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Marble Ridge Winery offers retreat in North Andover



Elbridge "Brig" Leland II pours a glass of the newly released 2022 petite Sirah in the early 1900s barn, which will soon be converted to a tasting room for Marble Ridge Winery in North Andover.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Creating a place to un-wine

By Monica Sager
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NORTH ANDOVER — When people think of wine, thoughts of Italy, Napa Valley, Spain or even France may come to mind. But now, North Andover is throwing its hat — or glass — into the wine-making barrel as well.

Marble Ridge Winery is the "North Shore's premier boutique winery destination," as owner Elbridge "Brig" Leland II calls it, and it offers its own small-batch wines commensurate with the big wineries of California and Europe in a pastoral, New England setting.

"Wine is a product that brings people together," Leland said. "We have a really unique space here. We have these world class wines. We have these beautiful guest houses. We're opening event spaces. They all come together."

The Marble Ridge Winery property, at 11 Marbleridge Road, has been in Leland's



Marble Ridge Winery is located on a rustic property in North Andover.

family since the 1600s, when the land stretched from the Old Center in North Andover all the way to Boxford. The oldest building in North Andover, which now is by the Parson Barnard House on Osgood Street, used to be on the property.

Leland is now the 10th-generation owner of the property,

and he knew he wanted to create something "that would bring people here."

Leland transformed the land in 2020, laying out now over 200 grape bushes and creating guest houses for people to stay in.

"Come here for an hour, have a glass of wine," Leland said. "Come here for

overnight or we also have event spaces, come here to celebrate something special."

The three guest houses allow visitors to immerse themselves in the comfort and charm of the area. Leland converted the historic bungalow, studio and ice house into modern rooms, with immaculate details and a homey feel.

"It's really peaceful," Leland said. "We try to make this place a retreat. Leave your stress at the door."

There are reminders of the past throughout the property, such as the ice house that used to hold dairy goods, which is now the wine store, where tastings are now held. Orders for milk are marked on the doors, with tallies and marks to keep track.

The studio also has its own story, as it was formerly Leland's great-grandmother's art studio. There is a sketch she did that hangs on the wall in her memory. The drawing, which dates back to 1923,

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Lawsuit targets MBTA over safety

By Christian M. Wade
 Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — A Japanese high-tech corporation has filed a \$158 million federal lawsuit against the MBTA, claiming the public transit agency violated the terms of a contract to install a new safety system on the commuter rail network.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court alleges that the T made changes to the contract to install a Positive Train Control system along the commuter rail tracks that drove up the cost of the project by hundreds of millions of dollars, but refused to compensate the company for the additional costs.

"Despite Hitachi Rail's repeated demands and attempts to resolve the claims detailed below, Defendant MBTA has failed and refused to issue Change Orders, to

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Reading curriculum heads to governor

Modernized teaching process focuses on 5 components

By Ethan DeWitt
 New Hampshire Bulletin

CONCORD — New Hampshire public school teachers and officials would be required to update how they teach reading under a bill heading to Gov. Chris Sununu's desk.

House Bill 1015, which passed the Senate by voice vote Thursday, would formally implement the "five essential components of reading" into curricula across the state.

That teaching process, developed in 1997 by the National Reading Panel, focuses on teaching phonetics rather than older instructional models that allow students to guess words based on visual patterns.

The approach has been lauded by experts

See READING, Page A4

EARTH DAY

Connecting with nature one class at a time

North Andover retreat center offers chance to slow down, relax

By Katelyn Sahagian
 ksahagian@northofboston.com

NORTH ANDOVER — Between the smell of wet grass and dirt, the fresh buds on trees, the honking of geese, and the laughter of children, Earth Day celebrations began throughout the

Merrimack Valley Saturday.

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center on Great Pond Road held an afternoon of education, mindfulness, and activities all focused on the importance of taking care of the earth and yourself by getting out into nature.

"There's so much data saying two hours in nature a week completely can change your sense of health and well being," said Michael Reed, the associate executive director at Rolling Ridge and the organizer for the Earth Day event.

"Getting people reconnected to nature is just so good for you."

While Rolling Ridge is a religious organization affiliated with the Methodist Church, Reed emphasized that the programs offered on Earth Day were designed to emphasize nature.

Reed said the plan was to bring all of the like-minded organizations that operate on the property together and create workshops people could bounce

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Diana Ng, 6, of Andover helps her grandmother Deb Pushkar decorate one of the booths during Earth Day at Rolling Ridge.

KATELYN SAHAGIAN/Staff photo

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Robert J. Cantwell, 90

May 19, 1933 - April 19, 2024

HAVERHILL, MA — Robert J. “Bob” Cantwell, 90, husband of Catherine S. “Kay” (Caggiano) Cantwell of Haverhill passed away peacefully on Friday, April 19 at the Prescott House in North Andover.

Robert was born in Haverhill, the son of Bernard and Helen (O'Rourke) Cantwell. He was a graduate of Haverhill High School Class of 1952; after which he went on to study at both UMass Lowell and Suffolk University. He worked for many years as the Director for several local nursing homes, including the Don Orione Home, as well as the Hale Hospital. Robert and Catherine were long time members of Saint James Parish. Bob's greatest joy came from his family. He and his wife made their home a gathering place for family and friends and loved to entertain either poolside or during the holidays.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 68 years Catherine of Haverhill and his children Catherine Cantwell and husband Michael Young of Newburyport, Robert J. Cantwell, Jr. and wife Ruth of Berwick, ME, John R. Cantwell and wife Deborah of Bradford, Ellen F. Lagasse and husband Kevin of Plum Island and Bernard E. Cantwell and wife Deana of North Andover. He also leaves behind his siblings Erlene Dozibrin of Salem, NH, George Cantwell of Beverly and Pat



Ross of Bradford and his thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his siblings William Cantwell, Arlene Lyons, Mary Elizabeth Uele, Eleanor Kneeland, Dorothy Cantwell, Bernard Cantwell, Sophie Murphy, and Joan Lessard.

ARRANGEMENTS: Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend calling hours for Mr. Cantwell on Wednesday morning from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM at the Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home, 486 Main St. Haverhill. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 PM at St. James Church, Winter St. Haverhill. Burial will follow at Linwood Cemetery, Mill Street Haverhill. Please visit Comeau Funeral Home on Facebook or www.comeaufuneral.com.

A Time to Remember

Obituaries brought to you by

The Eagle-Tribune

Geraldine E. (Mallison) Bergeron

May 12, 1937 - April 18, 2024

AMESBURY, MA — Geraldine E. Bergeron passed away on Thursday April 18, 2024 at home after a period of declining health.

She was born and raised in Lawrence, MA, daughter of the late George and Margaret (McKenna) Mallinson. She graduated from Methuen High School in 1954. After graduation, she worked at the telephone company for a number of years.

She enjoyed going to the local dances at the Commodore in Lowell, MA and this is where she met her late husband, George P. Bergeron. She was a stay at home mother until her children were in school. Then she worked part time in many retail department stores. The running joke in the family was that she was responsible for Mammoth Mart, Zayres, Kings, and Yankee Bargain stores going out of business.

Gerry was an avid reader and enjoyed daily crossword puzzles that were always done in ink. She faithfully watched Jeopardy and Deadline: White House on MSNBC. Many times she answered the final jeopardy question correctly.

She is survived by her daughters, Amy Bergeron and Beth Bergeron; and son, Steven Bergeron. She is also survived by three grandsons, Brent Bergeron, Bryan James Bergeron, and Sean Blaisdell and his fiancée, Kayla Nel-



son. Additional survivors are her sisters: Maureen O'Neil and Jane Moffatt and sister-in-law Jarlath Fournier and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by her brother, John Mallinson, and son-in-law, Michael McCann.

She loved all her grand dogs: Murphy, Remi, Cheech, and Sage.

We would like to thank the Hospice staff at Beth Israel Lahey Health at Home for their compassion and support during the last two months, especially her primary caregivers, Janet and Julianna.

ARRANGEMENTS: Gerry requested that there be no formal services. Arrangements were by Paul C. Rogers Family Funeral Homes, 2 Hillside Avenue, Amesbury, MA.

Richard A. Kapelson, 89

May 24, 1934 - April 18, 2024

NORTH ANDOVER, MA — Richard A. Kapelson, 89, of North Andover, MA and Stuart, FL, passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Meadows at Edgewood in North Andover.

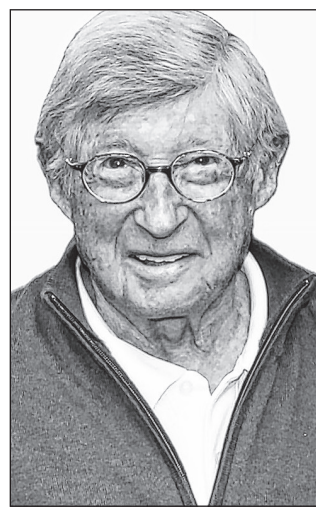
Dick was born in Lawrence on May 24, 1934, son of the late David and Jennie (Goldstein) Kapelson. He attended Lawrence Public Schools until he entered Phillips Andover, graduating in 1951 and then went on to Yale University, graduating in 1955.

Following Yale, Dick entered the United States Airforce where he served his country honorably. Upon his discharge from the Airforce, Dick came back home to join in his father's business, Kaps, where he remained until the closing of the business in 2009.

Along with running Kaps, Dick was heavily involved in his community. He served on numerous local boards and committees, including Lawrence General Hospital, Mary Immaculate Nursing Home, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Edgewood Retirement Community and Bank of New England. He was a member of North Andover Country Club, The Lanam Club and Evergreen Country Club and the Masons.

As everyone knew, Dick was passionate about his business and golf, but his true pleasure and joy came from his relationship with Judy, his adored wife, their children and spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Richard is predeceased by his loving wife Judith G. (Albert) Kapelson who passed away on March 19, 2012. He is survived by his children James A. Kapelson and his wife Rhonda of North Andover, Jon E. Kapelson and his wife Kimberly of Nashua, NH, Joel A. Kapelson and his wife



Pamela of Methuen and Jane E. Kapelson and her husband Martin Buoniconti of Beverly, his siblings Margery K. Phillips of Gloucester and Barbara K. Lee and her husband Dr. Sherwood Lee of West Palm Beach, FL. He is also survived by his grandchildren Lauren, Jamie, Benjamin, Julienne, Cassandra, David, Drew, and Nicholas, great grandchildren Emma, Cody, Brooke, Elliott, and Charlotte and Sophie.

ARRANGEMENTS: Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his Graveside Service on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 1 PM at Temple Emanuel Cemetery, located on Mt. Vernon Street in Lawrence, MA followed immediately by a Memorial gathering at Edgewood Retirement Community at 575 Osgood Street in North Andover, MA. Arrangements are by the H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes, Bradford-Haverhill.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (<https://www.dana-farber.org/>).

To share a memory or for more information, please visit www.farmerfuneralhomes.com.



Obituaries in The Eagle-Tribune are paid notices, submitted by funeral homes and the general public.

To place an obituary, please visit www.eagletribune.com/submitobit. Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions

» Lawsuit

Continued from Page A1

acknowledge delays, or to compensate Hitachi Rail for the costs and other impacts incurred by Hitachi Rail in connection with the same, in breach of the Contract,” the complaint states.

The T is under a federal mandate to install the system on all of its 15 commuter rail lines. The technology uses antennae on locomotives, radio towers and track sensors to monitor train speeds and locations to prevent collisions.

Hitachi's predecessor, Ansaldo STS, was awarded a \$338 million contract in 2015 for the work but alleges that the MBTA required the company to perform additional work “beyond the contractual obligations” and then later “refused to pay for it.”

The company cited the example of the Gloucester Drawbridge Project, alleging that the MBTA failed to issue a change order or pay for the additional work to install safety systems along that new section of commuter rail track.

The MBTA said it is reviewing the complaint but argues it has “no impact on the MBTA's ability to work closely with the contractor and deliver a project that improves safety for both customers and employees of the commuter rail system.”

“While the MBTA continues its efforts to resolve any outstanding issues with the contractor, the work of accomplishing these important

safety enhancements is in its final stages, and both parties are firmly committed to ensuring the project is successfully completed,” the T said in a statement.

The project is part of a long-delayed federal mandate to equip the nation's rail lines with the Positive Train Control system, which is designed to prevent train-on-train collisions, speed-related derailments and other safety issues.

In 2008, Congress approved the mandate in response to a series of deadly train crashes involving speed and other rail safety issues.

Initially, the federal government set a 2015 deadline for freight railroads covered by the law to implement it, but under industry pressure congressional lawmakers have pushed back the deadline several times.

In the lawsuit, Hitachi claims that in Massachusetts the safety upgrades have been plagued by problems stemming from the MBTA's handling of the project.

“These include delays driven by the aforementioned changes to the contractually agreed work, ongoing lack of MBTA supplied flagger support necessary for Hitachi Rail to perform work in the right of way, MBTA track access denials, MBTA mandated re-sequencing and COVID-19 impacts,” the complaint states.

The T is also under a congressional mandate to install the Automatic Train Control system on all of its commuter rail lines by this year.

Similar to PTC, the system uses satellites and wayside radio signals to monitor trains. If any problems are detected — such as excessive speeds — on-board computers can take over to slow a train or bring it to a complete stop.

Nationwide, the rail industry has spent nearly \$14 billion installing train control equipment over the past several years, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

The National Transportation Safety Board says the technology could have prevented 145 railroad accidents, saved an estimated 300 lives and averted more than 6,700 injuries over the past 45 years.

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

» Winery

Continued from Page A1

shows shapes in a circular formation intertwined in reds, blues and greens. Leland's grandfather had the drawing made into a piece of stained glass, which brightens the studio today.

“It ties all of the generations together,” Leland said.

The wine-making process takes a lot of planning as well. White wines take about a year to process. Red wines take closer to two years.

While Marble Ridge does have its own vineyard, those grapes are used more for educational purposes and events, Leland said. The grapes for the wines, which are made on the North Andover premises, come from a certified, sustainable vineyard outside of Napa, California. Within mere hours of being picked, the grapes arrive at Marble Ridge.

The wine is made without additives and fillers, making for a “very clean wine,” Leland said.

“I call it old-world wine,” Leland said. “Every batch tastes a little different.”

Because Marble Ridge doesn't produce in mass quantity and does not use filler products, the taste is very dependent upon the grapes, whose flavors can change based on the amount of heat, rain, or any other climate condition.

“Even if it's the same grape from the same vineyard and we go through the same process, it's just



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Marble Ridge Winery owner Elbridge “Brig” Leland II holds his great-grandmother Lucile Conant Leland's 1923 watercolor painting in her art studio, now a guesthouse with stained glass honoring her.

going to be slightly different,” Leland said. “It's almost like parenting, you're guiding the wine to the best it can be. We're not in the business of it has to taste a particular way. I think that's where some of the big wineries get it wrong.”

The grapes turn into wine in stainless steel tubs, which came from Italy, at the Marble Ridge property. There are machines that separate the parts of the grape and others that push a cork into a bottle at the end of the process.

“It's an art and a science,” Leland said. “There's a lot of tools, a lot of measurements, a lot of science calculations we have to do, whether it's acidity, sugar content, alcohol. But then there's this art to it, where you don't really know what you're going to get until it's there.”

Some wines have taken multiple iterations to “enhance the overall experience.” The grapes almost

dictate their own destiny in a sense, as one of the newer bottles, the petit Sirah, was originally meant to be a blend but tasted amazing on its own.

Marble Ridge Winery just released three new wines from 2022 grapes.

“It's really exciting,” Leland said. “I love each and every one like it's a child. It's a labor of love.”

The dry Riesling, a white wine, is light gold in color. It has hints of marmalade and citrus with earthy undertones. It is not sweet like Rieslings typically are in the U.S. but instead is dry like someone would find in Germany, Leland said.

The dry rosé is also not as sugary as typical rosés. The wine is a vibrant copper color with notes of peach and grapefruit. It has a very silky texture.

The petite Sirah, a red wine, is very purple in color. It has deep, rich tones with features of plum and

pomegranate.

The bottles share the Marble Ridge story but also explain what the drinker can expect, including a sweet to dry scale.

“Wines should be accessible,” Leland said. “It shouldn't take years of trying to figure it out. That's part of our goal.”

Marble Ridge will have 10 wines by the end of the year, Leland said.

When a customer comes for a tasting at Marble Ridge Winery, they are walked through the process of the flavor profiles by one of Leland's 10 team members. He said he hopes the visitors are able to take away with them an idea of what they like so that next time they visit a restaurant or the store, they don't feel as lost.

Marble Ridge wines are not sold in stores or restaurants, which is something Leland wants to preserve.

“Our goal is to have as much direct-to-consumer interaction as we can have,” he said. “We're getting their feedback. We do a lot of activities and tastings on site, and we do a lot of activities off-site — like we were part of Andover Day.”

This year, Marble Ridge will be participating in the local farmers' market as well. The team is also looking to create more community events, like a grape stomping event at the end of the summer.

In less than two months, the property will also have event space for work events, small parties, and other gatherings.

“That's the goal: to have fun,” Leland said.

Follow Monica on Twitter at [@MonicaSager3](https://twitter.com/MonicaSager3)

» Reading

Continued from Page A1

and educators for decades as a more thorough way to teach reading, but not all New Hampshire school districts have implemented it on their own, proponents of the bill say.

“This bill can ensure all New Hampshire children are afforded reading development and instruction that's delivered in a manner that meets their individual abilities and their individual needs,” said Rep. Corrine Cascadden, a Berlin Democrat, in testimony to the Senate.

Under current law, elementary schools are required to teach literacy up to third grade, instruction that includes “reading, writing, speaking, listening,

reasoning, and mathematics.”

The bill requires instruction up to fifth grade and adds specific requirements for that instruction.

According to the bill, the teaching must be measurable and evidence-based, and must include instruction in the five components: “phonemic awareness, phonics (both decoding and encoding of sounds and words), fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.”

The instruction would need to be aimed at allowing each student to achieve “grade level literacy,” the bill states.

The bill also expands on the current requirement that schools teach mathematics by requiring “mathematics reasoning” and “mathematics calculation” in state statute.

If signed into law, the bill will not take effect until July 2027, which sponsors say is intended to give schools more time to implement it.

Cascadden, a former elementary school principal in Berlin, said she had implemented the five components in 2005, when they were recommended by the state's Department of Education at the time. “We saw success in the percentage of kids that improved in literacy,” she said.

But she said there has been less emphasis on the practice, and that some schools had since “fallen by the wayside.”

The bill passed the House nearly unanimously in March, 365-9.

The New Hampshire Bulletin is an independent, nonprofit news organization serving the Granite State.



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September 11, 1939 - April 22, 2020

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