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AHS FOOTBALL TEAM ENJOYS WIN OVER NORTH ANDOVER. PAGE 9

OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

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West Elementary plans gets final approval from state

By MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com
The West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool project was unanimously approved by the Massachusetts School Building Authority

Wednesday. Approval for the new building came after a two-year process where town and state officials studied the plans, securing \$38 million of state money. Now, voters will be asked to

approve the \$151 million project — \$113 million of which will be paid for by taxpayers — in June at two different meetings. First, voters have to approve the project in a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting on June 5, and then by a

simple majority vote at the ballot box on June 15. It “was a big, big milestone to get approval from the board and go into Town Meeting knowing what the budget and scope of the project are,” said Paula Colby-Clements, the

chairperson of the project’s committee. Colby-Clements believes there is “widespread support” in town for the new structure to replace two of the district’s oldest schools, and she’s working to get the word out to vote.

“So many times you see the community understand and embrace the idea, and they see it as a done deal. But we need people to show up and vote for the project,” she said. West Elementary was built See PLANS, Page 2

READY, AIM, FIRE



Sydney Steddom, sixth grader at the Dorothy Middle School, and other archery students practice pulling the bowstring back without the arrow. See more photos on Page 6.

Cormier Youth Center offering archery to middle schoolers

Archery has become a popular sport for middle schoolers after Meera Kumar, a senior at Andover High School, suggested the program to the Cormier Youth Center. Kumar now teaches the art of archery to middle school students at the center. She has been involved with competitive archery since she was a freshman.



Glenn Wilson, assistant director of the Cormier Youth Center, measures the distance of students' arrows from the bullseye during a game. Wilson and Meera Kumar, an Andover High School senior are teaching the art of archery to middle school students at the center.

Andover High School

Full-time student return unlikely

Pandemic issues make September new goal

By MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Because of space issues at Andover High, it’s unlikely students will return to classrooms full time this spring, school officials said. They said the pandemic’s social-distancing rules prevent the school’s classrooms from providing the space needed for all students to return full time. Groups of students now attend the school on alternate days under the hybrid learning method. They learn remotely online from home on days they don’t go to school. Janet Nicosia, director of facilities for the school district, said officials are hoping social-distancing rules are relaxed by the start of the next school year. That would allow students’ desks to be placed closer together and classrooms to hold more children. “We’re all really praying for September to not See STUDENTS, Page 2

Town weighs pension reform

By MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Town officials are trying to gauge if voters will approve borrowing \$185 million to pay of the town’s unfunded pension liability if there is no reform to the pension system going forward. “I think with no reform this won’t pass,” said Eugenie Moffitt, chair of the Finance Committee. “So, we have to put as positive a spin on it as possible.” Voters are being asked to borrow a \$185 million pension obligation bond to pay off the town’s unfunded pension liability, caused by decades of paying too little into the pension system. Currently, anyone working more than 20 hours a week who is a permanent employee is eligible for a town pension. A proposed change by Thomas Hartwell the Select Board’s appointee to the Retirement See PENSIONS, Page 2

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Andover Choral Society unites Valley performers

By MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Go to andovertownsman.com to see a video.

Having remotely conducted choral rehearsals for much of the year because of the pandemic, the Andover Choral Society wanted to do something grand for their spring 2021 concert — hopefully their last fully remote one. For their upcoming remote concert, they decided to invite 11 other Merrimack Valley performing arts groups including Spotlight Playhouse, Merrimack Valley Philharmonic

and Lawrence Voices of Hope to join them. “Our tag line is ‘Bringing people together with music,’ and we’ve tried to do it virtually over the past year but we can’t wait to do it in person,” said Tom Connolly, president of the choir. The Andover group is performing multiple songs for their upcoming concert, and is See PERFORMERS, Page 2



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PLANS

Continued from Page 1

in the 1950s and needs about \$50 million in work to bring it up to code, said Joel Blumstein, chair of the nonprofit organization Yes to WESP (West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool).

"It's not a question of spending \$113 million or \$0. Either way, it's a significant investment that would have to be made on the town's dime," Blumstein said.

Each grade level at the new school will have its own wing that has a common space in the middle that can accommodate all of the students at the same time.

"The world has become a more dynamic place and you need more dynamic learning spaces that lend themselves to those 21st-century practices. That helps their social-emotional learning by creating a community of learners," Colby-Clements said.

Shawsheen, which was built in the 1920s, and West also have significant costs for upkeep, which should be lessened with the new building that will be environmentally sustainable with a LEED — Leadership



A rendering of the West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool project that will be completed in a few years, if approved by voters.

in Energy and Environmental Design — certification.

Partnering up with the state, Andover officials had to ensure the new school project would benefit the whole community, Colby-Clements said. The new building will help address capacity issues across the district, and be a better learning space for the elementary school special

education programs, she said.

The Bridge Autism Program is already held at the school and the Excel program, which is currently at High Plain, will move to West once construction is complete, Blumstein said.

The school will also be used as a community meeting space, and has turf fields for local sports teams,

Colby-Clements said.

If approved by voters this June, work will begin this summer and students will be in a new school in fall of 2024, Colby-Clements said. The construction will not displace students, and the fields will be constructed where the current West Elementary stands, she said.

For more information on the school visit bit.ly/3wWzNHj.

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1

have the same issues we have now," Nicosia said.

Space is biggest concern

With social distancing limiting most Andover High classrooms to 15 student desks — fewer than the normal 20 to 24 — it's impossible to get all students back into classrooms at the same time, said Principal Caitlin Brown.

Brown and other district officials are considering a range of options, including transforming spaces like the school's field house and Collins Center into large learning areas. There, students would sit at desks and remotely join their classrooms, which are elsewhere in the school.

School Committee members are asking district officials to plan for students to return to classrooms full time in the fall. The committee is also looking into a vaccine requirement for students, hoping that would change safety guidelines — allowing desks to be closer together and getting more students into each room.

"To me it's not acceptable to not have our kids back (in classrooms full time) in the fall," said Susan McCready, vice chair of the School Committee.

McCready asked if the current 3-foot distance between students' desks is a mandate, or if the desks can be put closer together.

Interim Superintendent Claudia Bach said the 3-foot distance is a safety guideline and not a mandate. She said she will check with state education officials on how strict that guideline has to be followed.

School Committee member Tracey Spruce asked if the state is going to require vaccines for students, or if the district could set such a requirement. Both the state and individual districts have the ability to require vaccines, school officials said.

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for anyone 16 years and older, and the company is in the process of seeking emergency approval for the vaccine to be used for children ages 12 to 15.

Last week, Andover brought in a group of state education officials to help the district find ways to get students back to school full time. The district is awaiting a report from those officials.

There is no mandated timeline for high school students to return to classrooms full time, but there are such requirements for younger students. Andover has complied with the return dates set for elementary and middle school students.

School has history of overcrowding

Andover High School has been overcrowded for years. Built in the 1960s, the school can fit about 1,400 students according to state standards, but about 1,700 students are currently enrolled.

Before the pandemic, the school ran four lunch periods per day, each serving about 450 students, Brown said. The cafeteria can hold only 104 students with 6 feet between them for COVID-19 protection, she said. The school has converted the Dunn Gym into a cafeteria with 150 seats, she said.

At lunch, students must be 6 feet apart because they are not wearing masks.

Despite housing more students in recent years than it was designed for, the school managed to provide enough learning space for all students before the pandemic by converting about 25 non-classroom spaces into classrooms, Brown said.

The COVID-19 guideline that desks be farther apart than before the pandemic makes it impossible to provide enough classroom space, she said.

Since last summer, Brown and other school staff have been analyzing spaces in the building to find a way for all students to be in classrooms full time, instead of using the current hybrid approach.

With classroom space available before the pandemic no longer providing enough space for the total student population, administrators have identified other options. They said the school's field house could hold 570 student desks spaced 6 feet apart and the Collins Center could hold 400 desks spaced 3 feet apart.

If these areas were used to house students, the children would need to remotely participate electronically in their classes, which meet in other parts of the school, officials said. There could be wifi problems, however, and the converted areas would need a safety review by the fire marshal, Brown said.

Converting those areas would also mean taking away spaces now used for gym and theater classes, Brown said.

"If we cheated on PE (physical education) and if we cheated on performing arts and we took those away, yes maybe we could bring more students back," she said. "So it's a loss, and is that loss worth the gain of bringing students back?"

When state officials visited the school recently, one of them said converting spaces such as the field house and Collins Center into areas for student desks would fail to accomplish the goal of getting all students back into a classroom setting, according to Bach. That's because the children would be connected to their classrooms electronically only, just as when they were learning remotely from home, she said.

Wednesday a wildcard solution?

School officials said one potential way to add more classroom time is for students to attend school Wednesdays. Under the current hybrid program, students are in classrooms two days per week and all students learn remotely from home on Wednesdays.

In recent months, parents have asked the School Committee if the high school could add Wednesday classroom time into the mix.

At last week's School Committee meeting however, Jeffrey Connors, the committee's student representative and a student council member, said most students don't want to go to school on Wednesdays because they've become accustomed to Wednesdays being remote learning days.

"We at student government ... discussed the plan to alter the Wednesday schedule, and we came to a consensus as students," he said. "And although we believe the idea (of classroom learning on Wednesdays) is good, we'd like to see it put in place next year."

"This year a lot of extra-curricular activities happen after school Wednesday, and we believe (there's) not enough time for students to adapt to the new schedule change this late in the year," he said.

Brown said it is possible to bring students into classrooms on Wednesdays, but there would likely be a mixed reaction from them. She also said she has been using some Wednesdays at school to work with members of the senior class on traditions related to graduation.

"This is the situation we are in," Brown said. "None of these are great options."

PERFORMERS

Continued from Page 1

including clips of previous concerts, Connolly said.

"During the pandemic, we have found ways to conduct virtual choir rehearsals, record concerts, and air them for the entertainment of the Merrimack Valley community," said Mike Driscoll, the group's music director. "It has been challenging, but fun and rewarding. It allows the (choral) community to stay in touch and sing together during these times."

So, while planning this latest concert they decided to reach out to other groups and see if they would want to join in the virtual fun.

Connolly said he hopes the upcoming concert allows people to rediscover their local groups and then patronize them in the future as restrictions are lifted and groups can perform in front



Andover's Choral Society practices on Monday nights via Zoom.

of live audiences again.

"We are a pretty close-knit crew and we wanted to maintain the connection," he said. "Music means a lot to us because through our music we could reach out to the greater community."

On Sunday, May 2, at 3 p.m., Andover Choral Society will premiere "Voices Diverse and Beautiful — Music of the Merrimack Valley," a virtual concert

showcasing the richness and diversity of the vibrant arts community in the Merrimack Valley. It will be broadcast for free on Andover Choral Society's YouTube channel, youtube.com/andoverchoralsociety.

Following the premiere, the concert will be available for viewing on the group's website, andoverchoralsociety.org, and will air on local cable stations in Andover,

VIRTUAL CONCERT PARTICIPANTS

- Andover Choral Society
- Acting Out
- Free Christian Church
- Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra
- Mistral Music
- New England Classical Singers
- Spotlight Playhouse
- Synai Ministries
- Temple Emanu-El of Haverhill
- Third Baptist Church of Lawrence
- Voices of Hope
- Zograf String Quartet

WATCH THE SHOW

Andover Choral Society will premiere the virtual concert "Voices Diverse and Beautiful — Music of the Merrimack Valley," on Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m., for free on Andover Choral Society's YouTube channel, youtube.com/andoverchoralsociety.

North Andover, Lawrence, Haverhill, and Derry, New Hampshire.

PENSIONS

Continued from Page 1

Board, would bar any future part-time employees who work 32.5 or fewer hours from receiving a pension. Hartwell also wants to end pension buybacks that currently allow employees to purchase a period of prior service where they worked part-time to increase their pension overall.

The proposed retirement

changes would not have much impact on how much the town has to borrow currently, said Jimmy Cuticchia, chair of the Retirement Board. However, the Finance Committee voted unanimously at a March meeting to endorse Hartwell's proposal.

The town is asking voters to borrow money to fully fund the pension obligation through 2040, otherwise steep payments to the fund will be required from the town in coming years, officials warn.

"If you do nothing what are you telling the people out there? We need to make an effort on our part to slow down the growth of pension obligations on our part and we only have two tools to do so," Hartwell said, explaining his proposal to reduce the number of employees eligible for a pension and to impose limitations on buybacks.

"This won't be a huge impact initially, but it will help eventually," he said.

The largest cost associated with town employee pensions is the "other post-employee benefits," known as OPEB, which mostly covers healthcare. Current and retired part-time employees can have a portion of those

benefits paid for because of their pension, Hartwell said.

Hartwell said the town could save an estimated \$20 million in the years to come if his proposed changes take effect.

Former Andover Schools Superintendent Sheldon Berber warned the Finance Committee that changes to pension eligibility could impact the district's ability to recruit employees. Teachers have a different retirement system run by the state, and would not be impacted by the proposed changes at the town level. However, the majority of school staff are considered part-time employees because they are only employed for the 180-day school year.

Hartwell said the board could minimize impacts to school staff by having a 32.5 hour a week requirement for 10 months of the year, which is about how long the school year is.

The School Committee has not heard Hartwell's proposal and has not made any comments on it.

The 5-person Retirement Board oversees the town's retirement system. Those board members are the only people to vote on the proposed changes to the pension system, however, others are weighing in before the public hearing set for April 29 at 4 p.m.

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Class projects aim to address community problems

By MADELINE HUGHES
 mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

Wanting to challenge students to learn about social justice, an Andover middle school humanities teacher created a project to help her students see how they can create positive change.

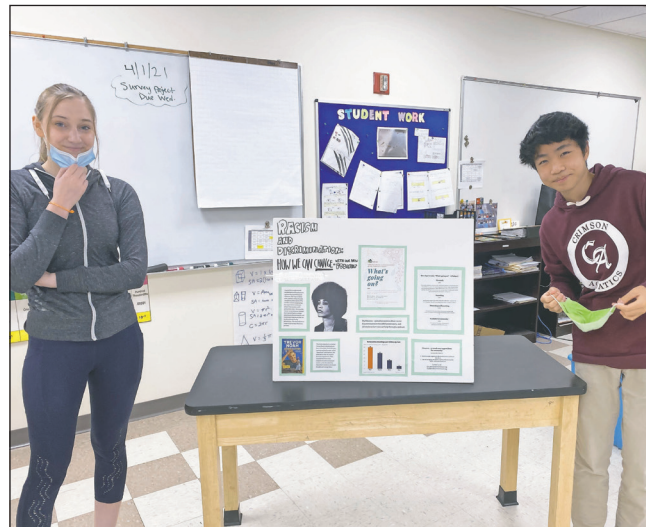
So Meredith Badders created the Trailblazers Project where her students at Andover School of Montessori read, research and write about social justice trailblazers like Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, environmentalist Bill McKibben and humanitarian Mother Teresa.

After reading up on their chosen trailblazer, students were asked to identify how the person's mission was still being accomplished today. Then students created proposals to help assist the trailblazer's mission at the school.

"Adolescents can be the change they wish to see around them, and we just have to embolden them through belief in their ideas," Badders said. "During this project, at one point or another, most of the students felt stuck or didn't know which direction to go in; however, through classroom discussion and individual perseverance, they all defined a problem within their community and then proposed an action-oriented solution to address this problem."

Two eighth graders, inspired by U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and comedian Trevor Noah, are creating a podcast that will unpack current events like racial discrimination, climate change and other news events. The podcast begins in mid-April and will be distributed through the school's newsletter.

Another group is working to establish a Student Council so that students can participate in a voting process. The council will also allow for debates and for students to bring



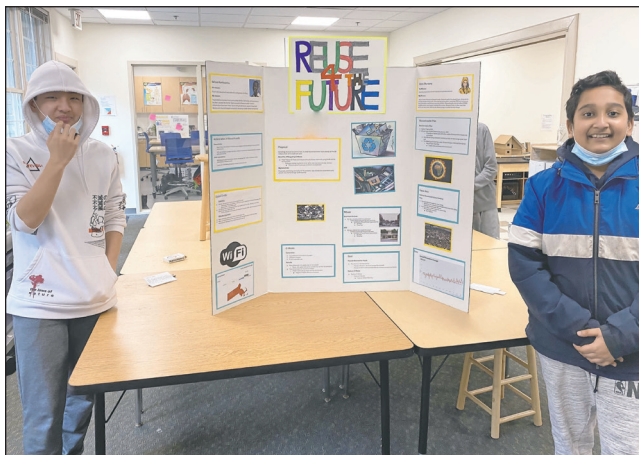
COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth graders Julia, left, and Cheng are creating a podcast about climate change and discrimination because they were inspired by U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York, and comedian Trevor Noah. It is the school's practice to identify students by first name only to the press.

forward ideas or concerns. Two other students are in the process of setting up an electronics waste collection bin. The e-waste bin would be set up in the school's parking lot to collect old devices which would then be donated

or recycled with partner organizations.

"Through the six weeks of working on this project, they saw their ideas turn into a reality and most importantly, saw that their voice can be a catalyst for change," she said.



Eighth graders Geoffrey, left, and Teja partnered up to create an e-waste disposal and recycling program after being inspired by young activists William Kamkwamba and Greta Thunberg.

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Opinion

Don't relax gas safety standards

Forgive anyone living in south Lawrence or Andover their skepticism over the natural gas industry's claims, raised again this month, that it doesn't need the oversight of licensed engineers in order to repair or build gas lines in the street.

Massachusetts lawmakers passed a bill months after the Merrimack Valley gas disaster, signed by Gov. Charlie Baker in December 2018, calling for an engineer's review of gas line projects as a safety backstop. Regulators are just now putting rules to paper, and the industry is shaking the yoke.

As Statehouse reporter Christian Wade reports, the industry has floated a list of changes to the proposed rules, narrowing the kinds of projects that would be subject to an engineer's seal. Jose Costa, with the Northeast Gas Association, told an April 8 hearing of the Department of

Public Utilities that improvements to pipeline safety protocols make such reviews unnecessary. "Some of the proposed prescriptive requirements in this rule-making are already being addressed through other methods and programs," he said, according to Wade's account of the meeting.

Maybe it's overly cautious, but count us squarely in the camp of the professional engineers who argue that lines should be drawn broadly in deciding which projects are deemed complex enough to warrant review.

It's encouraging that the industry — encouraged by federal regulators, to be sure — is paying closer attention and doing more to make construction work safer. But it's audacious to suggest, not three years after the tragedy and destruction caused by the failures of the former Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, that the state should let down its guard.

The debate over requiring a licensed engineer's seal on plans for utility work unfolds on a larger stage than just Massachusetts, of course. And it involves many more interests than just gas utilities. The basic issue is the added cost and complication of having plans reviewed and certified by professionally licensed engineers. On a national level, engineering groups have worked to challenge and undo exceptions to review requirements in a range of fields, particularly when public safety or environmental protection are involved. Mining and solid waste landfills are just two examples.

But, as Wade reported on the one-year anniversary of the Merrimack Valley disaster, the gas industry has been especially effective at advocating for, and winning, exemptions to engineering review.

A majority of states do not require this level of scrutiny for gas line work. And when Congress passed a law last year calling for heightened safety rules for gas utilities — named for Leonel A. Rondon, whose death was the single fatality attributed to the Merrimack Valley disaster — it specified the need for oversight by experienced personnel, though not necessarily professionally licensed engineers.

The Massachusetts standard may be more rigorous and costly for utilities. So be it. Regulators should follow the advice of Anthony Morreale, president of the Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers, who urged in a letter: "While there may be instances in which a licensed engineer is not needed, I urge caution in defining those instances too broadly." And should utilities seek waivers to these standards, those exceptions should be made public, as Attorney General Maura Healey's office has requested.

The breadth of disaster caused by an engineering failure on Sept. 13, 2018 -- in addition to Rondon's death, 22 people were injured, 131 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed by explosions and fires, and residents of three communities were traumatized and subjected to a drawn-out recovery — is all the evidence anyone needs that oversight of the industry and its work should not be relaxed.

Generals, beekeepers and other significant 'firsts'



Tom Adams

Andover Center for History & Culture

In its earliest days Andover was a rugged settlement. Simple farmers worked the land, provided their family food and simple shelter, and traded for goods and services.

As the population grew, Andover became a town with a Main Street, a U.S. Post office and a Town Hall, with merchants opening up more and more shops.

In fact, the first postmaster general, Samuel Osgood, appointed by President George Washington in 1789, was born here in Andover.

One hundred sixty-seven years later, in 1956, then-Post Master General Arthur E. Summerfield gave Andover patrons the chance to test new ball point pens chained to the Post Office lobby desks.

Soon after, Summerfield decided to install the pens in some 30,800 branches across the United States because they wrote clearly — and they weren't too easy to steal; Andover was reported to be missing only three.

The Smith & Dove mills in Frye Village were the first successful manufacturer of flax in the country. Flax, a soft, lustrous fiber, is



Tyer Rubber Co. developed the first white rubber, called "compo," using an additive that turned the rubber white. Photo courtesy Andover Center for History & Culture

stronger than cotton. Dating back some 4,000 years to ancient Greece, it is used for fine fabrics, twine, rope and even printing banknotes.

The Powder Mill, located close by to today's Powder Mill apartments, was the first Massachusetts company to supply the Minute-men with munitions during the Revolutionary War.

The Ballard family first founded Ballard Vale and their grist mill in the 1700s. The village grew to become a thriving manufacturing and mill center.

The Ballardvale Mills gained a distinguished number of firsts — producing white flannel, manufacturing the first worsted wool goods in the country, and later manufacturing worsted wool flannel in 1844.

The Whipple File Company, at one point, held 32 patents on file manufacturing, a process to cut files by machine. It was the engineering marvel of its day.

Ballardvale was also home to the Lithia Bottling Co. Lithia invented bottle

caps lines with block tin foil, "The Crown Cork Seal," which kept bottled water from spoiling. This was the first major leap forward in sealing bottled liquids.

The Tyer Rubber Co. was inventing, developing and selling advance rubber products. The company developed the first white rubber, called "compo," an additive turning the rubber white.

In later years, Tyer was a key supplier for the U.S. Armed forces in World War II and even made pucks for the National Hockey League.

In 1946, the Tate Pipe Lining Co., located in the old Shawsheen Motor Mart, was the only company in America providing service throughout the country. Tate cleaned in-ground pipes with its "Tate Patented Cleaning Apparatus."

Our environment enjoyed cherished friends leaving their gentle footprints behind. In 1852, the Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, pastor at South Church and a beekeeper since childhood, invented

the first movable frame bee hive. The frame was designed "to not enrage or injure bees." Langstroth is regarded as the father of Beekeeping.

Joshua Miner founded Outward Bound on the Phillips Academy campus in 1961 and began the first U.S. school in Colorado that same year. Miner's outdoor activities and exploration programs helped positively mold thousands of area young adults.

Charles Davis and William Harnden Foster, both from Andover, invented skeet shooting in 1920. Both helped popularize skeet shooting, which grew to be an Olympic sport in 1968. Foster is widely regarded as the "Father of Skeet."

Many other Andover "firsts" could not be included due to column size. So we'll leave you with these two: The Andover November Club was the first built for women only, and Colombo Yogurt, family founded in 1929, became America's first yogurt company and one of the largest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restore protected status for Salvadoran asylum seekers

Editor, Townsman:

El Salvador began its plunge into violent civil war one afternoon in 1979 when the rector of the National University and his chauffeur were brutally assassinated, I was one block away.

Since then, a 12-year armed conflict, two massive earthquakes in 1986 and 2001, and a growing plague of gang violence have forced the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans to seek asylum here in the United States. Many of them are beneficiaries of a program called temporary protected status (TPS) which as of 2020 has allowed 411,000 immigrants, more than half from El Salvador, to reside here while their home countries are in crisis.

Even though 90% of these immigrants have jobs and file income taxes, President Donald Trump's administration ordered the departure of 98% of TPS recipients and terminated TPS for El Salvador, stating that the original conditions from 2001 (the

earthquake that destroyed nearly 278,000 homes and displaced more than a million people) that prompted this designation no longer exist.

This assertion was in total disregard of evidence pointing to the uncontrollable extreme violence and devastating extortion by transnational gangs such as MS-13, which terrorize and destabilize most of the country.

In the absence of any clear judicial processes to assess TPS status for Salvadorans, President Joe Biden's administration has designated TPS for Myanmar and Venezuela.

Certainly El Salvador should be given the same designation. Moral imperatives ought to impact the foreign relations of a humane country.

Let us not turn our back on El Salvador.

WILLIAM KOLBE
Andover

West El, Shawsheen project exemplifies sustainable design

Editor, Townsman:

As an alumna of both West Elementary School and

Shawsheen School, I often miss the character and individuality of the classrooms and learning environments.

When I discovered that Shawsheen would be closing, I was shocked because in my eyes it was perfect. My sadness to see Shawsheen School go quickly diminished when I realized it was inefficient.

This year I am in an environmental sustainability internship course at Andover High School.

I have connected with the professionals working on the West Elementary and Shawsheen preschool construction project, and I've joined some meetings to discuss the schematic design.

The impact of this project did not truly resonate with me until I learned how much energy the new building would be saving and the environmental impacts of this change.

Based on the design team's energy model, the proposed building's predicted energy use intensity will be about one-third of the combined intensity of the two existing school buildings.

Not only will considerable energy be saved, the

town will be paying significantly less in energy cost per student compared to what is being paid now at the schools, based on data from the town and analyzed by Mr. Navkal.

I feel a deep connection to this project, and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to witness it develop. The building must support and nourish students' needs in ways that Shawsheen no longer could do.

Environmental degradation is constantly occurring because of the lack of sustainability that older buildings offer. The ultra-low-energy building will serve as a learning tool.

I wish to see a day when sustainability and the protection of our environment takes precedence and becomes a standard of life.

I believe the future will be a sustainable one, but not without the community support for change.

Should readers want to support this project, they can vote at the Town Meeting on June 5, and by ballot on June 15.

SOPHIA SCHWEIZER
Andover

WEB QUESTION

Should Massachusetts follow New Hampshire's lead and lift its "mask mandate"?

The New Hampshire mandate, in effect since Nov. 20, was allowed to expire as of last Friday. An announcement by Gov. Chris Sununu's office cited a reduction in the number of deaths and hospitalizations due to COVID-19. It also noted that businesses and some communities may still require mask wearing.

Is it time for Massachusetts to follow suit?

YES, LET'S END IT: The pandemic is winding down, and it should be left to people and their good judgement as to whether to wear masks.

A mandate, especially now, is draconian and unnecessary.

NO, NOT YET: The threat of COVID-19 transmission has been higher in the Bay State since the start of the pandemic. Masks keep us safe, and lifting the statewide order would almost certainly lead to the spread of the coronavirus.

Last week's question

How closely should gas projects be regulated?

At a recent Beacon Hill hearing, a representative of gas utilities told lawmakers that new

rules stemming from the 2018 Merrimack Valley gas disaster are unnecessary.

Jose Costa, of the Northeast Gas Association, says a rule requiring an engineer to sign-off on complicated road work is not necessary, in light of other steps and programs put in place by the industry since the fires and explosions in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

Another layer of rules, he said, may only add cost and slow down projects.

Are you comfortable with the industry's self-regulation?

I SLEEP AT NIGHT: Gas companies are as safe as they can be. Besides, it's not in their interest, for safety or financial reasons, to allow unsafe work. Look at what happened to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts in the wake of the 2018 disaster. It no longer exists. (10 votes)

WE NEED RULES: The gas disaster was a tragic example of what can happen when utilities bypass regulations and protocols. The safety of gas work should not be left to the utilities — even if the industry believes another level of review is extra. (23 votes)

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

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

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

REPORTER MADELINE HUGHES at 978-691-8733, or mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

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

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ALL THROUGH THE YEARS

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago—April 22, 1921

What might easily have been a very serious accident happened on Sunday afternoon at the point where Haggett's Pond road intersects Lowell street when a Dodge Sedan owned and driven by Theron H. Lane of Salem street, in trying to avoid a collision with another machine shot up a high bank and plunged into the cellar of the old Dixon barn. Strange to say, no one was hurt and owing to the prompt appliance of the brake when Mr. Lane saw the cellar in front of him, the car made the plunge eased by the falling cellar wall and was itself uninjured. The banking was dug away by willing helpers, then with the aid of horses the car was raised slowly and backed out of its dangerous position.

Joseph Daley of Bartlet street was the winner of the Ford sedan in the drawing at the Elks rooms Tuesday evening. The raffle of the machine was conducted by the Elks to raise funds for the benefit of disabled soldiers who are members of the lodge.

The most complete equipment yet found in Andover for the making of moonshine was seized at the Blanchard farm on Jenkins road when the police made a raid on Tuesday afternoon. When the police arrived three stills

were found in operation. Six barrels of mash were destroyed, and several gallons of liquor jugs and other paraphernalia were seized.

75 Years Ago — April 25, 1946

To commemorate the hundredth birthday of the Free Christian church the following is an excerpt published along with a photo. "Although the present Free church is only 38 years old, the "Free Christian Society of Andover" goes back to November 29, 1845. In 1849, John Smith of the former Smith and Dove mills, purchased the Methodist church on Main street... remodeled and moved to Railroad street, it was used from 1850 to 1908. The present Free Christian Church on Elm Street was built in 1908."

The Townsman's front cover features a large photo of Junior High baseball players Charles Koza, Arthur Jowett and Benjamin Dimlich.

50 Years Ago — April 29, 1971

The town has been guaranteed the federal funds necessary to construct the water treatment plant at Haggett's pond. Town Manager J. Maynard Austin received the formal notification from HUD Tuesday noon, noting that \$1,500,000 is being reserved for the project.

Clown Town is coming! On Saturday, May 15, rain or shine, the Andona Society will take over the Andover Playstead from 9:30 to 4:40 p.m. Many new features are being added this

year. Children who want to become clowns will be able to don clown hats and ruffles and have their faces made up by expert artists. The popular Zoomobile from the Franklin Park Zoo will be at the Playstead.

Mrs. Nancy Jacobson, formerly librarian at Andover East Junior High School, has been appointed assistant librarian at Memorial Hall library.

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ANDOVER NEWS IN BRIEF

Andover gets fire equipment grant

Andover and Lawrence are receiving grants for fire safety equipment. They were two of the 294 departments to receive state funding.

The Andover Fire Department will receive \$19,999 and Lawrence Fire Department will receive \$25,999 for safety equipment. Funds will cover expenses related to equipment that makes firefighting safer such as thermal imaging cameras, radios and rescue equipment.

"Our brave first responders make sacrifices daily to protect the Merrimack Valley and its residents, and it is vital we provide them with the resources to make this dangerous work safer," said state Senator Barry Finegold, D-Andover, who helped secure the funding. "I appreciate the Baker-Polito Administration's continued support for our firefighters in Andover and Lawrence."

Lupoli named top restaurant exec

Sal Lupoli, owner of local franchise Sal's Pizza and Park 34, was named to Nations Restaurant News' list of most influential CEOs in the country alongside the CEOs of Ruth's Chris, Shake Shack, Sweetgreen, Papa John's and more. Nation's Restaurant News publishes the list annually to showcase CEOs that exhibit a strong sense of leadership, and lead with impact and innovation.

"I am so honored to be included as one of the Most Influential Restaurant CEOs in the country. Throughout the past year, every CEO on this list has faced obstacles and challenges that were impossible to predict. None of us were ready for this pandemic, but we faced it head-on and came out stronger," Lupoli said. "One year later, I am proud to say that not one employee was let go from Sal's Pizza as a result of COVID-19. I am only as good as the team that surrounds me, and I am thankful for every one of our Sal's Pizza family members."

Library offers tree seedling giveaway for Arbor Day

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a white oak — Quercus alba — tree seedling given out by the Friends of the Memorial Hall Library in celebration of Arbor Day.

White oaks provide more food for wildlife and habitat for moths and butterflies than any other woody plant in the eastern United States. They can grow to a height of over 100 feet and up to 4 feet in

diameter, which enables them to sequester large amounts of carbon. Their deep roots and broad canopies play an important role in producing clean and steady streams of water that sustain aquatic wildlife habitat. Their long lives mean they benefit generations of people and wildlife.

Sign up at mhl.org/arborday-white-oak-tree-seedling-giveaway for a tree at and pick up your seedling at the library on one of the designated pickup days in early May.

Medication disposal set for April 24

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on April 24 Andover is hosting a Medication Disposal Day at West Elementary School. Residents should gather expired, unused, or unneeded medication and drop them off. The disposal is completely anonymous and free of charge.

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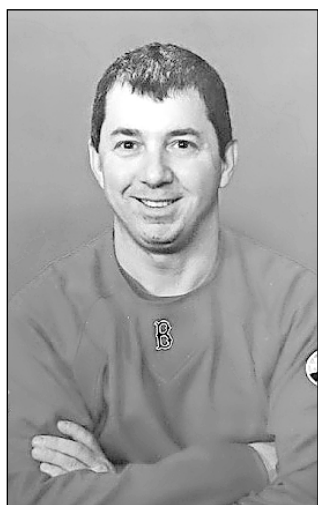
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David C. Doyle, 52

December 26, 1968 - April 18, 2021 of Haverhill, formerly of Andover

HAVERHILL, MA — David C. Doyle, passed away on April 18, 2021. Beloved son of Martha Doyle and the late Edwin Doyle. Brother of Kathleen M. Bryson, Edward J. Doyle, Tammy T. Paquette, Patricia L. Sullivan, and the late Susan L. Doyle.



Family and friends are invited to gather for his funeral procession at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 24th, at Farmer & Dee Funeral Home, 16 Lee St., Tewksbury, to be followed by his Life Celebration Service at 11 a.m. at Tewksbury Cemetery, 172 East St. Tewksbury.

For obituary see www.farmeranddee.com.

Haverhill man charged with vehicular homicide following death of state trooper

By JILL HARMACINSKI Staff Writer

LOWELL — A Haverhill man is charged with negligent motor vehicle homicide after a July 2018 crash that resulted in the death of Massachusetts State Trooper Thomas Devlin two years later, authorities said.

Kevin Francis, 55, was arraigned in Lowell District Court on Friday and released on personal recognizance by Judge Ellen Caulo, according to a spokesperson for Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan.

Caulo also ordered Francis not to drive.

Francis' arraignment was held Friday following a hearing before a clerk magistrate Monday. The clerk magistrate ruled there was probable cause to issue a complaint for negligent motor vehicle homicide.

On the afternoon of July 26, 2018, Devlin was outside his



State Police Trooper Thomas W. Devlin, 58, died Sept. 3, 2020, from injuries he suffered when he was struck by a motorist two years prior.

state police cruiser during a traffic stop on Route 3 just south of Route 129 in Billerica when he was struck by a Toyota Prius driven by Francis, police said.

Francis previously was arraigned in Lowell District Court on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a marked lanes violation, and failure to move over for an emergency vehicle.

Francis could face indictment on the vehicle homicide charge by a Middlesex County grand jury. If he is indicted, his case will be moved to Middlesex Superior Court where the penalties he faces if convicted could be more severe.

Devlin, 58, of Wilmington, surrounded by his family, died on Sept. 3, 2020, from injuries he suffered two years earlier in the crash. He had undergone many surgeries, according to his family.

He was a member of the 66th Recruit Training Troop and graduated from the State Police Academy in 1985. For much of his career, Devlin was assigned to the state police barracks in Concord. But he

also worked out of the Andover barracks and the Lowell and Lawrence Registry of Motor Vehicle offices. He was well known in the Merrimack Valley.

Fellow troopers said Devlin always took his oath as a state trooper seriously.

During his lengthy career, Devlin "was responsible for saving multiple lives and has received countless accolades and honors to commend his performance," according to his obituary. "However, as close friends and family know, his job was far from the top of the list of reasons why he was an incredible man of God, husband, father and citizen. Tommy, as he was affectionately called, was the model of selflessness and sacrifice."

In addition to his wife, Nancy, Devlin is survived by his four children, Matthew, Rachel, Paul and Hannah.

Francis is due back in court on April 19.

DRAW YOUR BOWS



Aiden Burke, eighth-grader at West Middle School takes aim during archery practice at Cormier Youth Center.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Cameron Taylor, a sixth-grader at the Wood Hill Middle School, fits his arrow into the bow.



Meera Kumar, right, a senior at Andover High School, works with Samantha Thelen, a sixth-grader at the Dorothy Middle School, during archery class for middle school students at the Cormier Youth Center. Kumar has been involved with competitive archery since she was a freshman.

Virtual chamber music show has Andover ties

When concert halls went dark in 2020, musicians around the globe found innovative ways to keep the music going during the pandemic.

Over the summer, Mistral Music's artistic director Julie Scolnik, formerly of Andover, found ways to continue bringing her group's chamber music to its fans through outdoor performances.

As many as 150 socially distanced and masked music lovers with chairs and blankets enjoyed a mini Tanglewood scene-of-sorts outside Scolnik's Brookline apartment.

Scolnik said she and her husband, Michael Brower, removed entire windows, pushed their grand piano up against them, set up loud

speakers, and performed several chamber concerts from their apartment for people in the neighborhood and those passing by.

Since September, Mistral, which was founded in Andover in 1997 and still performs at West Parish Church, has recorded four concerts in its regular Brookline venue. Those concerts have been broadcast as live events on YouTube and Facebook.

Mistral will present its season finale, QUINTESENTIALS, to be broadcast on Sunday, May 2 at 10 a.m. as a live video event for chamber music lovers.

Listeners can find the live links at www.MistralMusic.org. All Mistral virtual concerts are free.

State lawmakers not counting on federal relief

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE Statehouse reporter

BOSTON -- House Democrats are shunning the use of federal pandemic relief money for budget filler as they craft the state's spending plan for the next fiscal year.

The House Ways and Means Committee, which on Wednesday unveiled its version of the state budget that takes effect July 1, proposes using state revenue to balance the spending plan, instead of an anticipated influx of federal funds from President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill.

House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, D-Boston, said budget writers decided to set aside the federal funds to use in support of the state's long-term, post-pandemic recovery.

In a briefing with reporters, Michlewitz warned of using one-time federal relief to pay for everyday operations.

"We do not want to find ourselves in a place where the federal dollars have run out and our economy

is stuck in neutral with revenues never getting back to pre-pandemic levels," he said.

Michlewitz said tax collections are coming in better than expected, which provides more revenue to offset the pandemic's impact.

"While this is encouraging news and bodes well for our economic outlook, we will have to see what the next few months bring before declaring any sort of victory on this fiscal year," he said.

House Speaker Ronald Mariano, D-Quincy, agreed that budget writers were concerned about creating a structural deficit by plugging revenue shortfalls with one-time federal funding.

"We will move on, deal with our budget now, and sometime around June deal with the financial impact of the federal monies," he said at the briefing.

Massachusetts stands to get \$4.5 billion in direct funding from the latest federal relief package, which includes billions more in aid for schools, local governments and businesses still reeling from the economic fallout of the coronavirus.

Economists warn of rising national debt

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE Statehouse reporter

BOSTON — The latest pandemic relief bill that is showering Americans with stimulus checks pumped billions of dollars into the economy to help keep it afloat.

But the American Rescue Plan Act, which was lauded by President Joe Biden as a lifeline for the country, is expected to add more than \$1.9 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years, according to a panel of economists who say the mounting bill is a ticking fiscal time-bomb.

"We have a deep, structural debt problem," said Jonathan Haughton, an economics professor at Suffolk University, during a live-streamed forum hosted by the Beacon Hill Institute, a conservative think tank.

Haughton noted the debt will continue growing and by 2050 is expected to double

the country's annual economic output.

The federal government borrows money to cover its deficits, and it usually does so by issuing debt. While interest rates are currently low, economists say that won't last forever, and they note the debt has grown tremendously in the past year.

Despite public perception about borrowing from other countries, Haughton said much of the debt has been issued domestically, by the Federal Reserve.

Richard Wagner, professor of economics at George Mason University, said elected officials are increasingly issuing public debt to finance large spending bills, instead of cutting expense or finding other ways to pay for it.

"This allows politicians to avoid taking responsibility, because those problems are put off to the future," he said.

"But sometime the future is going to come."

David Tuerck, president of the Beacon Hill Institute, said that debt will be paid by future generations of Americans with trillion dollar deficits as far in the future as the eye can see.

A centerpiece of Biden's American Rescue Plan was the distribution of tens of millions of \$1,400 stimulus payments.

Many economists lauded the massive spending as necessary to help the economy recover from the pandemic, with tens of millions of workers still out of a job.

Earlier this week, Treasury officials acknowledged that the Biden administration's stimulus package has pushed the deficit to the third-highest level in U.S. history.

The government issued more than \$330 billion in stimulus payments in March

alone, according to the Treasury Department, even as it has taken in less revenue from income tax payments, with the filing deadline delayed until May.

The nation's annual deficit hit \$3.1 trillion in 2020, surpassing the previous record of \$1.4 trillion set in 2009 during the Great Recession.

The Congressional budget office estimates that federal spending over the next 10 years will exceed revenues by \$16 trillion.

The Biden administration says its \$2.25 trillion jobs and infrastructure plan, which is pending before Congress, would be funded by raising corporate taxes.

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

POLICE LOG

- FRIDAY, APRIL 9**
 - Missing person:** Man with dementia left his home. He was quickly found, Brandley Road, 1:59 p.m.
 - SATURDAY, APRIL 10**
 - Harassment:** A man sitting on a bench "provisioned" a person "for favors," Tech Drive, 11:28 a.m.
 - SUNDAY, APRIL 11**
 - Arrest:** Valerie Robinson Kind, 59, of Lowell arrested for operating a car under the influence, Lowell Street, 12:11 a.m.
 - MONDAY, APRIL 12**
 - Unemployment fraud:** David Drive, 11:40 a.m.
 - Unemployment fraud:** Baker Lane, 3:04 p.m.
 - TUESDAY, APRIL 13**
 - Arrest:** Anthony McNeil, 23, of Andover arrested on a warrant, Main Street, 6:15 a.m.
 - Arrest:** Oluatomide Oloyede, 25, of Lowell, arrested for driving with a suspended license, class B and E substances, Haggetts Pond Road, 6:31 a.m.
 - Theft:** Person stole "slow children" road sign, Tewksbury Street, 9 a.m.
 - Fraud:** Bank, Colonial Drive, 4:02 p.m.
 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**
 - Suspicious package:** A doll with the eyes taped had wires sticking out of it. It was a prank by an employee, Frontage Road, 7:57 a.m.
 - Identity fraud:** Hacked Facebook account, Hidden Road, 7:11 p.m.
 - THURSDAY, APRIL 15**
 - Suspicious activity:** Driver slumped over steering wheel was found to be napping, River Road, 10:21 a.m.
 - Parking violation:** Ticket given to person in hand-capped parking spot, Bullfinch Drive, 11 a.m.
 - Theft:** Stolen packages, Haverhill Street, 3:17 p.m.
 - Arrest:** John Laisure, 23, of Saugus arrested for driving with a suspended license and class E substance, North Main Street, 11:30 p.m.

Sports

THANKSGIVING IN THE SPRING

Even in April, football win over Turkey Day foe a memorable experience

BY DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

It may not have been Thanksgiving Day, but it felt like it could have been the traditional Turkey Day gridiron matchup between rivals Andover High and North Andover.

It was a Thursday, after all — last Thursday, April 15 to be exact — when the Golden Warriors and Scarlet Knights faced off in this “Fall 2 season.”

It was a cold, blustery day last week, befitting of the November holiday. Had it not been overcast, the sun would have been on the wrong side of the field at 6 p.m., compared to the 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving kickoff time. The sun rises on the home side at Eugene V. Lovely Field in Andover, and sets behind the away team’s sideline. But the clouds blocked that out.

It wasn’t the holiday, but a 38-0 victory over their Turkey Day rival was just as memorable to the Golden Warriors who lost out on their final Thanksgiving football game due to COVID-19.

“There’s no better feeling than beating North Andover, Thanksgiving or not,” said senior captain Matt Rigazio, who made three tackles in the win. “Shutting them out was the icing on the cake. The rivalry is very personal to us.

“Though it wasn’t a traditional Thanksgiving game with packed stands of parents, students, and past players, we kept the mindset that they couldn’t play with us. We brought the same intensity we have been bringing all year and I’m very happy with the outcome. It will always put a smile on my face that we beat North Andover my senior year.”

The win was the second straight for Andover over North Andover, after snapping a two-game Thanksgiving losing streak with



Andover quarterback Scotty Brown celebrates with teammates after breaking a 56-yard touchdown run during Thursday’s win over North Andover. The Golden Warriors embraced the chance to take on their Thanksgiving Day rivals.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Andover quarterback Scotty Brown looks to pass during Thursday’s win over Thanksgiving Day rival North Andover.

“It’s great that it was on a Thursday, so it felt more like Thanksgiving. We always want to come out and play well against North Andover. A lot of guys stepped up. It feels so great to be playing football.”

Andover coach EJ Perry

worked hard all year and it’s really showing out there on the field.”

While the MIAA’s post-season realignment made Thanksgiving Day football a game played for pride — it doesn’t count towards the standings — it remains a definitive experience for Massachusetts high school football players. Last Thursday was a consolation for missing out on Thanksgiving 2020.

“For us, the rivalry (with North Andover) is not about just the current team,” said lineman and captain AJ Heidtke. “It’s about everyone who has ever played at Andover High. The tradition of the game means a lot to everyone, and we always have alumni come especially to this game. Winning felt amazing and winning the last time I will ever play against North Andover means even more.”

Beating North Andover is also no small task. The Scarlet Knights advanced to the last three Division

2 North finals, winning the Division 2 state title in 2018. They beat state powers like Central Catholic during that stretch.

“It’s always special being able to play North Andover even if it wasn’t on Thanksgiving this season,” said linebacker Tomas Loureiro, who made 10 tackles in last week’s win. “Being able to come out and win big like we have the last two years now is a great feeling and something we’re looking to do every time against this team. This rivalry is personal for us and it is one that we look forward to every year.”

Andover coach EJ Perry especially enjoyed that the game ended up being moved up a day due to bad weather.

“It’s great that it was on a Thursday, so it felt more like Thanksgiving,” said Perry. “We always want to come out and play well against North Andover. A lot of guys stepped up. It feels so great to be playing football.”

RIVALRY AT A GLANCE

Here’s a look at the Andover/North Andover rivalry since they started playing on Thanksgiving Day.

Year	Score	Andover Highlight
2021	Andover 38, North Andover 0	Scotty Brown and Lincoln Beal each score two TDs
2019	Andover 41, North Andover 8	Josh Ramos scores three TDs, Scotty Brown adds two TDs
2018	North Andover 41, Andover 27	Nick Zalanskas catches three TDs
2017	North Andover 33, Andover 7	Brendan Moody scores lone Andover TD
2016	Andover 49, North Andover 20	EJ Perry IV throws seven TDs, three to Joe Rockwell.
2015	Andover 42, North Andover 41	Andover stops N. Andover at goal line as time expires

a 41-8 holiday win in 2019. They now own a 4-2 edge in the rivalry since it was moved to the holiday.

“Even though it wasn’t Thanksgiving morning,

it was definitely special to get another shot at North Andover and beat them one more time,” said lineman and captain Ben Entner, who had a tackle

for loss on Thursday. “I look forward to this game every year and it means a lot to me that we were able to come out of it with such an impressive win. We’ve

Beal, Aruri spark Andover to big win over North Andover

BY DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

ANDOVER — As Zayn Aruri intercepted the pass 95 yards away from the opposing end zone, the Andover High senior had **Andover..... 38** his doubts the play would end with his first career touchdown.

“I was reading the QB’s eyes and jumped the pass,” said Aruri. “I had a long way to go, but somehow I got in. I thought there was no chance I would get in, but I saw the open field and ran as fast as I could.”

Aruri’s 95-yard touchdown return, his second interception of the day, was the icing on the cake as Andover rolled past rival North Andover 38-0 last Thursday, in a game that was moved up a day due to inclement weather.

“North Andover is the team you want to beat when you play for Andover,” said Golden Warrior star Lincoln Beal. “We were so pumped. It’s always extra special to beat North Andover.”

Beal ran for one touchdown and caught a 61-yard TD from Scotty Brown in the first quarter, and Andover rolled to the win over their Thanksgiving Day rival.

“It means everything for us to beat North Andover,” said Aruri. “It’s a big rivalry. We were on our home field and got to have some fans in the stands, so it was great to go out and get a statement victory.”

After being shut out by rival Central Catholic a week ago, Andover’s



Andover’s Lincoln Beal beats North Andover’s Brian Ferullo to make the catch and race to his second touchdown of the game last Thursday.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Andover’s Lincoln Beal celebrates with Aidan Ritter (4) and Jayronn Chevalier (11) after Beal’s 61-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter of Thursday’s win over North Andover.

“North Andover is the team you want to beat when you play for Andover. We were so pumped. It’s always extra special to beat North Andover.”

Lincoln Beal

offense was hitting on all cylinders on Thursday. On the Golden Warriors’ second drive, Beal broke a 35-yard run, setting up his own 1-yard touchdown plunge.

Then, one play into Andover’s next drive — a play after a 55-yard Brown touchdown run was called back for holding — Beal hauled in a Brown pass and sprinted past the defense

for his 61-yard score. “That’s my favorite play, coming out of the backfield for a pass,” said Beal, who finished with 75 rushing yards and 66 receiving yards. “Scotty threw me a perfect pass, and I broke it. The whole week, our goal was to score points fast, and we did it today.”

Brown then chipped in with a big play with his legs, hitting the edge and

breaking free for a 56-yard touchdown run with 2:40 until halftime. He then all but iced the victory with 8:42 left in the game, shaking two defenders and sliding in for a 7-yard TD. He finished with a game-high 137 rushing yards on 13 carries.

Aruri, who grabbed his first interception on the first play of the fourth quarter, added the game’s final highlight in the closing moments.

He intercepted a pass at the 5-yard line, then seemed to dodge the entire North Andover offense on the way to his 95-yard score.

Aruri, a senior first-year

starter, now has five interceptions on the season. He also had two picks in the season-opener against Methuen.

“Zayn’s play has been excellent,” said Andover coach EJ Perry. “He’s been tackling well and has been just overall great. He was coming off an injury, and it would have been tough for him to play in the fall, so I’m glad he had this opportunity.”

“Lincoln, I think, is the best around. A lot of people are seeing what he does on both offense and defense. He’s a 15-years-old sophomore. When he matures, it’s going to be a big difference.”

Beal also had an interception, and Matt Rigazio had a pick that was disallowed by a roughing the passer penalty. Charlie Baillargeon had a sack and Connor Sheehan continued to star with 12 tackles.

The Golden Warriors will

now close out the season by hosting Chelmsford on Thursday at 5 p.m.

“I think we’ve been getting better every week,” said Aruri. “We want to continue that trend. We want to have our best game of the season and finish strong.”

Andover 38, North Andover 0

North Andover (2-4):	0 0 0 0 — 0
Andover (4-2):	14 7 3 14 — 38
	First Quarter
A — Lincoln Beal 1 run (Andrew Wetterwald kick), 3:37	
A — Lincoln Beal 61 pass from Scotty Brown (Wetterwald kick), 1:47	
	Second Quarter
A — Brown 56 run (Wetterwald kick), 2:40	
	Third Quarter
A — Wetterwald 22 field goal, 6:24	
	Fourth Quarter
A — Brown 7 run (Wetterwald kick), 8:42	
A — Zayn Aruri 95 interception return (Wetterwald kick), 2:32	
	INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING: Andover (30-231) — Scotty Brown 13-137, Lincoln Beal 12-75, Andrew Layman 5-19; North Andover (37-77) — Steven Ferullo 14-34, Jack Ferullo 14-26, Aidan Lynch 3-2, Will Schimmoller 5-12, Adam Lawrence 1-4	
PASSING: Andover — Brown 6-17-0, 99; North Andover — Schimmoller 8-22-3, 109	
RECEIVING: Andover — Beal 2-66, Andrew Wetterwald 2-19, Bret Mondejar 1-9, Chris Capachetti 1-5; North Andover — Nick Ankiewicz 3-58, Jack Ferullo 3-36, Lynch 2-15	

TWITTER: @DWillisET

Crack'd Kitchen to make New Hampshire debut

Restaurant has a flagship location in Andover

BY BREANNA EDELSTEIN
Staff Writer

SALEM, N.H. – A tumultuous year for the restaurant industry isn't slowing two local friends on a mission to grow their brand.

Crack'd Kitchen and Coffee – with a flagship location in Andover – will open Monday at 327 South Broadway, in Salem, New Hampshire.

Co-owners Alan Frati, of Salem, and Danny Azzarello, of North Andover, describe their rise from teenage dish-washers to corporate restaurant management. Now 35 and 38, they're at the helm of their own endeavor.

The idea for Crack'd was born in 2017, they say, as the duo sought the perfect breakfast sandwich.

"And we expanded the idea from there," Azzarello said. "We ended up with Crack'd, a chef-driven, fast, casual restaurant."

Doors opened in Andover at the end of March 2019. Frati says it was clear shortly after that it was time to bring the business across the border into New Hampshire.

"We wanted to be part of this reemergence of business in Salem," he said. "You have the Tuscan project happening nearby and business is booming in the whole town."

According to Azzarello, Crack'd is special in its open design concept and deep local ties.

"You can see what's going on back in the kitchen," he said. "All of that is intentional and goes back to our founding principles of keeping it simple, doing the right thing and operational excellence."

Many employees are Salem High students or grew up in the area, he said. Head chef Zach Warren is a graduate of the Southern New Hampshire University culinary program.



Alan Frati, left, and Danny Azzarello are co-owners of Crack'd Kitchen and Coffee. They now have two locations, one in Andover, and the newest located next to JayGee's in Salem, New Hampshire.

Starting April 19, the Salem location will be open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours will be 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take-out and dine-in are both options.

Online ordering, which has become a mainstay in recent months, will continue.

Though Crack'd breakfast sandwiches have earned a reputation – the Andover location is said to go through 130 dozen eggs each week – the menu features more.

Bowls, plates, toast, greens and grains are all included. Frati says local ingredients are often

highlighted.

"Sauces and dressings are made in house," he said. "We get our coffee from Hometown Coffee Roasters, in Manchester."

The co-owners say they're thankful for the support from customers, especially through the pandemic, allowing them to stick to their vision.

"It's all about growth and getting better," Azzarello said. "We never want to get stagnant. And that's why we're so excited to open here."

Plans are in the works for a third Crack'd Kitchen and Coffee location in Peabody at the end of this year.



Locally sourced coffee blends made just for the restaurant and breakfast sandwiches are available at Crack'd Kitchen and Coffee in Salem, New Hampshire.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



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