

SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY PAGE 10



REFRESHES



AHS GYMNAST PITTS MAKES A SPLASH AS **SWIM TEAM** 

OUR 131ST YEAR

# ndoverTownsman

Issue No. 25 **APRIL 29, 2021** 

# Melmark helps autistic adults thrive in pandemic

By Jill Harmacinski Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — Just after complex off Interstate 495.

and noise-cancelling head- programs. phones, Torrisi rolled three

ters from a local dentist, services for children and Gardner's eyes. placed them in envelopes and adults with intellectual and

a very short break to greet visitors.

at work in redeveloped mill disabilities go to the Cancro

Managed by the Ando- Month. pieces of plastic silverware ver-based Melmark New into a napkin and then placed England, the center and its staff's work — which could own children's educational or the set into a glassine baggy. staffers worked diligently not be done remotely and childcare services while Mel-She happily hummed as during the past year to over- involved some of the most mark's residential programs she completed the task, come challenges presented vulnerable people in the com-remained open.

In the next room, several a leader in educational, Melmark workers and their demic shutdowns. other young men folded let-clinical and residential efforts, tears welled up in

affixed stamps. They all took developmental disabilities.

Three dozen adults with COVID-19 infection and decades," she said. noontime this past Tuesday, autism spectrum disorders death, noted Rita Gardner,

space in the city's Riverwalk Center at 280 Merrimack liams, the Cancro Center's many and "invincible" for St. every weekday, many of program director, offered a their clients, Gardner said. Wearing a mask, gloves them enrolled in vocational tour of the facility recently,

"Suddenly our staff were

frontline workers. They were Those with disabilities can heroes but they have been be more susceptible to severe doing this kind of work for

Staff worked throughout Caitlin Torrisi, 22, was hard and other developmental Melmark president and CEO. the pandemic in a manner Gardner and Stacey Wil- that was both "invisible" to

> Roughly 30% of Melmark's during Autism Awareness 400 staffers developed COVID-19, were involved in Gardner described the contact tracing, or lost their



over and over. She aims to by the COVID-19 pandemic. munity—as nothing short of In March 2020, the Cancro Sporting his favorite blue superhero mask, Albert carefully finish 100 sets each workday. Melmark is considered heroic. As she talked about Center closed due to pan- adds a label to a letter during an adult day program at Melmark New England. The program located in Lawrence's Then, in August 2020, as Riverwalk complex is specifically designed to address the state guidelines relaxed unique needs of adults severely affected by autism and others See MELMARK, Page 2 with challenging behaviors.

# Tackling grief

### Football, family, friends a driving force for boys who suddenly lost dad

By BILL BURT bburt@andovertownsman.com

The Fall 2 football season, which spanned from late

February through this past Thursday, has been different. Disjointed seems an apt description for a year

with no pre-season workouts, sparsely

Connor Sheehan

attended stadiums, and no championships at stake due to the shortened chedule. But for

two Andover boys, no matter the

upheaval, being a part of times.

anticipated the start of the Tom, at age 55.

It seemed like COVID-19, his wife Karyn Sheehan kemia, eventually going to a body aches, grogginess and later he was dead. exhaustion. So Tom got a test



the team has buoyed them The Sheehan family celebrates a youth football championship in Andover a few years ago. In through the most difficult the photo, from left, are eldest son Sam, mom Karyn, son Will, dad Tom, who died in February from leukemia, and son Connor, currently a senior at Andover High.

In mid-February, as they and some blood work.

While he was negative for cuss the other results.

He was diagnosed with leu- days later.

everything," said Karyn.

Sheehan suddenly and unex- primary care doctor called for a sophomore, were on the friends on the team has been pectedly lost their father, an immediate meeting to dis- Andover High football field a blessing." as the season began seven

said, with its hallmark chills, Boston hospital. Four days good distraction for the boys," recalls being struck by two Karyn said. "They've been things in particular. "It was just so guick, home so much and remote

for school. Getting outside Even as they grieved, Con- with fresh air playing their season, Connor and Will the virus, a few days later his nor, 17, a senior, and Will, 15, favorite sport with tons of

> Looking back at the day of Tom's wake, Andover High "Football has been a really football coach E.J. Perry

#### INDEX

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## Educational center moves to Andover

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

A new nonprofit has moved to Andover with help from the state.

The Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training, a nonprofit that provides educational, vocational, and therapeutic programs for children with developmental disabilities used \$17 million of state money to buy a newly renovated building at 20 Shattuck Road. The organization moved to Andover from Methuen.

The 127,000 square-foot facility, which was recently converted from an office building, CREST recently moved its school to a

Courtesy photo

See SCHOOL, Page  $\,2\,$  renovated office building at 20 Shattuck Road.

# Andover will not seek waiver for high school return date

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

dents returned to classmonth and middle schoolers questions on the matter. returned this week.

in-person class two days per modate all of the students. week and learning remotely the pandemic.

Brown said in a joint state- in the school. ment the district would not ing everyone back.

requiring in-person learn- Committee Chair. ing for Massachusetts high "District administrators, schools was not a surprise. staff and teachers have There are no current plans

to apply for a waiver," they wrote. Most Andover High School

Andover High School stu- classrooms can only accomdents will be returning to modate 15 desks when they're five-day in-person learning spaced 3-feet apart, as per this May, according to district recommendation from the state and the Centers for Dis-State Education Commis- ease Control and Prevention. sioner Jeffrey Riley said Tues- District administrators have day that public high schools in previously said many classes Massachusetts should resume have 20 to 25 students, and it full-time, in-person learning remains unclear how the stuby May 17. Elementary stu-dents will be accommodated.

Andover district officials rooms full-time earlier this did not respond to further

Two weeks ago district offi-In Andover, high school cials presented a variety of students remain in a hybrid options to the School Commitlearning model, attending tee of how they could accom-

One option was transformfrom home for three days to ing the school's field house accommodate for distancing and Collins Center into large measures put in place due to learning areas. There, students would sit at desks and Superintendent Claudia remotely join their class-Bach and Principal Caitlin rooms, which are elsewhere

The district has ordered seek a waiver to delay bring- more than 800 desks to implement this option, said "Today's announcement Shannon Scully, the School

See WAIVER, Page 2

### Town Meeting slated for June 5

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

is partnering up with the tion under the same tent. school district to ensure shine, for Town Meeting.

June 5 outdoors in the field

behind West Middle School on Shawsheen Road. That following Monday, June 7, the The town of Andover high school will host gradua-

This Town Meeting will voters are covered, rain or decide on issues including the 2022 budget, construction The Andover Town Meet- of a new elementary school, ing will be held at 9 a.m. on and the funding of the town's

See **MEETING**, Page 6











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#### **MELMARK**

■ Continued from Page 1

and permitted, the site was reopened. By March 2021, all 36 clients had returned, staffers said.

These days, the adults are grouped in different rooms at the center, largely due to their residential settings. Plexiglass barriers have been installed, mask wearing is required at all times and the adults are all socially distanced as they perform a variety of tasks.

At one point, Gardner said a Melmark student, 14, and a staff member, 29, were both on ventilators at the same time due to the disease. As they recovered, Gardner closely monitored their care, not live in the area.

Gardner stressed that gate care. staff members were not only spread infection, she said.

were eligible for COVID- she said. 19 vaccinations early on, in The adult services cen-Lisa. She became a happy find success.



FROM PAGE ONE

including that of the staff In center, Melmark staff member Connor walks with Greg and James as they take care of a member whose family does recycling task during an adult day program at Melmark New England.

in or are enrolled in congre- dedicated in 2017 to the school's student and adult

careful on the job, but also "Town Hall" style virtual daughter, Lisa, to Melmark mark serves a population vigilant outside of work so meetings on Zoom to discuss in 2001. they would not contract and vaccines, their efficacy and Melmark clients and staff was a 98% vaccination rate, lic and private educational failures."

phase 1A, as they either work ter at the Riverwalk was and engaged member of the

Cancro family of Andover, communities. Gardner herself lead who first brought their

"all the fallacies." The result for a solution as other pub- to Melmark is paved with programs had failed to help

AT\_AT\_20210429\_1\_01,2,6

Gardner noted that Melwith severe needs. And for The family was searching many families, the "road

"We celebrate the progress ner said.



But once they arrive, they of individuals who work Follow staff reporter Jill

really hard to learn," Gard- Harmacinski on Twitter @ EagleTribJill.

#### **GRIEF**

■ Continued from Page 1

There was the nostalgia mitted to football. of seeing the 1988 Andover sweethearts going off to col- of practice. and eventually settling back in Andover as an athlete, and Hixon."

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of witnessing Will and Con-

High prom photo of Tom and Monday," Perry said they told heart," Perry said. "He played Karyn, who were high school him, referring to the first day for the same coaches that I

later a coach, it's easy to draw And there was the impact a line to the boys' dedication. "I have lived in Andover

nor's resolve to remain com- for 56 years and played and coached in Andover, so town-"Coach, we can't wait for ies have a special place in my did: the Great Dick Collins lege before getting married Given their father's career and the insurmountable Wil

> For his sons, his support for the team when he was alive — he used to video the junior varsity games and put them on YouTube for fans Sheehan, 15, who lost his and players to view — and father in February, and along the legacy left in his wake are with his brother Connor an inspiration.

(my dad) proud, try my immediately when in his sec- above.' ond game against Lowell he remained strong, with Con- was called. nor finishing off the season

screaming when I make a loss.

Andover football player Will pressed forward with the "I always wanted to make season soon afterward.

backer, whose season took off and I knew he was smiling up father couldn't take him."

made two big plays by recov- April, the couple's oldest married, she wanted to leave look in your eyes." ering a fumble that turned son, Sam, a freshman at the Merrimack Valley and And he added, "I've marinto a quick touchdown and Northeastern University, blaze their own trail else-veled at their steely blue eyes tackling the Lowell quarter- represented their father and where. Tom, however, said that stare back at me with a back in the end zone for a walked his mother onto the he had to go back to Andover. sparkle and a kindness. I've safety. And that performance field when Connor's name

as the second leading tackler. moment, Karyn noted, one of with in these difficult times, of their father. I know Tom is "I'd see him in the many that come with adjust- she knows it was the right proud." stands and could hear him ing to a sudden, traumatic decision.

the primary parent involved great. The support from in researching college options everyone at the school has for Connor.

Karyn said. "It's been difficult without it." for Connor, in the throes of He was accepted everywhere boys nearly every day. except one school, and that threw us for a loop.'

family took him and his older surprise. brother, Sam.

It was an emotional the family has been met managed through the death

"It hasn't been easy," she bburt@eagletribune.com.

Tom, for instance, had been said. "But the town has been meant a lot to our family. I "His dad did all that stuff," don't know where we'd be

Perry said he has marveled trying to decide where to go. watching and coaching the

The fact the Connor had probably his greatest game Friends stepped in to fill as a Golden Warrior on gaps, also. When Connor Thursday night's finale over went on a two-day visit to Chelmsford, 38-0, with 14 Purdue University in Indi- tackles, three sacks and a ana last month, an Andover fumble recovery was not a

"Covid has brought many "Connor loved the trip changes to football, but one and the school," Karyn said. benefit has been the daily "He was beaming when he temperature check," Perry hardest, give it my all," said tackle," Connor said. "There returned. It was nice to see said. "While it is a pain in Connor, a senior line- were times I'd make a big hit the campus even though his the neck, it gives a coach a chance to talk to each boy Karyn recalls a time when individually and they have On Senior Night in early soon after she and Tom were to take off their helmets and

> Reflecting on their life in been perplexed by their focus Andover and the response and steadiness that they have

> > You can email Bill Burt at

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■ Continued from Page 1

conference rooms, 55 private children.' offices, a gymnasium, a cafauto repair facility, group exempt bond to fund the move. the future." restrooms and a kitchen area.

"Trying to move an entire gymnasium or learn in one a reality for our students to supplement and strengthen their clients."

of the 62 classrooms, all while and staff. Our new home has existing school programs MassDevelopment worked greater growth opportuni- disabilities eteria and several workshops with TD Bank of North ties in the coming years and

experiencing art, music, and allowed us to move all of our and services that otherwise computer classes – this fund- programs to one campus and would be neither affordable ing will help CREST create capitalize on the strength of nor accessible to each local consists of 62 classrooms, 10 those experiences for those our entire community. This school district on its own for new facility will allow for students with developmental

"Nonprofits like CREST — including art, music, com- Andover to allow CREST to provide our member districts help ensure students of puter, and wood shops, an purchase the \$17 million tax- with a strong asset well into all abilities have access to high-quality educational CREST is comprised of programming in a safe and "Helping CREST own a school during a pandemic sixteen member school dis- welcoming environment," new home for the important with multiple moving parts tricts — Amesbury, Andover, said Secretary of Housing educational, vocational, and was beyond challenging," said Dracut, Georgetown, Greater and Economic Development therapeutic programs it runs Kim Oliveira, CREST execu- Lawrence Technical School, Mike Kennealy, who serves for children with develop- tive director. "Throughout it Haverhill, Ipswich, Law- as chair of MassDevelopmental disabilities is at the all, MassDevelopment, in part-rence, Lowell, Masconomet ment's Board of Directors. core of our mission at Mass-nership with TD Bank, pro-Regional, Methuen, "We're proud that Mass-Development," said Dan vided support and assistance Newburyport, North Andover, Development's tax-exempt Rivera, president and CEO every step of the way. We can- Pentucket Regional, Triton, bonds can serve as imporof MassDevelopment, "Imag- not thank you enough for your and Tri-Town Regional. The tant tools to help organizaine the look on the students' guidance and assistance in organization offers educa- tions finance new facilities faces as they play in the making this long-time dream tional programs and services and better meet the needs of

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■ Continued from Page 1

return students to in-person high school students."

learning, including at Andover High School," Bach and Brown wrote in their statement. "The work is ongoing, and we apprebeen working hard for many ciate the intense focus on findmonths to find a way to fully ing the best solution for our



Kathy M. Sendek, D.M.D.

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# ACE kicks off new fundraiser

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Andover Coalition for Education is hosting an event in May meant to get people moving and honor teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

May 1 to 8 will be a Race for ACE, a movement challenge to raise money for schools.

Participants are asked to do an activity for 30 minutes a day. Run, walk, hike, bike, dance, skip or jump - anything that promotes 30 minutes of movement counts. Participants are asked to post a photo or video on social media and tag it with #raceforace2021.

"My kid's teachers have worked so hard this year to make sure my kids are learning, but more importantly, the teachers and staff want to make sure my kids are okay," said Khristine Naughton, the mother of three students in fifth grade through high school. "We have never had a year like this past year and when I saw ACE's new event, I thought this would be a great way for us to give back for our teachers to know to the schools and also recognize our teachers.'

The Race for ACE is taking place during Teacher Appreciation Week, making it an opportunity to dedicate race activity in honor of a favorite educator or staff member in the schools. ACE will then send an e-card to teachers to inform them of the tribute gift.

"I reached out to my son's fifth-grade class at Bancroft and encouraged everyone to join the Race for ACE in honor of our teacher. It is a great way for us to say 'thank you' to him, while also supporting our schools," Naughton said.

Participants are encouraged to post a favorite photo or video on social media to win prizes and swag from ACE and local businesses. Each day during the first week of May, a winner will be selected from those that tagged #raceforace2021. Participants are encouraged to post often and spread the fun among friends in the Andover community.

"I really hope that our entire community comes together to support our schools and recognize our teachers. This is such an easy and fun way for

13

16

38 40



**COURTESY PHOTO** 

Rowan (left), Grayson and Orla Naughton are participating in Race for ACE in honor of their teachers.

everyone to get involved. If everyone gave a little,

we will have a lot to invest

in our schools next year.

And what a great feeling

that we are making a differ-

The event costs \$25 for an

ence in their name," said

individual, \$40 for a family

and \$100 for a team, which

organization. Everyone who

Race for ACE gifts. To reg-

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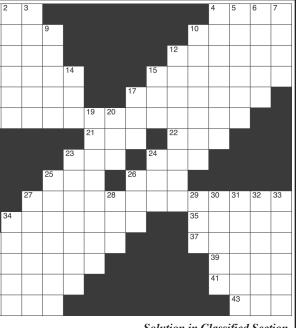
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- 1. Engine additive
- 4. A hearty laugh 8. Restrain
- 10. Dried coconut kernels
- 11. Nefarious 12. Elderly
- 13. Central part of a church building 15. Throw into confusion
- 16. Intestinal 17. Qualities of being religious 18. Live up to a standard
- 21. Seize
- 22. Go quickly
- 23. Automated teller machine 24. Bowling necessity
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Beautiful
- 2. Polynesian island country
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Self-governing Netherlands territory 5. Shared one's view
- 6. Tailless amphibians
- 7. Charge passengers must pay
- 9. Sound sheep make
- 10. Known for sure
- 12. Filled with unexpressed anger
- 14. Student (abbr.)

BLACKVTA

- 17. Gathering place

- Solution in Classified Section
- 26. Japanese honorific
- 27. A way to induce sleep

- 40. Mocking smile
- 42. Partner to pans
- 43. Perform in a play
- 23. Landholder
- 24. Peter's last name
- 25. Parties
- 26. Title of respect
- 27. Red wine

- 28. Pearl Jam's debut
- 30. Frosts
- 31. Cry of joy

- 36. Door fastener part

- 25. One point east of due south
- 34. Makes cash register rolls 35. A city in S Louisiana
- 36. Make more cheerful
- 38. Consents
- 41. It covers the body

- 20. One's mother (British)

- 34. Dal \_: Musical navigation marker
- 19 Informal alliances

- 37. Manicurist
- 39. Network of nerves

- 29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- 32. Induces vomiting
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# The John Cornell Fund

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# Junk is accumulating out of sight

We are often encouraged to pause on Earth Day, as we were last week, to appreciate the natural world that surrounds us.

Here in the Merrimack Valley and North of Boston regions, we are fortunate to be constantly reminded of that bounty in the sandy expanse of Crane Beach, the deep, dark woods of Dogtown and the slow, strong pull of the Merrimack River.

Seeing such beauty every day compels us to protect it. We limit access to fragile parts of the beach, push to protect the woods from development and pass laws aimed at reducing the flow of sewage into our waterways. But there is so much more we can't see.

Take, for instance the growing problem of plastics in the ocean, where we see only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. For every plastic bag or bottle we see bobbing along coastal waters, there are thousands deep below the surface, slowly disintegrating and polluting the entire marine ecosystem.

"The majority of plastic debris that (ends) up in the ocean (is) missing," Ryota Nakajima, a marine biology researcher at the Japan Agency for Marine Earth-Science and Technology, told The Academic Times.

Between 4.8 million and 12.7 million tons of plastic makes its way into the ocean every year. The stuff you see floating on the surface is only a few percentage points of the total. If that pace continues, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by weight.

Massive accumulations of plastic have been found in some of the deepest places on Earth, more than six miles beneath the ocean surface.

"The abundance of plastic debris leaking into the ocean continues to increase, but the floating plastic debris on the surface of the ocean eventually is transported into the deeper water," Nakajima said. "This will foster illusions in your mind that debris is not increasing. But the truth is, plastic debris accumulates on the deep-sea floor as undying garbage."

It's not just the ocean. We are also increasingly treating space as a bottomless landfill. And as the pace of exploration and commercial expansion grows, we are learning that's not the case.

Research from the Italian National Research Council's Institute of Information Science and Technologies has found that so much trash from past space missions has accumulated in Earth's low orbit that a third to half of the zone's space for future activities has already been filled.

The research council estimated there are millions of pieces of space junk -- parts of rockets and satellites and other chunks of machinery in orbit around the Earth.

Some of those pieces are very small -- think a fleck of paint less than a half inch long. And they are very far apart. But they travel very fast -- more than 22,000 miles per hour -- and can disable a satellite in a collision. A four-inch piece of space junk can destroy a spacecraft.

"Today, with the impetuous flowering of the socalled New Space Economy, characterized by the deployment of countless satellites and mega-constellations, the problem is becoming really urgent, because some wrong decisions or actions taken now may have lasting adverse consequences on space operations, in particular in low Earth orbit," said Carmen Pardini, a co-author of the study.

So what can be done?

"Any true progress in the field of space debris will be the result of a deep and wide amount of international cooperation," co-author Luciano Anselmo told the Academic Times. "But countries, governments and international organizations alone are not enough anymore. Private companies must be involved in the loop as soon as possible."

Closer to home, almost 80% of the plastic found in the ocean is made up of drink bottles, plastic bags, food packaging and the like. It's obvious efforts to eliminate such single-use plastics need to be stepped up.

We may not be able to see the problem. But we cannot pretend it doesn't exist.



#### **Gail Ralston**

Andover Center FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

Andover's John Cornell Fund committee occasionally has vacancies. When that happens, the town is asked to vote for a new member.

But how many people know the purpose of the fund and, most importantly, who Cornell was?

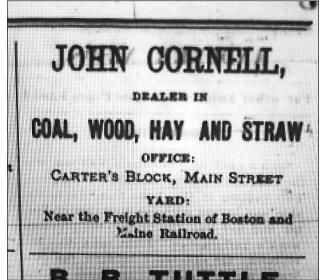
Cornell almost was a townie; he was born in Wilmington, Massachusetts and came to Andover at age

His obituary said he had a "limited" education, and if that is correct, he sure made up for it.

He was employed at the store of John Derby, at the site now known as the Simeone Building (corner of Main Street and Post Office Avenue).

At about 22 years of age, he formed a co-partnership with a Mr. Mayberry and bought out "Mr. Richardson's Stable," which stood near the present site of Memorial Hall Library.

Cornell and Mayberry carried on the stable and lumber business for about four years, when they were burned out in the great Elm Square fire of 1870. (See Nova. 19, 2020, Townsman



An advertisement placed by John Cornell in an 1888 edition of the Andover Townsman promises "coal, wood, hay and straw."

story).

Cornell moved his stock to the Elm House stables, site of today's Musgrove Building. Having purchased Mr. Mayberry's share in the business, he in turn sold his stable effects to George Bean.

Prior to his death, his most recent office was located in Carter's Block, 1 Main St.

Cornell was one of the oldest businessmen on the street, if not the oldest.

He represented this district in the state Legislature in 1878, and at the time of his death he was a trustee of the Memorial Hall Library and Spring Grove Cemetery; a director of both the National and Savings banks; and a director of the Andover Press.

He was deeply interested in town affairs, and he was a constant attendant at all town meetings, even serving meeting of said inhabitants, as moderator for one year. In and said trustees to apporpolitics, he upheld strongly the principles of the Republican Party.

After his death, the town learned of his generous bequests.

On Jan. 10, 1893, the library trustees announced his bequest to the library in a resolution. In part, it said:

'We record with sadness the recent death of Mr. John Cornell, whose excellent judgment and public spirit made him a specially valuable member of our board. He supplemented this long period of faithful service in the interests of the library by making to it the generous Perry.

bequest from his will."

This bequest of \$5,000 stipulated that it be "expended in the purchase of a collection of historical articles and such works of art as they may deem expedient."

An additional \$5,000 was given "to be expended in the care and preservation of the collection previously mentioned."

At Town Meeting in March 1893, the warrant asked voters: "To see if the town will accept the following bequest of the late John Cornell, and choose a board of trustees as specified in said will:

"To the inhabitants of Andover, aforesaid, \$5,000 in trust, the income therefrom to be used in the purchase of wood and coal for the worthy poor of said Andover, said fund to be held by a board of trustees chosen at a tion said wood and coal.'

The motion was accepted, thereby creating the John Cornell Fuel Assistance Fund. The first trustees were Frank Gleason, Joseph Smart and Charles Greene.

The fund exists to this day for the same purpose as originally intended, with the caveat modified in 1995 by the Probate Court of Massachusetts to include all types of fuel – not limited to wood and coal - for heating, cooking or electrical purposes.

Trustees in 2021 include Richard J. Bowen, Kenneth B. Ozoonian and Calvin

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### West Elementary and Shawsheen project worthy of support

Editor, Townsman:

school Building Committee. Elementary School site. I and the committee have one solution.

of the West Elementary/ entire community. Shawsheen Preschool buildvoting for the project at our And since West Elementary stewards of the planet. annual Town Meeting on hosts our districtwide Bridge on June 15.

study, both schools were pre-K programs, this acabuilding conditions, educa- serve all of our children at tional suitability, grounds these grade levels. condition and technology readiness.

of the two schools, both are \$38,442,820. inefficient, resulting in a

in the 1950s, and Shawsheen at the ballot box. I am asking with the help of financial

School was built in the 1920s. my fellow citizens to please incentives that should be The buildings are way past vote yes. their useful lives. For these multiple prob-

lems we have devised one solution: Partner with MSBA to build a new aca-I am the chair of the West demic campus colocating the Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-schools on the existing West The new school will cre-

numerous problems with with a net-zero energy ready by Gov. Charlie Baker. design and will host new turf I am writing in support playing fields to benefit the low suit.

In a 2016 town facility hosting our multi-sensory

ect is \$151,661,968, with a els produce. In addition, given the age maximum MSBA grant of

large carbon footprint and tage of the large grant, we toxic electric mower. high energy costs for the must approve the project by a two-thirds vote at Town tric. However, I will need go to andoverwecan.org. West Elementary was built meeting and a majority vote to phase in that expense

**PAULA COLBY-CLEMENTS** 

#### All households should make green energy plans Editor, Townsman:

The new school is being als, to create our own road-planet.) ing project and ask that my designed to address capac- map to reduce our carbon

rated poor or unsuitable in demic campus will allow tion of solar panels on the

I also gave up my gas-pow-

My next car will be elec-

rolled out in the near future. I live in an old house with

**Andover** aging appliances. As each appliance fails, I will replace it with the most energy efficient make and model on the market. For example, my refrigera-

tor is on its last legs. This is On Earth Day I celebrated an opportunity for me to buy been working with the Mas- ate inclusive, flexible and the passage of Massachu- a new HFC-free refrigerator sachusetts School Building adaptable learning environ-setts' landmark climate bill, with the new refrigerant Authority, the architects and ments that enable access for "An Act Creating a Next R600a, which is far more Andover residents for 2 1/2 all through universal design Generation Roadmap for energy efficient and will years to develop a cost effec- for learning. The new school Massachusetts Climate Pol- save me money. (Refrigerative approach for addressing will be LEED Silver certified icy," signed recently into law tors are now being switched to R600a from R-134a refrig-I hope other states will folerant because R-134a is 3,710 times more potent than car-It's time for us, as individu- bon dioxide at warming the

Next up will be switching fellow citizens join me in ity issues across the district. footprints and become better my oil furnace-linked water heater over to an electric My goal is to put my own heat pump water heater. June 5 and at the Ballot Box and Excel special education life and lifestyle on the road A family of four can save programs, with Shawsheen to becoming fossil fuel free. approximately \$350 per year I began this process a few on its electric bill compared years ago with the installato a standard water heater.

It makes sense. Energy four critical areas — existing Andover to appropriately roof of my house. National efficient appliances use Grid sends me a check every fewer kilowatt hours of few months to pay for using energy consumption, which The total cost of the proj- the extra electricity my pan- translates into savings in my wallet.

It's time to go electric. I ered lawnmower and now hope others consider put-In order to take advan- use a quiet, light and far less- ting their households on a 10-year transition plan.

For information and tips,

MARY PRITCHARD Andover

#### **WEB QUESTION**

COVID-19 vaccination?

The state last week broadened the criteria of those eligible to get the vaccine to include anyone age 16 and older, regard-spring weather gets raw, I don't mind asking for a table mask wearing. less of health status. But as health officials urge patience in inside a local restaurant. booking a vaccine visit, others are reporting a slowdown in demand for appointments.

Are you still waiting in line?

INFUSED WITH FRUSTRATION: I'm still trying to make an appointment, and I'm still bouncing from one website to the Last week's question next. When will this ever end?

MADE MY APPOINTMENT: It might've been difficult for people lift its "mask mandate"? to do at first, but at this point I've got either my first or second appointment, and I'm counting the days until my allowed to expire as of last Friday. An announcement by

Is it getting any easier to book an appointment for a rendezvous with a shot of Pfizer, Moderna or the Johnson Gov. Chris Sununu's office cited a reduction in the number and Johnson vaccine.

**STILL WARY**: The pandemic has been terrible, but I'm still

concerned about the potential side effects of these new vaccines. I have yet to make my appointment.

of deaths and hospitalizations due to COVID-19. It also noted PROTECTED: All my shots are in the past, and when this that businesses and some communities may still require

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. (30 votes)

NO, NOT YET: The threat of COVID-19 transmission has been Should Massachusetts follow New Hampshire's lead and higher in the Bay State since the start of the pandemic. Masks keep us safe, and lifting the statewide order would The New Hampshire mandate, in effect since Nov. 20, was almost certainly lead to the spread of the coronavirus. (40

#### **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@andovertownsman.com

REPORTER JUDY WAKEFIELD at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsman.com REPORTER MADELINE HUGHES at 978-691-8733, or mhughes@andovertownsman.com

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

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

To subscribe to the newspaper or to report delivery problems: Call the Circulation Department direct at 800-836-7800

#### **ADVERTISING**

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

■ To place a classified advertisement: Call the Classified Department at 978-946-

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**Editor** 

Tracey Rauh

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ANDOVER, MA

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# Law firm refreshes Lazarus House to celebrate Earth Day

mhughes@eagletribune.com

To celebrate Earth Day, Andover-based Touchstone Closing, a real estate closing law firm, planted flowers and cleaned up Lazarus House Ministries in

Lawrence. "The Earth Day refresh for the Lazarus House Shelter was a breath of fresh air," said Carmen Vega, shelter director. "I'm so excited to see the faces of our guests as they come home and see what our faithful friends from Touchstone did for them. They truly blessed us."

The law firm has been partnering with Lazarus House since December when employees helped clean up and decorate the shelter.

"Being back at the shelter to provide outdoor spring cleanup services this week was something that many of our staff wanted to be a part of," said Christine Bernar-Closing.

"Since Touchstone Closing focuses on real estate transactions, we see the value and natural connection in helping the shelter families at Lazarus House Ministries," Bernardini said. "Our team was happy to volunteer their time on Earth Day to help brighten up the outside of the shelter for the families.'

The law firm has also hosted a do-it-yourself pizza party night and an ice cream "Sundae Funday" party on another occasion, she added.

"We look forward to continuing to build this special relationship with such an important organization in the Merrimack Valley region," Bernardini said.

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twitter **@andovertownsman** 



LOCAL

Staff members from Touchstone Closing, an Andover-based real estate closing law firm, planted flowers and cleaned up Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence in honor of Earth Day. From left, Lauren O'Shea, the marketing and communications director; dini, a partner at Touchstone Holly Post, a paralegal; Ryan Corey, a paralegal; Gita Brazelis, an associate attorney; and Christine Bernardini, a partner.

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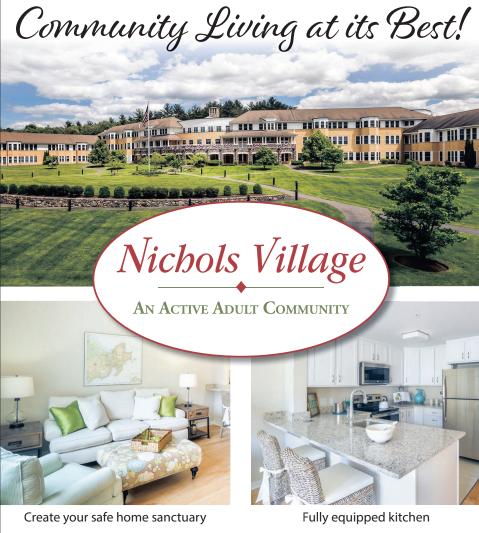


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#### ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices. To place an obituary, please visit andovertownsman.com/ submitobit. Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any guestions.

#### Helen (Kosteniuk) Edwards

November 12, 1932 - April 22, 2021

ANDOVER, MA — With great sadness, we announce the passing of Helen Edwards, 88, on April 22, 2021.

Helen passed peacefully with the loving support of her family. A longtime resident of Andover, Helen was born in Saskatchewan, Canada to the late William and Angelia Kosteniuk. She began her career in nursing in Alaska and Ohio, and retired after 18 years as a recovery room unit coordinator at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Mass.

Her passions included reading, gardening, knitting and hunting for treasures at the flea market. She also enjoyed volunteering at the American who loved an adventure and a Textile History Museum in good hard day's work, which Lowell. Perhaps her greatest she would tell you builds charjoy was being "Nana" to her acter. amazing grandchildren whom she was extremely proud.

with his wife, Mary Beth in Newburyport; and four grandchildren, Sydney and Olivia Gillman, and Natalie and Ryan Edwards.



She was an amazing person

ARRANGEMENTS: Private family services will be held at a later Helen is survived by two time. Memorial contributions may children, Sandra Gillman be made to the American Cancer who resides with her hus- Society. Arrangements by Driscoll band James in Andover, and Funeral Home, Haverhill. For guest-David Edwards who resides book, visit www.driscollcares.com.



Honoring, Remembering & Celebrating

#### ■ POLICE LOG

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Theft: Ex-employee stole money, North Main Street, 10:40 a.m. Saturday, April 17 Vandalism: Car shot with paintball gun, Lowell Street, 12:04 a.m. **SUNDAY, APRIL 18** 

Arrest: Masiko C. Duarte, 43, of Waltham arrested for driving with a suspended license and unregistered car, High Plain Road, 4:02 a.m.

Arrest: Mark S. Lucas, 59, of Methuen arrested on a warrant, River Road, 4:05 p.m.

Arrest: Bonnie A. McGrath, 37, of Andover arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence and a marked lanes violation, Clark Road, 7:56 p.m.

**MONDAY, APRIL 19** 

**Unemployment fraud:** Chestnut

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20** 

**Request officer:** Recovery from

#### the river, River Road, 11:56 a.m. **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

Suspicious activity: Property damage by landscaper, Lowell Street, 5:26 p.m.

Trespassing: Woman asked to leave, Corporate Drive, 6:19 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Arrest: Danielle C. Doherty, 40, of Kennebunk, Maine arrested for driving with a revoked registration and an uninsured car, North Main Street, 2:12 p.m.

Motor vehicle stop: Car registration revoked and car towed, River Road, 7:38 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Arrest: Dangquang V. Nguyen, 47. of Methuen arrested on warrants, Tech Drive, 11:38 a.m.

Animal complaint: Officer helped with baby squirrels, Greenwood Drive, 3:01 p.m.

#### MEETING

■ Continued from Page 1

pension liability. under a large tent to allow Meeting in the Finance Comspace for social distancing. mittee Report that will be Voters are encouraged to mailed to each household wear masks, and masks will no later than May 26. Town be provided to attendees who Manager Andrew Flanagan do not bring their own. If will also be hosting a forum someone chooses not to wear at 7 p.m. on June 1. a mask, they will be seated in a separate section.

allowed to participate in Town article on the Town Meet-Meeting. The last day to reging warrant. In addition to ister is May 17. The Board of the Town Manager, all Town Registrars will hold extended senior managers will be availhours on May 17 from 8:30 able to present information a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Town and answer questions. Details Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, about this forum will be avail-Andover for the purpose of able on the Town's website in registering new voters. Resi- the coming weeks. dents with a license or an ing: www.RegisterToVoteMA. preserving the quality comforms must be postmarked defines Andover's town meetby the May 17 deadline.

Once at the meeting, there Simko. will be check-ins at every corner of the tent for voters. Town Meeting that Andover

and snacks to the meeting, but are asked to throw away any trash and clean up after themselves.

Voters will be getting more information about the Town Meeting will be held issues to be voted on at Town

This forum will be held virtually and will allow resi-Only registered voters are dents to learn about every

Town staff have worked I.D. issued by the Registry of diligently to plan a Town Motor Vehicles may also reg- Meeting that protects the ister to vote online by visit- safety of attendees while com. Mail-in registration munity deliberation that ings, said Town Clerk Austin

"We believe this will be a People may also bring drinks residents can be proud of," Simko said.

Upon request, sign language interpreters, material on tape and other auxiliary aids and services will be provided to ensure effective communications as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request assistance, please contact the Town's ADA Coordina-

tor at 978-623-8500. Questions about the Annual Town Meeting may be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 978-623-8230.

# 100 Years Ago - April 29, 1921

OBITUARIES/FOR THE RECORD

AT\_AT\_20210429\_1\_01,2,6

All Those Years Ago

distant.

very attractive appearance. pond at 6 o'clock. The batters are now up 75 Years Ago - May 2, 1946 for the new railroad sta-

A large meeting of several

The annual bird walk of Haverhill Street, and High and games, supplemented open tomorrow for the sale tory Society will take place the development would see competitive canoeing. of dairy products and gro- next Friday afternoon, May about 50 houses going up off A recognition party is

> ary road. 50 Years Ago - May 6, 1971

Street near the point where poration housing division Races on Saturday, May 1, line" instituted to help peothe tracks now cross that was held at the town house sponsored by the Andover ple help themselves.

thoroughfare. Work on the last Friday. It is understood Village Improvement Socistation which is to be built of that about 150 houses are ety. According to Alan brick will be started imme- contemplated and would French, Race Chairman, and diately and trains will be be called Frye Terrace. It all concerned, the event was receiving and delivering would take a large part of a great success, and will cerpassengers at a date not far the land bordered by Elm tainly be continued. Family Street, the Den Rock road, activities, such as picnicking store on Main Street will the Andover Natural His- Street. The initial stage of the first serious return to

ceries. The store, which 6th. The party will leave O. Haverhill street above the being planned at the Phillips was formerly occupied by P. Chase's store at half past Stevens property. It would Academy Log Cabin for the Thiras, has been thoroughly three proceeding to the fame be on Haverhill Street, on a youth of the Andover comrenovated and the interior sanctuary. A basket lunch proposed Bodwell Road and munity who are construcfinished in white presents a will be enjoyed at Pomp's on part of a proposed Bound-tively involved with two organizations—Decisions Unlimited, a drug education Well over 200 spectators and prevention group and tion which is to be built on town boards and represen- witnessed the First Annual Project Care, a telephone the north side of Haverhill tatives of the Plymouth Cor- Shawsheen River Canoe counseling service or "hot

### Return to school could jeopardize jobless benefits

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — A federal law health emergency. has allowed parents who For parents to claim the year.

full-time, in-person instruc- Department of Labor. tion, those who've been could soon lose them.

choose another eligibility schools to fully reopen. reason in the weekly PUA continue to be eligible."

couldn't work during the unemployment benefits as But with most Massa- tomary work functions at caregivers. chusetts school districts home," according to guid- The PUA

The state Executive Office tricts to resume full in-perment benefits. of Labor and Workforce son learning for grades K-8

the state has granted waiv- claims report. The federal CARES Act ers to only a handful of dis-

pandemic, because they had caregivers, their children collecting jobless ben-people could still claim the to stay home with children "must require such ongo- efits could be affected by unemployment benefits in remote learning, to col- ing and constant attention reopening. The state didn't

reopening next week for ance released by the U.S. vides jobless benefits to to school they can still get self-employed and gig econ- benefits," she said. The state Department of omy workers as well as othclaiming those benefits Elementary and Secondary ers who don't qualify for for PUA benefits if there is Education is requiring dis-traditional state unemploy-someone in their household

Development said in a beginning this month. Ele- 261,195 ongoing claims for allowing a child to return statement that under rules mentary schools reopened pandemic unemployment to school. for the federal unemploy- last week. Middle schoolers assistance benefits in Masment program individuals are returning to classrooms sachusetts in the week going to school puts you or whose children can return by next Wednesday. No date that ended April 3, a drop someone in your immediate to school "would have to has been set yet for high of more than 13,000 from family at risk that's another the prior week, according reason to collect," Halas A majority of districts to the U.S. Department said. "The important thing benefits certification to have already reopened and of Labor's weekly jobless for people to know is if they

Monica Halas, lead staff giver" of a child who is at time, in-class instruction. nuances to the pandemic and websites.

home due to a forced school Students have also been unemployment assistance closure that directly results given the option to remain rules that would allow from the COVID-19 public in remote learning for the people at risk of losing the remainder of the school benefits to continue receiving them. She said even with It's not clear how many schools reopening, some

"If they have a child who lect pandemic unemploy- that it is not possible for say how many people have can't wear a mask, or if ment assistance benefits. you to perform your cus- claimed PUA benefits as their immune system is compromised, or for some The PUA program pro- other reason they can't go

Caregivers also qualify who could be put at risk for There were at least exposure to COVID-19 by

"If having your child have options.'

Christian M. Wade covers provided PUA benefits to tricts, including Gloucester, attorney with Greater the Massachusetts Statean individual who are con-Beverly and Methuen, Boston Legal Services, house for North of Boston sidered a "primary care- to delay a return to full- said there are a lot of Media Group's newspapers

### Cyber threats rise amid chaos of virus pandemic

By Christian M. Wade Statehouse Reporter

have been busy at work try-pandemic. ing to exploit weaknesses information.

of Investigation's Inter- people out of their money. net Crime Complaint complaints of suspected ing from a recent cyber than 300,000 complaints network. from 2019. Reported losses exceeded \$4.2 billion.

puter "phishing" scams, past year. non-payment/non-delivery extortion, the agency said. past year, Helms said.

The FBI reported more ping \$118 million.

"The bad guys have fig- classes," she said. ured out how to make

businesses and local gov- home or in long-term care digital economy, ensuring ernments on cyber security. facilities, she said.

Helms said businesses, governments, schools and health care facilities, tims of cyber crimes 60 and access to the internet.' businesses using the inter- have become an increas- older were more affected Geoff Beckwith, executive net to stay connected dur- ingly popular targets for than other age groups last director of the Massachu ing the pandemic, hackers cyber criminals amid the year. The agency reported setts Municipal Associa-

steal money and personal email phishing scams, to lion last year. old-fashioned con games The Federal Bureau using the internet to trick reported by the FBI only money.

Locally, Lawrence, said.

Methuen and Haverhill city

"Not only have they been against hackers.

than 12,000 victims of cyber targeted for ransomware

this into a business," said attacks have preyed on threats. Stephanie Helm, director people's sense of loneliness of the MassCyberCenter throughout the pandemic, cyber division will focus Media Group's newspapers at the Mass Tech Collab- particularly the elderly on "empowering Massa- and websites. Email him at orative, which advises who have been isolated at chusetts consumers in the cwade@cnhinews.com

The attacks range from older than 60, and losses are under constant threat in computer systems to malware, ransomware and totaling more than \$20 mil- from cyber criminals seek-

scratched the surface of the

She said the cyber cen-School districts have also lessen the risks, respond attacks." scams and internet-based come under attack in the to attacks and harden their

> office to protect consum- expense." Many other hacking ers from the surge of cyber

that companies are pro-The FBI data for Mas- tecting personal data, and BOSTON — With local local governments and sachusetts shows that vic- promoting equal and open

> more than 2.300 victims tion, said cities and towns ing to access their records Helms said what is or shake them down for

"This isn't someone sit-The state Registry of actual numbers of cyber ting in their basement Center logged 791,790 Motor Vehicles is still reel-crimes being committed. behind a computer," he "A lot of times people said. "We're talking about internet crimes last year attack that shut down its handle the incidents and huge operations that are — an increase of more vehicle emissions system don't report it to the FBI or constantly out there trying to the commonwealth," she to find weaknesses in computer systems."

He said cities and Topping the list of cyber halls have reported coming ter has been working with towns have been "workcrimes last year were com- under cyber attacks in the local governments to help ing diligently to defend them understand how to themselves against cyber

"Unfortunately, every infrastructure to protect once in a while one manages just to be successful," Attorney General Maura Beckwith said. "Commucrimes in Massachusetts but sometimes it was denial Healey recently created nities are usually able to last year, with losses top- of service attacks that have a new Data Privacy and restore their systems, but shut down remote teaching Security Division under her it usually comes at a big

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts State-Healey said the new house for North of Boston

#### ■ REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

#### **ANDOVER**

41-43 Elm St.: Diverse Real Estate LLC to FCC Lighthouse Inc, \$1.875.000

100 Elm St.: CAM T and Marybeth Mcinnis to John and Carrie L. Wihbey, \$955,000 2 Francis Dr. Unit 202:

Stanley Wendy L Est and Jeffrey B. Stanley to Roger P. Durkin, \$375,000 1 Ivana Dr. Unit 1: John J. and Jennifer E. Mcdonough to Lyle

Reuben-Getto and Michelle Piselli-Getto, \$974,900 **15 Trevino Cir.:** Larry C. and

> HAVERHILL 8 Arthur St.: Yancaro Flip-

> > \$395,000 64-66 Broadway: AL Real Estate LLC to Mark W. Shippie, \$535,000

to Ana Pimentel and Estharlyn J. Plasencia, \$275,000 245 Farrwood Dr. Unit 245:

Kimberly Centeno-Medina to Christopher C. Hewins, \$286,500 51 Ferry Rd. Unit 51: David Smith to Joel M. Sachar, \$339,000

116 Fountain St.: Blanche M. and

Michael Dicristofaro to Ariani Frias and Patria Ortega, \$525,000 84 Haseltine St.: H S&Jane S

Klotzle RET and H Stuart Klotzle to Wanda Carmona, \$420,000 7 Hillside St.: Hugo L. Aguirre to 42 Lafayette Square LLC, \$50,000

44 Howard St.: Brothers Inv Prop LLC to Leonard and Jonica Vladasi, \$479,900

42-48 Lafayette Sq.: Maroun FT and Ayad Maroun to 42 Lafayette Square LLC, \$200,000 142 Lowell Ave: Sary Nhet and

Karen C. Norris to Alexsandro D. Rebelo and Maycon Candido-Rebelo, \$515,000 Research Dr.: PIP 1 Haverhill

LLC to PIP 1 Research Dr Owner, \$2,200,000

Jill Dehetre to Chaz A. and Matthew A. Zapanas, \$650,000

20 Sawyer St.: Janet F. Guilbert to Hector Rodriguez, \$365,000 32 Silver St. Unit 1: Marie-

Norah Kajara, \$430,000 34 Silver St. Unit 2: Marie-Anne T. and Sean P. Oleary to Deborah and Robert Santoro,

Anne T. and Sean P. Oleary to

184 Summer St.: Laurie Granholm to Robsa M. Taylor, \$315,000 26 Temple St. Unit 26: James

G. Ryan to Patricia T. Meara, \$335,000 45 Towne Hill Rd.: Lee and Rhonda Maserian to Courtney Pendray and Gabriel Stein,

\$540,000 13 View St.: 13 View Street T and Daniel J. Dastoli to Sandra H. Hocling and Jeffrey M. Hicking, \$425.000

128 Washington St.: L&B RT and J Bradford Brooks to Celest

Investments LLC, \$1,375,000 **57 Willie St.:** Mary E. Clough to



**5th Year Remembrance** In Loving Memory Of Susan Wolf Ratyna

March 3, 1951 - May 2, 2016

Always so true, unselfish and kind. Few in this world her equal you'll find. A beautiful life that came to an end, she died as she lived, everyone's friend.

missed by her husband Ed, and all her family and friends

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#### Rosina D. Renfro to Yenibahar FT and Viktor Yenibahar, \$2,700,000

\$333,000

200 Chickering Rd. Unit 205b: Jayne L. Brandt and Ellen M. Somers to Kristin R. Abrams,

**NORTH ANDOVER** 

1 Harvest Dr. Unit 206: Michael J. Terfry to Michelle Christo, \$375,000

**431 Rea St.:** RDM Rea Street LLC to Ryan S. and Demetra Wittman. \$1.099.000 81 Salie Way: Elight Meadow

Leah Piepgras, \$1,499,999 6 Village Green Dr. Unit B: Vivian Croteau to Abeer Hakeem, \$215,000

RT and Susan C. Elias to Colin and

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# Sports DIVING IN

# Pitts uses gymnastics background to help her star as diver for Andover High

By David Willis Staff Writer

For Andover High senior Emme Pitts, a perfectlyexecuted dive is close to an out-of-body experience.

"Diving is so much fun for me because, just for a few seconds, you are completely defying gravity," said Pitts. "There is nothing better than feeling like you're flying perfectly through the air and going into the water with a perfect entry. The adrenaline rush that you get from diving and gymnastics is addicting, even if you're putting yourself in danger.'

As a freshman, Pitts was inspired to draw on her skill and bravery from a lifetime as gymnast to try diving for the perennial powerhouse Andover High.

Earlier this month, senior Pitts wrapped up her fourth season as a top diver for the Golden Warriors, who competed in the "Fall 2" season after the regular fall was postponed.

"Emma is an amazing leader," said Andover swim coach Patty Barrett. "She broke the 200 (score) mark for the first time this season."

Pitts scored a career-best 216 at a meet during the season, and finished sixth at the virtual Merrimack Valley Conference Meet.

"This 'Fall 2' season was definitely different from what I originally had in mind," Pitts said. "But I was still so glad we could have a season. I love my teammates, and I love the energy that the team had, so I was really excited to have the chance to lead our team to another successful season, even though it was shorter than usual."

#### **GYMNASTICS AND DIVING**

It was gymnastics that led is to never land on your Pitts to give diving a shot.

"I've been a gymnast for as long as I can remember," said Pitts, who was a gymnastics captain for Andover High. "In the summer



Andover's Emme Pitts prepares for a dive. The senior tri-captain delivered an outstanding season in the pool and as a leader.

#### **STAR STUDENT**

Andover diver/gymnast Emme Pitts is a star in the classroom. A straight-A student, she has received just one B-plus in her high school career. She has a weighted GPA of 4.47 and has taken five Advanced Placement classes.

Pitts is headed to George Washington University (D.C), and plans to study international affairs. Last summer, she interned with state representative Tram Nguyen of Andover.

Pitts has also worked at a preschool gymnastics instructor at Wilkey's Gymnastics and for a courier business.

year, one of my neighbors who was also a gymnast and a diver convinced me that gymnasts make naturally good divers and that I should try out for the team. I signed up on a whim after debating it for a few weeks. I can't even imagine what my life would be like now if I had chosen not to try out.'

Her gymnastics background helped and hindered her in ways.

"The No. 1 thing that you are taught as a gymnast head," Pitts said. "This safety precaution was so ingrained in me that the idea of landing on my head (in diving), even in water, seemed an impossibility. I leading up to my freshman still distinctly remember

the first time I was asked to do a back line-up (fall backwards off of the board and land on my head) and thinking 'are these people crazy?'

"Additionally, though I was still flipping and twisting in diving, I had to completely relearn how to control my body in the air. In gymnastics, you would never get as much height as you would off of the board, so you are used to flipping way faster to make it around than you need to when diving. It took me quite a few faceplants to figure that one out."

Longtime Andover diving coach Becky Pierce said Pitts impressed from the start.

"Since Emme stepped foot on the diving board her freshman year, she has been focused on being the best she can be," said Pierce. "She works hard each and every day, while also being a great support to her teammates.

#### **CAPTAIN IN A PANDEMIC**

Pitts, along with fellow tri-captains Emily Chen and Polina Malinovskaya, faced a unique challenge leading the Golden Warriors during the unprecedented Fall 2 season.

"There were a lot of unique challenges of the Fall 2 season," she said. "The team has millions of traditions that we couldn't do because of COVID. I just wanted to give the new swimmers and divers the same amazing experience that I had my freshman year.

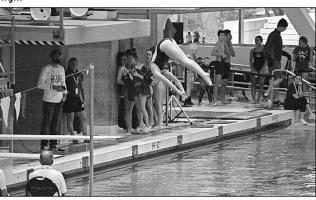
"Since all of our meets were virtual, there was a massive change in how meet days had to be conducted. I'm not a swimmer, but I would think that without someone next to you



winter. Here, she poses with gymnastics teammates Colleen Carzo (left) and Amanda Morin (right).



Andover's Emme Pitts hits the water during a dive for Andover



Andover's Emme Pitts flies through the air mid-dive while competing for the Golden Warriors.

racing you, you might not go as fast. Additionally, it same high energy environment that we are normally able to create at meets."

But Pitts remained positive, and ended up embracing the season.

"I think that one memorable moments came from the MVC meet," she said. "I was backup timing, and standing there with Patty (Barrett) and (diving

coach) Kelly (Simard), I was amazed by how much time was difficult to replicate the every single girl was able to drop from the times.

> "I felt like seeing these great improvements was really a testament to how much work everyone put into this season, despite the fact that it was not necessarily what we had originally anticipated. Also, though not everyone liked them, I grew to love the morning practices!"

# Seniors rule the day for Andover in football finale

By Dave Dyer Staff Writer

ANDOVER — The sophomores scored almost all of the points, but it was the seniors who ruled the day

Thursday Andover..... 38 afternoon **Chelmsford.....0** for Andover

High football team. In what was likely the last game of their careers, the seniors put on quite a show as the Golden Warriors crushed Chelmsford 38-0 to complete a successful 5-2

"It really was a great season, winning five of the last six games and playing so well the last six games," said Andover coach E.J. Perry. "I couldn't be prouder of these seniors. They worked hard and developed a great reputation at school for the kind of kids they are.'

Perry certainly had a lot to be proud last Thursday, especially regarding his defense, with senior linebackers Connor Sheehan and Zach Dutton highlighting a performance. The for only 3 yards total and couldn't sustain a strong set up a 31-yard field goal

game (he's weighing UMass back and wasn't even sure Amherst and Purdue), was he could play this year. all over the field, making 14 recovering a fumble.

Dutton, meanwhile, had a was a bonus for me." in the second quarter that was bittersweet.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo kick), 6:52

visiting Lions could rush Andover senior Connor Sheehan, making a tackle against North Andover last week, was superb on defense Thursday.

in his last-ever football last year with a broken out with a bang."

tackles that included three awesome and something to backfield in the second half 166 yards on 12 carries and quarterback sacks and remember for a long time," and they both carried the scored three touchdowns, a 1-yard run on Andover's Manas Joshi 1-0 said Dutton. "This season ball twice.

65-yard interception return Sheehan's performance Perry said: "He's a very Brown.

For their efforts, Perry gave Sheehan and Sutton the Lincoln Beal show. The line for a 67-yard scoring RUSHING: Andover (33-231) - Lincoln Beal "It (the interception) was some time in the offensive sophomore back rushed for run.

good player and I couldn't Beal showed that he Beal added a 1-yard plunge

passing attack long enough by Andrew Wetterwald on is my last game," said year, playing after his dad start. On Andover's first to put points on the board. the last play before inter- Sheehan. "But it was fun died and playing so well. possession, he opened the Sheehan, likely playing mission. Dutton missed to go out like this. We went He's one of the best line- game with a 17-yard run backers around."

one on a 45-yard pass from next possession, he con- PASSING: Andover - Brown 2-5-0, 55; Referring to Sheehan, sophomore classmate Scott nected with Beal on the RECEIVING: Andover - Beal 1-45, Tomas Lou-

"It's really sad that this have done what he did this meant business from the  $\frac{100.19}{10:19}$ and, two plays later, burst 7:24 Offensively, it was largely through the middle of the

45-yarder on a flea flicker.





Seniors Ben Entner, left, and Connor Sheehan had big games for the Golden Warriors.

to make it 28-0 before Wetterwald, who is also a sophomore, made it 31-0 at

Among those providing stalwart blocking for Beal and Brown were senior linemen Charlie Baillargeon, bruising Brown recruit AJ Heidtke, Parker Rankin and Ben Entner. For Entner, it was just his second game since recovering from mononucleosis.

Another senior, Andrew Layman, scored Andover's final touchdown in the third quarter on a 6-yard run.

Andover 38, Chelmsford 0

Chelmsford (2-5):

First Quarter Lincoln Beal 67 run (Andrew Wetterwald

Scott Brown 1 run (Wetterwald kick), 11:55

Beal 45 pass from Brown (Wetterwald kick),

Third Quarter

Andrew Layman 6 run (Wetterwald kick),

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

12-166, Scott Brown 10-51, Tomas Loureiro After Brown scored on 2-8, Zach Dutton 2-0, Andrew Salowe 2-(-8),

reiro 1-10, Mike Lupoli 1-18

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# Crafts in the Park postponed until Oct. 2

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Andover's popular Mother's Day weekend event has

Committee has announced pandemic, coupled with the coming months will make it go to www.christchurchan-

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that their signature event is event location in The Park more likely that we can com-dover.org and click on postponed from Saturday, and the large size of the ply with any mandated state the link for the geranium May 8 until Saturday, Oct. 2. event, made it impossible to and local requirements in sale. Colors available are

The Crafts in the Park nizers said the COVID-19 distribution of vaccine in the June, 2021. All applicants received with payment by

Coordinator.

The committee is offering 221 Chandler Road. a slice of the event — geraare available for sale.

"Our beautiful geraniums, are now available for sale," Van Welden-Herman said.

For ordering information Valley.

will be juried," said Karen Friday, May 7. Pick up is Van Welden-Herman, Tuesday-Thursday, May Crafts in the Park, Event 11-13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Konjoian's Greenhouses,

Crafts in the Park updates niums, which are a top- are available on craftsseller at Crafts in the Park, inthepark.com, and on Facebook.

All proceeds will support annually provided by Kon- the mission of Christ Church joian's Greenhouses and Andover and their outreach Landscaping in Andover, to nonprofit service and educational organizations working in the Merrimack



Courtesy photo

Crafts in the Park has been postponed until October.

#### ■ ANDOVER NEWS IN BRIEF

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illnesses, how they differ

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They will collect hula hoops, nesses and those who have jump ropes, sand tables/boxes, them. Julie Morgenlender, water tables, splash pads, editor of the recently pub- water sprinklers, lawn games, lished "The Things We Don't sports equipment, slip'n slides, Say: An Anthology of Chronic sidewalk chalk, bathing suits, Illness Truths," and someone towels, sunblock, garden tool who has lived with chronic sets, walkie talkies and other illness herself, will speak fun summer items. No water

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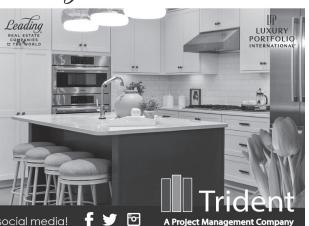
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ANDOVER ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF HEARING public hearing will be held at virtually at www.andovertv.org on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Cheri Nolan, 148

create a Family Dwelling Unit.

Premises affected are located at 148 Argilla Rd., Andover, MA in an SRB District and are shown on Assessor Map 111 as Lot 15. To view the application contact zoning@andoverma.gov, 978-623-8627 or 36

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS

AT - 4/22, 4/29/21

virtually at www.andovertv.org on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of 300 Minuteman Park LLC, 1 Market Plaza, Suite 4125, San Francisco, CA for variances from Art. VIII, §§5.1.5, 5.1.9 to permit a reduction in the number of

parking spaces.
Premises affected are located at 300 Minuteman Rd., Andover, MA in an ID2 District and are shown on Assessor Map 165 as Lot 4. To view

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS

AT - 4/22,4/29/21

ANDOVER ZONING BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE OF HEARING public hearing will be held

AT - 4/22, 4/29/21

ANDOVER ZONING BOARD

#### public hearing will be held at

virtually at www.andovertv.org on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of PSJ Realty, LLC, 29 Bannister Rd, Andover, MA for special permits under Art. VIII, §§3.3.3 &/or 3.3.5, variances from Art. VIII, §§ 3.3.4 &/or 4.1 (Table 2) to subdivide a non-conforming lot into 2 non-conforming lots.

ver, MA in an SRA District and are shown on Assessor Map 3 8 as Lot 131. To view the application contact 978-623-8627, zoning@andoverma. gov, or 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA. ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR

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**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

FORMAL ADJUDICATION The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court sex Probate and Family Court 36 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970 (978)744-1020 Estate of: Angelika Weis-Amon

Amon
Date of Death: 10/29/2020

Representative has been filed by

Johannes Weis of Andover, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the

Johannes Weis of Andover, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to

serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a

right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/10/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of

TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

supervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, in cluding the distribution of assets and

rst Justice of this Court

Pamela A Casey O'Brien

Register of Probate

The Eagle-Tribune, Gloucester Daily Times,

Carriage Towne News: 12pm Friday

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# classified marketplace

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# gare

Competitive wages. Job training available.

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REQUIREMENTS

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Must be able to stand for extended periods

of time Reliable mode of transportation -- Pre-employment drug screening

**JOB WANTED** 

**OPENING!** IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A POSITION AS A CARE GIVER PLEASE CHECK OUT THE **ADULT** 

<u>IMMEDIATE</u>

#### at virtually at www.andovertv.org

Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of K. Girrell & S. Blumenstock Girrell, 1 Meadow-brook Dr., Andover, MA as a Party Aggrieved for review of a decision made by the Inspector of Buildings, %/or for variances from Art. VIII, §3.1 & 3.2 &/or for a special permit under Art. VIII, §10.1 to allow the continued use of a room as an Air BNB unit 1 Meadowbrook Dr., Andover, MA in

an SRC District and are shown on Assessor Map 61 as Lot 50. To view

Premises affected are located at 1-3 Elm Ct & 32-34 Elm St., Ando-

**BOARD OF APPEALS** AT - 4/22, 4/29/21

#### First Run COUCH, LOVESEAT AND FUTON Couch and loveseat is green, good condition. Full-size futon, good condition. \$425 for all 3 pieces or best offer. Call 781-572-2735. Guilmette City Service **MISC ITEMS WANTED**

LONDONDERRY, NH - 48 Shasta Drive. Yard sale Sat. May 1, 9 am to 3 pm. Furniture, baby items, NEW, books, area rug, small chain saw, household items, decor, clothes, jewelry & more

SALEM, 19 Bay View Circle, Sat. 5/1 & Sun. 5/2., 8-3pm

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ATTENTION!

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Also beware when responding to classified ads that ask you to send shipping cost.

Possible scam!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANDOVER ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF HEARING public hearing will be held at

virtually at www.andovertv.org on

Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

on the petition of Alvssa & Charles

Kelly, 6 Furnari Farm Ln, Andover

MA for a special permit under Art.
VIII, § 3.1.3.F.4 to create a Family
Dwelling Unit.
Premises affected are located at

6 Furnari Farm Ln, Andover, MA in

an SRC District and are shown on

Assessor Map 205 as Lot 33C. To

view the application contact 978-

623-8627, zoning@andoverma.gov, or 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA. ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR

TOWN OF ANDOVER

PLANNING BOARD Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on May 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., by the Planning Board through remote participation. The mosting can be viewed on

tion. The meeting can be viewed on Andover TV, Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45. The public

hearing is in regard to the amend-ments to the Stormwater Manage-

ment & Erosion Control Regulations.
A copy of the amendments to

the regulations may be requested through the Planning Department

planning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8650 Monday through Friday

during normal business hours.

THE ANDOVER PLANNING

BOARD Zachary Bergeron,

AT - 4/22, 4/29/21

**BOARD OF APPEALS** 

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Also Known As: Angelika B Weis-To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal

The Petitioner requests that:

the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-

CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an un-

xpenses of administration.

WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, Date: March 30, 2021

AT - 4/29/21

AT\_AT\_20210429\_C

ville glass top end tables \$50 each. Matching coffee table \$75. Contemp. beige & brown sofa \$40. Free shelfs. No. Reading 978-807-9080

#### more, Cash/checks.

Argilla Rd, Andover, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, § 3.1.3.F.4 to

Bartlet St., Andover, MA.

ANDOVER ZONING BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING A public hearing will be held at

Premises affected are located at

Assessor Map 61 as £01 50. To view the application contact zoning@andoverma.gov, 978-623-8627 or 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 4/22, 4/29/21

#### 10 Thursday, April 29, 2021 THE TOWNSMAN

# Planting the seed of sustainability

LOCAL

North Andover students offset school printing by planting trees



Pranali Ashara, left, and Elizabeth Yumiguani, organizers of the North Andover High School's Interact Club, make sure everyone on their list gets a tree on Saturday morning.

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

NORTH ANDOVER — High school students spent Saturday selling and planting trees to offset their school's printer use, in honor of Earth Day.

"If we start making a difference by making our town more sustainable it will hopefully move more people to think about how they can make their lives more sustainable," said Elizabeth Yumiguani, a senior who co-lead the Interact Club's tree planting efforts.

"We are basically planting twigs, but you will see them grow older," Yumiguani said. 'And as you watch time pass by, you will see things getting better."

The club sold 342 trees said Pranali Ashara, a senior who co-lead the project. Their original goal was 245 saplings which would replace about 75% of the school's paper usage — 2.5 million sheets. Instead they offset more than 100% of the school's usage.

"I would hope that this event is merely the beginning of influencing the people around us to try to make strides in making the planet a greener place," Ashara, who plans to study environmental science in college, said. "We both want to live in a place with greener and fresher air. It all begins with our hands."

Of the 342 saplings sold, 220 went to North Andover residents' homes and the remaining 122 were donated and planted at public areas like Harold Parker state forest and the North Andover schools, Ashara said. The trees chosen - eastern redbuds, red maples and river birch — are all native to North America.



State Rep. Tram Nguyen, left, snaps a selfie with state Rep. Christina Minicucci, state Senator Bruce Tarr along with members of North Andover High School's Interact Club as they pass out trees on Saturday morning.



Jennifer Roberts, left, picks up trees from members of the North Andover High School's Interact Club from left to right, Ashley Layne, Evelyn Wang, Hannah Connolly, and Emma Ballerini on Saturday morning.

There were 40 volunteers, including students and other residents, like state Rep. Christina Minicucci, D-North Andover, who planted the trees in public spaces.

"It was a great idea because young people are so passionate about the environment and civic engagement. This was an innovative way to do both," Minicucci said. "It helps us recognize we do use a lot of paper. And paper comes from trees, so this is an intentional way to pay it forward.'

"It's good to see civic

engagement and to see kids excited about making a difference," Minicucci said.

This was one of many events going on in the area Saturday in observance of Earth Day earlier in the week. Also in North Andover the Boy Scouts were doing a trash cleanup. In Andover groups of people organized for the town's annual Earth Day trail and neighborhood clean-up.

"It's important because our Earth has given so much to us it's important to give back to it," Ashara said.





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