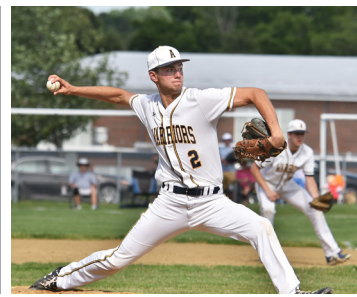


STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INNOVATION.



LAWRENCE TRADITION RETURNS AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE.

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ANDOVER BASEBALL TEAM HAS STRONG TOURNEY RUN.

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PAGE 3

OUR 131<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 35

JULY 1, 2021

\$1.00

## Students create statue to track vaccines

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

A metalworking class at Greater Lawrence Technical School has constructed a sculpture to help Lawrence residents track the number of vaccines they've received.

Mayor Kendrys Vasquez commissioned the school's metalworking program to create a sculpture that can be added to as the rate of vaccines rises. The sculpture, a blue heart, will

be filled with plexiglass slats representing the percentage of the community which has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"As we continue to ramp up our efforts to vaccinate more Lawrence residents, we are excited to work with GLTS on this project that highlights the community's collective progress," Vasquez said. "This sculpture serves as a reminder for residents to encourage their family, friends and neighbors to get

vaccinated. It's an honor for us to work with the students on a design that embodies the spirit of Lawrence and the community's desire to come together again."

The blue heart sculpture will be installed later this summer to celebrate vaccinations and the winding down of the pandemic.

In Lawrence, about 52% of eligible people have received at least one dose of the vaccine, according to the state's weekly report published on

June 24. Across the state, 67% of people have had at least one dose, according to the state.

Students working on the project were happy they could help mark the occasion.

"I think it's very cool that the mayor of Lawrence specifically asked us to work on this project," said Brady Valliere, a junior from Methuen in the metal fabrication program. "It will be in the city See STUDENTS, Page 2



Courtesy photo

From left: Metal fabrication juniors Juan Reyes of Lawrence, Brady Valliere of Methuen, Carlos Burgos of Lawrence, Keishaly Tellez Jimenez of Methuen, and Anya Santiago of Lawrence.

## 'No one should be hungry'



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Stephanie Dorsey, right, owner of Andover Bees & Honey, hands out samples to customers at the Andover Farmers Market.

## SNAP beneficiaries can stretch a dollar at Andover Farmers Market

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

It was a bustling first day back at the Andover Farmers Market on June 19.

Cars were parked on either side of the street surrounding South Church as people bought fresh produce and other foods at the weekly Saturday market that runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As the Farmers Market returns to Andover for the summer, so does easier access to fresh produce, particularly for Andover's nearly 1,500 people who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly known as food stamps, said Ellen Townson, who is the Andover representative See MARKET, Page 10



Moiz Bhindarwala, right, of Mocha Connection answers questions from a customer at the Andover Farmers Market in the South Church Parking lot.

## Andover Schools being sued by Fusion Academy

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

After two denials, Fusion Academy, a non-traditional chain of schools, is suing the Andover School Committee, the district and multiple employees to be allowed to operate.

Attorneys for the Detroit-based private school company that offers a hybrid learning curriculum for middle and high school students, filed the lawsuit in federal court Monday, alleging Andover's refusal to grant operating permission to the school goes against constitutional academic freedoms.

Massachusetts state law requires school committees to approve private schools in their district only if "its instruction equals the public schools in the same town in thoroughness and efficiency and that private students are making the same progress as public school students." There's little regulation around private schools, including no licensing requirement for teachers, nor a time requirement for how long students must be learning during the particular year.

Citing state guidelines, the Andover School Committee denied allowing See LAWSUIT, Page 2

## No contract, raises for some school staffers

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Some, but not all school district employees, will have more money coming to them this summer after the School Committee approved multiple agreements that allow staff members to receive retroactive pay for the past year.

The School Committee and Andover Education Association — made up of teachers, instructional assistants, occupational and physical therapists, secretaries and licensed practical nurses — have been in and out of contract negotiations since February 2020. Wages and class scheduling See STAFFERS, Page 2

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AMANDA SABGA/File photo

Children take part in the Horribles Parade in 2019. After being canceled due to the pandemic last year, the town's July 4th events will resume this weekend.

## The party's on: Pancake breakfast, Horribles Parade return on July 4

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

Though the decision was somewhat last minute, Andover's Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast and Horribles Parade will return this year after being canceled in 2020 amid COVID-19 shutdowns.

Pancakes are being served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday at the Robb Center. The Horribles Parade kicks off

directly following at 10:30 a.m., also at the Robb Center. Children can bring their bikes and wagons decorated in red, white and blue to the center to participate.

At 11 a.m., Andover Veterans Director Mark Camerio will host a 30-minute program with the help of Andover's Patriotic Holiday Committee to celebrate Independence Day at the gazebo.

Ted Techert will have patriotic music playing at the gazebo.

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## STAFFERS

■ Continued from Page 1

have been sticking points for various groups within the union.

Now, instructional assistants will not receive any additional pay for the past year because the district and bargaining unit could not come to an agreement.

“We’re certainly disappointed,” said School Committee member Shannon Scully, who has been involved in the negotiations. “This is a highly valued group of employees. The work they do with our students is very important.”

The union and committee met three times recently with a state mediator, including for seven hours last week in an attempt to get a contract ratified by the deadline of this past Wednesday, June 30, to provide retroactive pay increases for this past year, Scully said. Pay remains the sticking point, she said.

“We feel very confident that Andover instructional assistants feel very confident and that proposals were fair,” Scully said, adding that one proposal is to give them a 12% hourly wage increase.

As some of the lowest-paid employees in the district, starting instructional assistants make \$16.45 an hour. The committee proposed a raise to \$18.43 an hour, but the association was seeking \$22.14.

“The district proposed a three-year contract that would have kept many instructional assistants earning under \$20 per hour at the end of the third year in 2023,” wrote Matthew Bach, president of the Andover Education Association, in a statement Friday.

“The district even rejected the instructional assistants’ offer of a one-year settlement that included only a 1% increase to the salary schedule, and a one-time-only payment of \$800 — very similar to what other employee units received — that was offered for the purposes of getting at least some increase for employees who experienced the most difficult year of their careers during the pandemic.”

“The low wages hurt Andover’s kids, as well as instructional assistants,” Bach wrote. “Many positions were unfilled this past year, and there has been a 40% turnover over the past three years. While other communities, such as nearby Haverhill, have taken measures to increase

*“The low wages hurt Andover’s kids, as well as instructional assistants. Many positions were unfilled this past year, and there has been a 40% turnover over the past three years.”*

**Matthew Bach, president of the Andover Education Association**

Instructional Assistant salaries, Andover lags behind.”

The district is resuming talks with instructional assistants in mid-July to hopefully reach an agreement before the end of the year, Scully said.

The district was able to reach agreements with all of the other units bargaining this year, so those employees will receive retroactive raises.

The committee came to an agreement with the district’s teachers after 27 bargaining sessions over the past 15 months that will give them a cost-of-living increase of 1% and an \$800 stipend this year. In the teachers’ three-year contract, they will also get a 2% and 1.5% raise this coming school year and next year, respectively.

The new contract also improves benefits such as parental leave and money for graduate studies.

The committee voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the contract Friday morning. Committee member Lauren Conoscenti was absent from the meeting. Now, the teachers union is set to vote on Tuesday, which is needed to solidify the agreement.

The occupational and physical therapists and licensed practical nurses also reached agreements with similar cost-of-living increases.

A week prior, the district came to a one-year agreement with the secretary bargaining unit. The agreement allocated a 1% cost-of-living raise and an additional \$300 per secretary this year, said Jessica Porter, human resources director for the town.

The district usually enters into a three-year contract, however, an agreement for that length of time couldn’t be reached. So, negotiations for a two-year contract with the secretaries will resume in July, Committee Chair Susan McCready said.

## Critics seek limits on police use of plate readers

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — License plate readers are used to track down criminal suspects and thwart kidnappings, but the high-tech gadgetry is also fueling debate over privacy.

Last week the Legislature’s Committee on Transportation weighed proposals to restrict use of plate readers and other data-gathering technology by law-enforcement, while also limiting how long the data can be retained.

One proposal, filed by Rep. Sarah Peake, D-Provincetown, would require police to get a search warrant to access data collected from plate reading technology.

Another plan, filed by the committee’s co-chairman, Rep. William Straus, D-Mattapoisett, would prohibit marketing firms or other businesses from obtaining and selling data from plate readers, while also barring auto insurance

companies from using it to determine rates. The bill also outlines data retention requirements.

Civil liberties groups say Massachusetts police have been allowed for more than a decade to collect and share motorist information gleaned with the technology.

“It is time for the Legislature to impose basic privacy protections and checks and balances to protect against political surveillance, dragnet monitoring and other civil rights harms,” said Kade Crockford, director of the Technology for Liberty Program at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Crockford told the panel there are legitimate law enforcement uses for the technology, but left unregulated it can be abused.

“No technology should be used for the wholesale harvesting and endless retention of data showing where people’s vehicles are located at

a particular time,” she said.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit that works on technology and civil liberties issues, said data collected from plate readers can be used to pry into people’s private lives.

“Location-based information collected over time can reveal intimate details of a person’s life, such as where they work and live, where they pray, where they seek medical treatment, and who their friends or romantic partners are,” the group, which is pushing to restrict the technology, posted on its website.

It’s not clear how widespread the technology is in Massachusetts. License plate reading systems are typically mounted on police cars or set on permanent structures, such as bridges or tunnels. They can scan plate numbers as vehicles pass, storing them in a database with a GPS location, along with the time and date.

A system used by state police was discontinued in December after officials reported glitches in the data that made it inaccurate.

Law enforcement officials say an outright ban on plate reading technology would compromise their work.

Plate readers have been used to track down kidnapping suspects, return children to their families and catch criminals.

“It’s been pivotal in amber alert cases around the country, so we certainly know there’s a benefit to it,” said Mark Leahy, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Police Chiefs, which hasn’t taken a position on either bill. “We also understand that people have concerns about how else it may be used.”

*Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media and its sister newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cni.com.*

## STUDENTS

■ Continued from Page 1

and as the heart fills up I can tell my mom: yeah, I made that for the city of Lawrence. It’s a really big honor to actually do this and be part of their team.”

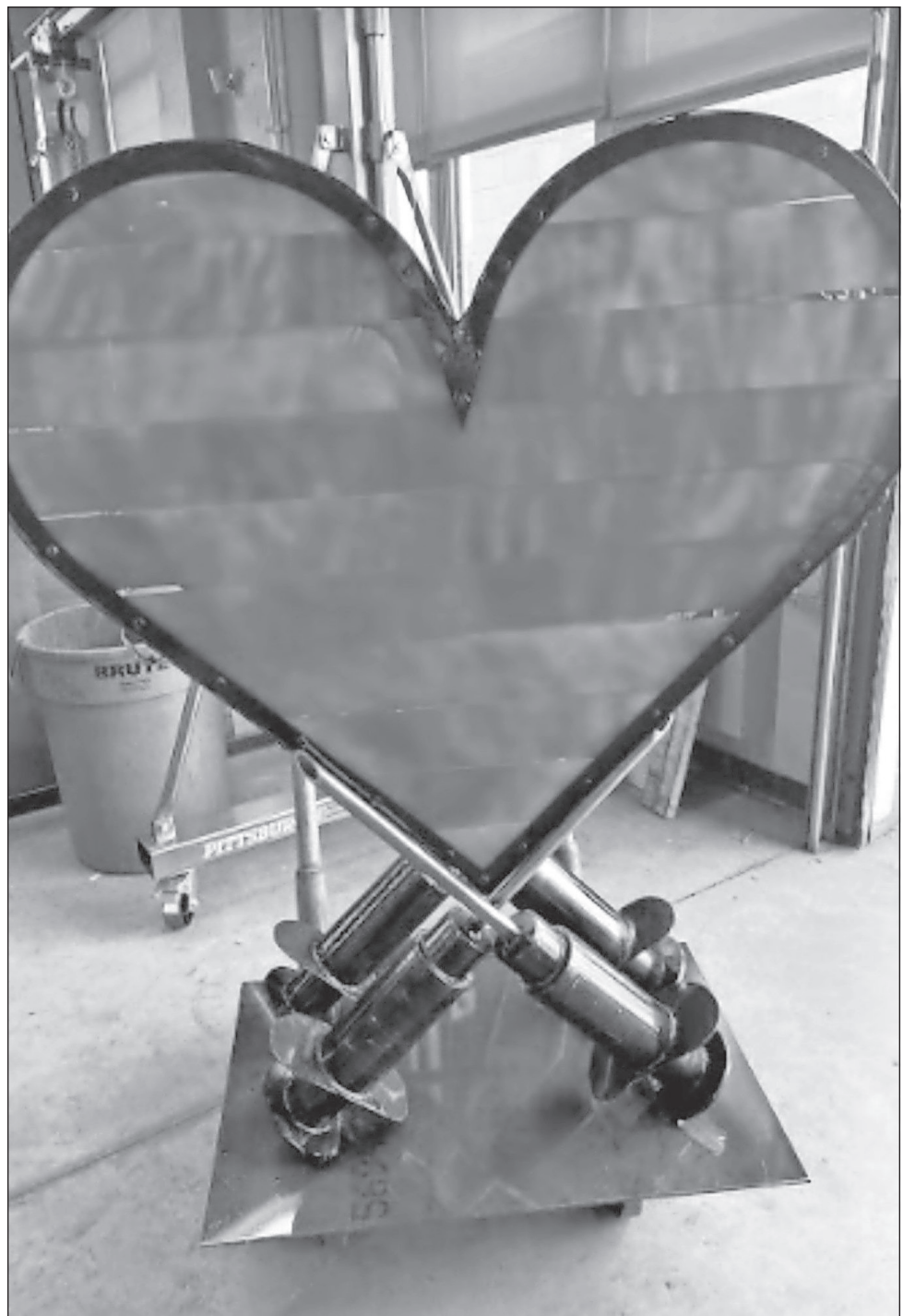
“It’s good to get the chance to pitch in to show that even young kids can bring such a big change to many other people,” said Orlandi Hernandez, a junior from Lawrence.

Metal fabrication instructor Stephanie Dicecca sketched the design for the sculpture, utilizing their skills and knowledge to bring the concept to life.

“We are doing our part, telling people to get the vaccine to prevent the spread,” said Zach Novak, a junior of Methuen in the metal fabrication program.

“It was great to work together on this as a team,” said Carlos Burgos, a junior of Lawrence in the metal fabrication program.

“Of our sending communities, Lawrence has been hit extremely hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and our students witnessed that firsthand. It was an honor for them to be able to build this sculpture, and use their skills and knowledge to create a visually appealing work of art representing the healing and hope of the ongoing vaccination effort,” Superintendent John Lavoie said. “We’re deeply appreciative that Mayor Vasquez thought of GLTS for this meaningful project, and look forward to seeing the sculpture installed this summer.”



Courtesy photo

The blue heart sculpture will be filled with plexiglass slats representing the percentage of the Lawrence community which has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19

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## LAWSUIT

■ Continued from Page 1

Fusion Academy to operate in town for the second time in three years saying the company’s one-on-one approach to working with students would have fewer hours with students interacting with teachers.

However, Fusion Academy states while its approach is different, it is a parent’s decision to choose how and where their child goes to school.

“The denial of the second application deprived Fusion Academy of rights, including, but not limited to, its right to determine for itself on academic freedom grounds who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and who may be admitted to study,” the lawsuit states.

Fusion Academy contends the Andover School Committee’s denial goes against the First Amendment, guaranteeing free speech, and the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing equal access, according to court documents.

The lawsuit also contends Andover’s lack of policies for private schools allowed the district to unfairly deny the school.

“This effective absence of an ASC policy permitted defendants Town, (Interim Superintendent Claudia) Bach, (Assistant Superintendent Sandra) Tranch and (former Superintendent Sheldon) Berman to create their own unpublished policies, procedures and standards of review for Fusion Academy’s

application, to Fusion Academy’s detriment,” the lawsuit states. “It also permitted the defendants to slow-walk the application process as a means of destroying Fusion Academy’s interest in operating a private school in Andover.”

However, school committees are allowed to set specific standards and policies for private schools. Andover does not have a specific policy that it uses to allow or reject private schools, instead, district staff made recommendations after going through the applications that Fusion Academy’s approach to education did not meet Andover Public School’s “thoroughness and efficiency.”

Fusion Academy’s lawsuit contends that Andover’s absence of a policy paired with the multiple denials “unlawfully destroyed/deprived/interfered with Fusion Academy’s liberty, business and property.”

Fusion Academy wants to offer a different approach to school — a hybrid model that has 23 hours a semester of one-on-one learning supplemented with independent work, also known as asynchronous learning, for each class. According to plans submitted to the district, all students would be at the school even when learning asynchronously, so there would be teachers available to provide assistance during the independent learning time.

“As opposed to a typical Andover public School classroom education, the

educational experience at Fusion Academy is customized around each student and provides one student to one teacher instruction. Classes are individually paced for each student, and the material is presented in a way that takes into account each student’s interests, strengths, and learning style,” the lawsuit states.

Because of the approach in having more independent work and fewer hours of direct teacher-to-student learning, four out of five members of the committee voted to not allow the school.

Fusion Academy — which operates more than 60 schools in 17 states — including three in Massachusetts — first applied to open a private school in Andover in May 2018. The committee denied the school’s first application nearly a year later in April 2019 on similar grounds because of the amount of teacher-to-student instruction time.

After filing the original paperwork to operate, Fusion Academy had secured a 10-year lease that promised about \$2.6 million in rent over those years, and the company poured more than \$1.4 million into renovating a Dundee Park building for use as a school, according to the lawsuit. The company resubmitted the private school application in May 2020.

On its second application, the company stated how the one-to-one model would satisfy learning time state requirements, despite

not having to abide by them as a private school, the lawsuit states.

However, again without a policy set by the school committee, the application was denied on similar grounds.

When the pandemic struck that spring, Andover switched to a hybrid at-home and in-school model for much of the 2020-2021 school year. Fusion Academy then hosted a supplemental program where students could attend their remote classes at the academy, getting help from instructors in real-time.

Whitney Repetto, an Andover mother of a Fusion Academy student, spoke in favor of the district allowing the school earlier this year. She enrolled her son in the hybrid supplemental program where he went to the academy on the days he was supposed to be remote in the Andover hybrid model.

“It was an absolute lifesaver for us. . . We realized we might have the best academic year we’ve ever had,” Repetto said. “The supplemental program was phenomenal.”

However, as Andover transitions back into full-time, in-person learning next year, Fusion has permanently shut its doors and is hoping the lawsuit will allow them to reopen.

Members of the School Committee and district officials declined to comment for this story saying they do not comment on pending litigation.

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# Baker's tax holiday plan gets mixed reviews

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — With a post-pandemic bounce in state revenues, Gov. Charlie Baker is proposing a first-ever, two-month reprieve from the state's sales tax, but the plan is being criticized by some as a "billion-dollar giveaway."

On Wednesday, Baker filed legislation to make August and September tax-free holidays, proposing to dramatically expand what is normally just a two-day break from the 6.25% state sales tax. The Republican plans to tap surplus revenues that have come in nearly \$4 billion over projections.

Baker said the move will boost taxpayers and Main Street merchants still struggling to overcome effects of the pandemic.

"Massachusetts' economic recovery is off to a good start, but it's crucial that the commonwealth takes action now to spur more economic activity in communities and support taxpayers," he said.

Baker said tax revenues for the current fiscal year have exceeded expectations, with a 14.9% or \$3.9 billion increase over the year-to-date estimates. The two-month tax break would cost the state about \$900 million, according to the Baker administration.

Business groups, who were caught off-guard by Baker's proposal, said the move would help merchants. Jon Hurst, president of the

Retailers of Massachusetts Association, called the plan "a smart, exciting and progressive economic incentive that will benefit our small businesses and our consumers just when they need it."

But critics are panning the proposal as a gimmick, saying it will drain more than \$900 million that could go toward public transit, crumbling roads and bridges, public schools or other pressing needs.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association and state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, which represent the state's educators, issued a joint statement criticizing Baker's plan as a "billion-dollar giveaway" that will only "boost the profits of large, out-of-state, big-box stores and online retailers."

"We must ensure that our public schools and colleges have the resources to support students after a historic year of disruption and invest in our transportation systems to keep congestion from returning," the statement said. "With so many facing incredible hardship, Baker's billion-dollar giveaway is the wrong move."

Ultimately, the decision will be with the Democratic-controlled Legislature, which is required under a 2018 law to set the sales tax holiday. Lawmakers have already approved a request from Baker to make Aug. 14-15 this year's holiday.

Main Street retailers view tax holidays as a chance to

lure shoppers during a slow season and level the playing field with Amazon and other online merchants.

Not everything is tax-free. The holiday won't apply to big-ticket items such as cars and boats, or single items costing more than \$2,500. Nor would it include taxes on energy bills, restaurant meals, tobacco or marijuana products.

The reprieve is especially important for communities along the New Hampshire border that compete year-round with stores in the tax-free Granite State. That's one of the reasons Rep. Frank Moran, D-Lawrence, says he supports Baker's plan.

"I think it's a great idea," he said. "There's a lot of businesses in my communities that are still struggling and would benefit from this. I support it 100%."

Rep. Brad Hill, R-Ipswich, also thinks the move could help buoy struggling business owners and says the state has enough surplus money to cover the losses to its tax coffers.

"For those who are arguing those dollars could be spent elsewhere, if we lose more businesses we're not going to get any revenue in the future," Hill said.

Retailers say the Massachusetts sales tax puts them at a competitive disadvantage. It's third-highest in New England, behind Rhode Island's 7% and Connecticut's 6.35%.

Rep. Paul Tucker, D-Salem,

said he also wants to help struggling retailers but needs to be sure the revenue lost by the state will actually benefit them.

He said the state also needs to be cautious about spending money.

"People might say that we're flush with money right now, but a lot of it is one-time revenues," he said. "We still need to be careful about our spending."

Tax watchdogs are skeptical of the impact of tax-free holidays. Some critics argue that the reprieves subsidize businesses at the expense of limited state funding for other programs.

But David Tuerck, president of the right-leaning Beacon Hill Institute, is among economists who think that the state needs to take more steps like an extended tax break to stimulate spending and speed the post-pandemic recovery.

"The state is awash in tax revenue right now, and they really need to stimulate retail sales," Tuerck said. "It's not something I'd want them to do every year, but I think it is totally in order at this moment, and hope it goes through."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for The Eagle-Tribune and its sister newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cnhnews.com.

## Celebrating 40 years in business



Courtesy photo

State Rep. Tram Nguyen (left), D-Andover, and state Sen. Barry Finegold (right), D-Andover, present JP Lick's owner Vincent Petryk (center) a citation commemorating his businesses' 40 years.

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Courtesy photo

From left: Jim Adams, president of the service club of Andover; Don Bulens, board member; Nikita Bajaj, recipient; Ken Pirro, board member; Simran Bajaj, recipient; Shashwat Ghevde, recipient; Frank Kenneally, board member; Yashvi Gosalia, recipient; Assistant Principal Scott Darlington; Principal Caitlin Brown; Lisa Fossella, board member.

## Students receive scholarships for innovation

By MADELINE HUGHES  
mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

Eight Andover High School students received scholarships from the Service Club of Andover for completing various projects that helped the community over the past year.

They each received the "2021 Youth Make A Difference Award" that lauded their demonstration of creativity, innovation and impact during the pandemic.

"These students demonstrated remarkable creativity and thoughtfulness in finding ways to help others and give back to the community," said Ken Pirro, a board member who coordinated the program.

One of the winning

projects included a group of students who raised money to purchase materials to use with 3D printers, in the manufacturing of masks for front-line workers. They used these resources and printers to build and equip area hospital workers with much-needed PPE gear, he said.

Another project "AIM-2Learn", provided tutoring and remote learning support to children who had to find ways to keep up with their studies while not able to attend classes in person, he said.

The Service Club of Andover is a locally-based non-profit organization, that seeks to make a difference in the lives of others. They focus on the youth in

the community and developmentally disabled citizens across the Merrimack Valley

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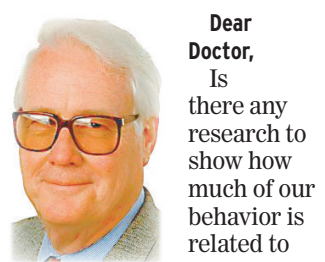
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## Human or animal? We're closer than you know

Dr. Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor, Is there any research to show how much of our behavior is related to other animals? It seems to me some current behavior is speaking to that. Comment please.

Reader

we lost our hair. A small number of babies are born every year with bodies covered with hair. In utero embryos have fine hair which disappears before birth.

We also lost our tails. Just imagine the changes in clothing and furniture if we still sported a tail. What wagging would take place in Congress! A small number of babies are born with tails. All of us have a "tail bone" which is the remains of that feature.

Behaviorally our primate relatives exhibit personality and behaviors still common in our species. One family of psychologists raised a monkey with their new born. Until age 2.5 the monkey was superior. Eventually the human child soared ahead because of higher brain development.

Instinctual behavior is shared, and this includes anger, territory, and sexuality. In my opinion comparative zoology should be taught in every psychology program and medical school.

Dear Reader, Let me begin by saying we are mammals and definitely connected to the animal kingdom and in more ways than you might think.

A great book, in my opinion a classic, was published in the 60s. It is "The Naked Ape" by Desmond Morris. He was the curator of primates at the London zoo.

The book is solid and makes a compelling case for our evolution from other primate species. Somewhere along the line, for example,

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# Opinion

## Reflecting on a grim aspect of our history

Frederick Douglass must have chosen his words carefully, keeping his audience, the Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society of Rochester, New York, in mind. Reflecting on the founding of the nation 76 years earlier, with the bold declaration of independence from King George III, Douglass acknowledged that its signers had been "brave" and "great enough to give frame to a great age." He talked of his respect for the "statesmen, patriots and heroes" who laid a foundation for a new country.

But Douglass also reflected that their Declaration of Independence did not hold the same meaning for his audience that day, July 5, 1852, at Rochester's Corinthian Hall, as it did for him or for people held in slavery. A free man who traveled and lectured in favor of abolition, Douglass spoke of his "sad sense off the disparity between us."

"I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary," he said. "Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me."

The ladies of Rochester could celebrate their freedom and independence. Not so Douglass. Indeed, on that day nine years before an attack on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, started the Civil War, and more than a decade before President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the population of the United States included more than 3.2 million people who were enslaved.

Douglass' words are given voice this week at readings of his speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" to be held around the state, including in North Andover. The recitations sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities are the beginning of a meaningful tradition as we reflect on our common story over the Independence Day holiday. For as much pride and reverence as we rightfully place in our founding document, there's another grim aspect of this story that demands our thought and attention.

Here we don't forget, in part, because of the ties between Douglass and our region. After moving to Massachusetts, he connected with William Lloyd Garrison, the Newburyport native who published and edited the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*. For a time Douglass lived on the North Shore, in Lynn, and visited Andover to meet with the abolitionist William Jenkins and the author Harriet Beecher Stowe, with whom he would remain friends for years.

Neither do we forget the message of Douglass' speech, which has resonated through American history in the years since he gave it.

Even if he did not cite Douglass by name, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. similarly noted the paradox of the Declaration of Independence. In a Fourth of July sermon delivered almost exactly 113 years after Douglass' speech in Rochester, King talked about the "amazing universalism" of the "great dream" described in the Declaration of Independence. The document does not distinguish who it applies to, King pointed out, but says "all men."

At the same time, King noted America's "schizophrenic personality, tragically divided against herself."

"On the one hand we have proudly professed the great principles of democracy, but on the other hand we have sadly practiced the very opposite of those principles," King told members of the Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation in Atlanta.

Another 56 years after that, our country is still divided by race, class and gender. And despite the lofty sentiment on the parchment that launched a nation, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men our created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights ...," our shared history has not always reflected equality.

Indeed, for much of our history, America has been anything but.

The coming week is a time to appreciate the blessings of democracy and of our unique, enduring republic. But as part of that celebration, we should also reflect upon the whole picture of a country with grand aspirations that has too often fallen short, and of people like Douglass who devoted their lives to ensuring the promise of freedom extends to everyone.

For more information about Frederick Douglass communal readings scheduled for this week, visit [www.masshumanities.org/events](http://www.masshumanities.org/events)

## WEB QUESTION

Should police be allowed to freely use "plate reader" technology to scan vehicle license plates?

State lawmakers are debating new limits on the technology, which has been in use for more than a decade, although not by many police departments. Privacy groups warn that the devices carry potential for abuse, particularly if information is stored and later subject to open ended searches.

But law enforcement warns that limiting the technology too much will impair police ability to search for criminal suspects or kidnap victims. What do you think?

**POLICING TOOL:** If the dashboard-mounted plate readers let police do their jobs better, I'm all for them.

**PRIVACY INTRUSION:** Police don't need fancy scanners to

"be on the lookout" for someone. Like cameras that keep watch over us nearly everywhere we go, plate readers are another intrusion into our lives.

**LIMIT THEM:** Police should have access to the technology, so long as there are strict limits on how long data is stored and who may access it.

### Last week's question

Do you need the promise of a prize to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Starting in July, the state will begin weekly drawings for \$1 million cash prizes for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Children ages 12 to 17 can win \$300,000 college scholarships.

**Don Robb**

Andover Center for History and Culture

*Editor's Note: This story was originally published April 15, 2010. The reader will notice some changes since the text was first written.*

Each spring, Andover's annual town meeting opens with the singing of "America," or as it is also known from its first line, "My Country 'Tis of Thee." (A few years ago, Town Moderator Jim Doherty was astonished, after introducing the young lady who would perform, to hear her sing, exquisitely, not "America," but "America, the Beautiful.")

Why is "America" a part of the tradition of Andover town meeting? Simply, because Andover is "America's" home town – the song was written here early in the 19th century.

"On a gloomy day in February 1831," a young student at the Andover Theological Seminary, Samuel Francis Smith, was busy translating a series of German songs from a book given to him by his friend, Lowell Mason.

Inspired by the lyrics of one particularly patriotic song, Smith paused in his translating, took a scrap of paper, and jotted down five verses of a patriotic song of his own, one which exalted the virtues of his native country, America.

Smith, born in Boston in 1808, graduated from Boston Latin School in 1825, and from Harvard in 1829. Fluent in several languages, he worked as a translator and journalist for several years before deciding he wanted to become a minister.

He arrived at the Andover Theological

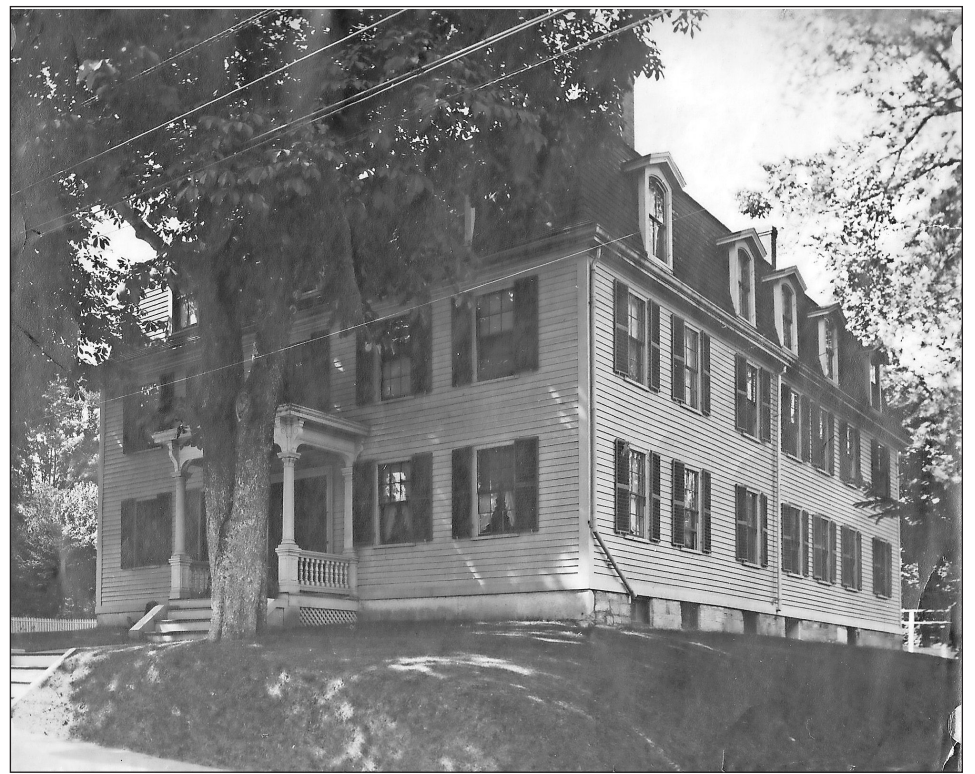


Photo courtesy Andover Center for History & Culture

**The "America House" at 147 Main St. dates to 1825. Seven years later, Samuel F. Smith wrote the words to the patriotic song "America" while living at the house as a student at the Andover Theological Seminary. Smith set the words to a German tune in a book he was translating, which also happened to be the melody to "God Save the King."**

Seminary (now the Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton but then located on the campus of Phillips Academy) in 1830, and rented rooms in a home at what is now 147 Main St.

Smith needed a mere half-hour to produce the lyrics to a song that has become an American favorite over the years. The book where he found the original German lyrics also contained the accompanying music.

Smith had no idea that the German tune in which he wrote new English lyrics was also the melody to "God Save the King," the British national anthem.

Most Americans are well acquainted with the first verse of the song, "My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty ..."

Fewer, perhaps are as familiar with the second verse, which has

particular significance for Andoverites. That verse contains the lines: "I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills ..."

It is widely believed that those lines refer to the part of Andover that Smith could see from his home on Main Street. Looking west from his first floor window toward rolling hills in those early days of the 19th century, before the town had built up, and especially in winter when the trees were bare, Smith could see two church steeples – the "templed hills" of the song.

The two spires were those of Andover's first two churches, the South Parish Church on Central Street and the West Parish Church on Reservation Road. The South Parish Church was established in 1711. Although the first

church building had no steeple, a replacement built in 1788 did adopt the late 18th century style of churches with steeples.

West Parish Church, built in 1826 – and the oldest church building in town – was constructed with a spire.

"America" was first performed in public at an Independence Day service at the Park Street Church in Boston on July 4, 1831.

Since then, it has become one of the country's favorite patriotic songs.

*Editor's Note: "America" was published by Mason in 1832. Smith wrote an additional stanza for the April 1889 Washington Centennial, in addition to over 150 other hymns. Samuel Francis Smith is buried in Newton, where he had been pastor of the Newton Centre Church for many years.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Andover is unmatched. As director of AYS, he can continue to lead the program in a young person centered way.

He needs the ability to hire his own assistant director and retain full autonomy over the program.

I hope your readers join me in asking the town to support Glenn Wilson's permanent appointment.

**WILL ENGLISH**  
Beverly

### Support state's move to '100% clean' energy

**Editor, Townsman:**

Whether it's the devastating wildfires in the west, the disastrous hurricanes in the Gulf, or the dangerous fluctuations in

temperature that we saw in Texas a few months ago, it is abundantly clear that the climate crisis we've been discussing for so long is now officially upon us. Well over 70% of our country's overall emissions come from only three sectors: electricity, heating and transportation.

By bringing these three areas of our economy and society into the 21st century, we can make a huge impact in preventing devastation.

While achieving 100% clean energy is not only necessary, but possible, our national government is not stepping up to meet this moment in our history.

However, our state government can. The

Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering the 100% Clean Act, which would transition our state to 100% clean electricity by 2035 and 100% clean heating and transportation by 2045.

This would be the strongest clean energy bill in the entire country, and would finally make Massachusetts a progressive leader for the rest of the nation again.

I strongly urge your readers to support this bill and make sure their legislators do as well, in order to ensure our planet is safe and healthy for ourselves and our children for years to come.

**MATTHEW ALLEN**  
Andover

## READER ACCESS

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**POLICE LOG**

**MONDAY, JUNE 21**

**Assault:** Woman hit in face, Bullfinch Drive, 3:17 a.m.  
**Noise complaint:** Fireworks, Washington Park Drive, 8:16 p.m.

**Mischief activity:** Kids skateboarding in no skate-board zone asked to move, Bartlet Street, 5:11 p.m.  
**Theft:** Credit card, Chandler Road, 7:18 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23**

**Harassment:** Spruce Circle, 1:31 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24**

**Arrest:** Gaesha Josselin, 20, of Medford arrested for an attempted armed robbery and an assault with a deadly weapon, River Road, 4:59 a.m.

**Mischief activity:** Three children on roof. Parents called, Park Street, 7:46 p.m.  
**Arrest:** Frank C. Criscitello, 40, of Billerica arrested for driving with a suspended license, North Main Street, 11:24 p.m.

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# Rosemary Davidson Flynn, 86

May 15, 1935 - May 15, 2021



BRENHAM, TX — Rosemary Davidson Flynn, 86, passed away peacefully at her home on May 15, 2021, surrounded by family, loved ones, and her beloved dog, Chico.

Rosemary was born in Lawrence, precisely 86 years earlier, on May 15, 1935. The fourth child of Leon and Agnes Davidson, her siblings included Dorothy Davidson Marson, Charlie Davidson, and John Davidson.

In 1952, Rosemary graduated from Punchard High in Andover, Mass. She then attended Endicott Junior College in Beverly, and earned her Associate's Degree. Post junior college, she started work at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, for Dr. Paul Zoll, the creator of the cardiac defibrillator. She worked for numerous other medical doctors during her 14 years at Beth Israel.

Rosemary married the love of her life, Dr. Chester John Flynn, Jr., on July 4, 1964 at West Parish Church in Andover. After the wedding, the Flynn's honeymooned in Europe for eight weeks, traveling in a Volkswagen Bug they purchased upon their arrival. They sold the Bug before returning to the United States.

Chester and Rosemary moved to Houston, Texas in the late 1960s for Chester's career in medicine. A move that was supposed to be only a year ended up being for the next 40 years. When they decided to expand their family, Chester and Rosemary adopted two boys from the Edna Gladney Home of Ft. Worth. Gregory Flynn in 1969, followed by Michael Flynn in 1971.

Rosemary was bitten by the travel bug early. She and Chester traveled extensively during their marriage. She also traveled far and wide with her niece, Sara Garcia. Exploring almost all of Europe, traveling to Russia, visiting China, Thailand, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, among others, Rosemary was a highly traveled lady whose eyes saw more of the world than most ever do.

Rosemary was a very ambitious entrepreneur who decided to go into the hospitality industry in the mid 1980's. She and her niece, Sara Garcia, founded Party Cloths in Houston, Texas. After having stepped away from the Houston branch of Party Cloths, Rosemary decided to again dive and started Rosemary's Table Linens in Brenham. In the beginning days of this business, she met two very special ladies who remained close friends of hers for the remainder of their lives: Dorothy Lackey and Nina Hopkins.

Friendship is something that holds strong between hearts when two people connect. This was also the case with Rosemary and Miriam Demers. Meeting at the age of 6 in the second grade, in a two-room schoolhouse, they remained lifelong friends. Rosemary and Miriam would still have their hour-long conversations despite being half-way across the country from one another. When asked what they still laugh about, Dr. Flynn would say, "They're laughing about things that happened 100 years ago!"

Not only did Rosemary surround herself with many great people, she also had a profound love for animals. Her horse, Lady, would walk with her and was lovingly treasured by Rosemary for 42 years. Yes—42 years.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents, Leon and Agnes Davidson, sister, Dorothy (Doty) Marson and brother-in-law Virgil Marson, brother, Charlie Davidson, and husband Dr. Chester Flynn Jr. Nieces, Sara Davidson Garcia and Jenny Davidson Bartholdi.

Rosemary is survived by her brother, John Davidson and special friend, Linda Roberts of New Hampshire; brother, Charlie's life companion, Joyce Comfort of Massachusetts. Sons and daughters-in-law: Gregory Flynn of Austin and Michael and Amy Flynn of Brenham, stepson; Chester John Flynn III and Karen of Norwell, Mass.; grandchildren Ben, Abigail and Emily Flynn of Norwell, and Spencer, Oliver and special friend, Chloe Kent and Lucas Flynn of Brenham. Adopted grandchildren, Andrew Malloch, Alex Rosenbaum, and Zane Aschenbeck of Brenham; nieces and nephews, Stephanie (Stevie) and Jamie Nicoll of New Hampshire, Elizabeth (Lisa) Davidson of Massachusetts, Christina (Chris) and John Anderson of Massachusetts, Casey and Larry Farley of Rhode Island, Mary and Jim Graham of Vermont, and nephew David Marson of New Hampshire; great-nieces and nephews: Eric and Julia Nicoll of Colorado, Robert Amato, Jeffrey and Elizabeth Anderson, Kate and Andre Aresensault, Andrew and Jen Garcia of Pennsylvania, Katy and Rick Salinas of Oregon; great-great nephews, Benjamin Garcia of Pennsylvania, Julian and Caleb Anderson, Charlie and Jake Aresensault, Maximilian Marson and great-great nieces Madelynn Garcia of Pennsylvania and Kyla Nicoll of Colorado. A Nephew-in-law, whom Rosemary considered her nephew, Jean-Pierre (J.P.) Garcia, of Houston. J.P. took Rosemary to numerous doctor's appointments in Houston, always stopping to get her a ham and cheese kolache for her until the very end.

Rosemary Flynn was a person whose light shined brighter than any other. She was someone who anyone grew to love the moment they met her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those she loved. Last but not least, Rosemary wanted all to know that in life, in business, in anything she did, she did it her way just like Frank Sinatra will tell you.

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# Ralph Tufano, 81

March 28, 1940 - June 19, 2021

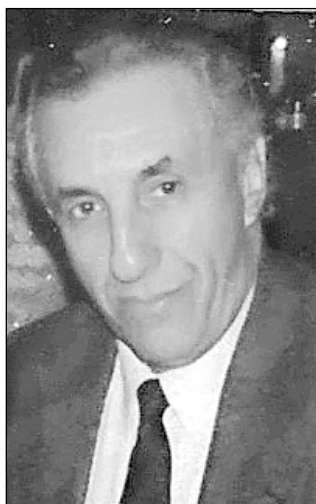


NORTH ANDOVER, MA — Ralph Tufano, 81, of North Andover, died Saturday, June 19, 2021, in his home after battling health issues for several years.

Born in New York, March 28, 1940, son of the late Anthony and Marie Tufano, he was raised in a large Italian family in Brooklyn. He enlisted in the Marines at age 17 and was honorably discharged in 1963. After the Marines, he settled in Massachusetts, where he worked for the Town of Andover, Department of Public Works. In his free time, he enjoyed fixing cars as well as building and riding motorcycles.

Married May 28, 1993, Ralph and his wife Patti made their home in North Andover. Ralph loved deeply and was fiercely loyal. He taught his family how to love and be loved in return. He enjoyed spending time with his wife and family, talking to friends, playing with the family cats, and reading.

After he retired from the Andover DPW, he became a High Power Rifle Shooter, spending his free time at the Reading Rifle and Revolver Club and competing in competitions throughout New England and Canada.



He is survived by his loving wife, Patti; two daughters, Tina McCarthy and husband Michael, and Toni Johnson and her wife Dawn; one step-daughter, Heather Long and her husband Chris; one step-son, Matthew Gendron and his wife Amanda; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Anthony Tufano and Joseph Tufano; two sisters, Anna Tufano and Antoinette Sicurella. He was the grandfather of the late Trish Gearhart and the brother of the late John Tufano.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Per his wishes, there will be no calling hours or services.

# Mary M. Breckinridge, 82

October 21, 1938 - June 23, 2021

MANCHESTER, NH — Mary (McDonough) Breckinridge, 82, of Manchester, N.H., died June 23, 2021, at the Courville at Manchester after a period of declining health.

She was born in Cambridge, Mass., on October 21, 1938, to John and Esther (Eno) McDonough. She grew up in Manchester and later attended Wheaton College and the Katherine Gibbs School. She lived in Andover, Mass., for 40 years and Amherst, N.H., for 13 years.

Mary worked for the Diocese of Boston at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover, Mass., for over 20 years. She had also volunteered at Lawrence (Mass.) General Hospital and the Parent Teacher Association for the Pike School and Sanborn School, both in Andover, Mass.

She cherished time spent with her family and many friends.

She was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, William H. Breckinridge in 2010.

Mary is survived by three children, Sally Green of Manchester, N.H., Mary "Lee" Cooper and her husband, Gregg, of Manlius, N.Y., and John Breckinridge and his wife, Nicole, of Goffstown, N.H.; 10 grandchildren, Craig Masi and his wife, Nichole, Mitchell Green, Catherine Green, Cameron Cooper and his wife, Rachel, Jake Cooper, Max Cooper and his wife, Julia, Quinn Cooper, Tyler Breckinridge and his wife, Emily, Rachel Bel-



lemore and her husband, Sam, Becca Breckinridge and her fiancé, Trevor Walker; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Essie Smith of Colorado; cousins, nieces, and nephews.

**SERVICES:** Calling hours are Monday, June 28, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Lambert Funeral Home & Crematory, 1799 Elm St., Manchester, NH. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, June 29, at 10 a.m., at St. Catherine Church, 267 Webster St., Manchester, NH. Private interment at the N.H. State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, N.H., is at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Courville at Manchester, 44 W. Webster St., Manchester, NH 03104 in memory of Mary.

To leave a message of condolence, see the obituary at [www.lambertfuneralhome.com](http://www.lambertfuneralhome.com).

# ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

## Susan McKelliget

### Andover Center for History and Culture

#### 100 Years Ago—July 1, 1921

Three men were injured, and a jitney (private car for hire) was badly damaged about 7:30 Thursday morning when the machine drive by Mike Battale of 29 Jackson Street, Lawrence, and carrying eight passengers, crashed into a Lawrence Gas company pole near the ink shop turnout as it was approaching Shawshen Village. The accident is said to have occurred when the driver, without stopping his machine, turned to the back seat to collect his fares.

Plans for the big Fourth of July celebration were completed Tuesday at the meeting of Andover post 8, American Legion, held at headquarters, Commander Bartlett H. Hayes presiding. The bonfire the "night before" is now being built on the playstead and will be at least 30 feet high. The old building on Cuba street donated by the Smith and

Dove Co. has been torn down by ex-service men and is being removed to the playstead. Much other material has been contributed by citizens of the town.

A.A. Lewis has opened an up-to-date shoe repairing shop in the store in Musgrove building formerly occupied by the American Express Co.

#### 75 Years Ago—July 4, 1946

The appropriation of \$35,000 for sewer extension, voted in last March's town warrant is illegal and the money cannot be used. Chairman Roy E. Hardy of the selectmen, notified of that decision by Herman A. Dine, state assistant director of accounts, has informed the B.P.W. of the State's decision. The basis for the illegality of the appropriation, said Mr. Hardy, was the fact that the entire sum was to be borrowed on a five-year note. The State insists that towns must finance such work on a "pay as you go" basis raising at least a portion of the funds needed from current tax levies or transfer from cash on hand.

The front cover of the Townsman shows a photo of Sandra and Henry Roche, 3 and 5 years old respectively, who have found the best answer to the weather-man's high temperature. One of the nicest "cooling off periods" for Greater Andover's younger set is a trip to Pomp's Pond where the water is fine. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roche of Marland street, Ballardvale.

(Partial editorial) One thing we miss a lot, in town this summer, is a representative baseball club. There are several teams working out in the Twilight League, and more power to them, but they don't play the best ball Andover could offer. What we want is a good semi-pro team representing the town as a whole. It was just a couple of years ago that the Andover town team was taking on all comers. It took into camp Boston's champion Casey team, Lynn, and Waltham, several of the better service and war plant aggregations.

#### July 8, 1971

A ban on outdoor burning

is now in effect in Andover. Fire Chief Henry L. Hilton reported this week that prohibiting of all burning, including covered barrels is now in effect and subject to enforcement. The ban on out-door burning began state-wide a year ago, but Andover, among other communities, was given a grace period, until such time as proper disposal facilities became available.

Public safety authorities, joined by department of public works officials and representatives of Andover Village Improvement Society are taking specific action in eliminating a particular danger. They are eliminating the Fish Brook area as a swimming facility. Swimming is prohibited in the area and always has been. But youthful enthusiasm in hot weather, has often found that laws could be hurdled, as well as fences and signs, and the water with its refreshing allure became a trap. A youngster nearly drowned a week ago while using the prohibited area as a recreation facility.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

### ANDOVER

- 15 Acorn Drive:** Bruce W. and Lisa M. Raphael to Nidhi Taneja 2016 T and Nidhi Taneja, \$1,530,100
- 11 Crescent Drive Unit 4:** M A Frishman RET 2014 and Andrew Frishman to Marie Licciardi, \$224,000
- 11 Donald Circle:** John A. Beal to Sandra Andrade, \$715,000
- 5 Freemont Lane:** Jeffrey J. and Elizabeth A. Cuzzaglio to Kevin M. and Kristen L. Carter, \$1,051,000
- 8 High Meadow Road:** Thomas C. Adie and Lisa M. Guidoboni to Brian P. Hough and Catherine E. Landry, \$2,000,000
- 49 Lupine Road Unit 2:** James J. and Roseann M. Ogborn to Sheri L. Radoux, \$355,000
- 79 N Main St.:** Springburn 2 LLC to Magabri LLC, \$1,000,000
- 3 Orchard King:** Cort D Szarfarz RET and Cort D. Szarfarz to Devon Bank, \$866,000
- 4 Paddock Laen:** Flaherty RT and Joseph C. Flaherty to Surya and Sunita Kanchinadam, \$1,440,000
- 18 Ravens Bluff:** 18 Ravens Bluff NT and Pamela J. Denny to Sindhura Chayapathy and Chaitanya Mitash, \$930,000
- Riverside Woods Condo Unit 3208:** Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC to Denise S Clifford RT and Denise S. Clifford, \$413,856
- Riverside Woods Condo Unit 3204:** Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC to Michael Dinneen, \$384,255
- Riverside Woods Condo Unit 3207:** Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC to Eleanor A Catalano RET and Patrick J. Catalano, \$491,435
- Riverside Woods Condo Unit 3202:** Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC to C&A Rizoos FT 2020 and Nicholas C. Rizoos, \$358,380
- Riverside Woods Condo Unit**

- 3210:** Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC to Catherine A. Demaggio, \$389,333
- 2 Trumpeters Lane Unit 2:** Shannon Cronin to Brian R. Carabes, \$975,000
- 2 W Knoll Road:** Timothy P. and Gina Jones to Anthony Hudson, \$1,010,000
- 27 Bailey Ln:** Jennifer E. Stanley to Jessica A. and Joshua M. Seaman, \$730,000

### GROVELAND

- 4 Berrywood Lane:** Barbara H. Costa to Nicholas R. Costa, \$400,000
- 13 Blueberry Hill Road:** Mary Arsenault and Evelyn T. Clausnizer to Brandon M. and Kristen M. White, \$500,000
- 14 Briscoe Road:** Craig M. and Valerie A. Magee to Andrew B. and Lynne Rocco, \$599,000
- 94 Center St. Unit 1:** Christopher and Elizabeth Seigle to Ariel A. Asher and Brendon C. Clarke-Coogan, \$257,000
- 233 School St.:** David and Sarah Martinez to Daniel L. and Fangyun X. Goncalves, \$681,409

### HAVERHILL

- 7 Sister Road:** Kenoza Properties LLC to Peter A. Alpert, \$295,000
- 46 7 Sister Road:** Linda and Richard F. Gilmore to Marcelo M. Rodrigues, \$800,000
- 5-7 Benjamin St.:** K&S Leblanc Rity Co Inc to Paola Polanco, \$450,000
- 1057 Boston Road:** Amy B. and Gilbert C. Dasilva to Hany Fadel, \$470,000
- 1003 Broadway:** Gail E. and Jared S. Eaton to Melinda and Sean Bakke, \$350,000
- 50 Crystal Court:** Jacqueline M. and Mark R. Cuomo to William J. Desmarais and Jean M. Venditti, \$585,000

### LAWRENCE

- 10 Dustin Ave.:** Joan E. Driscoll to Wendy Perez-Escobar and Arnoldo Perez, \$414,000
- 16 Elmwood Ave.:** Jennifer M. and Philip J. Drelick to Charles Wheeler, \$390,000
- 86 Front 9 Drive:** Front 9 Drive LLC to Glenn W. and Nancy A. Delaney, \$630,000
- 87 Front 9 Drive:** Front 9 Drive LLC to George E. and Susan J. Gormady, \$630,000
- 322 Gile St.:** Carolina Properties LLC to Jack P. Marchese and Danielle E. Taylor, \$710,000
- 1 Kimball St.:** Milagros Castillo and Roely Peralta to Kengly R. Casilla-Baez and Rafael C. Diaz, \$585,000
- 662 Main St.:** Angel Delacruz and Ismale Gonzalez to Samuel Richards, \$529,900
- 176 N. Broadway:** Arrie D. and Deborah K. Dillon to Giovanni Sorbello, \$505,000
- 440 North Ave. Unit 112:** Marc C. Hamman to Jacob and Scott M. Williams, \$180,000
- 2 North St.:** Doucette Deloss Est and Deborah L. Tardy to Marckenley Joseph, \$575,000
- 56 Pine Ave.:** Bruce A. and Mary A. Tracia to Kristy M. Lu, \$579,900
- 75 River St. Unit 6:** Maria C. Voci to Farid Dessources, \$225,000
- 98-100 S Prospect St.:** Nicholas A. Rocca to Andrew R. Crittenden, \$405,000
- 51 Saint Botolph St. Unit 51:** Melissa and Sherry Duggan to Ryan Dionne and Sharrise Volpe, \$332,000
- 601 Washington St. Unit 601:** Davric RT Inc to Rajat Kumar, \$388,000
- 108 Westchester Drive Unit 108:** Barry FT and James J. Barry to Guy D. and Joan C. Berube, \$495,000

- 135 Berkeley St. Unit 1-4:** Ashton Arms LLC to 135-137 Berkeley T and Arturo Taveras, \$1,200,000
- 27-29 Bruce St.:** Marcos S. Gonzalez and Paola M. Santana to Yasel Santana-Hernandez, \$429,120
- 37-39 Cedar St.:** Gabriel Yuil to 37 Cedar Realty LLC, \$399,000
- 122-124 Easton St.:** Eriberto Garcia to Luis P. Adames and Yelitza M. Tejeda-Deadames, \$640,000
- 1120 Essex St.:** Edgar A. Montanez to Luisa M. Brito-Diaz and David Catalino, \$340,000
- 39 Gilbert St.:** Bruce Fielding to Henrietta Fielding and Braulio Santiago, \$70,000
- 21 Glenn St.:** DCL RT and Carol Bachini to JVM Management Group LLC, \$6,500,000
- 7 Greenwood St.:** Marilyn Zevitch to Roselio Garcia, \$339,000
- 480 Haverhill St.:** Livia Colon to Bachir Lib LLC, \$120,000
- 34 Lenox Circle:** Saida Hilario to Nora and Agustin Ramos, \$450,000
- 58-60 Osgood St.:** Eric J. and Arthur C. Soucey to Kelvin J. Rojas, \$660,000
- 28 Park St.:** Taveras Daniel Est and Paula Johnson to Carlos and Rita Monegro, \$450,000
- 34 Salem St.:** Patriots-Gus RE LLC to Luis G. Mendez and Margaret A. Hernandez, \$600,000
- 117-119 Trenton St.:** Henry and Sheila Och to Albania Mejia and Hector B. Ventura-Holguin, \$567,000
- 14 Tyler St. Unit 2:** Bernis A. Corona-Diaz to Greisy J. Canario, \$300,000
- 322-324 Walnut St.:** Yosmer Rojas to Eridania Peralta and Sonia Martinez-Sanchez, \$651,000

## ANDOVER NEWS IN BRIEF

### Summer reading challenge

Memorial Hall Library is challenging Andover residents to read a quarter-million pages this summer. The "Tails & Tales" summer reading challenge is for anyone of any age.

Readers can sign up through the free mobile app Beanstack, which can be installed onto a desktop, tablet or smartphone. On the app, readers record how many pages they read to win virtual badges at various milestones.

The goal for children from preschool to Grade 5 is 1,000 pages. They will be entered to win a grand prize at the end of the summer.

Teens in Grades 6 through 12 are encouraged to read 1,000 pages and once they reach their goal, they will

be eligible for a free book and the end of the summer drawing for gift cards to local businesses.

Adults are encouraged to read 2,000 pages this summer and earn virtual badges for reading and writing reviews. Adults who reach this goal are eligible for an end-of-the-summer drawing for gift cards to local businesses.

### Virtual Gallery Talk: The Addison at 90

Discover the Addison's archives with Join Gordon Wilkins, the Addison's Associate Curator of American Art, at 2 p.m. on July 14. He will talk about the rich archives that reveal about the history of the museum's collection and relationship with artists.

Register for the event at [mhl.org/events](http://mhl.org/events).

# BACK TO THE FEAST

## Lawrence tradition returns after pandemic pause

By TERRY DATE  
Staff Writer

LAWRENCE — A long pandemic can transform even the thought of normalcy into delight.

The Feast of the Three Saints returns live in 2021, and organizers, participants, the city of Lawrence, and residents from all over the region are eager to rendezvous with family, friends and neighbors on Labor Day weekend.

Last week the Feast's organizing body, the St. Alfio Society, approved an abbreviated two-day schedule for Saturday, Sept. 4, and Sunday, Sept. 5. This will be the 98th year of celebrating Italian heritage and the three martyred brother saints.

The in-person celebration follows a quiet, largely virtual Feast in 2020, in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions.

On Friday inside the small, glass chapel at the society's hall, St. Alfio President Michael Morley, past President Raymond DiFiore and spokesman Tony Palmisano reflected on past Feasts, assessed the present and looked forward to what for many is the summer's culminating event.

That would be The Feast of the Three Saints. Crispellis and confetti. Wonders and rites. Music and offerings. Shouts and embraces.

Seated in the chapel behind the society members were the three large statues of Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino, saints who were canonized for refusing to renounce their faith upon torture and death in the year 253.

The revered statues were brought to the St. Alfio chapel for safe keeping after a destructive fire on Feb. 22 struck the rectory of Holy Rosary Church at Corpus Christi Parish.

A 3-foot, antique wooden crucifix rescued in the blaze rested flatly on chairs in the chapel.

On the walls in the corridors outside was a museum of reminders from Feasts past.

Vintage bells and decorations, program guides, framed posters and black-and-white photographs, paintings of the saints, red, white and green arm bands and sashes worn by participants, and innumerable plaques acknowledging families who have supported the Feast.

"It has been a difficult year," said DiFiore, a Lawrence native, who has celebrated the Feast in all but one of his 78 years.

He remembers Feasts as a child, sitting with family in front of their home at 120 Common St., which has since been torn down and is now the parking lot for Tripoli's bakery.

He remembers the Feast lights being strung not on poles as they are now, but from tenement to tenement. Neighbors would plug in the lights at the same time.

The prospect of returning to the traditional Feast celebration is energizing.

"I think this is really bringing people's spirits back," DiFiore said.

The society's current president, Morley, met this week with officials from the



The Feast of the Three Saints returns live in 2021, but the gathering of family, friends and neighbors will look a little different this year.

RYAN HUTTON/File photo



RYAN HUTTON/File photo

Ella Cobbett, then 6, runs along Union Street in Lawrence grabbing handfuls of confetti to throw into the air as the procession for the Feast of the Three Saints heads down the street behind her at the 2018 event.

city and the mayor's office to discuss plans for the Feast.

Street sections must be blocked off. Traffic detoured. Police details assigned. Permits approved.

The city is happy to have the Feast back in the fold, Morley said.

The timing, given the only recently lifted pandemic restrictions, have officials supporting a two-day festival, as opposed to three days, Morley said.

Still, the schedule will contain 90% of the typical Feast events, which will be set within a compressed time frame, Palmisano said.

One change will be the presentation of the Saints. The statues will be brought out from the St. Alfio hall as opposed to the church.

### Marching forward

Marching bands are a Feast staple.

As usual, Sal Erna's crisply dressed 20-member St. Alfio Band will kick off the Feast by playing a series of anthems at City Hall as flags are presented.

They perform throughout the Feast, including during the Torchlight parade, in which a majority of the 160-member St. Alfio Society marches.

Erna, originally from Sicily, came to Methuen in 1961 at 17 years old. The trumpet player promptly joined the Italian Colonial Band, performing at the Lawrence Feast until 1997, after which it became the St. Alfio Band.

During the pandemic he especially missed his two marching bands, St. Alfio and The Northeast Italian Band. They play holidays and other occasions throughout New England and now are returning to pre-pandemic events.

"Hopefully, we can get back to normal, or at least some kind," Erna said. "I am anxious to get back to normal."

Lawrence City Council President Marc LaPlante said he doesn't expect it will be a problem approving an event that was missed last year and that many people are looking forward to.

LaPlante, 55, grew up in Lawrence and has gone to Feasts with family since he was about 10 years old. He looks forward to the camaraderie, the food and seeing and talking to people he hasn't seen for a while.

"It is an institution in our city," he said.

The Feast has seen ups and downs in attendance over the years.

Now, in a typical year, the festival draws 25,000 to 30,000 people.

### Origins of a city tradition

The Feast was started by Italian-Americans who came to Lawrence in the early 1900s for work in the textile mills and trades.

Many came from Sicily, carrying with them an abiding devotion to the three saints, celebrated in traditional Feasts on the Italian

island since the 1500s.

In 1921, organizers formed the St. Alfio Society to assist Italian-Americans who came upon hard times, such as injuries at work or even the death of breadwinners.

Two years later, in 1923, the first Feast was held.

The society continues its charitable giving tradition, awarding \$1,000 scholarships, six of them this year, to college-bound Lawrence-area students.

In the last 10 years, the society has donated \$101,535 to more than 40 local organizations including, schools, medical research, and athletic and youth groups.

Much of the financial support for the giving stems from Feast parade processions that wind through the old Italian neighborhood around Newbury Street.

The saints and society members stop. Parents sometimes lift their children, who pin offerings to the martyrs. And the crowd cries, "Viva St. Alfio!"

The Feast is also an Old Home Day of sorts, a tradition practiced throughout New England, in which former residents return to their former towns and cities for music, games and food.

"For a lot of us, this is a weekend where we reconnect with people," said Palmisano, who lives in Windham, New Hampshire.

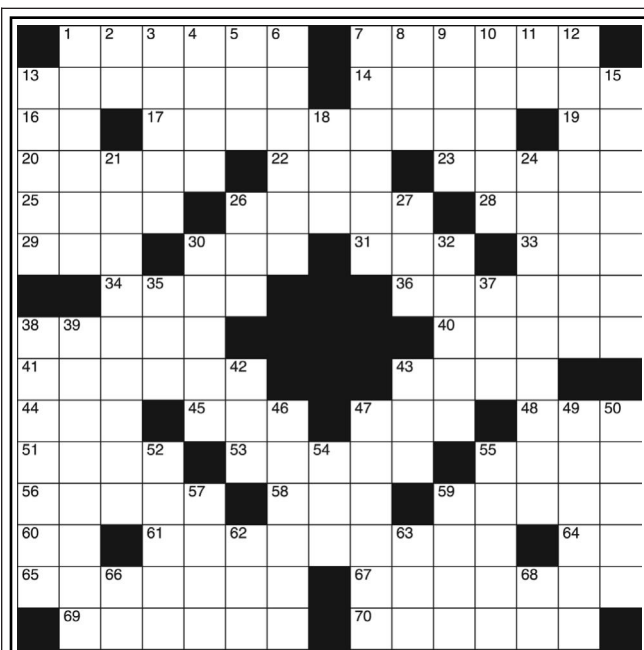
Palmisano, who attended school in and around Lawrence and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1982, sketches a typical encounter at the Feast.

"Every year, I would be coming down the street and Glenn Parisi would be waiting in line at Peter Messina's (the Italian Kitchen on Common Street) for crispellis.

"I'd say, 'Have you seen Gino Baroni, have you seen Lou Grasso?'"

Palmisano, Morley and DiFiore and most others are looking forward to the regular rhythms of our pre-pandemic lives.

"I think it's the expectation that we are going back to normalcy," DiFiore said. "There isn't anything more normal than the Feast."



### CLUES ACROSS

- Plant of the mint family
- Hand tool
- Made of the color of gold
- A volume of several novels
- Type of degree
- Good job!
- Seventh tone in major scale
- Fevers
- One's mother
- Fertile desert spots
- Large integers
- Plate for Eucharist
- Tennis matches have them
- Peyton's little brother
- Monetary unit of N. Korea
- Head movement
- Twelve
- Renaissance musical instrument
- Behavior showing high moral standards

### Solution in Classified Section

- Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Notes to be sung
- Women's garment
- Coarsely ground corn
- One point south of due east
- A way to deplete
- Rough, prickly covering of a seed
- LA hoopster, but not a Laker
- Hindquarters
- Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
- Liquid body substances
- Rhythmic patterns
- A beaver might build one
- Police officer's tool
- Indicates who you are
- Pinwheel
- Exist
- Ornamental molding
- Closes again
- Verses
- Come into view

### CLUES DOWN

- Short stick used as a weapon
- An alternative
- Laws
- Sense organs
- One from Utah
- Mariner
- People in charge of cattle
- Health insurance organization
- Ornamental box
- Forest-dwelling deer
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Atomic #71
- Become less intense
- Cowards
- Body ornament (slang)
- Applicable to all cases
- Multiplicated by 6
- Afghanistani monetary unit
- Calendar month
- Cena and Lennon are two
- Monetary unit of Serbia
- First time on the market
- Georgia rockers
- Free from contamination
- Coastal region of Canada
- Clothing retailer
- It rises and sets
- Fathers
- Stain with mud
- Suitcase for crops
- Feels concern for
- Orange-brown
- Buddy
- Late sportscaster Craig
- Used to align parts
- Wake up
- Solid water
- Semiprecious stone
- Atomic #45
- Top lawyer

7/1/21

Lawrence's St. Alfio Society members Raymond DiFiore, left, past president, Mike Morley, current president, and Tony Palmisano, of the festival committee, discuss plans for the annual Feast of the Three Saints Festival to be held Labor Day weekend. This year's festival will be held for two days instead of three and will start on Saturday and end on Sunday. The feast honors the three Italian brothers, Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino, who were martyred in the 3rd Century for refusing to denounce their Christian faith.

TIM JEAN/Staff file photo



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Announcements LOST & FOUND MISSING CAT Large fluffy black cat, male, very shy. East Derry area, Bonnie Lane. Call 603-437-0030

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, Massachusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time.

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be convened on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7:45 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlett Street, on applications submitted by KS Partners, LLC, for a Special Permit for a Major Non-Residential Project under Section 9.4.B of the Andover Zoning Bylaw and a Special Permit for a Change in Parking Space Requirements under Section 5.1.9 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. The application is for proposed construction of a +/- 100,000 s.f. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) lab facility building, and related parking adjustments located at 100-400 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA on property owned by New Brickstone Land, LLC and being more specifically identified as Assessors Map 35, Lot 27.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlett Street, on an application submitted by North Avenue Realty Trust, for a Special Permit for Planned Development - Multi-Family Dwelling, pursuant to Section 7.2. of the Andover Zoning Bylaw. The application is for new construction of 5 residential units that will be added to an existing mixed use structure on property owned by North Avenue Realty Trust located at 189-191 Andover Street, Andover, MA more specifically identified as Assessors Map 138, Lot 26. The application and associated documents may be examined in the Planning Department Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Zachary Bergeron, Chair AT - 6/24, 7/1/21

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Docket No. ES21CO239CA Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Probate and Family Court 36 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970 (978) 744-1020 In the matter of: Alana Jia-Hwei MacKay A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Alana Jia-Hwei MacKay of Andover MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Alana Jia-Hwei MacKay-Kao IMPARTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Essex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/19/2021 This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 21, 2021 Pamela Casey O'Brien Register of Probate AT - 7/1/21

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT

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# Sports

## FIGHT TO THE FINISH

### Andover baseball earns two big state tourney victories before bowing out

By DAVID WILLIS  
Staff Writer

No. 6 Andover struck for three runs in the top of the first inning, the rode a dominant performance by starter **Andrew Smithson** to defeat No. 3 Lynn English 3-0 in the Division 1 North quarterfinals last Wednesday.

Smithson allowed just three hits and struck out 10 over 6 2/3 innings, before reaching his pitch limit. **Aidan Ritter** finished it off for the save.

"It was just a tremendous performance by Andrew," said Andover coach **Dan Grams**. "He was really on. If he hadn't reached his pitch limit, it would have finished it off. He was great."

**Anthony Teberio** gave the Golden Warriors (12-4) to lead with a sacrifice fly, driving home leadoff man **Scotty Brown** (3 for 4).

**Tanner O'Sullivan** then made it 2-0 with an RBI double to score **Brian Gibson**. **Chase Lembo** capped the scoring with a shot to third base that scored O'Sullivan.

**Ryan Grecco** was the man on the mound with a complete game five-hitter, relying on a solid defense behind him and an opportunistic offense as No. 6 Andover rolled to a 5-0 victory over No. 11 seed Newton North in the Division 1 North first round last Monday. It was Andover's ninth win in 10 games.

"I've worked really hard on my game, doing what I needed to do," said Grecco, who ran his record to 4-1. "We've all been working our tails off all offseason to get to this point."

"When coach (**Dan Grams**) told me last week that I was going to start I was fired up and ready to go. I just wanted to see that hard work pay off, and 5-0 is exactly what we wanted to do today."

The right-handed senior



Andover's Ryan Grecco delivers during his stellar outing in the Golden Warriors' Division 1 first round victory over Newton North. Grecco struck out five.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Andover catcher Nolan Schirmer, here last week, finished the season red hot at the plate. He had 18 RBIs in his final 10 games for the Golden Warriors.

with RBI singles.

Schirmer had driven in 15 runs over the past eight games and has 21 on the season.

"It's just preparation," Schirmer said of his success. "It's just reps. It's not like one day I'm feeling hot and one day I'm feeling cold. It's about the whole season and feeling good. It's part of the visualization that I see paying off every day. I know it's going to happen."

No. 6 Andover baseball fell behind early and could not recover, falling to No 2 Lincoln-Sudbury 7-3 in the Division 1 North semifinals on Friday.

Star Golden Warriors (12-5) catcher **Nolan Schirmer** delivered a two-run double in the fifth. **Anthony Teberio** drove in the Warriors' other run.

"It was a great season," said Andover coach **Dan Grams**. "The guys never gave up. They always played their hearts out, and I could not ask more from them."

*Jeff Hamrick contributed to this report*

TWITTER: @DWillisET



Andover's Dylan Brenner scores the first run of the Golden Warriors' state tourney win over Newton North.

bound for Colby struck out five with two walks. His most serious jam was

in the third after a pair of singles and a walk left the bases loaded with two outs.

*"It was a great season. The guys never gave up. They always played their hearts out, and I could not ask more from them."*

Andover coach Dan Grams

He kept the shutout intact with a fly to center that was caught by **Tanner O'Sullivan**, the normal first baseman filling in for **Scotty Brown**, the team's leadoff hitter who was nursing a sore back.

"That's when I have to be calm, collected and trust myself," said Grecco, who faced the minimum over the final three innings. "I have to think to myself that I can get the next kid out because baseball is a game of one

guy at a time because it's so isolation based ... I just had to get that batter out."

Doing the biggest damage at the plate for Andover was **Nolan Schirmer**, who had a sacrifice fly in the first, before drilling a fifth-inning double to right that drove in **Anthony Teberio** and **Dylan Brenner**, who was hit by a pitch in each of the three innings he led off. O'Sullivan and **Terry Morrissey** capped off the four-run fifth

### ► Andover High Roundup

## Softball wins thriller, then scores blowout in state tourney



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover pitcher Jackie Giordano, here earlier in the season, starred on the mound and at the plate in the playoffs.

### SOFTBALL

Winning pitcher **Jackie Giordano** singled in **Alyssa Sellinger** from second in the top of eighth and No. 14 Andover shocked No. 3 Westford, 3-2 last Tuesday in the Division 1 North first round.

Giordano, a freshman, had a 6-hitter with nine strikeouts, one walk and one earned run. **Molly Duval** homered and **Adelaide Weeden** added two hits for the winners.

**Katie O'Brien** smashed a 220-foot homer and No. 14 Andover hit the fence four other times in a dominant 12-0, 5-inning North quarterfinal win over No. 11 Lincoln-Sudbury last Wednesday.

O'Brien (3 for 4, 2 RBIs), **Molly Duval** (4 for 4, 3 runs, 3 RBIs), **Alyssa Sellinger** (3 for 4, 3 RBIs), **Adelaide Weeden** (3 for 3, 3 runs, 2 RBIs) and winning pitcher **Jackie Giordano** all had big days at the plate. Giordano (4-hitter) has given up just two earned runs in three tourney wins.

**Jackie Giordano** surrendered just two earned runs, but No. 14 Andover fell to unbeaten No. 2 Peabody 6-0 in the Division 1 North semifinals last Thursday.

**Adelaide Weeden**, **Molly Duval**, **Alyssa Sellinger** and Giordano each had a hit for the Golden Warriors (11-7).

### GIRLS TRACK

#### Pole vaulters star at All-States

The Andover pole vault team once again starred at Massachusetts All-States last week.

**Olivia Foster** placed third



Courtesy photo/Mark Hathaway

The Andover girls pole vault team again excelled at All-States. The squad included **Olivia Foster**, **Gabby Bresnick**, **Shayla Quill** and **Lily Brown**.

(10-0), **Gabby Bresnick** was fourth (9-0) and **Lily Brown** (9-0) and **Shayla Quill** (9-0) tied for sixth in the vault.

Also for Andover, **Sara Folan** was sixth in the javelin (109-7).

### BOYS TRACK

#### Relay takes third

**Colin Kirn**, **Cameron Kirn**, **DJ Walsh** and **Neil Chowdhury** teamed to place third in the 4x800 in 8:06.88 for Andover at the Massachusetts All-State meet last week.

### GIRLS TENNIS

#### Wang wins thriller

**Jennie Wang** won a three-set thriller at second singles, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, to help send Andover to the Division 1 North girls finals with a 3-2 win over Lincoln-Sudbury last

Wednesday.

Also winning for the Warriors were third singles **Rachel Chen** and the second doubles team of **Sona Chaudhary** and **Sonika Chaudhary** for the Warriors (14-0).

**Isabel Zhou**, **Jennie Wang** and **Rachel Chen** swept the singles and Andover blanked Newton North, 5-0, in the Division 1 North quarterfinals last Tuesday. **Eva McKone** and **Carol Yu** battled for a tough 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 win as the Golden Warriors remained undefeated at 13-0.

No. 1 Andover won both doubles matches, but was swept in singles and fell to No. 2 Acton-Boxboro 3-2 in the Division 1 North title game on Friday. Both teams entered the match undefeated.

For the Golden Warriors,

**Carol Yu** and **Eva McKone** won top doubles and **Sona Chaudhary** and **Sonika Chaudhary** took No. 2 doubles.

### BOYS TENNIS

**Janarthanan** earns gritty win **Avi Janarthanan** fought for a marathon 7-5, 4-6, 10-7 win at No. 1 singles and Andover topped Boston Latin 5-0 in the Division 1 North quarterfinals last Tuesday. **Sam Feng** (6-0, 6-1) and **Bryan Han Htun** (6-0, 6-0) each cruised to their singles victory, as the Golden Warriors improved to 13-0 for the season.

Despite a gritty 7-5, 4-6, (10-8) win for **Bryan Han Htun** and **Andrei Giurgiu** at No. 2 doubles, Andover lost to longtime archrival Lexington 4-1 in the Division 1 North semifinals last Wednesday.

**MARKET**

Continued from Page 1

to the regional food insecurity task force.

Every week at the Andover Farmers Market, anyone who receives SNAP benefits can use them for any of the food vendors, she explained. There is a specific information booth people can visit at the market to cash in their benefits for tokens to give vendors who are unable to take SNAP benefits directly, she said.

Also, people using their benefits at the market put extra money in their pockets and food on their table, Townson said. The market has fundraised to match \$10 for every SNAP recipient each week, she said. That is about \$40 a month — \$50 in July — that people can use to buy fresh food, she said.

“I want people to know about that because no one should be hungry and have access to fresh food,” Townson said.

SNAP recipients can also use their HIP — Healthy Incentive Program — benefits at Farmer Dave’s stand. The little-known benefit is a state extension to the SNAP program that can be used specifically on fresh produce grown by local farmers — mostly through farm stands at farmers markets, Townson explained.

“In a way, it’s sad people aren’t (using their HIP benefits), but then people are so excited they have money for more benefits,” said Jane Bowie, who is in charge of operations for Farmer Dave’s.

“A lot of people on (food) benefits often look for more starches and things that are more filling,” Bowie said. “But when you tell them they can buy produce and have extra money to do so, they really appreciate it.”

The Andover Farmers Market has a “surprisingly larger number of SNAP” recipients, Bowie said. In 2019 about 30% of Farmer Dave’s sales at the Andover market went to



Customers look over the vegetables from Farmer Dave’s at the Andover Farmers Market in the South Church Parking lot on its opening day.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Fresh picked strawberries from Gouette Farm in North Andover are available at the Andover Farmers Market.

in the fall, he is excited to open a year-round farm stand at his Dracut farm where people can continue using their benefits, he said. He was awarded a grant through state pandemic funds that address food insecurity specifically, he said.

Also at the market information booth, is information on how to sign up for SNAP benefits. The benefits are also often underutilized because people don’t know they qualify, Townson said.

In Andover, there are about 3,000 food-insecure people, which is about 8% of the town’s population, according to the Greater Boston Food Bank’s database. Of that only about 1,500 people actually receive benefits, Townson said.

A family of four with an income under \$53,000 a year is eligible for the benefits, according to the state website.

Townson is also working with Memorial Hall Library to host information sessions this summer so people can learn how to access benefits.

“Being hungry is stressful and there’s help in our community to navigate the systems to get benefits,” she said. “I hope people come out in droves to the farmers market. Wouldn’t it be a great problem to have to raise more money for matches to help feed people?”

Farmer Dave’s is also at the North Andover Farmer’s Market on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the intersection of First and Main Street.

For more information on SNAP benefits call 411 or visit mass.gov/snap.



Emily Geishecker and Chris Spagna look over strawberries from Farmer Dave’s.

SNAP beneficiaries, she said. That number dropped in 2020 to 17%, possibly related to the pandemic or moving the market away from the downtown, she said.

It was important for Farmer Dave’s to be part of this program to allow people to use HIP benefits, said owner Dave Dumaresq. He started his farm



Isaac Gouette of Gouette Farm in North Andover answers questions about his vegetables.

after coming back from the Peace Corps, where he worked in Ecuador helping farmers, he said.

“I’m not just feeding people and giving them calories,” he said. “I’m pushing

to give them as many good, healthy nutrients as possible. And working with HIP, it reaches the people who need it most.”

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