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King-size comfort

UTECH moves mattress recycling operation to Ward Hill

By **Jonah Frangiosa**
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HAVERHILL — Old mattresses are finding new purposes, and the warehouse accommodating that transformation has found a new spot to call home.

UTECH has relocated and expanded its mattress recycling operation to the Ward Hill in Haverhill, increasing its capacity to serve more than 40 cities and towns across Massachusetts.

The nonprofit announced the move to a 17,000-square-foot warehouse at 231 Neck Road Monday. The new space is 42% larger than the previous site in Lawrence, according to Gregg Croteau, CEO of UTECH.

"We gradually outgrew our previous space," said Croteau. "When the opportunity arose to transition from our Lawrence location, we were intentional about finding a new facility with room for future growth and proximity to the towns we serve, primarily in northeastern Massachusetts." UTECH's new setting includes two offices, a conference room, an open meeting space, an atrium-style common area and a staff break room. The move reflects the group's continued growth and will create new opportunities for workforce development protection in the region.

In 2014, the mattress recycling enterprise was launched, and UTECH — which stands for United Teen Equality Center — has reported the production increases each year. With the full implementation of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) waste ban in 2022, the UTECH team really started to expand its impact.

Today, UTECH recycles more than 53,000 mattresses and box springs annually. At least 85% of each mattress is diverted from the waste stream, helping reduce landfill use will support paid work training for individuals who are involved with the criminal



An employee walks by a stack of mattresses ready to be recycled at UTECH, which is moving to Haverhill.

justice system or returning from incarceration.

"Reentry is at the heart of our mattress recycling program," Carlos Collazo, UTECH's Director of Reentry, said.

"Young adults returning from incarceration gain paid work experience, build skills, and begin to rebuild their lives. Our new facility means we can create even more of these opportunities for young people ready to move forward."

The roomier space will allow for the organization to bring young adults on-site for workshops and trainings, host meetings and support staff who work directly from the facility.

"Working in UTECH's Mattress Recycling Program has been a really meaningful experience for me," said Aiden Rodriguez, a young adult working at the new Haverhill recycling center. "It's given me

the opportunity to be part of something that not only helps the environment by reducing waste, but also creates positive impacts in the community."

Now, the recycling operation is within the same city limits as UTECH's education and workforce developed program at 241 Winter St. There, young adults access transitional coaching, recreational

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HAVERHILL

Woman faces arson charges in mill fire

By **Jonah Frangiosa**
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HAVERHILL — A Haverhill woman has been arrested in connection with the massive mill fire that brought out a three-alarm response from fire departments across the region on Tuesday.

The Haverhill Police Department announced on Wednesday that Isabella Sargent, 18,

was taken into custody as part of an ongoing investigation into the blaze that erupted on Stevens Street earlier this week.

She has been charged with arson of a structure and conspiracy to commit arson. The suspect is scheduled to be arraigned in Haverhill District Court.

Emergency personnel

SEE ARSON, PAGE 2



Haverhill firefighters spray water on hot spots an empty mill complex on Stevens Street. The three-alarm overnight fire closed off several streets throughout the next day on Tuesday.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

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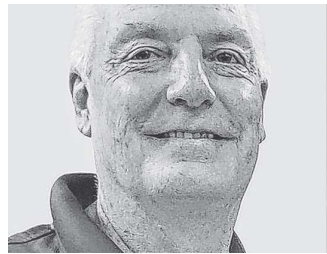
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A Time to Remember

Obituaries brought to you by
The Eagle-Tribune

Thomas Patrick Finn, 63

April 21, 2026



NEWTON, NH — Thomas Patrick Finn, 63, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday April 21, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and his three children, Regan, and twins Sean and Nicole. He was a 39-year resident of Newton, NH. Tommy was the beloved son of the late Thomas and Ann (Hayes) Finn. He leaves his three siblings, Patricia Driscoll and her husband Jim of Seabrook, NH, Mary Ellen Sullivan of Stuart, FL and his best friend Timmy Finn and his wife Robin Finn of North Andover, MA. He had many nieces and nephews, Maggie, Jake, Timmy, Annie, Thomas, Jonathan, Katelyn and Matthew. He will be deeply missed by all. He worked for Verizon, for

» UTEC

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activities and mentoring from staff members. The site also serves as a gathering place for community meetings and events, strengthening UTEC's connection to locals and community partners. "UTEC has delivered immense value to the Haverhill community, starting in 2019 when they opened an office in the city on Winter Street," said Mayor Melinda Barrett. "In 2022, they began providing mattress recycling services to the city. I am

thrilled that they will be relocating their mattress recycling facility to Haverhill, as this move will allow them to bring in more justice-involved young adults into their programming and help them achieve their goals while giving back to the community. I can't wait to tour their new facility and see UTEC's impact grow!" MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple said UTEC's operation is "essential" for protecting the environment and strengthening the local economy. "An official grand opening for the new UTEC recycling center will take place in the coming months.

Isabelle M. (Sirois) Mailloux, 100

March 28, 1926 - April 27, 2026

ANDOVER, MA — Isabelle M. (Sirois) Mailloux, 100, of Andover, passed away on April 27, 2026 at Atria Memory Care, surrounded by her loving family. Isabelle was raised in Lawrence and was the youngest daughter of the late Honore and Alvine (Ouellette) Sirois. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1944 and worked at the former Tyler Rubber Co. in Andover after graduation.

Isabelle's father, uncles, and brothers were all carpenters, and Isabelle enjoyed watching her father in his basement workshop, where she learned lots of carpentry skills. It was not unusual to see a saw or a hammer in her hands! She was also known for her crafting skills, especially her beautiful Christmas stockings that she made for all the grandchildren, and also her many woodworking skills.

In 1946, she met the love of her life, Donat "Joe" Mailloux, and they married on September 1, 1947. Together, they raised their 6 children in a house built by her brothers in Andover. She would reside in that home for 76 years. Isabelle was also proud of her French-Canadian heritage and enjoyed the yearly Sirois family outings. In later years, she enjoyed working alongside her husband, Joe, at the family business, Mailloux's Market on South Broadway in Lawrence.

She was a loving mother and a woman of faith who enjoyed sewing, crocheting, cooking, reading mysteries and doing jigsaw puzzles. She was most happy, though, surrounded by her family, which included 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend who will be missed by all.

Isabelle was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joe, in 1992 and her grandson, Joseph Nivroski, in 2023.

She is survived by her son, Leonard, and his wife, Susan, of Methuen, Daniel and his wife, Denise, of Andover,



George and his wife, Debbie, of Rockport, TX, David and his wife, Carol, of Dracut, Andrew and his wife, Francene, of Methuen and her daughter, Donna, of Andover, along with many cherished nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was also predeceased by her sister, Regina Laplume, and brothers, Emilien "Pete" Sirois, Rene Sirois, Arthur Sirois, Lionel "Fat" Sirois and Albert Sirois.

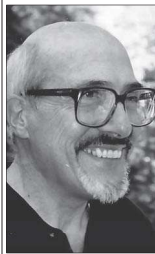
The family would like to thank the staff at Atria Memory Care for their love and support of our Mom during her stay there.

ARRANGEMENTS: Family and friends are invited to honor and celebrate Isabelle's life during calling hours on Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 4 - 7 PM at the Methuen Family Funeral Home, 233 Lawrence Street, Methuen, Massachusetts. Her funeral service will be celebrated at 10 AM on Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Andover.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Isabelle's memory may be made to Lazarus House Ministries at www.lazarushouse.org or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org. To share memories, offer words of comfort, or send an online condolence, please visit www.methuenfh.com. Methuen Family Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mailloux family.



Vincent & Leona Caruso



GROVELAND, MA — Leona C. (Gurski) Caruso, age 94, of Groveland, passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Prescott House in North Andover, with her loving family by her side.

She was born in Worcester on May 29, 1931, daughter of the late Joseph Stanley and Celia (Koniuszko) Gurski.

Leona was educated in the Worcester School System and graduated from Worcester High School with the Class of 1949. She worked many years as a Clerk for Winchester Insurance Agency in Worcester and Latham and Latham Insurance Agency in Reading.

She was an avid seamstress and gardener, enjoyed skiing and swimming. She also loved cooking and spending time with her family, but most of all her grandchildren. She was an active parishioner of Sacred Hearts Parish and served there as a Eucharistic Minister.

Leona was survived by her husband of 66 years, Vincent Caruso, until his passing just five days later. She is survived by her children Christine A. Kiklis and her husband Dana of York, ME, Paul J. Caruso and his wife Victoria of Folson, CA, and Lawrence G. Caruso, and his wife of NH, nine grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Wanda Kolodziejczak and Phyllis Gurski.

Vincent Caruso, age 93, of Groveland, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at Lawrence General Hospital with his loving family by his side.

He was born in Somerville, MA on February 26, 1933, son of the Late Gaetano and Margherita Caruso.

Vincent was educated in the Somerville School System and

graduated from Somerville High School with the Class of 1950. He went on to serve our country in the United States Navy during the Korean War. Upon returning from the war he worked for many years as an Operations Manager at Verizon.

He was an avid gardener, enjoyed woodworking, and loved spending time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He was an active parishioner of Sacred Hearts Parish and served there as a Eucharistic Minister.

He was predeceased, by just five days, by his loving wife Leona C. (Gurski) Caruso, and his brother Anthony J. Caruso.

Vincent is survived by his loving children Christine A. Kiklis and her husband Dana of York, ME, Paul J. Caruso and his wife Victoria of Folson, CA, and Lawrence G. Caruso, and his wife of NH; his brother Joseph A. Caruso of Billerica, as well as nine grandchildren.

ARRANGEMENTS: Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend their visitation together on Friday, May 1, from 10:30-11:30 AM at the Sacred Hearts Church, 165 South Main St., Bradford, Their Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will follow at the church. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family in the Bourne National Cemetery.

Contributions in their memory may be made to Sacred Hearts Church Food Pantry - St. Vincent de Paul Society, 48 South Chestnut St., Bradford, MA 01835. To share a memory or for more information, please visit www.farmerfuneralhomes.com



Resident George Thorlin listens to a person speaking about an article he petitioned at Andover Town Meeting on Wednesday.

» Andover

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November 2023, when voters appropriated \$500,000 for the design of a scaled-down version, after killing a \$450 million new school

construction plan. The plan aims to bridge a 15-year gap with short-term improvements as the town works on tapping state funds to eventually build a new high school.

Options were considered ranging from \$15 million to \$80 million before deciding



Residents listen during the second night of Town Meeting at the Collins Center at Andover High School on Wednesday.

this was the right approach for now to immediately make educational improvements for the students, knowing the building will remain online for at least another decade, Flanagan said.

The investment supports essential improvements to the overall building. The modern furniture being bought will have a life expectancy of 30 years and be incorporated in future projects, Interim Superintendent Keith Taverna said.

The furniture will also be enhanced design of special education classrooms and cafeteria furniture will reduce overcrowding and allow for better movement throughout the cafe. Residents supported the improvement plan.

Resident Jennifer Hoening said her son thrived in a building "that is far too old."

While she was for the article's passage, she also said the town should be doing more.

Hoening said the town would be further along

with a solution after striking down the construction of a new high school building two years ago.

Resident and Andover High School teacher Mary Robb said the building is past its usefulness. She stressed this is a small step in the grander scheme of things, but it's needed.

Voters also passed by a vote of 290 to 44 for the town to seek a home-rule petition to ban the use of rodenticides in Andover.

Rodent poisons, known as first- and second-generation anticoagulants, prevent blood from clotting and cause internal hemorrhaging and death. The poisons are known to kill predators like owls, foxes, dogs and coyotes who naturally decrease the rodent population. Each predator can reportedly kill 1,000 rodents a year.

Rodents are targeted with the poisons in bait boxes. Once they are poisoned, the animals can live up to 10 days and return to their environment where they become

scavenged by predators.

The article was petitioned by Andover residents including Donna Cooper who amended the article on the floor to remove an attached bylaw. She said after feedback there will be a collaborative approach to thoughtfully work with the town while remaining proactive on the issue with the home rule petition.

Voters supported seeking the state's permission to tighten the town's regulations of the rodenticides. The act would go into effect once the state gives it approval.

Select Board Chair Alex Vispoli said the board unanimously recommended the home rule petition, recognizing this should be a statewide effort and wanted to add Andover's voice to it.

Pesticide control is managed at the state level, Board of Health Director Deborah Enegess said while supporting the amended article and home-rule petition.

"The Board of Health concluded that we do support the

petitioner's concern and the regulation of rodenticides, but we do prefer that this is done at the state level," she said.

"We unanimously support the home rule petition as we hope that this will encourage the state legislature to take this up and to support it at the state level."

AVIS President Annie Gilbert said for more than 130 years, AVIS has worked to protect open space in Andover.

"Our mission is to protect Andover's native habitats, but when pest control companies or individuals use anticoagulant rodenticides, it creates a toxic ripple effect that AVIS cannot stop at our property lines," she said.

"A statewide solution to this problem would make the most sense, and we hope that this home rule petition, along with those of the many other towns who have submitted them, will prompt the state legislature to pass effective legislation."



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