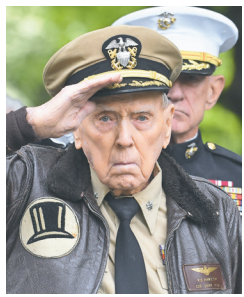


ANDOVER VETERANS HELP MARK MEMORIAL DAY. PAGE 7



TUESDAY VOTE DETERMINES FUTURE OF WEST ELEMENTARY. PAGE 2



TENNIS STAR ZHOU DOMINATING FOR UNBEATEN WARRIORS.

PAGE 9

OUR 131<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 32

JUNE 10, 2021

\$1.00

## Most measures approved at Andover Town Meeting

Voters overwhelmingly voted to approve the West Elementary project at Andover Town Meeting on Saturday.



MADELINE HUGHES/ Staff photo

BY MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Though it was a long day, Town Meeting went smoothly with the budget and most warrant articles passing by overwhelming margins.

The morning began with multiple people taking aim at Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. First, Mike Meyers, a 62-year

resident of Andover, attempted to have residents vote “no confidence” in Flanagan.

“I’m just worried, I have doubt in any of the recommendations coming from the town manager, any issues,” Meyers said.

The effort was quickly shot down by Town Moderator Sheila Doherty, who said voters do not have purview over individual employees. That vote would have

to be taken by the Select Board, because of Andover’s form of government, she said.

Doherty opened the meeting warning that personal “character assassinations” would not be allowed. She was referring to an effort organized over social media taking a critical aim at town staff, specifically in the town manager’s office.

See MEETING, Page 2

## Andover graduates 445



CARL RUSSO/staff photos

Andover Class Essayist Caroline Chen addresses the graduating class. Andover High School held its 161st commencement Monday afternoon.

## ‘Faced it with resilience’

By Madeline Hughes mhughes@andovertownsman.com

ANDOVER — Graduates, their families, friends and teachers took refuge from the hot sun under the large

tent on the field next to the middle school for graduation Monday afternoon.

In the last four years the 445 members of the Class of 2021 have witnessed the Merrimack Valley gas

explosions, learned during a once-in-a-century global pandemic, and, for their last lesson, the Golden Warriors overcame 92 degree heat. “The past four years have been anything other than

normal, yet as a class we have faced it with resilience,” said Caroline Chen, who read the class essay. “COVID put a pause on traditions, but certainly didn’t stop us.”

See ANDOVER, Page 2

## Fahey sues town

### Former Youth Services director fired last month

BY MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

ANDOVER — Former Youth Services Director Bill Fahey is suing Andover and Town Manager Andrew Flanagan after being fired last month.

According to a lawsuit filed Thursday in Essex County Superior Court by attorney Daniel Murphy of Murphy Law Group, Fahey alleges Flanagan had a personal vendetta against him and that the tension between them resulted in his unwarranted termination May 10 after an investigation and its ensuing report.

“Flanagan is using the town commissioned report as a sword against Fahey by insinuating that it supports the original accusations of Fahey engaging in improper sexual conduct with a former AYS (Andover Youth Services) employee and as a shield by refusing to release the report,” Murphy wrote in the lawsuit.

To date, Flanagan has maintained Fahey See FAHEY, Page 6

## Post-vax infections top 4,300 in Mass.

### Vaccinations seen as 95% effective

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — While millions of people in Massachusetts have been vaccinated against COVID-19, public health officials are still reporting thousands of “breakthrough” cases, where individuals become infected even after they’ve been vaccinated.

There have been more than 4,300 breakthrough cases reported in the state as of May 31, according to the state Department of Public Health.

The agency notes that most of the cases were not severe and account for only a fraction of more than 3.2 million people who’ve been fully vaccinated.

Public health officials say while the COVID-19 vaccines are about 95% effective, See CASES, Page 2

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## Phillips Academy graduates 321

BY MADELINE HUGHES mhughes@andovertownsman.com

The class of 2021 has always been special, class co-president Meagan Chi said Sunday as the 243rd class graduated from Phillips Academy Andover.

She recalled their first all-school meeting when they were called on.

“A weak freshman cheer was expected in response,” she said. “But no, not us. The class of 2021 roared.”

Their “collective enthusiasm and spirit” was the cornerstone of their experience, she said.

As the 321 graduates move ahead with their lives, co-president Salvadore Gomez-Colon reminded them to make choices

“During my time at Andover I’ve discovered there’s nothing no more fulfilling than being proud of how we spend our time.”

Class co-president Salvadore Gomez-Colon

that help not only themselves, but others in both their micro and macro interactions.

“During my time at Andover I’ve discovered there’s nothing no more fulfilling than being See PHILLIPS, Page 6

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# Tuesday vote determines future of West Elementary, pension obligation bond

BY MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

Voters will get a chance to either solidify or change their votes from Town Meeting to build the new West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool, as well as decide if the town should borrow money to pay off town's unfunded

pension liability. Residents overwhelmingly approved both on Saturday, reaching more than the two-thirds necessary in-person vote. Now voters must reaffirm their votes at the ballot box with more than 50% approval for both projects to move forward. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.

## Election solidifies Town Meeting votes

to 8 p.m. on Tuesday for the special election. The West Elementary project will cost Andover taxpayers \$152 million if approved. The state has promised \$38 million for the project that will combine the preschool and elementary school into one, if approved. The vote to approve paying off the unfunded pension liability will likely cost about \$175 million according to current projections, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said

at Town Meeting. The final amount the town will borrow will be confirmed and voted on by the Select Board, he said. The town is taking advantage of extremely low interest rates to finance funding the expected \$346 million gap in the town's pension fund, which needs to be completely funded by 2040, Flanagan said.

Borrowing at the low interest rate allows the town to manage payments better, because otherwise escalating payments to fund the town's pension system would cause impacts to other town services, he said. Residents can search for their voting precinct by visiting: [sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema](http://sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema).

## MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Outside the large tent set up for the event, people handed out flyers questioning Flanagan's salary and some wore T-shirts and carried signs in support of former Youth Services Director Bill Fahey.

Fahey was fired on May 10 after a 12-week suspension where he was investigated for "misconduct," by a private investigator hired by the town, Flanagan said. The town began the investigation following a referral from the Essex County District Attorney's office.

Fahey filed a lawsuit this past Thursday for wrongful termination, with documents revealing he was investigated for sexual misconduct.

After the failed "no confidence" call, Gabe Levine, a 22-year resident of Andover, proposed to defund the town manager's office — stripping \$608,990 from the budget. Multiple people spoke in agreement, saying the resources going to Flanagan's office are excessive.

However, town officials warned decreasing the budget by that amount would not only impact the town manager.

Greg Sebaskey, a 30-year resident of Andover, voiced the lone public disagreement to the amendment.

"To bring a point of retribution to the town manager at Town Meeting is inappropriate," he said.

When Doherty called the question after the discussion, it was shot down by a large majority.

### Pension fund and West Elementary

After more than an hour of presentations and debate, the town voted to allow the Select Board to borrow money to pay for a majority of the town's unfunded pension liability. Flanagan said that will be about \$175 million, according to current projections.

Voters also overwhelmingly voted to approve the West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool project to build a new school.

Voters will have to solidify both votes to approve borrowing money for town projects by more than 50% of votes cast at the ballot box at a special Town Meeting on June 15.

### Other articles

Lindsay Concemi, of Andover, asked voters to approve about \$75,000 to clean up the banks of the Merrimack River. While town officials recommended not to fund the proposal because of current work being done by the town, voters decided to approve funding the project.

A citizen petition by Jose Albuquerque to have voters potentially change the government structure was rejected by voters. He also withdrew his petition to implement term limits.

Albuquerque's petition to change the bylaws to include a noise ordinance also failed.

The zoning amendments to allow permanent outdoor dining passed.

"I'm thankful the community supported all of the articles submitted by the town," Flanagan said at the end of an eight-hour day.



From left, Andover High School graduates Olivia Broderick and Colleen Shay applaud during the ceremony. Both are members of the senior class Board of Directors and Graduation Committee. Class Essayist Caroline Chen is seen in the background.

## ANDOVER

Continued from Page 1

The Class of 2021 chose to celebrate school nurses Jo-Anne Gibson and Heidi Katz with the Distinguished Citizens award. The health care workers took on additional duties such as contract tracing, advising people on quarantine guidelines and helping navigate the unknown, said student Olivia Broderick.

For their last acts as students, the Class of 2021 made their senior gift a monetary donation for the sustainable garden, said graduate Zephr Flanagan.

During their time at Andover High, various members of the class of 2021 engineered bacteria to break down plastic in the ocean, created a clinic in India to screen children for cardiac deficiencies, made masks using 3D printers for essential workers during the pandemic, and much more, Principal Caitlin Brown said.

"In your time at Andover High School, you have made Andover and the world a better place," Brown said.

There's no doubt they will continue to make a difference, Interim Superintendent Claudia Bach said.

She said there are a lot of unknowns as they follow their different paths,



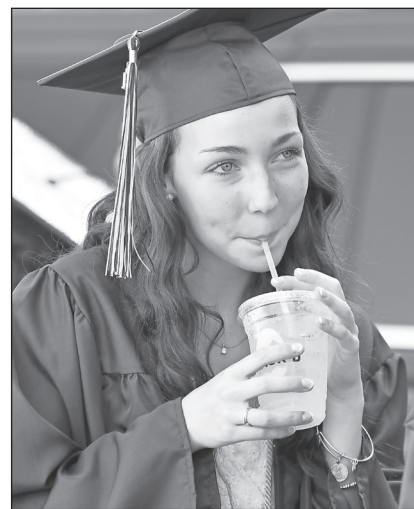
CARL RUSSO/staff photos

Andover High School graduate Jacob Birnbach accepts his diploma from his father, David, a former School Committee member. It's an Andover tradition for past and present School Committee members to present their children with their diplomas.

but she reminded them that they can accomplish anything.

Students might have heard they will have "learning gaps" because of the pandemic, but they shouldn't fret, she said.

"You'll have lots of company across the country, lots of people are in the same boat," Bach said. "And you are graduating from an extraordinarily strong high school and have been fortunate to have the very best teachers. You'll be able to work with anyone out there, you are ready to go."



Andover High School graduate Sarah Kelly stays cool with a cup of ice cold lemonade. Crack'd Kitchen & Coffee gourmet eatery in Andover provided hundreds of lemonade drinks for the graduates and staff before the ceremony. Andover held its 161st Commencement Monday afternoon.

## CASES

Continued from Page 1

some people will inevitably get sick after getting their shots.

"The vaccines appear to have a high level of protection, but there still a small proportion of people that are going to break through with symptomatic infections," said Dr. David Hamer, an infectious disease expert and professor at Boston University's School of Public Health and School of Medicine. "This appears to happen in only a fraction of the people who have been fully vaccinated."

He said the latest data suggests many of the breakthrough cases are asymptomatic, and the vaccinated individuals who get sick have relatively low viral loads.

Hamer said more research is needed to determine exactly why the vaccine doesn't work on some individuals and what risk

factors might be involved.

One group that should be concerned about breakthrough cases are people with compromised immune systems, such as patients undergoing cancer treatments.

"There is a growing body of evidence that these people do not respond that well to the vaccine," he said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported more than 10,200 breakthrough cases nationwide as of the end of April. But in May the federal agency shifted its focus to investigating only severe breakthrough cases. Of those reported to date, it has identified about 2,400 cases, including 439 deaths.

"There will be a small percentage of fully vaccinated people who still get sick, are hospitalized, or die from COVID-19," the CDC said in a recent advisory.

Many of the individuals who died after being vaccinated were already hospitalized and or had pre-existing conditions that contributed to their death, the CDC said.

The federal agency, which is tracking how well the COVID-19 vaccines work, points out that because many breakthrough cases involve asymptomatic individuals, the number of actual cases may be a lot higher than reported.

Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School for Public Health and former state public health commissioner, said despite public concerns about breakthrough cases the vaccines have proven to be the best defense against COVID-19 infections and allowing the nation to return to normal.

"The end of this public health marathon is within sight," he said. "We're in the final sprint, and need to keep the momentum going, but we always have to be vigilant because this virus has punned us so many times in the past"

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

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■ ANDOVER IN BRIEF

**Town committees seek resident volunteers**

The Town of Andover is still seeking volunteers to serve on boards and committees, as many vacancies arise for the more than 40 boards and committees that rely on the service of resident volunteers.

“Andover relies on the passionate and dedicated service of our volunteers who serve on boards and committees,” said Annie Gilbert, chair of the Select Board. “We are always so grateful for the expertise and perspective our residents bring to our governance process.”

Residents can fill out the “Talent Bank Form” at [andoverma.gov/volunteer](http://andoverma.gov/volunteer) that outlines all of the boards and committees in town. It also allows users to provide their availability and background so that they can be matched with the right committee.

The following committees have vacancies this year:

**Audit Committee** – The Audit Committee recommends the appointment of an independent auditor to conduct the annual audit of the Town’s financial statements. The committee reviews the audit plan with the independent auditors and upon completion of the audit, meets with the independent auditors to discuss the results of the audit and annual financial reports.

**Andover Green Advisory Board** – The Andover Green Advisory Board provides support and advice to practical environmental solutions, promotes the increased use of renewable energy and resources, reduction of solid waste, conservation of energy and natural resources, prevention of pollution and improvement of personal and community health.

**Ballardvale Historic District Commission** – The purpose of the Ballardvale Historic District Commission is to ensure that changes and additions within the Historic District are harmonious to the District

and to prevent changes that might detract from the aesthetic and historic values of the District.

**Commission on Disability** – The Commission on Disability addresses Andover’s disability needs for the town, its residents, visitors, and families with disabilities. The Commission on Disability is currently expanding its membership and looking for four additional members.

**Cultural Council** – The Andover Cultural Council aims to promote cultural activities in Andover through the distribution of funds received from the state. The Council awards small grants to individuals and organizations that sponsor cultural activities

**Economic Development Council** – The purpose of the Economic Development Council is to develop and implement a proactive economic development strategy that addresses issues relating to economic development, business retention and job creation. The focus of the council is to ensure that businesses thrive in Andover as well as attract businesses interested in locating here.

**Finance Committee** – Appointed by the Town Moderator, The Finance Committee reviews the proposed budgets of all town departments as well as financial warrant articles and provides recommendations to Town Meeting.

**Housing Partnership Committee** – The purpose of the Andover Housing Partnership Committee is to address wide ranging housing issues in Andover by recommending to town boards the steps needed to keep Andover affordable and accessible to our current and future generations.

**Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees** – the Housing Trust Fund provides a source of funding for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in the Town of Andover for the benefit of households below the area wide median income.

**Investment Committee** – This is a new committee with a charge of advising the Retirement Board, town administration, and other town boards on the feasibility of pension obligation bonds, investment decisions, stress testing, and asset allocation related to and following the town’s potential issuance of pension obligation bonds.

**Patriotic Holiday Committee** – The Patriotic Holiday Committee assists the Town Veterans Services Director in planning and carrying out all patriotic and civic holidays and observances. The committee has primary responsibility for all such occasions except for the July 4th celebration.

**Poet Laureate Committee** – The Poet Laureate Committee selects Andover’s Poet Laureate who represents the Town of Andover by presenting original works of poetry; conducting poetry readings; developing a connection with Andover students; and participating in public events as well as town, school, and library programs

**Revenue and Expenditure Task Force** – The Revenue and Expenditure Task Force reviews the long-range financial plan and advises the town manager on strategies to reduce the structural deficit. The task force reviews revenues and expenditures and develops tools and

models to better understand the town’s finances.

**TRIAD Council** – The TRIAD Council’s mission is to develop and implement policies and programs to reduce criminal victimization, promote crime prevention and safety awareness, and serve the needs of the senior community.

**Trustees of Spring Grove Cemetery** – The Spring Grove Cemetery Trustees advise the town on all matters pertaining to Spring Grove Cemetery.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – Appointed by the Select

Board, the ZBA issues special permits, grants variances and comprehensive permits, and hears appeals from decisions of the Building Commissioner or other administrative officer.

**Library group seeks recipes for cookbook**

Do you have a special recipe you would like to contribute to a special cookbook?

The Friends of the Memorial Hall Library have been gathering recipes for a cookbook to be

published this fall.

Filled with recipes from townspeople and others, it will be published as a special edition for the 375th anniversary of Andover.

The sale of the book will be part of the group’s fundraising effort since normal book sales — the Friends’ biggest fundraiser — have been suspended during the pandemic.

Submit your recipe by email to [friendsmab@gmail.com](mailto:friendsmab@gmail.com) or online at <https://mhl.org/recipes> or drop off at the library to any service desk by June 30th.

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# Opinion

## Improving life for seniors

The pandemic affected senior citizens sooner and more harshly than most other people, and now that the threat of COVID-19 is significantly diminished — “on the run,” as Gov. Charlie Baker says — it’s a good time to take stock of how we support our aging and elderly population.

Never before were services for seniors more critical than during the past 15 months — whether that meant providing counseling or delivering meals — even as health measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 closed one of the most trusted resources for that group, the local senior center.

Agencies found ways to adapt, working together to connect with and help seniors isolated during that time. Today, advocates for seniors stress the need to both preserve those strategies and keep their partnerships strong.

The pandemic also revealed areas of serious need, as noted in a report released last week by the Baker administration. For example, there’s still much work to be done to ensure that seniors are not isolated and have reliable access to broadband internet, and to address their emotional and behavioral health needs, as well as those of their families and caregivers.

The report, titled “ReiMAGine Aging,” marks Massachusetts’ progress toward becoming “age- and dementia-friendly.” It’s one of seven states AARP recognizes as working toward that goal.

Within Massachusetts, 134 communities have joined the organization’s “age-friendly network” as well — including Gloucester, Rockport, Essex, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Peabody, Salem, Swampscott, Wenham and Lawrence in our region. That designation does not necessarily reflect a community that is more or less livable for seniors — some have a lot of work to do — but it notes those actively pursuing ways to make the lives of seniors better.

“The importance of the age- and dementia-friendly movement is to create communities that encourage mental and physical support as we age,” Martha Valez, director of human services for Lawrence, is quoted as saying in the state’s progress report. “A community that advocates unity among stakeholders can manifest a better outcome no matter the predicament the community is facing.”

Take the most recent public health emergency as example. The pandemic was particularly harsh on the state’s seniors, directly and indirectly. As State House News Service noted in its coverage of the state’s progress report, the average age of the 17,903 people in Massachusetts who’ve died from COVID-19 is 70.

And as Baker noted in his introduction to the report, seniors who weren’t stricken with COVID-19 faced “economic calamity, isolation, anxiety and fear.” That’s not to mention other longstanding problems, such as racial inequality, that for many impair access to services.

There was a positive side, however. “In the midst of this public health emergency, we witnessed the resilience of communities, including older adults, family caregivers and the professionals who serve them. If there is a silver lining in all this, it’s how organizations and individuals from every corner of Massachusetts stepped up to confront the pandemic and care for each other,” Baker wrote in the report’s introduction.

Many of those agencies looked to each other, forming partnerships and programs to reach isolated seniors. Local leaders and agencies serving seniors, Baker noted, “served as a foundation for rapid coordination to meet the need of older residents.”

As we turn from COVID-19 it’s time to think seriously about how we address the needs of our aging population over the long term. That means pursuing policies and programs at the state and local level that address issues highlighted by the report — in the areas of emotional health, connectivity and racial inequality.

In the meantime, every community in Massachusetts — indeed every state in the country — should create a plan to improve services offered to its senior population. All should be members of AARP’s network.

We will surely face another public emergency that tests our resources and collective spirit, just as COVID-19 did. When that day comes, the strong bonds among caregivers, service agencies and local officials will help protect the vulnerable among us.

## WEB QUESTION

Should restaurants be allowed to continue serving to-go cocktails?

Sen. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, pushed for a state budget amendment that would extend the drink deliveries, allowed as part of the emergency orders issued due to COVID-19. The effort appeared to fizzle — until a Senate committee this week voted to recommend lawmakers make the change.

**BOTTOM’S UP:** By all means allow restaurants to continue selling drinks with take-out and delivery orders. It was a nice pandemic-era convenience that should be continued.

**LAST CALL:** It’s time to resume normal life, and that means



### By Gail Ralston

## The railroad that wound through Andover

In the early 1830s, Andover businessman Hobart Clark called a meeting at Locke’s Tavern, 111 Main St., in order to form the Andover & Wilmington Railroad Corp. Andover was one of the first Massachusetts towns to be served by the railroad. The corporation was chartered March 15, 1833; the first train to Boston ran on July 8, 1836.

Townsmen columnist Kay Noyes, in 1956, wrote of the challenges of the early workers during the laying of the track. These men did their work without trenching machines and automatic graders. Engineers laid out the path without the aid of telescopic and transit instruments.

One Irish worker’s job was to torch the dynamite needed to excavate ledges along the path. To light the dynamite he would walk along the grade “brandishing a flaming

torch in one hand and a keg of blasting powder in the other” quite oblivious to the danger of a flying ember.

In 1910, Andover old-timer Melville Day recalled the experience.

Day noted there were no gates, no flagmen or anything to warn of an approaching train, except “a huge sign straddled across the road, painted white with black letters ‘Railroad Crossing.’”

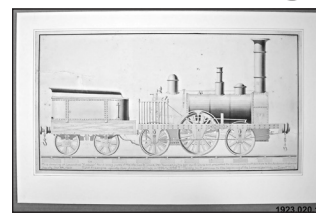
Day remembered that “the trains were small, often only one car, no express trains, no night trains, no Sunday trains. Freight trains were small and slow.”

The engines were small with “huge smoke stacks and ugly looking piston rods.” For a while, the engines all had names of their sides, mostly names of towns (the “Andover”) and names of individuals (the “Hobart Clark”).

Initially, pine wood instead of coal was used to fuel the engines. Because of the danger of fire from smoke and cinders belching from the stack, an ordinance was passed forbidding trains to enter town centers.

Because of this, the path of the tracks themselves was quite circuitous.

Describing this route in modern terms needs a good



(PHOTO COURTESY ANDOVER CENTER FOR HISTORY & CULTURE)

### A locomotive on the Andover & Wilmington Railroad was called “the Andover.”

imagination, but should give an idea of the planning that must have occurred to comply with safety laws:

- From Route 38 in Wilmington, the track crossed Salem Street and, entering Andover, traveled between Lowell Junction and the flats of the Shawsheen River.

- Crossing River Street in Ballardvale to the rear of South School — then called Preston Plains — there was a depot at 265 Andover St.

- Across Andover Street and the agent’s home (the station agents in the early days “worked for nothing and were allowed to rent parts of the depot or could follow other trades”) the train continued east to Rec Park, making a turn down today’s entrance road across Abbot Street into Spring Grove Cemetery on an elevated line.

- It continued through the cemetery, down Abbot, across Phillips Street, and between the backyards of homes on Abbot and Central streets.

- The train then needed to cross under a bridge that spanned School Street, across Central, past South Church and the Rose Cottage.

- Next, the train turned down Essex Street to the town’s main depot (site of today’s library parking lot).

- After this point, the train ran past Tyer Rubber (site of today’s Public Safety Center), across North Main, up Sweeney and Hartigan courts; left on High Street, past Carmel Woods and down Waverly Road in North Andover (the street was then called Railroad Avenue).

- Haverhill was the final destination.

The track of curves served the town well until planning began for the city of Lawrence.

When it was decided that the new city must be connected to Boston, many inconveniences forced the rerouting to the current line, a move that even necessitated altering the flow of the Shawsheen River.

Today, the only public view of the old railroad is a depression in Spring Grove Cemetery.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Question is the best way to address town’s pension liability

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to express my support for Question 1 – Pension Obligation Bonds on Andover’s June 15 ballot.

Since the first Select Board workshop in November, I have taken a deep interest in Andover’s struggle to meet our unfunded pension liability. I was shocked about the situation and inspired to help.

After spending countless hours analyzing the numbers, I have reached the conclusion that the plan outlined in Question 1 is our best option. Let me explain.

Put simply, the town has three options:

**Option 1:** Ignore the unfunded pension liability. Before long, the town would lose its AAA bond rating; and eventually, the state would take over governance. Like what happened to the city of Chelsea in 1991, Andover would go under state receivership. We would completely lose control of our destiny.

**Option 2:** Pay the Retirement Board about \$23 million annually until 2040. The town would have to appropriate the funds by raising taxes through Proposition 2 ½ overrides or by severely cutting services – or both.

**Option 3:** Adopt the plan outlined by Question 1. Taking advantage of low-interest rates, we would borrow a large portion of the unpaid liability and provide that amount as a lump sum to the Pension Board. We would assemble a team of domain experts to help the Pension Board create a diverse portfolio that we can expect to earn 5% to 6%. By comparison, most pension boards have an objective of 7%

earnings.

Let’s compare Options 2 and 3, which offer radically different approaches to paying off the unfunded liability.

By my calculations, with typical market fluctuations over 18 years, Option 3 promises to save the town as much as \$100 million by 2040. Even with a deep recession lasting more than 10 years, Option 3 would still come out ahead of Option 2 by about \$7 million.

These findings are based on my own analysis of the town manager’s proposal as it evolved. I used 90 years of S&P 500 historical data to guide me.

I recruited my son, who is a data scientist and math PhD, to help me devise a model that would account for potential risk. I am happy to say that the model suggests a strong preference for Option 3 – the plan outlined in Question 1.

That is why I urge Andover voters to vote “yes” on Question 1 – Pension Obligation Bonds, on the ballot on June 15.

ANIL NAVKAL  
Andover

### Pension payment plan will control cost to taxpayers

Editor, Townsman:

On June 5 Town Meeting approved Article 7, the Pension Obligation Bond.

This plan to address Andover’s unfunded pension liability was developed over many months of public meetings and with feedback from stakeholders across the community.

Put simply, it represents Andover’s least expensive and most responsible option for meeting our significant pension obligation while preserving the town and school services that are so important to our community.

Importantly, the funding

plan behind Article 7 does not place the burden solely on the taxpayer; it includes responsible budget measures and spending reform.

Backed by unanimous support from the Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee and Revenue/Expenditure Task Force, Article 7 is a well-vetted strategy that controls the annual cost to the taxpayer and limits the exposure to the town.

We cannot sit back and hope for another solution to come along.

To be clear, waiting will cost the town and taxpayers more and result in lost services and jobs. Acting now will set us on a responsible course for decades to come and allow for more resources to make Andover even better.

I ask your readers to join me in voting to approve the Pension Obligation Bond at the ballot box on June 15th.

DANIEL KOH  
Andover

### Town should release information, keep Fahey as adviser to AYS

Editor, Townsman:

The kids deserve better. To start, Bill Fahey should be reinstated as director of Andover Youth Services.

When I was a kid, Fahey had a massively positive impact on my life. I count him as one of a handful of true role models from my childhood. He is a good, honest man with an enormous heart and strong moral compass.

More importantly, Andover Youth Services is a safe place for kids with a unique balance of freedom and rules. Kids know they are free to be themselves and pursue their

dreams, but at the same time there is zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol, violence and discrimination - all the things that too often define the experience of youth.

As a result, youth services is the jewel of Andover. When my friends talk about moving back to town they start with AYS. True, it is a community, but Fahey is the heart and soul.

We still don’t know what Fahey is accused of doing, however we know he deserves better than a very public, painful and poorly managed termination. If the town manager refuses to reinstate him as director of AYS, here are a few things to start:

1. Release more information. Understanding privacy is a concern, it should be possible to state what the misconduct did not include.

2. Appoint Glenn Wilson director of Andover Youth Services. Bill is the heart and soul of youth services, but Glenn is the rock. Appointing him as director would assure the community that the mission of AYS hasn’t changed.

3. Allow Fahey to serve as an adviser. Based on what we know, cutting him off from the AYS community seems to go too far.

4. Conduct a full review of the policies and procedures that led to the current situation. Fahey’s termination was mismanaged and we must ensure this never happens again.

The kids deserve better. The best path forward is for Bill Fahey to be reinstated as director of Andover Youth Services.

The next best action is for transparency, decency and reconciliation for a man who has dedicated his life to the town of Andover and its kids.

JOE RUSCKOWSKI  
Boston

## 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@andovertownsmam.com

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

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

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

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# Federal aid squabbles begin on Beacon Hill

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Gov. Charlie Baker and legislative leaders are wrangling over billions of dollars in federal aid headed for the state as part of the latest pandemic relief package.

Last week, House Speaker Ron Mariano, D-Quincy, and Senate President Karen Spilka, D-Ashland, said the Legislature will create a “segregated” fund for the \$5.3 billion in relief money sent to Massachusetts from the American Rescue Plan, a stimulus bill signed by President Joe Biden three months ago.

“Every community in Massachusetts has unique needs,” they said in a statement. “A robust legislative process will help ensure that no one is left behind.”

But the Baker administration argues that legislative approval is not needed to parcel out the relief money.

And the wrangling is apparently holding up \$100 million in relief funds for Methuen, Chelsea, Revere and Randolph, which were short-changed by a federal formula used to calculate a previous round of aid.

The Baker administration says moving the American Rescue Plan funds into a separate account will create unnecessary red tape that could slow the money from getting to communities that need it.

“We have 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, and 347 of them have gotten their money,” Baker said during a briefing Wednesday, where he was asked about the funds. “There are four communities that haven’t. And all four of those were really hard hit by COVID-19 and deserve our support.”

But lawmakers aren’t buying his claims. Some suggest the governor is using the money as leverage over control of a larger pool of federal relief funds.

“He’s had plenty of time to disperse those funds since the discrepancy was first identified,” said state Rep. Linda Campbell, D-Methuen. “These four communities need this funding now. They’ve waited long enough.”

Sen. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, said Methuen “needs this financial support, not later but immediately.”

“It is important that the Legislature have oversight over the governor’s administration in the allocation of funds, and it is also critical that we do not create additional red tape that leads to

a delay in the release of such critical resources,” she said.

“We must together, the Legislature and administration, get to work and allocate these funds to our communities as soon as possible,” DiZoglio said.

Members of the state’s congressional delegation have also weighed in, calling for “immediate” release of the funds.

“The flexible federal relief funding in the American Rescue Plan we helped secure is currently in the state’s coffers,” Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey wrote in a joint statement. “While state leaders determine allocation of the rest of the \$5.3 billion in funding, we should immediately distribute to Chelsea, Everett, Methuen, and Randolph the \$100 million dollars committed to them.”

Beyond the issue of releasing the federal funds, lawmakers say they intend to play a role in deciding

how the \$5.3 billion in relief funds is distributed.

“During the pandemic the governor had emergency powers, but that time has now passed,” Campbell said. “The Legislature has a clear, constitutional responsibility to be a part of deciding how this money is spent.”

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

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# Where is there help for a single mom?

**Dr. Larry Larsen**

Dear Doctor,  
I am a single parent of two wonderful children, and I love them so much. There are times I feel like I am not doing a the best job at being a mom. I work a full time job. Home things take more time. I get into bed exhausted.

Is there help for us as we try to be a parent?

Don't say ask their father. He has been no help.

**Tired Single Mom**  
**Dear Single Mom,**

Your tribe has increased in the last many years. The Pew Research folks say

traditional two parent families have decreased from 73% in 1960 to 46% in 2014. That is quite a drop and reflects change in our culture.

Single parent families were at 9% in 1960 and have increased to 26% in 2014. That is quite an increase. You are not alone.

Here are some hints I have learned over some years.

Get organized. This sounds easy, but it requires thinking out of the box. It means making lists, planning time commitments, and even working on having the kids help with chores, if they are old enough.

Get support. This is

sometimes tough, but look for friends, an aunt, and grandma/grandpa to help if they are able. I have known some terrific grandparents who love being the support a single mom needs.

Find your center. We all need a place in mind and spirit to rest and restore. It may be exercise and walking, meditation, reading, writing a poem, or having even a few moments of peace. Pay attention to yourself and what you need.

Practice self reward. Give yourself frequent “Atta girls.” Be your own parent, replete with self approval. The world needs you!

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## ANDOVER POLICE LOG

**Friday, May 28**  
**Theft:** Unlocked cars had disturbed items, Lowell Street, 2:19 a.m.  
**Vandalism:** Rock thrown at car, Lowell Street, 2:40 p.m.

**Saturday, May 29**  
**Mischivous complaint:** Fight, Old River Road, 5:47 p.m.

**Sunday, May 30**  
**Animal complaint:** Two goslings stuck in the sewer.

**Monday, May 31**  
**Fraud:** Lost debit card used at stores, North Main Street, 7:53 p.m.  
**Theft:** License plates stolen, Birchstone Drive, 8:53 p.m.  
**Theft:** Car keys, Railroad Street.

**Tuesday, June 1**  
**Theft:** Bike, Main Street, 1:51 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 2**  
**Recovered property:** Stolen car found, Bellevue Road, 8:32 a.m.

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# Sports

## IN CONTROL

### Tennis star Zhou dominating the competition for unbeaten Golden Warriors

BY DAVID WILLIS  
Staff Writer

Andover High's Isabel Zhou admits she was struck by a strange feeling earlier this spring, when she stepped onto the tennis court with the Golden Warriors for the first time in two years thanks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That feeling, however, didn't last long. "Quite honestly, it was very surreal and a little odd at first," she said. "Especially wearing masks, not being able to shake hands, etc. But it felt good—rejuvenating—more than anything. My schedule feels empty and incomplete without tennis, so I'm really just thankful and excited every time I go to practice or get ready for a match."

Finally back on the court in a Golden Warrior uniform, the senior wasted no time showing she hadn't lost her ability to dominate.

In fact, opponents have struggled to score a single point against Andover's No. 1 singles player.

Zhou entered the week with a dazzling eight individual victories in Andover's nine matches. Five of those victories have been 6-0, 6-0 shutouts — including four of her first five matches. Her closest win was a still relatively easy 6-2, 6-3 victory against Haverhill.

For the season, Zhou has outscored opponents by a combined 96-7 margin in her victories. She earned a 6-0, 6-0 win on Sunday.

With Zhou leading the way, perennial state title contender Andover has



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Andover's Isabel Zhou has been nearly untouchable on the court this spring. The senior entered the week with eight victories, including five 6-0, 6-0 shutouts.

rolled to a 9-0 record entering the week, with eight 5-0 shutouts and one 4-1 win.

"I'm incredibly excited for this season," she said. "For those that know me, tennis is my favorite part of the school year. I talk incessantly about it. I love being on the courts under the sunshine, spending time with my teammates, and competing. It's a little bit like a home away from home for me, so I'm grateful that I get to end senior year on such a high note."

Dominating the competition is nothing new for Zhou, who earned Merrimack Valley Conference Player of the Year in 2019.

After playing No. 2 doubles as a freshman, Zhou won the No. 1 singles spot for Andover as a sophomore and surged to a 13-4 overall record, 10-0 against MVC opponents. That gives her a 17-0 career singles record against league foes.

"She is a great kid and a very strong leader," said

Andover coach Alan Hibino. "It doesn't matter if you are first or second singles, it's all about the team."

Growing up, Zhou played a variety of sports, from skating to swimming and gymnastics before falling in love with tennis at 7-years-old.

She feels her success on the court has been a combination of physical and mental.

"Physically, I love my backhands, down the line approach shots and I have

increasing confidence up at net," she said. "But, more important is the mental aspect of my game. There's a quote by Venus Williams that reads, 'Tennis is mostly mental. You win or lose the match before you even go out there.' I completely agree, and it's something I try to remember every time I step out on the court."

"Over these last four years, I've come to really value my patience and perseverance as a player — the

drive to get to every ball, to come back regardless of how down I am. There's also the concept of strategy — figuring out your opponent's strengths and weaknesses, their patterns, and visualizing your next shots. It's also incredibly important to have trust in your abilities and be respectful of others."

During the COVID-19 shutdown, which erased her junior tennis season, Zhou kept her tennis skills sharp with plenty of practice.

"I played indoors at my club (Willows Racquet Club & Fitness) as well as the Manchester Athletic Club," she said. "Over the summer, I was at the Andover High tennis courts almost every day with my friends. (Recently) my coach and I even competed against each other in regular mixed doubles matches. He has yet to win."

A member of the National Honor Society, Zhou has taken Advanced Placement biology, French, language and composition, and calculus. She will be attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland to study neuroscience on the pre-med track.

But first, she wants to finish her high school tennis career with a bang.

"I'd like to remain undefeated in the MVC," said Zhou, an accomplished singer. "I also aspire to advance as far as possible as a team in the state tournament with the state title in mind. For now, as Bino (coach Hibino) often reminds us, we focus on one match at a time, one game at a time, and one point at a time."

TWITTER: @DWillisET

#### ► Andover High roundup

## Morrissey gives baseball team whopping fourth walk-off win

### BASEBALL

For the fourth time in six games as host, Andover erased a deficit with multiple last-inning runs, this time rallying for three and a 7-6 victory over the Scarlet Knights last Wednesday.

And for the second time, it was Terry Morrissey who delivered the final blow. Three weeks after ruining Central Catholic's day with a walk-off single in another 7-6 game, Morrissey drilled a 3-2 pitch that ate up a drawn-in North Andover third baseman on a ball that reached the outfield and scored Tanner O'Sullivan and Chase Lembo with the winning runs.

"When the infield is in, I'm just trying to put the ball in play," Morrissey said. "When that happens, (defenders) can mess up or the ball can just find a hole and we can win the game. I just try to hit the ball hard, square it up and hit it anywhere."

Catcher Nolan Schirmer and O'Sullivan led off the seventh inning with singles before advancing to second and third on a wild pitch. A Lembo grounder that resulted in the first error plated courtesy runner Ryan Grecco before Morrissey once again played the hero.

"All year long, we've played as a team," said Andover coach Dan Grams. "It shows that they don't give up until the final out and that they believe in themselves. It's been two years in the making."

Nolan Schirmer had a two-run double in the sixth for Andover that proved to be the difference in a 5-4 win over Dracut last Tuesday. Anthony Teberio added two hits and a run scored and Tanner O'Sullivan scored two



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover players storm the field to celebrate after defeating North Andover 7-6 on a walk-off hit by Terry Morrissey. It was the Golden Warriors' fourth walk-off of the season.

runs and drove in another for the winners.

Scotty Brown scored three runs and drove in two more as Andover rolled past Lawrence 10-2 last Friday. Nolan Schirmer added two RBIs and Anthony Teberio had two hits and scored a run for the winners.

### SOFTBALL

#### O'Brien red hot

Katie O'Brien had three RBIs, including the game-winner, as Andover rallied past Dracut with two runs in the bottom of the seventh, 4-3 last Tuesday. Adelaide Weeden was 3 for 4 with two runs scored and Molly Duval was 3 for 3 with an RBI for the winners.

Paige Gillette had two hits and scored three runs, but Andover fell to North Andover 7-5 last Thursday. Alyssa Sellinger added three hits for the Warriors,

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

#### Amirault keeps starring

Jyles Amirault led with 16 kills and six aces and Marco Gomez-Cabo added five blocks as Andover beat North Andover 3-0 on Sunday.

Jyles Amirault continued to shine with 23 kills, 15 service points and five aces, but Andover lost to North Andover 3-1 last Thursday. Akshay Godhani added five blocks and 31 assists for the Warriors.

### BOYS TENNIS

#### Feng keeps fighting

Sam Feng fought for a two runs scored and Molly Duval was 3 for 3 with an RBI for the winners.

Alex Earl and Joe Poletchi took top doubles (6-1, 6-0)

and Greg Thoi and Akarsh Janarthanan won No. 2 doubles (6-2, 6-0) as Andover beat North Andover 5-0.

### GIRLS TENNIS

#### Another Warrior sweep

Isabel Zhou (No. 1 singles) and Evie O'Brien (No. 3) each scored sweeps, while Rachel Chen added a 6-0, 6-1 win as Andover stayed perfect (9-0) by beating North Andover 9-0 on Sunday.

### WRESTLING

#### Stellar newcomers

First-year wrestlers Gianni Defilippis (132 pounds) and Andrew Wetterwald (195 pounds) both had wins to highlight Andover's 39-24 win over Dracut last Tuesday. Wetterwald, a sophomore, had a 41-second pin at 195 pounds, while football teammate Jonathan Davila had a pin in 22 seconds.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

#### Gobiel nets seven

Tess Gobiel stayed hot with seven goals, and Haley Carver added five tallies as Andover beat Billerica 16-10 last Saturday. Lillian Jagger made nine saves for the victory.

Despite two goals each for Jess Brussard, Haley Carver and Tess Gobiel, Andover fell to North Andover 15-8 last Thursday.

### GIRLS TRACK

#### Hurdles takes gold

Led by Jodi Parrott, the Andover shuttle hurdles relay won in 1:09.34 to lead Andover, which finished

sixth as a team (34 points) at the Division 1 relays last Saturday. The distance medley relay was third (12:52.12) and the 4x200 was sixth (1:53.68) for the Warriors.

### BOYS TRACK

#### Distance impresses

Andover's 4x800 took fifth (8:25.53) as the Golden Warriors placed 13th as a team (18 points) at Division 1 relays last Saturday. The distance medley relay added a sixth (11:41.76).

### BOYS LACROSSE

#### Warriors fall

Andover fell to North Andover 8-7 last Thursday. Scorers were not reported.



Please recycle this newspaper.

## Andover Pony League Baseball Travel Team

### Registration/Tryouts

Sunday June 20th  
13 year olds at 6:00pm

Monday, June 21st  
14 & 15 year olds at 6:00pm

at Andover High School JV Field  
Additional Tryouts TBA

Questions?  
Contact Joe Iarrobino  
978-474-0523



# Greater Lawrence Technical School graduates 370

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsmam.com

ANDOVER — The sense of triumph was palpable for the 370 graduates of Greater Lawrence Technical School, surrounded by family and friends on the football field Thursday night.

In their short four years as Reggie's they first overcame the Columbia Gas explosions in the fall of 2018 as sophomores. Then their last two years of high school have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

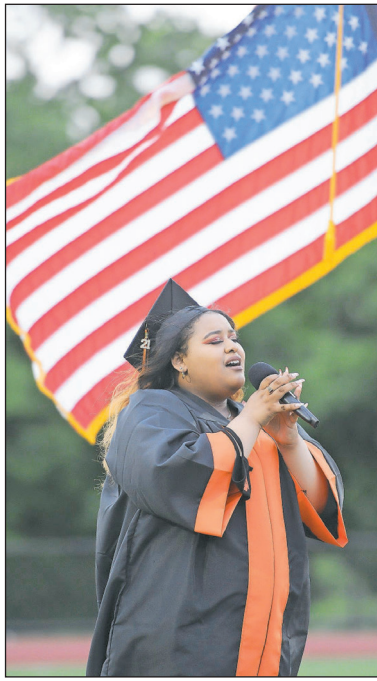
"Virtual classes, clubs, activities, workouts and who could imagine a virtual shop? Throughout it all your teachers and classmates learned together and supported each other," said Susan Zielinski, interim principal. "You pressed on, kept moving. And here you are today, ready to graduate, and continue running to your future."

Superintendent John Lavoie reminded everyone, "On the upside no other graduate has been better prepared to meet the challenges brought about by unexpected changes."

It was a night of celebration for



TIM JEAN/Staff photos  
**Yeribel Fermin of Lawrence shows her excitement after receiving her diploma from Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover. Fermin also received the school Superintendent's Award.**



**Kiana Tejeda sings the national anthem at the start of the graduation ceremony for Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover.**

out to teachers and advisors who helped ensure that as many people would graduate as possible after being displaced from the physical school building for more than a year.

Many were at risk of failing, however, "over 100 students overcame the biggest challenges of their lives," Lavoie said.

The graduates themselves were ecstatic for overcoming the feats of the past four years as they clapped and cheered for each other, and waved at their families in the stands.

"We the students and faculty of Greater Lawrence Technical School adapted and changed to whatever curveball life wanted to throw our way," said Ashley Lima, valedictorian. "We are able to rise above all the difficulties and hardships."

Nicholas Delegas, salutatorian, gave his fellow classmates this reminder, "Going forward, I only have one piece of advice for my fellow graduates — remember what you've already endured, accomplished and learned. When life presents you with unprecedented challenges, remember your four years in

high school, and remember that you have the strength and potential to weather the storm no matter what."

Class of 2016 graduate and keynote speaker for Thursday's graduation, Kassandra Jean-Marie, comforted the class knowing that despite facing these adversities the unknown of the future might be scary. However, the friends and family that helped everyone get to this point will continue to be their support, she said.

She also said that while this is a momentous occasion to celebrate, it's also important to remember the little moments, "the small steps that helped you climb mountains."

"We are really here to celebrate those smaller steps that you took every day to reach this moment," Jean-Marie said. "The long days of studying and withering beneath endless exams and essays. The part-time jobs and the long practices that made even walking a chore. And finally those moments of struggles that we shoulder all on our own, and rarely tell even our closest confidants about."

everyone. Family member held balloons and flowers for their graduates as they took photos to

savor the moment. Lavoie congratulated everyone, but gave a special shout

remember your four years in



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