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18 Pages

For heat pump, electrical panel upgrades...

RMLD unveiling two new rebates

READING - Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) unveiled two new rebates to support its electrification efforts during a homeowner information session at the Lynnfield Library last week.

Electrification is best described as the movement to produce electricity with carbon-free and renewable resources and then to power items efficiently with this electricity.

To encourage local electrification efforts, RMLD offers a series of rebates and other incentive programs, the newest of which will be further detailed during three other "Homeowner Info Sessions" scheduled for the month of March.

The rebates, which will go into effect on April 1, 2020, include:

Updated Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate:

Air-Source heat pumps are an efficient technology to heat and cool a home and offer many advantages over traditional oil, propane, or electric resistance systems including cost savings, im-

proved efficiency, and reduced carbon emissions.

RMLD is expanding its existing heat pump rebate to offer more attractive incentives to customers with the goal of reducing carbon emissions. A central heat pump will be rebated at \$750. Rebates for mini-split heat pumps will be based on the size of the system as well as the fuel type that is being replaced.

Customers replacing oil, propane, or electric resistance heat with a qualifying mini-split will be eligible for a rebate of \$1,000 per ton. Customers replacing an existing mini-split heat pump with a new qualifying mini-split heat pump will be eligible for a rebate of \$200 per ton. An additional \$500 rebate will be available for customers who add integrated controls to their new central or mini-split heat pump to achieve an even higher level of efficiency.

No rebate is to exceed 50% of total installation costs, and systems must meet established efficiency

REBATES on page A2



TECHNOLOGY WHIZZES - Local kids were challenged to think like engineers and scientists during this year's First Lego League challenge at the Coolidge Middle School on Saturday. Those bestowed winning honors included the Coolidge Middle School's 'Skyscraper Innovations', which was made by (above l to r) Justin Currin, Graham Goodwin, Caleb McGonagle, Jason & Alex Zhang and Connor Difiore.



THE JOSHUA EATON MIDDLE SCHOOL also captured top honors for the 'Rockin Robots' submission by (left: l to r) Charlie Barden, Max & Caroline Yoder, Juliet Chin, Jack Prescott, Devlin Murphy & Colin Herlihy with Carl Andrews (rear). The First Lego League was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, an inventor looking to spark national youth interest in science and robotics technology. (David Maroney photos)

Juul Labs sought to court state AGs as teenagers' vaping habits surged

By MATTHEW PERRONE and RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a blunt warning about the dangers of youth vaping: Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr announced late last month that his state had joined 38 others to investigate whether Juul Labs, the nation's largest electronic cigarette company, promoted and sold its nicotine-heavy products to teens.

It was a moment Juul had worked to avoid.

Ten months earlier, a team of Juul representatives met with Carr and his senior staff. They delivered a 17-page presentation laden with information about the public health potential of Juul's combustion-free vaping devices for adult smokers and the company's "commitment to ending youth use," a pledge that included more rigorous retail and online

VAPING on page A9

As MSBA process continues...

Northeast Metro Tech will soon host 'visioning sessions' for new school

WAKEFIELD-- Superintendent David DiBarri is pleased to share that Northeast Metro Tech recently held three educational vi-

sioning sessions regarding a potential building project.

Northeast Metro Tech was invited to take part in a feasibility study with the

Massachusetts School Building Authority in April 2019 for a building project which would replace the current school building. Northeast Metro Tech currently operates out of a more than 50-year-old building in significant need of classroom space more conducive to modern learning, as well as capital and maintenance improvements.

A group of approximately 30 Northeast Metro Tech educators, students, administrators, School Committee members, Advisory Board members, parents and architects volunteered to take part in the sessions, which were held on Thursday, Feb. 20, Monday, Feb. 24, and Tuesday, Feb. 26 at the school. Frank Locker, a national ex-

pert in planning public schools, facilitated the sessions.

"As we work to define what this building would look like, it was incredibly insightful to hear from the variety of stakeholders we were able to gather for these sessions," Superintendent DiBarri said. "This has the potential to be an incredibly exciting chapter for Northeast Metro Tech, and we're looking forward to the next steps in this process."

Participants took part in three-hour workshops each day, where they reviewed research in education and example school facilities in order to collectively define the most effective methods of teaching and learning, as

NE METRO on page A2

Reading Notebook

Town officials direct citizens to COVID-19 info

By MAC CERULLO

READING - Over the past few weeks, town officials have been monitoring the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and making preparations for the virus' possible appearance in Reading. An Emergency Operations Center including all town departments, the school and light departments and Austin Prep has been created and will hold a series of planning and response meetings over the coming weeks, and last week officials also took part in a statewide call led by the Mass Department of Public Health on the virus.

As part of the response, the town has created a new coronavirus information page on the town's website, with direct links to the Centers for Disease Control's COVID-19 page, the Mass DPH's page, printable fact sheets and other pertinent information for Reading residents.

"We are at a low-risk situation currently, but we don't know what the future

holds. At this stage, we suggest that all residents and businesses become familiar with the literature provided through these links, wash your hands frequently, and work with your employer to be able to stay home if you are sick. If residents don't feel well, they should contact their own health care provider or medical facility," said Town Manager Bob LeLacheur. "Town services are not currently impacted, and we will be sure to advise the community should that situation change."

The town's coronavirus webpage can be found at <https://www.readingma.gov/public-health-services/news/information-on-novel-coronavirus-outbreak>.

Recycling Enforcement
Due to recent changes in the worldwide recycling markets, Reading's curbside trash and recycling vendor, JRM, will begin enforcing strict compliance with recycling collection starting on

NOTEBOOK on page

CHRONICLED

Friday, March 6, 2020
Suspicious Person

4:22 am: Police received reports of a man with a backpack walking down the street at an early hour near the corner of Highland Street and Lowell Street.

Hazards

7:20 am: Police came across several discarded vape pens lying around on the Parker Middle School property.

Car Accident

8:43 am: An officer came across a minor car accident at the corner of Lincoln Street and Washington Street.

Vehicle Theft

9:54 am: A motorist came to the station to report that someone may have stolen their vehicle from 177 Main St.

Suspicious People

1:03 pm: Police received reports that a woman was arguing with other customers at the Shell gas station on Walkers Brook Drive.

Car Accident

2:17 pm: Police received reports of a car accident by the Reading Co-op Bank on Haven Street. There were unknown injuries reported at the scene.

Traffic Enforcement

CHRONICLED on page A2

Inside today's Reading Chronicle

Reading High students
conduct mock trial
page A9

Astrograph.....	B6	Deaths.....	A8	Sports.....	B1-B4
Bridge.....	B6	Find It Quick.....	B8	TV/Lottery.....	B6
Classified.....	B7	Lifestyle.....	B8	Weather.....	A10
Comics.....	B5	Job Mart.....	B7		
Crossword.....	B5	Opinion.....	A6		



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• Chronicled (Continued from Page A1)

3:54 pm: An officer ticketed a motorist following a traffic stop at the corner of West Street and Palmer Hill Ave.
Road Hazard

6:59 pm: Police were notified that a highway sign had fallen down from the I-93 overpass above West Street and was lying in the road.

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Noise Complaint

4:43 am: Police received a complaint from a Strout Avenue resident regarding a barking dog nearby that was disturbing residents in the area.

Road Hazard

9:08 am: Police received reports that a large tree limb and wires had fallen into the roadway along Pearl Street.

Vehicle Complaint

10:34 am: Police responded to reports of a traffic backup forming on Main Street with people trying to get into the parking lot at Bagel World.

Loose Dog

12:26 pm: Police were notified that a blonde labradoodle was running around loose in the Castine Field area by Birch Meadow Drive.

Theft

8:10 pm: Police spoke to a resident who complained that he had not received his vehicle that he'd paid for.

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Suspicious Person

3:33 am: Police spoke to a taxi driver who reported that a customer was refusing to pay a fare after being dropped off at Archstone Circle.

Illegal Parking

10:58 am: Police received complaints that several vehicles were blocking the sidewalk along northern Main Street.

Dog Complaint

1:50 pm: Police received a complaint reporting that several violent dogs were in the Pearl Street area.

Car Accident

2:05 pm: Police received reports of a two-car accident at the Schoolhouse Condos on Sanborn Street. There were no injuries reported at the scene.

Traffic Enforcement

9:14 pm: An officer ticketed a motorist following a traffic stop by the railroad tracks on Willow Street.

• NE Metro (Continued from Page A1)

well as school facility designs to best serve future generations of career-technical students.

The workshop sessions included slide and video presentations, small group work and discussions with the entire group.

Information gathered during the sessions will be used by the district to create an educational plan, which will be part of the final MSBA feasibility study for the project. The feasibility study is expected to be completed by fall 2021.



A GRAND PRODUCTION - RMHS' Drama Club officers Renee Haley, Dan Chin, Owen Lannon, Hannah Shapiro and Ashley Spear take a brief breather during a dress rehearsal of "A View From The Bridge" at RMHS's Performing Arts Center. The production, directed by Catherine Bertrand, is based off of Arthur Miller's famous drama. (David Maroney photo)

• Rebates

(Continued from Page A1)

requirements to be eligible. This rebate is open to all customer classes. RMLD rebate pre-approval is required for systems over 5-tons.

Residential Electrical Panel Upgrade Rebate:

This rebate will support residential customers who may need to upgrade their electrical panel to a higher amperage to accommodate additional load from electrification activities such as installing an EV charging station, heat pump, or other electrical equipment. Customers upgrading

their electrical panel will be eligible for rebates of \$300 for a 100-amp, \$500 for a 200-amp, and \$750 for a 400-amp. Both standard and smart panels are eligible. As with the heat pump incentives, no rebate is to exceed 50% of total installation costs.

The RMLD is thanking the Reading Climate Advisory Committee for suggesting this new and innovative Electrical Panel Upgrade Program which aligns with RMLD's electrification efforts. For more information on

eligible equipment and program requirements, please visit <https://www.rmld.com/home/news/rmld-announces-electrification-rebates>.

In addition to offering rebates that support electrification, RMLD's stewardship is focused on supplying its electrification efforts with non-carbon resources from its power supply portfolio.

Customers interested in attending a homeowner info session to learn more about these rebates and other RMLD programs may visit

<http://www.rmld.com/home/pages/homeowner-info-sessions> to review available dates and register.

These info sessions are a great opportunity for both new and experienced homeowners to learn about their electrical service and RMLD programs.

RMLD customers who rent are also welcome. Light refreshments will be served, and each attendee will receive a complimentary LED light bulb.

• Notebook

(Continued from Page A1)

April 1.

"If JRM crews see even one unacceptable item in a recycling bin, they have been instructed by JRM not to collect it at all. If, while emptying a bin crews find unacceptable items, they will immediately stop and leave the remaining items at the curb," said Reading DPW Director Jane Kinsella. "Bins with uncollected items will be stickered and left curbside, and residents will be asked to remove any unacceptable items. Drivers will not be sorting curbside. If recycling is left behind, it will be picked up by JRM on the following week's collection schedule. Reading DPW staff cannot pick

up recycling that was left by JRM."

Unacceptable items include unclean pizza boxes, napkins, tissues, toilet paper, soiled paper wrappers, plastic bags, plastic wrap, newspaper sleeves and plastic film. No Styrofoam, window glass or mirrors, light bulbs or ceramics will be collected either.

DRAW Together Workshop

Over the next few months, local artists are invited to take part in the ongoing series of DRAW Together Workshops that will be held in the Senior Center on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

The informal workshops will allow artists to drop in and create art that will be used in the upcoming 2020 DRAW 01867 Art Walk. The sessions will be held in the Senior Center's Arts and Crafts room from 1 to 3 p.m., and the next session will be on Wednesday, March 18.

The following meetings are scheduled this week and are open to the public:

Today:
Trails Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Berger Room.

Board of Library Trustees, 7 p.m., Reading Public Library, History Room.

Cultural Council, 7 p.m., Senior Center, Arts and Crafts Room.

Community Planning and Development Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room.

Tuesday:
Board of Cemetery Trustees, 6 p.m., Town Hall, Berger Room.

Special Education Parents Advisory Council, 7 p.m., RMHS, School Library.

Town Forest Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Lower

Level Conference Room.

Board of Health, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room.

Bylaw Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Conference Room.

Wednesday:
Parker Middle School, 5:30 p.m., Parker Middle School, Conference Room.

Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room.

Climate Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., Senior Center, Great Room.

Historical Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room.

Board of Library Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room.

Mac Cerullo is a correspondent for the Reading Chronicle and the Sports Editor for The Daily News of Newburyport. If you have any events that you'd like published in the notebook, please contact Mac at macerullo1@gmail.com. Follow Mac on Twitter at [@MacCerullo](https://twitter.com/MacCerullo). Governor Charlie Baker yesterday,

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Mary R. (Zaccone) Cail

Reading resident, formerly of Stoneham

READING - Mary R. (Zaccone) Cail, beloved wife the late Philip N. Cail, beloved wife the late Philip N. Cail. Born in Stoneham, she is the daughter of the late Guy T. and Fanny (Stoniolo) Zaccone.

Mary is the devoted mother of Phillip M. Cail and Tony Cail and his wife Kathleen. Cherished grandmother of Shannon Cail and her partner Jason, Amanda Cail, Nathaniel Cail and his wife Erin, Jillian (Cail) Hazelton and her husband Bryan and Tyler Cail and his wife Kayla and great grandmother of six great grandchildren.

Loving daughter of the late Guy and Fanny (Stoniolo) Zaccone. Loving sister of June (Zacconi) Pinato and her husband Edward and Rosalie (Zacconi) Malonson and her husband Michael.

She is also the aunt to many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral from the Doherty-Barile Family Fu-

neral Home, 11 Linden St., Reading, on Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 at 9am, followed by a funeral mass celebrating Mary's Eternal Life at St. Agnes Church, 186 Woburn St., Reading at 10 am. Interment will follow in Charles Lawn Memorial Park, Reading. Family and friends are cordially invited to gather and share memories with Mary's Family in the funeral home on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 from 4 to 8pm. Memorial contributions may be made in Mary's Family to the Reading Food Pantry, Town Hall, 16 Lowell St., Reading, MA 01867.

For information, directions and to leave an online condolence www.barilefuneral.com and for further information www.facebook.com/BarileFamilyFuneralHome. Doherty-Barile Family Funeral Home Celebrating Life~Sharing Memories 781.944.1589

DEATH NOTICES

CALI - Mary R. (Zaccone), of Reading, formerly of Stoneham. Beloved wife the late Philip N. Cail, beloved wife the late Philip N. Cail. Born in Stoneham, she is the daughter of the late Guy T. and Fanny (Stoniolo) Zaccone. Mary is the devoted mother of Phillip M. Cail and Tony Cail and his wife Kathleen. Cherished grandmother of Shannon Cail and her partner Jason, Amanda Cail, Nathaniel Cail and his wife Erin, Jillian (Cail) Hazelton and her husband Bryan and Tyler Cail and his wife Kayla and great grandmother of six great grandchildren. Loving daughter of the late Guy and Fanny (Stoniolo) Zaccone. Loving sister of June (Zacconi) Pinato and her husband Edward and Rosalie (Zacconi) Malonson and her husband Michael. She is also the aunt to many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral from the Doherty-Barile Family Funeral Home, 11 Linden St., Reading, on Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 at 9am, followed by a funeral mass celebrating Mary's Eternal Life at St. Agnes Church, 186 Woburn St., Reading at 10am. Interment will follow in Charles Lawn Memorial Park, Reading. Family and friends are cordially invited to gather and share memories with Mary's Family in the funeral home on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 from 4 to 8pm. Memorial contributions may be made in Mary's Family to the Reading Food Pantry, Town Hall, 16 Lowell St., Reading, MA 01867. For information, directions and to leave an online condolence www.barilefuneral.com and for further information www.facebook.com/BarileFamilyFuneralHome. Doherty-Barile Family Funeral Home Celebrating Life~Sharing Memories 781.944.1589

Remembered for devotion to her family... Diane Forsythe, 74, was very family oriented

BURLINGTON - Diane L. Forsythe of Burlington, formerly of Newton and Waltham, passed away suddenly at Winchester Hospital on March 6th after a brief illness while surrounded by her loving family. She was 74 years old.

Diane was extremely family oriented, who was known for her quick wit, storytelling and passion for music; always making sure that her nieces and nephews were just as familiar with the music as she was. She took great joy in hosting, cooking, and decorating for all the holidays.

Traveling was a passion for Diane, and she enjoyed arraigning her "girls" weekends and other trips with her large group of friends. Diane loved all of her jobs throughout her career but found great pleasure in working at the Winchester Hospital gift shop, where she worked up until her passing. She



Diane L. Forsythe

left a lasting impact with everyone she crossed paths with.

Diane was the beloved daughter of the late Thomas and Genevieve Forsythe.

Loving sister of Mary of Burlington, Thomas and his wife Carla of Tewksbury, Sandra Sparrow & her husband Wayne of Lexington, Donna of Billerica, James and his wife Mofarah of Providence, RI and the late Jean. Diane is also survived by 10

nieces and nephews and 9 great nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held at the Edward V. Sullivan Funeral Home located at 43 Winn St., Burlington (Exit 34 off Rt. 128/95 Woburn side) on Tuesday, March 10 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will begin on Wednesday, March 11 at 9 a.m. at the Sullivan Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will begin at 10 a.m. at St. Margaret's Church located at 111 Winn St., Burlington. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. The burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Diane's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 www.stjude.org. For directions, obituary & online guestbook see www.sullivanfuneralhome.net & www.stmargaretburlington.org

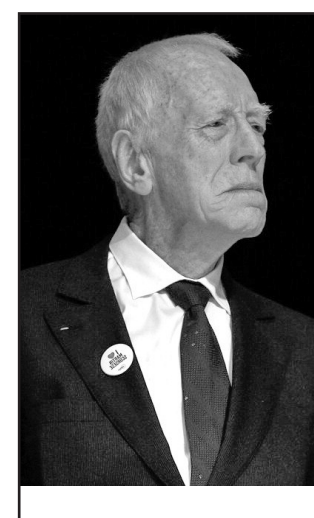
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Lovingly Remembered and Sadly Missed,
Your Wife, Carol

'Exorcist' actor Max von Sydow dies at age 90 in Paris, France



MAX VON SYDOW

His agent Jean Diamond said Monday the actor, who was born in Sweden but became a French citizen in 2002, died the previous day in France.

From his 1949 screen debut in the Swedish film "Only a Mother," von Sydow starred in close to 200 film and TV productions, remaining active well into his 80s. He received two Academy Award nominations — for best actor in 1988 for his gripping portrayal of an impoverished farmer in "Pelle the Conqueror," and best supporting actor in 2012 for his role as a mute in "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close." More recently, he received an Emmy nomination for his work as the Three-Eyed Raven in HBO's "Game of Thrones."

He made his Hollywood debut as Jesus in the 1965 film "The Greatest Story Ever Told," but gained widespread international fame as the devil-evicting priest in William Friedkin's controversial 1973 film "The Exorcist."

Tall and lanky, with sullen blue eyes, a narrow face, pale complexion and a deep and accented speaking voice, von Sydow was often typecast in Hollywood as the sophisticated villain.

While his characters were often sinister, tormented or evil, the soft-spoken von Sydow said he became an actor to overcome his own shyness.

"I was a very shy boy when I was a kid," he said in an Associated Press interview. "When I started acting in an amateur group in high school, although I wasn't aware of it at the time, I suddenly got a tool in my hand that was wonderful. I was allowed to express all kinds of strange things

that I never dared to express before. Now I could do it with the character as a shield, as a defense, and as an excuse.

"I think that for many years I used my profession as some kind of a mental therapy."

Von Sydow was born April 10, 1929, into a family of academics in the southern Swedish city of Lund. He was baptized Carl Adolf von Sydow, but later changed his first name to Max, saying his given name was "not a good name" after World War II.

Although his family was not interested in theater, he said his father was a master of telling adventure stories that fueled his imagination as a child. He decided he wanted to be an actor and formed a theater society with his friends after seeing his first play, William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at age 14.

He studied at the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm and acted in small municipality theaters in Sweden for eight years — an experience he later described as crucial for his career.

"I'm very grateful to the schooling I had in Sweden because in order to learn acting you have to work, work, work," he said. "I think I owe very much to those years."

It was during this period he first met Bergman. In addition to "The Seventh Seal," he would star in 10 other Bergman films, including "The Magician," "The Virgin Spring" and "Wild Strawberries," and develop a close relationship with Sweden's most famous moviemaker. Von Sydow married Swedish actress Christina Olin in 1951 and had two sons, Clas and Henrik. The couple later divorced and he married French filmmaker Catherine Brelet in 1997, with whom he had two more sons, Yvan and Cedric.

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6th Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



June (McGilvray) Moules
Jan. 28, 1960-March 9, 2014

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you
And whispered, "Come to Me".

With tearful eyes we watched you
And saw you pass away.
And although we loved you dearly
We could not make you stay.

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He only takes the best.

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On March 11...

State Senator Jason Lewis to host forum on transportation

BOSTON, MA - Continuing his "Community Conversations" discussion series, Senator Jason Lewis is pleased to host an upcoming conversation on policy strategies to address the Commonwealth's transportation and commuting challenges. Community Conversations are issue discussions delving into a different timely topic at each forum, with ample opportunity for residents to share feedback and have their questions answered by experts on the given topic.

This upcoming event — Community Conversations: What Will It Take to Fix Transportation in Greater Boston? — will take place on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30pm. The event will occur at the Malden High School Gallery, 77 Salem Street, Malden, MA and is free and open to the public. Malden High School is easily reached by public transportation on the MBTA Orange Line and local public bus lines.

The program will begin with a presentation from Senator Lewis, the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and the Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, discussing the results of a survey his office recently conducted to learn more about attitudes towards transportation systems and commuting from residents of the Fifth Middlesex District. Senator Lewis will also discuss pending transportation proposals in the Legislature.

Attendees will also hear from Chris Dempsey, the Director of the Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA) advocacy coalition, and Erin Wortman, President of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town of Stoneham. There will be ample time for audience questions and community feedback.

With questions about the event, please contact Senator Lewis's office at (617) 722-1206 or Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov. You can RSVP to the Facebook event at facebook.com/SenJasonLewis. All are welcome to attend.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Transportation for Massachusetts, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson, Melrose Mayor Paul Brodeur, State Representative Paul Donato, State Representative Steve Ultrino, the Melrose Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee, Walkable Reading, and the Stoneham Transportation Advisory Committee.

Previous "Community Conversations" forums have addressed topics including: public education; public transportation; small business and entrepreneurship; challenges facing senior citizens and caregivers; veterans' issues; mental health; housing; sustainability and environmental priorities; and efforts to combat substance abuse and opioid addiction in our region.

Read with a buddy at Reading's Library

READING - The Reading Public Library invites children and teens of the community to participate in its spring Book Mates program. Book Mates is a reading buddy program partnering 1st through 4th grade children with a teen volunteer. The goal of the program is to give children the opportunity to practice the skill of reading with an attentive teen and have fun at the same time!

Online applications accepted March 1-15 for interested children (grades 1-4) and teens (grades 6-12) wanting to volunteer. Sessions begin in April on Thursday afternoons. To learn more and apply visit <https://libcal.readingpl.org/event/6116540> or call the library at 781-944-0840.



READING LAW AND ORDER - Gathering in front of the Woburn District Courthouse for RMHS' mock trial event are (L-R) Kylie Encarnacao, Maura Drummey, Alyssa Papantonakis, Hannah Korwan, Kelly Fitzgerald, Thomas Cahill, Jessica Busick, Anthony DiSpena, Bridget Parks, Brendan Manning, and Jennifer Wheeler.

RMHS students square off in mock trial

READING - The Reading Memorial High School Mock Trial team recently completed its competition schedule against other schools that make up District 21 of the Massachusetts Bar Association's annual mock trial competition.

Though this year's team lost its three matches against St. John's Prep of Danvers, The Academy at Penguin Hall of Hamilton, and North Andover High School, every match was close. The team fell short on the Bar Association's scorecard, but judges did rule, in several instances, that they had argued their case convincingly under the guidelines of the law.

This year, mock trial participants

from around the state considered a case study that involved a civil complaint made against a fictitious high school by a student who believed that his rights of free speech, under the First Amendment, and due process, under the Fourteenth Amendment, had been violated by the school. Over the course of their three matches, RMHS students presented both the case for the plaintiff and the case for the defense. The activity provided a rich exercise in reading, writing, public speaking, and civics.

This year's team was led by seniors Maura Drummey and Hannah Korwan, who took the lead in recruiting team members, planning meet-

ings, and coaching new members of the team. The rest of the team included seniors Anthony DiSpena, Kelly Fitzgerald, and Alyssa Papantonakis; juniors Haley Aborn, Jessica Busick, Thomas Cahill, Riley Murphy, Bridget Parks, and Jennifer Wheeler; sophomore Kylie Encarnacao; and freshman Brendan Manning. Local attorney Scott Seidorn volunteered his time to consult with the team as they prepared for their trials.

Returning members are already looking forward to next year's case. They invite any interested students, with or without experience, to join the RMHS Mock Trial team in the fall.

• Vaping

sales controls.

Juul had access, but it did not pay off. In that way, the company's experience in Georgia was typical. Again and again, the company met with Carr and other state attorneys general, in many cases giving money to their campaign funds. But again and again, it was stymied in its efforts to forestall legal action.

The session in Carr's Atlanta offices and meetings with other state AGs haven't been previously reported. The Associated Press uncovered the influence campaign by reviewing Juul's political donations and obtaining internal emails, meeting minutes and company records through open records requests to more than a dozen state attorneys general offices.

The documents shed new light on the unusual connection Juul forged with Iowa's Tom Miller, the longest-serving state attorney general in U.S. history. The records show that Miller served as a behind-the-scenes adviser, helping the company respond to media requests and inquiries from government officials. Miller did not receive campaign contributions from Juul.

The documents also provide new details about the advocacy roles that

the former attorneys general of Massachusetts and Rhode Island have played for the company, including lobbying state officials. All three would become important messengers as Juul stressed its efforts to keep its products away from minors while simultaneously pitching its technology as an anti-smoking tool.

Juul's political action committee made thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to individual state attorneys general, several of whom like Carr later met with the company's representatives, according to the records. Katie Byrd, Carr's spokeswoman, said a \$3,000 contribution Juul's PAC made to Carr's 2018 reelection campaign wasn't a factor in his decision to accept the meeting.

The company also donated \$50,000 each to the Republican and Democratic fundraising committees that support the election of attorneys general candidates. Those donations won Juul corporate membership in both groups, a status that came with invitations to semiannual retreats and conferences attended by attorneys general and their staff. These events provide opportunities for companies to lobby state

officials.

The face time with state officials hasn't prevented scrutiny, however. So far nine states have filed lawsuits against Juul and more may come in the wake of the 39-state investigation, which also is examining whether the company made misleading claims about the nicotine content in its devices.

In an emailed response to written questions, a Juul spokesman declined to say how many state attorneys general company representatives have met with. Juul, the spokesman said, is working to earn "the trust of society by working cooperatively with attorneys general, regulators" and other officials to combat teen vaping and to steer adult smokers away from cigarettes.

The spokesman said Juul reached out to Miller and donated to other attorneys general to "listen and learn" from them on a range of issues, including cracking down on counterfeit vaping products.

Teen use of e-cigarettes has skyrocketed more than 70% since Juul's launch in 2015, leading the Food and Drug Administration to declare an epidemic of underage vaping among teenagers. Health experts fear this unprecedented increase has

from Page A1

hooked a generation of young people on nicotine, a highly addictive drug that is harmful to the developing brain. More than 1 in 4 high schoolers now reports vaping and Juul is the top brand, preferred by 60 percent of students, according to the latest government data.

"Juul really created this crisis," said Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former Food and Drug Administration commissioner. "Juul created the pool of nicotine-addicted teens and I think they popularized the idea of vaping among kids."

During Gottlieb's tenure, the FDA raided Juul's San Francisco headquarters, seizing more than 1,000 documents related to the company's early sales and marketing efforts, including online promotions featuring young models and celebrities on social media sites like Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Juul's meteoric rise has been followed by a hasty retreat in recent months, amid a nationwide backlash over vaping. Although Juul remains the dominant player in the multibillion-dollar e-cigarette market, the company has made several concessions such as pulling its mint, fruit and creme flavors from the market.

Letters to the Editor

Please send to:
reading@dailytimesinc.com

Or mail to:
1 Arrow Drive, Woburn

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The pill you take at a party or buy on the street could be fake and could contain deadly chemicals.