism," Gregory said. "And the idea of implicit racism is that you don't realize you are doing it. I am pleased that we have begun a

process to address these issues and that there will be more training."

In the wake of the incident, the town is requiring the Fire Department to take part in "a comprehensive training program that focuses on implicit bias and cultural sensitivity."

Fire Chief Michael Mansfield said he's looking forward to that.

"This has certainly been a learning experience," Mansfield said in a press release Monday. "As public safety professionals it is our natural tendency to serve the public but we need to balance our desire to serve with the realities that not every resident is comfortable with our presence. Notwithstanding the results of

See PROBE, Page 2

Fate of driving schools in limbo

Owner facing drug charges has operation in Andover

By ALLISON CORNEAU
Staff Writer

The Registry of Motor Vehicles will consider shutting down two local driving schools and two affiliated high school programs as the owner faces drug trafficking charges.

The uncertain future of the operations has left parents wondering whether classes will continue or if their money will be refunded.

Registry officials are planning a hearing Oct. 5 to determine if the owner, Michael Larocque, will be allowed to continue operating his schools in Haverhill and North Andover, plus driving courses he runs at

See SCHOOLS, Page 2

Merrimack College battles outbreak



GENEVIEVE DINATALE/Staff photo

Gavin Croce, who works as student security at Merrimack College, checks students into campus last Wednesday afternoon. As COVID-19 cases climbed, the college decided to go remote for a week.

As COVID-19 cases climb, students go remote

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
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Merrimack College has shifted to online learning until Friday, following a coronavirus outbreak that began in a residence hall last week.

"As a community, we have been doing a lot to keep ourselves safe through testing and social distancing protocols, and for six weeks things have been going well," the college said in a statement issued Monday. "But

even in our success, we must always be mindful of continuing our efforts. In retrospect, our success may have allowed us to also collectively let our guard down."

On Sept. 16, the college identified 16 cases of the

coronavirus tied to one case reported out of Monican Hall the week before. The school responded by placing all 266 students who live in Monican Hall on quarantine.

School officials say the hall

See OUTBREAK, Page 2

Officials: Columbia Gas caused recent gas leak

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
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The town has concluded that Columbia Gas was responsible for the gas leak that took place outside St. Augustine's School two weeks ago.

Officials say the company mistakenly marked the gas line as inactive, when in fact it was active, which led to the town's contractor — Revoli Construction — hitting an active gas main.

"It has been concluded that Revoli Construction struck an active gas line because the line was not identified correctly by Columbia Gas," Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said during Monday night's

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Finegold proposes double-tracking at Ballardvale Station

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

Valley, but is highly unreliable, and therefore underutilized, due to this single-tracked stretch," Finegold said. "Double tracking would bring commuters in the region the direct and reliable service they need and deserve."



State Sen. Barry Finegold

State Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, has filed an amendment to a Senate transportation bill to fund double tracking at Ballardvale Station and bring wheelchair accessible "level-boarding" to every station along the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line.

"The Haverhill Commuter Rail Line services thousands of workers in the Merrimack

In 2010, the MBTA started a project to add 8 miles of double-track — meaning a parallel track to the one that exists — to the Haverhill line between Lawrence and Wilmington. Since that time only 2 miles of track have been installed.

Select Board member Alex Vispoli said that project added double tracking to the center of town, but not the entire way. He supports Finegold's amendment, which would fund the completion

of the project.

The idea of adding a parallel track, Vispoli said, is to add more train service on the Haverhill line.

"I support double tracking because ultimately it will support increased train service for commuters in Andover," Vispoli said.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan is also on board.

"Double tracking at Ballardvale Station would significantly improve the commute for Andover residents who

depend on the Haverhill line to get to work. This project would help resolve the delays and unreliability that make utilizing the Haverhill line challenging for residents. This project would support our efforts to attract both residents and businesses that depend on public transit," Flanagan said.

At the present time, the transportation bond bill to which Finegold added the amendment is in conference committee.



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TOP 1% NATIONALLY PLATINUM CLUB AWARD WINNER

Columbia Gas donating \$10M to area nonprofits

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Columbia Gas has pledged another \$10 million to the Merrimack Valley to compensate for the 2018 gas disaster, this time in the form of grants to nonprofits in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence.

The money is on top of the \$56 million the company was ordered to give to Merrimack Valley residents and businesses under a deal brokered by state Attorney General Maura Healey and is in addition to \$47 million class action lawsuit settlement for victims of the disaster.

The money, which will be doled out over five years at \$2 million per year, will

be managed by the Essex County Community Foundation, or ECCF, an organization based in Danvers.

Carol Lavoie Schuster, vice president for Grants, Non-profit and Donor Services at ECCF, said the money will have a huge impact on nonprofits and their clients the three communities.

Nonprofit groups that apply and get through the approval process stand to gain \$25,000 to \$250,000 in annual grants, she said.

“This is a significant amount of money for organizations that are smaller in size,” she said. “This kind of grant goes a long way.”

The grant process opened last Thursday and will remain open until Dec. 4, according to Lavoie Schuster.

Winners will be announced in March, she said.

To be eligible, the nonprofits must offer programs in Lawrence, Andover or North Andover.

The charitable foundation for NiSource, the parent company of Columbia Gas, announced the \$10 million donation last Thursday.

On Sept. 13, 2018, overpressurized gas lines operated by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts forced natural gas into homes and businesses across the region. The result was a series of explosions and fires that caused the death of one young man, scores of injuries and thousands of evacuations.

Businesses were shut down for months while many people were forced to

live in trailers supplied by the government or in their homes with no use of any gas appliances.

As part of the \$56 million settlement with the state, Columbia Gas agreed to sell its Massachusetts assets to Eversource Energy, and the company will no longer be doing business in the state as of November.

“Even though NiSource may not be operating in Massachusetts in the future, it is still important to us to continue to stand with and support the communities of Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover,” said Joe Hamrock, CEO and president of NiSource.

The ECCF will have additional oversight in administering the grants from an

advisory committee including local civic and business leaders, representatives of local charitable organizations, and representatives from NiSource and Eversource Energy.

Schuster said the grant committee will be looking at five main areas of concentration for the grants, including basic needs such as food, shelter and heating; economic and workforce development; emergency assistance and disaster preparedness; STEM and energy education; and, finally, environmental stewardship.

“These grants are designed to support social infrastructure, to help assist people,” she said, noting that money won’t be going

directly into the hands of residents or businesses, but will be used to help people expand their businesses to create jobs, for example.

The grants will also be available to municipalities working in partnership with nonprofits.

Beth Francis, CEO of Essex County Community Foundation, said the grants will help many people.

“The areas of focus for funding are critical needs in the Merrimack Valley and this kind of long-term giving can help our region’s nonprofits deliver on strong outcomes for thousands of people,” she said.

For more information, and to submit an application, visit www.eccf.org/fundformerrimackvalley.

LEAK

Continued from Page 1

Select Board meeting.

On Sept. 15, Revoli Construction was working on a water main outside St. Augustine’s School around 11 a.m. when workers struck

a Columbia Gas gas main on Chestnut Street, resulting in the evacuation of not only St. Augustine’s School, but homes and businesses in the area.

No one was injured in the incident, which took place two days after the two-year anniversary of the

Merrimack Valley gas disaster, according to Andover police.

Columbia Gas has accepted responsibility for the Merrimack Valley gas explosions that hit Andover, North Andover and Lawrence on Sept. 13, 2018, which killed a teenager,

injured hundreds, and left residents without heat and/or hot water for months.

In March, Columbia Gas pleaded guilty in federal court to causing the gas disaster and was sold to Eversource as part of a deal to avoid criminal prosecution.

Eversource is set to take over the company Sept. 30, but its presence in the area is a continued concern for some local officials.

“Something like this is obviously not one thing, it’s a systematic failure,” said Select Board member Alex Vispoli.

He added, “I don’t think we can accept another failure by Columbia Gas that endangered the safety of a school population. Thank God nothing happened, but it certainly endangered those people and those students at that school.”

PROBE

Continued from Page 1

the investigation, I know that our organization is not immune to implicit bias and I look forward to training in this area as it will be beneficial to our members.”

Though the lieutenant has been exonerated, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Mansfield and members of the Select Board will not

confirm his name, saying it is a “personnel matter.”

The town hired Discrimination and Harassment Solutions to conduct the investigation led by attorney Regina Ryan, founder and president of the firm. When contacted for comment Ryan said the town would need to give her approval to make a statement.

The incident in question took place June

3, when Andover resident Gabby Batista, a 19-year-old dark-skinned Dominican woman, captured an off-duty fire lieutenant on camera as he was parked in his black Chevy Tahoe in her family’s driveway on Beacon Street.

The man is heard saying in the video, which has almost 30,000 views on Twitter, “I just wanted to make sure someone wasn’t stealing something” after

seeing Batista take mail from her own mailbox.

The incident raised concerns that he questioned what Batista was doing in the neighborhood and opening the mailbox because she is dark skinned.

The lieutenant was placed on paid administrative leave from the Fire Department within 24 hours of the incident being reported to town officials, Flanagan’s release states. He has since

returned to work with Andover Fire Rescue.

Yet, Select Board members Gregory and Dan Koh took issue with the conclusions of the investigation Monday night.

“I believe implicit bias is real and I have great respect for the firefighters of the town and the work they do to keep us all safe,” Koh said.

“But this conversation isn’t about firefighters, it’s

about creating an inclusive Andover where people of all backgrounds feel safe and respected,” he continued. “It’s hard to explain unless you have felt it yourself, but the feelings that come with being made to feel different or an outsider in your own community — it’s crushing, it’s devastating, it’s infuriating.”

Andover Fire Rescue will begin their implicit bias training in October.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

two local high schools.

Larocque, 56, of Lawrence was arrested Sept. 18 at his home and booked at the State Police barracks in Newbury. He is charged with having 2 pounds of methamphetamine at his Lawrence home, and 400 grams of the drug at North Andover Auto School, which he owns, according to police.

Larocque also owns MV Auto School in Haverhill and has satellite driving programs at North Andover High School and Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover, RMV spokeswoman Judith Reardon Riley said.

“The status of all RMV would not be able to

locations associated with Mr. Larocque will be subject to any hearing or decision,” Riley said in an email.

She said sanctions may include a suspension of the school or instructor’s license, a fine or other “appropriate measure.”

Emails sent to parents by MV Auto School and obtained by The Eagle-Tribune indicate families who paid for classes will be reimbursed through a bond the school is required to have with the RMV. The emails did not say how or when that would happen.

The RMV also sent an email to families, acknowledging Larocque’s arrest and outlining steps students can take before the Oct. 5 hearing.

The email also said the

address questions about “North Andover Auto School’s status, future classes or any potential payment reimbursement.” However, it said, students who transfer out of Larocque’s schools could be required to pay fees to their new school, even if they already paid Larocque in full.

The cost for a student driver’s course is \$725 at MV Auto School and \$750 at North Andover Auto School, according to their websites. Students must pay a non-refundable deposit of \$350 at registration, the websites say.

State troopers, federal agents and local police served warrants Sept. 18 at Larocque’s home and North Andover Auto School, investigators said.

Police said they seized about 2 pounds of methamphetamine from Larocque’s home on Colonial Road in Lawrence, along with vials of an unknown liquid and drug-related paraphernalia. Methamphetamine also was seized from a vehicle on the property, according to police. In addition, 400 grams of methamphetamine, pills and \$12,000 in cash were taken from the school, police said.

Larocque was arraigned

on two counts of trafficking methamphetamine over 200 grams, held on \$250,000 cash bail, and ordered to surrender his passport and remain drug and alcohol free. According to officials at Middleton Jail, he was still being held late last week. His next court appearance is Oct. 19.

As of Friday afternoon, all of Larocque’s driving school websites indicated no new enrollments were being accepted “due to unforeseen circumstances.”

Massachusetts laws that govern driving school instructors say the state may suspend or revoke a license or refuse to renew a license for various reasons, including the license holder being convicted of a felony. State law also requires driving schools to post a bond to ensure tuition will be refunded if a school closes due to a license suspension or revocation, or for any other reason.

To obtain an initial license as a driving instructor or to renew a license, a person must agree to a criminal and driving check, the RMV website says. Registry records indicate that North Andover Auto School’s license was renewed in March 2020. Larocque’s instructor’s

license was renewed in May 2020, according to Riley.

On Thursday, MV Auto School school was open. Several vehicles with MV Auto School signage were parked in front of the business, which is located in a strip mall near Academy Plaza in Bradford.

Students enrolled in Larocque’s schools who had road tests scheduled for Saturday took them, but did so at the RMV’s Haverhill office at Riverside Plaza instead of at the schools, according to the email sent to parents by the Registry.

North Andover Auto School is contracted with North Andover High School to offer driver’s education to students there, but has not offered in-person classes since February due to the coronavirus crisis, according to Rick Galante, director of community programs for the town’s School Department.

When the course was operating at North Andover High, classroom instruction took place after school, Galante said. Larocque last taught an in-person class there in September 2019 and all subsequent classes were taught by other employees of the driving school, Galante said.

Larocque, like all

employees contracted with North Andover High, was subjected to a background check, which was completed in late September 2019, according to Galante.

He said the auto school’s contract with the high school is due to expire and school officials are preparing to put it out to bid in hopes of resuming in-person classes in the winter of 2021.

Greater Lawrence Technical High School officials failed to respond to The Eagle-Tribune’s request about Larocque’s current affiliation with the driver education program there.

If convicted of the drug-related charges against him, Larocque faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 12 years in state prison, according to Lawrence District Court Judge Michael Uhlarik, who presided over Larocque’s arraignment after he was arrested.

Law enforcement officials said the drug investigation involving Larocque began about two months ago and included multiple controlled purchases from both Larocque’s home and the driving school in North Andover.

Staff writer Mike LaBella contributed to this story.

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OUTBREAK

Continued from Page 1

has since been evacuated.

However, the numbers escalated. Last Friday, the college announced an additional 47 cases.

But the decision to go

remote was made by the college after 12 cases that weren’t associated with the initial Monican Hall cluster were identified through Saturday.

“Although we have not seen any spread beyond the cluster at Monican, we have had an additional

12 isolated positive cases through Saturday amongst nearly 4,500 commuters, residential students and employees that were tested last week,” the school said in its statement. “Among these cases, there are three commuters, one employee and eight residential

student positive cases.”

In-person classes are expected to resume Oct. 5. In the meantime, the campus and its residence halls (aside from Monican) will remain open. Residential students were encouraged by college officials to stay on campus.

BLOOD DRIVES

CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

TUESDAY, OCT. 20

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 7 High St., Andover. Urgent need for

blood. All blood product donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies, providing insight into possible past exposure to this coronavirus. Only those feeling healthy and well should present to donate, and appointments are strongly encouraged. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

DRIVE, 2 to 7 p.m. Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

TUESDAY, OCT. 27

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 2 to 7 p.m. North Andover Senior Center, 120 Main St. Information and appointments: 1-800-RED CROSS or redcrossblood.org.

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Opinion

Dining out in the cold

Finding the right recipe to keep restaurant patrons happy -- and local establishments in business -- will be more challenging as the weather turns colder, limiting the appeal of dining al fresco. But that's the mission here in Andover, where the town has been conducting a survey that seeks to gauge diners' feelings: How often will they go out to eat in December? Are they willing to eat while wearing a blanket? What about inside a large tent near a gas space heater?

The answers presumably will guide decisions not only of restaurant owners but also town officials who've already gone to lengths to make outdoor dining more, well, palatable. A rush of downtown restaurants to set up tables and chairs outside, and lure back clientele after pandemic-related shutdowns, prompted officials to make accommodations such as allowing for seating on sidewalks and in parking spaces along Main Street. Barriers and heaters were set up. Three restaurants on Post Office Avenue share a seating area under a large tent.

Restaurants are now allowed some limited indoor seating, as well, but it won't likely be enough for everyone who's grown accustomed to sitting outside. The trick will be to find a way to extend outdoor accommodations deep into fall and even winter. "I've heard talk of foil blankets at every table, like you see people wrap themselves in at the end of marathons," Brendan Hart, a shift supervisor at LaRosa's, told reporter Breanna Edelstein.

At Salvatore's, vinyl siding is now going up around the perimeter of the large tent set up in its parking lot. The restaurant's interior is undergoing a preplanned renovation, which has been fine-tuned in the interest of separating diners. They're also bringing in a plastic, see-through, igloo-type structure to keep diners warm outdoors, general manager Kevin Branco told Edelstein. "We're trying to figure out different ways to make it fun and functional for people to keep dining outside," he said.

We look forward to seeing what they come up with. As restaurants seek to keep diners warm and happy to support their businesses, maintaining some semblance of nightlife is just as important to us patrons in need of the occasional respite.

Virtual classroom decorum

Hanging a screen in your kitchen where the world can peer inside used to be something that only happened on "The Jetsons." Now, Saturday morning science fiction is fact, and if you're not careful, pouring a cup of coffee while wearing your ratty bathrobe could make you the unwitting star of a seventh-grade English class.

The delayed start of school has come, in most cases, with class schedules at least augmented by online meetings if not completely turned over to education platforms such as Schoology. That means students set up with tablets and computers wherever they find space in the house or apartment -- even if it's space shared by others.

You don't have to be a sitcom writer to see where this is going.

A video from a recent meeting of the Palm Beach County School Board that's making the internet rounds features a scandalized teacher at Boca Raton Elementary School scolding parents for boorish behavior: "Parents, make sure you have on proper clothing when you are walking in front or behind the child's computer, because we've seen them in their drawers, their bras and everything else," reported Edith Pride, who also called out adults seen smoking joints (large ones, at that, according to Pride).

Only in Florida, right? Well, maybe not. Virtual workplaces created by necessity due to COVID-19 spawned a whole category of cringeworthy stories. That didn't translate to classrooms at first -- with the dawning of a pandemic last spring, online instruction in many cases did not involve as many face-to-face encounters.

But a new school year is a new ballgame. School administrators anticipated this. Andover's guidelines for students encourages changing out of their pajamas and logging from a place in their homes free from distraction. It doesn't say so explicitly but surely embarrassing parents, siblings, neighbors and pets all count as distractions.

At some point teachers and their students will return to school buildings full time -- let's hope sooner rather than later -- and we can laugh about this. Until then, parents of remote learning students beware.



Tom Adams

Andover Center for History and Culture

Humankind took an early shine to jewelry. The oldest known are two shell beads found in Skhul Cave in Israel. The beads are 100,000 years old and about the size of peas.

People who lived along the seashore decorated themselves with a great variety of shells, fish teeth and colored pebbles. People who lived inland used materials from the animals they hunted for food.

Over the ensuing centuries, the types of jewelry grew until they included hairpins, necklaces, rings, bracelets and belt and shoe buckles.

Spurred by growing prosperity and increased supplies worldwide, jewelry became very popular during the 19th century. By the mid-1800s, merchants began opening jewelry stores to meet surging demand. The oldest store in the United States is Merkley Kendrick Jewelers, opened in

1832 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jewelry landed on Main Street Andover when watchmaker John J. Brown became one of the earliest, if not the first, jeweler in town. Opening his doors in 1853, he offered patrons "silver, gold, watches, spoons." Brown's jewelry store was a forefather.

Over the next 167 years some 25 jewelers have graced Main Street. Names no longer with us are Whittings (1867), Blackshaw (1919), Ferguson's (1920) and Greco's (1934).

Today, downtown Andover is home to just three jewelers.

Nazarian's was founded in Lawrence in 1943 by watchmaker Stephan Nazarian. His passion was to build a jewelry establishment "that would transcend time."

The Nazarian family has found its way into the lives of families throughout New England for over 75 years, becoming one of the most trusted providers of fine jewelry, watches and giftware in New England.

Now located at 2 Elm St. in an elegant new flagship store in the Romanesque-style Musgrove Building, it also has stores in Newburyport and Salem, Massachusetts. For four generations, Nazarian's has earned a reputation for the highest level of quality,

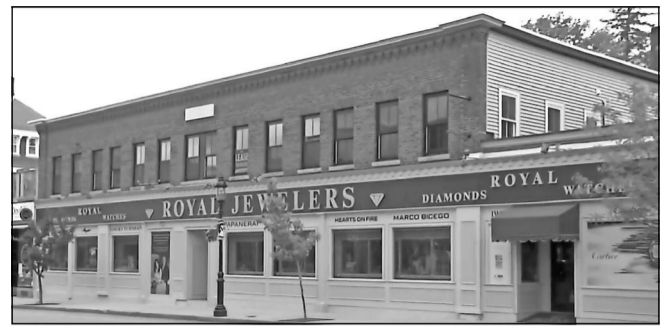


Photo courtesy Andover Center for History and Culture

More than two-dozen jewelers have graced Andover's downtown over the past 167 years. Today there are three. Royal Jewelers is consistently recognized among the top jewelers in the United States.

service and value.

A second town mainstay, Royal Jewelers, opened in Lawrence in 1948, moving into the ARCO building at 52 Main St. in 1993. For over 70 years the business has maintained a tried and true formula of putting people first and focusing on client satisfaction.

Royal Jewelers is consistently recognized as one of the top 125 jewelers in the United States, the result of what owners Steve and Paula Leed call "the Royal experience."

Quiet Pleasures is a jewelry boutique that offers an array of jewelry, gifts and "unexpected necessities." Opened in Andover Center in 1995, the shop two years

later moved to 29 Main St. (now La Fina restaurant), diagonally across from Old Town Hall, and in 2018 to its brand new, larger location at 24 Chestnut St.

For nearly 23 years, owner Kay Demaso has provided a variety of jewelry lines from designers creating unique and colorful pieces. Quiet Pleasures prides itself in a changing selection of classic, contemporary or "artistically funky" jewelry, gifts and accessories.

Today, the jewelry industry generates approximately \$279 billion with 20,400 stores throughout the United States.

Andover is home to three of the finest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public spaces shouldn't have names with religious connotations

Editor, Townsman:

Some months ago I was surprised to see that the area beside the Shawsheen River that lies between the upper and lower soccer fields in the Shawsheen neighborhood had been made into a reservation. I was pleased that the land would be protected.

What displeased me was the name: The Sacred Heart Reservation, a name referencing the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I am Jewish, I am secular, and I am an atheist. Suddenly, a place of natural beauty that had welcomed me for the 30 years I've lived here made me feel excluded.

I, along with another neighborhood resident, recently contacted the director of the Andover Conservation Commission to express our objection to the name. The director referred us to an unofficial historian who informed us that the name was a reference to the Brothers of the Sacred Heart who had previously owned the land and ran what was the Sacred Heart School on Balmoral Street, now the Balmoral Condominiums.

This was supposed to give the name historic credence. But what does this prior owner have to do with Andover's history? Had the owner been Joe Shmoe, the Nation of Islam or Chabad, how would the commission have voted? Would it give the same name in today's context?

This country is predominantly Christian. And I understand that it's likely that the voting members of the Andover Conservation Commission did not give the name of Sacred Heart a second thought.

But this is also the age of #MeToo and the Black Lives

Matter movements, a time that insists we respect the rights and hear the voices of all.

Therefore, it is time our town demonstrate its awareness that names with religious connotations should not be given to public spaces.

Thus far, The Andover Conservation Commission has not offered my neighbor nor I a reply that states its intention to rethink the name and take a new vote. That is why I am making my request public.

I will even make the following suggestions -- that the commission entertain names offered by Andover residents and/or adopt the policy of Burnside, Australia that is as follows:

1. A name that "recognizes an individual who has provided outstanding service to the community for a period in excess of 10 years and either the individual or relatives of the individual approve the use of the name";

2. A name that "reflects the character, landscape, function or (valid) history of the area or the site";

3. A name that is an Aboriginal (Native American) name of relevance to the area and has the approval of the Kurna people (tribe) it comes from;

One way or the other, the Andover Conservation Commission must rename the Sacred Heart reservation and future reservations with a name that unites and welcomes all who walk there.

PEGGY RAMBACH
Andover

Closure of Yang's Fitness a loss for Andover

Editor, Townsman:

What a strange time -- for me and each of us.

COVID-19 changed every-

thing. On March 10, I stopped

teaching spinning at Yang's

Fitness and also stopped four

years of yoga for older guys.

That class represented my 14th anniversary teaching spinning at Yang's. They shut down for three-plus months, then opened in June on a very limited basis.

On Sept. 30, they close their doors for good. I am the senior (in many ways) spinning instructor -- over 1,400 classes and hundreds of participants, some for just one class, and for a few folks a thousand classes.

I became the entry point into yoga for lots of guys.

This has been my community, and I miss the many friends I have made, and my sense of belonging to something that made all of us a little better, stronger, flexible, confident.

I was a part of a team of very competent, knowledgeable, caring and fit instructors and trainers. Every class I participated in was at the highest professional level, yet suited for people of varying abilities.

Good teachers can do that.

The kindness and support of the owners, Alex and Diana Kiesel, is well-known in the Andover community. Individually I was encouraged to become a spinning instructor and a yoga teacher, and Diana was my mentor on how to do it better.

Through it all they were an endless source of support, encouragement, love, mentorship, creative thinking, respect and trust.

I have been blessed to work at Yang's.

It is a loss to our community.
BEN KELLMAN
Andover

When will Andover check its spending?

Editor, Townsman:

A few weekends ago, Andover voted to allow our

property taxes to be raised, yet again. Those taxes pay for 75% of the town's budget, and a near majority of the annual budget goes toward our schools.

Setting aside the timing -- as many Americans and, yes, even citizens of Andover struggle to deal with the economic implications of COVID-19 -- our unquestioning propensity to pony up whatever assessments the Town asks for is mind-blowing.

I moved here 15 years ago with the promise of great schools for a growing family, a nice town center, and a yard with room for dogs and, eventually, three children to play (that combination was hard to find affordably closer to Boston).

Back then, Andover High School was ranked 38th in the state and seemed on the rise.

Fast forward to 2020. Andover High is ranked 72nd, following years of contentious labor relations, driven by a vocal minority of high school teachers who now don't want to show up for school. Oh, and we spent \$50 million-plus on an elementary school (but we did get eco-friendly toilets).

The town keeps overspending, and we keep agreeing to pay the bill. There's little restraint, no sacrifice, no hard choices. The town hides behind Proposition 2 1/2 and special assessments, and the budget keeps going up (nearly 4% this year).

At what point will we demand accountability? When will we say the budget doesn't actually have to go up every year -- especially when the economy is in crisis, we're hurting, many services (including schools) are mostly virtual, and demands on infrastructure are relatively light?

Until we find the resolve to finally say "enough's enough," the blame (and the check) is on us!

CRAIG MARTIN
Andover

WEB QUESTION

Will you eat outside when the temperatures fall? Andover has a bustling outdoor restaurant scene, which grew up as restaurant owners looked for alternatives to keep business going despite limits on indoor dining due to the pandemic. But winter and fall pose a challenge, and town officials and restaurant owners are weighing their options.

What will you do? Will you still patronize sidewalk cafes when temperatures drop into the 40s and 30s?

HEARTY NEW ENGLANDER: A little cold never stopped us. Seat me next to one of those gas heaters, under one of those large tents, or maybe give me a blanket. The opportunity to go out to dinner can't be passed up, especially in a pandemic.

RATHER BE WARM: You can have the cold weather. I'd rather

put in a reservation and wait for my socially distanced table to open up inside.

TAKEOUT: Eating outside isn't happening, and indoor dining isn't either until there's a vaccine for COVID-19. I'll just order takeout until the weather gets nicer.

Last week's question

Should "remote" school districts in places with few COVID-19 cases be pressured to bring students back to class?

State Education Commissioner Jeff Riley sent letters to 16 school districts where COVID-19 infection rates are low but students are learning remotely, asking for their plans to bring kids back to in-person classes. The commissioner

threatened unresponsive districts with an audit.

Andover is not on Riley's list; the majority of students in town schools are studying under a hybrid model of in-person and remote classes. But other districts in the region are, including Amesbury and Manchester Essex.

Should those and other districts be pressured to bring back their students?

BRING THEM BACK: In-person learning is the best option for kids, and districts where transmission of the virus is low have no good reason to keep students at bay. (30 votes)

LOCAL CHOICE: The coronavirus is still a danger regardless of local case counts, and schools have plenty of reason to be cautious. The commissioner shouldn't force them into one model or another. (48 votes)

READER ACCESS

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All those years ago

Susan McKelliget

100 Years Ago—October 1, 1920

Three Chinese students were enrolled as pupils in the public schools of Andover this week. The group were members of a party of two hundred and six Chinese students the largest number that has ever been sent to the United States on a single vessel, who arrived in San Francisco, September 19th on the China Mail steamship "Nanking."

Ernest Beaulieu of Andover Street recently met with a severe accident when as he was driving down Andover Street Hill, the breeching broke. The horse took fright, and threw Mr. Beaulieu out. He suffered a severe shaking up and also two broken bones in his ankle. At the last report, Mr. Beaulieu was hobbling around on crutches.

Notices have been posted by the Smith and Dove Manufacturing Company that until further notice their mills will not be operated on Saturdays. The concern has been unusually busy for several years and its product of shoe and harness threads has had a ready market. The general unrest in business and the depression in the shoe trade has caused the curtailment. The hours are now forty-three per week.

75 Years Ago—September 27, 1945

The third drowning in less than two years took place in the Shawsheen River this week, when four year old John Wade, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wade, 51 Marland St., Ballardvale, was found drowned at 5:40 a.m. Tuesday near the Shawsheen Grove section of the river. He had been missing from his home since 4:05 p.m. Monday. The body was found in an arched culvert of a railroad bridge a few hundred feet west of Lowell Junction, after a bloodhound, which was

brought here from Scituate, R.I. by state police had led searchers to within a few feet of the spot.

A meeting of the 300th anniversary of the Incorporation of Andover as a Town committee was held at the Town House on Thursday evening, September 13. The committee agreed unanimously that some sort of observation should be held, the exact nature of which would be decided at the annual town meeting in the spring.

Robert Harding, a prisoner of war of the Japanese, died on December 27, 1943, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Hazel Harding, Williams Hall. He was with the Royal Riflemen of Canada.

50 Years Ago—October 8, 1970

William A. Doherty, school committeeman for over 35 years in Andover, sits with his former colleagues, in a front page photo, as he hears that approval has been given for an addition to the former Central School, now named in his honor. Action took place at Monday's Town Meeting which, by voice vote approved \$80,000 for working drawings for the addition.

Daniel Bolduc, 14 Brechin Terrace, is not just one of the Townsman's top newsboys, but he is also a champ in baseball. Dan was a member of the town's championship Little League team and proudly displays his trophy as a member of the winning club.

Al Graceffa, formerly director of the band at Wilmington High school came to Andover this year and was shown leading Andover High School's band at the Eugene Lovely field two weeks ago.

Rick Harrison, who covered sports for the Townsman during varying seasons, left this week to cover the World Series for the Lowell newspaper with which he is employed.

OBITUARIES

Shirley (Baron) Souter, 82

1937 - 2020

SALEM, NH — Shirley (Baron) Souter, 82, of Salem, N.H., died peacefully on Saturday, surrounded by her loving family.

Shirley was born in Lawrence, Mass., where she grew up, and graduated from Sacred Heart High School. After marrying, Shirley resided in Andover, Mass., for 45 years, spent several years in Japan and Germany, and lived part-time in West Palm Beach, Fla. She was a resident of Salem for the past 16 years.

Shirley was a world traveler, having lived in Yokohama, Japan, and Wurzburg, Germany, with her husband and children in the 1970s. With her family, she toured Europe and Japan, visiting Paris, the Alps, and Hong Kong, among other locations.

She always sought out activities that included helping and caring for others, presiding over the Officers' Wives Club while in Germany and spending hours of her time helping the Red Cross. When back in the States, she was active in the Andona Society in Andover. She was also a member of St. Matthew's Parish in Windham, N.H.

After her time overseas, Shirley decided to work in the medical field and pursued an associate degree as a medical assistant. She worked for several doctors in Andover and North Andover. In later years, Shirley was employed as the office manager for the family business, Baron's Major Brands Appliances.

Shirley took on the role of caretaker to many in her family. Family and her dog, Vegas, meant the most to her.

Shirley was predeceased by



her husband, Charles E. "Bud" Souter, and her son, Charles R. "Chuck" Souter.

She is survived by her children, Mark Souter of San Francisco, Calif., David and his wife Cathy Robertson Souter, of Windham, N.H., and Wendy McKinnon of Anchorage, Alaska; her brother, Raymond Baron and his wife, Phyllis, of Laconia, N.H.; her grandchildren, Max, Scarlett, and Katrina Souter of Windham, N.H.; and many nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthews Parish, Windham, N.H. Burial will follow in Spring Grove Cemetery, Andover, Mass. The funeral Mass will be televised live on Facebook Live, on the Carrier Family Funeral Home's Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org, or P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C., 20090.

To view the service or send a message of condolence to the family, please view the obituary at www.carrierfuneralhome.com.

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.

Sean P. Brosnan, 57

December 15, 1962 - September 24, 2020

ANDOVER — Sean P. Brosnan, a resident of Andover, passed away unexpectedly at Addison Gilbert Hospital in Gloucester on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at age 57.

Sean was born in Worcester on December 15, 1962. He graduated from Burncoat High School in Worcester, and from UMASS-Amherst. Sean was married to Lori Rice on September 23, 1989 and they lived in Littleton before settling in Andover to raise a family of three sons.

In 1985, Sean began a successful 35 year career in landscape development. Starting as a project manager for Schumacher Landscaping, Sean worked in landscape development for many years for ValleyCrest, and later served as the Senior Vice President of BrightView. Well respected and considered a leader in the industry, Sean took great pride in his work, overseeing large development projects throughout the Northeast and New York including for the City of Boston, Massport, the New England Patriots, and many large private companies and public entities.

At home, Sean always stayed busy. With three sons, Sean took an active role in their athletics, serving as coach and being their constant support through practices and games. Sean also enjoyed working outdoors, gardening, and always had a home improvement project going around the house in Andover or their summer house in Rockport. Sean was happiest at the family cottage where he had a front row seat of Long Beach, the ocean, and most importantly the moon. He enjoyed fishing, walking the beach, and catching up with friends and family on the front deck.

Well loved by all who knew him, Sean was generous with his time and always willing to help. He was deeply devoted



to his family, took great pride in his family's Irish heritage, and was delighted to spend anytime with his three sons. He will be deeply missed, but always lovingly remembered.

Sean was the beloved husband of Lori (Rice) Brosnan with whom he shared 31 years of marriage. Cherished son of Nancy (Laukaitis) Brosnan of Worcester and the late Denis Brosnan of County Cork, Ireland. Devoted father of Justin R. Brosnan, Griffin P. Brosnan, and Cameron C. Brosnan. Loving brother of Kathleen Galante and her companion, David Alaimo, Dennis Brosnan, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth, Eileen Brosnan, and Maureen Belletete and her husband, Jim. Caring brother-in-law of Susan Buckley and her husband, Gary, Karen Mulvihill and her husband William, Diane Robichaud and her husband William, and Denise Collins and her husband, Sean. Loved uncle of many nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: Out of respect for public health, the Brosnan family will gather privately to honor and remember Sean. Gifts may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452. To view the online tribute and express your love and support visit RobinsonFuneralHome.com.



One man was arrested during a drug bust outside the SpringHill Suites in Andover on Sept. 17. Police seized 380 grams of fentanyl and over \$2,000 in drug money. Courtesy photo

380 grams of fentanyl, \$2K seized in bust

BY GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
Staff writer

One man was arrested and two others were detained following a drug bust outside the SpringHill Suites last Thursday, Sept. 17.

Clifton Cousins, 29, of Parsonfield, ME, was arrested by Andover Police after detectives with the Department's Substance Abuse Unit working in the River Road area observed Cousins, who was with another man and woman, purchase drugs outside the hotel.

He was arrested on a foreign warrant and charged with 94C/32E/E trafficking over 18 grams of a Class A substance.

During the bust, police seized 380 grams of fentanyl and over \$2,000 in drug money.

Cousins was arraigned in Lawrence District Court on Sept. 21 and is currently being held in Middleton County Jail on \$5,000 bail. The other two individuals — whose names were not released by police — were summonsed to court.

Cousins is due back in court on Oct. 16.

Question 1 ballot fight focuses on cybersecurity

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
cwade@cni.com

BOSTON — When Ron Jedraszek plugs into a vehicle's computer system to diagnose a problem, the only thing he sees on the screen is numbers and codes.

The longtime owner of Park Street Auto in Beverly says that's why he is baffled by "misleading" TV ads opposing Question 1, a referendum set for the ballot Nov. 3 in Massachusetts.

The ads, part of a multimillion-dollar campaign backed by a coalition of auto makers, suggest sexual predators could more easily stalk victims if voters approve changes to the so-called "right to repair" law.

One commercial shows a woman walking to her vehicle in an empty parking garage as the camera peers around a corner and follows her. Another shows a man walking up to a home and using a handheld remote to enter through the garage door.

"They're trying to scare people," said Jedraszek, who supports Question 1 and was featured in a recent TV ad backing the initiative. "The

only information we get out of cars is sensor codes and other automotive repair stuff. We don't have access to personal information."

If approved, Question 1 would overhaul a 2013 state law requiring car companies to share diagnostic data with car owners and independent repair shops. The law requires automakers to provide access to their computer codes.

The "right to repair" coalition says the law needs updating because it unfairly allows automakers to use wireless technology to steer business toward dealerships, cutting out small shops and driving up consumer costs.

Opponents of Question 1 say the law already accounts for technological advances and doesn't need revision. Far from being a David vs. Goliath battle, they say, the proposed changes are sought by the deep-pocketed retail auto parts industry looking to expand its share of the market.

"Question 1 has never been about repair, and it has never been about local repair shops," said Conor Yunits, spokesperson for the No on 1 campaign and Coalition

for Safe and Secure Data. "Question 1 is about national retail auto parts suppliers who want your data so they can increase their profits for Wall Street investors."

A key issue in the debate is whether expanded access to so-called "telematics" would risk the safety of car owners and cybersecurity.

Opponents of Question 1 claimed in a statewide voter guide to have support from Jane Doe Inc., an advocacy group for victims of sexual abuse, but the group is distancing itself from the ballot fight.

In a statement, Jane Doe said it "initially raised safety and privacy concerns" about the proposed changes, but further analysis showed the ballot initiative "does not appear to pose the heightened risk of breach of personal information as suggested by those who oppose this initiative."

"We do not support the use of survivor fears or needs as pawns in a debate that is not ultimately about the needs of survivors," the group added.

Supporters of the changes have enlisted former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, who has blasted the

opponents' ads as a "dishonest fear campaign."

Opponents have also pointed to testimony by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which said the changes would force auto makers to redesign vehicles in a manner that "introduces cybersecurity risks." Question 1 supporters say that testimony was based on proposed legislation, not the ballot question.

Both groups are spending heavily to convince voters ahead of the election, making it the most costly question on the ballot.

The Coalition for Safe and Secure Data, which opposes the changes, spent about half of the nearly \$25 million it had raised as of Sept. 15, according to filings with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Right to Repair Committee, which backs the update, raised more than \$15 million and spent \$10.8 million.

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

POLICE LOG

MONDAY, SEPT. 21

Arrest: Joanne Tober, 30, of North Andover, was arrested for an OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, assault and battery on a police officer and

negligent operation of a motor vehicle, Central Street, 10:13 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

Motor vehicle stop: Written warning — speed, Lovejoy Road, 8:24 a.m.

Larceny: Caller reported that someone stole some of her silverware set either a few weeks ago or in April, which was the last time she used them, Sunset Rock Road, 9:43 a.m.

Assist other agency: A call from Tewksbury reports a bank robbery with MA plates REG 2FWJ21 heading toward Andover. Tewksbury police reported that they have both parties in custody, town of Tewksbury, 10:00 a.m.

Request officer: Fireworks were turned into Officer Blouin for destruction, Greybirch Road, 11:41 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

Identity fraud: Identity fraud regarding an unemployment scam, Sunset Rock Road, 12:06 p.m.

Scam: Caller from California reports he was scammed out of \$5,000 on Sept. 21, North Main Street, 12:34 p.m.

Unwanted guest: A caller from South Church reports a homeless woman in a tan Camry has been staying in the parking lot even after she was asked to leave on a prior occasion. The woman was told to move along and that her belongings had to be moved out of the area by 9 p.m., Central Street, 5:51 p.m.

Suspicious activity: A caller reports that someone was having fire near a teepee in the area. An officer requested the Fire Department respond because several small stumps are smoldering on a footpath not accessible to vehicles, Harold Parker Road, 9:17 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

Suspicious activity: Staff at CVS report two people with backpacks in the store. An officer went to the store and found nothing, Main Street, 2:09 a.m.

Crash-pedestrian: A 911 caller reports a car crashed into a pedestrian, Lowell Street, 6:34 a.m.

Larceny: A caller reports they saw horses stolen from their driveway, River Road, 9:46 a.m.

Fraud: A caller reports that they put down a payment for paving and the company is no longer responding to calls. No work or products have been delivered, Chandler Road, 2:07 p.m.

Assault: A 911 caller reports that her 20-year-old autistic daughter was attacked by neighbors, Memorial Circle, 9:08 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

Motor vehicle stop: Verbal speed, Essex Street, 6:32 a.m.

Road rage: A caller reports that as she was turning onto River Road a man in RED 48C680 swerved around her. He then turned around and followed her flashing his lights. When she pulled over he got out of his car and he yelling and taking pictures of her car, River Road, 8:02 a.m.

Vandalism: Caller reported their door was egged, River Road, 9:07 a.m.

Suspicious activity: There was a report of a male in

MA/265GW7 sitting in the shade and staring into the children's play area. Police responded and found the vehicle unoccupied and noticed multiple vehicles parked in the area while people are eating lunch, Burnham Road, 12:18 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Motor vehicle stop: Verbal warning for defective tail light, Minuteman Road, 12:28 p.m.

Well being check: Rutland police requested a well being check on a woman who left her vehicle at their forest for a week. An officer reports he/she spoke with the registered owner who reports her boyfriend has the vehicle and has been hiking all week. Rutland was notified, Railroad Street, 7 a.m.

Well being check: A caller requested a well being check on her friend who she hasn't heard from since yesterday at noon. An officer reports he spoke with a male who said he's fine, Woodview Way, 7:24 a.m.

Domestic: A caller reports that they are at the house and the husband has changed the locks and will not let the wife in, Timothy Drive, 1:47 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

Dog complaint: A resident found a pitbull with no tags and has it secured in her backyard, Haverhill Street, 9:15 a.m.

Suspicious activity: A walk-in reported that someone attempted to enter mother's apartment, damaging her screen, Frye Circle, 12:53 p.m.

Request officer: A caller reports that many packages fell out of the back of a U.S. Postal truck. An officer reports that the truck was found and the packages returned, Summer Street, 3:05 p.m.

Recovered motor vehicle: Sirium XM reports that a motor vehicle that was reported missing from Manchester By The Sea is now sitting near the woods. The vehicle was towed back to the station and Manchester Police were notified, Rolling Ridge Road, 5:20 p.m.

Baker loosens COVID-19 rules on restaurants

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Restaurants will be allowed to seat more customers beginning next week under loosened COVID-19 guidelines unveiled by Gov. Charlie Baker last week.

The updated rules also allow restaurants to use bar seating areas for food service, under social distancing guidelines.

"Bars are closed, but the evidence from other states with respect to this issue are clear," Baker said. "Restaurants can use bar seating for regular food service with appropriate distance in place."

The new seating guidelines apply to both indoor and outdoor dining. Tables must still be spaced at least 6 feet apart or separated by plexiglass or another physical barrier. The changes won't affect

capacity limits and other restrictions on restaurants, and bars and nightclubs will remain closed until Stage 4 of the reopening plan. "Until there's a medical breakthrough like a vaccine, we have to do all we can, working with our colleagues in the food service business, to keep our restaurants and our other businesses safe," Baker said.

Bob Luz, president of the Massachusetts Restaurant

Association, said the welcome changes will help struggling restaurant owners, many of whom are operating well below capacity under the state's reopening rules.

"It's a healthy shot in the arm," he said. "It's also an indication of what the governor has been saying all along, that restaurants have been doing a very good job of managing the protocols and operating safely."

Luz said expanding indoor dining as winter approaches will be crucial for restaurants that have less space and capacity to seat customers.

Baker said Wednesday the state's coronavirus metrics continue to show progress as it reopens the economy. The positive COVID-19 test rate, one gauge of the outbreak, has been below 1% for several weeks, Baker added.

"Almost half a million people have gone back to work since that reopening process began," he said. "And over that period of time, unlike what we saw in many other states, our positive test rate continued to drop."

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

It's unclear if the ROE Act has enough votes to pass the state's Democrat-controlled Legislature, and if so, whether it would pass with a veto-proof majority. The bill is currently before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, which has until Nov. 12 to vote on advancing it.

Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican who supports abortion rights, has taken steps to defend the state's current reproductive laws but says he opposes late-term abortions.

Meanwhile, the state's Republican Party is focusing on Democrats' support for the ROE Act in blistering political ads targeting lawmakers with GOP challengers in November.

Abortion rights advocates push for broader access

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
cwade@cnhi.com

BOSTON — Abortion rights groups are pushing state lawmakers to expand access to the procedure in light of President Donald Trump's nomination of a judge known for her conservative, anti-abortion views to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The advocates are urging lawmakers to pass the so-called ROE Act, which would permit late-term abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy in cases where a fetus is not expected to survive. Current state law allows an abortion after 24 weeks only if necessary to preserve the life of the mother.

"If this nomination is confirmed, we will no longer

be able to rely on the U.S. Supreme Court to protect us," Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak, president and CEO of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, said in a statement.

Anti-abortion groups strongly oppose the changes, saying they would allow more late-term abortions to be performed.

"There's a reason we call it the infanticide act," said Andrew Beckwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Family Institute. "Because it deliberately and explicitly eliminates protections for infants born alive during abortions."

On Saturday, Trump nominated federal Appeals Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the seat made vacant

by the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Trump has vowed to push her confirmation through the Republican-controlled Senate before the Nov. 3 presidential election.

While it's not clear that Barrett's confirmation would lead to an immediate challenge of the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion, advocates for abortion rights are worried the precedent is at risk.

Rebecca Hart Holder, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, said Barrett's judicial record "shows she is a clear and present threat to reproductive freedom."

"Much like the nominations of Justices (Brett) Kavanaugh and (Neil)

Gorsuch, this nomination is yet another attempt by this administration to achieve its ultimate goal of denying us the ability to control our lives, bodies and futures," Holder said.

The proposal on Beacon Hill also would expand the criteria under which late-term abortions are permitted and eliminate a requirement that minors seeking an abortion get permission from a parent or judge.

Republican lawmakers and conservative groups are resisting the legislation, however. They include Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, who criticized the proposal as "radical" and "destructive" and called on Catholics and the state's elected

officials to reject it.

"It is being pressed forward as if it were necessary in a state with some of the most expansive abortion laws in the country," O'Malley said in a statement.

Trump, a Republican whose reelection is supported by anti-abortion groups, has pledged to appoint conservative justices to the Supreme Court who will overturn Roe v. Wade and let states decide whether to legalize abortion.

Opponents of Barrett's confirmation point to her work on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, where she dissented in a 2016 case in which her fellow judges blocked a law making it illegal in Indiana to get an abortion because of fetal

disability.

Disability. It's unclear if the ROE Act has enough votes to pass the state's Democrat-controlled Legislature, and if so, whether it would pass with a veto-proof majority. The bill is currently before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, which has until Nov. 12 to vote on advancing it.

Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican who supports abortion rights, has taken steps to defend the state's current reproductive laws but says he opposes late-term abortions.

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COVID-19 cases spike at Middleton Jail

By JULIE MANGANIS
Staff Writer

MIDDLETON — A COVID-19 outbreak at the Middleton Jail has led to the suspension of in-person visits and bringing prisoners to the county's courthouses, a spokeswoman confirmed Monday.

The spike in cases comes as the state's restrictions on gatherings and businesses, including restaurants, are gradually being relaxed and as schools are resuming in-person learning in many communities.

As of Monday, there are 14 inmates and nine staff members who have tested positive for the virus, said Gretchen Grosky, a spokeswoman for the Essex County Sheriff's Department.

"We believe the illness is isolated to one building, but we've taken a number of precautions throughout our facility to mitigate the exposure and risk to others, including temporarily suspending visits and using video conferencing for inmate court appearances," Grosky said in an email.

"Everyone in our facility is wearing N95 (or) KN95 masks and we continue to enforce a rigorous 24-hour cleaning schedule, symptom monitoring, as well as social distancing."

Jail officials are also looking into how the virus possibly got into the facility.

According to a weekly

summary provided to the Supreme Judicial Court as a result of last spring's lawsuit by the state's public defender office, the jail had had a total of 84 confirmed cases among inmates and 21 among correctional officers and staff since the spring.

One inmate, a 41-year-old man, died in April.

The latest report, which covers a period from Sept. 17 to Sept. 23, indicated that there were two active cases of COVID-19, both involving prisoners.

On Saturday, the Essex County Sheriff's Department announced that it was suspending visitation temporarily.

A number of scheduled court hearings in Essex County courthouses, including hearings scheduled in Salem and Newburyport, were postponed due to the defendants not being able to be brought to court. But remote hearings were taking place.

Trump Superstore opens doors in Salem

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN
Staff Writer

SALEM, N.H. — A U.S. Marine veteran, a mom and others looking to spread the "Keep America Great" message shopped for campaign gear at the new Trump Superstore at 301 Main St. early Friday afternoon.

The week-old business — located in the former Mike's Red Barn — is a one-stop-shop for items supporting President Donald Trump as he seeks a second term in the White House.

According to the store's website, the only other of its kind is in Stratham, just over 30 miles north.

Owner Lee Cook, who describes himself as "a pretty big Trump supporter," opened the temporary shop after noticing a high demand for campaign merchandise.

"People were looking for this stuff," he said. "We wanted to give them a place to buy it."

His independent business will remain open at

least until the Nov. 3 election, he said, with donations being made to Trump's re-election efforts during that time.

A worker at the store Friday, Ralph Terrazano, said "when Trump wins we'll stay open a little longer."

According to him, business has been steady, with folks stopping by to check out Trump-branded hats, bumper stickers, T-shirts, sweatshirts, masks, flags and more, alongside similar merchandise showing support for police.

Bobble heads of the president and whiskey glasses etched with his name were expected to arrive later that afternoon, Terrazano said.

He has watched the majority

of people walk through the door with a smile. But "about 5%," he estimates, have been "negative."

"There have been a few who come in and aren't happy that we're here," Terrazano said. "But they're few and far between. I try not to engage with them. I just sit here (near the entrance) in case anyone who comes in tries to pull anything (like destroying merchandise or making threats)."

Others, who have steered clear of the place, include Democratic state Rep. candidate Sara Dillingham.

She describes the store, in a word, "threatening."

For Dillingham, it's "a beacon of the hatred perpetuated

by the Trump administration."

"In talking with constituents, they've felt strongly enough about the store to talk to me about it," she said. "This election year is more polarized than ever, with a whole population of people — minorities — feeling unsafe with Trump as president."

Dillingham is a member of the New Hampshire Democratic Committee and said the organization has been given permission by the property owner across Main Street to campaign for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in the near future.

"That I plan to do," she said. "But I definitely won't be going into the store."

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Townspeople

NAMASTE: CHILDREN ENJOY YOGA



Lylah Buono, 10, keeps her balance while learning a pose.

A Recreation Department-run fall yoga class for 12 children ages 9 to 11 began last week at Andover's Recreation Park.

The program, Youth Yoga & Mindfulness, is meant not only to teach the children yoga skills, but also to offer them a way to safely relax with others. Participants bring their own mat and practice social distancing.

Several programs for adults and children are being held by the department.

Schedule booklets used to be mailed to all Andover homes, but due the pandemic are available online only at www.andoverrec.com.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Maggie Campisi, 10, pays close attention to her instructor.



Avery Slaughter, 10, learns a tree pose.



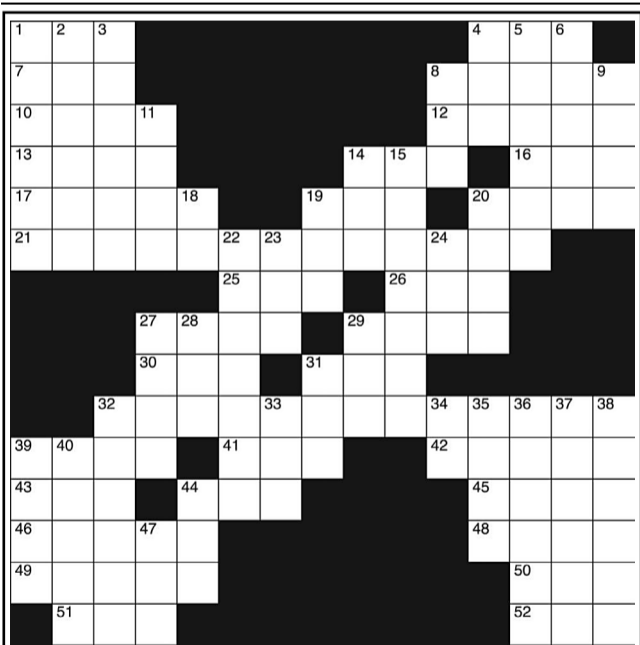
10-year-old Brooke Morris, left, learns a tree pose.



Madeleine Olson, 10, practices the cobra.



Instructor Shannon Fitzgerald leads participants.



CLUES ACROSS

- They look out for kids
- Play
- Water (French)
- Prayer leader
- Small constellation
- Carta: influential royal charter
- Pressure unit
- Extrasensory perception
- A symbol of "Aloha"
- Portion of the small intestine
- Psychedelic amphetamine
- Very long period of time
- British overseas territory
- Cereal grain
- Car mechanics group
- Wish harm upon

Solution in Classified Section

- At a specific prior time
- Peyton's younger brother
- UK firefighters' union
- Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- Popular show honoring musicians
- Basics
- Honk
- Trent Reznor's band
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Long-legged wading bird
- Specialized biological grouping
- A coin goes in it
- Of the wind
- One-time measure of length
- A very large body of water
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Boston hoopster
- A type of bribe
- SE England county
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Italian province
- Mischievous child
- Popular street name
- Boxing promoter Bob
- Snakelike fish
- Break into pieces
- The Bay State
- Time zone
- Port city in Yemen
- In name only
- 007's creator
- No (Scottish)

- Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- Pie __ mode
- Don't know when yet
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Make a ringing metallic sound
- Helps little firms
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Put on the back burner
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Poker stake
- Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Pouch
- Not around

Scouts camp Pole Hill, complete service project

Members of Andover Boy Scouts Troop 76 took their first camping trip amid the pandemic at the Andover Conservation Commission's Pole Hill Reservation from Sept. 11 to 13.

A total of 20 scouts and adult volunteers went on the adventure, all following CDC, state, and Boy Scouts of America regulations. While there, along with many other activities, they completed a service project involving clearing brush from the trails to make them safer for hikers.

This was the first camping trip with the troop for five of the scouts and their families, who said they look forward to going again in the near future.

In the early 20th century, Pole Hill was known as "The Grove," according to the Andover Trails website.

The Boston and Maine Railroad promoted the area where there was a dance hall, picnic area, running track, and a small rail siding to load and offload.

The Grove attracted lots of people and at one time you could also rent small craft like canoes to paddle upstream to the attraction.

After various difficulties, the dance hall was closed down, and now you can only see some evidence suggesting faint memories of Pole



Scouts, leaders and others gather for a group photo.

Rich Barton/Courtesy photos

Hill. Pole Hill is 34 acres and can be accessed from Pole Hill Drive, where you can park in the circle, or by canoeing up the Shawsheen River.

Troop 76 is part of the West Wind District, Spirit of Adventure Council, Scouts BSA. The troop currently meets Friday at 7 p.m. on Zoom, but normally meets at Ballard Vale United Church, 23 Clark Road, Andover.

Troop 76 is open to boys and girls age 11 and older, or who have completed the fifth grade. For more information email webmaster@andover-troop76.com.

— By David Irza, junior assistant scoutmaster and Owen Finaly, assistant senior patrol leader.



New Scout Tim Feng prepares sandwiches to order.

We want your photos and stories

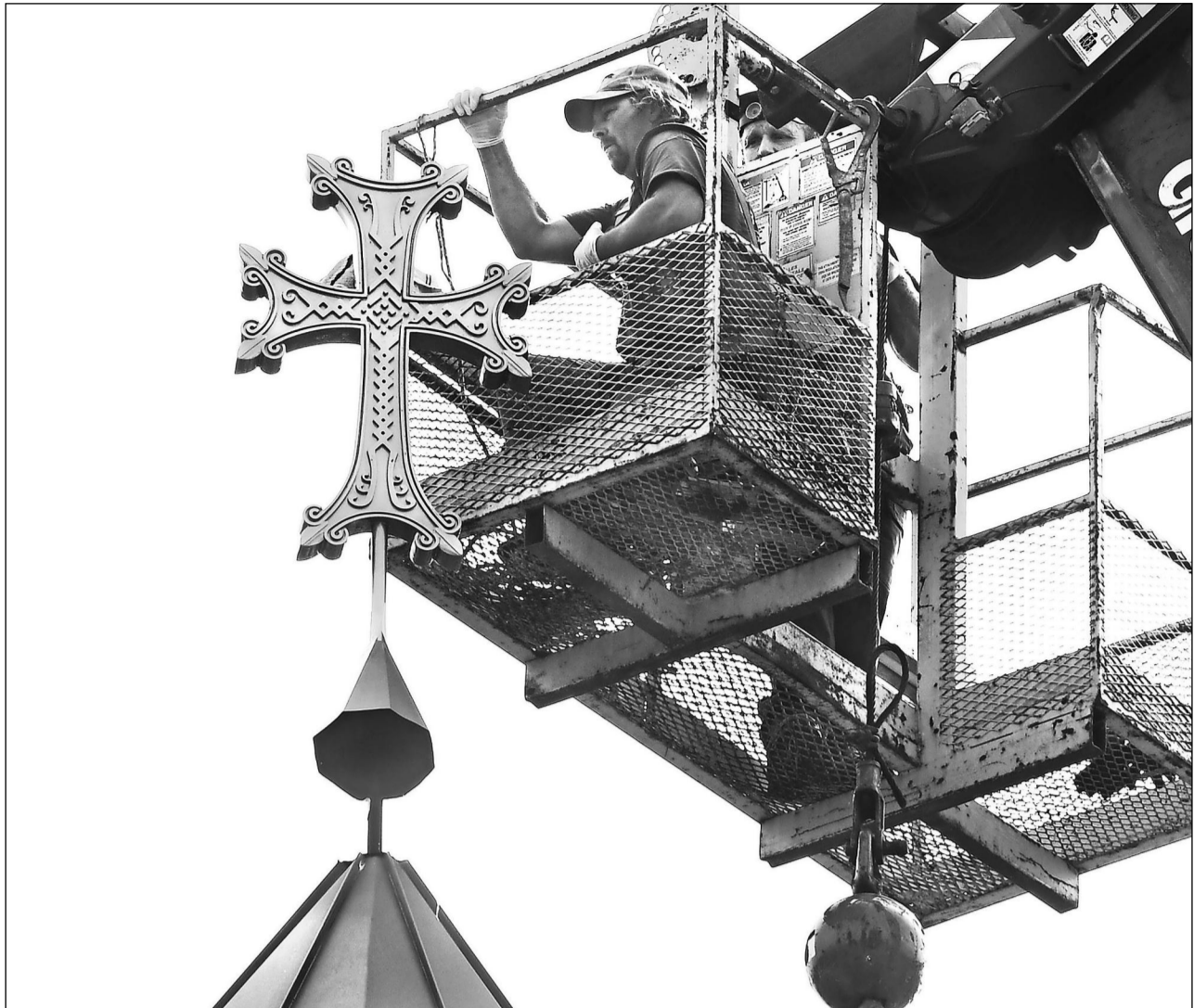
Do you have an upcoming event that should be featured on the Townspeople page or elsewhere in the Townsman? We want to feature it, too.

To get your story and photos into the paper, contact Editor Tracey Rauh at trauh@andovertownsmen.com.

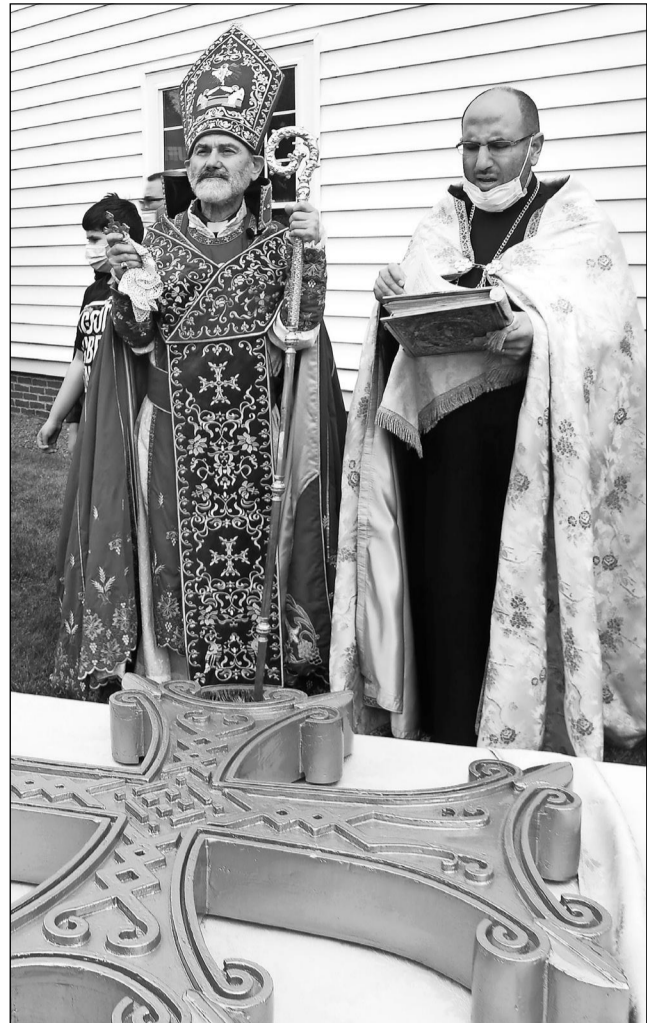
Attached hi-resolution photos with detailed captions — two photos per email and up to eight photos — along with a short write-up about your submission. Captions should include first and last names, with photo subjects listed

from left. For more information, email or call Tracey Rauh at 978-946-2242.

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Workers from SNF Crane Service in Salem, N.H., place the cross on the steeple.



The Rev. Stephen Baljian, right, pastor of St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church in North Andover, and special guest, His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian of New York, consecrate the cross before the elevation.

Cross raised at St. Gregory Armenian church

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

The completion of a 20-year, \$1.7 million renovation project at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church culminated Sunday with the consecration and "elevation" of a new cross atop the steeple.

"It was a pretty difficult project because we did the church, the sanctuary, the hall, we did an elevator lift and we all did it ourselves," said Greg Afarian, who chairs the North Andover church's board.

The steeple and the cross alone cost about \$100,000, Afarian said, and raising money from the community has been difficult.

"We have about a hundred members, as you can imagine, it's tough to be going to the same people, fundraising especially during these past few years have been difficult," Afarian said. "We had the gas explosion and now COVID; we did what we could to survive."

The church was founded in 1970 by survivors and descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Church officials say that Armenians in the area are interested in preserving their identity, which was exemplified by the 3-foot-high, Armenian-style cross that was lifted atop the steeple Sunday.

"We have been persecuted from existence, most of our parishioners came to this country because of the genocide in 1915, that's how we survived," Afarian said.

The Armenian Genocide took place over a century ago when the Ottoman Turks massacred more than a million Armenians.

In 2019, the U.S. Senate declared the mass killing a genocide to the chagrin

of Turkish officials, who claimed that the U.S. was ruining its relationship with Turkey — a key NATO ally — in doing so, according to The Associated Press.

The Senate vote followed another that imposed sanctions on Turkey after its offensive in Syria and the purchase of a Russian missile system, The Associated Press reported.

The Rev. Stephan Baljian, St. Gregory's pastor, said Turkey remains an "adamant denier of the Armenian Genocide."

"We have seen from history that history repeats itself and if we are (not) able to look at crimes from the past, crimes against humanity, and condemn them and come to grips with world history, it's bound to happen again," Baljian said.

"We have already seen that in the 20th century, there were several other genocides that happened, including the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, the Cambodian genocide, these all occurred we believe because there wasn't enough international condemnation and response to the Armenian Genocide. In fact, Hitler used the Armenian Genocide partly as a justification for invading Poland."

And Baljian hopes the refurbished church will continue to inspire Armenians to carry on their faith for generations to come.

"It's a moral encouragement, it's a figurative culmination or crowning as well in that our people, the people, our community, which is really the most important, would be encouraged and inspired to continue supporting our church and making it their spiritual home," he said.



Around 75 people attended the Consecration and Elevation of the St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church cross in North Andover. A Holy Divine Liturgy was celebrated Sunday morning by Father Stephen Baljian, Pastor of St. Gregory's and special guest, His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian of New York.

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Candle bearer Hovig Baljian, 7, participates in the ceremony. He is the pastor's son.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 8:00 p.m., by the Planning Board through remote participation, the meeting can be viewed through Andover TV Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45, on applications submitted by Dalton & Finegold LLP for a Modification of a Special Permit for a Major Non-Residential Project under Section 9.4.8 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw.

PUBLIC NOTICES
TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Notice is hereby given that two public hearings will convene on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., by the Planning Board through remote participation, the meeting can be viewed on Andover TV, Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45. The public hearings concern applications submitted by CA Investment Trust for a Special Permit for a Multi-family Attached Cluster Development of 15 units under Section 7.3 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw and a Special Permit for Disturbance of Slopes in Excess of 35% under Section 4.1.4.5 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Essex Division
Docket No. ES20P2348EA
Estate of: Richard Lincoln Giles
Also Known As: Richard L. Giles
Date of Death: September 4, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Ann M. Giles of North Andover, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Ann M. Giles of North Andover, MA, has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Essex Division
Docket No. ES20P1970EA
Estate of: Jeffrey N Perrone
Also Known As: Jeffrey Perrone
Date of Death: June 16, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Brian Schoenherr of Concord MA
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Brian Schoenherr of Concord MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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PROFESSIONAL

POLICE OFFICER POSITION
The Town of Hampstead, New Hampshire is currently accepting applications for a full-time police officer. Starting salary will commensurate with experience. A New Hampshire full-time police academy certification is preferred but not required. Applicants will be required to pass a physical agility exam and a thorough background investigation. If hired, employees are required to work nights, weekends, holidays and must possess the ability to handle stressful situations. An employment application may be obtained online at www.hampsteadnh.us or at the Selectmen's Office. Please be aware that applicants need to complete the employment application which is specifically for the Hampstead Police Department. Applications can be mailed to or dropped off at the Hampstead, NH Town Office Building. Applications must be in a sealed envelope and it should be addressed as follows; Attn: Sally Theriault Selectmen's Office 11 Main Street, Hampstead NH 03841. Submission deadline is Friday October 16th 2020 at noon. The Town of Hampstead is an equal opportunity employer

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Notice is hereby given that two public hearings will convene on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., by the Planning Board through remote participation, the meeting can be viewed on Andover TV, Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45. The public hearings concern applications submitted by CA Investment Trust for a Special Permit for a Multi-family Attached Cluster Development of 15 units under Section 7.3 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw and a Special Permit for Disturbance of Slopes in Excess of 35% under Section 4.1.4.5 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. Said applications are for property located at 60 Canterbury Street owned by CA Investment Trust more specifically identified as Assessors' Map 87, Lot 4. A copy of the application and plan may be requested through the Planning Department planning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8650 Monday through Friday during normal business hours. THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD Zachary Bergeron, Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION ES20P2087EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Probate and Family Court 36 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970 (978)744-1020
Estate of: Theresa Wyszowski
Date of Death: 04/25/2020
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kevin O'Mara of Andover MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Kevin O'Mara of Andover MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court, Date: September 22, 2020 Pamela A Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate

PUBLIC NOTICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Essex Division
Docket No. ES20P2348EA
Estate of: Richard Lincoln Giles
Also Known As: Richard L. Giles
Date of Death: September 4, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Ann M. Giles of North Andover, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Ann M. Giles of North Andover, MA, has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

PROFESSIONAL

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Purchasing Agent / Buyer
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Chapleau Ave Saturday 10/3, 8-4pm
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Sports

MR. SOFTBALL?

Former state champion Andover baseball coach Bettencourt has shifted to softball

By DAVE DYER
Staff Writer

The transition from baseball to softball will never be complete for Dave Bettencourt, but it's quite thorough.

Once considered perhaps the greatest baseball coach in area history, winning two state titles at Andover, and a master instructor with a specialty in hitting, the 66-year-old Bettencourt is now more softball oriented.

He gives as many hitting lessons in softball as baseball and he's in his fifth year as an assistant collegiate softball coach for daughter Katie, first at Assumption College and now at Endicott College.

Back in the 20th century, Bettencourt — who retired as a teacher at Andover's Doherty School in 2014 after 37 years — probably would never have guessed that he'd start a shift toward softball, but he remembers when it started.

"When Katie was 11-years-old, she came to me and said 'now it's my turn,'" said Bettencourt, who had guided the baseball growth of son DJ for years. "That's when I started the Firebirds softball team ... it wasn't long before I started giving hitting lessons in softball."

Surprisingly, as far as being a hitting instructor, the transition has not been difficult.

"A lot of people will tell you that softball hitting is different from hitting in baseball, but that was quickly dispelled," said Bettencourt. "Anyone who says they're different doesn't know what they're talking about. The mechanics of hitting are the same for both. You need to focus on the same things."

During the course of giving hitting lessons for both softball and baseball over the last two decades, however, Bettencourt has realized one difference.

"I found out right away that girls were very receptive to coaching — they loved it ... it was almost like they were neglected," said Bettencourt.

"They really seem to appreciate it. Girls will text you the next day and thank you. With guys, they're a little harder to change things and they take things for granted."

While giving lessons, coaching the Firebirds and



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Then-Andover High head coach Dave Bettencourt (no hat) holds the game ball during the celebration after the Golden Warriors won the 1991 Division 1 state title. Bettencourt is now a softball assistant for his daughter.



Courtesy photo

Endicott assistant Dave Bettencourt of Salem, right, with Endicott head coach and daughter Katie Bettencourt, and Endicott assistant Christine Della Vecchia after winning the league championship.

following Katie's remarkable career at Salem High and UMass Amherst, Bettencourt has learned all aspects of softball.

With that in mind, Katie knew she wanted her father on her staff when she assumed the head coaching job at Assumption and then took the job at Endicott.

"He knows so much and, when I took the job at Assumption, I was so young, it was a factor in me taking

the job," said Katie. "To know that he was going to help us and would be coaching with me was really important."

"He really does a lot for us and the players love him. It's unique and I think it's really cool when I tell people he's my assistant."

For his part, Bettencourt is thriving in his role as an assistant for his daughter even if, at times, it took a little bit of an adjustment.

"I used to do the yelling

and now I get yelled out," he said. "But I love it. How many dads get to hang around their daughters? It's a great situation for me."

Said Katie: "It's interesting because in a lot of ways, we're the same person. He gets so involved that at times I'll tell him he has to slow down and, if things get at all heated, I tell him I'm the boss."

"I think he's gotten used to that. Like he knows now

BETTENCOURT'S RECORD

As one of the state's premier baseball coaches, Salem's Dave Bettencourt:

- Was head coach at Andover, Central Catholic, Lawrence, Salem, Winnacunnet and UNH
- Went 42-20 in three seasons at Central Catholic; it was 4-14 the year before he arrived
- Led Andover to 111-33 record and state titles in 1991 and 1992, still the school's only state baseball crowns
- Coached Winnacunnet to its first state baseball title in 1999
- Led UNH to a school-record 23 wins in his only season coaching the team

not to yell at the umpire."

In addition, Bettencourt is his daughter's most avid recruiter.

"That's one of his best attributes and I trust him completely," said Katie. "He goes above and beyond — he could do it from when the sun goes up to the sun goes down."

"Sometimes, I'd tell him to take a day off and then I find out he went to a game anyway."

But Bettencourt can't spend all his time recruiting because he's busy giving hitting lessons, both in baseball and softball, at various locations around the Merrimack Valley. It's what he does best and probably what he enjoys most.

"I just love it, seeing

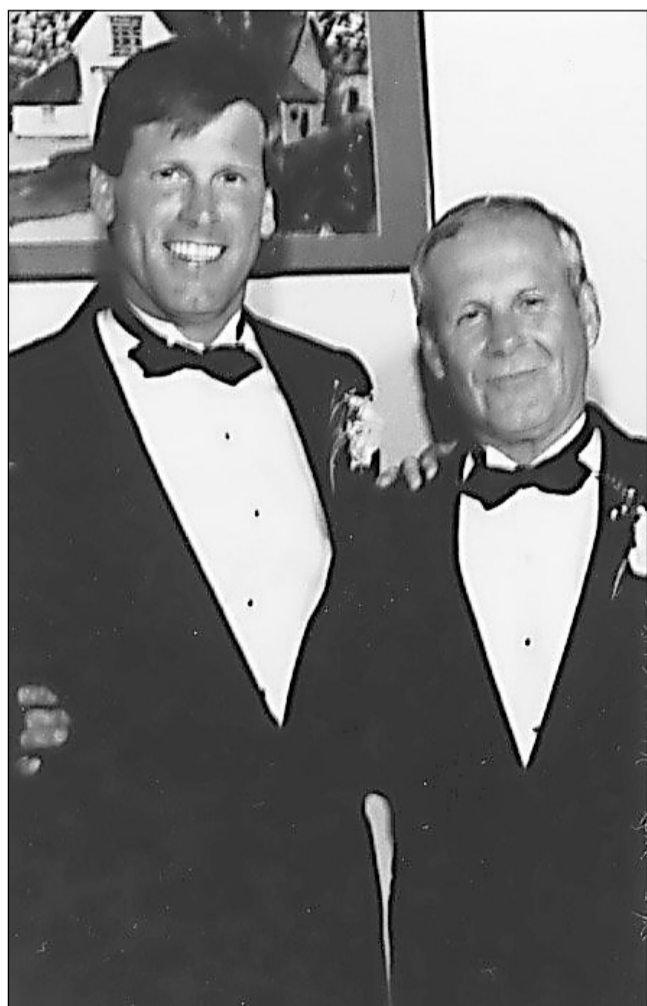
kids light up when things go better for them," said Bettencourt, who says he gives lessons to about the same number of baseball as softball players. "Sometimes as coaches (of teams), we get uptight with players and you don't have time to work with them."

"You have to slow things down and work on mechanics. That's what I'm doing."

And he continues to do it well, likely much better than any of the other growing number of hitting coaches around the region, now in softball as much if not more than baseball.

"I've had a great run and I still love it," said Bettencourt. "I hope to do it as long as I stay healthy."

Legacy of Andover's Hixon family second to none



Courtesy photo

Former Andover High coach Wil Hixon (right) and his son, David, were both inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

By MICHAEL MULDOON
Staff Writer

Andover High football coach E.J. Perry (AHS '83) was a standout basketball player for late Hall of Fame coach Wil Hixon at Andover.

Perry wanted to go to Colby College, but he was unsure if he could get that coveted last spot for a basketball recruit.

Perry recalled, "(Colby coach Dick Whitmore) said it was a difficult decision. He was sitting in his office before going to the admissions office. He said he got up to leave when he realized that he had left his jacket in his office. The phone rang. Coach Hixon was calling to recommend me one last time."

"Coach Whitmore said the last thing that he said was, 'I would bet my life on E.J. Perry.'"

Perry got the last spot and was one of the Colby greats. Another win for Coach Hixon, who died on Aug. 26 at age 91.

WHAT A RUN

Andover High Hall of Famer David Hixon took a leave of absence last winter and in April announced



FILE PHOTO

Former Andover resident David Hixon built a legend during his time as Amherst College men's basketball team, just like his dad did as Andover High hoops coach.

his retirement as the Amherst men's basketball coach. It was quite a run, to say the least.

The son of legendary Andover High coach Wil Hixon, David, 67, coached his alma mater for 42 years with an 826-293 record, two national titles and seven final four appearances.

Hired at the tender age of 24 to take over his alma mater, Hixon went from the youngest coach in the country to No. 3 all-time in

Division 3 wins.

Amherst president Biddy Martin said, "His impact on the lives of the student-athletes he coached is as impressive as his 826 wins."

Hixon certainly ranks with the greatest coaches in area history and perhaps is No. 1.

Off the top of my head, we've had some legends in the coaching world come from Andover.

One Bill O'Brien, who is

now in his seventh season as head coach of the NFL's Houston Texans. He entered the weekend with a 52-36 record as Texans coach, making the playoffs four times and winning two playoff games. Prior to that, he had a highly successful run as offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots.

High school Andover "Mt. Rushmore" coaching types include swim legend Marilyn Fitzgerald, four-time state champion retired Golden Warriors basketball coach Jim Tildsley, Hall of Fame track coaches Peter Comeau and the late Art Iworsley and late football/track coach Dick Collins.

After David Hixon retired, the Washington Post's legendary basketball writer John Feinstein did a lengthy feature on him.

"I've had the chance to coach against a lot of the great coaches," said George Mason coach Dave Paulsen, who had a great rivalry with Hixon when he coached at Williams. "Jim Calhoun, Brad Stevens, John Beilein and Anthony Grant come to mind right away. I can honestly say I've never coached against anyone better than Dave."

GREAT PUMPKINS

West Parish gardeners grow 1,600-plus pounds of produce

Having produced more than 1,600 pounds of food this year, the West Parish Permaculture Garden is winding down its fourth season.

During this "season of COVID," a seven-person team worked hard to determine when, if and how they could come together to work on the garden, said Heather Gaspar, one of the gardeners.

All of the produce was donated to help feed the hungry, Gaspar said.

"For those that garden, you know the peace and spiritual feeling that comes from the work," Gaspar said. "The connection to the soil and to the cycle of life is calming and grounding. The garden offered us much more this year, a place to go, a place to socialize ... a place to feed our souls."

Gaspar said they received three pumpkin seedlings that produced 42 pumpkins from David Siersdale of Needham, which he started on his windowsill. He received the first one

"The connection to the soil and to the cycle of life is calming and grounding. The garden offered us much more this year, a place to go, a place to socialize ... a place to feed our souls."

Gardener Heather Gaspar

harvested.

The second pumpkin went to West Parish congregation member Charlotte Tarbox, who recently celebrated her 101st birthday.

Katrina Wuensch, senior pastor, put together a list of other elderly, sick or isolated parishioners who will be given pumpkins and cards.

The garden team includes Gaspar, Abby Martin, Linda Willis, Chris Swain, Melanie Muggia, Cheryl McKeough, and Kate Margoese.



The garden team includes Heather Gaspar, Abby Martin, Linda Willis, Melanie Muggia, Cheryl McKeough, Kate Margoese and Chris Swain.

Courtesy photos



David Siersdale of Needham holds the first of 42 pumpkins to be harvested from three seedlings he started on his windowsill.



The second pumpkin harvested went to West Parish congregation member Charlotte Tarbox, who recently celebrated her 101st birthday.

Encourage a critical eye — without being critical

Family Matters

Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor,
This has got to be a thing that happens in lots of families. It involves our son, who is in high school. He is smart, well liked, an athlete. His father and I have a concern about two of his friends. He

likes them a lot, and he hangs out with them much more than we would like. They are into smoking and maybe selling pot. One vapes. Both are as sneaky as they come. We want our son to not get hurt. Any help for us?

Worried

Dear Worried,
You think they are sneaky. You have got to be sneakier. By that I mean your skills as a parent need to be sharp, but not obvious. Begin by having a better knowledge of your son's friends. This means having

them in your home. Perhaps have them stay for dinner. You are much better off knowing your son's friends and their whereabouts than not. This also allows you to know their behavior and style and to observe your son's interactions with them. Is he paying attention? What does he like or admire about them?

Then, be a teacher and consultant. Ask him questions. For example, "Have you ever noticed ...?" "Do you think your friend has thought about ...?" You get the idea. What you are doing is showing him how to have a critical

and discerning eye. If you criticize his friends, you are, in his mind, also doing the same to him. He will not be open to your judgment.

When he does say something about them — and he will — affirm or reinforce a keen observation.

Meanwhile, keep cheering his values, which you have taught him. Growing up is a trip, which takes some time.

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



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