

Gunstock sees busy season opening



Powdered snow blows around Gunstock as a chairlift takes visitors up the mountain the day after the big storm.

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

Skiers, boarders, and everyone else who loves to play in the snow are back at Gunstock for the mountain’s new season. There may be a lot of changes because of the pandemic, but the slopes

are still a place for winter fun especially after the big storm. Gunstock opened for the winter season on Dec. 11, and the slopes have been packed with visitors, especially after recent storms. Gunstock was initial-

ly scheduled to open the first weekend of December, but given the warmer weather General Manager Tom Day said they didn’t have enough terrain to open properly. He made the decision to postpone the opening for the next week so the



Skiers enjoy a sunny day of skiing after 36 inches fell on Gunstock.

mountain could make much more snow. The pandemic has resulted in a number of changes from ticketing to use of the lodge. “Mother Nature is always a tough boss and dealing with the COVID guidelines makes a

tough business a little bit tougher,” Day said. A video on the new requirements and a full list can be found on Gunstock’s website and visitors are encouraged to check there before coming to the mountain. Because of state

guidelines, reservations are required for a number of things including tickets, snow sports, rentals, and eating in the base lodge. Season pass holders don’t need to make reservations and can get

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Town looking at remote meeting software

BY ERIN PLUMMER
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The town is moving toward putting remote meeting options in place and significant upgrades to its recording equipment with the capability for live broadcasting meetings. Town Administrator Scott Dunn talked to the selectmen during their Dec. 16 meeting about options for offering remote meeting attendance and

improvements to its recording capabilities. He said members of the board and the public have expressed interest in the town having these options available. After looking at different options, the town is leaning toward using Microsoft Teams for remote meetings. The recording equipment in town hall, however, needs significant upgrades. Dunn said the

town now uses standard definition analog cameras to record meetings that are between 15 and 20-years-old. He said someone from Lakes region Public Access looked at the equipment and will submit a proposal for upgrades to newer high-definition cameras. Dunn said the possible upgrades would cost

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Coronavirus response leads Gilford headlines in 2020

BY ERIN PLUMMER
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The general election, a new recycling facility, and a passing of the torch on the board of selectmen would have been the big stories for 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic took the spotlight with hard impacts for local people. Earlier this year, eyes were on the new recycling center, which officially opened in January.

Recycling was made mandatory and a policy for the facility’s use initially included fines for violating the rules, though a number of people protested the proposal. The Solid Waste Committee held a two-hour meeting to discuss the feedback and proposed a new policy that didn’t include fines.

The town took on a public information campaign called “Recycle Right” giving people information on how to use the facility and drop off their recyclable materials. Information was put on the town website and distributed on flyers. There were also a few public informational meetings on the new facility. A week after its opening, Public Works Director Meghan Theriault said the facility had been incredibly busy. Going into the March election, longtime selectman Richard Grenier received a warm farewell from his fellow board members. Grenier’s last meeting was in February and the board honored him for his work for the town. Grenier presented the board with a a



FILE PHOTO

COVID-19 resulted in a number of town recreation facilities closing for most of 2020.

framed copy of Red Skelton’s “The Pledge of Allegiance” monologue from 1969, which he said had an impact on him when he heard it at 14. Former selectman Kevin Hayes, former town clerk Denise Gonyer, and local business owner Angelo Farruggia ran for Grenier’s seat. The initial vote count for the March 10 vote was 544 for Hayes, 537 for Gonyer, and 162 for Farruggia. Gonyer requested a recount because of the narrow margin between her and Hayes. The final results were that 548 votes were cast for Hayes and 540 for Gonyer, with a margin of just eight votes between the two candidates. The results were certified, and Hayes will take the three-year term on the board.

Gunstock Mountain Resort also welcomed its new General Manager, Tom Day. GM Greg Goddard retired, and Day was hired to take his place. Day served as GM at Waterville Valley for 33 years and has worked in insurance for ski resorts, having traveled to over 50 ski areas across the country. By mid-March, the pandemic was fully in place and lockdowns went into effect. Through Dec. 22, 165 Gilford residents have been diagnosed with COVID-19 according to the Department of Health and Human Services. The pandemic resulted in the closings of offices and facilities across town. The Gilford Public Library announced it

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School District navigates an unprecedented year



FILE PHOTO

The Gilford High School Class of 2020 took part in a car parade after their drive-in graduation at Gunstock.

BY ERIN PLUMMER
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For Gilford schools, 2020 was the year when the concept of school flipped to something much different thanks to a global pandemic, though it was also a year of kindness and resil-

ience in the face of hardship. The beginning of 2020 saw accolades, community efforts, and inclusion for Gilford schools. Gilford High School’s acclaimed Go Baby Go project continued with a new group of students

receiving their own special mobility devices. The project by the Intro to Engineering class turned Power Wheels cars into customized mobility devices for Gilford elementary School stu-

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“Lakes in Winter” Webinar offered by NH LAKES



REGION — Join NH LAKES on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., for the webinar “Lakes in Winter.” Find out how our lakes freeze and what happens under the ice... and see and hear some strange and usual winter phenomena! Bring your questions about what happens to lakes in winter and be ready to share your stories of strange

along the lake during winter. This informative, fun, and fascinating session will be presented by Krystal Costa Balanoff, Conservation Program Coordinator, NHLAKES, and Andrea LaMoreaux, Vice President of Programs & Operations, NH LAKES. This webinar is part of the “Explore Lakes with NH LAKES” webinar se-

being offered through spring 2021. Make sure to tune in to these FREE webinars to learn about our lakes throughout the seasons, how wildlife survives changing temperatures, how our lakes are adapting to changing climates, and more! These webinars are FREE, but pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Visit nhlakes.org/ex

learn more and sign up! Established in 1992, the mission of NH LAKES, a statewide, member supported non-profit organization, is to ensure that New Hampshire’s 1,000 lakes are clean and healthy, now and in the future. To achieve its mission, NH LAKES works with partners, promotes clean water policies and responsible use, and inspires the public to care for our lakes. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 226-0299.

GILFORD POLICE LOG

The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 14-20. Cassie A. Barnett, age 33, of Tilton was arrested on Dec. 14 for Driving While Intoxicated and Resisting Arrest or Detention. Deborah J. Cheek, age 52, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 20 for Violation of a Protective Order and Breach of Bail.

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Warning Signs of Alcohol Abuse

- Drinking alone when you feel angry or sad
- Waking up with headaches or hangovers after drinking
- Inability to remember what you did while drinking
- Trouble getting to work on time due to drinking
- Inability to control your impulse to drink

If you or someone you know needs professional help for alcohol abuse or addiction, please call 1-800-NCA-CALL (622-2255) or visit ncaad.org for more information.

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Bonnette Page & Stone Corp. named Construction Manager for Lakeport revitalization project

LAKEPORT — Paugus Properties, LLC, owned by developer Scott Everett, has selected Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp. of Laconia to manage the construction of the next phase of their Lakeport Revitalization Effort. The purchased properties are located at 41 Elm St. and 9 Park St. in Lakeport and are a short distance away from the beautifully restored Lakeport Opera House at 781 Union Ave., also owned by Paugus Properties, LLC.

Officially referred to as 1 Elm going forward, the first phase will begin in the upcoming weeks. Unlike the Opera House, the existing buildings are not structurally sound and will require demolition. In their place will stand a beautiful mixed-use development that will include some retail space, leasable apartments, and purchasable condos. The goal is to continue enhancing the area’s vibrancy by creating additional housing and business opportunities in a structurally sound, aesthetically pleasing new structure.

“Scott’s vision of and passion for enhancing this Lakeport neighborhood’s aesthetics and purpose is beyond exciting. It’s great to see someone with local ties show so much passion for and desire to give back to the community he grew up in. Paugus Properties is polishing a gem that was just waiting for its day to shine and it will shine for many years to come. We are thrilled to be part of this journey with Scott and his team,” says Bonnette, Page & Stone President, Keith McBey.

“Every project BPS is selected for is amazing. We are grateful for each of them but there is something extra special about being selected for a project in your own backyard. I also have family connections to this neighborhood so being a part of its makeover means a lot to me on a personal level too,” says Bonnette, Page & Stone Vice President, Barrett Salta.

Construction will begin in early 2021 with anticipated completion in 2022. Bonnette, Page & Stone, Corp will work directly with Paugus Properties’ Construction Project Manager, Mike Lokken.

Bonnette Page & Stone is a Construction Management firm founded in 1969 who specializes in commercial, industrial, institutional and residential construction projects of all types and sizes throughout New Hampshire. Current projects include: Construction of 1 Elm in Lakeport, Restoration of the historic Colonial Theater, construction of North Hampton’s new public library, restoration of the historic Belknap Mill, renovations to Auburn Village School, construction at Weirs Beach Village, construction of the Mittersill Performance Center in Franconia, construction of Belmont Police Department’s new facility, renovations to the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, renovations and construction at Hopkington Schools, construction at Village Apartments, renovations to Sanbornton Fire Department, and exterior improvements at Gilford Well.



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DHB Homes LLC completes acquisition of Barton’s Motel property

LACONIA — DHB Homes LLC of Londonderry is proud to announce the acquisition of the Barton’s Motel property on Union Avenue in Laconia. Site work is being done this winter with an April 1st target date to begin construction of the highly anticipated Lakeside At Paugus Bay, a 32-unit luxury condominium project set along the shore of Paugus Bay.

The project recently received the last of a series of city and state approvals and ten units are currently under agreement prior to construc-



tion. Sizes of the units range from 2030 square feet all the way up to 3380

square feet. All units will have private elevator access, a two-car garage,

and tremendous lake and mountain views. Roche Realty Group

is the exclusive listing brokerage for the first stage of the project. Jeremy Avery of RRG says they are very excited about the opportunity.

“It will be great to see these lake homes take shape,” Avery said. “This new community is great for the area, providing a contemporary luxury buying opportunity for people who want to invest in Lake Winnepesaukee and spend time here with their friends and family.”

DHB Homes LLC is based in Londonderry, NH but has been part of the Lake Winnepesaukee

community for many years. They have done several other projects in Laconia, including The Lake Houses at Christmas Island. Lakeside at Paugus Bay is the latest example of their long-term commitment to the area.

For more information on this exciting waterfront development please contact Jeremy Avery or

Joe MacDonald at the Laconia Office of Roche Realty Group at 528-0088, or visit www.lakesideat-paugus.com for a list of the available units.

Isolation, food security, staffing remain key concerns for senior advocates

ANGEL LARCOM
angel@salmonpress.news

LITTLETON — In a meeting with nutrition and food security organizations held last week, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen outlined funding details from the latest Coronavirus Relief Act. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council Executive Director Kathleen Vasconcelos represented the North Country at the one-hour virtual meeting.

The Grafton Country Senior Citizens Council operates eight senior centers, including one in Littleton, as well as numerous regional Meals on Wheels Programs. Littleton resident Bob Muh currently serves as Board President for the organization.

According to Vasconcelos, the Senior Citizens Council delivered 13,000 meals through its Meals on Wheels program, a ten percent increase compared to pre-COVID numbers. The group also served 2,000 additional meals through its new Grab and Go program that replaced previous congregate meals and in-person transportation services.

Vasconcelos also focused on critical concerns resulting from the pandemic, chiefly the increased isolation of the North Country’s elderly population.

She said, “One of the reasons that our grab and go meals are so popular is that people can come out to the center and there’s a brief social interaction. That compo-

nent is so important.”

“In the winter months, not as many people will be out and about. When we have to cancel some of our grab and go’s for snowstorms, it becomes even more of a factor. We make sure our staff at the senior centers are contacting our clients on a daily basis to keep that connection and check in on them,” added the director.

Another critical issue for the Grafton Country Senior Citizen Council is adequate staffing. While the non-profit employees are considered essential workers serving on the front line, many are also elderly and considered high risk, said Vasconcelos.

“Anything that we can do to help temporarily increase their pay or provide bonuses will help us retain those employees. Finding employees right now is very challenging,” she added.

According to a statement released by the Senator’s office, one out of every seven men, women and children are now considered food-insecure. Up to 23 percent of New Hampshire children live in food-insecure homes due to COVID-19. Shaheen stated that the new Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020, passed last week, contains nutritional and agricultural assistance for organizations like the

Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, farmers and New Hampshire families.

According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, approximately \$11 billion of the \$900 billion funding that passed last week would be delivered directly to the National Secretary of Agriculture to purchase food and agriculture products. One hundred million was assigned to the Agriculture Market Program.

Only \$75 million was earmarked for a competitive grants program that supports projects delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program) beneficiaries would see a 15 percent increase in benefits.

Shaheen said, “This is an alarming crisis that cannot be overstated. Lives are at stake, and Congress needs to act now.”

Granite United Way North Country Regional Manager Nanci Carney stated last week that the North Country received an additional \$50,000 in CARES Act funding last week to address food security issues. Granite United Way and AHEAD Housing planned to partner in the delivery of food cards to needy individuals, she said.

Students named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH — A total of 899 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Brianna Bailey of Laconia
Rebecca Bladecki of Laconia
Anthony Eldridge of Gilford
Ashley Gagne of Laconia
Luke Harding of Gilford
Cassidy Keyser of Gilford
Devon Mello of Laconia
Ashley Hill of Laconia
Emily Lafond of Gilford
Monique Legassie of Laconia
Thomas Pouliot of Gilford
Keirra Kirk-Lampron of Laconia
Olivia Salesky of Gilford
Alexis Plunkett of Gilford
Brooke Beaudet of Gilford
Ashley Loureiro of Gilford
Alexander Rives of Gilford
Callie McGreevy of Gilford
Jack Henry Bosies of Laconia
Julien Davis of Gilford
Lydia Walker of Laconia
About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Gilford Parks and Recreation News

BY HERB GREENE
Director
Gilford Parks and Recreation

Bolduc Park Cross Country Ski Program The Gilford Parks and Recreation Department will be offering four weeks of Cross Country Ski Lessons at Bolduc Park this winter. Lessons begin on Saturday, Jan. 2, and will continue through January 23, 2021 (in the event a day is cancelled because of poor weather, it will be made up the week(s) following January 23rd). Lessons begin at 10:00 a.m. and rental skis may be picked up at 9 a.m. at Piche’s Ski Shop! Registration forms are available at the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department, the department’s Web site at www.gilfordrec.com, Bolduc Park and Piche’s Ski Shop. Please mail, fax or drop off your registrations directly to Piche’s Ski Shop.

Cost: \$80 per person includes rental equipment!
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If you have any questions, please contact Bob or Pat Bolduc at 524-2068.



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HE’S HERE!

We are proud to announce that Jerry Mello, who was previously working at Garneau’s Garage, has now joined our team at Bumper To Bumper Auto Repair Inc., here on Rt. 115, Twin Mountain, NH. Jerry has over 43 years of active experience in the automotive field, with his expertise in automotive repair. Come on in and help us give Jerry a warm welcome to our team. Jerry is anxious to be here, and to take care of all your automotive needs. You can call him at 603-846-0000.

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The roots of our holiday traditions

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Christmas stocking came from, or why traditional Christmas colors are red, green and gold or why Kentucky Fried Chicken in Japan is so busy on Christmas? There are endless myths and fables surrounding the Christmas holiday, but there are even more interesting facts. While researching Christmas, and digging deep, we found a plethora of fun and thought-provoking facts worth sharing with our readers.

The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today.

Way back when, a common Christmas eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire.

In 1914, during the First World War, a truce between the United Kingdom and Germany was held. They decorated their shelters for the holiday and exchanged gifts and even played a game of football with each other.

When a child drops a letter in the mail to Santa in America, the mail is sent to Santa Claus, Indiana.

Thanks to the province of Nova Scotia, who since 1918 have been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion.

Pope Julius I, Bishop of Rome, proclaimed Dec. 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Jesus in A.D. 350.

For the past 40 years, people in Japan have eaten Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner, and must make their orders two months in advance.

British illustrator John Callcott Horsley invented the first Christmas card in 1843.

In England from 1649-1660, Puritan Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols.

The first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany out of dyed goose feathers, (we're still trying to picture this one).

X is the Greek letter "chi," which is an abbreviation for the word "Christ" in Greek hence the abbreviation X-mas being used so often.

Several European countries thought that good and evil spirits were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These 'spirits' then became known as Santa's elves.

Have you ever wondered what a 'Yule' log actually is? Us too. It is a large log that is burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as a symbol of health, fertility, luck and is said to ward off evil spirits.

In Bolivia there is a celebration called the 'Mass of the Rooster' that takes place on Christmas Eve. Some folks bring roosters to the mass to symbolize the thought that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.

In 2010, the Columbian government hung lights on jungle trees. When the FARC guerrillas sauntered by, the trees lit up and released banners asking the terrorists to lay down their weapons. As a result 331 guerrillas peacefully re-entered into the community.

Here's an interesting one, the 'Bicycle' card company created playing cards during WWII that revealed an escape route for POW's in Germany.

In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the verse referring to "true love" is a reference to God. A "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ and the "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

Did you ever wonder why the colors red, green and gold are affiliated with Christmas? The color green is a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the blood of Christ and gold is a symbol of light, wealth and royalty.

Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased. In Poland spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus.

In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the country to officially recognize Christmas.

Mistletoe is considered sacred to the Druids because it produces fruit and remains green throughout the winter. The Druids never let the plant hit the ground and believed that it was a cure for infertility and warded off evil spirits.

Environmentalist Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901. Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations.

Why do we hang stockings by the chimney with care? Apparently, there were three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were bound to end up on the streets. Bishop Saint Nicholas filled their stockings with gold coins, and their lives were forever changed.

We hope you enjoyed these fun Christmas facts and hope that you have a happy holiday season filled with endless laughter and memories to last a lifetime.

LRAA hosting abstract art class for beginners

Join abstract artist Krista Doran for her class "Beginner Abstract Art for Creative Flow." This is a fun beginner class to learn abstract art using different mediums. It is an eight-week course that will be held Sundays from 9-11 a.m. at the Lakes Region Art Association Gallery, 120 Laconia Rd., Suite 132, Tilton, NH 03276. The first class will begin Jan. 3 to kick off the New Year with some fun creativity.



COURTESY

North Country Notebook

You drag sleds uphill together, but he might go to bed hungry



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

My brother Peter and I awoke on Christmas Day reluctant to leave the covers. Frost marked the nails and grommets holding the big sheets of wallboard to the studs, and the windowpanes were full of filigree.

Whatever heat there was crept up the back stairway, a house-length away from the living room grate above the coal furnace. There was an old wood stove in the kitchen, but it wouldn't hold a fire overnight.

I have heard many a story from farm kids about the lack of any heat in the bedrooms. Sometimes a grate in the floor was just not enough to make a difference. In many old houses there was no central heat at all, just stoves. The kids

made a dash from stove to bed and quilts, and kept their wool socks on.

+++++

Right now I am thinking of the people who are in real trouble in this country, and there are a lot of them. Sometimes it's not enough to wish you could help.

I'm thinking about our grandmother White, playing the piano as we all gathered around and sang carols, like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, but this was real and it happened, and I was there.

It's not easy to take the cold, especially when you're wet. I really hate that--cold and wet--have felt it too many times in my life to ever want to feel it again. There are too many people in this country who are wet and cold and can't get out of it. Under much of anything, either. You want to reach a handout, but how?

I'm remembering the carolers who went from neighborhood to neighborhood, all over town, palatial places and shacks, on both sides of the tracks. Kids played with kids, no matter what

their parents did. "Class" was a word we never heard until later, most often from the media.

I'm thinking about cutting, dragging, tagging, bagging, and loading Christmas trees, having to pile them just so to make the load, the snow and the dark, the numbing cold of it, and wishing that I'd never see another Christmas tree, until I did.

And I'm remembering how Dad, Pete, and I, with the addition of one neighboring kid (Don Brabble), formed a brass quartet and went around town playing carols--again, the Norman Rockwell thing, for real.

Small towns can cope with the homeless and hungry, and do, with no fanfare. Bigger places with far more people can't, and don't. How do we fix something that big, and that broken?

There is a yawning and widening gulf between Urban-Suburban America and the small towns and countryside. How do we deal with this fundamental divide?

I'm thinking about that old World War II crowd, and what a get-

things-done bunch they were. How they went off to war and saw the world at its worst, and came home eager to make things the best. How they worked hard, and partied hard, and got so much done, all before the numbing influence of TV. What would they think of the state we're in? And what would they do to fix it?

And so I'm thinking about our parents, and how lucky we were to have them, and for them to have us. We will never know the things they did or the sacrifices they made. It's this thing called love.

And that's a good place to end this little trip through questions of the day and Christmases past, with a note about love, and to say for this Christmas of 2020,

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night."

(Please address mail, with phone numbers in case of questions, to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or 386 South Hill Rd., Colebrook, NH 03576.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An open letter of thanks to frontline workers

To the Editor:

2020 is a year that most of us instinctively would like to forget. The arrival of a global pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to our world, drastically altering our lives. Practically overnight, businesses, schools, healthcare and long-term care facilities had to significantly adjust how we operate. In many ways, 2020 has been a year we will not look back on fondly.

However, I would also argue that 2020 has been a blessing; for it has shined the light on an exceptional group of people—front line healthcare workers. At a time when the national conversation has been more toxic and divided than ever, when I go to work every day at Taylor Community, I witness the best of people. I see a team of skilled, dedicated employees who are not complaining or placing blame. They are simply showing up and getting the job done.

Throughout the Lakes Region and around the country, frontline workers are arriving at work daily with the sole mission of caring for others. They are doing this while also navigating a variety of personal challenges at home—like finding childcare options for their kids in the midst of hybrid and remote

school schedules, and supporting friends and neighbors who have lost their jobs and need a helping hand. They are extraordinary, caring people who are working extra hours and sacrificing time with their own families in order to care for those most at risk.

On the job, they are wearing multiple layers of personal protective equipment; they are using their skill and creativity to keep residents engaged, active, and happy. They are delivering food, grocery shopping, sanitizing rooms, keeping buildings & grounds operating efficiently, working in offices to ensure general operations are running smoothly. Simply stated, they represent the best of us.

I could not be prouder of our team at Taylor Community and all frontline workers throughout the Lakes Region. Today I hope you will join me in recognizing the selfless, dedicated, hardworking frontline workers who are meeting this moment with skill, courage and compassion. We see you, we appreciate your sacrifice, and we thank you.

MICHAEL FLAHERTY
PRESIDENT & CEO, TAYLOR COMMUNITY
LACONIA

Gilford announces hoop, hockey, skiing schedules

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — With the new year here, winter sports are on the horizon at Gilford High School and schedules for basketball, hockey and skiing have been announced.

The basketball season will kick off on Monday, Jan. 11, against Belmont, with the girls at home and the boys on the road, both with 6 p.m. scheduled varsity start times. Gilford will play Belmont again on Thursday, Jan. 14, with the boys hosting and the girls on the road with the same start times.

The second week of the season will have Gilford taking on Prospect Mountain, with the boys hosting the Timber Wolves on Tuesday, Jan. 19, before traveling to

Alton on Thursday, Jan. 21, while the girls will be at Prospect Mountain on Jan. 19, and will host the Timber Wolves on Thursday, all with 6 p.m. start times.

Gilford will take on Division II Plymouth the following week, with the boys at home on Monday, Jan. 25, and the girls on the road and on Thursday, Jan. 28, the boys will be on the road and the girls will be at home, all with 6 p.m. starts.

February will kick off with games against Inter-Lakes. On Monday, Feb. 1, the boys will be hosting the Lakers and will visit Meredith on Thursday, Feb. 4, while the Gilford girls will be in Meredith on Feb. 1 and will host the Lakers on Feb. 4, with 6 p.m.

start times scheduled for all games.

The next week is scheduled to have games with Kingswood on Monday, Feb. 8, and Thursday, Feb. 11. The boys are scheduled to host on Feb. 8 and travel on Feb. 11, with the girls doing the opposite. However, the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board voted in early December to cancel winter sports, effectively cancelling Kingswood's season, though there is currently an effort to restore the season.

Gilford is set to take on Laconia on Monday, Feb. 15, with the boys at home and the girls on the road and on Thursday, Feb. 18, the girls will be at home and the boys will be on the road.

The final week of the

season has the Golden Eagles taking on Kennett. On Monday, Feb. 22, the boys will host the Eagles and the girls will visit and on Thursday, Feb. 25, the boys will be on the road and the girls will host Kennett.

The Belmont-Gilford hockey team is scheduled to kick off the season against Kennett. On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the Bulldogs travel to Conway for a 6:30 p.m. game on Saturday, Jan. 16, Gilford-Belmont hosts Kennett at 12:45 p.m.

The next week is scheduled to be games against Kingswood, but as mentioned above, those games are questionable due to the Kingswood winter sports decision. If they are played, Belmont-Gilford hosts the Knights on Wednesday,

Jan. 20, at 4:30 p.m. and visits Wolfeboro on Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

The following week brings games against Kearsarge-Plymouth. The Bulldogs will host on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 5:30 p.m. and will play at the Waterville Valley Ice Rink on Friday, Jan. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Belmont-Gilford hosts Berlin-Gorham on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 5:30 p.m. and will travel north on Saturday, Feb. 6, for a 6 p.m. game.

Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes is next on the schedule with the Bulldogs hosting on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 4:30 p.m. and the Lakers hosting on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 3:45 p.m.

Belmont-Gilford will host Kennett on Wednesday,

Feb. 17, and will be at Kennett for a 4:30 p.m. game on Saturday, Feb. 20.

The final week of the season has the Bulldogs taking on Kingswood, with a home game on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 4:30 p.m. and a road game on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

The alpine Golden Eagles are set for four meets at Gunstock in the regular season. Gilford will be racing at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 15, then at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19. On Friday, Jan. 29, race time is at 9 a.m. and the final race of the regular season is Friday, Feb. 5, at 9 a.m.

The Division II State Meets are both at Gunstock on Monday, Feb. 8, and Tuesday, Feb. 9.

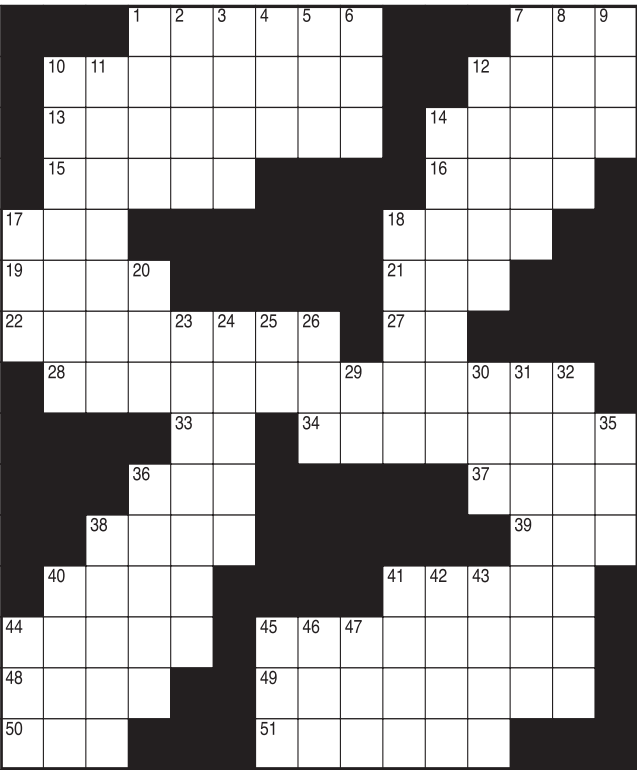
The Gilford Nordic ski team will be at Gunstock for a pair of races, starting the season on Friday, Jan. 15, with a skate race at 2:30 p.m. and racing on Wednesday, Feb. 3, for a classic race at 2:30 p.m.

In between those two races, the Golden Eagles will be at Sandwich Fairgrounds for a freestyle race on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 2:30 p.m. Gilford will race at Beaver Meadow Golf Course in Concord on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 2:30 p.m.

The regular season will wrap up with the Jackson Classic on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. The Division III State Meet is at Great Glen Trails in Pinkham Notch on March 3.

Please note that all schedules are subject to change.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.



ACROSS

- 1. Home of the Cowboys
- 7. "Hawaii Five-O" actor McBride
- 10. Most aged
- 12. Fitted with a shoe
- 13. Courteously
- 14. They form over cuts
- 15. Western Alaskan river
- 16. Aggressive men
- 17. Farm animal
- 18. Young woman (French)
- 19. Sixth month of Hebrew calendar
- 21. Short cry
- 22. State capital

DOWN

- 1. Chinese mountain range
- 2. Romanian city
- 3. Fishermen cast it
- 4. Shelter from wind
- 5. Sign language
- 6. Pigpen
- 7. Make sore
- 8. Flat metal shelves
- 9. Forms that say who you are
- 10. Cigar lovers' necessity
- 11. Popular cooking ingredient
- 12. Skin covering the head
- 14. Unshakable
- 17. Exclamation meaning "Finally!"
- 18. One of the wise men's gifts
- 20. Take away from
- 23. In accordance with the law
- 24. Nicole Kidman's husband
- 25. NY Giants legend
- 26. Utilize
- 29. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 30. Unwell
- 31. More destitute
- 32. Grinded together
- 35. Sun up in New York
- 36. Italian-made cars
- 38. Most sacred site in Islam
- 40. Rip apart
- 41. Go in a specified direction
- 42. Freshwater mussel genus
- 43. "___ the Man" Musical
- 44. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 45. West coast time zone
- 46. Mimic
- 47. You can get one in summer

POINSETTIA WORD SEARCH

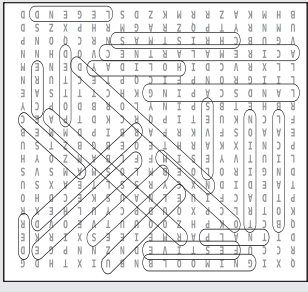
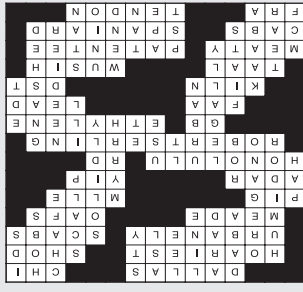
Q X I G N I M O O L B N B U I X T H D G
R C C U F E S T I V E D N Z N N P G E D
D T T N A L P A R M E I E E S X I R K E
Q B C T O K P H Z O Q U U T V E O V D R
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L I I G R O N P F I C Q P T E C T U R N
L L X R V C D I H O L I D A Y D E N E M
A C I R E M A L A R T N E C V O D H N N
V G U B C H R I S T M A S N R C Q O N P
U M N R Y T P Q Z R A G M R H P X Z S D
B H M K A Z R R M K Z D S L E G E N D D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

POINSETTIA WORD SEARCH

AMBASSADOR, AZTEC, BLOOMING, BOTANICAL, BRACKETS, CARE, CENTRAL AMERICA, CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER, DECORATION, FESTIVE, FOLKLORE, HOLIDAY, LANDSCAPING, LEAVES, LEGEND, MEXICO, PLANT, POTTED, RED, TRADITION, UNIQUE

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Edward Jones: Financial Focus

Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions

Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life – physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some financial resolutions? Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

- Don't overreact to events. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a "time out" and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed

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by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news – because tomorrow may look quite different.

• Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living expenses.

• Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows – and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about

things you can't control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.

• Recognize your ability to build savings. During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33% in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economy Analysis. It fell over the next several months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans' proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical

retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms – including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years – and use your savings wisely. These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

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The following Maxfield agents shared in the “We Care” Program

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| Betty Ann Bickford | Donna Faucette | Chip Maxfield | Zannah Richards |
| Robert Buchanan | Jake Froehlich | Jen McCullough | Rick Schwartz |
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| Lynne Butler | Karen Hasselman | Joy Messineo | Terry Small |
| Pam Cariello | Kim Johnson | Peggy Naughton | Shawn Snyder |
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HUNDREDS OF COLLISIONS

Gunstock
FROM PAGE A1

right onto the mountain by showing their pass. For those purchasing tickets, only a certain amount of tickets are released every day, and have been selling out a day in advance. People are required to wear masks and socially distance.

The lodge will only be open for dining while the locker rooms will be closed. Reservations for

dining in the lodge are available for 45-minute increments, allowing extra time for staff to clean and disinfect. People are being encouraged to use their cars as their base lodge from changing and putting on equipment to resting and eating after a day on the mountain. Day said they are recommending people come with lawn chairs to rest after skiing and he said people have been doing so, including setting out little carpets. They will have two food trucks in

the parking lot.

Gunstock will not be having any of its usual events because of the pandemic, including the New Year’s Eve party and others.

The Gunstock Ski Club will continue to have youth races under certain guidelines such as social distancing and no awards at the finish line.

Day said with the pandemic, skiing is an ideal sport for the current situation. He said the activity itself involves being

outdoors and social distancing and people on the slopes wear masks anyway. People are also socially distanced in the lift lines.

“I think they’re happy to be outside,” Day said.

A lot of people have been coming out to the slopes and the winter weather has been ideal.

The mountain got 36 inches of snow during the latest storm. Day said it’s usually hard to make terrain on natural snow since made snow tends to have a much

more powdery consistency. The snow from the storm, however, was all loose powder ideal for skiing.

Day said the day after the storm a lot of people were on the slopes and night skiing especially has been selling out.

“The level of enthusiasm from the customers has been unbelievable. They are ready to go,” Day said.

Day said the fact the storm happened in the resort’s target markets like Connecticut encour-

age people to come up to the mountain.

“That’s always the toughest thing to do in December, to convince people there’s snow up here,” Day said.

Day said overall, everyone’s psyched to be back and happy to be on the slopes.

For more information on Gunstock, its COVID-19 protocols, and for ticketing and conditions visit www.gunstock.com.

Schools
FROM PAGE A1

dents with disabilities. The program earned the class the Granite Stater of the Month honor from Sen. Maggie Hassan and in January, members of the class attended a special reception in Manchester.

The class continued the project and new round of Go Baby Go cars were presented in February to three GES students.

After three years of heavy discussion and extensive revisions, the Gilford school board approved a policy on how the schools will work with transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming students. The district had been looking at this policy since 2016 though progress had stalled. In 2019, Gov. Sununu signed SB 263 into law prohibiting discrimination in public schools against students on the basis of gender identity, which prompted the school board to look at implementing a policy to match state

law. The policy received school board approval in January.

In March, the pandemic started to make itself known. In the early part of the month the district announced an employee went into quarantine after riding on a bus with someone who tested positive.

As the pandemic strengthened the district was planning for the possibility of having to close schools and go remote. On March 13, students left the school buildings for the last time that school year. Governor Chris Sununu and Department of Education commissioner Frank Edelblut ordered all schools to be closed in the state effective Monday. Like all school districts across the state, Gilford put a remote learning plan in place that went into effect that Monday and school now took place at home.

Initially schools were expected to stay remote for a few weeks, though by May Gov. Sununu declared remote learning would continue for the

rest of the school year.

The school district and Gilford Got Lunch provided meals for students in need.

The school community reached out to the students and families in many ways throughout remote learning with special events and signs.

With schools empty and students and educators in the middle of remote learning, educators and staff from the Gilford School District held a car parade through Gilford and Gilmanton to share some love with their students. In April, around 100 cars looped around Gilford and Gilmanton driven by teachers, staff, and administrators with the Gilford School District as a way to tell the kids working from home that they miss them.

By the end of the school year, a major concern was if there would be a graduation and what it would look like. In June the Class of 2020 had a drive-in graduation at Gunstock.

Cars packed into the Gunstock parking lot on Saturday morning. Speakers took the stage at the front of the lot with attendees listening over the PA system or a radio station. Applause took the form of the regular cheering and clapping joined by beeping car horns. Principal Anthony Sperazo and student speakers noted how they

never expected that Friday in March would be their last in school and advised the graduates not to take anything for granted and stay resilient as they had been the past 85 days.

The graduation was followed by a car parade of graduates through Gilford and Gilmanton.

As COVID-19 numbers waned through the summer, the decision was made to open schools for in-person learning though have the option open parents to opt for remote learning. School starting Sept. 8 in staggered groups with all students taking the in-person learning option expected to all be together by Sept. 14. In-person learning came with a number of changes such as mandatory masks, social distancing, and daily health screening.

Many school activities resumed, including sports and extracurricular activities. The theater department put on a production of “Godspell” in three different casts with ample social distancing.

A few months after school started, case numbers were increasing and a number of Gilford students and staff members tested positive or were identified as close contacts and had to quarantine. A few schools and grade levels switched to all remote learning for

a few days as concerns rose about staffing shortages.

The school board held an emergency meeting in late November to decide on a proposal by Beitler to go remote through the beginning of Christmas break. After extensive public comment and discussion, the board voted against that proposal and

approved another to stay remote until Dec. 4 and return on Dec. 7. The proposal included the option to hold a special meeting to discuss any increase in numbers, though Beitler announced schools would resume on Dec. 7 without the need for that meeting.

Gilford
FROM PAGE A1

would be open for circulation only and canceled all events. By the middle of the month the library had completely closed

All town offices were closed to the public.

All Parks and Recreation programs were canceled. Eventually facilities that tend to draw crowds like playgrounds, tennis courts, and the town gazebo were closed and taped off.

The Gilford Youth Center closed starting on March 15, initially planning to be open for a week though closed entirely for a few months.

With the resulting economic crisis, the town examined its options in case tax revenues fell short and selectmen made the decision to hold some purchases.

The pandemic closed Gunstock’s 2019-2020 ski season early. Gunstock announced on March 18 that it would be closing for the season and cancelling all remaining events.

Town facilities started reopening to the public in the summer with restrictions such as occupancy limits and requiring masks and social distancing. People were still encouraged to do as much of their business online as possible.

The library reopened and limited hours people could be in the building. It also offered online ordering and curbside pickup of materials.

By the summer, the town beach opened, and a number of recreation facilities had reopened with extra disinfecting protocols.

Despite optimism that it could still go on, Old Home Day 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic.

demic. The Old Home Day Committee heavily debated if the event should go on this year. The selectmen initially supported the event going on as planned with optimism that the crisis could be mostly done by August. In light of the numbers and after more discussion by the committee and the selectmen, the decision was made to cancel this year’s Old Home Day with the hope that it would be back in 2021.

The annual Memorial Day parade was also canceled, with the selectmen doing a socially distanced ceremony in its place.

The town also canceled trick-or-treating, which usually occurred on Belknap Mountain Road.

The selectmen also voted in favor of donating their quarterly stipend to Gilford Got Lunch to help local families in need during the crisis.

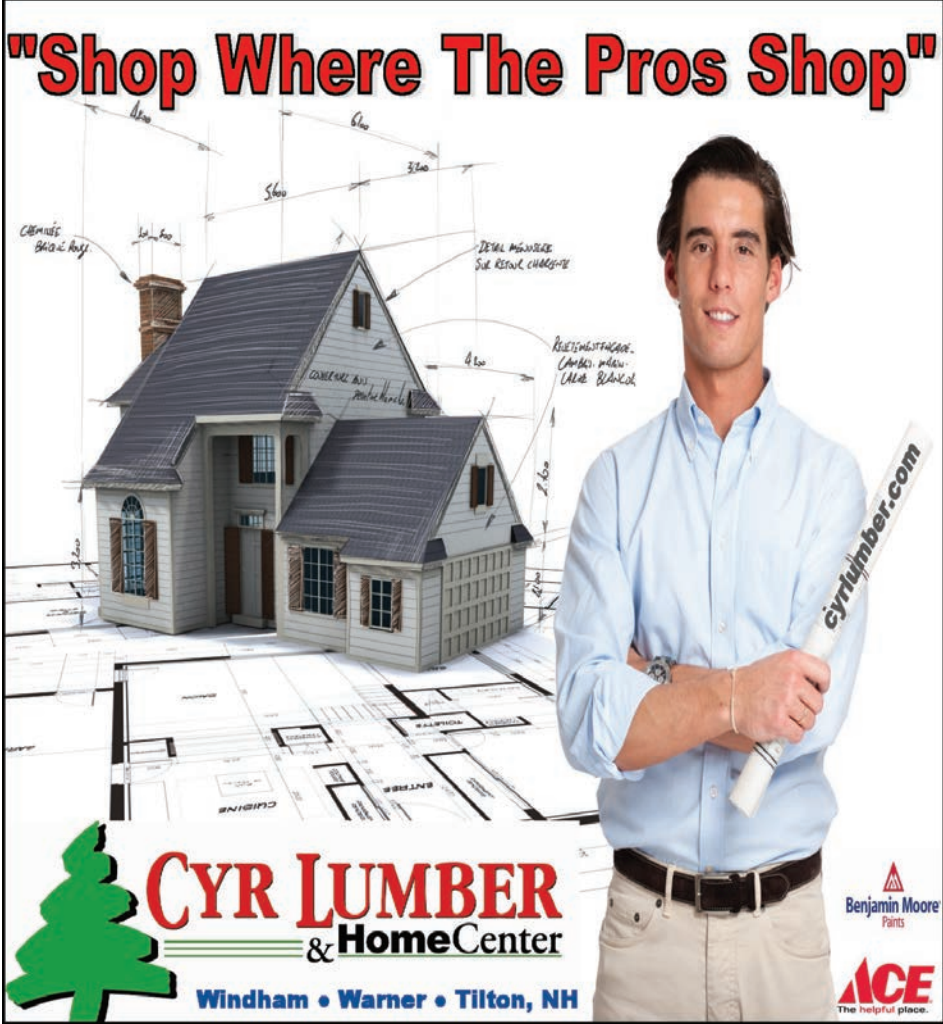
Voters also got through a contentious general election in 2020.

Vice President Mike Pence paid a visit to Gilford in September in support of Pres. Trump. Pence spoke at a rally at Laconia Airport campaigning for Trump as well as voicing support for a number of New Hampshire Republican candidates for state and national office. Pence talked Trump’s accomplishments during his term and heavily criticized his opponent Sen. Joe Biden.

Voters took to the polls in big numbers for the election on Nov. 3. Trump won with Gilford voters with a margin of 240 votes against Biden. Voters also gave their support for Gov. John Sununu, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, and Rep. Chris Pappas.



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