

Boots on the ground

Haverhill educators take trip to Marine Corps training camp

By **Jonah Frangiosa**

» Staff Writer

In March, educators were dishing out chapter quizzes on war novels like “The Things They Carried” and “All Quiet on the Western Front.” But in early April, those same teachers and instructors returned home from their own boot camp, with sore muscles and stories to tell.

Three representatives from the Haverhill school district took a brief leave of absence the first week of April to face drill instructors, obstacle courses and other physical tests on Parris Island in South Carolina, which is home to one of the United States’ Marine Corps Recruit Depots.

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Hunking School’s Carrie Ann Craven and Supervisor of Transportation Elizabeth Cannata were among 83 educators who participated in the Marine Corps’ Educators Workshop. The program is designed to improve recruitment efforts by immersing school personnel in the world of recruiting training for Marines.

The crash course through military life gave a boots-on-the-ground perspective to superintendents, coaches and teachers from school districts contacted by recruiting stations in Boston, New Jersey and New York. Haverhill



HC MEDIA/Courtesy photo

Educators were led by drill instructors through several physical challenges on Parris Island.

Public Schools was one of many that answered the call.

Marotta, Craven and Cannata received the invite from Staff Sgt. Trevonteie Thornton, who is a recruitment officer operating on Wingate Street, and has long collaborated with schools such as Whittier Tech and Haverhill

High School. The Haverhill educators were also joined by folks from HC Media, who documented the trip and planned to air a broadcast recapping their journey.

Each morning began with alarm clocks rather than wake-up calls as the

educators slept at a hotel off-site. But the participants were then promptly transported to the base, where they quickly experienced the whole nine yards of training.

Each stepped into the yellow footprints where every recruit officially begins their journey from civilian to

Marine. Typically, a recruit’s first moments on those footprints are followed by getting their head shaved, but the teachers were spared from the clippers.

Next was their one and only phone call home in a tradition similar to actual recruitment training. Marotta, Craven and

Cannata dialed home before plunging head-first into the simulation.

Marines took the educators through a range of challenges: rappelling down towers, climbing monkey bars, scaling walls, and even firing M16

SEE MARINES, PAGE S4

EDITORIAL

Why the free press must remain free

Four billion people read Associated Press journalism daily.

A billion access Reuters content each day.

Bloomberg Media has 60 million video viewers monthly.

Yet the Trump administration is drastically curtailing these three major wire services' access to White House press conferences.

For generations, a spot in the press pool at White House media events was reserved for wire services. The Trump administration recently announced it was adding a second spot for a print journalist to pool, but the long-time reserved position will no longer be guaranteed a seat at each press conference.

The wire services can still apply to fill one of the designated seats.

The result is that newspapers, broadcasters and other media outlets across the world that depend on wire services for national and international news will no longer have secured access to coverage of White House press events. The AP alone serves more than 15,000 media outlets around the country including The Eagle-Tribune.

The Trump administration is choking off the ability of an independent press to ask questions and report on White House press conferences while simultaneously shutting down the flow of reporting from the White House to communities across the country served by news organizations that use the wire services.

For decades, the White House Correspondents' Association has been in charge of setting the rules for the press pool, an important task given that many of the press conferences are conducted in small spaces that can't accommodate more than a few dozen journalists.

But the Trump administration in February wrested control over the press pool from the



MAXX-STUDIO/ 3d illustration

correspondents' association, announcing that it would allot fewer spaces to legacy news organizations in favor of new media, including social media influencers. The decision, without a doubt, was driven by Trump's desire to reduce access for organizations that critically report news about him.

That same month, the administration revoked AP access to White House pressers after Trump issued an executive order to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and the AP declined to adhere to the change in its reporting and in its stylebook, because AP is an international wire service and throughout the world the gulf is still called Gulf of Mexico.

The AP sued, and U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden ruled that the White House could not deny AP access on the basis of its decision to continue using "Gulf of Mexico." McFadden ordered the Trump administration to restore the AP's White House press pool access.

Clearly, the administration's recent decision to remove the

press pool seat for AP, Reuters and Bloomberg is a ploy to continue curtailing AP access, and by extension, that of thousands of news outlets relying on these services.

Previous presidents have recognized the importance of White House coverage by independent media to ensure transparency and the free flow of information. The Trump administration's battle with the AP and restriction of wire service access are unmistakable signs that it does not. The U.S. Constitution prohibits infringing on a free press with the understanding that a free, independent and unfettered press is crucial for democracy.

Instead, the president wants to control not only terminology used by media outlets, but also their ability to provide news to millions of Americans through community newspapers and other local media across the country.

Without a free press, we are all less free.

This piece originated with The Herald Bulletin in Anderson, Indiana, a sister CNHI newspaper to The Eagle-Tribune.



REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

How the program works

Your school can have access to local, trusted journalism from The Eagle-Tribune on a daily basis. We report on news throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire, covering all things local - from schools, to sports, to government, people profiles, business, entertainment and more. You get the facts - the real news - from experienced reporters, photographers and editors you can count on at no cost to your school.

Here are the basics of the program:

What is it? The Eagle-Tribune partners with local businesses to provide free digital access to our newspaper to anyone within the school at no cost to the school. This access encourages students to value the vital news coverage being produced by The Eagle-Tribune. They will build awareness and gain critical thinking skills in the process.

Who can participate?

This program will benefit teachers, students, and the broader school community.

Where does it take place?

You can access our newspaper online. Teachers can incorporate the program into their curriculums, even having reporters, photographers and editors visit your class.

When can we start benefiting?

As soon as we have your commitment to participate in Real News in Schools we will go to work to find a local business who wants to sponsor you. Once we have one, we will work with your IT Department to get the program up and running.

Why is this valuable?

There's a lot of fake news out there on social media and elsewhere. The Eagle-Tribune, founded in 1868 as the Lawrence Daily Eagle and a twice Pulitzer Prize winning publication, has a long track record of fair and accurate reporting that cuts through the misinformation.

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VFW awards medals to JROTC students

Staff Report

HAVERHILL — Medals and citations were awarded to four Haverhill High School Marine Corps JROTC students earlier this month at VFW Lorraine Post 29, 576 Primrose St.

Freshman Cadet Sgt. Sophya Walsh, sophomore Cadet Sgt. Jaidyn Ageadn, junior Cadet Cpl. Cassidy Ortiz, and senior Cadet 1st Sgt. Dorian Cid all received the awards.

Post 29 Commander John Berrini attended the ceremony and presented the students with the medals for exemplary service.

“In special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability,” the certificates read.

Berrini said the award ceremony has helped Post 29, which was founded in 1899, stay connected with the community for many years.

“We are honored to award these students with the VFW JROTC award for their community service and their dedicated studies and good grades coupled with their leadership of over 100 students who are in the JROTC program at Haverhill High School,” Berrini said.



From left, 12th-grader Dorian Cid, 10th-grader, Jaidyn Ageadn and 11-grader Cassidy Ortiz received a citation and medal from Post Commander John Berrini at VFW Post 29.

COURTESY PHOTOS//Keith Gopsill

» Marines

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service rifles. Drill instructors barked orders at the faux-recruits, but it wasn't quite “Full Metal Jacket” as Marotta said their commands came at only a fraction of their full capacity of ferociousness.

One of the most intense challenges was the “confidence chamber,” where the participants sprinted through a building fuming with diluted tear gas, mimicking a rite of passage that Marines must endure.

Participation in each activity was optional, but Thornton said he was impressed

with the willingness of the group to attempt and even succeed with the obstacles.

Marotta, though, said the opposite of their performance.

“I don't think they were too impressed with us,” she said. “But hey, I tried all of the challenges so that's something to be proud of.”

Afterward, the teachers learned from Marines across all ranks and roles, from staff sergeants to officers to band members. The local recruits were surprised by the stories they heard as they met Marines with dual master's degrees and six-figure job offers, thanks to the opportunities provided by the

government organization.

Thornton said the workshop does its job in demystifying the Marine Corps and showing folks what it truly has to offer.

“This is another option for you,” Thornton told them. “It could help you with your discipline, your character or give you an opportunity with one of the 350 jobs the Marine Corps has to offer. The Marine Corps does not have to be your ‘last option’ or a ‘worst case,’ because there are so many great opportunities to receive.”

The workshop invites educators to the island several times a year. All travel,

lodging and associated expenses are covered by the Marine Corps.

Marotta said Haverhill Public Schools already has a strong backing for the military, with an accomplished Marine Corps Junior ROTC program with about 250 students. But, she said, the trip gave her an even sharper look at how important it is to present this pathway as an option for students after graduation.

“It's just about being more clear with students that this is a real postsecondary option for you,” she said. “I think these are important conversations to have with the kids.”



HC MEDIA/Courtesy photo

Teachers rappel down a tower during the Marine Corps' Educators Workshop on Parris Island.

Here comes the boom

A win for Whittier's waterway workers

By Jonah Frangiosa

» Staff Writer

HAVERRHILL — Haverhill's young-minded engineers and environmentalists are halfway there, pooling together funds to help the longest waterway in northeast Massachusetts.

The Whittier Tech SkillsUSA chapter made progress out of pizza this spring, raising more than \$1,300 at a fundraiser at American Flatbread in Georgetown. Every dollar donated went toward purchasing a boom for the Clean River Project, a nonprofit organization that the school partnered with last November.

The boom — a floating barrier used to contain pollutants and debris on a water surface — was set to be installed in the Merrimack River later in the year. This will further the mission of Whittier and the Clean River Project; a partnership that was formed to collaboratively clean up the river.

“Our students have shown incredible dedication to this cause, taking the initiative to raise funds and contribute meaningful solutions,” Jane Moskevitz, Whittier Tech SkillsUSA lead advisor, said. “It’s inspiring to see young people step up and take action to protect our environment.”

SkillsUSA, a national organization that provides students with leadership and career-readiness skills, has offered the kids a platform to use their learning for a real-world problem like the pollution of the Merrimack River.

In the fall, students from the school’s CAD, engineering, and marine technology programs toured the Clean River Project’s headquarters in Methuen, where they got a closer look at the cleanup operation.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Plastic bottles and other debris trapped in a boom installed by the Clean River Project in Methuen. The Whittier Tech SkillsUSA chapter raised more than \$1,300 at a fundraiser at American Flatbread in Georgetown to help the Clean River Project continue its work on local rivers.



NICOLE BOWMAN-NADEAU/Courtesy photo

Clean River Project founder Rocky Morrison shows a photograph of a “boom” to Whittier Tech students.

Since then, the school has been working alongside the nonprofit’s founder, Rocky Morrison, to design a conveyor belt system to mount onto a pontoon boat to streamline debris removal.

“I never expected to be involved in something like this, but it’s been eye-opening,” said Mia Medeiros, a Whittier Tech student specializing in Marine Technology. “Knowing that our efforts are helping clean up a river that so many people depend on makes all the hard work worth it.”

Founded in 2005, Morrison’s Clean River Project has removed nearly 100 vehicles and more than 20,000 discarded tires, as well as

mounds of debris from a 45-mile stretch of the waterway. The river, which flows through 15 cities in northeast Massachusetts, is a vital source of drinking water for more than 600,000 residents in the region.

“This project is a fantastic example of how students can take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to solve real-world problems,” said Emily Shea, a Whittier Tech CAD Instructor. “The impact of their work will be felt not just by the community today, but for generations to come.”

The event was a significant step forward for Whittier as students continue working to raise \$2,500 for this mission.

Reviving the dire wolf: pretty cool, and a little bit scary

What to do with a 13,000-year-old tooth and 72,000-year-old ear bone?

Well, bring back dire wolves from extinction, of course.

Remarkably, that's what scientists at Colossal Biosciences announced they have successfully achieved using novel gene-editing technology to alter gray wolf DNA, then create embryos that were implanted in surrogate female dogs – specifically large, mixed-breed hounds. In October, one of the dogs birthed two dire wolf pups, then a female was born in January. They named them Romulus, Remus and Khaleesi.

Last month the Dallas-based company released a statement making the announcement. A spokesperson described the resurrection of the species as the “world’s first successfully de-extincted animal.”

The scientists chose to use the gray wolf for the



COLOSSAL BIOSCIENCES PHOTO
Romulus and Remus, both 3 months old, were genetically engineered to have similarities to the extinct dire wolf.

experiment because it is the closest living relative of the dire wolf, which has been extinct for 12,500 years.

“This massive milestone is the first of many coming examples demonstrating that our end-to-end de-extinction

technology stack works,” said Ben Lamm, Colossal’s co-founder and CEO.

Colossal also announced it has bred four cloned red wolves, the most endangered wolf species in the world. Additionally, it is working

to revive the 4,000-year extinct woolly mammoth by introducing its traits in the Asian elephant; the Tasmanian tiger (a marsupial that has been extinct since 1936); the dodo bird (a flightless bird that went extinct in the late 1600s); and the Victorian grassland earless dragon (lizards that are critically endangered).

The three dire wolf pups already weigh in at 80 pounds and will be about 140 when fully mature. Colossal isn’t saying where they are being kept, except that it’s an undisclosed 2,000-acre site. Presumably, they’re doing wolf things there, like barking and growling and howling at the moon.

They’re surrounded by 10-foot-tall “zoo-grade” fencing and are being monitored by guards, drones and live camera feeds, according to the company. The facility is certified by the American

Humane Society and registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Some peers in the field are naysayers, claiming that what Colossal achieved doesn’t stack up to the claims.

“All you can do now is make something look superficially like something else” – not fully revive extinct species, Vincent Lynch, a biologist at the University at Buffalo, told The Associated Press. Lynch was not involved in the research.

Colossal predicted the pushback from the scientific community, and acknowledges that their creation is essentially a “hybrid” that is genetically overwhelmingly gray wolf.

“There’s no secret that across the genome, this is 99.9% gray wolf,” said Colossal adviser Love Dalén, a professor in evolutionary genomics based at the Centre for Palaeogenetics at

Stockholm University. “There is going to be an argument in the scientific community regarding how many genes need to be changed to make a dire wolf, but this is really a philosophical question.”

It’s also a technicality, he said. “It carries dire wolf genes, and these genes make it look more like a dire wolf than anything we’ve seen in the last 13,000 years,” he said. “And that is very cool.”

Social media was abuzz following the announcement, and also drawing mixed reviews. Some laud Colossal and its research, while others say reviving ancient predators is a dangerous path to go down, with many asking if we’re headed to a real-life “Jurassic Park.”

OK, fair question, but it’s still an exciting development. We just hope they stay away from the tyrannosaurus rex.

School budget deficits are inevitable today

Commentary

Tom Walters



Years ago when I was working in a New Hampshire school district, the local taxpayers association became the driving force for a significant tax cut at the school district meeting. Sixty-three of us teachers lost our jobs.

The association put out its own “budget,” and suggested that lost teacher jobs were not necessary. They were unfamiliar with the budgeting process, thinking

that “a little here, a little there” would add up to the necessary cuts.

They then worked to elect a key player to the school board, and he would be in a position to cut the fat. But once he was on the board and saw the budget – he came to realize, and had to admit publicly – there was no fat.

School budgets are a complex combination of revenue and expense. They are funded through multiple layers of government, as well as contractual obligations, legally binding services, and necessary capital expenses like building upkeep.

While it’s true that some districts get into trouble through flaws in their tracking and record keeping,

most simply find that they are overcome by cuts to revenue they weren’t counting on, or by expenses they are legally obligated to pay, but for which they couldn’t plan. (Think highway departments in an extraordinarily snowy winter.)

It is painful for me to see the situation in the North Andover schools, as I have deep ties and very fond memories of my time there, too. I know and have worked with both the former superintendent and the current one. I know that they’re both very good people locked into a very difficult and painful situation.

In February of 2024, the town learned the school system was \$1.5 million over budget and by April, that

deficit was up to \$3.1 million. In an effort to make up for the shortfall, the School Committee decided on a \$68.2 budget for 2025 – midway between the town manager’s recommended budget of \$64.9 million and the School Department’s recommended \$71.8 million.

The cuts are expected to result in approximately 40 staff reductions and the temporary closure of the Kittredge Elementary School. What has followed is a deeply felt angst among staff, students and the community at large.

I came to North Andover in 1993, hired by then-Superintendent George Blaisdell, for whom the performance center at the middle school is named. I was

the first full-time music teacher the community had in a number of years. We added positions over my 12 years there, building up to 11 music teachers.

I was there as the Annie Sargent School opened, and for the first major renovation of North Andover Middle School, the rebuilding of the Thomson Elementary School, and building of the then-new North Andover High School. As the town grew, so too did its schools, a great source of pride for the community. I’d like to think that its music program was, too.

Our nation’s schools received increased financial help from the federal government during the pandemic and in the

years immediately following. They used much of that funding to upgrade facilities, but they also used it to institute new programs and staffing for those programs – online learning, for example. In 2020, we saw pictures of teachers delivering tablets and other equipment to homes so students could keep up. New technology people were hired to service the increased use of these devices.

Now that funding, upon which school districts relied and built into their budgets, is drying up and not being replaced. Further, as a recent headline in The Eagle-Tribune reflected, the Trump administration plans

SEE WALTERS, PAGE S15

Another thing scrolling has taken from us

Commentary

Mia Isacson



Stranded in upstate New York over winter break, without a driver's license or reliable Wi-Fi, I cracked

open the classic book many Americans were forced to read in middle school, "The Catcher in the Rye." From the opening line, "If you really want to hear about it," I was hooked.

"The Catcher in the Rye" follows a teenage boy who loves to experience life, whether that's having lunch with nuns or hiring a prostitute just to talk to her. Throughout this coming-of-age novel, readers experience the main character learning the essential values of life, such as the importance of empathy, the joy of silliness with friends, and learning through adventure.

As I devoured the book, I realized how reading has changed my life, and I wondered what happens to

our minds when we replace reading with social media? How does the perception of what's essential in life change, and what are the consequences?

"The Catcher in the Rye" is just one example of the way novels bring up themes like love, perseverance, and identity. It's essential that novels have these themes, as no book can truly steal a reader's heart if a character doesn't face different challenges, moments of questioning, joy, learning, connection, and absurdity. Then, to culminate all these different experiences, the character reaches a conclusion, either good or bad.

But, no one reads a book for its ending; if we did, books would be a lot shorter. Characters in novels move us readers as we go on their journey with them, learning how they handle ambivalence and challenge. These characters show us readers how essential the journey of life is and what different journeys can look like.

Sadly, the decline in reading among teenagers is dramatic. A study by the American Psychological Association on teenagers'

The replacement of reading with social media is a massive problem, correlated to mental health problems, isolation, and a hyperfixation on superficial markers of success.

media use found that in 1976, about 60 percent of high school seniors reported reading a book, magazine, or newspaper every day. Yet, in 2016, only 16 percent of high school seniors reported doing so. The number of high school seniors who said they did not read any books for pleasure nearly tripled, reaching one out of three by 2016. And that was almost a decade ago.

The replacement of reading with social media is a massive problem, correlated to mental health problems, isolation, and a hyperfixation on superficial markers of success like what you look like, where you go to school, who you are in a relationship with, and how much money you have.

Teenagers today have lost the love of the journey, and the emotions that go with it because all we see are end

results. Mintel, a global market research firm, found that in 2016, over 80% of U.S. tweens (ages 9 to 11) used skincare and personal-care products. A 2025 Forbes article highlighted that 71% of students felt pressure to get into schools with "name recognition," and 58% worried about perceptions if they attended less selective institutions.

Teenagers' mental health is a major problem today, with the CDC finding that 22% of high school students have seriously considered suicide in 2023. This issue is directly correlated with the use of social media. A study from researchers at Johns Hopkins University in 2019 found that teens who spent more than three hours per day on social media were twice as likely to experience mental health issues, compared to teens who did not

use social media.

It makes sense why teens focusing solely on life's goals via social media and ignoring the journey highlighted in novels is extremely detrimental to their mental health. Because, what happens when you don't get into the perfect school? When you get a pimple? When those noticeable parts of your life are in shambles? If those goals are all you strive for, when you

don't achieve them, you forget about what else life has to offer: connections, love, and learning. I believe as reading lets one focus on the true meanings of life, it can greatly improve mental health.

Changing behavior is difficult, especially an addictive behavior like scrolling on our phones, and dropping the phone to open a book is much easier said than done. That said, there are a few strategies that can help.

First, hold yourself accountable, set up a time for reading. For example, make time to read before you go to sleep or when you wake up in the morning.

Second, eliminate distractions while you're reading.

Make sure your phone is in a separate room. To make sure you are actively reading and not tempted by distractions, keep a highlighter in hand to ground you back to the book.

Finally, make sure you're excited about the book you're reading. Don't be afraid to quit if the book starts to dull you.

There is a lot of data warning us about the repercussions of social media and its detrimental effects on our mental and physical health. However, to me, the sadder issue lies in what we're missing out on – the joy and experience of reading a great novel. We know that reading builds comprehension and critical thinking, but books also expose us to the excitement and the chaos of life. And unlike scrolling, they showcase the journey, not the destination.

This is what we've lost. This is why you should open a book.

Mia Isacson is a junior at Phillips Academy Andover. She is from New York City, where she lives with her twin sister, her baby brother, her parents, and importantly, her books.

Expanding Early College will improve educational outcomes

Commentary

Carrigan MacLeod

Massachusetts is considered a leader in education within the United States. However, a large gap exists in higher education for students of color and those from low-income families. The Early College Initiative was created to close equity gaps, and expanding the program will provide more equitable access to higher education and enable more students to succeed.

In Early College programs, students take real

college courses during their regular high-school day, at no cost to themselves or their families. Early College targets historically underserved and first-generation students, many of whom do not have family who can help guide them through the college process or help them succeed in classes.

Early College provides access to a support system of counselors and professors through their high school and partnered colleges that students can lean on whenever they need guidance on things like applying for FAFSA, learning study

strategies, time management, and applying to colleges. This can make college less intimidating and provide students an opportunity to experience early and open access to a safeguarded "test run" of college, helping them gain confidence in their ability to succeed in higher education.

I took part in the Early College program at Haverhill High School, and I am, without a doubt, better off for it. I am a second-generation college student; my mother was the only other member of my family who has attended college, so

in high school, I was very unfamiliar with the college process and what it took to succeed. All I knew was that college was what I wanted for myself.

As a sophomore, I joined my high school's Early College program and began taking classes with their partner, Northern Essex Community College.

Through the program, I was not only able to earn 31 credits by the time I graduated, but I also learned how to manage my time, how to study properly, how to apply to colleges, and how to complete FAFSA. Most

importantly, I learned how to be independent and confident in myself and my abilities in my education. I am now an undergraduate student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where I study biology, and plan to graduate an entire year early, and at half the cost.

Expanding Early College would allow historically underserved students, particularly those who are Black, Latino, or low-income, to gain access to a college degree. As of 2023, almost half of adults aged 25 or over in Massachusetts

held a Bachelor's degree or higher as their highest level of education. At face value, this data only further proves that Massachusetts is a leader in education; however, looking at attainment based on race and socioeconomic status shows that these degrees are spread out disproportionately among different demographics.

According to data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, White students in Massachusetts have a 50% greater chance of obtaining

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Keeping her mother's name alive

Haverhill's McGinley raising money for Silver Hill Elementary School

By Jamie Pote

> | Staff Writer

HAVERHILL - Jessica McGinley was a special mom in so many ways, too many to count says Haverhill High junior lacrosse player Ryleigh McGinley.

Whether it was rides for Ryleigh and sister Brianna to and from practices, supporting fundraisers for their schools and sports teams, or cooking elite meals at home, Jessica did it all.

Ryleigh's mom was also popular teacher and paraprofessional at Silver Hill Elementary School in Haverhill.

She passed away last May 24, 2024 at the age of 48, leaving behind her two daughters and husband, Bob.

Ryleigh came up with an idea to keep her mom's name alive by raising money through donations, in lieu of an entry fee, in an on-league game with Triton Regional earlier this month.

The proceeds will go toward school supplies and possibly a field trip for the Silver Hill students.

"No one is going to replace my mom but everyone in my family has stepped up in a different way," said Ryleigh. "My dad doesn't miss a game and he's working all kinds of crazy hours. My dad's best friend, my aunts, uncles and cousins and my grandma are all stepping up and are always there for me."

Haverhill High girls' lacrosse coach Christina Lynch was all-in when the fundraiser was proposed by Ryleigh.

"It's great to bring awareness to people who have worked within this community. Ryleigh will be graduating from Haverhill High (in



Ryleigh McGinley, right, organized a fundraiser to honor her late mother, Jessica, as part of the Haverhill-Triton Regional girls' lacrosse game.



Ryleigh McGinley

Wales University. She worked as an Executive Chef/Event Planner for 18 years before switching gears to become a paraprofessional.

"She was always cooking - literally everything. I was always the baker, and she outdid me in everything. I learned my baking skills from her, but I don't know how to cook though," said Ryleigh.

Although Ryleigh said she's not much of a chef, her coach says that she is following in Jessica's footsteps in other significant ways.

"Ryleigh just wanted to think of a way to include her mom in this season," said Lynch. "She wanted to have her mom's memory stay alive and include all the kids she worked with in the Haverhill Public School system. We're honoring her mom on our youth night where it's all about the kids."

On the field

Ryleigh McGinley is in her second year as a member of the Haverhill High girls' lacrosse program. Last year she came off the bench, and this season she has earned a starter's spot back on the defensive line.

"She came in a little timid this season and after that she lit a fire under her and since then she's been on fire. She has played unbelievably and has caused many turnovers and has her share of groundballs," said head coach Christina Lynch.

Ryleigh was also a member of the HHS gymnastics team and mainly competed on the vault and beam this past season.

2026), and her sister graduated from here, so this is a nice way of keeping their mother's memory alive," said Coach

Lynch. "It's tough because you're playing, and (other) parents are there, and having this night for her and her family is really special."

Ryleigh said being there for her family members - and anyone in need - is what her mom was all about.

"My mom was very supportive of sports whether me or my sister did it or any sports where there was a fundraiser, she supported it and was also all about Hillie Pride," said Ryleigh.

"I feel like it was best to honor her in that way. Her students loved her, and she always supported them," said Ryleigh. "My mom was very caring and always thought about others before herself. She loved watching me to do any kind of sport. She was so proud and she was my biggest cheerleader."

Jessica grew up in Medford and attended Johnson and



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Farewell Tour

Bonded by sports, Salem's Beeley Sisters eye one more spring together

By Hector Longo

» Staff Writer

SALEM, N.H. — As far as big sisters go, Maddie Beeley has been rock-solid, at least according to her little sister, Abby.

"She's been there for me the whole way, and I definitely appreciate that," said Abby, a Salem High junior.

The Beeleys embarked on their "farewell tour" this spring with Salem softball, as Maddie, a senior, will be moving on to study and play at Endicott College next fall.

The plan here and now is to make it something special and cherish every second.

"Time flies," said Maddie, a four-year starter in the outfield for the Blue Devils. "I think about it a little bit. I'm going to miss the whole team."

Athletically, the Beeleys have been linked together for the past three years in two sports, with field hockey being the other.

"I think it helps us bond to stay together," said Maddie. "We always have something to talk about from the games when we leave the field. We're pretty different, but we really connect in softball."

Of course, as with all families, not everything is always smooth. Fortunately, the girls had the perfect coaching situation for two years with Haley Chandler in charge up until this spring.

"When coach Haley was here, she understood how sisters acted together," Maddie

One Encore Remains

While their Salem High sports careers — together — end this spring, the Beeley Sisters, Maddie and Abby, will get one final run this summer, playing for their dad, Bill, in the Northeast Hurricanes travel softball program.

"It will probably hit me midsummer, that this is it," said Abby, who will return to Salem High in the fall for her senior year while Maddie heads down to Endicott College.

"I just hope next year I can pull it together without her."

said. "Her sister, Laura, was her assistant, so when we'd fight at practice, she understood exactly what was going on."

The new Blue Devils' boss, Mariah Tebo, has handled things perfectly.

"She knows the program so well. It was easy for her to step right in," said Maddie.

Maddie's instant athletic success at Salem — she's hit .321, .333 and .338 in three previous seasons — has never been intimidating for Abby. Part of the credit for that goes to Maddie, looking out for her sibling.

"I think she's definitely helped me where I've gotten," said Abby. "If she wasn't here, I think I would have been a nervous wreck the first time I stepped on the field."

"I've always had a mentor and a good example to follow,



Salem High junior Abby Beeley and her sister Maddie, a senior.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



A four-year starter in the outfield, Maddie Beeley will head to Endicott College to play in the fall.



Salem junior and first baseman Abigail Beeley makes a play in a game against Exeter earlier this spring.

and it's always good to have someone like that. She's definitely been there for me a lot."

Abby, a starter the past two years in both sports and a three-year varsity athlete, has found a way to complement

Maddie's amazing success.

"We've always been more like equals, even when there were things that she was really good at," said Abby, who starts at first base. "She's always had more sports

accomplishments, while I have been more driven academically."

The two sisters took the same chemistry class last year, and this year both have the same teacher for AP Statistics. Abby continues to

get it done, to the point where she will likely not choose to play sports in college and focus strictly on academics.

Sure, they are breaking up the band. But, as they say, there's still plenty of time for a couple more big hits.

SEBASTIANO STEPS IN

After injury, ex-hoops player excels at track in North Andover

By David Willis

» Staff Writer

NORTH ANDOVER – Basketball was always the plan for North Andover's Sebastiano Catalano.

He and his twin brother — now-Eagle-Tribune Super Teamer Niko Catalano — were going to take on the Merrimack Valley Conference hoops scene together in Scarlet Knights uniforms.

But an injury, a medical recommendation and a friend's off-handed comment a year ago led Sebastiano to perhaps track and field's greatest challenges — the decathlon and pentathlon.

"I never really considered track as an option," said the senior. "But I hurt my knee, so I tried track last spring because basketball was too taxing on my knee, but my physical therapist said I needed to stay active. Then a friend told me to do the decathlon with him so I signed up as a backup as a joke. A senior ended up getting hurt, so I was in the lineup."

A year later, Sebastiano is a go-to contributor for the Knights. It wasn't long ago, though, that track wasn't on his radar.

"I played basketball with my brother Niko my whole life and I never fell out of love for it," said the 6-foot-2 Sebastiano of his twin, who averaged 17 points a game this past winter. "From basketball in our aunt's driveway to our middle school team and then to our Storm team, we were always together. I loved being teammates with Niko. There was always competition. And basketball is how I made all of my friends."

But starting sophomore year, Sebastiano began to struggle with knee pain.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

North Andover's Sebastiano Catalano competes in his favorite event, the high jump, at the MVC Championship last winter. Catalano is a go-to contributor in the decathlon/pentathlon.

"I have patellar tendinitis in both of my knees, or 'jumper knee,'" said Sebastiano. "My tendons between my knee and my muscles are shredded. I got it around sophomore year but it got really bad junior year. I'm not totally sure how I got it but we are pretty sure it's because I'm growing fast and I had really poor flexibility in my hamstrings."

As part of his rehabilitation, Sebastiano went out for track for the first time last spring as a junior.

"I didn't enjoy track right away," he admitted. "I wasn't on the verge of quitting, but it didn't click until one of the coaches told me to try high jump. I was avoiding it and doing throws because of my knees, but I fell in love with it right

away. In my first practice I was able to clear the varsity starting height, within two weeks I cleared 5-8, and by the end of the season I was able to clear 5-10."

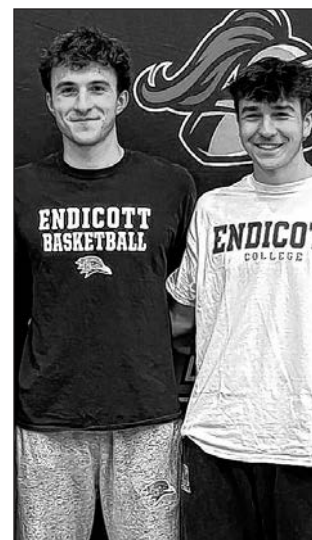
He then, on a whim, decided to try the decathlon — a two-day event that consists of the 100-meter, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400-meter, 110 hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1,500.

"I signed up, but I really didn't have any intention of doing it," he said. "The meet was on a Monday, and on Sunday night I got a text that I was now in the lineup. I went in with a positive attitude, and after the two days of competition I realized that I wanted to do this every season. Seven out of the 10 events were brand new to me, but I still managed to get

a decent score (32nd at the MSTCA North Decathlon), and that allowed our team to place third overall. I think it's OK to say we are still shocked."

After the encouraging spring, he decided to forgo his senior basketball season and go out for winter track.

"It was the hardest decision I've ever had to make," he said. "It took a lot of conversations with the basketball coaches and my mom. The really successful spring track season and my knee feeling better contributed to my decision, but it never made it easy. I still think about playing basketball and how that would have went. Luckily, I was still able to be the varsity team manager and do track."



North Andover's Sebastiano Catalano, right, poses with his twin brother, Niko Catalano. While Niko became a star in basketball, Sebastiano has become a key contributor to the Scarlet Knights track team.

Versatile Catalano

Here's a look at North Andover's Sebastiano Catalano in a variety of events.

Long jump: 18-2
1,000: 3:29.35
55 hurdles: 9.33
100: 13.04
110 hurdles: 19.11
400: 1:02.06
1,500: 5:28.45
Shot put: 34-5
Discus: 86-7
Javelin: 93-1
High jump: 5-10
Triple jump: 36-7
Pentathlon: 2,310 points
Decathlon: 4,071 points

RUN REINOSO, RUN

Lawrence sprinter dazzles on track, stars in classroom

By David Willis

» dwillis@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — Balance is everything to Lawrence High's Cristian Reinoso.

It isn't easy, after all, to juggle life as an elite student — and perhaps the area's fastest male athlete.

"My key is to find the perfect balance of time management, where you are able to be a student and also an athlete," said Reinoso. "Student, comes first in 'student-athlete,' and on the track, there's a desire in me to always go against those who were better and faster than me and the drive for faster times for the ultimately love this sport."

It seems the senior has found that balance.

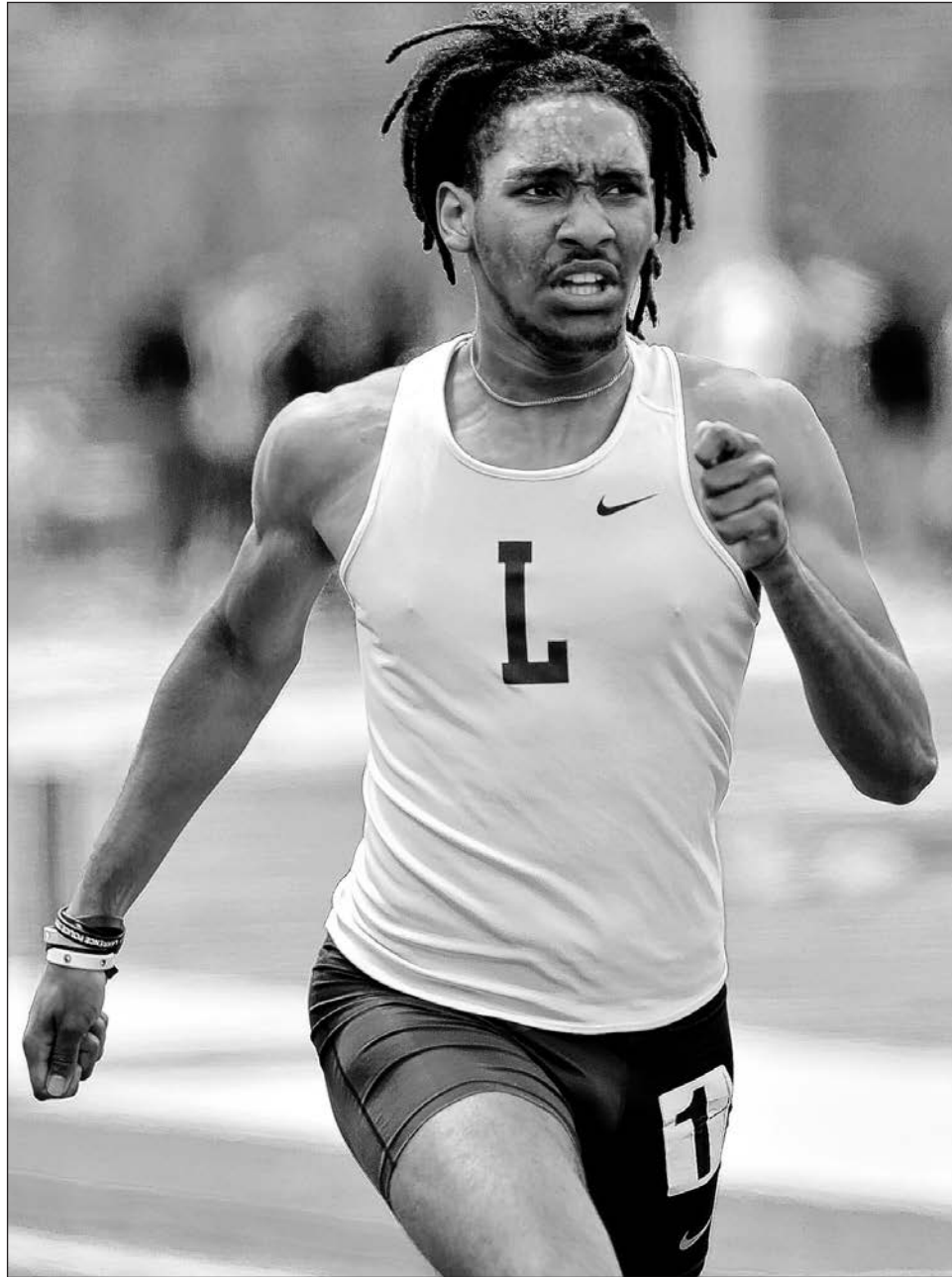
He started the spring winning the 200-meter (area-best 22.21) at the Haverhill Ottaviani Invitational, running the fastest 400-meter in Massachusetts (49.43) to take first at North Andover's MSTCA InVacational and anchoring the 4x400 relay to victory at both events (3:29.54 and 3:29.71.)

Off the track, Reinoso is ranked in the top 7 percent of his senior class, boasts a 4.17 grade-point average and is enrolled in three Advanced Placement classes.

"My success has led me to be very excited for what is yet to come," he said. "To me it's just showing that the work I've been putting in has been paying off. My goal is to leave my mark in every track meet."

Reinoso's running career began a quick 10-minute ride from Lawrence High — at Greater Lawrence Tech.

After dabbling in track as a freshman, he began to emerge for the Reggies as a sophomore, taking



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Lawrence's Cristian Reinoso competes in the 400-meter at last year's Andover Boosters Meet.

third in the 1,000 (2:47.08) and 2-mile (11:07.54) at the Commonwealth Conference Championship indoors, then placing second in the 400 (49.84) at Division 4s outdoors.

Midway through his junior year, Reinoso

transferred to Lawrence High.

"It was a very hard decision," he said. "Honestly, it took me three or so months to finally decide. My older brother attended Lawrence High and also did some track. I already had been

spending my summers running there with the coaches and doing the workouts since the summer before sophomore year. I just loved the atmosphere, and it made me love everything about running. I have loved the coaches since the first day. It



BILL BURT PHOTO

Lawrence's Cristian Reinoso is a star on the track and in the classroom. He ran the state's best 400-meter and is ranked in the top 7 percent of his senior class.

was like they understood me from the beginning, and my relationships with them and the guys made me make the switch."

Reinoso wasted no time making an impact on the Lancer track scene.

Last spring in the 400, he placed third at Meet of Champions (personal record 49.05), first at the Ottaviani Invitational (51.30), second at MVCs (49.30), third at Andover Boosters (50.84) and seventh at Division 1s (50.25).

"The 400 is like that first love," he said. "You always remember your first try running it and how it makes you feel. I was a distance runner freshman and the majority of sophomore year, so I never had to run the 400. But, I raced 400 during the championship league meet my sophomore year and loved it."

"You have to have it mentally. The race is so mentally challenging and it requires experience running it, in order to run it well."

While weighing his college — and possibly college

Super student

Lawrence High senior Cristian Reinoso is a true standout in the classroom.

Is has a 4.17 grade-point average and is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement classes — English language and composition, Spanish language and culture and psychology.

He has earned the Seal Of Biliiteracy (proficiency in two or more languages) and the Rising Star Award for personal excellence as a student-athlete.

He named Franklin Pierce and UMass Dartmouth as his top college choices.

track — options, Reinoso hopes to make even more noise as he closes out his high school career.

"My goals for the rest of the spring are to first break 49 seconds in the 400 and qualify for nationals, which would be under 48.5," he said. "I also would like to run under 3:21 in the 4x400 relay with my teammates."

VALLEY REVOLT

Minute men answered the alarm on precipice of Revolutionary War

By Terry Date

» Staff Writer

NORTH ANDOVER — The Revolutionary War reenactors, toting muskets and powder horns, stood in the dooryard of the Parson Barnard House on a soggy April morning.

Minutemen Alexander Cain, Bob Allegretto and Tyler Mortenson pointed beyond Court Street to Academy Road, about 300 yards away.

There, near the Kittredge Farm and site of the old North Parish Meeting House, on another soggy morning 250 years ago, April 19, 1775, Capt. Thomas Poor mustered his company of 50 Andover minutemen, said Cain, a Revolutionary War historian.

Poor's men were young, mostly 15 to 25 years old.

They and some 350 other minutemen and militia members in the North and South parishes of Andover (then one town) answered the alarm on April 19.

Andover was part of the 4th Essex Regiment and marched in pursuit of British regulars, redcoats, who had fired upon and killed colonists in the Battle of Concord and Lexington that morning.

The 250th anniversary of the American Revolution's start arrived April 19.

In Lexington and Concord, smoke rose from musket fire and troops in frock coats and tricorne hats fell as part of a daylong commemoration of the 250th.

Meanwhile, the North Andover and Andover historical societies hosted bus tours April 19, part of ongoing programs and exhibits celebrating local contributions to the Revolutionary War.

In a recent talk at the North Andover Historical Society, Cain told of the rise



North Andover Historical Society educator David Blauvelt, center, stands in the doorway of the Parson Barnard House as Revolutionary War reenactors Tyler Mortenson, left, and Alex Cain visit the home.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

of the Merrimack Valley's minutemen in the Revolutionary War.

The area's response on April 19, 1775 and contributions to the cause thereafter had been the result not just of tumultuous events but training and preparation, Cain said.

On April 19, 1775, area

militia companies in Andover and Methuen, Haverhill, Bradford and Boxford rallied to the colony's defense when redcoats marched into Lexington and Concord intent on removing stores of gunpowder and arms.

Methuen and Haverhill appear to have been the first two towns in northern

Essex County to form militias prepared to fight the British, Cain said.

In late 1774 and into 1775, towns from Amesbury to Andover and beyond were hiring military drill instructors to assemble fighting units.

A popular hire among the towns was George Marsden,



Alexander Cain, an author, speaks in the Worden Theater about "The Rise of the Merrimack Valley Minute Men" at the North Andover Historical Society.

a smart, experienced British deserter who lived in Haverhill, Cain said.

Haverhill was known to have been a popular landing spot for British deserters.

More and more Merrimack Valley residents and those elsewhere in the colony felt their rights as British subjects were being stripped away and resentment grew.

The crown and royal authorities had responded to acts of Colonial defiance, including dumping tea, by closing the port of Boston, quartering troops in Colonial buildings, and taking control of the gunpowder and arms of the Colonial government.

The newly formed Massachusetts Provincial Congress encouraged the colony's towns to prepare a response to British aggression.

Members of the 4th Essex Regiment — militias in Andover, Methuen, Haverhill, Bradford, Boxford, Amesbury and Salisbury — voted out the loyalist commander from Haverhill, Richard Saltonstall, and elected Samuel Johnson from the South Parish

of Andover to take the reins, Cain said.

Minutemen companies formed to train to respond at a moment's notice.

The towns gathered and reconditioned bayonets, and stockpiled gunpowder and arms.

Andover issued an order requiring anyone with bayonets to turn them in to be distributed to minute men who needed them. Residents made cartridges, cartridge boxes, leather bags and other items soldiers needed.

Companies drilled on town commons and coordinated surveillance and communication plans.

At 7 a.m. on April 19 in Andover, church bells rang the alarm after word had arrived by horseback that the British were to the south.

At 5 a.m. in Lexington, far outnumbered Colonial militiamen stood against British infantry on the Lexington common and eight of the Colonials were killed.

The Andover bells signaled minutemen and other militia to gather, get their orders and march with the

SEE REVOLUTION, PAGE S15



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567 Lynnway, Lynn, MA • 781 Lynnway - Walmart, Lynn, MA

» Revolution

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4th Essex Regiment.

The mood among Poor's company and other troops in town was likely solemn with an undercurrent of fear, Cain said.

"This was a culmination of the belief that England was trying to force Massachusetts into a war in order to enslave them," Cain said.

"This was a sad, sad time." Families worried for the lives of their departing husbands, sons and brothers; and likely feared British troops coming to Essex County.

At 10 a.m. on April 19, the Essex 4th Regiment marched south from Andover headed for Concord, some 25 miles away.

The regiment marched to Tewksbury, Billerica and Bedford, receiving battle updates along the way.

The regiment, about 4 or 5 miles behind, pursued the British as they retreated to Boston and the regiment witnessed the aftermath of the fighting.

A regiment soldier, James Stevens of Andover, noted the death and destruction in his diary.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Author Alexander Cain makes a point while speaking in the Worden Theater about "The Rise of the Merrimack Valley Minute Men" at the North Andover Historical Society.

It's part of the collections at the North Andover Historical Society, where educator David Blauvelt and linguist Antoine Trombino-Ponte have installed a multimedia exhibit that includes Ponte's reading of Stevens' diary entries in his voice based on phonetic spellings and period pronunciations.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

A surgical instrument case, 1750 to 1800, used by Dr. Thomas Kittredge to store his surgical instruments. The case would have helped to keep his tools safe and clean during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

At the end of the day on April 19, the fighting along Bay Road from Boston to Concord, 16 miles, involved some 1,700 British regulars and over 4,000 Colonial militia, according to Minute Man National Park in Concord.

British casualties totaled 273; 73 killed, 174 wounded, 26 missing, the park states.

Colonial casualties totaled 95; 49 killed, 41 wounded and 5 missing, the park states.

The fighting on the 19th led to the Colonists' siege of Boston, sealing the British off in the city.

Andover minutemen and militias took part in the siege and two months later

fought on Bunker Hill.

Andover troops were in the thick of Bunker Hill and five of them were killed and 11 wounded.

"This is Andover's Lexington," Cain said, comparing the 16 deaths and casualties from Andover to the 10 dead and 10 wounded Lexington suffered at the

war's start.

Also to be remembered, Cain said, is the sacrifice Haverhill made on April 19, 1775.

Two days earlier, a massive fire on Water Street destroyed buildings and left people homeless.

But on April 19, they responded to an alarm that would help birth the country.

"They assembled in the shadows of their town and marched off," Cain said.

Reenactors Allegretto and Mortenson, both North Andover residents, portray Lexington minutemen (Cain is the group's historian) as well as 4th Essex Regiment members.

On April 19, they took part in Battle of Lexington and Concord 250th commemorative events in those towns.

Mortenson portrayed Lexington militia drummer William Diamond.

Drummers and fifers had key roles in the war.

They set the marching pace and boosted morale playing popular songs, and, on the battlefield, they stood by commanders and relayed firing and other instructions with drum beats, Mortenson said.

» Walters

Continued from Page S6

to cut \$106 million from Massachusetts schools. More bricks removed from the wall.

Programs for students with physical, intellectual, social or emotional challenges make up a

growing part of school budgets each year, and schools are legally bound to provide and fund them. So, too, are items like transportation and heating buildings, which fluctuate wildly with the cost of fuel and therefore are difficult to predict. Families heating their homes and driving to work understand that.

With the federal Department of Education shrinking, along with its funding, states are struggling to make up some of the difference. And with communities like North Andover locked in their own financial challenges, schools will continue to run deficits and make cuts as they try very hard to make ends meet.

The reality is that

people – staff members – make up 80-plus percent of a typical school department's budget, and so they get laid off when there is a financial crisis. There simply isn't enough to cut elsewhere.

It's hard to see students walking out in protest of teacher layoffs as North Andover High School students recently did. But, as

community members and voters, we need to understand how and why it's happening. It's not a result of "waste, corruption, or inefficiency," as some would have us believe. And it's unacceptable to tell parents of first-graders that "hopefully, by the time they're in fifth grade, we'll have fixed the problem."

In short, we've put schools

in legal straitjackets and told them to make it work.

Tom Walters is a retired music teacher and school arts administrator. He retired as Fine Arts Director for the Methuen Public Schools, and is a past president of the MA Music Educators Association. He lives in Londonderry, and has a blog: imthinkingno.com. Reach him at tomwalters729@gmail.com.

» MacLeod

Continued from Page S7

a college degree within six years of graduating high school, while Black, Latino, and low-income students have just a 20% chance of achieving the same goal.

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credits, which equates to a full year of college.

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national average cost. Expanding Early College to more students will make college more affordable, increasing the likelihood that students will enroll and complete their degree.

Early College has been proven to be a valuable, yet

often untapped, resource for Massachusetts students and I want to see this opportunity extended to all students.

Carrigan MacLeod is a graduate of Haverhill High School '23 and Northern Essex Community College '24. She is currently attending the

University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she studies biology with a minor in biomedical technology. She hopes to pursue a career in biological research and is also an Early College Policy Fellow with the Massachusetts Alliance for Early College.

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