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TOWN STARTS REPORTING LOCAL COVID-19 NUMBERS AGAIN. PAGE 6



ANDOVER'S JOHN REX BECOMES A COLLEGE TRACK ALL-AMERICAN. PAGE 11

OUR 131ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

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Andover dedicates Ballardvale Green

Named in honor of Richard Bowen, Andover's second town manager

BY MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

He spent years painting the wooden posts and chains surrounding the Ballardvale Green.

Now, the green space he helped cultivate in town is known as the Bowen Ballardvale Green in honor of Richard Bowen, Andover's second town manager and longtime Ballardvale

resident.

More than two dozen of his friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate Bowen's dedication to the town and his accomplishments while taking in the beautiful weather Tuesday

at the Green. Town officials unveiled a refurbished, historic bench that will enshrine Bowen's place in Andover history at the Green.

Director of Veterans Services Mark Comeiro worked

to refinish the bench in Bowen's honor.

"This will inspire future generations led by Mr. Bowen's service," said Town Manager Andrew Flanagan.

Bowen enlisted in the United States Navy at age 17 and served the country during World War II. He went on to graduate from Colby College in 1951 and the



MADELINE HUGHES/Staff photo

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, right, greets former Andover Town Manager Richard Bowen and his wife Lucy at the dedication of the Bowen Ballardvale Green on Tuesday.

"This will inspire future generations led by Mr. Bowen's service."

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan

See DEDICATION, Page 2

What a ride!



Lawrence Raponi, 27, of Andover, flips his board while jumping off one of the ramps at the Andover Community Skate Park. For more photos of young people enjoying the facility, see Page 12.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Zach Medjama, 13, of Andover masters a trick on his skateboard.

'Giant ball of ethical problems'

Former inspector general questions payments by Andover Youth Foundation

BY MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

A foundation created to raise money for the Cormier Youth Center has since become a fund that pays wages to teenagers and town employees, including some payments that may violate ethics laws, according to a former state inspector general.

Over the two-year period from May 2019 to January 2021, the Andover Youth

Foundation Inc. paid at least \$89,855 to nearly three-dozen people, according to text messages directing payment sent by former Andover Youth Services head Bill Fahey. That includes \$6,850 that Fahey requested for himself, payments for his children, as well as money for other employees of Andover Youth Services.

Fahey sent the text messages to foundation President Diane Costagliola and

See PAYMENTS, Page 2

For employers, the struggle for hires is real

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Employers are still struggling to find workers amid a post-pandemic hiring crunch, according to a new report by a national business group.

The national survey of employers by the National Federation of Independent Businesses found that nearly half of all businesses couldn't hire enough staff in July, while more than 22% of available positions went unfilled.

Ninety-three percent of business owners hiring or

trying to hire reported few or no qualified applicants, the group said.

Business leaders say the data shows a deepening hiring crunch that has been fueled in Massachusetts, in part, by generous unemployment benefits.

"As Massachusetts businesses move forward following months of state-mandated restrictions and shutdowns, the latest hurdle they face is hiring staff to keep their doors open," said Chris Carozzi, the group's state director in Massachusetts.

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School Committee to vote on masking

BY MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsman.com

It's likely Andover School District students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors as they start school in the coming weeks.

Monday night the five School Committee members convened to discuss a potential policy to require masks in school buildings. All five committee members — Lauren Conoscenti, Susan McCready, Paul Murphy, Tracey Spruce and Shannon Scully — were all in agreement that there should be a mask policy.

See MASKS, Page 2



Kindergarten teacher Michael Dowd, right, looks in on Jordan Kinsman as he starts a lesson at the start of the school day at High Plain Elementary School in Andover last year.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

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COURTESY PHOTO

Former town manager Richard Bowen, center, is flanked by current Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, left, and former Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski, right, at the dedication of the Bowen Ballardvale Green.

DEDICATION

Continued from Page 1

Wharton School of Business in 1953, according to a press release issued by the town.

In 1963, Bowen moved to Andover to serve as the town's second Town Manager. He later served as a public defender. He served as the first chairman of the Ballardvale Historic District Commission and has always been passionate about his service to Ballardvale. Bowen continues to reside in Andover.

During his time on the Historic District Commission, he led the charge to replace the wooden posts with stone ones, so they

would always keep up their appearance.

"Much of the beauty of the Green is due to Richard," said Chris Huntress, chairman of the Select Board.

Flanagan recalled that Bowen was one of the first people to greet him when he took the job of town manager.

Bowen "was one of my first visitors," Flanagan said. "He came in and said, 'We must build a new fire station and it must be in Ballardvale.'"

The station, which was approved by voters in November 2018, is set to be completed later this month, said Fire Chief Mike Mansfield.

HIRING

Continued from Page 1

He said consumers are "ready to shop, dine and spend money" but because of the hiring crunch, they "face reduced hours and longer wait times."

"Unfortunately, this latest hurdle will impact many of our state's seasonal businesses that heavily rely on summer revenue they missed out on last year," he said.

Jon Hurst, president of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, blames

unemployment benefits and lack of incentives to return to work.

"Massachusetts has, by far, the most generous benefits in the country," he said. "That is kept a lot of people out of the workforce."

Hurst said lingering fears about COVID-19 also have kept many people on the sidelines who would otherwise be going back to work.

Other research suggests a scarcity of affordable child care among the factors keeping people from returning to their jobs.

The state's unemployment rate in June was 4.9%, compared to the national jobless

rate of 5.9%.

Hurst said businesses that survived government shutdowns due to the pandemic are now being forced to cut hours because they can't find enough workers.

"Many of them are still in the black," he said. "Their costs are high, and while sales recovering, they're nowhere near pre-pandemic levels."

Gov. Charlie Baker has acknowledged the struggles of businesses trying to bring back workers. The state has reinstated a work search requirement for people collecting unemployment, which requires anyone getting benefits to prove efforts

to find "suitable" work.

Business leaders have prodded the Baker administration to divert some of the federal pandemic relief funds the state has received for hiring bonuses.

They have also pressured the governor to end the state's participation in federal unemployment programs, including a \$300 weekly benefit.

The federal benefit is set to expire next month.

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

MASKS

Continued from Page 1

"It's important to do what we know has worked and what I believe is responsible and continue to monitor that," McCreedy said.

The board will meet again Monday and vote to solidify the policy to require everyone to wear masks indoors to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

District officials including Rita Casper, the district's director of nursing, asked the committee to require masks because it's one of the tools they can use to stop the spread of COVID-19, especially with the delta variant, which appears to be more transmissible.

Keeping the mask mandate and continuing to require anyone who has symptoms of the virus to stay home until they test negative are two of



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Second grade teacher Jill McCarthy welcomes her classroom students at High Plain Elementary on the first day of school last year. Andover students will likely start this school year with masks, but there will be fewer restrictions.

the most effective ways the district will keep case numbers down, she said.

"Collectively all of those strategies together are helping mitigate the spread," Casper said.

Schools will be allowed to relax the social distancing requirement, and children

can sit next to each other at lunch, she added.

One of the largest differences from last year is that masks will not be required outside, even if children can't remain distant from each other.

Health officials from the town said while case numbers in town are relatively

low, about a third are of children under 12 who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Older teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 are the most vaccinated group with more than 95% of Andover residents that age being vaccinated. Those between the ages of 12 to 15 are 73% fully vaccinated, and the district is planning to host more vaccination clinics to make it more accessible, Casper said.

District officials also said they would reevaluate masking and other preventative measures in November, or earlier if needed.

Superintendent Magda Parvey also said she would like the School Committee to weigh in on changes to the mask policy and to allow time for public comment, she said. At Monday's meeting and in the finalized policy it will be determined if she or the committee decides on the policy going forward.

PAYMENTS

Continued from Page 1

Vice President Andrea Zaines, seeking payment for "merit" as well as work in Andover Youth Services programs such as the Lego League.

However, state ethics laws prohibit government employees from accepting money or gifts from outside sources "for or because of official acts."

"This is a giant ball of ethical problems wrapped up in one package," said Gregory Sullivan, research director at the Pioneer Institute, a Boston think tank, who was previously the state inspector general for 10 years and a 17-year member of the state House of Representatives.

Sullivan could not say if the activity violated any laws, noting that it would be up to the state Ethics Commission to determine.

"All of this is very troubling in the extreme and should be reviewed by the state Ethics Commission," he said. "It appears he was running a separate set of books largely kept secret from the town."

The text messages were obtained by The Eagle-Tribune under a public records request following Fahey's controversial firing in May. An outside investigator's report that gave rise to Fahey's termination accused the 27-year town employee of consistently overstepping professional boundaries and violating town policies.

Fahey has since sued the town for wrongful termination.

The report makes multiple references to Fahey's text messages. Town officials initially denied The Eagle-Tribune's request for a full transcript of those messages. But the secretary of state's office ordered the records' release.

Since then, town officials have themselves reviewed the messages related to payments by the foundation and referred the documents to the "appropriate agency," said attorney Leonard

Kesten, who is representing the town in the Fahey case. He would not specify the agency.

"Apparently the foundation is making gifts to town employees and calling it 'merit pay.' It appears to be something clearly illegal," Kesten said.

'Can I get checks?'

Messages involving payments by the Andover Youth Foundation are a subset of a much larger, 150-page record of communications on Fahey's town-issued phone. The foundation-related messages show that Fahey routinely requested checks and cash, often to pay Youth Services employees and others involved in town programs.

On Dec. 3, 2020, for example, Fahey sent a text message to Costagliola with three headings — "merit checks," "youth employment" and "Lego League." Fahey's own name appeared under the first heading with the names of 13 others, while five other payments were detailed in the other categories.

In other texts, Fahey alludes to checks for Youth Services employees but does not specifically detail who will get them.

"We also have another round of merit checks which itself is 11 checks," he wrote in a text message to Costagliola on Dec. 18, 2019.

In many cases, Fahey asks for checks without explanation. "Hello Diane - can I get checks??" he wrote in a text to Costagliola on Nov. 19, 2020.

Fahey's lawyer, Daniel Murphy, and members of the Andover Youth Foundation board of directors — including Costagliola, Zaines, Bal Jackson, Christa DiNapoli, Claire Stahley, Karen Ishihara, Patrice Minton and Brian Lynch — say the texts show Fahey's commitment to the town's youth and the youth services organization. Murphy responded to questions on Fahey's behalf, and the board members issued a joint statement.

"We have reviewed the text messages provided to us by The Tribune and did not see anything that was a cause for concern," Murphy wrote in a statement on behalf of Fahey. "In fact, the messages are further evidence of the professional manner in which Bill conducted all of his activities for AYS and with the AYS Foundation."

However, Sullivan said the texts appear to have a "clandestine overtone, which is troubling."

"The donors are doing something admirable, donating to a good cause, but in this case it seems as though the former director seemed to hijack the funds," he said.

One of the exchanges Sullivan is referring to is a Feb.

26, 2020 discussion between Fahey and Costagliola on how to disclose records to the town and state. The foundation was slated to receive \$100,000 for local programs for youth from the state budget.

Fahey wrote, "Ok. I'm not getting into any specifics and that's 2018. Where do we get 2019 numbers? I think I should say we gave the town millions. She is saying how great the seniors are for 200 thousand which is there (sic) only contribution."

He appeared to be referencing a contribution by the nonprofit Andover Senior Community Friends to help pay for renovations of the new Robb Center.

"If we say staffing I will get interrogated on what staff give their names where is there (sic) paperwork etc," he continued. "I have been dealing with lots of questions the last 6 months but felt like I was complaining so I stopped talking about it. The less they know the better."

Costagliola responded, "That's fine. Whatever you wanna do. I asked Brian to send me a QuickBooks report for 2019. In terms of the seniors contribution the only reason they have that is for the Renovation. We want to talk building fund I'll see you there (sic) 200,000 with our 5 million."

Fahey replied: "Yes! We just have to be careful."

'We just saved a life.'

The messages also shed light on the foundation's day-to-day work paying for children to participate in programs, as well as Fahey's work to help youth overcome addiction.

Some messages refer to costs associated with the annual AYS Christmas Tree Lot, or scholarships for children to participate in town programs.

In one message to Costagliola, Fahey requests \$4,000 for a teen being admitted to a drug and rehabilitation treatment center.

"Just dropped him off at treatment center," he added. "Trust me we just saved a life. Thank you and the foundation!"

In their statement, foundation board members wrote that their money was closely controlled and that they only gave Fahey blank checks for expenses from the tree lot.

"For efficiency's sake, in order to pay vendors who would not provide Christmas trees and other tree lot items on credit, (the foundation) occasionally entrusted incomplete checks to Bill Fahey, who coordinates the foundation's annual holiday tree lot fundraiser," they wrote.

"These checks were drawn from a controlled (foundation) checking account which was funded as needed.

(The foundation) regularly reconciled these checks with invoices and copies of the completed checks and all of (the foundation's) financial transactions are reviewed annually by its certified public accountant, who submits the necessary paperwork to the appropriate government agencies," they continued.

The Andover Youth Foundation was created in 2000 to raise money to design and build the town's new youth center. The organization raised \$4.5 million for the center, which was completed in 2015. Since then, the foundation gives the town \$30,000 annually for maintenance.

As of the end of 2019, the foundation reported \$53,141 in net assets, according to an audited financial statement filed with the state.

Every Christmas many people support the foundation by purchasing trees from the Andover Youth Services lot at the skate park behind West Middle School. The foundation also hosts golf tournaments to raise money and, in 2019, held an evening with Andover native Jay Leno.

Beginning in 2016, the year after the youth center was completed, "programs and merit staffing" became the biggest expense on the foundation's annual financial reports filed with the secretary of state's office.

The Andover Youth Foundation is not unique as a nonprofit that supports the work of a municipal department. Cities and towns typically do not accept individual donations but instead guide residents and businesses who want to help to a network of nonprofits, which raise money for programs and services the town otherwise would not pay for.

Last year, for example, the Andover Senior Community Friends and Andover Home for Aged People partnered to donate money to expand Meals on Wheels delivery to all seniors who were homebound because of the pandemic. The groups donated about \$40,000 total to the town, which then applied funds to the program.

Likewise, the Andover Coalition for Education funds numerous projects in the schools each year. Teachers may receive grants of up to \$3,000 for projects in their classrooms. Winners are chosen by a selection committee.

In North Andover, the town's youth center is supported by a nonprofit, Joseph N. Hermann Youth Center Inc., which launched in 1995 to raise money to build the center.

The group now gives funds to the town's Youth and Recreation Services Department through an annual grant process as well as gifts approved by the Select Board.

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GLTS students craft sculpture promoting COVID-19 vaccines

By WILL BROADDUS
Staff Writer

The city of Lawrence unveiled a symbol of its vaccination campaign in the form of a blue-and-yellow heart last week, thanks to the work done by a group of local teens.

Fashioned from steel and plexiglass by students from the metal fabrication program at Greater Lawrence Technical School, the sculpture was uncovered in the plaza beside Lawrence City Hall, but will eventually be moved inside.

There it will be stationed at the entrance of a clinic where locals can get free vaccines, and where the heart will not only serve as a symbol of hope, but also act as a kind of scoreboard.

"This sculpture was designed with the intention of showing the vaccine progress in the city of Lawrence," said Mayor Kendrys Vasquez. "Each slat that you see represents 10 percent of Lawrence residents who have been vaccinated."

The blue slats rest horizontally in a metal frame that is empty at the top, showing room for improvement, in spite of the progress that has been made.

As of Monday, 56.8% of Lawrence residents had received at least one vaccine dose, and more than 90% of citizens over 65 had been

vaccinated, Vasquez said. He encouraged those who still haven't been vaccinated to visit the city's website, where they can find help locating a shot.

"How tremendous it would be if this heart was filled all the way to the top, if all the residents in Lawrence were vaccinated," he said. "That's our goal, and I know that together, we can accomplish that."

Vasquez also presented the heart as an incentive, when he invited anyone in the crowd who hadn't been vaccinated to do so at City Hall.

"Be one of the first individuals to take your picture, right after getting your vaccine, with our beautiful vaccine sculpture," he said.

State Rep. Frank Moran contrasted the inspiring presence of the heart sculpture with a somber memorial on the Common across the street, where empty chairs represent Lawrence citizens who have died from COVID-19.

"One of those chairs over there belongs to my brother, 53 years old," Moran said. "Make sure you get your vaccine. Don't become the next empty chair in that lot. Got out there, get your vaccine and protect not only yourselves, but everyone around you. It's free. You have three pharmacies in the city of Lawrence that have it."

John Lavoie,

superintendent of Greater Lawrence Technical School, thanked the mayor for commissioning his students to make the sculpture, which was based on a design by one of their teachers, Stephanie Dicecca.

"A project like this is an opportunity for our students to really embrace a project that is so important to the community," Lavoie said. "I think education is not all about books and building things, but doing things that can help and support their community."

Certificates of recognition were presented at the unveiling to Carlos Burgos and Orlendi Hernandez, both from Lawrence, and Brady Valliere of Methuen, three seniors who helped create the sculpture.

They said the project took a month and a half to execute, with two metal fabrication classes taking turns working on it for a week at a time.

"Welding is a passion of mine, and I'm just thankful that I could be part of this project for the city of Lawrence," Valliere said.

The heart frame rests on a base of four large syringes, and the phrase "Lawrence Saves Lives" appears in metal letters on each of its sides, in Spanish and English.

"I believe this, and I want all of our residents to believe this, too," Vasquez said. "Each of us has the power to save a life by getting vaccinated today. There are

plenty of vaccinated sites all around the city."



Students and officials get ready to unveil the sculpture at Lawrence City Hall.

ANDOVER BRIEFLY

End of summer concert Aug. 19

Andover's 375th Anniversary Committee is hosting an End of Summer Music event from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19, behind Old Town Hall in the public parking lot.

The Ben Knight Band, a local favorite, will play music. Off the Ground Circus Arts will perform as well.

Performers include stilt walkers, jugglers, partner acrobats and hula hoop artists.

The event is free to attend and there will be opportunities to purchase beer, wine and food brought to you by Oak & Iron Brewing, LaRosa's and other local restaurants.

"The 375th Committee is excited to be able to offer residents and visitors an opportunity to continue to enjoy downtown Andover this summer through this one-of-a-kind event," said Buzz Stapezynski, chair of the anniversary planning committee.

For more information on this End of Summer event and other 375th events go to www.andover375.org.

Back to school drive

For the nineteenth year, the St. Augustine Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring its annual "Back to School" project.

Parishioners and friends have been asked to donate

Target, TJ Maxx, or Marshalls gift cards or monetary offerings in any amount. Donated cards will then be distributed to low-income Andover families to assist them in purchasing clothing for their school-aged children.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to St. Augustine Parish Center at 35 Essex St. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The deadline is Aug. 23, 2021.

Robb Center grand opening Aug. 26

Anyone is invited to step into the newly renovated Robb Center from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 26. There will be live performances, complimentary refreshments and lots of good cheer at 36 Bartlet St.

Senior coupons for Farmers Market

There are \$25 coupon books for seniors over the age of 60 who meet low-income requirements that can be used at the Farmer's Market.

Single-person households with under \$1,986 or two-person households with under \$2,686 of monthly income are eligible. Call 978-623-8320 for more information, including income requirements for larger households.

Celebrating the unveiling of a sculpture created at the Greater Lawrence Technical School are, from left, Superintendent John Lavoie, Greater Lawrence Tech students Brady Valliere and Carlos Burgos, Lawrence Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, student Orlendi Hernandez, and Greater Lawrence Technical School Principal Susan Zielinski.

Courtesy photos

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Opinion

Ritzer scholars provide 11 sources of inspiration

Oftentimes, adults need only look to the young people in our midst for true inspiration. So it is again with the 11 latest recipients of the Colleen E. Ritzer Scholarship who've not yet started their careers but already are making a positive impact on this world.

They're kids like Paige Gillette of Andover, who is taking her impressive resume — a three-sport captain at Andover High, and an instructor at softball and basketball programs for kids — to Assumption University in the fall.

In her profile on the scholarship fund's website, Gillette describes the encounter during her freshman year that proved transformative. A student from a special education class asked to sit with her during lunch. Anyone who remembers their high school cafeteria can appreciate the high-stakes nature of that request. Gillette nervously agreed — and ended up sitting with him for lunch nearly every day throughout high school.

She later reflected: "He changed my life. I am often told how good I am to him and how lucky he is to have a friend like me, but people do not understand how lucky I am to have him."

Through this unique friendship, Gillette discovered her passion for helping others. Like other recipients of the Ritzer Scholarship, she plans to become a teacher.

Navya Pandya, who also built an impressive resume at Andover High and plans to attend Northeastern University, describes the challenges of moving to the United States from India as a child and knowing very little about the culture of her new country. By the time she was in middle school, Pandya was comfortable enough to be asked to lead a youth group where she made it a point to spread the kindness that had been shared with her.

Then there is Madison Serapiglia, who volunteered with special needs students at West Middle School and at Andover High, following the example of her mother, a special education teacher. Serapiglia, of Methuen, is another deeply accomplished student — as a dancer, a dance team captain and a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of New Hampshire in the fall.

These are but a few examples of the best and brightest from Andover and Danvers being recognized in the Ritzer Scholarship's eighth year. In all, the fund has helped 82 budding educators from the two towns, giving \$372,000 toward their education.

"It gives us hope of the good in this world as we witness these former students begin their teaching careers," the Ritzer family said of current and past recipients in an announcement of this year's winners. "We are honored they have allowed us to follow their progress."

The fund was started in memory of a young high school math teacher who grew up in Andover and worked in Danvers before her tragic death. Many of her students have described being inspired and motivated by Ritzer in her brief time in the classroom. But her legacy now stretches much further, touching the students of those teachers whose careers were given their spark by the scholarship that bears her name.

As Ritzer and her family have shown, kindness inspires kindness, generosity begets generosity. As a result, there are many others who've joined the cause, such as the late Brian Feeney, who was a stalwart of the annual 5K held in Andover in Ritzer's name and a captain of the team from his workplace, Century Bank. Feeney died, at age 60, this past November.

The family honored Feeney's memory this year with a special scholarship, awarded to Benjamin Miragliotta of Andover, who was a member of the high school's hockey and track teams, and a volunteer at the Senior Center, for Habitat for Humanity and at Artria Marland Place.

Miragliotta described the experience of working at a local nursing home — and the impact he could have on residents — during the pandemic. "I have come to fully embrace the value of taking extra time to show someone kindness, whether it be holding the door open for someone or giving an elderly person my undivided attention," he said. He plans to attend the University of Massachusetts.

The determination and kindness shown by Miragliotta, Gillette, Pandya and Serapiglia — as well as this year's seven other Ritzer scholarship recipients — should be an inspiration to young and old alike. The other recipients of this year's scholarships are: Ashley DeRocco, Danvers; Kaelyn Grava, Andover; Ashley Kendrigan, Andover; Jared King, Danvers; Jenna Lowd, Danvers; Liana O'Brien, Danvers; and Alexandra Papan, Andover.

WEB QUESTION

Should people be required to get COVID-19 vaccines?

A growing number of workplaces, colleges and even the U.S. military are now requiring employees, students and soldiers to be vaccinated for COVID-19 — rules that have withstood legal challenges so far. Do you think vaccine requirements are reasonable and fair?

GET VACCINATED: Not only are vaccine requirements fair, they make complete sense for people who work in public spaces or are enrolled in colleges and universities. There's only one way to stop the spread of COVID-19,

and that's if more people are vaccinated.

INDIVIDUAL CHOICE: People should still have a choice not to get the vaccine. Colleges, workplaces and the military shouldn't try doing what the government cannot legally do, which is require citizens to line up and get their shots.

Last week's question
Should the state require all students to wear masks when school restarts in the fall? State education officials "strongly" recommend that districts require students in kindergarten through sixth grade to wear masks indoors, though it is not specifically

▶ Andover story

Farming at Phillips Academy

Gail Ralston

Andover Center for History and Culture

Many people are familiar with the story of the founding of Phillips Academy. From the beginning the founders set a goal of excellence in education, a commitment to faith and a belief in actions principled by the creed

"not for oneself" — non sibi. However, there is another, lesser known part of a student's education that Samuel Phillips had hoped to include. He intended that all students be well-versed in the art of farming.

A manuscript written by Phillips in 1776 explaining his plans for the "ideal preparatory school" with "youth from every quarter" had been preserved.

See STORY, Page 5



Courtesy Andover Center for History and Culture
The Pearson Farm being moved south.

Voter ID law would undermine free and fair elections

Rep. Tram Nguyen



The integrity of our elections is of great importance to me and to my colleagues in the Massachusetts

Statehouse. Every American citizen has the right to vote in our elections and should be encouraged to do so. Certainly no one should have to pay for the privilege.

But requiring an ID at the polls violates that very right.

The suggestion by the state Republican Party that Massachusetts should have a ballot question about voter IDs takes us in the opposite direction of the objective of giving every citizen the opportunity to vote. Instead, it puts restrictions on that right and adds a cost to those who can least afford it.

Who doesn't have a driver's license?

City dwellers are one example; they live in areas with public transportation, so a driver's license is not needed. (It costs a minimum of \$115 to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license, and that does not include driving lessons.)

Voter ID laws disproportionately affect low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Many seniors have given up driving and let their licenses expire.

Should they go through the effort and expense to keep up an ID that is only needed for voting?

The same goes for disabled people who cannot drive. Who is going to guide a blind person or a quadriplegic through the process of obtaining a special ID? Does a voter ID law include funding for assistance for these folks?

My Republican colleagues have stated that other states require voter ID, and it hasn't created any problems. This is not true; these laws have created problems by disenfranchising those without IDs.

Voters in states like Georgia, Ohio and Wisconsin are required to produce ID to vote; and while the numbers of those turned away or forced to cast a "provisional ballot" can be counted, it is impossible to estimate how many people never bothered to show up at the polls due to this restriction.

No one will wait in an eight- or five- or even two-hour line if they are not guaranteed the right to cast a ballot at the end of that line.

Voting by mail is even worse in these states, with voters required to upload copies of their IDs in order to apply for an absentee ballot.

Imagine an elderly grandparent trying to figure out how to scan and upload both sides of their driver's license — if they still have one. It's much more likely that they

won't bother, and thus they will be deprived of their ability to vote.

We have checks and balances from the local level up to the state level to prevent fraud here in the commonwealth, and they work.

To register to vote here, a citizen must produce proof of residence and a signature. The address is verified, and the voter is then listed at the city or town clerk's office, with the signature on file.

When a citizen votes in person, they must give their address and name. If they vote by mail, their signature on the ballot envelope is matched to the signature on file.

Clerks are very careful about this process, and as a result, there has been only one provable instance of voter impersonation fraud in Massachusetts, back in 2015, according to the conservative Heritage Institute (www.heritage.org/voterfraud/search?state=MA).

The data clearly shows that Voter ID is a solution in search of a problem. The Statehouse should remain focused on solving actual problems instead of working on legislation that would do a great deal of harm without any benefits.

And how much would voter ID cost the state?

Millions may be spent on a voter education campaign; Texas spent nearly \$2 million on voter education and outreach when it passed a voter ID law. It would cost even more millions to ramp

up a state-issued ID program for those without driver's licenses. Indiana spent over \$10 million to provide "free" ID cards from 2007-10.

Additional thousands must be spent to train town clerks and poll workers. And that doesn't count the out-of-pocket costs for the elderly, the disabled and poverty stricken, who are forced to spend time and precious income obtaining an ID.

In Massachusetts, there are 4.7 million registered voters — 3,657,972 voted in the 2020 election, a 76% turnout.

Studies indicate up to 11% of voters do not have government-issued photo IDs. The percentage is higher for seniors, minorities, the disabled, the poor and students.

If 11% of Massachusetts do not have licenses, then 402,377 would be disenfranchised. Compared to only one instance of voter impersonation fraud in the past 10 years, the ratio of disenfranchisement to fraud is far too high to contemplate requiring voter ID.

Elections with integrity mean ensuring that all voters can be heard and counted. And when all of the voters' voices are heard, elections will accurately reflect the will of the people. That was the goal of the framers of the Constitution, and it should be our goal now.

Rep. Tram T. Nguyen, D-Andover, represents the 18th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Requirements changing for director of Andover Youth Services

Editor, Townsman:

I was sad to read in your newspaper recently Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan's comments that Andover Youth Services needs to be led by a licensed mental health professional. According to the article, he says, "There can't be people doing this work

who don't hold the right credentials, and they also can't be supervising that work."

It is clear in stating this Flanagan is looking to cut the extremely qualified Glenn Wilson out of this role. Wilson is from Andover. He and two other AYS employees represent the last Andover natives employed in human services.

AYS has its own independent clinical social worker who has worked extremely well since her hiring in 2015.

I think there is an

intentionally false narrative out there that AYS provides clinical mental health work. It doesn't. It builds relationships with young people through structured programming.

I am not a taxpayer in Andover, but it seems like this administration continues to grow top heavy, as it mulls a clinical director as well.

Instead of a clinical director, why not hire someone to direct human services who is a social worker and can supervise across

departments, including Sobhan Namvar, the community support coordinator, and who actually does clinical work?

What licenses do we require of elder services and recreation if the director of Andover Youth Services needs to be licensed?

I think the AYS director should be hired by a committee made up of members of the Andover Youth Foundation and impartial employees of the town.

WILL ENGLISH
Beverly

READER ACCESS

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STORY

Continued from Page 4

Phillips hoped to see his school opened adjacent to a tract of farming land where “the students could profitably be taught the fundamentals of agriculture and would learn to support themselves by raising vegetables.”

At the time the academy’s land was purchased, the hill was rocky and undesirable; the soil turned out to be too poor for a course in cultivation. (Let’s hope he got a good price for it.)

One early map labeled the campus area south of Salem Street, “The Great Swamp.”

And while history understands that Phillips worked deliberately on all his plans for the new school, those plans for education in agriculture “to his great disappointment were entirely unsuccessful.”

In perhaps an attempt to keep the dream alive, the school went on to support three working farms, maintained to provide food for campus and work for the scholarship boys.

The first, the Phillips Farm, stood at the southwest corner of Main and



Courtesy Andover Center for History and Culture

The Phillips Academy farmhouse on Morton Street.

Phillips streets adjacent to Phillips’ own home, known locally as “The Mansion House.”

Built before 1791 by the Judge, a name to distinguish Samuel Phillips from his father and grandfather, a line of barns, sheds and stables extended from the main farmhouse.

A store on site was managed by Jacob Abbot from 1791-1797. After the second academy building burned in 1818, classes were held here.

Twenty cows were kept at the dairy in an area called “Sunset Garden” to supply students with milk.

Seminary students

boarded here at one time; academy students ate here, dubbing it “Chocolate Hall.”

By 1854, farm buildings were being dismantled and the main house was moved to today’s 54 Morton St.

In 1869, Deacon Holbrook Chandler, onetime overseer of Amoskeag Mills in New Hampshire, came to campus and was appointed “Execution Officer of the Phillips Academy Treasurer,” at that time a fancy name for “school farmer.” Originally called Seminary Farm, it was after Chandler that the second farm was later named.

Chandler Farm was

located toward the end of today’s Chapel Avenue overlooking Rabbit Pond. Those by-now familiar cows grazed on open land that extended to Bartlet Street and Judson Road.

The farmhouse gradually became home for Academy administrators, including Virgil Harrington, who gave the farm its final name.

And no longer was Harrington the “School Farmer.” That title changed to “Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings.”

The main house was moved to Barlet Street in 1925 but razed in 1928 to make room for the new site

of Stowe House.

In 1921, Pearson Farm, the third farm to the south of campus, was purchased by the academy. That area had been a working farm since the 1860s.

Agreements had been written between the owners and the school “to obtain milk for our commons and raise potatoes.”

In 1880, Pearson Farm produced 3,450 gallons of milk, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 140 bushels of apples.

In 2001, Pearson Farmhouse traveled south to 305 Main St., where it became a private residence.

And what of those boys

who worked on those farms, often rising at 5:30 before classes to do their chores?

One hopes they learned valuable lessons to make Samuel Phillips proud.

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K. Kelly Wise, 88 Years

December 1, 1932 - August 6, 2021
Beloved Father, Grandfather

WELLESLEY, FORMERLY OF ANDOVER, MA — K. Kelly Wise, Teacher, Photographer, Artist, Author, and Critic for The Boston Globe December 1, 1932 – August 6, 2021

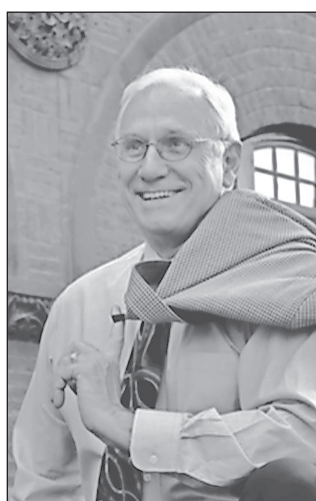
Described by a friend as a Renaissance Man, Kelly Wise's forty-year teaching career was an anchor and a foundation for his expanding interests and accomplishments. Born in New Castle, IN, he received his BA from Purdue in 1955. Following subsequent service as an officer in the U.S. Navy, he received his MA from Columbia in 1959.

His teaching career began at Mt. Hermon School where he developed a challenging and beloved Novel and Drama seminar, coached his Indiana style of hoops, and began an art program with exhibits of student art topped off by a grand exhibit of Andrew Wyeth originals in 1965. He and his wife Sybil were dorm parents whose warm and welcoming home was a harbor for their students.

In 1966, they moved to Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, where Kelly created a filmmaking course in addition to teaching English, dorm duties and coaching. He created the school's first residential cluster, was chair of the English department, and then Dean of Faculty, where he made it his purpose to recruit and hire more teachers with diverse backgrounds.

Beyond his talent and commitment as a classroom teacher, Kelly saw education as needing a shift to reflect the reality of public and private education. He was deeply concerned about the lack of diversity in the country's teaching faculties and became the creator and driving force behind Andover's Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) in 1990. Founder, tenacious fund raiser, motivator, mentor, recruiter and executive director, Kelly's IRT program thrived. He persuaded leaders in prestigious colleges and universities across the country to join his IRT consortium; he traveled the country recruiting minority college juniors to bring them to Phillips for a summer "boot camp" in the rigors of graduate school; he hired a diverse institute faculty; mentored every one of his alumni/ae 365 days a year and inspired 92% of them to go on to graduate school and pursue careers in teaching. Hundreds of IRT alumni have received masters and doctorate degrees and are on the faculty and administration at schools, colleges and universities. In 2009 Kelly was honored with a Doctor of Letters degree from Purdue University "in recognition of his inspired leadership in preparing underrepresented students for graduate education through his creation and stewardship of The Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers."

Above all, Kelly was a scholar-teacher in the best Andover tradition. From his



Mr. K. Kelly Wise

co-authorship of the English Competence Handbook to his senior level seminar, Novel and Drama, his standards were extraordinarily high. His seminar broke every rule on the length of assignments and the depth of his expectations. But never did a student complain; they just lined up for more and his class was sought after by students. He led them not only through the great literature that his voracious reading made available, but he continued to work his magic with regular Sunday dinners and film sessions where he and Sybil opened their home and hearts to students.

As he continued teaching, Kelly's career expanded as an artist and photographer. His works are at the Harvard Fogg Museum, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and the National Gallery of Art. He authored and edited a number of books on photography, led by a brilliant study of the neighborhoods of Boston – City Limits. He also became fascinated with the Armenian church and authored, A Church, A People, where he depicted the culture of a humble local church and its parishioners. In addition to his own photography, he wrote as a photography critic for The Boston Globe and Art Forum, and broadcasted on National Public Radio, where he reviewed exhibits, shows and art installations. In 1976 Kelly began testing the Polaroid camera and his luminous book, Still Points, showcased his ingenuity and creativity with this new, instant medium.

Friends remember well the dinners at the Wise home which were "affairs" – with gourmet food from Sybil's kitchen and good wine from Kelly's wine cellar, wonderful conversation and friendship. The testimony of former students reveals the influence of this remarkable teacher on their lives with words such as nurturing, quiet kindness, intelligence, wit, standards of excellence, gentleman, legend, changed my life, a Blessing. One of his beloved students wrote, "I will always be grateful to have been thought of as special value...at a crucial point in my life when I could not see that for myself. You lifted my chin and I got a glimpse of where I might go." For additional information, please visit, www.burkemagliozzi.com.

Ronald C. Kearns, 72

September 13, 1948 - August 9, 2021

ANDOVER, MA — a lifelong resident of Andover, passed away on August 9, 2021.

Born in Haverhill, Ronald attended St. Augustine's School and Andover Public Schools, graduating from Andover High School in 1967. After graduation, Ronald joined the Navy for Vietnam, but was honorably

discharged later. In his adult life, he began his career as a fine suits salesman at Elander and Swanton, The Andover Shop, and Kaps of Lawrence. He owned and operated Ronald C. Kearns Painting Company for many years. He also owned and operated several lobster boats in his spare time. He retired after 28 years from Salem Harbor Station as a control watch engineer. In his free time, he loved to deep sea fish, golf, sail and watch sports, especially his beloved Patriots. He also restored vintage John Deere tractors. Ron was a tremendous supporter of Andover sports teams as an unofficial photographer for the Andover High Football Team, Girls Gymnastics at UNH and coached at Wilkey Gymnastics in Tewksbury. Ronald was predeceased by his parents, Warren F. and Eleanor L. Demers and his twin brother, Stephen W. Kearns. He leaves his siblings Warren F. Kearns, Jr.,



and wife, Lorraine of Milford, NH, Louise Emerson and husband, Frank of York, Maine, Jane Bistany and husband, David, of Methuen and Charles R. Kearns of Methuen and Aunt, Miriam Demers Shutt of Bedford, NH. He leaves several nieces, and nephews whom he loved dearly.

ARRANGEMENTS: A private burial is planned. For online condolences please visit, www.cont-funeralhomes.com.



Boogie away to ease middle school fear

Dr. Larry Larsen



Dear Doctor,
This is new to us. Our oldest is entering middle school in the fall. He is already worried about the school dances. He says if they have them, he will not go. He says he cannot

dance and is embarrassed to learn. Is there a program for boys his age to teach them how to dance?

DANCING MA

Dear Dancing,

I am certain there is such a program although school dances have likely suffered during the pandemic.

What man does not remember his first school dance? The events won my heart because they had "free" pizza and cokes. Wow!

Now I will share with you something a middle school lad taught me many years ago.

"Dancing is a cinch," he said. With that he stood up from his chair and began to bounce up and down in a rhythm.

"Then you do stuff with your hands." With that he made

movements identifying each.

"You butter toast."

"You swat flies."

"You pretend you are skiing."

With each movement he pantomimed an activity. He punched the phone, turned the door knob, raised a window, and so on. Never have I witnessed more clever genius!

So, since then I have used his instruction to ease anxiety in young middle school youngsters. Getting up from my chair I have shared the young boy's lesson. Generally it produces laughter which is also great since it teaches not to take yourself so seriously.

Try it out as a family. Boogie away.

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago—August 12, 1921

Mrs. Margaret McKee, wife of James McKee of 199 North Main Street, was instantly killed when she was hurled a distance of thirty feet into the paved car track after being struck by an automobile driven by Dr. Henry F. Dearborn at nine o'clock Tuesday evening. Dr. Dearborn was alone in his machine and was proceeding toward Andover. Although he claims not to have been driving at an excessive rate of speed, he probably was gathering headway for the long climb from Marland village to Elm square as it is claimed that he was unable to bring his machine to a stop until he reached the corner of Stevens Street.

Miss Florence Shuster of 215 Lawrence Street, one of a party of seventeen girls from Lawrence Y.W.C.A. was drowned at Pomp's pond shortly after five o'clock, Saturday afternoon and Miss Marion Hart of 25 Bromfield street who had charge of the party nearly lost her life in her efforts to save Miss Shuster and was

rescued only by the timely aid given by the counselors at Camp Andover. Miss Shuster accompanied by Miss Hart started to swim out to the float, a distance of about thirty yards. When they proceeded about half the way, Miss Shuster's strength gave out and she seized hold of Miss Hart, who made heroic efforts to hold her up, calling for help. No one present was able to swim to their assistance and although there were several boats on the shore there were no oars with them.

75 Years Ago—August 15, 1946

Just off Porter Road there is a long, sloping, green lawn, and at the foot of it a small square of green grass fenced in on three sides by trees. About once a year, the branches of the trees around the "stage" are clipped back, "properties" are brought in, rehearsals begin, and we read in the paper that an opera will be given soon in the "Opera Garden". This is the first presentation since before the war, and we forget that we were sitting on somebody's lawn in a quiet town in Massachusetts U.S.A. and became transported to the courtyard of a garden in Japan—that is, Gilbert and Sullivan's conception of Japan. The complicated

"Mikado" uncomplicates itself under the portrayals of the cast..."Yum Yum" is played by Mildred Shaw of Bradford.

Eleven-year-old Dorothy Belanger, 248 North Main Street distinguished herself recently, while vacationing in Marblehead, when she saved another youngster the same age from drowning in the North shore waters.

50 Years Ago—August 19, 1971

The wage and price freeze effected by President Nixon's economic program announced Sunday night, may have far-reaching consequences for municipal employees. A new contract between the police department and town would probably be affected by the wage freeze along with any increment to be given teachers returning to classes in September.

A photo caption reads: "Miss Brenda Nason, was crowned Miss Pomp's Pond of 1971 at the annual beauty contest held Monday under the direction of the Recreation department. Here, she is shown with her crown, trophy, and gifts for winning the contest participated in by over 40 contestants.

Broken windows in the public schools is again a summer problem for the

custodial staff, working to get the buildings ready for another school year. Jack Berberian, supervisor of general services, says that the damage this summer has been about "normal."

25 Years Ago—August 15, 1996

Kerry Millikin doesn't horse around when it comes to her sport. "I was a horse fanatic ever since I can remember;" the 34-year-old equestrian bronze medalist in the 1996 Olympic Games said this week. Growing up on Holt Road in Andover helped fuel Ms. Milliken's love of the sport. "There were a couple of ponies down the road and I used to always watch them and get to know the people there," she said.

The Andover School of Montessori has struck oil—and its representatives can't be too happy about it. Working hard to meet their September 3 scheduled opening the school hit a stumbling block when soil contaminated by fuel oil was found under the site last week. Everett Penney, Andover health director said the oil leakage was from an old building on the site. The School is being built on the site of the former Elks lodge and grounds off Route 28.

Town starts reporting local COVID-19 numbers again

By MADELINE HUGHES
mhughes@andovertownsmen.com

Andover health officials are starting to post COVID-19 numbers again because July showed a slight uptick in the number of people falling sick.

Right now "it's manageable and I think that's good news," said Thomas Carbone, Andover's director of health. "That doesn't mean it couldn't change in a heartbeat."

Between April and July 4 there were very few cases, he said. However, after the holiday and the rise of the

delta variant, there were 52 cases in July, which included 11 children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. So, providing residents with COVID-19 data every Friday will help inform their decisions, Carbone said.

The town starting to report numbers again and the renewed recommendations to wear masks, even if vaccinated, are not to be a cause for alarm, he said.

The whole pandemic has "been a go with the flow situation," said Amy Ewing, the assistant director of

health. "When things get better we can decide to do more stuff and when things get worse we can pull back."

There isn't as much community spread as before because they could connect about two-thirds of the cases to people traveling or coming into contact with others who were sick, Carbone said.

In recent weeks officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance recommending vaccinated people mask when indoors in areas of substantial and high transmission. Andover being in Essex

County is now considered in a substantial risk county, according to the CDC.

Carbone said that he has started wearing his mask indoors, especially in crowded settings like the grocery store.

Vaccination is still the best shield to protect from the virus, but masking is a close second, Carbone said.

"Please consider (getting vaccinated)," Ewing said. "It's safe and it's doing the job it's supposed to do — preventing serious illness, hospitalization and death. It's effective."

Appeals court upholds Lawrence 'madam' conviction

By JILL HARMACINSKI
jharmacinski@andovertownsmen.com

BOSTON — The state's appeals court upheld the convictions of a Salem, N.H. woman who sex trafficked young women at a brothel she ran in Lawrence.

Lori Ann Barron, 58, was sentenced to seven to nine years in state prison in after she was convicted by a superior court jury in June 2017 of three counts of sex trafficking, one count of deriving

support from prostitution and one count of photographing an unsuspecting nude person at her business, The Day Spa for Gentlemen on South Broadway.

An attorney for Barron filed an appeal, arguing evidence seized during a search of Barron's home at the time of her arrest should have been suppressed, and that she should get a new trial due to "ineffective assistance of counsel."

But the appeals court, in

a decision issued Monday, rejected both arguments.

The court ruled there "is no merit" to Barron's "contention that her consent to the search was not voluntary." The court noted a previous judge ruled Barron was "not coerced into providing consent" and that Barron "was cooperative with officers" when they arrived at her Salem, N.H. home.

"The officers were polite with the defendant and not overbearing, even permitting

the defendant to walk freely through her home for some time," according to the decision.

Once taken to a police station for booking, Barron also signed "a standard consent form authorizing a search of her house and vehicle after she had the opportunity to read the form and ask the officer questions. The officer explained that she was under no obligation to grant consent and could revoke it at any time," according to the decision.

■ POLICE LOG

Thursday, July 29
Animal complaint: Rabid raccoon transported to vet, Cross Street, 3:19 p.m.
Assault: Harding Street, 4:43 p.m.
Saturday, July 31
Noise complaint: Large group of girls walking asked to go home, 11:20 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 1
Car crash: Car backed into pedestrian, only minor injuries, Hitchcock Farm Road, 12:53 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 2
Noise complaint: Three girls waiting for AAA were playing music and dancing. They were told to quiet down, Central Street, 1:25 a.m.
Fraud: Bad checks, Railroad Street, 6:07 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 3
Illegal dumping: Lovejoy Road, 10:50 a.m.
Arrest: Celsa J. Penalo, 50, of Methuen arrested on warrants, Stevens Street, 2:50

p.m.
Vandalism: Heather Drive, 6:50 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 4
Theft: Stolen package, Bullfinch Drive, 1:36 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 5
Arrest: Sergio Santana Carasso, 50, of Lawrence arrested for no car inspection sticker, Lowell Junction Road, 5:55 a.m.
Animal complaint: Snake in washer, Marwood Drive, 1:41 p.m.

Theft: Stolen mailbox with mail, South Main Street, 4:17 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 7
Trespassing: Central Street, 9:31 a.m.
Breaking and entering: One car rummaged through, Bullfinch Drive, 10:19 a.m.
Noise complaint: High Vale Lane, 10:13 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 8
Animal complaint: Dog in car was OK because AC was on, High Street, 7:38 p.m.

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES
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♻️ Please recycle this newspaper.

Public sector workers face vaccine mandates

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
cwade@cnhnews.com

BOSTON — The state and local governments are requiring COVID-19 vaccines for workers as they try to tamp down a resurgence of the virus.

On Beacon Hill, at least three state agencies — the auditor's, treasurer's and attorney general's offices — have said they will require employees to be vaccinated.

Attorney General Maura Healey says employees will be required to be fully vaccinated when they shift from remote work to their offices in September.

"With a more infectious variant and positive COVID cases on the rise, it's clear that this pandemic is not over," Healey said Wednesday.

State Auditor Suzanne Bump announced last week that employees in her office will be required to submit proof of vaccination or at least one negative test result on a weekly basis beginning Aug. 9. Mask wearing will be mandatory for staff without proof of vaccination, while it will be optional for others, she said.

Workers in all three state offices may ask for medical or religious exemptions to the requirement.

Meanwhile, a number of

cities and towns are also looking at requiring workers to be vaccinated, especially those who routinely deal with the public.

In Boston, Mayor Kim Janey says her administration is discussing plans to require all 18,000 city employees to get vaccinated or undergo regular testing.

President Joe Biden plans to impose similar requirements on federal employees.

Legal experts say in Massachusetts the state and local governments have broad discretion to require workers to be vaccinated.

Joel Rosen, an Andover attorney who specializes in health care law, said the courts have repeatedly affirmed the ability of public and private sector employers to set vaccine mandates as a condition of employment.

"Governments are employers, who like private employers have an obligation to keep workers and the people they serve safe," Rosen said.

As long as employers provide "well-recognized medical and religious exemptions" to the vaccinations, the mandates are on solid legal ground, he said.

Many large corporations are already requiring workers to be vaccinated. Nearly all of the state's hospitals and

have said they will require the vaccine, as have private and public colleges, including all University of Massachusetts campuses.

Backing up employers is recent guidance from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that says federal law doesn't prevent employers from requiring proof of vaccination.

Massachusetts has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, with more than 64% of the population fully vaccinated, but more than 2 million people haven't gotten their shots yet.

State and local health officials are scrambling to reach those people as infections spike amid the prevalence of the highly contagious delta strain of the virus.

Martin W. Healy, chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Bar Association, said he agrees that the vaccine mandates are backed up legally.

"There's a lot of legal precedent for government mandated vaccinations," he said. One of the prevailing cases involved a smallpox outbreak in the early 1900s in Cambridge.

Legal experts say mandates are likely to spur lawsuits — even if they may ultimately be unsuccessful.

And cities and towns will likely have to negotiate any

such requirements with powerful labor unions that represent public sector workers.

"We strongly believe any policies regarding vaccinations must be done through collective bargaining," said Jim Durkin, legislative director for the Massachusetts chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents 35,000 workers.

"We want to make sure that the men and women we represent are treated fairly and that any concerns they have are addressed," he said.

And it's not clear if other branches of the state government will set vaccine mandates.

Gov. Charlie Baker has previously said he opposes vaccine "passports" and other mandates, and he won't require the state's workforce to get vaccinated.

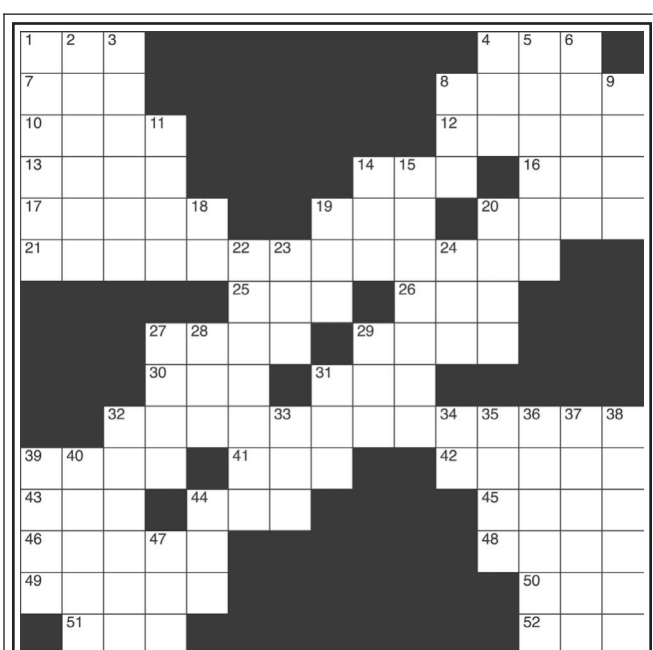
House and Senate leaders, who are in recess until September, haven't indicated if they will require legislative staff to be vaccinated when the Statehouse reopens.

Legal experts say vaccine mandates for the general public are unlikely, as it would raise privacy issues.

"That would be way beyond the red line," Rosen said. "There's a pretty wide gulf between schools

and employers requiring the Massachusetts Statehouse vaccinations, and forced for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites."

Christian M. Wade covers



CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between east and southeast
- Sun up in New York
- Japanese honorific
- Czech name for Prague
- Ochocinco's first name
- Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
- Scots word for "home"
- Upper class young woman (abbr.)
- Monetary unit of Albania
- Raise
- Drain of resources
- Uncultured, clumsy persons
- Hikers use them
- Retrospective analysis (military)
- Tibetan form of chanting

Solution in Classified Section

- Influential European statesman
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Monetary unit of Romania
- Round green vegetable
- Well acquainted with
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Basics
- "The Godfather" actress Keaton
- Snakelike fish
- Tall deciduous tree
- Russian river
- Long Balkans river
- Ancient Greek coin
- Senegal's capital
- Unwell
- Snout
- Low bank or reef of coral

CLUES DOWN

- Abstain from
- Vast desert in North Africa
- Cover the crown of a tooth
- A major division of geological time
- Urban center
- Crook
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Questions
- A pack of 52 playing cards
- Recording of sound
- Pithy saying
- Atomic #22
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Plant with ridged seedpods
- Innate
- Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)
- Soda receptacle
- Spanish stew: __ podrida
- Viet Cong offensive
- Large body of water
- Beginning military rank
- Dissimilar
- Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
- Shows who you are
- Chinese dynasty
- Type of verse
- African nation
- Quite
- Former Bucks star Michael
- Showed again
- Body part
- Steal

Trahan touts 'forever chemicals' cleanup bill

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
cwade@cnhnews.com

BOSTON — Communities would receive money to help clean up the "forever chemicals" contaminating their drinking water and sewage treatment systems under a plan working its way through Congress.

The measure, which recently passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support, seeks to reduce toxic exposure to types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are increasingly found in drinking water, soil,

air, food and even tests of people's blood.

The bill calls for federal drinking water standards for the two most common PFAS chemicals within two years. It would also label them as hazardous substances, triggering a process for identifying and cleaning up polluted sites under federal law.

Rep. Lori Trahan, D-Westford, one of the bill's co-sponsors, said the measure is backed by President Joe Biden, and she has urged the Senate to take action.

Trahan told a meeting of the Massachusetts PFAS

Interagency Task Force on Tuesday that a history of inaction by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is "what got us to this point" where states have had to step up and write rules limiting PFAS contamination.

The plan being considered by Congress would also provide grants to cities and towns, drinking water systems and sewage treatment plants to cover the costs of detecting and removing PFAS. At least \$800 million would be available annually.

Trahan said many communities struggle with the cost

of dealing with PFAS.

"Cleaning up these water sources is not cheap," she said.



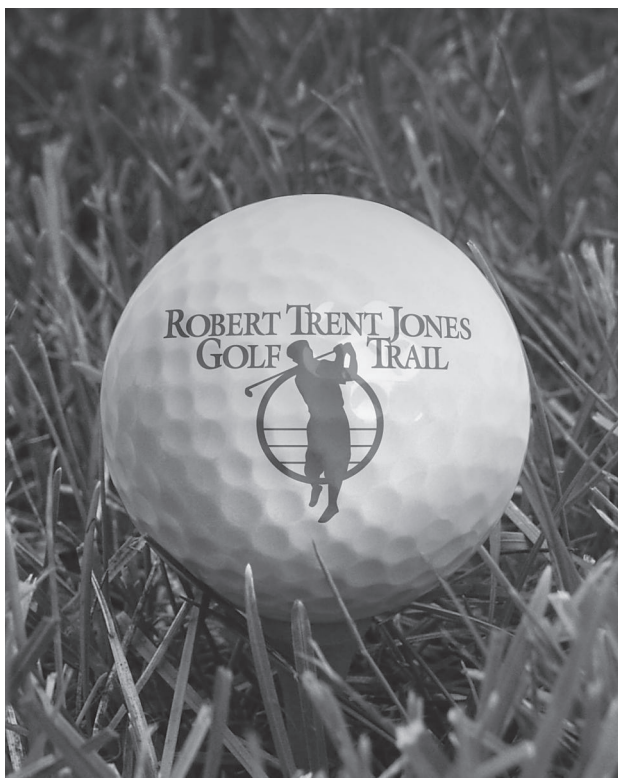
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Climate pact opponents push for 2022 ballot question

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Opponents of a regional climate pact are pushing a question for next year's ballot that would undermine the program, which they say will drive up fuel prices.

A proposed question filed Wednesday for review by the attorney general's office asks voters to choke off a source of funds for the cap-and-trade program, effectively blocking the state's participation in the Transportation Climate

Initiative.

The referendum calls for updating state law to declare that gas and other fuel supplies "will not be reduced or restricted by the imposition of any tax, fee, other revenue generating mechanism, or market based compliance mechanism."

Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, said the pro-business group co-founded by billionaire Rick Green supports the effort because, the group believes, the climate pact will "force working families and middle-class

Massachusetts to subsidize electric vehicles for the affluent."

"The people that will feel the pinch deserve a voice in this process," Craney said. "Consumers should be free to make their own decisions, and TCI should never restrict the amount of gasoline Massachusetts motorists can purchase. It's bad economics and cruel."

Another proponent is former state Rep. Geoff Diehl, a Whitman Republican who led a successful ballot campaign in 2014 to repeal a law tying the state's gas tax to

inflation. Diehl is seeking the GOP's nomination for governor in 2022, which means he'll challenge Gov. Charlie Baker should the two-term governor decide to run again.

Baker is a primary proponent of the TCI consortium and has tied the state's participation to efforts to reduce carbon emissions and alleviate traffic congestion.

The plan calls for cutting motor vehicle emissions by at least 26% within the next 11 years. It targets gasoline and diesel fuel consumption, which account for about 40% of regional emissions that scientists say contribute to climate change.

As part of the TCI pact, fuel suppliers who travel across state lines to make deliveries will be taxed on emissions above limits that have yet to be set. Suppliers are expected to pass on those costs to consumers.

States participating in

the program will get a portion of the tax to use for transportation projects.

TCI's proponents say the plan will cap increases in gas prices at 5 cents per gallon in the first year, but opponents say it's unclear what will happen next. Opponents say the deal ultimately will hurt consumers while doing little to reduce emissions.

TCI supporters have also pushed back on claims, now included in the proposed ballot question, that the pact will lead to fuel shortages. Supporters accuse opponents of intentionally misrepresenting federal energy data.

To be sure, the regional climate initiative is running low on momentum. A majority of the 11 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states that were part of the original agreement have not committed to it.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican,

says his state won't join.

So far, only Massachusetts and two other states -- Rhode Island and Connecticut -- have signed a "memorandum of understanding" to join the program, though lawmakers in Connecticut and Rhode Island still must sign off.

The Baker administration says Massachusetts' 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act gives the governor authority to ratify the agreement without the Legislature.

If the ballot question is certified, supporters still have numerous hurdles to clear, not least of which is gathering about 80,000 signatures of registered voters by Nov. 17.

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



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Summer games



Finleigh Cash, 9, kicks a soccer ball toward a net while playing a penalty kick game during an Andover Recreation mini sports program held outside on the Wood Hill/High Plain Elementary School fields. The outdoor games featured, kickball, soccer, whiffle ball, home run derby, dodgeball, and more.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Jackson Scoll, 12, throws the ball toward the goal while playing a game of Quidditch during an Andover Recreation mini sports game program.



Goalkeeper William Hennessy, 9, makes a save while playing a penalty kick game in Andover.

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Sports

ALL-AMERICAN REX

Andover's Rex delivers stellar final statement in college track

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

If Andover's John Rex has reached the end of his career throwing the hammer in track and field, he certainly knows how to go out in style.



John Rex

This spring, as a senior for Bates College (Lewiston, Maine), Rex earned All-American Honors in the hammer

throw by placing fifth at the NCAA Division 3 Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May — the final meet of his college career. He had to skip graduation to compete in the meet, held in Greensboro, N.C.

"It feels surreal (to be an All-American)," said Rex. "I didn't, by any means, think that a spring season was likely (due to the COVID-19 pandemic). So, to have only three meets and then NCAAs — and have it go so well — felt like a dream. I don't think there are words to describe it, but I am very grateful for my teammates and coaches who helped get me to this point."

At NCAAs, Rex launched the hammer 189 feet, 9 inches. That was 6 feet better than the No. 6 thrower, and the fourth best throw of Rex's career. His personal best was 191-6, set earlier in the spring.

"Going to NCAAs, and having my whole family and alumni there to support me, was very special," he said. "I had to miss my graduation, and sacrificed a lot of time and energy to get myself there, so getting the podium finish in front of my proud coach and family was a truly life-changing experience."

EVOLVING AS ATHLETE

That success came after quite a bit of change for Rex. Despite an already outstanding career as a



PHOTO BY THEOPHIL SYSLO/Bates College

Andover's John Rex competes in the weight throw for Bates College as a junior. This spring, Rex earned All-American honors in the hammer throw, in the final meet of his career.

"I'm proud of what I was able to accomplish in my 5 1/2 seasons a Bates track athlete, and I am grateful for the shaping lessons I learned while there."

John Rex

thrower, first at Phillips Academy — where he also starred as an offensive and defensive lineman in football — then at Bates, Rex decided to make a major overall of his fitness regimen during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I had time during the quarantine to dig deep into the fundamentals," said Rex. "So I attacked my weaknesses, one of which was my diet. Nothing really inspired it other than

wanting to throw farther and taking the necessary steps to bring my training to the next level. I had a lot of time to evolve given, I didn't have a competition for over a year.

"I stopped eating meat, with the exception of fish, and ate a lot of vegetable and protein rich foods. My energy levels were much higher, and training was more productive. I also went heavier on the Olympic lifting, which to me is such an

important factor in building explosiveness and speed."

SPRING SUCCESS

Prior to this spring, Rex last competed in the winter 2019-20 season, when he earned All-New England honors in the shot put (season-best 51-0.75) and repeated in the weight throw (season-best of 62-6.5, sixth best in the country). He made the NCAA Championship, but it was cancelled at the start of the pandemic.

The slimmed-down Rex returned with a bang this spring.

He won the NESCAC title in the hammer throw, and won the hammer (191-4, seventh best in the country), shot put (47-3, second

best in NESCAC) and discus (140-11, third in NESCAC) at the Tufts Invitational.

"Definitely hitting some PRs was exciting," he said, "and having those moments in practice where I would see huge technical breakthroughs. Also, the adventures with my friends. It wasn't an easy year, but we made the most of it!"

CAREER, ATHLETIC FUTURE

Now a college graduate, Rex is living in Princeton, N.J. He works full-time for Bank of America Merrill Lynch as a wealth management analyst.

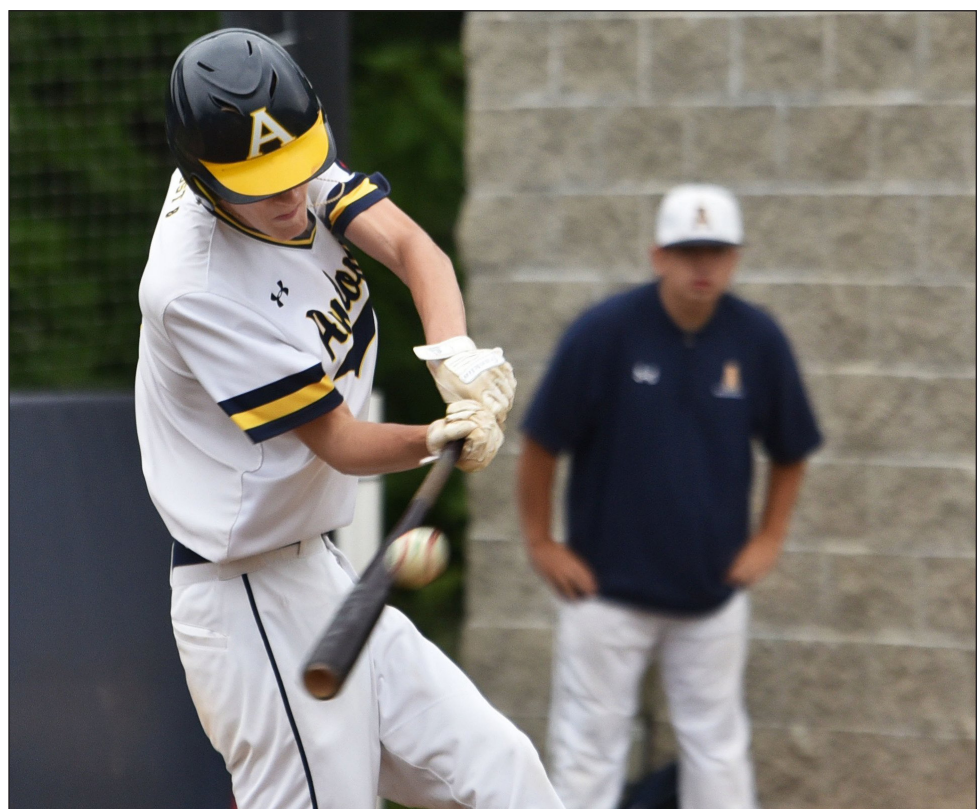
For now, he's putting his hammer, shot put and discus away, and focusing on

different athletic goals.

"I'm taking a break (from throwing) for now," he said. "I've shifted the athletic energy into CrossFit, and I'm loving it at the moment. Anything that's competitive, really. It's something I've always wanted to try, and I am really enjoying it."

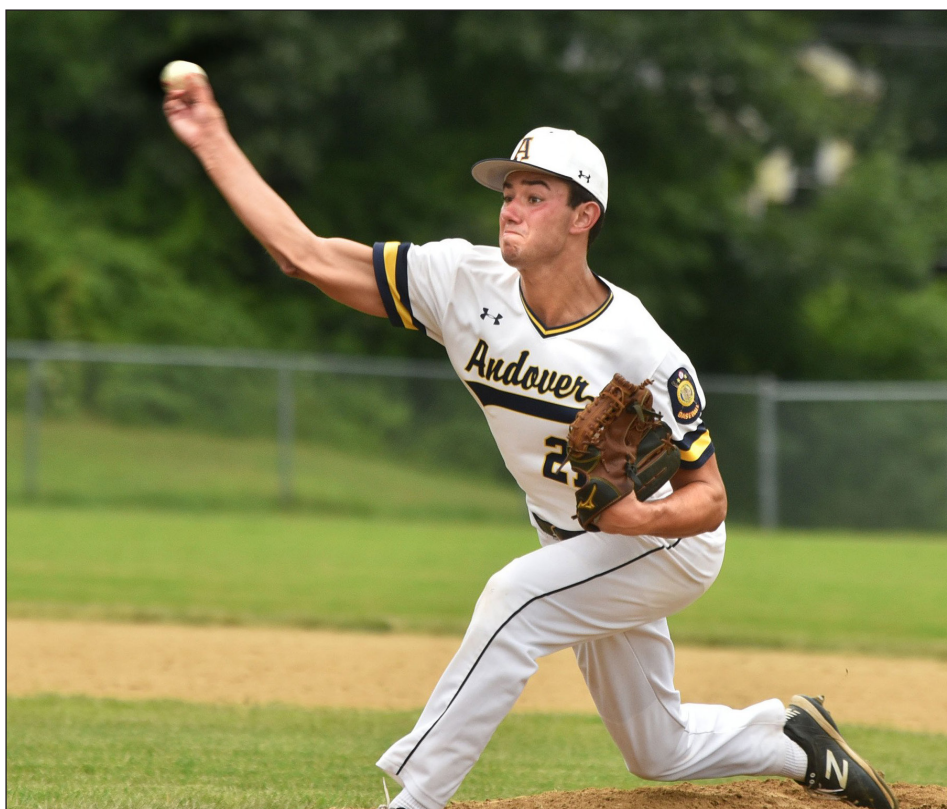
"There's never an easy time to end something that meant so much to you, but it feels right in this moment. I'm proud of what I was able to accomplish in my 5 1/2 seasons a Bates track athlete, and I am grateful for the shaping lessons I learned while there. I'm excited to move onwards in the workforce and life."

TWITTER: @DWillisET



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Andover's Jackson Brown makes contact for a base hit. Brown had two hits, three RBIs and two runs scored in the win.



Andover's Ryan Grecco was in command, throwing a complete game 4-hitter as Post 8 blanked Haverhill 10-0. It was his second win over Haverhill this summer.

Grecco, Andover Legion deliver dominant win

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

In his final start in an Andover uniform before heading to college, Andover Legion ace Ryan Grecco delivered bigtime.

Grecco allowed just four harmless hits in a dominant complete-game effort, and Andover Post 8 exploded for eight runs in the final two innings to beat Haverhill Post 4 10-0 last Wednesday.

"I went out, threw my best stuff and felt confident in my pitches," said Grecco, who will next pitch for Colby College. "I felt good going

into the game. My arm felt good. I had them guessing on the off-speed stuff, and that makes my fastball look faster. I was hitting my spots, and it felt good out there."

Grecco struck out five and allowed just three Haverhill batters to reach second base. Only one Post 4 player reached third, in the fourth, and Grecco forced a fly ball to end the inning. He finished the game with two 1-2-3 innings.

"Everything was going good for Grecco," said catcher Nolan Schirmer. "When he's on, he's on. His

stuff might not blow you away, but he puts it in spots where you can't drive it. It was all ground-outs and fly-outs. They were never able to string anything together. He didn't even have his best stuff today, but he didn't miss his spots."

Andover scored all the runs it needed in the first, grabbing a 2-0 lead. First-off man Terry Morrissey opened the game with a single, and came around to score on a single by Anthony Teberio, who scored the second run.

After scoring two in the fifth, Andover then blew

the game open in the sixth. Post 8 sent nine batters to the plate, scoring six runs. Jackson Brown drove a two-run double down the left field line, and Teberio blasted an RBI double off the left field line.

"On the last one, it was right off the fence," said Teberio with a laugh. "A couple more feet and it was out of there. I knew I didn't hit it really good, but I knew it would be close."

Schirmer followed with an RBI single to left to give Andover 10 runs and end the game on the mercy rule.

Morrissey and Teberio each led the way, going 3 for 4. Brown and Teberio each had a team-best three RBIs, while Morrissey scored three runs.

"It was a good win," said Morrissey. "Haverhill is a good team. I got a new bat today, and it seemed to work pretty well."

Andover 10, Haverhill 0

Andover (10): Terry Morrissey rf 4-3-3, Jackson Brown dh 4-2-2, Anthony Teberio 1b 4-1-3, Nolan Schirmer c 4-0-2, Tanner O'Sullivan cf 3-1-1, Chase Lembo 2b 3-1-2, Joe Buccì 3b 2-0-0, Tyler Wallis ph 0-1-0, Brian Gibson lf 2-0-0, Ryan Grecco p 0-1-0, RJ Reming ss 3-0-1. Totals 29-10-14.

RBI: A — Brown 3, Teberio 3, Schirmer, Morrissey. WP: Grecco; LP: Kelleher

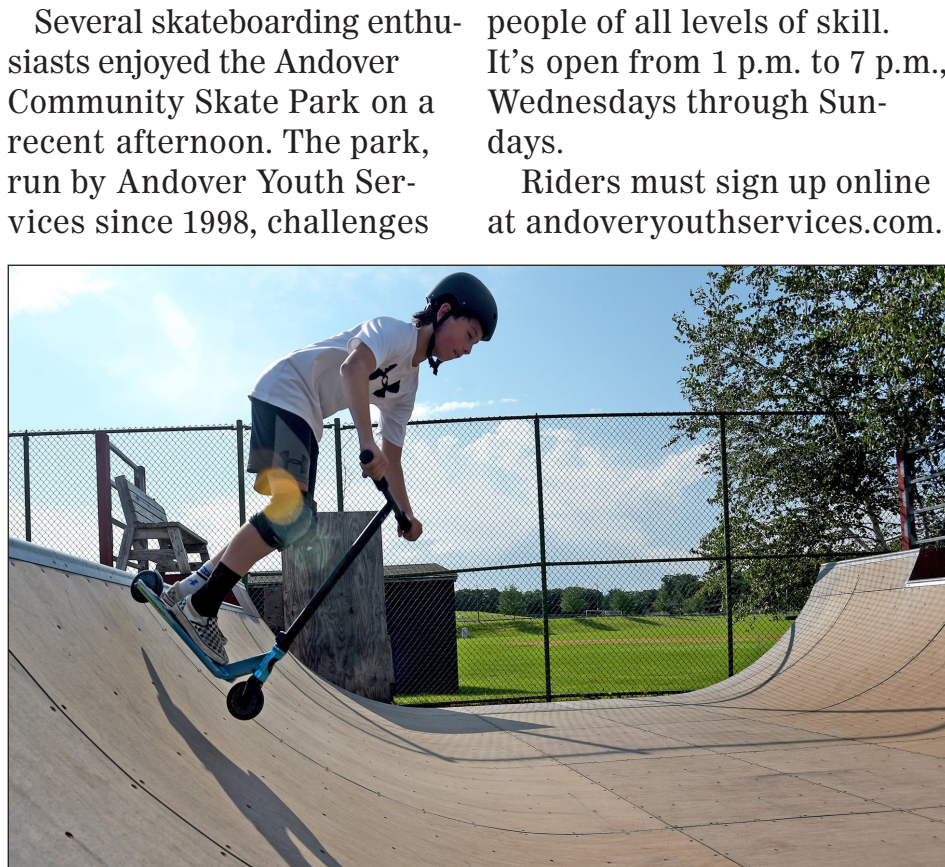


Andover's Terry Morrissey sprints home to score a run last Wednesday against Haverhill. Morrissey had three hits and scored three runs in the win.

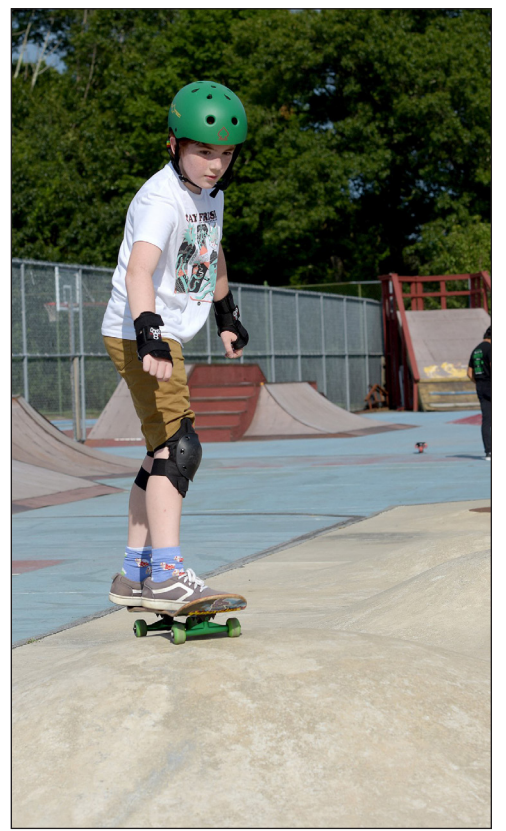
Skateboarding on a sunny afternoon



TIM JEAN/Staff photos
Joey Magliozzi, 14, of Andover, positions himself for a ride down a ramp.



Luke Brezner, 14, of Andover, scooters onto a ramp.



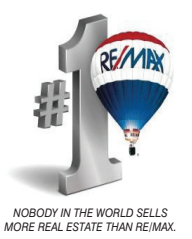
Jarrod Newell, 11, of Andover, skates up and across raised concrete bumps.

Several skateboarding enthusiasts enjoyed the Andover Community Skate Park on a recent afternoon. The park, run by Andover Youth Services since 1998, challenges people of all levels of skill. It's open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays. Riders must sign up online at andoveryouthservices.com.



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