



HEADING INTO ANOTHER SUPER BOWL, BRADY DEFIES THE ODDS. PAGE 10

BEYOND BASEBALL: FENWAY SET UP FOR MASS VACCINES. PAGE 7



TATUM SHAW ENJOYS LEADERSHIP ROLE ON AHS GIRLS HOOP TEAM. PAGE 9

OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

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\$1.00

Pazzo Pizza serves teachers a 'night of calmness'

BY MADELINE HUGHES
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Seeing their children and their children's teachers struggle during nearly a year of remote and hybrid learning, Pazzo Pizza owners David and Jeff

Malloy decided to give a free pizza to every Andover School District teacher and staff member.

"We can't afford to donate, but we can give out our product and make them feel appreciated," Jeff said.

Both brothers have

educators in their families. Jeff's fiancée is a special education teacher and David's wife is a former teacher. So they knew they needed to find a way to give back to the community despite Pazzo Pizza only being open for a year, most of which has been

during the pandemic.

After opening on Valentine's Day in 2020, "It was a crazy line out the door for a month ... right until Gov. shut down indoor dining," David said.

The brothers had perfected their Neapolitan

pizza, which was baked in a specialty oven to be served to dine-in customers, Jeff said. They were just getting the hang of the restaurant business when they quickly had to switch to takeout only.

"We didn't even have two

phone lines, so it was mayhem turning the next day to takeout," David said.

They needed to find proper takeout containers to keep food fresh, unlike the boxes that are great for storing leftovers, David said.

See PIZZA, Page 2

Andover restaurant reveals new look with a little help from Taniya Nayak



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Carlo and Danielle Berdahn, owners of Yella, pose with their daughters, Mariana, 5 and Sofia, 8, inside their newly renovated restaurant. The Berdahns reached out to celebrity interior designer Taniya Nayak for help renovating their restaurant after the Merrimack Valley gas disaster in 2018. The couple was able to follow through on Nayak's plan during the pandemic.

Pandemic makeover

BY MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

As everything was shut down in the middle of the pandemic, Yella Grille owners Danielle and Carlo Berdahn took advantage of the slow-down to redecorate their restaurant.

They started a collaboration with Boston-based interior designer Taniya Nayak, best known for her work on HGTV and the Food

Network, after the Merrimack Valley gas disaster in late 2018.

However, the couple didn't have the time to implement the design plan, which Nayak worked on pro bono, until the pandemic.

With the slow down in business due to COVID-19, the restaurant owners were finally able to redo the space.

Now the restaurant's walls are white instead of purple. An

employee's art fills one wall, and plants hang on the other.

"I wanted it to be white but not cold," Danielle said, explaining the new decor.

Danielle had followed Nayak's career on television.

The interior designer, who also owns multiple restaurants in Boston, has appeared on "Designed to Sell," "Billion Dollar Block," "House

See RESTAURANT, Page 2

Parents find Bach's message confusing

Interim superintendent clarifies 'herd immunity'

BY MADELINE HUGHES
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Andover Interim Superintendent Claudia Bach released a letter by email Monday telling parents the district's students would not fully return to in-school classes until "we reach herd immunity via vaccinations."

Caught by surprise,

parents took to social media and emailed school officials expressing confusion, frustration and even some outrage after receiving the correspondence.

"The thing that really annoyed me is that she is claiming we can't go back to school until we reach herd immunity," said Leslie Scully,

See MESSAGE, Page 2

Baker makes another push for opioid tax

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

Opioid makers could be forced to pay millions of dollars in annual taxes to help cover the cost of state-funded drug treatment.

Gov. Charlie Baker wants to slap a 15% tax on the overall sales of opioid manufacturers

such as Purdue Pharma, as part of his preliminary budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Supporters of the tax say the companies helped create an epidemic when they flooded the market with highly addictive drugs, and they should

be forced to help pay for See TAX, Page 2

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Baker reflects on sacrifices, progress in COVID-19 fight

Governor laments deaths, toll on economy, emotions

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Staff Writer

Gov. Charlie Baker highlighted the "heroes" and "sacrifices" in the state's battle against the coronavirus in his annual speech and said "better days are coming" with more vaccines being distributed and public health trends improving.

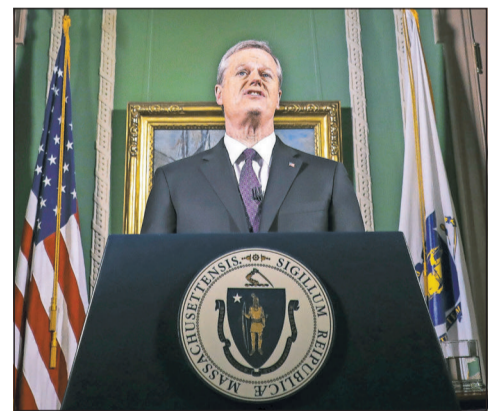
The second-term Republican devoted much of last week's half-hour speech to reflecting on the impact of the pandemic on the state, the thousands of lives lost and disrupted, and the economic upheaval the virus left in its wake over the past 10 months.

"The pandemic changed everything," Baker said. "And it was much more than just

the worst public health crisis of the last hundred years. It came with economic calamity. Severe job loss. Business closures. Anxiety. Fear. Civil unrest. Riots. Racial injustice. Isolation. Death. And Loss."

Baker's annual State of the Commonwealth address — which is normally delivered

See BAKER, Page 2



Gov. Charlie Baker delivers his annual State of the Commonwealth address from the Statehouse.

AP PHOTO



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- Eyelid irritation
- Discomfort along edge of eyelids
- Brittle/loss of eyelashes
- Misdirected eyelashes

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For over 30 years, the physicians at Andover Eye Associates have provided the most trusted eye care in the Merrimack Valley. In addition to providing routine eye care and treating patients with leading-edge eye care standards, our physicians continue to be dedicated to paving the way for the development of new treatment options through clinical research. While the COVID-19 pandemic may have put a fleeting halt to clinical research earlier this year, the silver lining is that it also educated people on the importance of clinical research in identifying new therapies for medical conditions that are in need of worthy treatment. Patients play an integral role in clinical research, as their participation can contribute invaluable information surrounding a potential new treatment option. This allows for the successful advancement of new therapies, which enables medical providers to more effectively treat their patients.

As your ophthalmic provider, we want to assure you that we at Andover Eye Associates take great pride in our participation as a clinical research site. Not only do we hold the responsibility of treating your eye care needs with the treatments/therapies already available, we are also committed to playing a vital role in the research and clinical testing of new and improved treatments for our patients. Our contributions to clinical research over these many decades include the addition of over 40 eye drops to market worldwide with the help of our Andover patients and our research affiliate Ora, Inc. (also based in Andover, MA). Today, over 200 million people use drops that we helped develop.

As we resume our clinical evaluations for new therapies, we continue to encourage our valued patients of Andover Eye to consider participation in future clinical trials. Together, we can work to improve treatments for those who continue to suffer from bothersome and debilitating eye conditions.

Upcoming Research

Blepharitis is a common, chronic condition that can cause eyelid inflammation as well as lid redness, lid itching and eye irritation. Many people with blepharitis may also experience scales on their lashes and debris-like dandruff, especially in the morning. In 45% of cases, this condition also presents with demodex, which are tiny mites that live along the lids. If left untreated, these mites can thrive and cause increased irritation and inflammation and overall lid discomfort. Dr. Gail Torkildsen of Andover Eye Associates is working hard to find better treatment options for people with this eye condition.

We will soon be evaluating a therapy that Dr. Abelson (founder of Andover Eye Associates and Ora, Inc.) and Dr. Torkildsen are excited about! This new research study is to evaluate how effective an investigational eyedrop is at relieving symptoms associated with blepharitis. If you are experiencing the symptoms described, we invite you to participate. The study involves 6 office visits over the course of 8 weeks. If you complete these office visits, you may be compensated up to \$600 for your time. Please call us for more information!

Addressing COVID Concerns

We understand that many of our patients may feel uneasy about coming into the office, but we would like to reassure you that your health and safety are our top priority. Our staff are committed to providing as safe an environment as possible and we are taking all of the necessary precautions per the CDC guidelines, including, but not limited to:

- Screening questionnaires for all staff and study participants
- Required vaccinations for staff in direct contact with patients
- Temperature and pulse/oxygen checks
- Mask wearing for all staff and study participants
- Hand hygiene (frequent hand sanitizing and washing with soap and water)
- Frequent sanitizing of all clinical areas where participants are being examined



Image of collarettes or cylindrical dandruff commonly associated with demodex blepharitis.

English FP, Nutting WB. Demodicosis of ophthalmic concern. Am J Ophthalmol 2981;91:362-372

Banks team up to teach students about finances

STAFF REPORT

Eight area banks that have long supported financial literacy in Massachusetts public schools are working together to bring a popular event to students virtually this spring.

High school students across Massachusetts can participate in the Credit for Life Fair by using creditforlife.org — a website in the process of being created. The goal is to have it available by the end of March, organizers said.

With the idea it will be a part of a high school class, the website is being designed by Stackpole & Partners of Newburyport, in collaboration with the Institution for Savings, Cape Cod 5, Bay Coast Bank, HarborOne Bank, The Savings Bank, Rockland Trust, Westfield Bank, Country Bank, and FitMoney.org, a not-for-profit financial literacy organization.

The Credit for Life Fair, a half-day event where high school students assume the roles of 25-year-old adults and spend their “paychecks” on everything they need to live, has been popular in many Massachusetts public schools for more than a decade, according to a press release. Many banks and credit unions throughout the state host these events, using local resources and volunteers. The State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment

has encouraged more fairs in recent years by making grants available to schools to participate.

The pandemic has brought most of the events to a halt. While several groups, including the Institution for Savings and Andover High School, shifted to offer virtual fairs, participation was down at both events. Organizers connected last summer to explore collaboration on a better virtual experience in 2021 given the limits the pandemic placed on large in-person events. They enlisted FitMoney.org which had given support to both spring fairs through its partnership with New England Patriot Brandon Copeland, a passionate financial literacy advocate. Eventually the group expanded to include other banks which pooled money to pay for the creation of the website, with FitMoney.org serving as fiscal agent.

“One fact that we all agree on was that the Credit for Life Fair is one of the most important and impactful events we do every year,” said Mary Anne Clancy, senior vice president of marketing and communications at the Institution for Savings, one of the founding sponsors of the fair. “With Massachusetts legislation enacted in 2019 authorizing financial literacy to be taught in public schools, we know educators might appreciate

this type of program So we thought, why not collaborate and deliver one common tool that all schools can use to teach the same lessons?”

David Floren, former Massachusetts Bankers Association senior vice president and organizer of Andover High School’s event, said in the release, “Our long-term hope is that we can eventually go back to in-person fairs. In the interim, this website is a tool that educators and others can use right now, with the support of banks and other community organizations. Teachers are being asked to do so much right now, and this is one way we think we can help.”

Only six states in the country require high school students to take at least one semester-long personal finance class before graduation, according to Next Gen Personal Finance’s 2019-2020 progress report, and 15 other states have personal finance in another course. The remaining states, including Massachusetts, don’t require students to have any personal finance education before graduating.

Getting at the truth with a lying child

Family Matters

Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor,
We have a 7-year-old child who does not seem to be able to keep from telling lies. His lies have

been getting worse as he gets older, too. He lies about where he has been in the neighborhood. He lies about things that happened in school. We are worried he probably is lying about our family at school or to neighbors. He will vow that what he is telling us is the truth — even when he knows it is not. He is smart and, don’t get me wrong, a great boy. He is our only child, and we are afraid he will grow up to be a problem.

Truthful

Dear Truthful,

Calm down and take several deep breaths. In my experience, I have known many children who found lying to be a craft. All of them have grown to be fine adults.

For many children who are your son’s age, the art of speaking the truth is not as rewarding as making a full-grown, competent adult look like a fool for believing a tall tale.

I will not detail the many forms of lying or its development in children. Suffice it to say, most children do not see the problem. Therein lies (no pun) the cure.

Make the lie ineffective. Make the contrary truth effective. Most parents tend to lecture and punish lying. That usually increases the untruthful productions by serving as a curious reinforcer. What to do?

Stick with what you know happened. When the tall tale comes, simply affirm the truth and ignore his attestations of veracity. Avoid editorials like, “Well, I hope you are not lying now” or “The last time you told a big lie” Give a neutral response, such as “really?” or “no kidding?” When the truth becomes clear, state it without accusing.

Share assumptions. Assure him that he is a boy who wants to tell the truth. Do not make a fuss over it. Simply affirm the best. You are shaping behavior.

Over time, the lying will become useless and unrewarding. And that’s no lie!

Please recycle this newspaper.

Search for superintendent now active

By MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

Andover has chosen the qualities it wants in a new permanent superintendent, bringing the town closer to finding that person.

After hosting 15 focus groups with parents, students and school staff, the district’s consulting firm, Ray & Associates, took input from those groups to help the School Committee determine the criteria being used as Andover advertises the position.

The consulting firm will recruit candidates until Feb. 28, putting the school district on track to hire a permanent superintendent who will start working July 1, said Molly Schwarzhoff, the firm’s executive vice president.

The School Committee hired the firm in November to find a permanent replacement after Superintendent Shelly Berman resigned. Andover hired former Superintendent Claudia Bach as interim school district leader for six months, but must find a replacement for her by July 1.

After the focus groups met and public surveys were completed, it became apparent people in the community want a strong leader who will build on the success of Andover schools rather than making big changes to the district, Schwarzhoff said.

“They don’t want someone to come in and completely change the climate, but someone who knows what they are doing and who can take it and run with it,” she said, “someone who listens, but ultimately needs to make a decision.”

One of the most profound focus group comments came from a middle school student who wanted her teachers and parents to be comfortable with the new superintendent, Schwarzhoff said.

The student also said the next superintendent should be “a humble leader who learns,” Schwarzhoff recalled.

The School Committee decided on 12 criteria for the superintendent, including “is willing to listen to input, but is a decision-maker” and “is strongly committed to a ‘student first’ philosophy in all

decisions.” The search firm is set to finalize the job posting.

After the firm receives applications, it will choose the best candidates for a town search committee to review. The School Committee has yet to decide who will be on the search committee.

It hasn’t been determined if parents or other community members will be allowed to apply for membership on the search committee because of the sensitive nature of the hiring process, school officials said. Search committee Vice Chair Susan McCready said she is wary of involving parents in the process because of the confidentiality required.

Michael Collins, president of the search firm, said the final choice of who becomes the new superintendent will be made in public. The School Committee, the last group to interview candidates, will hold interviews of finalists in public. Collins said a school district can also have other events, such as meet-and-greet sessions where members of the public talk to finalists.

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Sports

GOLDEN ROLE MODEL

High-scoring Shaw relishes leadership role for girls hoops

By DAVE DYER
Staff Writer

When she was younger, Andover's Tatum Shaw must have enjoyed the children's game "Follow the Leader."



Tatum Shaw

As a senior captain for the Golden Warriors' girls basketball team, she is certainly doing her best to continue that game.

A key player on last year's Division 1 state co-championship team, Shaw is leading the way for a young Andover team this winter, both on and off the court.

With several standouts having graduated and sophomore star Anna Foley injured in the first game, Shaw knew that she would have to score more this year. And she has responded big time.

In the first game of the season against archrival Central Catholic, Shaw poured in a career-high 31 points. Two games later, she had a new high with 38 in the Warriors' first win of the season and she followed that with a 35-point performance.

Explaining her early season scoring prowess, Shaw said that "my mentality has changed. I knew because we lost some good players, I'd have to score more."

"Plus, I'm definitely more confident this year. I'm going to the basket more."

As a result, Shaw is averaging 25.0 points a game for the 4-2 Golden Warriors compared to 15.7 a year ago, when she was All-Merrimack Valley Conference. She has been a go-to scorer and key player on the varsity team since her freshman season.

While conceding that it's fun to score points at a prolific clip, Shaw's goal during this coronavirus season was far from personal.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover's Tatum Shaw moves the ball against Bridgewater-Raynham 52-44 in last year's girls D1 State Semifinal. She calls last year's state co-championship her proudest moment in basketball.

"I just want us to enjoy the moment because we're not sure when it will end," she said.

And that's a focus she emphasizes as a captain, a role that she relishes. "It's a responsibility that I like to have," said Shaw, who was also a captain in volleyball. "I like to lead and help my teammates. I always wanted to have this leadership."

Head coach Alan Hibino is thrilled to have Shaw on his roster. "She has been a

tremendous role model on and off the court," said Hibino. "She has been an incredible student-athlete since she entered high school."

Off the court, Shaw is one of the top students in her class, sporting a 3.86 GPA, which is 4.31 when weighted. She hasn't gotten a grade less than an A since her freshman year, when she got one B, and she is in the National Honor Society.

Explaining her success in the classroom, Shaw says

she's driven internally. "I consider it like my job as a student," she said. "I always want to do my best no matter what I do."

High grades were helpful as Shaw navigated her college options. She definitely wanted to play college basketball and she weighed opportunities with both Division 2 and Division 3 schools before finally settling on Division 2 Southern New Hampshire University the week before last.

"I want to keep playing

basketball no matter what," said Shaw before making her commitment. "I want to go to a school where I feel comfortable and can make a difference."

As far as making a difference, there is no question about that, according to Hibino.

"She is a great student — she has been outstanding in my Honors Statistics class," said Hibino. "She will find success at anything she puts her mind to."

Similar beginnings

Tatum Shaw started playing basketball in the second grade for Our Lady of Good Counsel in Methuen, who was coached by Mike Lopez.

He was the same coach for Shaw's mother who, as Zahia Kattar (a cousin of Methuen MMA champion Calvin Kattar), also played for Andover High.

For the last five years, Shaw has also played AAU ball for Evolution Basketball out of Woburn.

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Shahtanian, boys basketball remains perfect



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Luke Poirier, here against North Andover, and Andover High remained undefeated with a pair of victories over Chelmsford last week.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Richie Shahtanian hit four 3-pointers on his way to 18 points as Andover remained undefeated by rolling past Chelmsford 91-55 last Wednesday. Ryan MacLellan added 15 points for the Golden Warriors, while Aidan Cammann continued to roll with 17 points.

Aidan Cammann stayed red hot with a team-high 18 points as Andover topped Chelmsford 69-57 on Saturday. St. John's Prep transfer Luke Poirier scored 11 points while Ryan MacLellan added 10 points for the Golden Warriors, who improved to 6-0 on the season.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hanscom a hero

Amelia Hanscom delivered a moment she will remember for the rest of her life, hitting the front end of a 1-and-1 with 3.0 seconds left to give Andover a thrilling 44-43 win over Chelmsford last Wednesday. Hanscom, a sophomore guard, scored a team-high 17 points. Breakout star Tatum Shaw added 16 points, giving her double-digit points in all five games this season.

After a scary early-season knee injury, Anna Foley made her return Friday. The talented 6-2 sophomore scored 14 points as Andover topped Chelmsford, 49-41. Tatum Shaw chipped in with a team-high 19 for the Golden Warriors, who improved to 4-2 on the season.

BOYS HOCKEY

Archambault breaks through

Sophomore Braden Archambault scored his first varsity goal with three minutes left in regulation and Andover tied Chelmsford, 1-1, in overtime on Saturday. Goal Jake Brezner had 26 saves for the Golden Warriors.

Jacob Fabiani scored Andover's goal in a 2-1 loss to Chelmsford last Wednesday. Jake Brezner made 23 saves for the Warriors.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Rebound tie

Lauren Adams, Kalli Archambault and Eliza O'Sullivan each scored a goal as Andover rebounded from its first loss by playing rival Haverhill/Pentucket/North Andover to a 3-3 tie on Sunday. Lillian Jagger made 38 for the Golden Warriors.

Despite 22 saves by Lillian Jagger, Andover suffered its first loss of the season, 2-0, to archrival Methuen/Tewksbury last Tuesday. The Golden Warriors previously defeated the Red Rangers 7-1.

BOYS SKIING

Andover sweeps

Andover didn't place an athlete in the top-25, but used its depth to beat Austin Prep (105-30) and Manchester-Essex (93-42) last Thursday. The Warriors improved to 3-3 this winter.

GIRLS SKIING

Warriors fall

Andover beat Newburyport (99-36) but lost to Masconomet (105-30) last Thursday.



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SEND US YOUR TOWN SPORTS NEWS

The Townsman wants to spotlight the triumphs, and tragedies, of Andover's local sports teams and athletes.

We're asking coaches, players, parents and fans to send us photos as well as highlights from all the week's sporting games and events. Items can range from a shout-out for a top player or team, a spectacular play or sports milestone or even some candid shots from a game or practice.

We also want to hear ideas for stories on athletes or a big game that The Townsman should feature in its pages.

Send your photos, highlights and story ideas to townsmen@andovertownsmen.com or call 978-475-7000, ext. 8733. We look forward to hearing from you.

BRADY HAS ALREADY WON

Forget about the Super Bowl, ex-Patriot legend is defeating Father Time

By BILL BURT
Staff Writer

It was an innocent question during a Wednesday press conference with the New York Jets media in October 2015.

Tom Brady, then quarterback for the New England Patriots, was asked, "How long do you think you can keep playing?"

Famous for answering media questions with pleasant non-answers, the then-38-year-old Brady changed form.

"I'd like to play a long time, yeah, a long time," he answered. "There's a lot that goes into playing well. I've played with a lot of great teammates. But I want to play for a long time, maybe 10 more years. I think that's probably what my goal is."

That answer drew a few laughs in the Jets media room. It also begged the next question from a Jets scribe: "Are you being serious?"

"Well, it's not always up to me. That's what my goals are, so that's just what I'm hoping," Brady said. "And it will take a lot to achieve that. Obviously a team has to want you, but I think that's ... you know, I love playing this sport."

Nobody is laughing now.

Some five years and three months later, Brady is not only in the discussion about the best quarterbacks of all time, but he's going to his 10th Super Bowl in 20 seasons.

At 43 — 44 in August — he's more than halfway past his 10-year goal. And in 2020, as he heads into the Super Bowl on Sunday pitting the Buccaneers against the Chiefs — and Brady against 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes — in his first year with Tampa Bay everything



At 43, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady is heading into his 10th Super Bowl in 20 seasons.

about him looks just about the same as when he was 25, 30, 35 and 40.

A far cry from 'The Cliff'
"The Cliff," or really falling off it, is a term used to describe an athlete's descent from legendary to just-another-guy.

Soon-to-be-retired New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, 42, was nuzzled off the cliff in 2020. His stats were good, but his ability to carry the team had eroded and his ball lost its long-noted zip. He's about to enter a career in broadcasting for NBC Sports.

It was worse for Peyton Manning in his final go-round in 2015. His stats with the Broncos — nine touchdown passes and 17 interceptions — looked like Cam Newton's in 2020 as the quarterback came up short with the Patriots. What Manning had going for him as his career ended was the best defense in the NFL and the Broncos beat the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl.

Other quarterbacks have played into their 40s, including Steve DeBerg, the oldest to appear in a game at 44 years old. But most were backups earning a paycheck. Only Brees,

Brett Favre at 40, and Brady played at a championship contending level.

Brady isn't even close to The Cliff. In fact, when he took the field this season with the Buccaneers, he seemed reborn.

"The (Patriots) tape showed to us that he had plenty of arm. In fact, we thought that he had an ideal arm for Bruce (Arians) in his system," Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht said on an ESPN show in March after acquiring Brady.

"He can still throw it deep. We felt like the mobility was still the same as he's always had, which, he's never been able to outrun anybody," Licht added. "But he certainly is good in the pocket in terms of eluding pressure and with his poise and his instincts. We did not see a decline in his arm talent whatsoever. And, in fact, we feel like he could still play for over two years for us, and hopefully that's the case."

A dedicated lifestyle

Brady's routine off the field is clearly key to his ability to look and play like he's 33, not 43.

His diet and self-care, with pliability and deep



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady reacts after a Buccaneers touchdown against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of a game Dec. 20 in Atlanta.

massages nearly every day with his health guru and partner, Alex Guerrero, work.

His TB12 website's opening salvo brags about the football accomplishments brought about by his lifestyle:

"With six Super Bowl wins under his belt, there's no doubt Tom Brady is doing something right with his preparation, including his nutrition. But what exactly is he doing, and why? What does Tom Brady eat and drink? With his focus on a plant-based diet, where does he get his protein?"

In a 2016 interview with The Eagle-Tribune, his dad, Tom Brady Sr., elaborated a bit on his son's ability to rebound from a rough day of football.

"Tommy tells me the sacks hurt like they always have," the senior Brady said. "But because his body is more nimble, almost like Gumby, he is able to withstand the pain and punishment and return to 'normal' much quicker than previously."

Hall of Fame quarterback Phil Simms, now a studio analyst for CBS Sports,

doesn't deny the roles of diet and therapy in Brady's success, but the greatest of all-time usually have something else in common, especially during their time off, he said.

"I know he throws a lot in the off-season. I know Steph Curry throws up a lot of shots in the off-season. I think some quarterbacks or even basketball players might say, 'Nah, I'm going to rest and save myself for the season,'" Simms said Friday.

"At some point you'd figure other quarterbacks would say, 'I might wanna do what Brady does,'" added Simms, who spends hundreds of hours per year working with quarterbacks of all ages.

"Is his pocket presence what it was in his heyday with the Patriots? Probably not. But he's throwing the ball now as good as he's ever thrown it. That's also very important for his position."

Winning the biggest battle

Ironically, Brady's association with Guerrero and his obsession with playing into his 40s may have cost him his career with the

Patriots. Belichick doesn't like players speculating about the future.

Back in 2015 when Brady said he wanted to play until he was 48, Jimmy Garoppolo was in his second season with the Patriots. It appeared Belichick was greasing the tracks for the next quarterback.

Garoppolo was traded to the San Francisco 49ers a year later — although Belichick was not "all-in" on the move, which reportedly was ordered by Patriots owner Bob Kraft.

Did that grudge emanate from drafting Garoppolo and then hearing Brady say he wasn't even close to calling it a career in 2015? Did it play a role in Brady leaving on bad terms?

We can only guess.

What is certain is that Brady is showing no signs of retirement and has a year left in his contract with the Bucs.

"I know he said 48, but in football you can't look ahead that far," said Simms, who turned 65 in November. "While nothing would surprise me about Brady's future, for now, I expect him around at least one more year after this one. If he looks as good as he does now, sure, he'd probably come back. Let's just get through the big game next Sunday night first."

Brady's battle with Mahomes — who is nearly 20 years his junior — will be highlighted exponentially over the next week. It won't be easy for Brady, as Mahomes also is fiercely competitive and fearless.

But Brady has already beaten a bigger competitor: He has faced off with Father Time and is standing as strong as ever.

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