

Another Bridge Needs Repair

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Early last month, Town Administrator Mark Stetson received an unsettling letter from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT). It announced bad news about the bridge on Bradley Lake Road that crosses Hame Shop Brook. In boldface it said:

Andover Critical Bridge Deficiency
There is a serious continued deterioration of the steel beams, with holes rusted through seven of nine beams. The live load capacity is severely reduced.

The letter recommended posting the bridge for a 3-ton weight limit and for passenger cars only, which the Road Agent did promptly.

In earlier DOT inspections the bridge had received a clean bill of health, so to learn that seven of its nine steel beams have holes rusted through them came as a surprise.

DOT has proposed a \$120,000 project to replace the bridge deck, with the state picking up 80% of the cost as they usually do. That leaves \$24,000 as an



unexpected budget item for Andover to deal with in next year's budget.

Fixing The Problem

Within the next couple of weeks, crews will be working to add reinforcement to the worst beams in order to accommodate snow plows, fuel delivery trucks, and emergency vehicles.

DOT has further proposed to fast-track a complete rebuild project to remove the old bridge deck and steel beams and replace them with a new structure. The project should get underway in late spring or early summer of 2006. One problem yet to be worked out is how to accommodate residents during the estimated two days that the bridge will have to be closed.



Veterans Day At AE/MS. Dozens of area veterans were on hand for the special program at AE/MS, including (seated) Bill Leber, Wallace Scott, Frank Haley, Pete Thompson, Willis Nowell, Sheldon Rich, Richard Lamos, Skip Powers, Peter Zak. Middle: Irv Dickerman, Percy Hill, Kevin Barry, Roger Henderson, Bryant Adams, Lloyd Perreault, Gene Poulin, Ralph Doe, George West, Darrell Sykes, Dennis Wright. Back: Hastings Rigollet, Larry Shedd, Wilbur Cate, Leighton Terwilliger, Francis Frame (hidden), Don Mayo, Mike Haley, Jay Boynton, Tim Frost, Robert Campbell, Dave Grover.

Photo by Charlie Darling

New Town Web Site Online

By Roger Godwin
For the Beacon

Andover's new Town Web site is now up and running at www.AndoverNH.us. Stitched together by the efforts of Nate Laffan, Proctor Academy '01 and Lewis & Clark University '05, while on an extended visit home to Canaan before a year's further study in Italy, the site is hosted on Proctor Academy's servers.

The site is intended to be informational and to save Andover residents and others visits to Town Hall. It contains all local ordinances and regulations and numerous maps as well as information on town groups and activities ranging

from kiddie stuff to local businesses to our local non-profit organizations. There is also a look at Andover history and albums of historic and scenic photos.

The Web site is very much a work in progress, with numerous pages to be completed as time, accumulation of specifics, and Webmeister Roger Godwin's learning of the software permit. Please e-mail all corrections and updates to godlaw@adelphia.net, along with the specifics of any local or locally-owned business you would like to be included in the prospective Yellow Pages addition to the site – business name, address, phone number, e-mail, Web site address, and owner's/manager's name.

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AndoverBeacon.com December 2005 \$2.00

Andover Tax Bills Up 16%

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The tax bills arrived in households across Andover this past month, and they are about 16% higher than last year's tax bills. To figure out what's going on, you have to look at the various rates – town, school, county, and state – that get combined into your final bill.

Town Tax Rate

The town tax rate is unchanged from last year, at \$1.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Again this year the Selectmen used money from prior year budget surpluses to cover any expenses that would otherwise cause an increase in the town tax rate.

Fire Department Tax Rates

Both the East Andover Fire Department tax rate (which appears on the tax bills of East Andover residents) and the Andover Fire Department tax rate (which appears on every one else's tax bills) were nearly the same as last year's, at \$.32 and \$.58 per \$1,000, respectively.

School Tax Rate

The school tax rate is up this year due to two factors: The total school budget is up by approximately 5%, and the amount of the previous end-of-year surplus was about \$150,000 less than the year before.

State law requires that all money the school has not spent at the end of the year be turned back to the town to help reduce the next year's tax rate. The surplus amount used to reduce the 2004 tax rate was \$262,483. The amount available to reduce this year's tax rate was only about \$95,000.

The school budget is approved in March, over five months before the school year starts. That budget anticipates a large number of variables like special

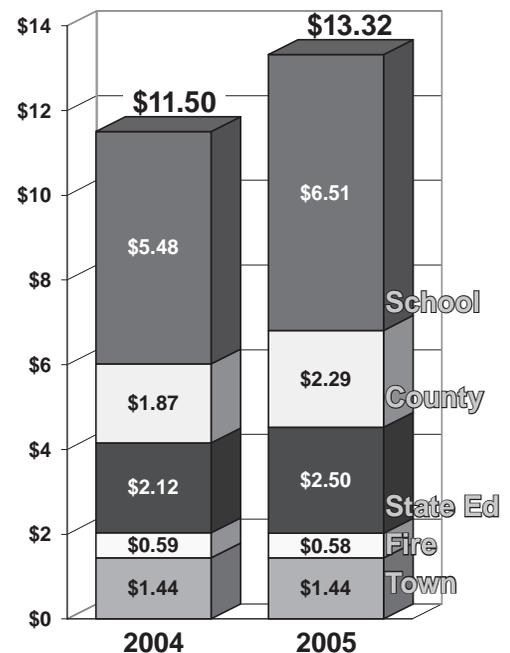
education needs, the number of students being tuitioned to Merrimack Valley High School, the number of faculty opting for health insurance coverage, and so on. Prudent management and a little luck resulted in the larger than normal surplus in 2004. This year we weren't as fortunate.

The result of both of these factors means the school tax rates (state and local, combined) on this year's tax bill are up by almost 19% at \$9.01 per \$1,000.

County Tax Rate

The county tax rate is much higher this year, up over 22% at \$2.29 per \$1,000. Part of that increase comes from the federal government having put an end to the "bed tax" that the state was allowed to charge nursing homes. The nursing homes were 100% reimbursed by the federal Medicaid program for the bed taxes they paid to the state. The program was a way for the federal government to fix some inequities in the Medicaid reimbursement formula without having to change the formula itself.

See Tax Bills on page 2



ANDOVER TAX RATES per \$1,000. East Andover tax rates differ only in the Fire amounts.

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Beacon Bits

People stop me in town and ask how the *Beacon's* fundraising is going. The thermometer below pretty much tells the story – it's going well, but not brilliantly.

I confess to being a "glass 14% full" kind of person, so I'm thrilled that 156 families have showed their support for the *Beacon* in its second year. But there's no denying that the glass is, indeed, 86% empty. Nearly 1,000 Andover families have not quite gotten around to sending a check.

If you haven't gotten "a round tuit" yet, please tear out the form below and put it in your "checks to be written" pile. It's the only way the *Beacon* will be able to keep paying its bills.

The Perfect Holiday Gift

The form below also works for a gift subscription to the *Beacon*. You couldn't ask for an easier or more thoughtful gift for someone who has to live elsewhere (though a *Beacon* t-shirt, available at the Thrift Shop, is certainly a close second).

More Helping Hands

My New Year's resolution is to help more people get excited about helping make the *Beacon* happen every month. The more people we involve in creating the *Beacon* every month, the more likely it is that the *Beacon* will endure for the long term.

We're doing pretty well in the writing, editing, and proofreading departments, but could use more help organizing and prepping photos. And we *really* need more help managing things like the flood of stories and photos we get every month; the accounting; ads and advertisers; fundraising; and so on.

It's something to think about for the New Year. Until then, have a wonderful holiday season!



Next Month's Beacon...

...should be in mailboxes on Friday, Dec. 30. Please get all ads, articles, etc. to us by **Thursday, Dec. 15** at the latest. And earlier is always better!

Letters

I would like to thank the Selectmen for presenting me with the *Boston Post Cane*. It is a great honor! Thanks, too, to my family and friends for coming.

I also want to thank Ms. Hildebrand's and Mr. Jensen's second grade classes for my nice posters. They were a thoughtful surprise and I have them hanging on my wall.

Frances Huntoon

Less than a year into the new state administration and the property taxes (NH's major source of revenue) have increased 16%. This in spite of the fact that the rate of inflation just exceeded 4% - a recent high water mark for that index. Lest we think that "fire protection and town services" have gone out of control - they haven't and remain a constant \$0.59 and \$1.44 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation respectively - we find that the major increases are the school budget, the state school tax and the county assessments and that each of these budget items in turn depends strongly on the policies and actions of that state government.

Hardly a month goes by that the governor does not decry the existence of the State School Tax and his desire to eliminate it and yet in 2005 that tax increased by almost 15%. I agree with

the governor that the tax is an administrative nightmare and should be eliminated but I see no effort to do so.

It won't take many property tax increases of 16% before the homeowners will cry uncle and "demand" relief. Saviors will readily come to the rescue with their broad based tax proposals - for political reasons the income tax is probably the only option. The important thing here is not the size of the tax (it will be described as "small and focussed" by its sponsors) but who will control the funds. An income tax that goes directly into the coffers of each town would be perfectly feasible (and acceptable to many of us) but it will never happen. The arguments against this happening will be many and varied but the main thrust (but never articulated) will be that the towns are not capable of managing a modern, sophisticated community. Notice how well our modern, sophisticated cities, states and federal governments function.

While we need all of these levels of government for better or worse, we don't need more control of local communities by the state and federal governments.

Paul J. Fopiano

Tax Bills from page 1

With the bed tax gone, the state lost a big chunk of federal Medicaid money. This caused a \$750,000 budget shortfall in Merrimack County, which is why, in part, the county tax rate is up over 22% this year.

But there may be more to this jump than just the vanishing bed tax. Andover's share of the Merrimack County assessment was \$328,523 in 2003. This year, our share is \$596,445, an increase of almost 82%. But in that same two-year period, the total Merrimack County assessment only increased by 36%.

So why has Andover's share of the overall county assessment increased by so much more than the overall budget itself has increased? State Representative Jim Danforth of Andover has had meetings with county officials, but so far they haven't been able to give him a good answer. He plans to continue meeting with them and will report what he finds in the *Beacon*.

Corrections

In our list of Andover veterans in the November issue, we accidentally changed **Larry Wilson** to Larry Williams. We're very sorry for the mistake. Larry dropped us an e-mail from Iraq, where he's stationed at Camp Speicher with the 1159th Medical Company out of Concord. Stay safe, Larry!

BEACON MEMBERS WIN!

Each month the *Beacon* holds a random drawing among its members to give away valuable prizes provided by area businesses. **Become a member** for a year, support the *Beacon*, and join the fun! This month's winners are:

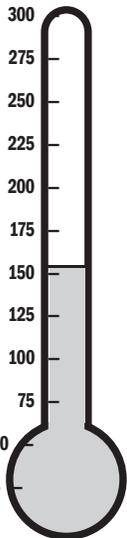
Artisan's Workshop	Pottery Platter	Roberta & Spencer Sullivan
Blackwater Junct. Rest.	Breakfast for Two	Julie & Don Mayo
Bowie's Market	Breakfast for Two	Elizabeth Elwell
Christie's Indoor Garden	\$25 Gift Certificate	Phyllis & Ray Mitchell
Handknits By Judy	Handknit Scarf	Nance & Bruce Barrett
Jake's Market in Andover	\$10 Cash Card	David & Sarah Brownell
Mackenna's Restaurant	\$10 Gift Certificate	Patricia Moyer
Mackenna's Restaurant	\$10 Gift Certificate	Sandra & John Graves
Andover Service Club	Cookbook	Barbara & Lewis Barton
Forest Cone & Evergreen	Yankee Candle	Polly Richards

Winners – contact the Beacon at 735-5331 to collect your prize.

Prizes not redeemable for cash.

Are there **300** households in Andover that value the *Beacon*? Please help us reach our goal!

Households donating so far in Year Two: **156**



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Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address?

The *Andover Beacon* is published monthly by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a New Hampshire non-profit corporation. **Board of Directors:** Steve Darling, Judy Evans, Bryan Johnson, Nan Kaplan, Chuck Will.

As a community newspaper, the *Beacon* relies almost totally on volunteers. **When you have the time and the inclination, please help – NO COMMITMENT REQUIRED!**

The *Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses. We ask for a minimum \$25 annual donation from out-of-town or seasonal subscribers who would like the paper mailed to them. **We welcome donations from the community** and depend on your financial support for a large part of our operating budget.

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Time To File For Town And School District Positions

Town Meeting is only a few months away, which means it's almost time to elect new officers to a number of Town and School District positions.

Town Officers

The following Town positions will be up for election on Town Meeting day this year.

- Selectman for three years (Roger Godwin's position)
- Road Agent for two years (John Thompson's position)
- Moderator for two years (Ed Becker's position)
- Supervisor of the Checklist for six years (Art Urie's position)
- Budget Committee for three years (Wallace Scott's position)
- Budget Committee for three years (Howard Wilson's position)
- Library Trustee for three years (Eileen Neville's position)
- Library Trustee for three years (Brenda Jurta's position)
- Trustee of Trust Funds for three years (Natalie Riker's position)
- Cemetery Trustee for three years (Susan Schnare's position)

School District Officers

The following School District positions will be up for election on Town Meeting day this year.

- School Board for three years (Robin Boyton's position)

- School Board for three years (Ed Dansereau's position)
- Moderator for one year (Bill Bardsley's position)
- Clerk for one year (Christie Coll's position)
- Treasurer for one year (Tay Clark's position)

The filing period for all of these positions begins on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 and ends on January 27, 2006. The application for filing can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall during her normal business hours:

- Tues. and Thurs. 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- Saturday 9 AM to Noon.

There is a \$1 filing fee for each paid position. There is no filing fee for unpaid positions. The paid positions up for election this year are:

- Selectman – \$1,500 / year
- Road Agent – hourly
- Town Moderator – hourly
- Supervisor of the Checklist – hourly
- School Board – \$100 / year
- School District Moderator – hourly
- School District Clerk – hourly
- School District Treasurer - \$840 / year

Voting will take place from 11:30 AM until 7:30 PM on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

For more info, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or AndoverNH@tds.net.

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On November 7, Frances Huntoon became the latest holder of the *Boston Post Cane*. Pictured with Frances before the ceremony are her great-granddaughters Emily and Amanda Nash, her granddaughter Paula Nash, and her daughters Betty Duff and Janice Woodward. Photo: Charlie Darling

Support Our Troops With "Operation Phonocard"

The Andover Post Office is participating in Operation Phonocard to help military families keep in touch during this holiday season. If you'd like to donate postage stamps or a phonecard that can be used for international calling, you can drop them off at the Andover Post Office, or you can mail them directly to:

MSG Peter Merritt
NHAG-CS-FS
4 Pembroke Road
Concord NH 03301-5652

Msg. Merritt says that there are many New Hampshire troops deployed overseas and that they will greatly appreciate any donated postage stamps and international phonecards so they can call or send letters home this holiday season.

You can buy international phonecards at many retailers. The United States Postal Service phonecard pictured here is available at any post

office. It is issued by AT&T and can be used for international or domestic calls.



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Quilt Shop Shares An Honored Craft

Condensed from Kearsarge Magazine
By Laura Jean Whitcomb
Kearsarge Magazine staff

Springfield resident Deborah Coffin signed up for her first quilt class in January. She was a longtime crafter (a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen) but had never quilted before. That is, until she signed up for a course at The Constant Quilter in Andover.

"The only class being offered at the time was called Path of Roses or Drunkard's Path. It looked terribly complicated, yet I was assured that I would be able to finish it without trouble," she recalls. "I've completed my quilt, and since finished a second class and a second quilt. Now I am about to embark on a smaller version of the Dear Jane quilt, a design based on the 1863 Jane A. Stickle quilt."

The Constant Quilter, owned by Linda Barnes, inspires many stories like Coffin's. "Quilting is something anyone can do," Barnes says. "It's stress relieving and very absorbing. In fact, you get so involved in what you are doing that you forget all your cares. One warning: Quilting is addicting. Once you're hooked, you're a goner."

Barnes has sewed since junior high school. But she didn't make her first quilt until the 1970s. Almost three decades – and 30 quilts – later, Barnes, a former New York City lawyer, moved to New Hampshire and decided to make her hobby into a business. A 200-year-old farmhouse on Pancake Road was transformed into a quilting supply shop (with sewing machines, fabric, notions, books and patterns), a classroom, and an antique shop in March 2004.

Barnes offers classes from basic – learning how to select fabric for a quilt top and preparing it with tools such as a rotary cutter – to machine quilting your quilt top, and choosing borders and binding to finish the quilt. She teaches new techniques such as "stack and whack" (a kaleidoscope pattern) and a short-cut applique process using fusible



Linda Barnes, standing, coaches Denise Raymond (front) and Donna Poulin through a "Stack 'n' Whack" quilt. Photo: Sharon Darling

web fabric and a hot iron.

The technology has changed as well; machine quilting can now be computer-operated with Barnes' 14-foot industrial quilting machine called the Statler Stitcher. It is one of two in the state of New Hampshire and boasts a perfect stitch for any pattern. Barnes estimates she's machine quilted 100 quilts this past year.

Although Barnes enjoys learning – and teaching – the latest techniques, she is honored to share a women's craft with others. "Quilting is a wonderful piece of women's history," she says. "Women used to take a scrap of a dress that they couldn't wear anymore and turn it into something beautiful. I am thrilled that people are showing more interest in it."

Article provided courtesy of Kearsarge Magazine. For more information, visit KearsargeMagazine.com.

Local Gifts Galore For Holiday Giving

If you don't have the time to make your own handcrafted gifts this holiday season, the next best thing is to give a gift that was made right here in New Hampshire. "Buying local" not only supports New Hampshire's small businesses, but your gift will have the added value of being meaningful because of its New Hampshire origins.

Locally, Country Pine Furniture in Andover sells big and small pieces of furniture and decorative accessories made of wood. The Flying Goose Pub in New London makes and sells its own beer and root beer. Morgan Hill Bookstore has a local author section, as well as books about many aspects of New Hampshire.

Also in New London, Peter Christian's sells its own mustard, and Jack's Coffee sells their own brand of coffee, as well as creating ready-to-go meals that are perfect for your holiday parties and guests. CB Coburn and Hanaford's both carry some specialty New Hampshire-made food items.

In Danbury, there's the Danbury Inn and Alpine Bistro Restaurant. Many of these businesses also sell gift certificates. Further afield, the Country Braid Shop in Tilton sells braided rugs, and Sawyer Trading Company in Franklin designs lamps with navigational maps of any body of water you want to put on the base.

To locate a local craftsman or merchant or to get more ideas on what to give this holiday season, visit NHMade.com, the Web site maintained by New Hampshire Made – based here in Andover – the organization that promotes New Hampshire-made products and services utilizing the "New Hampshire's Own, A Product of Yankee Pride" logo.

The *Guide to New Hampshire Products & Services* is also available at New Hampshire's Interstate rest areas, chamber of commerce information booths, and other selected locations throughout the state. A complete list of these locations can be found on NHMade.com.



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Board Of Selectmen

October 17

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Roger Godwin, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

The Board opened the two bids received for winter sand. Skip Overlock, dba Circle 3 Trucking, was the low bidder at \$8 per yard. Stetson will prepare the usual agreement for all parties to sign.

Road Agent John Thompson informed the Board that the recent rains had caused some problems on the roads that are usually susceptible to such damage. Most of the damage was limited to ditches and the edges of the roads. His crews worked continuously during the storm events to keep ditches and culverts from being plugged, and they were able to repair the worst damage right away.

Thompson reviewed a short list of work that he plans to complete before winter. Stetson relayed the gist of the rather negative response received from DOT officials in regard to the Board's request that the state remove the deck from the old bridge across from the Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club entrance.

The Board reviewed a very preliminary financial plan for the replacement of the large culvert pipe on Morrill Hill Road. The state has included it in the Bridge Aid program for funding in the state's fiscal year 2010, which starts July 1, 2009. The financial plan calls for engineering in 2007 and for construction in 2009.

In response to Thompson's query, the Board clarified that the Road Agent determines when to close a road due to high water and no matter what his decision is, as long as he acts in good faith, state law provides liability immunity to him and to the Town.

The Board then met with Bob Ward and Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club president Bud Rice to discuss Ward's ideas for landscaping around the flagpole on the Village Green. Rice informed the Board that the Club has responded to the Town's request for assistance with the project by deciding to donate up to \$500 towards the effort.

Ward suggested that the existing 10 trees be removed and replaced with 10 of a different species that will only grow to a maximum height of 3 to 4 feet. He opined that spring would be a good time for the planting.

The only issue yet to be resolved is the disposition of the existing trees. The Selectmen decided to offer them first to the Recreation Committee for use at the Blackwater Park, second to Proctor, and then to anyone else that may want them. If no one steps forward wanting to transplant them, they will be cut down. The Club will proceed once the old trees are gone.

Under old business, Stetson provided an inventory of junk vehicles remaining on the Labraney property, noting that as of October 13 there were four, down from the original 44. The Board again agreed to stay enforcement action as long as continued regular sig-

nificant progress is being made to bring the property into compliance. Stetson is continuing to monitor that work on a weekly basis.

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the property owner previously cited for the zoning violation on Channel Road, in which that owner committed to bringing the property into compliance. The Board asked Stetson to write back establishing a deadline for the work. Fenton opined that a bucket loader with forks might work well to move the shed.

Under new business, the Board authorized Stetson to approve a recommendation for an automotive state inspection license for property located at 156 Main Street.

Citing the benefit received to Andover residents, the Board decided not to opt out of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's "Round-Up" program. Stetson estimated the annual cost to be between \$40 and \$50.

Stetson reported that a representative from the US Geological Survey has started the process of updating the Town's FEMA flood maps.

The Board approved an elderly property tax exemption application.

The Board noted no objection to the hire of another attendant at the Transfer Station.

The Board agreed to enroll the Town in a three-year commitment to PRIMEX for worker's compensation insurance, noting a 5% discount for doing so.

The Board entered non-public session to discuss welfare case 05-08. The Board members voted not to publish the minutes of this non-public session. The Board decided not to grant the requested assistance at this time.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who reported that there were 123 calls for service during the previous 30-day period. There was a brief discussion regarding the extra detail budget line that has been over-expended due to the greater number of officers that have been needed than were originally budgeted for the Route 11 construction project. The Board told Laramie that he could continue to over-expend the line so long as Stetson provided assurance that such spending didn't cause the Town's total actual expenditures to exceed the voted appropriation for the year.

November 7

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Andrew Guptill, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Prior to opening the meeting, Fenton presented the *Boston Post* Cane to Frances Huntoon with 14 of her friends and family present.

The Board reviewed the status of the current year's highway budget with Road Agent John Thompson. He presented a draft of his recommended budget for 2006, noting increases in the summer and winter equipment rental lines to accommodate increases that he

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is proposing for contracted equipment hourly rates.

There was considerable discussion regarding the scope of the special projects work that Thompson is planning to complete on Chase Hill Road. His first recommendation is to reclaim and pave all of the currently paved portion including approximately 200 feet of Emery Road, complete with new culverts and the installation of under drain where necessary. The paving would include only the 2-inch base coat, with the 1-inch top coat being applied within the next couple of years.

His plan would also include using approximately 2,000 yards of a total of 6,000 yards of gravel that would be crushed at the transfer station in 2006. Thompson estimates the total cost to be approximately \$186,000.

Thompson told the Board that the project could be scaled back by excluding the section of Chase Hill Road from Route 11 to Emery Road. However, the cost to do that section in a later year would be greater than the savings in 2006 because the contractor would have to mobilize his equipment to the site twice.

Thompson again committed to completing the work on Pinewood Lane before winter.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Dyers Crossing Road bridge. The work is now substantially complete and the bridge was re-opened today. Fenton, Thompson, Stetson, and Sean James from the HTA engineering firm met at the bridge earlier today and reviewed a list of items comprising a punch list of work remaining.

Thompson had expressed concern that the manner in which an area of the top coat of paving had been patched will likely not hold up, especially to snow plowing efforts. Fenton suggested the Board enforce a provision in the contract that spells out a financial penalty for each day beyond a specified date that the contractor fails to have the project substantially complete. In this case, that's about 35 days. Guptill agreed.

Fenton strongly suggested that the Town take whatever action necessary to eliminate the beaver problem on Elbow Pond Road.

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation detailing the reasons for the department's recommendation that the bridge [across Hame Shop Brook on Bradley Lake Road] be immediately posted with a 3-ton weight limit and passenger cars only. The bridge is deemed to have critical deficiencies and needs immediate attention.

Bob Barry from DOT has committed to preparing proposals for two possible courses of action, one to include patching the existing steel beams in the near future and in the spring replacing the steel beams and timber deck with a pre-cast concrete structure and new railings. The other, lower cost option would be to replace only the worst 5 steel beams and would utilize the existing deck. These proposals would include state forces doing the work and the cost would be shared, 80% by the state and 20% by the town.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who presented his proposed budget for 2006, in which he is seeking increases for hourly pay for personnel, an increase to expand the part-time officers patrol coverage by one shift and an increase in the cruiser maintenance line to accommodate higher fuel costs. After a brief discussion, Laramie left the meeting.

Under old business, Stetson reported that as of October 28, the Labraney property was in compliance with the state's junk car statute.

Under new business, Stetson informed the Board that the Town's tax rate has been set at \$13.32 for properties in the Andover fire district and \$13.06 for those in the East Andover fire precinct. These rates reflect an increase of just over 15% from the previous year due in part to an increase in the county portion and the rest to the school.

The Board appointed Ann Hewitt to the Recycle Committee.

The Board established bond amounts for trucking of logs from a property on Chase Hill Road and from a property on Tucker Mountain Road.

Stetson presented a very rough draft of the Board's budget for 2006, noting several lines that have yet to be finalized.

Planning Board

October 25

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Don Gould, Chair; Eric Johnson, Vice Chair; Keith Pfeifer; Paul Currier; Roger Godwin, ex-officio; Wood Sutton, alternate

Petition: Keith Pfeifer, having recused himself for the Bell/Fenton development consultation, addressed the meeting as a concerned member of the public and an abutter, making petition to the Board for a full site plan review citing responsibilities of the Planning Board and justification of Site Plan Review Regulations for the Town of Andover. Written petition submitted and made a part of these minutes.

Non-Binding Consultation: Richard Holzer, a proposal to subdivide a 49-acre parcel on Bridge Road into two parcels, one of 11 acres and the other of the remaining 38 acres. The applicant distributed a hand-drawn photocopy of the relevant part of the Town tax map showing the proposed subdivision. He was advised in general terms to secure the services of a qualified surveyor to survey at least the smaller lot proposed and to locate the corners of the entire parcel, and was otherwise informed of the subdivision process.

Non-Binding Consultation: Craig and Laurie Sliter, site plan review for a proposed fence and guardrail business to be located at the site of the previous Breezy Hill Lumber at 261 Franklin Highway. Applicants submitted a hand-drawn site plan. Various proposed buildings indicated on that plan will not be erected for months, possibly years. No buildings presently on the land will be removed. Fuel tanks indicated on plan will be transferred from Wilmot to this site and installed within a fence and possibly with a roof over them.

Expected hours of operation will be normal business hours from Mondays through Fridays with only "occasional" weekend and Sunday night work required. Stated their understanding that Andover's rules require a noise level of no more than 60 decibels at the boundaries of the lot and that their equipment had been measured at no more than 78 decibels immediately beside that equipment.

Truck traffic may be expected out of the site in the mornings and back into the site at the end of the work day. No more lighting would be installed at the site than is presently in place. Night lighting would be limited to security lights. Business operations would be confined to the 22 acres presently exempted from the "current use" classification applicable to the rest of this 109-acre lot.

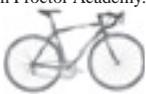
Master Plan Update: The Board discussed upcoming monthly meetings of the Master Plan Update Committee, agreeing that no meetings should be scheduled before substantive matters can be placed before the Committee. The monthly meeting which would normally be held on the fourth Monday of December will be cancelled, that being the day after Christmas Day.



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Q: Where In The World is Stacey?



Andover Fire Department

By Chuck Ellis
Deputy Chief, Andover Fire Dept.

Work progresses at the Andover Firehouse. Members have been busy tearing down the old office that was in the original building, which will give us more room in the truck area.

This is the last of the destruction part of the addition project. We still have some painting and trim work to do plus a handful of odds and ends.

We would like to thank Les Fenton – he has done a great job in the kitchen installing the cabinets and counter tops. We would also like to thank Doug Gay for the use of his tractor and for the time he has put into this project.

The Poinsettia Sale will be held on December 3, so be sure to mark this down on your calendar and help your local Fire Department. Proceeds from this fund raiser go toward the



A big tractor takes aim at the old office in the Andover Firehouse.

Photo: Chuck Ellis

Jaws of Life. The Jaws need to be serviced annually to keep them in proper working order. We also just had to repair one of the hydraulic rams that got damaged.

I am sure everyone who has a wood stove or fireplace has put them to use, as the cold weather is here. Be sure that your chimney has been properly cleaned and is in good working condition. Also check your carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries if needed. Let's have a safe heating season!

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
East Andover Fire Department

I was watching a television program the other day about how the Japanese save energy by heating only the room they are using. Apparently they move their heating device from room to room. This is a great idea in some places but not necessarily in New England.

Homes in New England are built to retain as much heat from our heating appliances as possible. To achieve this we build our walls six inches thick, use triple-pane windows and install as much insulation in our attics as possible.

All of these efforts are good to keep our homes warm, but there is a price to pay. Fresh air exchange is minimal. So we must keep the air in our homes clean.

One of the best methods for keeping the air clean is to use only vented heating appliances. Venting means removing the smoke and by-products of combustion to the outside of our home by using a chimney.

There are small, unvented gas heating devices sold that will heat an individual room without using a chimney. They are designed to burn very efficiently and do keep the air cleaner than the heaters from the old days, but they still consume oxygen and do give off carbon monoxide. They are fine for heating a drafty garage or an old shed but must never be used in a bedroom or anywhere people sleep.

You may think that I am not fond of unvented heaters. They do have their place, but not necessarily in your home. Your heating device should be installed and maintained by people trained to keep the appliance working properly and your family safe.

Christmas Tree Sale

Now for the fun stuff. The East Andover Fire Department will be having our annual Christmas Tree Sale on December 3. Please stop by the fire station and visit with us, whether you pick up a tree or not. We open at 8 AM and we encourage you to come early. The best selection is past after the first tree is sold!



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to benefit the Andover Fire Department

Saturday, December 3
Andover Fire House • 8 AM

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to benefit the East Andover Fire Department

Saturday, December 3
East Andover Fire House • 8 AM

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The Town of Andover is selling a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria 4-door sedan "as-is" with no guarantees. Approximately 160,000 miles.

The Selectmen will accept sealed bids labeled "Police Cruiser" until 1 PM on Monday, December 5, 2005 at the Town Office at 31 School Street or by mail to
PO Box 61, Andover NH 03216.

The Selectmen reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Andover Rescue Squad

By Ed Becker

Andover Rescue Squad

When I moved to Andover, Jim Lafiosca invited me to join the East Andover Fire Department with these words, "Your neighborhood and community are only as good as what you put into it." A few years later John Cotton invited me and several others to join the Andover Rescue Squad. With Jim's words still in my head, how could I say no? Twenty-two years later, those words are still with me and are still relevant as to why I am a member of Andover Rescue.

Last month I told you we have a problem with not enough volunteers available to provide reliable daytime coverage. In order to give you, the townspeople, a starting point to discuss how this problem should be handled, I ask that you think about and answer the following questions. Next month we'll give you the data and look forward to having questions and comments.

1. Have you or someone you know ever used Andover Rescue's services?
2. How would you rate the quality of Andover Rescue's services? Were you satisfied?
3. How many calls does Andover Rescue have each year?
4. How many of those calls are during the day, at night, or on weekends?
5. How many times does Andover

School Board News

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover School Board

To receive public input regarding the Facility Study, the Andover School Board is holding a special public session at the December 6 School Board Meeting. To accommodate members of the public, the meeting will be held in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym and the session will begin at 7:30 PM. Feel free to arrive a few minutes early to be on time for the session.

The Facility Study is a direct response to one of the five goals in the AE/MS Long Range Plan. The goal states that "AE/MS will develop a facility and grounds plan with estimated costs and timeline." The Facility Study was voted on and approved at the District Meeting in March of 2005.

Dr. Mark Joyce and Mr. Dennis Pope of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association agreed to conduct the independent study. As part of the study, Dr. Joyce and Mr. Pope will be soliciting public input regarding the facility's strengths and weaknesses as well as a vision for the facility in the future.

On completion of the study, Dr. Joyce and Mr. Pope will present their findings and recommendations at a public meeting to be announced at a later date.

Mail@AndoverBeacon.com

Rescue have more than one call at the same time?

6. How many times does Andover Rescue provide mutual aid to neighboring communities?
7. What time period of the day has the most calls throughout the year?
8. From the time you call 911, how long does it take for Andover Rescue to be notified?
9. From the time Andover Rescue is notified, how long does it take for us to respond?
10. And then how long does it take to get to your house?
11. Adding the answers to questions 7, 8, and 9 together, how long should it take to get an ambulance to your door?
12. How many of Andover Rescue's calls are life threatening? Prevent further disability or illness from worsening? Provide comfort, safety, and reassurance to our patients?
13. Have you ever heard of the "Golden Hour" or "Time is Muscle"?
14. How important is a timely response from an ambulance?
15. Andover Rescue is a basic EMS provider. How many members are EMT basics? EMT intermediates? EMT paramedics?
16. How many hours of training has an EMT basic had? EMT intermediate? EMT paramedic?
17. How many hours of continuing education do they have to maintain each year?
18. How much does Andover Rescue pay their EMTs? How much should they be paid?
19. How much did the 2003 ambulance cost?
20. What is the value of the medical equipment and supplies that are carried on the ambulance?
21. What does it cost to run Andover Rescue each year?
22. How much is raised by donations? From direct support from Andover taxes?
23. How much does Andover Rescue bill each patient for each ambulance call?
24. What is the average cost per ambulance call in communities that do bill?
25. Would you like to become a member of Andover Rescue?

If you would like to join ARS, please call me at 735-5338 or leave a message at the Town Office at 735-5332 or contact any ARS member as listed in the Town Report.

POLICE BLOTTER

The Andover Police Department responded to 129 calls for service from September 15 through October 15 and 141 calls for service from October 15 through November 15. The following is a partial breakdown of those calls.

Domestic disturbances on Sam Hill Road and Boston Hill Road • Fatal accident on Route 4 and Depot Street • 95 motor vehicle warnings and 19 summons • Missing person complaint on Flaghole Road • Gas thefts from Raccoon Hill Road and Jake's Market • Noise disturbance from Cilleyville Road • Dog bite complaint at Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club • OHRV complaints from Rivers Edge and Salisbury Highway • Burglaries on Plains Road and Severance Road • Aggravated assault complaint from Monticello Drive • Harassment complaint on Pinewood Lane • 911 investigations on Flaghole Road and Field House Lane • Assisted

on rescue calls at Franklin Highway, Tilton Brook Road, Maple Street, and Overlook Drive • Family offenses on Franklin Highway and North Short Street • Criminal mischief complaint on Raccoon Hill Road • Dog complaints on Channel Road and Proctor Academy • Two pistol permits issued • Unsecured doors found on Chase Hill Road, Channel Road, and Main Street

Arrests

Jack Vincent, Northfield, age 47, operating after suspension, suspended registration, prohibitions, unsworn falsifications.

Jeremy Drew, Andover, age 20, operating after suspension.

A minor, Andover, age 16, acts prohibited, transporting alcohol, minor in possession.

Kris Boynton, Grafton, age 24, suspended plates, operating after suspension.

James Strahan, Andover, age 20, violation of terms of probation.

Joan Binis, Laconia, age 50, DUI, operating after suspension, open container, failing to file financial responsibility

Lenora Webber, Canaan, age 53, driving after revocation

Beacon Guides Wanted

Beacon Guides are vital links in creating each issue of *The Andover Beacon*, guiding and encouraging contributors and keeping them on track. Volunteer as much or as little time as you like helping a page of the Beacon come together. For more info, call Charlie at 735-6099.



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ANDOVER SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL SESSION AE/MS Facility Study

December 6 at 7:30 PM
AE/MS Gym

The public is invited to offer input regarding AE/MS facilities' strengths and weaknesses and a vision for the future. Please join us.

For more info, call 735-5494

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Historical Society To House Lions' Concord Coach

By Margie Leber
Andover Historical Society

When the Andover Lions Club approached the Andover Historical Society some months back with the idea of using the Society's freight shed in Potter Place to display the Lions' Concord Coach so more people could enjoy it, several problems presented themselves.

While the Historical Society was intrigued with the idea, using the freight shed as an exhibit hall for large items was a definite idea for the future, but not on the drawing board of immediate plans. Modifications to the door of the shed would have to be made, and a ramp and winching system would have to be devised to allow access for the coach. The Lions Club through an anonymous donor gave \$2,000 to the effort to accommodate the coach.

A committee was formed to work with the Lions Club to explore all alternatives in finding an appropriate place for the Coach to be viewed. The two most viable alternatives seemed to be to modify the storage room behind the Emons Store in Potter Place or to make modifications to the freight shed.

The recommendation of the committee was to use the Lions Club's donation to begin modifications to the shed door to accommodate the Coach. The Society's board of directors unanimously approved the recommendation, and the work to enlarge the door will commence. No timetable for renovating the freight shed for use as an exhibit hall has been decided upon at this writing.

Over the years the Lions Club's



The Andover Lions' Concord Coach

Concord Coach has been a fixture in the Andover Fourth of July Parade and many other parades throughout the state, as well as being on static display at events including the Historical Society's fair each August and, during the Hopkinton Fair, at the Concord Coach Society's barn on the fairgrounds. It is truly a town treasure.

It is one of only three Concord Coaches in the state that is still pulled on the road by horses. Many townspeople will remember that Alan Thompson kept horses and drove the coach for many years. In recent times it has been necessary to hire horses from outside of the community.

A historical aside to all of this is the fact that the freight shed was donated to the Society by the Amos Johnson family. Amos was a charter member of the Lions Club and was president of the Club and instrumental in accepting the donation of the coach to the Lions Club in 1958 from Phillips Academy of Andover, Massachusetts, through the efforts of the Wallace Clark family.

AHS Members Turn History Sleuths

By Susan Norris
Andover Historical Society

On Saturday, November 5, Pat Cutter, Sarah Will, and Susan Norris participated in a New Hampshire Humanities Council workshop entitled *Sleuthing Local History* held at the Pillsbury Free Library in Warner. The purpose of the workshop was to teach us how to use and interpret place-based archival documents to dig up facts that could help construct local history.

Dr. Marcia Schmidt Blaine of Plymouth State University explained what place-based history is and isn't. As examples she used primary documents — notices submitted by abandoned husbands to *The New Hampshire Gazette* in the 1700s legally announcing they were no longer financially responsible for their wives' debts.

A husband wrote on September 2, 1763 announcing that he was disowning his wife who "hath run me into debt" and that "she will run me in more debt." On May 11, 1764, the same husband wrote to the same paper that "through the infirmity of age, I have injuriously misrepresented my beloved wife." Tempting as it is to guess what transpired between these notices and in this marriage, Dr. Blaine cautioned us to stick to facts.

Similarly, she pointed out that an "X" for a signature does not necessarily mean that the signee was illiterate. Because in

early times reading was often learned before writing, it was quite possible that a person could read the document he or she could not sign. In short, Dr. Blaine taught us to avoid making assumptions when sleuthing local history.

Rebecca Courser of the Warner Historical Society talked briefly on the subject of "Collecting & Archiving in a Small Historical Society" and presented a slide program on the town of Warner. George Packard talked about the Warner Movie Project. Then we were ready to start on our own.

Each table was assigned a different packet of Warner-related primary source materials and asked to read, discuss, and come up with fact-based interpretations. The materials ranged from newspaper accounts, diaries, town histories, and censuses to death registers, photographs, and marriage certificates.

For 45 minutes, each group ferreted out information, cross referencing materials and constructing Warner history in the following areas: Minorities, The Reform and Temperance, Tourism, and Women. At the conclusion, we shared our findings and interpretations with the entire group.

The workshop helped us think about what we might do as Andover Historical Society sleuths using our own archival material: town histories (Helen Phelps, John R. Eastman, and Ralph Chaffee), a full set of town reports dating from the late 1860s, and *The Bachelor Notebooks*, a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which has never been gone through.

The workshop also gave us an enormous regard for the energy, excitement, and painstaking research that goes into being a place-based history detective. It was a good way to spend an overcast Saturday morning that turned to sun just as we were wrapping things up!

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Snowmobile Club Trails And New Groomer Ready

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

This month's club meeting will be held on Monday, December 12 at 7 PM in the Science Room at the Andover Elementary/Middle School,

We have reached a point where the bridges have been repaired, brush has been cut, the signs are in place, the grooming equipment is ready for a good workout, and all we need is some good snow base.

December brings the beginning of another winter, and we are hoping for some good snow this season. We have had some good upgrades to the trail system this year, and with the addition of a new piece of equipment, a 2005 Camoplast BR180 groomer, we should have our trail system in tip-top shape.

Some of our club members attended the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association Grass Drag Vintage Sled Display sponsored by the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum Association. Although the Columbus Day weekend weather was wet, we certainly made the best of it. The New England Dodge Dealers provided us with a large tent to set up our display and with vintage videos playing and lots of people to discuss the "old sleds" with, we had a great time. Thanks, NHSA!

Next month we will host our Annual Italian Buffet. This event is very popular, and we usually fill up the gymnasium



It's here! The Andover Snowmobile Club's new groomer just needs snow.
Photo: Stephen Burdick

at the Andover Elementary/Middle School with hungry patrons. We also have a penny sale with all the proceeds going to Easter Seals.

You may want to put this one on your calendar. It will be held on Saturday, January 28 starting at 5 PM and serving until 6:30 PM. We will also be awarding the 2006 Arctic Cat Z570LX with electric start and reverse to some lucky winner at this event.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased from club members or at any of the locations that the sled is on display, or you can contact Lance Demers at 735-6496.

We will provide more information regarding the Italian Buffet next month. Until then enjoy the beginning of another winter riding season. I hope your rides are long and plentiful. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very prosperous New Year.

Youth Hunter Bags 110-Pound Bear

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish & Game Club

Lucas Benoit, age 13 and son of Gina Benoit, was taken out hunting on Youth Hunting Weekend, October 22 and 23, by Jeff Jarvis of Wilmot, Gina's significant other. Lucas bagged a 110-pound bear the first day.

While Lucas and Jeff were tending to the bear, a deer went by. Lucas shot, but missed on that one. He saw two other deer that day, but didn't get a shot.

Lucas says he had a great time and learned a lot. He can't wait until next time he goes out hunting.



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Andover Historical Society

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Grand Opening of the Northern Rail Trail - The Andover One Wheelers were first down the new section of the Northern Rail Trail after the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Blackwater Park on October 30. Dozens of area residents walked or biked the 1.7 miles to Potter Place where cider and home-baked goodies were served at the Andover Historical Society's freight shed.

Photo: Peter Southworth

Soo-Nipi Audubon Events

The Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter invites the general public to its program entitled: *Birds of New Hampshire and New England* on Friday, December 9, at 7:30 PM at the Tracy Memorial Library, Main Street, New London.

Speaker Garth McElroy, a full-time professional bird photographer from New Hampshire, has a love for bird photography that developed from his two childhood passions of nature and photography. He is fascinated with their beauty, diversity, behavior, and ecology, and he strives to capture all of this in his images. For more information contact Ruth White at 763-4893.

On Saturday, December 17 the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter will again participate in the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. This data

gives scientists long-term insight into the health of our bird populations and the environment.

If you have an interest in birding, please consider joining one of several teams canvassing the area known as the Lake Sunapee Count Circle which includes the towns of New London, Newbury, Newport, Springfield, Sunapee, and Sutton.

Volunteers may participate by observing their feeder birds and taking a numerical count of the species seen. At day's end participants meet over supper at Bird Count Coordinator Gary Stansfield's home in Goshen at 5 PM to compile results of birds observed in fields, roadsides, waterways, and feeders.

For details or to volunteer please call Gary at 863-8727.

Andover's Own MooseMan

Condensed from the Concord Monitor
By Elizabeth Walters
Concord Monitor staff

For many people, they are as much phantoms as reality. Potentially dangerous. Famously solitary. Something to worry about when you're driving late at night.

You can live in New Hampshire for decades and never see a moose.

But Rick Libbey has managed to make a career of finding them. Libbey is a professional moose photographer. He spends most of June and July in the woods of Maine and the North Country, and the walls of his studio at his home in Andover are covered with dozens of moose photos. He's seen more than 20 on a single day.

Throughout his 25 years in the field, his goal has been to make the animals as comfortable with him as possible and to build relationships with them.

"I think I'm beginning to respect them more and understand that I'm in their house, so to speak," Libbey said. "There'll be many moose that I'll choose not to photograph, because they don't seem to want me there."

Libbey takes his photos from a kayak, a method that is quieter and, he feels, less obtrusive than going over land. He starts from a distance and approaches slowly, reading the moose's body language. "I may spend hours, days, sometimes even a week on one animal, just gaining their trust," he said.

Libbey calls his company Moose Man Nature Photos, and he's known to some as the Moose Man, but he's quick to point out that he didn't invent the name or his techniques of getting to know moose. He's using the methods of the late Bill Silliker Jr., of Maine, the original Mooseman and the author of such books as the *Moose Watchers*



Rick, his kayak, and his camera, all ready to spend a day with moose.

Photo: Rick Libbey

Handbook and Uses for Mooses.

But Libbey doesn't recommend that everybody follow such practices. His Web site contains a set of guidelines for amateur moose watchers. His advice, in a nutshell: Stay far away and enjoy them through binoculars.

For people who want to get up close and personal without actually being there, Libbey's prints start at \$12 for a matted 4-by-6-inch photo. He sells his work online and in local galleries, and his pieces are always in stock at Artisans' Workshop in New London. His newest product is a set of birthday calendars set into wood panels on which [his wife] Donna Libbey has etched a moose's head.

If he never sold a photo, the Moose Man would be out in the wilderness anyway. Being with moose is simply his calling. "When I'm doing it, something comes over me and I hear something inside me telling me that's what I'm supposed to be doing," he said. "I'm very, very sure of it."

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To see Rick's photos or for moose-watching tips, visit Rick's Web site at MooseManPhotos.com.



**Brian J. Prescott, V.M.D.
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Governor John Lynch and VNA President and CEO Andrea Steel.

Andover Lions Turn Old Fire House Into "Lions' Den"

By Diane Rice
Andover Lions Club

The old fire station on Poplar Street, built in 1913 and originally owned by the Andover Village District, has a new name. Deeded to the Andover Lions Club in May 2004, the building will henceforth be known as The Lions Den. It will serve to house not only records and material used by the Lions but also equipment belonging to the Andover Boy Scouts.

Renovations have been made and a new cement floor installed, thanks to the generosity and hard work of many Lions Club members.

This new chapter in the life of the building follows its original use by

Lake Sunapee VNA

On November 4 at the State House in Concord, Governor John Lynch presented a proclamation to Andrea Steel, President and CEO of the Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association in New London, naming November as National Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

With the support of the Lung Cancer Alliance, a national advocacy group, organizations like the VNA and communities around the state and the country are striving to increase awareness about lung cancer. A devastating disease which afflicts non-smokers as well as smokers, lung cancer claims the lives of more Americans each year than breast, colon, liver, and kidney cancers combined.

"I am so very grateful to Governor Lynch for his time and for his support of this important issue," says Andrea Steel.

Blackwater Grange

Blackwater Grange #152 met on November 10 with nine members attending. The members voted to make donations to the Andover Rescue Squad; the Andover Fire Department for its Jaws of Life; the Andover Historical Society; Andover's Fourth of July committee; the Wilmot Historical Society; and the State Grange Youth Funds.

The charter has been draped in memory of Jennie Lull.

In celebration of the holidays, the Grange will have a pot luck supper on December 8 at 6:30 PM. A meeting with exchange of gifts will follow at 7:30.

Blackwater Grange #152 members wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

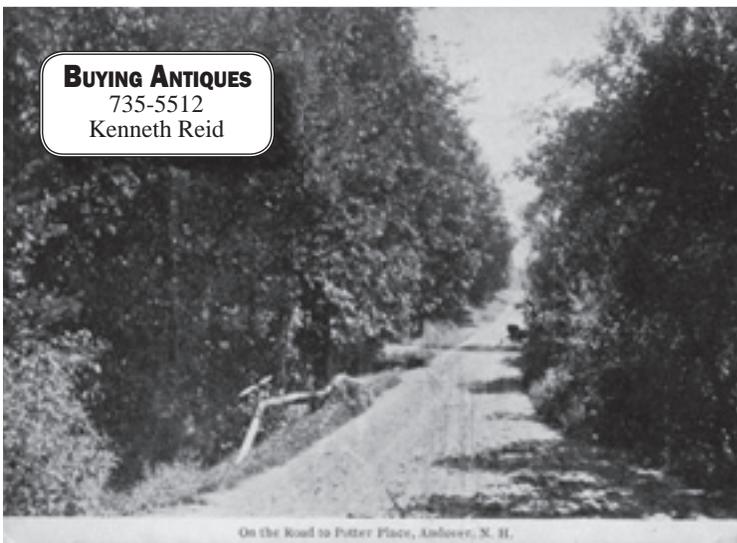


The Lions' Den at the end of Poplar Street provides storage for the Lions and the Boy Scouts. Photo: Charlie Darling

the Andover Village District as a hose and ladder house for the Citizens' Fire Company, a volunteer company of 24 men. Later, in 1931, it served to house the temporary Andover Girls School for local girls in grades nine and ten. In June 1934, the Andover Girls School graduated its first and only class of six students, and the building reverted to use by the Andover Village District until its present function.

Sight And Hearing Screening

The Andover Lions Club recently conducted its annual Sight and Hearing Screening as part of its community outreach. Club members from the towns of Andover and Danbury tested 253 students at Andover Elementary/Middle School and 47 at the Danbury Elementary School in order to detect conditions that might need further evaluation.



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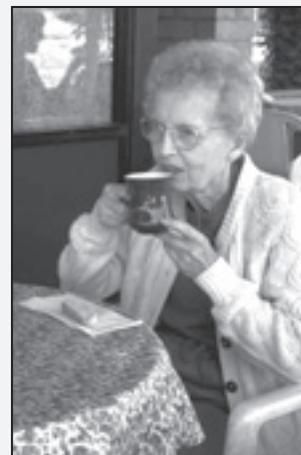
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New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family Andover Service Club News

By Judy Perreault

NH Circle of Home & Family

On October 24 a group of ladies met for lunch at the home of Judy Perreault to organize an Andover group of New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family. NHCHF's mission is to enrich the lives of home and family through knowledge, skills, leadership, and self-esteem.

The group decided that they would meet for lunch monthly (except July and August) on the third Monday of the month at 12:30. Members will bring a sandwich to share and the hostess will provide the dessert and beverage. A tentative program schedule for the year 2006 has been set up.

- January – Soups
- February – New Hampshire Women March (county mtg.) – Identity Theft
- April – Germany
- May – Container Gardening
- June – Mushrooms
- September – Tea
- October – Program Planning
- November – Craft Meeting
- December – Christmas Party and Christmas Carol Program

The meetings will be in various homes which will be announced. The programs were developed by New Hampshire Home and Family and will be led by Judy Perreault and other members.

A meeting is scheduled for December 5 at 12:30 PM at the home of Judy Perreault. She will be showing a slide program about some of NHCHF's outreach work. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, plan to bring a sandwich and call Judy at 735-5493.

NHCHF is also a member of the Associated Country Women of the World, the largest international organization for rural women. ACWW involves nations that share information and work together for the good of developing countries. For more information about ACWW, visit ACWW.org.uk.

Donate!

The *Beacon* relies on voluntary donations for a substantial part of its budget.

By Sara Tracy-Arone
President, Andover Service Club

The Andover Service Club is reaching out to our New Hampshire neighbors in Alstead with a commitment to collect new blankets of all sizes and types. Flooding in October destroyed 36 homes in Alstead and damaged many more.

Even closer to home, the Service Club is also collecting canned goods for the food bank in Franklin.

You can bring your donations to the Andover Service Club Thrift Shop or to the DK Motel in West Franklin. Please do not leave donations outside the shop or motel.

Is anyone else willing to be a drop-off spot for blankets? Any other organizations willing to help should contact Sara Tracy-Arone at 735-5272.

We hope to have a cash donation to Alstead approved by Service Club members in December. We are also accepting outside donations to be added to our contribution.

Please bring a new blanket and some canned goods to the Town Good Tidings Tree Lighting on November 27 at 5 PM so our neighbors can enjoy a warm and happy holiday this year. Gather in the lobby at AE/MS and support the Girls Scouts of Andover. Sing your way into the ASC Thrift Shop and admire

the Poster Contest artwork drawn by our young Andover artists.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale

By Lois Magenau

Members of the Andover Service Club contributed their time and ingredients to make homemade pies for our Thanksgiving fund raiser. We delivered 77 pies to the Foodstop in Cilleyville which generously provided space for us to sell our pies. Thank you to everyone who helped us sell a total of 103 pies, making our Pie Sale a great success again this year.

Thrift Shop

By Gisela Darling

Thrift Shop Co-Chairs Judy Evans and Gisela Darling hosted an Open House on Saturday, October 29. Everyone enjoyed apple cider and refreshments made by the members of the Andover Service Club. Katherine Darling won the door prize, a beautiful basket filled with Christmas season items.

The Andover Thrift Shop is ready for the Fall and Winter seasons with many "new" items. We have a large assortment of good quality clothing for children and infants. Our regular hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM, Wednesday from 3 PM to 7 PM, and Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Thrift Shop will be closed on Saturday, December 24.

Should Andover Open A Food Pantry?

By Heather Makechnie
For the *Beacon*

During the October 8 Lions Club yard sale, a conversation ensued among Bill and Mev Matulevich, Heather Makechnie, and Lions Club President Bill Egge.

"Why," we wondered, "doesn't Andover have its own food pantry?"

One of the reasons Bill had approached the Lions Club was to help organize a fund raiser to provide available dollars for food to go to families or individuals that might find the winter months a real struggle due to high fuel costs.

The Lions Club did raise \$1,800 to support the many wonderful things they do for the community, food baskets being one of them.

The food pantry question came from those concerns. After some casual discussion no one was able to answer the "why" question. Mev and Heather decided to research the idea by conducting a survey of existing resources in surrounding communities.

They found that virtually every community *except* Andover has one or more food pantries, and that needy Andover residents patronize almost every one of those facilities. Conversations with pastors, ministers, government officials, and service organization leaders revealed the following:

1. Some people, unfortunately, abuse charitable aid. It is often better to have that aid distributed by agencies that can monitor the frequency and amount of aid given. Most officials interviewed felt more comfortable referring those needing groceries to one of the agencies.

2. It takes a lot of donations, a lot of heated space to store groceries, and a great number of dedicated volunteers to run a food pantry.

3. People who need help are often shy to ask for it where they might be recognized. People feel more comfortable going to a pantry outside their own community. A food pantry in Andover would likely be serving people from other communities, as Andover residents now are served by organizations and agencies in neighboring towns.

Why should Andover be the only town not serving the hungry and needy? After all, it could easily be any one of us that hits a hard stretch and needs help putting food on the table.

So now that the question has been put to the community itself for discussion, we hope you will send your thoughts and suggestions to the *Beacon* at Letters@AndoverBeacon.com or PO Box 149, Andover 03216. Or you can air your views on the town's Web log (or "blog") at AndoverNHUS.BlogSpot.com.

Senior Luncheon

All area seniors are invited to the Wilmot Community Association Building for a holiday luncheon at noon on Tuesday, December 20. There will be a special holiday menu, and The A Capella Singers from Kearsarge Regional High School will provide holiday entertainment.

Reservations are required. Please contact Kate McKibbin at mckibbin@adelphia.net or 526-4540 before December 15.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

Fall and winter clothing for the whole family

We are located behind the Andover Town Hall and welcome your donations, your consignments, and you!

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For more information, call the ASC President at 735-5738 or the Membership Chair at 735-5349 or rfgs@tds.net.

Andover Congregational Church **Andover Libraries**

By Judy Evans

Andover Congregational Church

"Come, ye thankful people, come..." Folks gathered at the Andover Congregational Church on Thanksgiving Eve to sing praises to God and worship together. Even in these troubled times, we all have much for which to be grateful and the signs of God's love and fellowship with family and friends are among our most precious blessings.

Our annual Christmas Fair was well attended and we thank all who supported the church in any way.

Sherri Dow has organized a group who "tour," singing together and sharing God's love in music. We will visit the Peabody Nursing Home in Franklin on December 11 to sing Christmas carols. It's a joy to see some of the residents join us in singing! We have been invited to sing at the Sunday night worship service that evening at the Bristol Baptist Church. Please contact Sherri if you are interested in participating with us.

Our traditional Angel Tree has been set up from which people can take names of children and what they would

like for Christmas. Gifts will be bought and given to these children in the names of parents who are in prison.

The Sunday School will present their program on December 18 during morning worship. That evening we will meet at the church at 6 PM to go caroling around town. We invite you to join us in this special event. It's always so inspiring to sing to shut-ins and the elderly. This will be followed by fellowship and refreshments.

The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be begin at 7 PM. You are invited to come for this time of singing of carols and hearing from God's word the story of Jesus' birth.

"Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!"

Come as you are and worship with us. We welcome everyone to all the services and wish you a Merry Christmas. May God bless you and yours at this time and throughout all the new year.

Sunday morning worship, Sunday School, and childcare begin at 9:30 AM. For information on outreach programs for teens and adults please contact Pastor John at 735-5160.

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

By Sally Bergquist

Kearsarge Unit. Univers. Fellowship

On Saturday night, November 5, the Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship held their first annual auction at the New London Historical Society's Meeting House. The festivities began with a potluck dinner at 5 PM, followed by the auction at 7 PM.

The items auctioned ranged from one week's summer use of a condo in Vail Valley, Colorado; a singing Val-

entine to be performed by a barber-shop quartet; a ride on Pleasant Lake in a restored electric boat, *The Tortoise*; to homemade soups, pies, and breads.

The auction was an experiment for the congregation, which meets every Sunday at 11 AM in the Fowler Learning Center of Proctor Academy. It was a great success as well as being a lot of fun for all, and they are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Pemi Choral Society Holiday Concert Series

The 120-plus voice Pemigewasset Choral Society has scheduled its 2005 holiday concert series in three communities around the Lakes Region for early December. This year's program includes a variety of choral music and two guest artists, Kenda Corcoran, oboe instructor at Plymouth State University, and Eddy Quinn, a traditional vocalist from Prince Edward Island.

The concerts begin with a 7:30 PM performance on Thursday, December 8 at Our Lady of The Lakes Church in Lakeport and continue at 7:30 PM on Friday, December 9 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Franklin. The third and final performance will be at 3 PM on Sunday, December 11 in the Silver Center for the Arts in Plymouth. All concerts are open to the public with admission by donation.

Titled *Joy*, this December series features a variety of sacred, secular, classical, folk, jazz, and contemporary choral music, each piece reflecting a different celebratory aspect of the holiday season and other moments of great happiness.

The Pemigewasset Choral Society,

now in its 33rd year, is based at Plymouth State University with members from throughout central New Hampshire. New members are welcome. Call 535-2787 for additional information on the Holiday concerts or 535-2366 for information on the Pemigewasset Choral Society.

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735-5160

By Ray Mitchell
For the Beacon

December is a busy month for most people. You may not be looking for a good book for a quiet evening by the fire.

Still, a visit to the library may be just what you need to help you through this time of year. Before you get dragged along with the usual pre-Christmas merry-go-round, think about some options that might make your holiday more peaceful and enjoyable.

You may get an early start with *365 Ways to Prepare for Christmas*. If you would like to know more about the way you and your neighbors celebrate there is *Christmas and Its Customs*. These will get you to think about what you want to do and why it is important.

You will have plenty of encouragement to shop and spend for the holidays (and to use credit cards for that January hangover). Have you thought about making gifts or decorations? If you are looking for ideas, the Andover libraries

have books that will give you suggestions and directions. Some will not take much time. You might enlist the help of children or other family members.

Here is a list of books with resources for the already crafty and for the beginning crafter:

Joy to the World: A Treasury of Christmas Crafts

1900 Christmas Crafts

Christmas Craft Sourcebook

Two Hour Christmas Crafts

Two books that are directed specifically to children are *Rainy Days Christmas Activities and Projects* and *501 Activities for Kids*.

The Christmas story is in the Bible in Matthew 2 and Luke 2. Other Christmas stories you may enjoy are *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry and a story adaptation of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*. For children there is *The Little Drummer Boy*, *The First Noel*, and *The Family Christmas Tree Book*.

May your holidays be peaceful and joyous!

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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New Owner At Owl's Nest Lodge

By Betsy Woodman
For the Beacon

Some people fall in love with a house and buy it. Deb Brower took on a bit more – 236 acres, 11 houses, a lodge, a horse barn and riding center, nine septic systems, two or three wells, seasonal and year-round tenants, perhaps half a mile of road, and almost a mile of lake shore. Practically a village.

Brower, 48, previously of Stamford, Connecticut, is the new owner of the former Owl's Nest Lodge and Conference Center on Bradley Lake. Used as a farm for almost 200 years, in the 20th century the property became a girls' camp and for 64 years was known as Camp Marlyn. As Owl's Nest, for over three decades it has provided a scenic and convenient meeting place for church groups and family reunions.

Its future? Deb says she hasn't a fully developed vision, but has renamed the property Bluewater Farm, and can see all sorts of possibilities. The central lodge might host writer's retreats. Or, Deb can picture a town talent show taking place there on a winter night. Much further in the future, she wonders whether an off-the-grid community might be established.

Living in such a beautiful spot is a long-held dream. "Fifteen years ago," Deb remembers, "I was in a workshop about careers and visualized myself talking to a writer. I was standing on a balcony, looking out over a lake with horses on a hillside behind a lodge." The horses are there today, in real life, owned by the Seery Hill horse center which trains and boards horses and of-



Deb Brower of Bluewater Farm

fers riding lessons.

Deb grew up in Lloyd Neck, on Long Island, the youngest of five. A tomboy, she loved the outdoors. She went to high school in New Jersey and for a while wanted to be either a veterinarian or an architect.

College in Colorado, working for her brother's architectural firm, and an unromantic stint on a sheep farm in Scotland changed those plans. Deb graduated from the Parsons School of Design, where she specialized in environmental design. Then she worked for a number of firms, designing everything from furniture to restaurant interiors. For the last 20 years, she says, her main job has been raising her four children.

Home renovation has been a particular passion. During her childhood, her lawyer father and storeowner mother bought and renovated several houses, and the whole family participated. She feels that these early experiences gave her a taste for challenges, as well as a love of learning new skills from carpentry to plumbing.

Now her own children, three of whom are day students at Proctor Academy, will get some experience in undertaking an adventurous project. Deb says "the kids are excited" by the possibilities their new home offers to explore plant and animal husbandry and sustainable forestry.

Deb herself relishes the fact that she now needs to master new skills. At latest report, she was trying her hand at a backhoe.

Donate!

The *Beacon* relies on voluntary donations for a substantial part of its budget. Please get "a round tuit" and donate today! Send a check to PO Box 149, Andover NH 03216

A First-Hand Report From New Orleans

By Bill Matulevich
For the Beacon

Katrinia has inspired many people to act on their need to help others. My wife Mev and I decided that we might try the Red Cross route and go through some of their scheduled training sessions.

Once you find yourself sitting in a class and learning some of the system and work of the Red Cross, it's hard to think you might *not* get called to help. I was called, along with six other people from New Hampshire, to fly to the New Orleans area on October 25.

When I arrived I was assigned to a small shelter in a town called Lafitte, a small fishing village 40 minutes south of New Orleans. The people there were waiting for their temporary homes to become available. This means they had been homeless since August, living in a shelter.

Before I came home, that shelter was finally closed. They had been there three months, and they weren't going "home" but either to a motel or to a tiny FEMA trailer to try to get their lives back together.

Here are some moments and sights I encountered while working in the area.

The total devastation of many towns. Some had buildings standing that could be used, others had only concrete slabs left.

Restaurants and businesses trying to open for business, but the lack of people to employ has inspired places like McDonalds or Burger King to offer huge bonuses (I heard of one offering \$6,000) if a person will commit to work there for a year.

The extreme shortage of places to live. For any available apartment, the rent has often tripled. But availability is the real problem.

People from all over the country, living in their pickups, to help clean up and rebuild.

Huge FEMA tents that hold hundreds in a "tent city" where workers for FEMA, Red Cross, and other relief agencies could bath, eat, do laundry, and sleep.

A church building that was turned into a center for food preparation and distribution by relief agencies. Thousands of meals were being provided every day.

A laundry service provided by a church organization in a horse trailer that had been equipped with washers and dryers. Volunteers left their laundry there and could come back later and get it. No charge. There was also a horse trailer equipped with showers for those living in their vehicles.

I met an elderly man walking with a cane, surveying his property where there



Bill Matulevich points to the high-water mark on a house in the New Orleans area.

was nothing left. He had lived there for 35 years and through three hurricanes, and this one took everything. He won't be staying there any more.

The stench was unbelievable as I was walking through parts of New Orleans that had been flooded. Garbage, including refrigerators full of food that had been taped shut to prevent disease, all need to be collected, but the job won't get done for a long time because there is so much to do.

I met some folks who had saved their 10 dogs, three chickens, and one cat. They had come back to their home with all their animals, salvaging what they could to resume their life there.

Ben, a 76 year old man from the 17th Street Canal, told his story of sitting tight through the hurricane. The sun was shining and the sky was blue when the levee broke and the water started rising in his house.

He was finally forced out of his house and found himself in seven feet of water. His neighbor came and rescued him with a couple of couch cushions, took him to his house and they each had only three graham crackers a day to eat until they were rescued after three days by a boat that took them to high ground.

There were so many heart-warming and heart-wrenching encounters with folks, meeting them and hearing their stories. One of the biggest things I noticed was when you talked to the people, they would be smiling and trying to accept what had happened and were getting on with their lives. Some are hoping to resettle in the towns where they had lived before the devastation. Others will relocate, but I feel I witnessed the beginning of some healing.

There are so many ways to help those people and others that have been left without worldly possessions. The Red Cross is just one of the ways. I hope you find a way. Don't hesitate to check the Red Cross Web site at Red-Cross.org for info on how to help in many ways.

Country Pine Furniture & TownLine Outdoor Furniture



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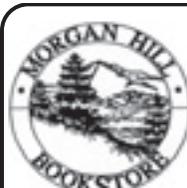
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ANNIVERSARY The Lynches

Richard and Juanita Lynch of Yarmouthport, Massachusetts, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on August 5. Celebration of this milestone event took place at their daughter, Barbara J. Lynch's home in Andover, during the first week in August.

The week-long family celebration encompassed visiting local farms, eating buffalo burgers, petting alpacas, touring the Canterbury Shaker Village, and picnicking on top of Mount Kearsarge. The final celebration took place as they enjoyed a romantic dinner for two, with a view of Mount Kearsarge, at the Flying Goose Restaurant in New London.

ACCEPTED Barbara Lynch

Barbara Lynch of Andover has been accepted for graduate studies at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene. Ms. Lynch is pursuing a Doctoral degree (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology. She holds a Master of Education degree and a Bachelor of Science degree from Northeastern University in Boston. She is currently a health and wellness educator at Pelham High School.

HONORED

Vanessa Hoyt and Constance Powers, both of Andover, were named to the dean's list for the 2005 academic year at Granite State College (formerly the College of Lifelong Learning).



Gigi (Grace Stetson), Mimi (Lana Nelson), BoBo (Charlotte Clark), and Coco (Arylne French) greeted over 100 trick or treaters on Halloween.
Photo: Charlie Darling



MARRIED Pine / Ahern

Laura Pine and John Ahern were married September 17 at Anthony's Plantation in Atlanta. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Ellen Pine, formerly of Wilnot. Her grandmother is Lorna Johnson Sheldon of New London.

Laura is a 1998 graduate of Paul Smith's College, Saranac Lake, New York and a 1996 graduate of Kearsarge Regional High School. She also attended school in Andover.

The groom is the son of Mary Frick, Port Charlotte, Florida. He is a 2004 graduate of DeVry University, Atlanta.

The Maid of Honor was SueAnn Devir of South Sutton, and the Best Man was Darien Vito, Atlanta. David Pine, brother of the bride, served as usher.

The bride is employed as revenue manager for the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Atlanta. The groom is employed as IT security administrator at Verizon, Alpharetta, Georgia.

Following a honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico the couple will reside in Atlanta.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL DEANE SHEDD, 47, of Chase Hill Road, died October 27, at home after a period of failing health. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Daniel was born in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1958, the son of Deane and Karlene (Skoldberg) Shedd. He spent more than 30 years in East Andover. He was a graduate of Kearsarge Regional High School in North Sutton, class of 1976. Dan later served six years with the US Air Force.

Self taught, Dan was a self-employed carpenter and furniture-maker for many years. He was very proud of the home he built for his family. He loved traveling, camping, time spent snowmobiling, and working hard. One of his greatest joys was spending time with his grandchildren, Dakota, Isaiah, Jacob, and Savannah.

His family includes his wife of 30 years, Roxanne M. (Ballou) Shedd of East Andover; his daughter, Danielle M. Murphy of East Andover; two sons, Peter D. Shedd of East Andover, and Jeremy F. Shedd, USAF of Anchorage, Alaska; four grandchildren; his father and stepmother, Deane and Joyce (Stafford) Shedd of Montrose, Pennsylvania; his mother, Karlene (Skoldberg) Anderson of East Andover; his grandmother, Ethel Skoldberg of East Andover; brothers, Lawrence Shedd of Andover, Andrew Shedd of Salt Lake City, Anthony Shedd of Jessup, Pennsylvania, and Joseph Shedd of Factoryville, Pennsylvania; sisters, Debbie Anderson of Manchester, Emily Shedd and Heather Shedd, both of Philadelphia, and Julie Shedd of Montrose, Pennsylvania; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Expressions of sympathy may be

made to the Payson Center for Cancer Care, 250 Pleasant St., Concord 03301; or to the Lake Sunapee Visiting Nurse Association, PO Box 2209, New London 03257.

BLAINE D. TUCKER, 44, died October 29 at home in Northfield after a long illness. His family includes his sister, Melissa, and her husband, Brendan Newton, of East Andover. "Uncle Blaine" was dearly loved by his nieces and nephews, Rhianna, Seth, and Noah Newton. He also leaves other caring people in his life, including his aunt, Joan Bullock of Andover.

BARBARA ELIZABETH (TEMPLIN) LITTLEFIELD, 75, of New London, died October 30 at home with her family. Her long teaching career included teaching nursery school 1959-1960 in New London and Andover, reading 1960-1965 at Proctor Academy, and learning skills 1982-1992 at Proctor.

DONALD R. RAYNO, 73, of Franklin, died at his home on November 6. He was born in East Andover in 1932, the son of Andrew and Emma (Haley) Rayno. He resided in Franklin most of his life and worked at Webster Valve for 42 years.

SCOTT RICHARD MARCEAU, 51, died November 10 at home after a short illness. Scott was a lifelong resident of Franklin, where he was very active in community affairs. His family includes his brother, David P. Marceau of Andover.

RICHARD L. PARRISH, 56, died November 19. He was a highly decorated Army soldier, serving two and a half tours in Vietnam. His family includes his daughter, Deana Crucitti, of Andover.

Normally the Beacon will print the obituary of an Andover resident or a short summary of the obituary of someone with a connection to Andover.

If friends or family would like a particular obituary handled differently, please let us know at 735-6099 as soon as possible.

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East Andover Village Preschool at the East Andover Fire Station.

Photo: Megan Sweeney

East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault

East Andover Village Preschool

Is it December already? We just barely finished our turkey, and visions of sugarpplums started dancing in our heads!

This busy month will begin with a visit from Quality ID on December 2. The children will have their photo and fingerprint recorded on a small laminated card, perfect for Mom and Dad to keep handy and an excellent way to keep your child safe.

We will be taking a walk down Gingerbread Lane on December 7 when we celebrate the joy of giving at our Winter Open House. Our little elves will be

Kids!

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wrapping donated gifts and giving them to our special visitor, S-A-N-T-A, to give to those children who are in need of a little extra cheer this year.

The preschool children will have the opportunity to pick their gift from a box and wrap it for Santa to bring back to the North Pole with him. The evening will be topped off with hot cocoa and warm cookies.

We will be jingle-belling our way through the month. The children will be turning into reindeers, mixing up some reindeer food, enjoying some snowman soup, and making ornaments to decorate our very own holiday tree.

With the end of another year, we would like to thank all our parents and families for helping us create so many great memories. From our family here at East Andover Village Preschool to yours, we wish all the very best this holiday season and may all that is good come to you in the New Year.

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Cub Scouts Pack 489

By Heidi Terwilliger & Tracy Merriman
Cub Scout Pack 489

The weather tried to dampen the spirits of Cub Scout Pack 489 on more than one occasion this fall. Their scheduled Webelos Campout on October 15 had to be cancelled due to flooding.

The campout was rescheduled for the following weekend and once again the rain caused a problem. The boys still had their campfire and cookout and finished up the evening by supporting the Boy Scouts of Troop 489 by attending the Haunted House that they set up in Salisbury. They made the best out of a bad situation.

The boys want to thank Mr. Paul Fenton for allowing them to use his property for the campfire and for all of the work he did in repairs that were necessary due to the rain to get the area ready for the Cub Scouts.

Den 2 Webelos are working on their Sportsman pin by learning about basketball and good sportsmanship. Tucker Peters and Robert Smith also earned their Bobcat Badges, which is a requirement for them to earn other badges.

The Bears of Den 5 visited the Franklin Police Department on October 27. They had the opportunity to see how a police station operates and some of the things that go on there.

The boys were all fingerprinted. They also got to see the inside of a jail cell, be handcuffed, and check out the back seat of a police cruiser.

The boys finished their achievement on law enforcement during their den meeting by going over preventing crime in the home, how to get help in your neighborhood, emergency phone numbers, and what they can do to help police



Sgt. Nemcovich fingerprints Aaron Smith at the Franklin Police Station.

Photo: Naydine Keyser

officers when a crime is being committed or a dangerous situation occurs.

The boys would like to thank Sergeant Nemcovich and the Franklin Police Department for giving their time and opening their facility to them.

The Tiger Cubs from Den 1 went to the East Andover Firehouse on November 3. Jerry Thompson gave the boys a tour of the firehouse, and they were also able to climb on the trucks. The boys enjoyed trying on a fireman's mask and learned how to breathe with it on. Jerry showed the boys what a fireman looks and sounds like in full fire fighting gear, so the boys would never be afraid if they ever have to be rescued.

We want to thank Jerry Thompson for his hospitality. It was a real nice night!

A week or two before Christmas the boys will go to the Tilton Veterans Home to sing carols for the residents and play board games with them.

Cub Scouts is open to boys in grades first through fifth. For more information or to join, contact Leighton Terwilliger at 735-6502.

Oxbow 4-H Club

By Heidi St. Jacques
Oxbow 4-H Club

October and November is a transition time for our club. We nominate and elect new officers, and we get together for a pot luck supper and celebrate the year with an achievement night awards evening.

This year we met at the Webster Town Hall. Each new elected officer was inducted into his or her position with a candlelight ceremony. The officers for the coming year are:

President - Sophie Courser

Vice President - Matt Shottes

Secretary - Charlie St. Jacques

Treasurer - Nick Rowe

Photographer and Reporter - Rhett Courser and Chris Belanger.

We currently have eleven returning members, and we welcomed one new member, Luke Courser.

The evening not only was attended by our members and their families, but also by representatives from the The Yankee Teamsters Club, The New England Ox-Teamsters Association, and The Eastern States Exposition.

After the candlelight ceremony, awards were given to club members. Several members were also given plaques and banners for their participation with The Eastern States Exposition, and each member received a trophy for participation.

A special award was given to the most improved member this year. That honor went to Rhett Courser.

Our evening concluded with thank you gifts presented to our leader, Bob Pearson; to Jerry Courser, the man who castrates our bulls; and an autographed photo for Heidi St. Jacques for being the dorm mother this year.

We will meet for a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 11, for a Yankee Gift Swap. We are also collecting non-perishable items for a food basket that we donate yearly to a needy family.

Our club welcomes anyone interested in joining to feel free to attend any of our monthly meetings or contact the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service at 225-5505 or Merrimack@ceunh.unh.edu.



AASD competitors included (front) Cameron Clark, Danny Cummings, Hunter Heath, Frank Cummings, Keiley Carey, Nicholas Terwilliger, Abigail Heath. Middle: Bailey Robinson, Tyler Holman, Joren Schamel, Daisy Elwell, Charlie Reed, Nicole Robinson. Back: Aimee Linehan, Heidi Terwilliger, Michael Schamel. Photo: David Stepp

AASD Wins 18 Martial Arts Trophies

By Heidi Terwilliger
Beacon staff

Head Master David Stepp trained his students over the past few months at the Andover Academy of Self Defense in preparation for the Combined Kenpo Martial Arts Association Tournament XX that they attended on November 6 at Merrimack Valley High School. Seventeen students from the Andover Academy of Self Defense participated in the tournament and had a great day of fun while competing in their respective divisions.

The divisions were based on rank and then broken up by age groups. All seventeen students presented their forms; fourteen competed in sparring; and two participated in weapons competition.

By the end of the day, Andover Academy of Self Defense had 18 trophies coming back home with them. Aimee Linehan and Sarah Gerlack, both brown belts, came in third and second place, respectively, in Sparring for their rank and age group. In the blue belt division, Nicole Robinson took second place in both Forms and Sparring in her age group, while Tyler Holman took home first place for forms in his age group.

Michael Schamel, a purple belt, took second place with his Form, and Keiley Carey, an orange belt, ended up with first place in Sparring and second place in Forms.

In the younger orange belt division Nicholas Terwilliger, Danny Cum-

mings, and Hunter Heath did a sweep in the Forms for their age group, taking first, second, and third places respectively. In Sparring, Hunter Heath took first place and Nicholas Terwilliger took second place. And Heidi Terwilliger, also an orange belt, brought home a first place trophy in Sparring and a third place trophy in Forms.

Cameron Clark, a white belt and the youngest of the Academy's students, brought home a first place trophy for Forms. Shane Ryan and Danny Cummings also brought home trophies for participation. Daisy Elwell, Charlie Reed, and Joren Schamel, all blue belts, Frank Cummings, an orange belt, and Brian Alexander, a white belt, also participated in the event.

In addition to the competitions, the students also watched performances by two demonstration teams as well as an adult demonstration of martial arts. The day ended with the junior and adult black belts competing in the Grand Championships.

It was a great time, with a lot of exciting demonstrations and competitions making it a busy day with plenty to do and see for both competitors and spectators.

To learn more about the Andover Academy of Self Defense or to sign up for beginner, junior, advanced, or adult classes, contact Head Master David Stepp at 735-4211.

Andover Basketball Soon

By Tom Frantz
Andover Recreation Committee

The soccer balls and footballs are back in the closets and now it's time to get the basketballs out. Andover recreational basketball is underway for boys and girls in grades three through six. The recreation program focuses on skill development, teamwork, good sportsmanship, and fun. Everyone gets to play.

The Andover boys and girls play in the Quad Valley League against teams from Sunapee and New London. There is one third and fourth grade girls team this year. It is coached by Amy Levesque. The third and fourth grade girls practice on Tuesday evenings and on Saturdays when games aren't scheduled.

The girls fifth and sixth grade team is coached by Melissa Thompson. Practices are on Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings when there are no games scheduled.

There are two fifth and sixth grade boys teams which practice on Wednesdays and Saturdays and are coached by

Tom Frantz and Dave Powers.

The third and fourth grade boys team needs a few more players so that it can field a team this year.

The season opens on Saturday, December 17. The second game of the season is on January 7, 2006. Home games are played at AE/MS.

After the regular season ends, each team participates in a double-elimination tournament which this year is scheduled for March 3 through 5. Although the tournament schedules have not been issued, the third and fourth grade girls will play their tournament at AE/MS. Kearsarge Regional Middle School in New London will host both boys tournaments, and the fifth and sixth grade girls will play their tournament in Sunapee.

If your child has an interest in playing basketball this winter, sign-up sheets are available at the Blackwater Ski and Sport Shop. If you have questions about the program, please contact Tom Frantz at 735-6490.

Monster Dash Raises \$1,000

A gorgeous fall day greeted more than 200 racers, volunteers, children, and parents at Tilton School's Monster Dash, 5K Fun Run/Walk on October 30.

More than \$1,000 was raised during the annual Halloween fundraiser. Proceeds will support the Youth Assistance Program of Tilton/Northfield/Sanbornton, the Bread and Roses Soup Kitchen of Franklin, and hurricane relief efforts.

- The race winners include:
- Ross Young of Andover, first place overall
 - Sophie Viandier of Andover, third runner-up female.

In addition to the race, the day included a Halloween festival, costume contest, children's trick-or-treat trot, free food, music, pumpkin-carving,

face painting, story telling, games, and art activities. Mix 94.1 broadcasted live from the event.

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Production Assistant

If you have page layout and/or ad design skills, or would like to learn, then *The Andover Beacon* wants you! Volunteer as much or as little time as you like to help create ads or lay out the paper. For more info, call Charlie at 735-6099.

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Waitstaff for the Andover Outing Club's Rib-Eye Dinner were ready for hungry diners. Front: Liv Henriques, Cope Makechnie, Willy Cox. Back: Elizabeth Chesley, Amina Hughes, Hallie Southworth, Ben Cox, Thaddeus Bicknell, Patrick Allen, Kelsey Allen. Photo: Peter Southworth

AOC Dinner A Success

By Peter Southworth
Andover Outing Club

The second annual Andover Outing Club Dinner, held Saturday, November 19 at the Proctor dining hall, was again a success due to the work of parents, young skiers, and the support of many people who enjoyed a meal of boneless

rib eye beef followed by make-your-own sundaes. Door prizes and a silent auction were all part of the night to benefit Andover's young cross-country skiers and jumpers. The AOC thanks contributing local artists and businesses as well as Proctor Academy for support of the dinner.



All We Need Is Snow: Coach Al Herschlag and parent Ross Young warm up with young ski jumpers and cross-country races at the Andover Outing Club's Open House on November 13. Photo: Peter Southworth

Town Ski Programs Offer Cross-Country, Downhill, And Snowboarding

Cross-Country

The Town of Andover Ski Program offers students a cross-country ski program at Proctor Academy's Blackwater Ski Area. It is ideal for beginners, intermediate, or advanced cross-country skiers.

Register at 6 PM on December 8 in the lobby of AE/MS. All students who wish to participate must be signed up by December 9. The cost is \$20 per student, plus \$25 if you need to rent skis, poles, and boots.

The cross-country ski program will be held at Proctor Academy's Blackwater Ski Area, which offers seven kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails and a lodge.

Don and Lorraine Cline will instruct the program. Students will receive one hour of instruction each session, followed by games, free skiing, and snacks (which are provided).

Students will be transported to the Blackwater Ski Area in automobiles. Students will be transported back to school prior to the 2:45 PM bus, unless other arrangements have been made to have your child picked up at the ski area. Chaperones are more than welcome to participate. Please call if you are interested.

If you have any questions regarding the cross-country skiing program or cross-country ski rentals, please contact Don and Lorraine Cline at 648-6477.

Downhill And Snowboarding

Andover students have the opportunity to go to Ragged Mountain in Danbury to ski or snowboard. All students are required to take a one-hour lesson, and then they can have free

skiing.

This program is open to all students in kindergarten through eighth grade and is sponsored by the Andover Recreation Committee. Kindergarten students may participate, but they must have an adult or parent with them.

If you haven't already registered, please do so at AE/MS on December 8 (Holiday Program night) at 6 PM. If you prefer, you may go to The Blackwater Ski Shop and sign up. Children must be signed up no later than December 9.

The cost is \$20 per child. If you need to rent skis or snowboards for your child, you may rent them from either The Blackwater Ski Shop on Main Street at 735-5437, or from Ragged Mountain at 768-3600.

Buses leave the school at 12:30 PM sharp to arrive at the mountain for lessons at 1 PM. The buses return to school at 4:30 PM and parents must be there to pick up their child or children. Kindergarten students must be transported to and from the mountain with their parents. If you are picking up your child or other children at the mountain you must inform the bus driver so they are not looking for your child and causing chaos with bus departures.

If you would like to chaperone, please call Howard or Ellie George at 735-5590 or Ed Dansereau at 735-5437 as soon as possible. We appreciate all the chaperones that have helped in the past and would encourage new chaperones to sign up.

If you have any questions about this program, please call Howard or Ellie George at 735-5590 or Ed Dansereau at 735-5437.

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3rd and 4th Grade Girls Soccer #2. Front: Rebekah Stearns, Olivia Henriques, Hannah Munson. Back: Emily Lance, Hallie Southworth, Monica Newton, Skyler Smith, Shelby Perreault, Bailey Powers. Missing: Ashley Levesque.

Photo: Doreen Perreault

Andover 5th / 6th Boys Finish 5-3

By Madison Powers
Andover 5/6 Boys Soccer Team

The Andover fifth and sixth grade boys soccer team, coached by Mr. Ellis and Mr. Cox, enjoyed a great season, finishing with a 5-3 record in league play. After a hard-fought opening-game loss to Bow, we reeled off four straight wins. A loss to Sunapee 2, a win over Bradford, and a tough loss in a close, well-played game with Sunapee 1 finished off our regular season.

Next up was the season-ending round robin tournament involving the top five league teams. Although the weather conditions were less than favorable – the games were played on October 15 in a day-long downpour – we managed to finish in third place, with a 1-1-2 record.

Everyone had a fun season. It was rewarding to all to see how far we came as a team as the season moved on.

Everyone is looking forward to another season of great soccer next year. The players want to thank our coaches for helping us become a better team; our parents for their support; and the fifth and sixth grade girls team for a fun mid-season scrimmage.



Andover 3rd and 4th Grade Girls Soccer Team #1 celebrated an undefeated season with their teammates and families at Pizza Chef following their final game of the year. Back: Third graders Erin Hanscom, Shannon Haley, Daisy Elwell, Samantha Underdahl, Kelsey Allen, Kelsie Berry. Front: Fourth graders Brooke Ellis, Erin Frost, Maddie Trefethen. Missing: Third grader Alicia Barry and fourth grader Haley Adams.

Andover 3rd/4th Boys Soccer – A Fun Season

By Nicholas Terwilliger
Andover 3rd and 4th Grade Boys Soccer Team

Testing, testing, this is Nicholas T., or Nick for short, writing for the third and fourth grade boys soccer team.

I have some good news and some bad news, but first let me introduce the team: Austin Hawks, Nicholas Terwilliger, Sam Bentley, Damick Kinson, Thaddeus Bicknell, Jacob Hubbard, Vincent Bolte, Sam Barrett, Ngawang Dickinson, and Max Barrett (second grade helper), and coaches Mr. Hubbard and Mrs. Bicknell.

The bad news is we lost four games and won one game. We almost won against Shaker Road. Shaker Road had five points and Andover had two, so they won by three points.

The good news is we held victory in the last game 3 to 1. By the end of the season we were working together as a great team.

We also had a scrimmage with each girls soccer team. We combined the teams, so there was a mix of boys and girls on each team. My team won both scrimmages!

Kids!

The *Beacon* needs the help of young people in covering the events, activities, and news that interests you.

Talk to your school or your parents about getting involved today!



AE/MS Eighth Grade Team member Hannah Frantz and a Kearsarge player vie for control of the ball.
 Photo: David Brownell

AE/MS Soccer Wraps Up a Good Season

By Canon Brownell
AE/MS 8th Grade Soccer Team

The seventh and eighth grade regional soccer tournament, held on October 28 and 29 on the Proctor Academy soccer fields in Andover, was a great success. Approximately ten teams from different schools participated in this two-day event.

The seventh grade team from Andover Elementary/Middle School did very well. At the end of the first day of the tournament our coach, Mr. Tucker, had many other coaches coming to him and saying, jokingly, they did not want to play either of our teams. The seventh grade finished in fourth or fifth place.

Our eighth grade team finished in second place after a tough defeat by the Kearsarge Gold team. The final score was 1-2. Kearsarge pushed them to the limit, but Andover could not hold through and at the very end of the game Kearsarge scored a point. Nonetheless, Andover held their heads high and kept playing their game, getting second place overall for the 2005 soccer tournament.

A special thanks to Coach Tucker for

training the Andover team which had a total of 34 students. He did a fabulous job coaching them to the best of their ability. Many thanks also go to all the people that made this year's soccer season and tournament possible. With all this great hustle and effort, no wonder Andover only lost three games in their entire season!

Thank You!!

The student athletes of the Andover Recreation Soccer League want to thank the Town of Andover and everyone that helped make this a winning season for the 73 of us.

Our Coaches: Jim Cox, Mike Bolte, Jay Hubbard, Mindy Bicknell, Cathy Ellis, Amy Rheaume, Doreen Perreault, Craig Perreault, Chuck Ellis, Rose Davis and Alan Hanscom!

All of the excellent referees!

Howard George and Alan Hanscom for taking care of the fields!

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We can't wait until next year!

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Grandparents' Thanksgiving at AE/MS. Photo: Judy Perreault

One Wheelers Shine In New Uniforms

By Lisa F. Hanscom
Andover One Wheelers

Thanks to a generous donation from New Hampshire International Speedway, Loudon, the Andover One Wheelers Traveling Team has a sharp new look to take on the road.

New sapphire blue and white shirts with the AOW logo and unicycle imprint gave the Team a professional look as they performed at the Fall Foliage Festival Parade in North Adams, Massachusetts, in October. The North Adams weekend is a traditional fall trip for the Team and they are well known to the people of the North Adams area.

The Team toured the newly opened Rail Trail on October 30, visited Laconia's Elm Street Elementary School, and appeared in Concord's Christmas Parade during the month of November. They will be appearing in the Santa Parade in Merrimac, Massachusetts, on December 4.

Plans are beginning to take shape for a spring trip, and the Team will be selling Gift Certificate Raffle Calendars throughout the month of December to help fund the trip. The Raffle will take place in the month of January and calendars can be purchased from any One

Wheeler or by calling the elementary school at 735-5494.

The One Wheelers Team members and their families wish to extend their thanks to the many businesses that supported us by making donations for the calendar and extend a special thanks to Amy Rheaume and New Hampshire International Speedway for making the new uniforms possible.



Andover One Wheelers (r-l) Megan Hanscom, Michaela Trefethen, Cameron Wood, Rhianna Newton, Danielle Adams, and Mariah Lansdown-Howard during Concord's Holiday Magic Parade. Photo by Alan Hanscom

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Reading Night At AE/MS

By Amanda Lauster
AE/MS Reading Teacher

Andover Elementary/Middle School loves New Hampshire! During Reading Week last month, students participated in a variety of reading activities, all with a New Hampshire theme.

The week was all about encouraging all our students to get excited about reading. The New Hampshire License Plate lady stopped in classrooms where students had to drop everything and read.

We also Read Around New Hampshire – students were asked to read for 20 minutes a night for seven nights and to fill the seven regions of their New Hampshire maps with their book titles. All of the completed maps were entered into a drawing and one student from each grade received a brand new book.

A big hit of the week was the daily trivia contest. Students were asked a New Hampshire trivia question each morning, did research to find the answer, and submitted their answers at lunchtime. A winner was drawn daily from the correct answers. These winners were treated to an ice cream party.

The highlight of the week was Reading Night, on October 27. Upon entering the gym, families and students had to guess the number of New Hampshire cities and towns. (FYI, there are 234.) Skyler Smith's guess was the closest, so she won a \$10 Morgan Hill Bookstore gift certificate.

Games included New Hampshire Bingo, New Hampshire Pictionary, and Who Wants to Be a Graniteaire? Students could spend time with parents coloring or working on Granite State crossword or word search puzzles.

There was the Book Nook, where parents and children could sit on a comfy couch and enjoy a book written by our featured New Hampshire authors.

The big prize of the evening was awarded to Emily Lance, whose entry was drawn from all the correctly-completed trivia contest entries. Emily won a gift certificate to take her family to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make Reading Week a success, and a big "Thank you!" to everyone who came out for Reading Night!

Parent Education At AE/MS

By Susan Schultz
AE/MS School Counselor

On October 24, the AE/MS Parent Education Series hosted by School Nurse and Health Educator Heather Hill, RN and School Counselor Susan Schultz M.Ed. got off to a great start with "Living With and Loving Your Teenager".

Parents met over coffee and snacks to discuss the joys they have experienced throughout their child's growth from infant to teen, as well as some of the challenges that they now face. In a discussion facilitated by Heather Hill and Susan Schultz, topics such as when to increase a child's level of freedom, setting limits, personal safety, adolescent mood swings and parent-child communication were discussed. Participants shared questions and suggestions with each other, offering support and at times a good dose of laughter!

Upcoming topics in the Parent Edu-

cation Series are as follows:

January 9: "Learn How Your Teen is Connected – Become Internet-Wise." AE/MS Technology Teacher Chris Connor will join Heather Hill and Susan Schultz in presenting information that all parents should know about such topics as instant messaging, chat rooms, cyber-bullying, and protecting your child from adult predators online.

February 6: "How Much Freedom is OK?" How much freedom should you give a 10 year-old? Your 13 year-old? What about a group of children going out without adult supervision? Walking to the store? Come and learn how maturity level, behavior, age, and safety all play a part in making these tricky decisions.

March 13: "Risky Behaviors: Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Concerns". AE/MS Student Assistance Person Davis Burbank will join Heather Hill and Susan Schultz in presenting information about alcohol and drug use among teenagers, how to talk to your children about these subjects, and how to help your child resist peer pressure.

April 10: "Teen Sexuality". Learn all about your child's development as a sexual person. What is normal behavior for adolescent boys and girls, and what should you be concerned about? What are children concerned about as they go through the process of becoming young men and women? How can parents talk with their children about the touchy subjects of dating, relationships, and sexuality?

All presentations take place this year on Mondays from 6:30 to 8 PM, in Miss Gray's classroom in the middle school wing. All AE/MS parents are welcome to attend, and it is free. We hope to see you!

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AE/MS Readys Holiday Shoppe

By Audrey Pellegrino
AE/MS Kindergarten Teacher

Each year at the Andover Elementary/Middle School we try to recapture that feeling of giving for the students. We hold a Holiday Shoppe where the students are able to choose and purchase gifts for family members, with prices of the gifts ranging from 25 cents to \$5.

Each year we ask for donations to have at the Holiday Shoppe. Last year we had over 1,400 items and sold them all. As we purchase some items, this is not intended as a money-making endeavor but as an opportunity to share the gift of giving with our students.

If you can donate items or money to the Shoppe we would appreciate it greatly. We ask that items be new or in excellent condition. If you are out shopping and see something that would be appropriate, please pick up one for yourself and one for our shoppe. Items can be sent in to the office at any time and, since we sell items for people ages newborn to 128 years of age, almost anything goes.

For more information contact Jane Slayton or Audrey Pellegrino at the school, at 735-5494. The Holiday Shoppe will be held on December 16 this year. Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Book Fair Dec. 6 Free Preschool Screening

The Book Fair will be coming to Andover Elementary/Middle School on Tuesday, December 6, and will set up shop in the school library through Friday, December 9. The Book Fair will be open from 8 AM until 2:45 PM with the exception of Parents' Night on Thursday when the hours will be 8 AM until 6:15 PM. The Book Fair will close promptly at 6:15 so that all can be in their seats for the Holiday Concert.

Come and find a good book or two!

Are you concerned about your child's development? Do you suspect that your child may have an educational disability? Where do you get information? How can we help your child?

The Special Education staff of the Andover School District is providing a ChildFind Clinic free of charge for Andover School District residents. The ChildFind Clinic screens for possible educational disabilities. These can include speech, vision, hearing, motor ability, or learning disabilities. The screening is administered by staff members of the Andover School District.

The ChildFind Clinic will be held on Saturday, January 7, from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School, 20 School Street, in Andover. For an appointment, call Kristin Spanger Flaherty at the school at 735-5494.

MVHS from page 24

with others in the school, we have no choice but to respond.

Guidance News

Andover eighth grade students visited MVHS on October 24. They were welcomed by current Andover seniors who volunteered to lead student tours of the building.

After touring, the eighth graders met in the auditorium with the guidance staff to talk about block scheduling, homerooms, lunches, the Wellness Clinic, and many other facts about MVHS. Also, a question and answer session was held with Andover senior students answering questions.

National Honor Society

The fall inductees for the National Honor Society included Samantha Rheume of Andover.

Celebrate!
For \$19 you can have a "celebration" ad in the *Beacon*. Call 735-6099.

PROFILE: SAM WESLEY

By Abigail Lance
Beacon staff

Sam Wesley of Andover, a senior at MVHS, has been named a Commended Student in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. Sam was born in Dallas, but he grew up in Houston. He moved to Andover when he was 12.

When I asked Sam to describe himself, he said that he's serious in serious situations and foolish the rest of the time. "Like a chameleon, I change my mood according to the situation," he said. As you'll see, that foolishness appeared in some of his answers.

Sam's favorite subject at MVHS, and the best part of his MVHS experience so far, is engineering, "because it's fun and easy and we all get A's!" If he could change one thing about MVHS, however, he would create a course in Japanese.

For his senior project, he's building a traditional Japanese tea house and garden. When I asked, he also said "I like swords, and Japanese swords are the best!"

He likes all different types of subjects, such as: engineering, learning languages, math (especially calculus), and middle and old English literature. Sam likes epic films, such as the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and the classic books, like the type you read in English class.

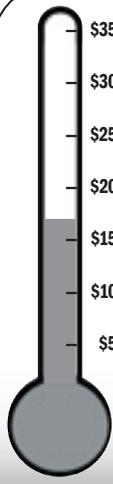
He likes rock, techno, classical, and disco music. He also enjoys *Dance Dance Revolution*, an interactive video game where you dance to disco music accord-

ing to the directions on the screen. In addition, he likes playing chess and other strategy games, cooking and watching *Iron Chef*, using and programming computers, and instigating revolution.

After he graduates, Sam says he's considering many possibilities, including taking a year off or going to Yale. He's looking forward to taking engineering and Japanese courses, and eventually going to Japan. He says he also would like to someday "buy Africa."

As Sam says (quoting Oscar Wilde), "Life is far too important to talk seriously about."

WATCH US GROW!



The Andover Recreation Committee has raised \$17,000 toward better, safer, more convenient, and more efficient facilities at Corson Field and Blackwater Park. Won't you help us reach our goal with a tax-deductible contribution today?

Andover Recreation Fund
PO Box 61
Andover NH 03216

Teachers from page 24

Nicole Wallace
By Carmen Bates

Some people recognize Miss Wallace from being a student teacher last year in the first grade at AE/MS. This is her first year teaching on her own, and she is very much enjoying her third graders. She likes this age group because they begin to become more independent and responsible.

Miss Wallace could not choose just one book as a favorite of hers, so she has a few that she would recommend to her students: *Ramona Quimby* by Beverly Cleary, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli, and *Rainbow Goblins* by Ul Derico.

Miss Wallace has started a bi-weekly newspaper with her third grade class, and each week the students have a different job to make sure that the paper gets to press. It is sort of a weekly wrap-up for parents and is very informative and even more interesting because it is mostly written by the children.

Describing herself in one word, she says that she is "interested," and when you watch her with the children in her class, you can see it in her face that she is truly interested in them and what they have to say.

What she wants most for her class to take away from this year is to notice the natural world around them more and appreciate it. Her advice to parents is to be as involved as you can.

ChildFind Clinic
Preschool Screening

On Saturday, January 7, from 9 AM to 11 AM the Special Education Staff of the Andover School District can screen your child for possible disabilities in the areas of:

- Speech
- Vision
- Hearing
- Motor ability
- Learning

There is no charge for residents of the Andover School District. For an appointment, call Kristin Spanger Flaherty at 735-5494.

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Highlight: Miss Wallace & Mr. Hubbard

This month's AE/MS teacher highlight shines on our third grade teachers, Jay Hubbard and Nicole Wallace.

Jay Hubbard

By Doreen Perreault

Mr. Hubbard has been in third grade for a long time! With 14 years of teaching, half of them at AE/MS, Mr. Hubbard has indeed found his niche.

Your typical third grader describes Mr. Hubbard as silly, funny, and always ready with a joke or smile. The children enjoy his teasing moments while respecting his role as a teacher.

Like many teachers at AE/MS, Mr. Hubbard enjoys the friendly, hometown

feeling you get when walking into the school. He appreciates the small class sizes and the personal touch you have with the children and their families.

For those of you who didn't find science a particular interesting part of your school year, Mr. H. is sure to change that. The Invention Convention held in March is just one example of how third grade science encourages both problem-solving and creativity. This yearly event is a highlight for many past students and sure to be a memorable part of every third grader's experience at AE/MS.

Why teach third grade? As Mr. Hubbard quickly points out, third graders



are independent, eager to please, and of course quite cute.

To sum up Jay Hubbard in one word, it would be "motivating." What will your child take with them when they leave third grade? They will know not only that they are smart, but they are also very valuable.

See Teachers on page 23

MVHS News

By Mike Jette
Principal, MVHS

We have recently seen instances of the Web being used to harass and bully members of our school community. Such practices are simply not tolerable.

There are currently 170 MVHS students, plus 144 alumni, who have created online profiles at MySpace.com. While most of these postings appear innocent, students have placed very personal information about themselves for the entire world to read. We felt it was important to alert parents to this particular Web site and ask for help monitoring the activities of your children.

Please have a frank discussion with your children about what information they make available to the entire world through Internet postings. Some students seem to believe they have the right to post whatever they want and that such postings should be considered personal and private. We need help dispelling this belief and making students aware that such postings are in fact public. If they are threatening or interfere

See MVHS on page 23

AndoverBeacon.com December 2005 \$2.00

AE/MS Salutes Andover Veterans

Andover Elementary/Middle School held its Second Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, November 9. Mrs. Parenteau sent out over 100 invitations to local veterans, and many of them came.

All classes, kindergarten through grade eight, contributed to the event. Some classes decorated while others sang, recited, or performed skits.

Army Chaplain David Grover delivered the keynote address and had important messages for all. He did an incredible job connecting the AE/MS Eagle Code to his experience in Iraq. Students heard the importance of respect, responsibility, good choices, and safety.

Officer Robert Campbell played *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes, which

has become a favorite tradition.

The walls were covered with flags made by kindergarten and first grade students. There were two large, prominently-placed flags that displayed names of veterans who could not be there for the ceremony.

Veteran Sheldon Rich set up an extensive collection of military uniforms and memorabilia to view. Refreshments were served in the lobby after the veterans finished posing for a group picture.

Veterans Day is one of the more important holidays recognized at AE/MS. Teaching students about the significance of Veterans Day is the perfect opportunity to honor and remember those whose selfless sacrifices ensure the freedom that students enjoy today.



The Andover Middle School Band performed *America* and accompanied Kassie Lamper and Katie O'Mara on *America the Beautiful*. Will Henriques, Tenzin Dickinson, and Alec Walker of the band also played *Taps*.

Mark Your Calendar!

Dec 3 – Andover Fire Dept Poinsettia Sale, 8 AM

Dec 3 – East Andover Fire Dept Christmas Tree Sale, 8 AM

Dec 5 – NHCHF, Judy Perreault's home, 12:30

Dec 5 – Board of Selectmen, 7

Dec 6 – School Board, Facility Study public session, AE/MS, 7:30

Dec 6 – Building Inspector, 7-8

Dec 8 – AE/MS Book fair open until 6:15

Dec 8 – Blackwater Grange Pot Luck Supper, Masonic Hall, 6:30

Dec 8 – Recycle Comm., Town Hall, 7

Dec 8 – Pemi Choral Society, Lakeport, 7:30

Dec 9 – Pemi Choral Society, St Paul's, Franklin, 7:30

Dec 9 – Soo-Nipi Audubon, Tracy Library, New London, 7:30

Dec 11 – Pemi Choral Society, Plymouth, 3

Dec 12 – Lions Club, Mr. D's, 6:30

Dec 12 – Snowmobile Club, AE/MS, 7

Dec 13 – Building Inspector, 7-8

Dec 13 – Planning Board, 7

Dec 14 – Andover Service Club, Potter Place, 10

Dec 14 – Conservation Comm, Proctor Stone Chapel, 7:30

Dec 15 – Library Trustees, Andover Library, 7:30

Dec 15 – Snowmobile trails open

Dec 16 – AE/MS report cards sent home

Dec 16 – AE/MS Holiday Shoppe

Dec 19 – Board of Selectmen, 7

Dec 20 – Wilmot Community Association Senior Luncheon, 12

Dec 20 – Building Inspector, 7-8

Dec 20 – Zoning Board of Adjustment, Town Hall, 7:30

Dec 21 – Rail Trail, Town Hall, 7

Dec 24 – Andover Service Club Thrift Shop closed

Dec 24 – Town Clerk and Tax Collector closed

Dec 24 – Andover Congr Church Christmas Eve service, 7

Dec 26 – Lions Club, Mr. D's, 6:30

Dec 26 – Master Plan Update – meeting cancelled

Dec 27 – Planning Board, 7

Dec 27 – Building Inspector, 7-8

Dec 27 – Andover Fish & Game, East Andover Clubhouse, 7:30

Dec 28 – Conservation Commission planning meeting, 7:30

Dec 31 – Town Clerk and Tax Collector closed

Jan 7 – AE/MS ChildFind Clinic, 9 to 11 AM, call 735-5494 for appt.

YEARBOOK PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED!

The Andover Yearbook is looking for a photographer to take large group and classroom pictures for the Yearbook. We have lost our Yearbook company and (free) photographer after many successful years. MacLean-Stevens Studios is no longer in business.

We are asking for a volunteer with equipment capable of taking large group shots either in the gym or classroom. Powerful flash equipment is necessary in order to take large group shots.

We are looking at the mid-January time-frame for taking these group pictures. Either digital or film cameras can be used. The Yearbook will reimburse you for any film or CD costs.

If you would like to volunteer to take our group shots, please call the school at 735-5494 and ask for Chris Connor, Yearbook Advisor. Thank you.