



St. Nick himself helps New Hampton ring in the holidays

BY DONNA RHODES
drhodes@salmonpress.news

NEW HAMPTON — Smiles overflowed in New Hampton’s Town Common last Sunday night, when Santa and his favorite elves paid a visit to all the good boys and girls in town where he chatted with each about their Christmas wishes, passed out candy and finally lit the town tree.

Santa was driven to the town celebration courtesy of the New Hampton Fire Department, accompanied by elves Jingle and Jangle, along with his rarely seen daughter Elsa.

As he made his way around the Common, Santa took time out to speak with each child present, to hear their wishes for Christmas.

After a day spent decorating the family tree and baking cookies, six-year-old Kayleigh said that she wanted a bag of candy canes with her name on it under the Christmas tree this year. Her little sister Jenna couldn’t really decide what she wanted to ask for yet, but did think a gumball machine might be fun.

Others wanted Legos, Super Heroes and other popular toys. With three weeks yet to go before Christmas they were all glad they still had time to make their final decisions though.

More than 40 people assembled for the tree lighting where they also enjoyed hot chocolate, courtesy of the fire department, to keep them all warm throughout the celebration.

After Santa had met with all the children, he then gathered everyone together and asked them to share in some holiday music.

“What better way to start the holiday season than with a song,” Santa declared as they joined him in singing

SEE **TREE LIGHTING**, PAGE A10

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16 pages in 2 sections
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Young Kayleigh and Jenna of New Hampton were among the many girls and boys who attended the New Hampton tree lighting ceremony with Santa last Sunday night.

New Fire Chief sworn in, Space Needs Report presented to selectmen

BY THOMAS P. CALDWELL
Contributing Writer

BRISTOL — The Dec. 1 meeting of the Bristol Board of Selectmen was a time to formalize the work of the past several months, with the swearing-in of a new fire chief,

presentation of a space needs report, and adoption of revised winter parking regulations.

New Hampshire’s Deputy Fire Marshal, Max Schultz, administered the oath of office to Benjamin LaRoche,



Deputy Fire Marshal Max Schultz, right, shakes hands after swearing in Benjamin LaRoche as Bristol’s new fire chief.

selected following a months-long search for a fire chief in the wake of the resignation of Steve Yannuzzi in July. Schultz asked LaRoche’s wife and sons to step forward to take part in the ceremony. SEE **NEW CHIEF**, PAGE A9

Hill FD, Girl Scouts team up to help local families in need with Giving Tree, food drive

BY DONNA RHODES
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HILL — The Hill Fire Department, in conjunction with the local Girl Scouts, has once again assembled a Giving Tree at the town offices, and is also conducting a special food drive to assist families with their Christmas celebrations.

“This program helps provide a better Christmas to Hill families who are experiencing a difficult time and would appreciate some assistance during this holiday season,” the two organizations wrote in a notice to the town.

The Giving Tree is located inside the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s office and holds tags describing the age and gender of a local child along with a desired gift. Residents can select a tag then purchase the requested gift idea and bring it back to the tree, unwrapped, by Dec. 19,

where it will be picked up and delivered in time for Christmas. Anyone who is unable to bring the gift in by that date is asked to contact Fire Chief Dee Ford to make alternative arrangements.

This year’s food drive will benefit a local food pantry that serves residents of Hill and surrounding communities. Donations of nonperishable food items are being collected at the Hill TC/TC office, the Hill Store and Jennie D. Blake Elementary School and should also be dropped off by the Dec. 19 deadline. Those who would prefer to make a financial donation may do so by emailing Chief Ford at deputyford@hotmail.com or by calling 630-5795. Checks can also be mailed to her at 18 Commerce St., Hill, N.H. 03243-0146.

Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated.



Last Saturday morning, State Sen. Jeanie Forrester and Senator-elect Bob Giuda presented Donna Sprague of the Danbury Winter Farmers’ Market with a New Hampshire State Senate resolution, congratulating them on 10 years of success.

State officials recognize Danbury Grange on 10 years of success with Winter Market

BY DONNA RHODES
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DANBURY — State Sen. Jeanie Forrester and her soon-to-be successor, Senator-elect Bob Giuda, delivered a New Hampshire State Senate resolution to Donna Sprague of the Danbury Winter Farmers’ Market. SEE **GRANGE**, PAGE A9

Warren artist creates special birthday gift for Bristol's unofficial mascot

BY DONNA RHODES
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BRISTOL — Chainsaw artist Alex Bieniecki of Warren delivered his latest wood-sculpted masterpiece to Twin Designs Gift Shop in Bristol last week, just in time for Diane the Turtle's 48th birthday party on Dec. 3. The sculpture is a replica of artist/illustrator Brad Tonner's caricature drawing of the shop's real life mascot Diane the Turtle, owned by his

twin brother Jim Tonner, who authors their popular books about his nearly lifelong pet turtle Diane. The sculpture stands six-feet, six-inches high, and depicts a friendly Diane standing atop a wood-sculpted rock, looking as though she just stepped out of the water, ready for new adventures through Jim and Brad's books. It's a stunning work of art that is rapidly becoming a favorite pho-

to opportunity for boys and girls of all ages who visit downtown Bristol. The piece was sculpted from one single, large log and after several months of labor in Bieniecki's workshop, was delivered last week, much to the gratitude and delight of the Tonners. Bieniecki is the owner and artist behind Baker River Chainsaw Sculpture, located at 260 N. Main St. in Warren.



COURTESY
Chainsaw artist Alex Bieniecki of Warren posed beside his completed wood sculpture of Diane the Turtle, the mascot of Twin Designs Gift Shop in Bristol's Central Square, which was delivered just in time for the real life turtle's 48th birthday party last Saturday.

The perfect Christmas tree is waiting for you at Long's Tree Farm

BY DONNA RHODES
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DANBURY — Long's Christmas Tree Farm in Danbury is up and running for the holiday season, and anyone in search of the perfect Christmas tree is invited to stop by to select from the acres of quality grown and expertly pruned trees they have to offer. Jamie and Stephanie Long are professionals in the forest industry, making their farm a premiere place to find the perfect Christmas tree.



While not busy with their profession, the couple maintain Jamie Long's grandfather's former dairy farm. Today as many as 1,000 Balsam and Fraser firs, along with a limited selection of White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce and Concolor fir, fill the sloping of fields, which provide a scenic view of nearby Forbes Mountain. The tree farm officially opened on the day after Thanksgiving. The Longs are now in full operation each Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. until dark for traditional cut-your-own tree selections. Handsaws are available for those who need one and assistance for anyone unable to cut their own tree is gladly provided upon request. Long's Christmas Tree Farm is located one mile up Taylor Hill Road off Route 104 in Danbury, just over the Alexandria town line.

DONNA RHODES
Four-year-old Isaac and his two-year-old sister Kelsea of Grafton were both eager and well-prepared as they and their family set out to select their holiday tree at Long's Christmas Tree Farm in Danbury last weekend.



COURTESY
Giving our troops a happy holiday
Christmas cheer goes with this mailing for Operation Overseas! Operation Overseas is a local shipping program coordinated by Laurie Coffin, a local long time Realtor, who began this program in 2007. Shipments to our Troops and their Military Working Dogs overseas are sent with love and thanks from our community in the surrounding Plymouth areas. "It takes a village to make these shipments happen," stated Coffin, "and I certainly couldn't be successful with it if I didn't have such great support from everyone in our community." Pictured above are Wesley and Evelyn Sidor, who have made this program part of their Christmas tradition every year.

Bristol veteran recounts role in Marine Raiders

BRISTOL — A new documentary video, released to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, features Harold "Bub" Sheffield of Bristol, describing his

motivation for joining the US Marine Corps and how he ended up in the elite Marine Raiders, a special operations unit of snipers and scouts who went ahead of the other troops to assess the enemy and conduct hit-and-run strikes. Sheffield talks about growing up in New Jersey with lifelong friend Bill Weiland and their decision to drop out of college to get involved in World War II. They befriended Herb Foote, who enlisted after being "on a drunk for four weeks", and end up serving together overseas. With wit and self-deprecation — "I don't consider myself a hero" — Sheffield shares his stories about life and death, and a long, full life following the end of World War II. The documentary is the first in a series of planned interviews that allow military veterans to talk about their experiences, in their own words and through their photos, to preserve those stories for current and future generations. The Veteran's Voice series and other videos produced by the Liberty Independent Media Project are available for Web streaming at <https://vimeo.com/libertyindymedia> and DVDs are available for purchase at www.libertymedianh.org/store.html. The Liberty Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit venture producing video documentaries and stories for print and web, focusing on the arts, culture, and history, with a special emphasis on people overcoming adversity. The Liberty Project welcomes donations in support of its efforts. See www.libertymedianh.org or email pm@libertymedianh.org for more information.

Newfound Area School District

Employment Opportunities

Newfound Memorial Middle School

- After School Program Site Coordinator
12:00 - 6:00 pm, Mon - Thur, \$18 per hour
- Paraprofessional - Full Time
- Softball Coach

Bristol Elementary School

- Paraprofessional - Full time, Para II certificate required

Newfound Regional High School

- Custodian - Second shift - Tue - Sat
- JV Baseball Coach

Danbury Elementary School

- Title I Teacher: Long Term Substitute
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Interested qualified candidates should send a letter of interest, resume, transcripts, job application, and letters of recommendation to:

Stacy Buckley - Superintendent
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DURING

- Conserve energy
- Go to community warming shelters & check on neighbors, family, seniors and homeless
- Only use generators in open areas away from windows and home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

AFTER

- Throw out unsafe food

www.Ready.gov/blackouts

Who to Call → Where to Meet → What to Pack

Ready



DONNA RHODES

A family from southern New Hampshire was one of many that made their way to Glove Hollow Farm in Plymouth for a fun-filled holiday excursion, where they roamed the vast fields to pick out their perfect Christmas tree.



DONNA RHODES

Last Saturday afternoon, many families enjoyed a traditional horse drawn wagon ride through the fields of Glove Hollow Farm on Route 3 in Plymouth, bringing smiles and their freshly cut Christmas tree along with them.

Glove Hollow named NH's second most popular Christmas tree farm

BY DONNA RHODES
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PLYMOUTH — Glove Hollow Farm in Plymouth was recently voted by viewers of WMUR-TV as the second most popular Christmas tree farm in New Hampshire, but judging from the crowds and the smiles on the faces of visitors last weekend, that vote could easily be called in for a recount.

Owner Michael Ahern said his farm has

been busy ever since the tree-shopping season got underway after Thanksgiving and people have enjoyed not only the vast selection of trees his farm offers but the many other activities provided by Glove Hollow farm.

Customers have many options when they come to select from the 80-acres of trees currently available on Ahern's rich farmlands.

While there are fresh cut trees, bundled and

ready to decorate any home for the holidays, families can also access the fields to choose a "cut-your-own" tree of their liking.

Whether by free tractor rides, nostalgic horse-drawn wagon rides offered some weekends for a modest fee, or a trip in the family car down to the fertile fields along the Pemigewasset River, everyone has the opportunity to select the best focal point for

their holiday decorations in the manner in which they choose.

One feature that made them a top contender in the television polling is the terrific outdoor experience that goes along with the tree selection.

A warming building is where folks pay for their trees but they are also welcomed to sit by the fire, enjoy a hot drink and relax. Fresh wreaths are available along the front porch of the building for those looking to "deck their halls" a little bit more this Christmas season and maple products are also on sale for anyone wishing to take a little bit of New Hampshire sweetness home for the holidays.

A giant tubular slide is located out back where children can play, and a fun tree house is available for them to explore where they can look out over the farm from a bird's eye point of view.

There is also a petting

farm with friendly goats and chickens for children to enjoy on their family outing.

Glove Hollow Farm is open from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"I live here, though, so if anyone is running late, they can always stop by and I'll do what I can to accommodate them," Ahern said.

The farm is located at 395 Daniel Webster Highway (Route 3) in Plymouth.

PSU launches 'New Hampshire Economic Globalization Report: Contributions and Opportunities for the Local Economy' study

Study to provide first-ever analysis of impacts and opportunities globalization brings to New Hampshire and its businesses

PLYMOUTH — State agencies, domestic companies and foreign investors seeking suppliers, clients or business partners will soon have a new resource for decision-making. Plymouth State University (PSU), in collaboration with the New Hampshire Division of Economic Development, is introducing 'New Hampshire Economic Globalization Report: Contributions and Opportunities for the Local Economy,' an analytics project that will map the distribution of foreign direct investments (FDI) and international trade within the state. This is the first-ever analysis of its kind within New Hampshire, and the information can be used to measure the impact of economic globalization on the state.

In order to generate a complete picture of foreign business presence and international trade flows within New Hampshire, Chen Wu, Ph.D., and Roxana Wright, DBA., the PSU professors who are leading the project, are administering a survey to New Hampshire companies across all industries that export and/or import. The questions in the survey aim to uncover distributions and concentrations of foreign investments and international trade flows within the state by county, as well as across and within all industries. In addition, the study will measure the contribution of globalization to New Hampshire's economy at the county level and in terms of employment creation and retention; investment promotion; export facilitation; labor condition improvement; and social welfare.

According to Dr. Wu and Dr. Wright, more than 43,000 workers were employed by foreign subsidiaries, and international trade supported 22 percent of New Hampshire jobs in 2014. The importance of these findings will be far reaching in terms of state policy, such as serving the needs of New Hampshire exporters and stimulating trade and FDI as a means for economic development, income growth and improving our business climate.

"This project promises great benefits to businesses and the state of New Hampshire," said Thaddeus Guldbrandsen, Ph.D., executive director of government

relations, Plymouth State University. "Data and analysis associated with the New Hampshire Global Economic Index will help businesses identify opportunities for growth and prosperity while helping the State make informed decisions for supporting businesses."

The analysis of the study will help state policy in a predictive sense by providing key information to foreign companies looking to establish operations in New Hampshire. Local exporters, importers and other firms will be able to also use this information for applying state, government and other

SEE GLOBALIZATION, PAGE A9



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Bristol Baptist Church announces Christmas Eve service


BRISTOL — On Saturday, Dec. 24 at 11 p.m., Bristol Baptist Church (located at 30 Summer St. in Bristol) will be holding their candlelight Christmas Eve service. For more information, please call 744-3885.

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Time for a Year-end Investment Review

With the holiday season upon us, you may well be busier than usual. However, by spending a few minutes reviewing your investment scenario of this past year, you can see where you've been, where you might be going, and what you need to do to keep moving forward toward your long-term financial goals.

So, as you look back at 2016, pay close attention to these elements of your investment picture:

- **Performance** – Reviewing your investment performance over time is important in helping you determine if you're on track to achieve your financial goals. So, in evaluating how your investments did in 2016, ask yourself some key questions: How did your investments do relative to their performance in past years? If there was a big difference, what might have accounted for it? Were your returns relevant to your long-term goals? In other words, if you have already established a return rate you'll need to reach your goals – and you should indeed set such a rate – were your actual returns "on track" to help you make progress toward

your objectives? And, just as importantly, were your return expectations realistic, based on your investment mix and the market environment?

- **Investment mix** – If you are a diligent investor following a well-designed strategy, you probably started out in 2016 with an investment mix that reflects your risk tolerance, time horizon, and short- and long-term goals. But over time, your investment mix can change, even without your having done so on purpose. If you owned a certain percentage of an asset, such as growth stocks, and those stocks appreciated in price substantially, they could take up a larger percentage of your portfolio than you had intended, thereby exposing you to a higher risk level than that with which you are comfortable. So now that the year is coming to a close, examine your investment mix to see if it needs "rebalancing."
- **Contribution levels** – Are you taking full advantage of your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan? Specifically, if you got a raise this past year, did you

boost your contributions to your plan? The more you invest now, and throughout your working life, the less likely it will be that you have to play "catch up" in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

- **Mistakes** – We all make mistakes in every walk of life – including the way we invest. In looking back over 2016, can you spot some investment mistakes you might have made? Did you temporarily "bail out" on investing immediately after the "Brexit" vote, only to find, a few weeks later, that the markets had soared to record highs? Did you act on impulse and buy a so-called "hot" stock that turned out to be inappropriate for your needs and risk level? While mistakes like these might be costly in the short term, they can ultimately prove invaluable – if you learn from them.

We're just about ready to turn the page on the 2016 calendar. So, as you review your investment decisions for the past year, try to determine what worked, what didn't – and what you can do to improve your results in 2017.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Dangers of drugged driving

BY DEB TOBINE
Contributor

Use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs can make driving unsafe—just like driving after drinking alcohol. Drugged driving puts the driver, passengers, and others who share the road at risk.

The effects of specific drugs differ depending on how they act in the brain. For example, marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of time and distance, and decrease coordination. Drivers who have used cocaine or methamphetamine can be aggressive and reckless when driving. Certain kinds of sedatives, called benzodiazepines, can cause dizziness and drowsiness. All of these impairments can lead to vehicle crashes.

Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving, poor reaction time, and altered attention to the road. Use of alcohol with marijuana increased driver impairment. It is difficult to determine how specific drugs affect driving because people tend to mix various substances, but we do know that even small amounts of some drugs can have a measurable effect.

According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 10 million people reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs during the year prior to being surveyed; men are more likely than women to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and a higher percentage of young adults aged 18 to 25 drive after taking drugs or drinking than do adults 26 or older. After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found in the blood of drivers involved in crashes. Along with marijuana, prescription drugs are also commonly linked to drugged-driving crashes. The most common prescription drugs found were pain

relievers.

It's hard to measure how many crashes are caused by drugged driving because a good roadside test for drug levels in the body doesn't yet exist, police don't usually test for drugs if drivers have reached an illegal blood alcohol level because there's already enough evidence for a DUI charge, and many drivers who cause crashes are found to have both drugs and alcohol or more than one drug in their system, making it hard to know which substance had the greater effect.

Teen drivers are less experienced and are more likely than older drivers to underestimate dangerous situations. They are also more likely to speed and allow less distance between vehicles. When lack of driving experience is combined with drug use, the results can be tragic. Car crashes are the leading cause of death among young people aged 16 to 19 years.

A 2011 survey of middle and high school students showed that, in the two weeks before the survey, 12 percent of high school seniors had driven after using marijuana, compared to around 9 percent who had driven after drinking alcohol. A study of college students with access to a car found that 1 in 6 had driven under the influence of a drug other than alcohol at least once in the past year.

Drugged driving puts people at a higher risk for crashes, creating a significant public health and public safety threat. Help prevent your child from getting behind the wheel of a car, or riding with an impaired driver by discussing the dangers and consequences. For more information on the effects of drugged driving and how to begin the conversation with your child, visit these Web sites: www.cadyinc.org; www.drugabuse.gov; www.nih.gov; www.hhs.gov.

PET of the Week Kit-Kat



an astoundingly sweet (in a home environment) tabby, who has endured the rough and tumble world of homelessness after her doting owner died, waits still for her forever home.

For 500 days and counting, Kit-Kat has been part of the NHHS family, that's really far too long! Shelter life has been tough, we think she will always mourn the loss of her human, but we've tried very, very hard to fill that void...with a loving, attentive foster home.

We step back and



marvel at Kit-Kat's progress in her temporary digs. She must think it's permanent. She runs, she plays, she snuggles, she's the designated greeter when other humans visit... but this isn't her forever home. Behind the scenes both her foster humans and our adoption staff work hard to find that one true person, or family, who surely can say "yes I will"

After all this upheaval Kit-Kat should be the one and only cat. She really will fill up your heart and your home, we promise.

North Country Notebook



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

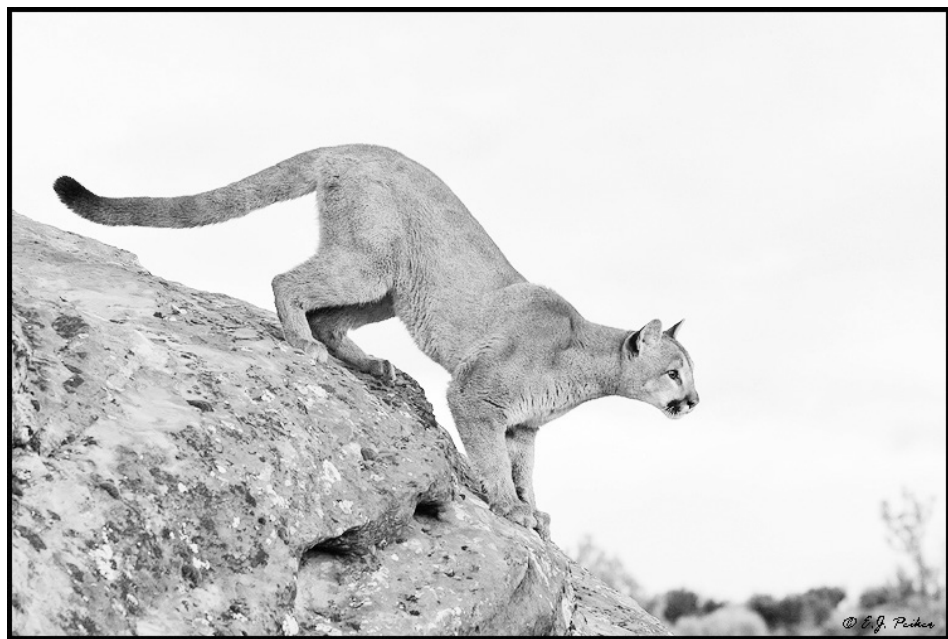
A recent letter from a once-in-awhile reader got me thinking (again) about mountain lions (cougars), and the stories and reports I've heard over the years. There have been a lot of years—I started newspapering in 1968—and a lot of stories and reports.

Of these I've only written about the very best—sightings that to my admittedly untutored mind seemed just plain beyond dispute. This amounts, by my inexact calculation, to perhaps a dozen stories in print, over all those years.

One of the first came during my second newspaper job, at the New Hampshire Sunday News, in the early 1970s. Not long after I got there, I began writing an outdoor column, and no sooner had I got my ears wet than I got my first report of a mountain lion.

Now, I don't remember many details of that incident, but I wrote it up, and no sooner had the ink dried on the newsprint than I got a call from one of my newfound friends at Fish and Game. It had become plain by then that I was destined to be the "go-to" guy for outdoor-related story assignments, and so it behooved me to be making acquaintances with people in the department's various divisions. Some of those acquaintances became

Mountain lion, catamount, cougar: The same critter, the stuff of stories



This is a cougar from out West. It is not much different from its eastern cousin, which the federal government has, in New England at least, declared extinct.

friends, and are friends to this day.

"You're not going to start out by falling for that cougar stuff, are you?" the caller said, or words to that effect. It was a rocky beginning to a long and rocky road on the subject ever since.

I soon realized—and time has done nothing but harden the conviction—that the outdoor public's opinion on the presence of mountain lions on New Hampshire's present wildlife scene is divided into two distinct camps.

In one camp are the complete Doubting Thomases and the downright "show me" crowd. They want a carcass, and preferably a cat killed in the road rather than one shot by someone protecting livestock. And even this might not satisfy them completely.

And in the other camp are the people who've spent a whole lot of time in woods and field, in high country and swamps, in territory built up and isolated, who hold up

a finger and say "Well, wait a minute—what about this?" And they proceed to come forth with something totally unexplained.

The doubters and unbelievers all say pretty much the same thing. If mountain lions have regained a tenuous toehold in this state after near-extinction, why indeed hasn't one been killed in the road? Why have no good, clear, verifiable photographs, films or videos been brought to light? Why no tracks or other qualified sign?

And the believers reply that there are explanations for all of the questions, and there are in fact videos and photos, and it is the precisely the cougar's nocturnal nature and cat-like quickness that have made it so unlikely to be caught by camera or traffic.

All I know is that after all these years, and all this time of hearing it all, from both sides and everyone in between, I'm still left with several sighting reports I consider ab-

solutely unassailable, and one theory I think can easily be put to the sword.

One of the reports I wrote about in the late '70s came from a Colebrook woman and a neighboring farmer who mowed her pastures and fields. He had just finished the field in front of her house, and the two of them were enjoying iced tea on the porch, when a cougar came out of the woods and proceeded to "mouse" for what, they separately told me, seemed a good ten minutes.

And then there was the first story I ran in the Coös County Democrat shortly after I bought the paper in 1978. It came from a matronly librarian in Stark, who on her way to work stopped just in time to spare an adult mountain lion and two juveniles crossing the road.

In both instances the animal was described perfectly. In both cases those concerned promptly looked it up

SEE NOTEBOOK, PAGE A10

Newfound Landing

*Proudly serving Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol,
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Alexandria

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Winter white

While timing may have been poor for those who travel in the morning, the soft snow of Monday was a pleasure to watch. All of my plants say thank-you for the cover. Indoors the hyacinth bulbs have put out many roots so time to move to the light and warmth. Flowers may follow in a few weeks.

Village Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., our village will be a buzz with the Church Craft Fair, there will be home made donuts and chowders for lunch. The AVF Auxiliary Craft Fair in the Town Hall, with the Library Book Sale at the foot of the stage. The Tucker House will be open for tours. Come enjoy an old fashion Town Christmas.

Danbury

Donna Sprague
huntoonfarm@myfairpoint.net

South Danbury Church

On Dec. 11, Rev. Gail Kinney will lead a special holiday service of Christmas readings, and Keegan Farr will return to perform Christmas music and carols. All are invited and will be warmly welcomed.

The sale of gently-used cookbooks and holiday items, and T-shirts and notecards and other LCHIP-project-related items will continue on Sundays at noon until mid-December. Tell everyone you know they can “shop local” at South Danbury Church!

The annual South Danbury Christmas Pageant will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22 (snow date Dec. 23). The pageant is a special gathering celebrated by Yankee Magazine as “enshrined as a community event.” Expect music and song from young and old, a yuletide tableau, holiday refreshments, and maybe – if we’ve all been good – a visit from Santa. The Keith Barrett Band will perform before and after the tableau. Admission is free, and donations will be welcome. All proceeds benefit the Church Preservation Fund.

Blazing Star Grange will hold their meeting and Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcomed. There will be a present exchange, \$10 value and potluck refreshments. The December Winter Market was held on Dec. 3. Local shoppers and sellers enjoyed a great day of sales, bargains and socializing. The next market is Saturday, Jan. 7 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Groton

Ruth Millett 603-786-2926
rem1752nh@gmail.com

There was a Select Board Meeting on Nov. 29, and the following items were discussed and or decided. Under old business there was a meeting with David Leone on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Atwell/Orange bridge project and other concerns. The Select Board is moving forward to get some quotes from engineers on this project and others. The Town has several projects that it will be considering in the coming year or two and will hopefully be able to combine the engineering for some of these.

There was a meeting with the Fire Chief concerning the installation of pumping stations and where the best locations would be for these. Letters will be going out soon to those property owners about the location for the installations.

The new RSA’s that were on the agenda under old business had to do with Veteran’s Tax Credits and this matter will be considered by Warrant at the Town Meeting in March.

The Road Committee met and came up with several proposals for the North Groton Road paving that needs to be done. Once the proposals have been thoroughly considered there will be a Warrant drawn up to be presented at the Town Meeting in March. There will be more discussion at the December 13th meeting. The Select Board and Building Committee will also be a meeting with contractors at the Work Session on that day.

There are collections boxes in the hallway of the Town House for non-perishable foods and gift items for families in need in our Town. If you

would like to donate to this, please bring your items it during office hours, Monday, Wednesday Thursday or Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Tuesday evening 4 – 6 p.m. Monetary gifts may be left at the office and will be used to purchase gifts or food items. Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you.

Tax bill have been delayed and will hopefully be in the mail by the time you read this article. There were some discrepancies that needed to be ironed out and as of today (Friday), it appears we may have the rate in hand by either Monday or Tuesday. Please call my office if you have any questions and I will try to answer them as best I can - 744-8849.

Hebron Fire Department Christmas Project

There will be a “Santa’s Gift Wrap Station” at the Hebron Fire Station. Open hours will be Saturday, Dec. 10 – 9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Dec. 11 – 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Dec. 14 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 – 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday, Dec. 18 – 9 a.m. to noon.

Prices will be: small package \$2, medium package \$3, and large package \$5. Bulk rates are available. Not sure what they’d do if you had a car to wrap, but if you have any questions or special requests, please call 254-4666.

Groton Historical Society

The Groton Historical Society 2017 Calendar “Groton Homesteads: Gone but not Forgotten” are now available. These would make terrific Christmas gifts. If you would like to purchase a calendar just call Pam at 744-5747 or Sherry at 744-9744. You won’t be disappointed with the historical content of this wonderful little calendar.

911 Signs

Here’s another gift idea. Purchase one for a family member or your own family this Christmas. These bright red sign not only look festive on the end of your driveway, but it means you will be better protected in case of an emergency. Police and Fire/Rescue personnel will be able to easily locate you.

If you would like to

order one of the house number signs either stop at the office in the Groton Town House Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or you may stop by the Hebron Town Office any weekday 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Town Clerk will take your order and the Fire Department will come out and install the sign for you if you wish. They are quick which shows how important they believe this is. They are \$15, and checks should be made payable to Hebron Fire Department.

Upcoming Meetings

There will be a Select Board Meeting on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. with a Work Session at 4 p.m. at the Town House and there will also be a work session on Dec. 20 at 5 p.m., with a public meeting to follow should there be a need for it.

The Conservation Committee will be meeting Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Town House.

The Town offices will be closed on the following days:

Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas Holiday
Monday, Jan. 2 for the New Year’s Holiday
Monday, Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Town Transfer Station hours will be changed for the holidays as follows:

Closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 - open Dec. 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 26 from noon-6 p.m. and Wednesdays Dec. 28 and January 4th for regular hours 1-7pm.

I hope you all have a great week.

Hebron

Bob Brooks 744-3597
hebronnnews@live.com

Hebron Library news

Come and visit the Library and see the new and interesting display of Christmas books. On loan from the collection of Barbara Brooks they may inspire you to do some Christmas reading.

The Fundraising Committee of the Friends of the Library just finished a very successful Christmas raffle. Two book bags, one for adults and one for children were filled with books, games and good-

ies! Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to those who supported this event.

Santa's Gift Wrap Station

Hebron Fire Department Christmas Project
Come one, come all...

Where: Hebron Fire Station

OPEN: Saturday, Dec. 10 9 a.m.– noon

Sunday, Dec. 11 9 a.m.– noon

Wednesday, Dec. 14 9 a.m.– 3 p.m.

7 – 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17 9 a.m.– noon

Sunday, Dec. 18 9 a.m.

SEE TOWNS, PAGE A6

Obituaries and Announcements of special events such as weddings, engagements, and anniversaries are published **FREE OF CHARGE** in any/all Salmon Press newspapers.

Obituaries can be sent to:
obituaries@salmonpress.com

Wedding, engagement, and anniversary announcements are welcome at:
weddings@salmonpress.com

Photos are also welcome, but must be submitted in jpeg format.

Please contact Executive Editor
Brendan Berube at (603) 279-4516, ext. 111
with any questions regarding the submission process.

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Mon.-Thurs.: 3:45, & 6:45 PM	

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	**PG-13**
Fri.-Sat.: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:30 PM	
Sun.: 12:30, 3:30 & 6:30 PM	
Mon. - Thurs.: 3:30 & 6:30 PM	
ALLIED	**R**
Fri.-Sat.: 1:00, 4:00 & 9:45 PM	
Sun.: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM	
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:00 & 7:00 PM	
ARRIVAL	**PG-13**
Fri.-Sat.: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 9:30 PM	
Sun.: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 PM	
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:15 PM	

Join us for the advance screening of
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story Thursday Dec 15th at 7:00pm

Find us online at **BarnZs.com**

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Churches

Ashland Episcopal (St. Mark's Church)

We are looking forward to Christmas Eve at St. Mark's and our usual lovely candlelight service. The service will be early at 5 p.m. to accommodate families with children. There will be a children's pageant during the service directed by Jean Murphy assisted by Bea Thi-beault and Ruth Harlow. Our choir will sing and traditional Christmas music will be sung by the congregation.

There will be a Bishop's Committee meeting at 10 a.m. on Dec. 8 preceding the regular 11 a.m. Healing Eucharist service. The Book Discussion Group will meet on Dec. 8, also in Sherrill Hall at noon.

Items for the "Voices against Violence" are still needed - there are baskets at the back of the church at Holy Spirit. "Voices" is a crisis services agency located in Plymouth which provides information and support to victims and survivors and maintains a shelter for those victims and families seeking a safe, temporary home. All services are free and confidential. Items needed are: toilet paper, dish washing liquid, light bulbs, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, garbage bags (30 gallons), gift cards to Walmart, warm women's socks, size 7-10.

Family Worship Center Ply. Assembly of God

Thursday, Dec. 8
Thursday, Dec. 8, 6:30-8 p.m., you are invited to join us for our Family Night at the Church. We offer Godly ministry for children, youth, and adults with programs for people of all ages: Royal Rangers Club for boys, elementary through high school; Mpack Club for girls, preschool through high school; Youth 4 Truth High School Bible Study. Do come for this great time of fellowship and learning.

Sunday, Dec. 11
Sunday, Dec. 11, you are invited to join us at 8:30 a.m. for bagels, coffee and juice; 9 a.m.: Bible Education for all age groups pre-school through Adult Bible Studies. 10 a.m.: Sunday morning service. Children's church during the morning service for ages 3-K, and grades 1-4. The monthly fellowship luncheon will follow the morning service. Please bring food to share. 5:00 p.m: Prayer meeting. "You do not need any experience in order to pray, only faith and trust in Jesus our Lord." You may put prayer requests in the green box marked "Prayer Requests" on the hall table.

Tuesday, Dec. 13
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Youth 4 Truth

for grades 5-8 meet at the church.

Upcoming Monday, Dec. 19
Monday, Dec. 19, noon-2 p.m. - the Church's Helping Hands Food Pantry will be held and free clothing will be available.

Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 to 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Do come and worship with us. You will be out early enough to celebrate your special Christmas Eve activities.

Christmas morning service
Sunday, Dec. 25, Bible Classes and Christmas Service at the usual times. Please do join us in celebrating the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the true meaning of Christmas. Pastor Glen will bring a special Christmas message.

Other announcements
Michelle Thayer has a ministry to the residents at Forestview Manor in Meredith. Keep her ministry in prayer.

Our mission statement
Our Mission Statement is "Transforming lives through God's Word."

Prayer requests for the bulletin may be given to Candy Gusha: candy.gusha@yahoo.com. Please give announcements for the Sunday bulletin to the Church office by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays by e-mailing

fwcag@hotmail.com or Pastor Yungahans at gyungahans@hotmail.com, or phone the church at 536-1966 or Pastor Glen at 726-0254. Everyone is welcome at all of our services. The Church is handicapped accessible, east entrance. Note the Church's new Web site: www.assemblyofgodplymouthnh.org.

Holy Trinity (Roman Catholic)

Campus Ministry
Home-baked stress relief: Food for Finals is coming up soon, a time when Catholic Campus Ministry and C3: Caring Campus Coalition deliver comfort food in the form of homemade goodies to all res. halls and Centre Lodge the first night of Finals Week. Parishioners interested in providing batches of cookies or squares should contact Sandy Abbott at 254-3431 or sandyabbott6@gmail.com with their name, phone number, what they will bake, and the amount. Baked goods should be dropped off at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 10. The Center is located on Highland Street, across from Lamson Library, the next building up from Citizens Bank.

Day Away Annual Holiday Open House
Day Away invites you to our third annual holiday open house Thursday, Dec. 8 from 2-4 p.m. Simard Hall, Our Lady of Grace Chapel, 17

West Shore Rd., Bristol. The barbershop quartet, "Kitchen Sync" is scheduled to arrive at 3 p.m. to entertain and refreshments will be provided.

Catholic Daughters Bake Sale
The Daughters will be holding a holiday bake sale after all of the Masses in Plymouth on the weekend of Dec. 10-11. All proceeds go to charity.

The Spirit of Giving...
The Giving Tree will be on display at St. Matthew Church and at Our Lady of Grace beginning the weekend of Nov. 26. Parishioners are asked to select a gift tag and return the wrapped present with the gift tag attached to the outside of the package. Your generosity has always been inspiring here at Holy Trinity Parish. If you have any further questions, please contact Clay Norwood at 786-2977 (Plymouth), or Kathleen Haskell at 744-2862. (Bristol).

Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve Masses 4 p.m. St. Matthew Church, 5 p.m. St. Agnes Church, 6 p.m. Our Lady of Grace Chapel
Christmas Day Masses Midnight St. Matthew Church, 10:30 a.m. St. Matthew Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered after the 9:30 Mass at Our Lady of Grace Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Penance service
There will be a penance service on Monday, Dec. 12 at St. Matthew Church at 7 p.m.

Advent retreat Friday, Dec. 9, 6-7:30 p.m. North American Martyrs Oratory, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 - 3:30 p.m. St. Matthew Church. Come and prepare your heart

as your gift to Jesus this Christmas.

Keep Christ In Christmas Coloring Contest
The Knights of Columbus in Bristol are sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" coloring contest. This contest is open to children ages five to 14. Posters should have a slogan that defines how they will try to keep Christ in Christmas, and then the picture should portray the slogan. Faith Formation children in Bristol will start their projects during class and take them home to finish. All posters should be done on 11-inch-by-17-inch paper (given out during class), Deadline for poster submissions is December 11th. There will be three age groups for judging: Ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14. Posters will be judged in three areas: 1) Slogan ~ how clearly the theme is presented. 2) Visual ~ how well the visual conveys the message. 3) Overall Impact ~ how effective poster is at capturing attention. There will be a prize for each age group and then the finalists will be sent on to the district and state contests. For more information, contact Jim Cooper at 744-3090

Bristol Baptist Church Christmas in Song
Bristol Baptist Church is inviting any Holy Trinity members that would like to participate in their Christmas in Song concert on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. to please contact Suzie Putnam at 744-8804.

Weekly meetings

Wednesday, December 7 Bible Study: Bristol: No Bible Study this week only Plymouth: St. Matthew Meeting Room, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Matthew Hall, 7 p.m.
SEE CHURCHES, PAGE A7

Towns

FROM PAGE A5
- noon
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Christmas in Song
The Bristol Baptist

Church, located at 30 Summer St. in Bristol, will be hosting the annual "Christmas In Song" program on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.. This will include area talent and audience participation. A free will offering will be collected to benefit the Bristol Community Services. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the program. For more information, please call 744-8804.

NAC Schedule
The Newfound Area Churches begins their weekly advent services at noon every Wednesday beginning on Nov. 30. The half-hour service is followed by a light lunch. Here is the schedule and locations: Dec. 7 - Hebron Union Congregational Church, Dec. 14 - Bristol United Church of Christ, Dec. 21 - Bristol Baptist.

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THE WINNIPESAUKEE TALKIE

Pre-listing home inspections: Avoid the voided home sale



BY RANDY HILMAN

Recently, I suggested to a new client whose home I'm preparing for sale that he seriously consider having his dwelling inspected to determine what if any defects there might be that could be corrected before going live with the listing.

My seller said "no," not interested in spending a few hundred dollars up front to correct anything, when it's obviously not a new house and it's offered for sale at a bargain price as it is.

I suggested a pre-listing inspection because we in the business of helping homebuyers and seller know that property inspections and financing are two of the biggest hurdles to a successful transaction. Why the former?

Our standard form New Hampshire purchase and sale contract includes a paragraph on inspections that gives homebuyers the opportunity to make an offer

to purchase subject to inspections with "results satisfactory to the buyer." Once an offer is tendered and accepted by the seller, it's becomes contract with an opportunity for the buyer to quit the transaction if inspections are not to the buyer's satisfaction.

It's quite rare for a buyer to waive the inspection contingency and in some cases, financing depends on the condition of a home. Often attached to the home buying process is this sometimes-subconscious desire to avoid having to commit. "No" is easier to utter than "yes" and this tendency among insecure purchasers is

always a source of my worry.

Naturally, both situations put sellers at a competitive disadvantage because defects found become the source of buyer demands and withdrawal. Most buyers will have a professional home inspector go through a house to make sure there are not any hidden problems. They're quite good at finding them.

And when they do, buyers who choose not to walk, deciding instead to go forward will demand concessions for repairs that far and away exceed the cost of the repairs themselves. So many defects uncovered during

home inspections are minor in nature and could have easily been corrected prior to their discovery by an inspector.

Take for example small ceiling stains; the evidence of water. Ceiling stains detected during inspections will send up an inspector's antennae and make buyer's extremely insecure about the condition of the roof. The source of the stain might have been something as small as a sweating water pipe, or a now-fixed small drip from a sink above, but it conjures up ice dams, active plumbing problems, and hidden mold.

If the stain doesn't drive away a buyer, ex-

pect to be asked for a price concession that far outweighs the cost of a repainted ceiling. Believe me, many otherwise good sales have crashed and burned over simple defects that could have been inexpensively repaired ahead of time, if only they had been known prior to putting the home on market.

There are plenty of things homeowners will agree to in order to make their dwellings more appealing to buyers. Usually my sellers are agreeable to suggestions that they pick up items left in the yard, generally reduce clutter inside and around the house, rake

SEE TALKIE, PAGE A10

Churches

FROM PAGE A6

Thursday, December 8 Day Away, Simard Hall, 9 a.m. Men's Group, North American Martyrs Oratory, 10 a.m. Cub Scout Meeting, St. Matthew Hall, 6 - 7 p.m. Bear Meeting, St. Matthew Meeting Room 6 - 7 p.m. Friday, December 9 Retreat, North American Martyrs, 6 - 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11, Sacrament of Reconciliation Bristol, after 9:30 Mass. Faith Formation classes: Bristol, Simard Hall, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Plymouth/Ashland: St. Agnes Hall, 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Confirmation classes: Bristol: Movie & Lunch - 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Plymouth/Ashland, 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (including Mass) Advent Retreat - St. Matthew Church - 2 - 3:30 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting, St. Matthew Hall, 5 p.m. ~AA meeting Monday-Saturday, St. Matthew Hall 11 a.m.~

Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal

The season of Advent is upon us. It is a time to prepare for greeting the gift of Christ's birth on Christmas Day. On Sundays it is a reflective time for the congregation when the day to day world is frantically getting really for the Christmas morning gift unwrapping.

Quiet for Advent

To help our parishioners find calm during the busy Christmas season our Deacon Maryan Davis held a morning of quiet time last Saturday. People were treated to meditations and devotions as well as space for journaling, knitting and music. It was a lovely time of reflection and calm. Thanks so much Maryan!

Stewardship Campaign for 2017

The Stewardship campaign is winding down. They have only a few loose ends to tie up. We have had a great response to the campaign. Remember that all money pledged to CHS for 2017 will provide financial support only for CHS.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services
Advent is here, and it

will soon be Christmas! We will be celebrating two Christmas Eve services this year: the first, at 5 p.m., will be held at St. Mark's, and the second, at 7 p.m., will take place at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Maryan will lead a 9:30 a.m. service on Christmas morning. Stay tuned for more details, but we hope to see you there!

Calendars for Sailors

The calendars are beginning to appear in the mail from businesses and charities! If they are not needed, please don't throw them out! Bring them to church and we'll pass them on to the Seafarers' Chaplaincy in Portsmouth, which goes aboard the international cargo ships bringing help and human contact to the sailors who work on them.

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW met on Thursday, Dec. 1 at noon in Griswold Hall. They had a scrumptious pot-

luck luncheon. Then, they wrote Christmas cards which were sent to nursing homes and shut-ins. There was also a silent auction which raised a good sum for money for their outreach programs.

Star King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a multigenerational, welcoming congregation where different beliefs come together in common covenant. We work together in our fellowship, our community, and our world to nurture justice, respect, and love.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, 9:30 a.m. December's Theme is Presence

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Barnes, A Light is Reborn: Solstice and Solace

Worship Associate: Nancy Chaddock
Music: Libby Danahy

Join us for some respite as we acknowledge the extended darkness of Winter Solstice with a service of reverence and quiet.

Children and Youth Religious Education,

Meredith Flynn, DRE
Room 1: Pre-school-Kindergarten: Chalice Children- Core message- Our church is a place where we celebrate holidays.

Room 2: First-Third grade: In Our Hands- Core message- We appreciate the air, water, earth and all its' living creatures.

Room 3: Fourth-Fifth grade: Windows and Mirrors- Core message- We appreciate the service of others in our families and communities.

Middle school: Neighboring Faiths-

The middle school youth will be visiting St. Matthews Catholic Church in Plymouth.

High school: Youth Group- The high school Youth Group meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. in the upstairs Youth Room.

Social Justice Community Outreach

The Social Justice outreach and collection for the month of December will be for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and their program "Guest At Your Table". Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about their work to advance human rights.

This year's program theme is Defying Hate, based on the recent release of the Ken Burns documentary about

UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War" (on PBS). The Sharps defied hate by helping Jews and dissidents escape Nazi Germany using brave, creative methods, many of which could have caused them to be imprisoned, tortured, or worse.

The UUSC is proud to carry forward the Sharps' legacy by continuing to defy hate and protect the lives and rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and other marginalized groups, both here in the United States and throughout the world.

SKUUF will have the 'Guest At Your Table' special collection on

SEE CHURCHES, PAGE A10

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New Chief

FROM PAGE A1

mony, observing that the families of fire personnel are affected by the demanding job and their support is crucial.

LaRoche is a 12-year member of the Bristol Fire Department who has served as a senior captain since 2008. When selectmen placed Yannuzzi on paid administrative in April, until his resignation on July 21, LaRoche assumed a larger role in support of Deputy Fire Chief Chris Dolloff, who served as interim fire chief during the transition.

Over the last decade, LaRoche has served as the department's grant-writer and has been active in regional emergency planning, as well as serving as deputy fire warden. He is the senior paramedic in the department and has been the hospital liaison as well as developing and administering the EMS budget and providing oversight for medical services education in the department.

LaRoche also served on the Newfound Area School Board, resigning that position this past spring.

A 2001 graduate of Franklin High School, LaRoche began his career as a call firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Franklin Fire Department, from 2001 to 2004, at which time he began his employment with the Bristol department. He also served as a paramedic with Twin Rivers Ambulance from 2001 through 2014. He holds multiple fire and EMS certifications, and is a member of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs and National Association of EMTs.

Selectmen also recognized Dolloff, commending him for his efforts during the transition.

"Due to your willingness and ability to take on this responsibility, the Fire Department was able to continue to operate efficiently and effectively through this transition period," the board stated in a letter that Chair Shaun Lagueux read into the record. "The leadership you have shown during the last few months has a large role in fostering these values in all of the department's staff."

After the ceremony, Edward "Ned" Gordon, chair of the space needs committee, reported on the work members had done since selectmen had appointed them following town meeting. The committee's report, which selectmen had received prior to the meeting, had not made public because one member of the committee — former selectman and Bristol business owner Jeff Shackett — had not signed yet off on it.

Gordon said the committee had found three areas to be addressed: the Bristol Municipal Building, home to the town's administrative offices and the Bristol Police Department; the Bristol Fire Department; and the Highway Department, with the adjacent solid waste transfer station.

The committee agreed that the municipal build-

ing was the top priority, with Gordon noting that, in addition to the lack of space for records and evidence storage, the building — originally built with brick in the 1960s, with a wooden addition in the 1990s — has structural problems, bowing out where the two sections join. The recommendation is for the town to build a new town office building on an adjacent lot, purchased earlier this year, and to renovate the existing building so the police department can expand into the space, with a new sallyport for the safe transfer of prisoners.

The fire station, built mainly by the firefighters themselves in 1974, shows some cracking of the cinder blocks, so Gordon said it should remain on the list, but it is of a lower priority. It will need an additional bay to accommodate a larger ambulance in the future, he said.

The outbuildings of the highway department are adequate, he said, but the main garage has no room for employees to clean up or eat lunch, and there are safety issues with the transfer station being so close to the building. Because there are funds available from the closing of the solid waste cooperative in Concord, the town is doing preliminary work on a plan to relocate and expand the transfer station.

Before settling on its recommendation to build a new town office adjacent to the current municipal building, the space needs committee looked at other properties around town — whether currently offered for sale or not — to see if there was a better location. Whether because of location or parking availability, the committee concluded the so-called Smith lot was the best choice.

Architect Brackley Shaw reviewed the committee's work and concluded the lot could accommodate a two-story building with adequate parking for the town

offices. Civil engineer Michael McNally also looked at the lot, discovering a high water table that potentially would present drainage issues. As a result, Shaw is now recommending a slightly larger building without a basement, which reduces the number of parking spaces, but still provides what the committee felt was adequate parking.

"That can be dealt with through a retaining wall," Gordon said, "so we think, overall, that's the best plan."

The estimated cost of the new building and renovations to the municipal building to accommodate the police department is \$1.2 to \$1.5 million.

Gordon said the committee is recommending that selectmen put in a warrant article for town meeting to hire an architect to design the new building.

"We feel that going to the people with an architectural proposal would get a buy-in from the town," he said.

"The community has made great strides in improvements in the last decade, and it would be nice to carry those improvements forward," he said.

The other significant action at the selectmen's meeting was the adoption of a revised parking ordinance to address "winter events" — not just snow storms, but also icy roads and other conditions that call for action by the highway department.

A big concern has been overnight parking for downtown residents. The town had designated space behind the Minot-Sleeper Library and in front of TD Bank for winter parking, but selectmen were looking for additional space, and were hoping to make arrangements for spaces in the Bristol Baptist Church parking lot. When that initiative failed, the town instead looked at the town's easement for parking by the Bristol Hydro Station, off Central Street.

With winter weather

imminent, selectmen approved the designation of those three areas for parking between midnight and 8 a.m., with

Grange

FROM PAGE A1

ers' Market last Saturday morning, congratulating her and the Grange on 10 years of "dedicated sales of locally grown products and unique crafts at the Danbury Grange Hall" and wishing them continued success in the future.

Both Forrester and Giuda are members of Grange in their own communities and appreciate the effort that goes into organizing events such as a farmers' market.

"This community is fortunate to have someone like you willing to do all that it takes to keep a market, especially a Winter Farmers' Market, running for so many years," Forrester told Sprague as she presented the resolution.

Sprague said the Danbury Winter Farmers' Market was one of the first in the region. Over the years, she has had the benefit of working

cars being required to move to other parking spaces by 8 so the highway department can plow those lots. Select-

men said they will continue to look for additional parking and may revise the ordinance in the future.

The meals are made with all fresh local foods, such as the eggs, cheese and sausage found in their breakfast sandwiches. All proceeds from the sales are used to keep the grange hall heated during the long winter months.

Giuda is a member of the Rumney Grange and said he respects all that the Grange organizations have brought to towns and their citizens over the years.

"The Grange grew out of the agricultural background of our state and our nation, and each one is important in terms of the values they perpetuate in our rural communities," said Giuda as he praised Sprague and the market for their longstanding success.

The winter famers' market is located in the Blazing Star Grange Hall on North Road, across from the Danbury Fire Department, and is open on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Economic Development. "The information will be vital to the state as it works to understand the economic impact of international business in New Hampshire and will help us craft a pathway forward to continue to build our international footprint."

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and seeks companies' New Hampshire location(s) and number

of employees, primary product offerings, foreign ownership information, exports and imports as shares of sales, and additional information. The survey, which will be open until Feb. 1, 2017, is available at https://plymouthstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2o6p9eGraHaWvYh.

PSU anticipates releasing the study's findings by the end of summer, 2017.

Globalization

FROM PAGE A3

agencies' incentives and for identifying saturated or prospective markets and business networks.

"The New Hampshire Division of Economic Development is pleased to partner with Plymouth State University on this very important study," said Carmen Lorentz, director, New Hampshire Division of

agencies' incentives and for identifying saturated or prospective markets and business networks.

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agencies' incentives and for identifying saturated or prospective markets and business networks.

AUCTION

Restaurant f/k/a William Tell
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Wednesday, December 14th at 11:00 a.m.

1602 MT. MAJOR HIGHWAY (Route 11) is the location of the former William Tell and more recently the Woodlands Tavern. This 2.2± acre property is improved by a 5,196± sq.ft. restaurant which includes an owner's apartment. There is a bar/lounge area and seating for approximately 80 guests. It is reported that upgrades were made to the building in 2013 and 2014. Zoning: Lakeshore Residential. Tax Map 63, Block 13. Assessed Value: \$339,200.

INSPECTION: Tuesday, December 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and one hour prior to the auction.

TERMS: Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) dollar deposit in cash, certified check, bank check or other form of payment acceptable to Mortgagee at time and place of sale. Balance due at closing within forty-five (45) days of sale. Subject to all terms of mortgagee's notice of sale. Merra & Kanakis, P.C. file#19945. 159 Main Street, Nashua, NH - (603) 886-5055.

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Notebook

FROM PAGE A4
in reference books. And there is not any other animal out there of that size and color with an extremely long, rope-like tail. And finally, the sword to the myth of “escaped pets.” Twice during my career, in print reaching tens of thousands of readers, I’ve appealed to anyone ever knowing about a captive pet cougar, or even hearing about one, to let me know, and I’d

even stipulate anonymity. And I’ve received not one reply. On top of that, who could keep such a thing a secret? Surely family members would know, and the neighbors, and quite quickly, the chief of police, and right behind (or maybe ahead) the game warden (sorry---fish cop. No, sorry---conservation officer). And despite the onus of adding another 300,000 people during my brief time on the

planet, New Hampshire is still a very small state.

(This column runs in weekly newspapers covering two-thirds of New Hampshire from Concord to Lower Que-

bec and parts of western Maine and northeastern Vermont. Letters must include the writer’s telephone numbers and town. Write to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or Box 39, Colebrook, NH 03576.)

Talkie

FROM PAGE A7
leaves, clean rugs and windows, spiff up bathrooms and kitchens, but they often balk when a pre-listing home inspection is recommended. Don’t be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Think of it. If a buyer cancels the purchase, you’re left with defects that your agent may have to disclose to other prospective buyers. Not only will the home have to be returned to market, it will have acquired the baggage of what we describe as “known defects.” Plus, future prospects and their agents will surely wonder and demand to know “what’s wrong with the house that caused the prior contract to fall apart?” No real estate agent wants to answer that question if the cause of a failed transaction was inspection related. It’s so much easier and profitable to make a home for sale as desirable as possible and to “price into the sale” known conditions like old roofs that will not be replaced. I always ask my sellers to put themselves in the role of a buyer and imagine how they would feel about the presence of an old water stain, ungrounded electrical outlets and fireplace cracks. Some get it, some don’t. Meanwhile, are you or people you know planning to buy, sell or invest in real estate in the near future? I can help you maximize your home

acquisition or sale experience. Contact me today to receive my free buyer/seller consultation and home valuation. What you don’t know about our current real estate market – and the condition of your home - could cost you time and money, especially now. Thank you for reading The Winnepesaukee Talkie.

The Winnepesaukee Talkie is a real estate feature column produced by Randy Hilman, an award-winning former business journalist for The Tennessean, a Gannett daily newspaper located in Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Hilman today is an associate broker at Keller Williams Lakes & Mountains Realty, Wolfeboro. He can be reached at 610-8963 or by email at rhilman@randyhilman-homes.com.

Churches

FROM PAGE A7
December 18th. Families and individuals are encouraged throughout the months of November and December to collect coins in cardboard boxes that we provide beginning on November 20th. The boxes will be collected on December 18th during the service. All money will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and their work to advance human rights here in the US and around the world. To learn more you can visit the UUSC Web site- www.uusc.org Canned or dry packaged food items may be placed in the box in the foyer for our local Community Closet collection. Also, items such as small jars of peanut butter, jelly, and canned tuna or chicken can be deposited in the green market bag in the foyer for the “GOT LUNCH! PLYMOUTH” program.

Upcoming activity
“Here We Come a Wassailing!” – Saturday, Dec. 10. Join us as we go across the countryside in our motorized sleighs bringing joy to all those we serenade with traditional Christmas carols. We are hoping for visits from Santa, maybe a Rudolf or two and, who knows, maybe even Frosty! We meet at SKUUF at 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10



On the count of three, Santa lit up the Christmas tree on the New Hampton Town Common last Sunday evening after meeting with children and singing “Jingles Bells” with them as the town welcomed in the holiday season.

Tree Lighting

FROM PAGE A1
“Jingle Bells,” which the children requested. Then, with a wave of his arm, he magically lit

the town tree to officially start the New Hampton Christmas Season before climbing back aboard the fire truck and heading off to his next stop in the state.

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Starr King UU Fellowship is located at 101 Fairgrounds Rd., Plymouth. The phone number is 536-8908. The Web site is www.starrkingfellowship.org, where you can access “Newsletters” to read, or print out, any of several past issues; “Podcast” to enjoy listening to sermons you have missed, or just want to hear again; “Events Calendar” to find out what is going on in our Fellowship.

Newfound Landing Sports

Section **B**
Thursday,

Thursday, December 8, 2016

What's On Tap

With the girls' hoop team already in action at Newfound, the boys will join the fray this week.

The Bear basketball boys will be opening the season by hosting Newport on Friday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. and will be at Winnisquam for a 6 p.m. game on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The Newfound girls' hoop team will be hosting Winnisquam at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

At Plymouth, the hoop girls will begin their season by hosting Kennett at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9.

The Kearsarge-Plymouth hockey team will begin its second season by hosting Pembroke-Campbell at Proctor Academy at 7:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

The Plymouth wrestling team will continue its season with a match at Con-Val on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 9:30 p.m. and will be at White Mountains at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Newfound searching for JV baseball coach

BRISTOL — Newfound Regional High School has an opening for a JV baseball coach. Please send letter of intent, resume and names and phone numbers of three references to Superintendent Stacy Buckley, SAU4, 20 North Main St., Bristol, NH. 03222. Questions should be directed to Peter Cofran, Athletic Director at pcofran@sau4.org or 744-6006, x1507.

Second half propels Bears by Belmont

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

BRISTOL — After scoring just 14 points in the first half and sitting a point behind Belmont, coach Karri Peterson wasn't exactly happy with her Newfound girls' basketball team's performance.

But after a much strong second half that saw the Bears pull away for a 53-37 win, the veteran coach was a bit more pleased, but knows there is still plenty of work to do.

"When we started going in the second half it was when Savanna (Bony) became part of the offense," Peterson said. "We need her to be there for our team to go.

"And Ashlee (Dukette) did her job tonight," Peterson continued. "We couldn't have asked for her to do more."

Dukette was one steal shy of a triple double, pouring in 22 points, pulling down 15 rebounds and had nine steals. Senior Amanda Johnston finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds, including a strong third quarter that helped spark the Bears to the win.

Newfound started strong, as Dukette had two steals and finished them both off for a quick 4-0 lead. A Johnston free throw made it 5-0 before Belmont came back and finished the quarter with a three-pointer and a hoop to make it 5-5 after one quarter of play.

Belmont then came out of the gate in the second quarter and hit a pair from beyond the arc for an 11-5 lead. An Alex is Vantil hoop got Newfound on the board before Belmont hit another hoop. Dukette put back a



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Ashlee Dukette drives to the bucket for two early points against Belmont on Friday night.

rebound and then Johnston hit two from the free throw line to cut the lead to 13-11. After Belmont hit another hoop to push the lead back to

four, Dukette drilled a three-pointer to cut the lead to 15-14 heading to the halftime break.

Johnston hit a free throw out of the gate in



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Amanda Johnston fights for space in the paint as she looks for a shot.

the second half to tie the game at 15 but Belmont hit a hoop to go up by two.

Dukette and Johnston hit back-to-back buckets

to give Newfound the lead for the first time since the first quarter at 19-17. Vantil then hit two free throws to push the

SEE **HOOPS** PAGE B3

A December tradition in the books again

SPORTING CHANCE

By JOSHUA SPAULDING



It's a tradition that dates back more than 20 years and it seems I've been writing about it for almost that many, though I know that's not quite true.

I'm referring to the annual decorating that is done at my mother's house in Stark. I used to do this with my father while he was alive. We'd go out and find trees to put on the lawn and cut boughs so he could make wreaths for the windows. Then we'd put the wreaths up, tie the trees to posts in the yard and put the lights on them and then put candles in all the windows. I always enjoy Christmas and to me, this is the official start of the Christmas season.

For a few years after my father passed away, my brother and I would got out in the woods and search for trees for the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

THE LIGHTS are up again in Stark after a weekend of work.

yard. He even made a number of wreaths as well. But that became too time-consuming once I was out of college and was working a lot. So I went and purchased a number of fake wreaths and a few fake Christmas trees and began using those. Over the years, the number of wreaths and trees has grown.

While I didn't add any new trees last year, I did add a few this year. I had purchased a smaller tree on sale after Christmas last year and my mother's boyfriend had two trees given to him last spring, so there were three new trees. I had an idea where I wanted one of them but was unsure exactly where the other two might go. Then it struck me that my father used to have a tree on our rock patio by the river, so I decided to put one of the trees there. And then I also remembered that his big plan with the greenhouse he purchased and installed off the barn (he passed away before the installation was complete) was

to have a Christmas tree in there each year. The year that he passed away we had one in there, so I thought it appropriate that on the 20-year anniversary of his passing, I could put one there again.

My mother's boyfriend helped me get all the wreaths up first thing on Saturday (my mother had carried them from the second story of the barn earlier in the week). While many can be done simply by one person, having a second person makes it go by much quicker and some of the wreaths require climbing on ladders and roofs, which is always safer with a second person. After hanging the wreaths, we brought all the trees down from the second floor of the barn and got them tied to their poles. Michael brought out all the lights and I laid the extension cords all over the lawn and we put the lights on. We finished up the final two trees after the sun had disappeared.

The next task was the candles, which I got in

place before the evening was over and then on Sunday morning, I finished up the final things, which included some of the decorating inside the house and the wreaths and garland on the picket fence in front of the house.

And, I still had time to write a story on the game I was at on Friday night and this column before heading back to work on Sunday afternoon. And now that the winter sports season has begun, I don't anticipate much free time for a little while.

Finally, have a great day Bob and Cecile Chase.

Joshua Spaulding is the Sports Editor for the Granite State News, Carroll County Independent, Meredith News, Gilford Steamer, Winnisquam Echo, Plymouth Record-Enterprise, Littleton Courier, Newfound Landing, Coos County Democrat, Berlin Reporter and The Baysider. He can be reached at sportsgsn@salmonpress.com, at 569-3126, or PO Box 250, Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896.



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Sports Editor - Joshua Spaulding - 569-3126 (phone) - 569-4743 (fax) - sportsgsn@salmonpress.com

Ari's angels

In honor of young teammate, PSU field hockey team helps fight childhood cancer

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth State field hockey players are in a battle every time they hit the field.

But their battle as a team is nothing compared to the battle that the youngest member of the team has been going through.

And as a result of the shared battles, the team and that young team member have continued to grow stronger over the course of the last year.

The team member is Arielle Beaulieu of Whitefield, who was adopted by the Plymouth State field hockey team in 2015 through the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation.

Of course Ari, as she is known to her team, is not your typical college field hockey team member.

Ari is only three years old and has already been a member of the PSU team for more than a year.

Coach Bonnie Lord said it all started with an alum of the college whose son was adopted by the University of New Hampshire men's ice hockey team through the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation.

Friends of Jaclyn is a community-based organization that connects



Ari Beaulieu poses with her Plymouth State University field hockey teammates earlier this season.

high school and college sports teams with children fighting pediatric cancer.

"She was aware that they were looking for someone for a girl in Whitefield," Lord said, noting that it was tougher to connect kids in the more rural part of the state with teams simply because there wasn't as

many teams around.

Lord talked things over with her field hockey captains last summer and when they heard the story they jumped on board, despite the risks that might be associated with it.

"Many of these teams lose their person," Lord said. "They all have cancer."

Kaitlyn Wilder, who was a captain of last year's team and was also a captain on this year's squad, remembers Lord showing her the photos and hearing the story.

"We (captains) didn't even second guess it," Wilder said. "We said yes and we were excited."

Wilder, Lord and the

other captains figured out all the details in the preseason and then brought the program to the team, which also endorsed the idea.

So, in the first home game of the 2015 season at New Hampton School (the Panthers do not have a home field on campus), the Friends of Jaclyn held an adoption ceremony for Ari.

"They had a big party," Lord said.

"It's hard to put a figure on how it helps to have her with us," said Jordan Ray, a captain on this year's team. "Even in the past two years, watching her grow and the team grow too, is an incredible feeling."

Lord noted that some teams adopt their cancer patient for a season, but the Plymouth State girls adopted Ari for a lifetime.

"At two years old she was already saying she was coming to Plymouth," Lord said with a smile. "It's a forever thing with us."

"Long after I'm gone and these guys are gone, Ari will be a part of the program," Lord added.

Ari has her own locker in the team locker room, as well as team gear and a field hockey stick.

"And she's not your typical three-year-old," Lord said, remembering the start of the new season when Ari made her first appearance at a team practice. The girls who were part of the program last year were all familiar faces and they all got hugs. But the three-year-old even went over to the nine newcomers, people she had never met, and greeted them.

"It's been inspiring to watch her grow," Lord said. "She really is a unique little girl, she's definitely an old soul."

Ari's story began when she was just more than a week old and her family was told that she may not live much longer. She was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer that was overwhelmingly considered to be fatal.

The family didn't accept this diagnosis and the tough little girl survived six brain surgeries and multiple side effects of her diagnosis and continued to fight.

And in May of this year, Ari was considered cancer-free, a phone call Lord was thrilled to receive. She noted she was in contact with the family throughout the process and was happy to get the all-clear diagnosis.

"She still has a small portion left, and she'll be evaluated for the rest of her life," Lord said, noting that it was still great news to everyone.

Ari is one of just 10 known survivors of congenital intracranial teratoma (CIT) in the world and she is the youngest CIT survivor in the world.

The youngest PSU field hockey team member has been to Washington, D.C., where she stood at a podium and

addressed a crowd. But when Plymouth has a home game, there's a pretty good chance she's standing there with her team.

The team did a video touting the adoption and the fight against childhood cancer and noted that Ari's fight became the team's cause.

"Everybody has a cause," Lord said.

The team produced gold bracelets that Lord and the team then pass out to opposing teams at home games.

Lord notes that before their game with USM earlier this season, she called the Husky coach and told her about what the team was doing and they jumped on board to help out. The Huskies all wore bracelets and now before every home game, Lord contacts the opposing coach to get them on board.

"I didn't even hit send on the e-mail before it came back that they were in," Lord said.

The PSU soccer girls also wanted to be a part of it and came to the field hockey senior game to cheer on the team and the field hockey team returned the favor and went to the soccer team's senior game.

"It's taken off in that way," Lord said of the cause her team champions with other teams. She ordered 600 bracelets at the start of the season and there are eight left. "We've sent them all over the world."

Lord notes that a player who played for her when she coached at Kingswood is a pediatric oncologist in the Netherlands and contacted her looking to get bracelets to support the cause. A college team in California and a high school in New York are also among those joining the cause.

"It gives us an opportunity to talk to all these people about it," Lord said. "And other coaches talk about it with their teams."

"And with all these young people, who knows, maybe one that we talk to could be the ones discovering a cure," Lord added.

In the video the team made, Lily Davis remembers Ari putting a face to childhood cancer, something many of the players, if not all, had not been affected by.

"We thought playing 70 minutes was hard and she's battling cancer," Davis said.

"I don't think you forget this," Lord added. "It will be fun to watch Ari grow. I'm looking forward to seeing who she becomes."

And Roy summed things up nicely.

"Us being inspired by a three-year-old is crazy," she said.

But as noted on numerous occasions, Ari is not your typical three-year-old.

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The youngest PSU field hockey team member has been to Washington, D.C., where she stood at a podium and

Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 569-3126 or sportsgsn@salmonpress.com.

Former Prospect coach brings winning pedigree to Newfound hoop boys

Bourdeau brings a fairly strong pedigree to the Newfound program, as he has eight years of high school coaching experience, including five as a varsity head coach. The last three years at Prospect Mountain, he had a record of 46-23 and



FROM PAGE B1

Belmont got the first hoop of the fourth quarter but Dukette came back with a rebound and put it in the net and Bony hit a bucket to push the Bear lead to 36-29. After Belmont hit another hoop, Newfoundland went on a 12-0 run to pull away and ice the game.

The Bears will be back in action on Tuesday, Dec. 13, hosting Winnisquam at 6:30 p.m.

Jarrod Fairbank, Ben



AUCTIONHome with Detached BarnCampton, New HampshireWednesday, December 14th at 11:00 a.m. 1144 US ROUTE 3 is a .75± acre property with a one bedroom, one bathroom home totaling 560± sq.ft. The property includes a 30'X40' barn. Assessed Value: \$72,600. Tax Map 21, Lot 5, Sub-Lot 6. **INSPECTION:** One hour prior to auction, if permitted. **TERMS:** Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollar deposit in cash, certified check, bank check or other instrument deemed acceptable to mortgagee at time and place of sale. Balance due at closing within forty-five (45) days of sale. Subject to all terms of mortgagee's notice of sale. *Broker Participation Invited* FOR A PROPERTY INFORMATION PACKAGE GO TO www.paulmcinnis.com Est. 1976 **PAULMCINNIS INC** AUCTIONS • REAL ESTATE • RESULTS LIC. #2089 - (603) 964-1301 - REF. #16PM-46

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Bobcats return plenty of talent to wrestling mat

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — Last year, the Plymouth wrestling team came up just one point short of capturing its second-straight Division III championship.

And while coach Randy Cleary's team graduated some talent from last year's squad, he is excited about what he has coming back to this year's team.

"We lost some good seniors, but we've got good leadership this year too," Cleary said. "We're going to build our team around our seniors."

He pointed to the

Plymouth football team's championship run as an example of what good senior leadership can do.

"Senior leadership is what helps you to build your program," the veteran coach continued. "The young kids follow the lead of the older kids."

The team is returning two senior wrestlers who were in the top three in the finals last year in Austin Appleby and Garrett Macedonia. Macedonia is the defending champion at 184 pounds and will return to that weight class, while Appleby was third at 152 pounds last year



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Garrett Macedonia returns as the defending champion at 184 pounds.

and will be at 160 pounds this year.

Other seniors returning with experience include Jared Benoit at heavyweight and Brandon Welch at 120 pounds.

"Our strongest class may be our junior class," Cleary said, noting that he has five returning varsity starters and one who was in and out of the lineup.

Troy Johnson finished second at 170 points last year and will wrestle at 195 pounds

this year. Nolan Farina was fourth at 138 pounds last year and will move up to the 152-pound weight class this season. Joe Collette wrestled at 113 pounds last year and will be at either 120 or 126 this season. Alex Hamel wrestled at 145 pounds last year and will be back at that weight class or possibly at 152 pounds. Griffin Smith wrestled at 132 pounds last year and is expected to wrestle at 138 pounds this year.

Thias Silvia was in and out of the lineup last year at 160 pounds and is expected to wrestle at 170 pounds this year. Dylan Davis is also back at 145 pounds as a junior.

Cleary has two sophomores back with varsity experience. Trevor Randlett was third at 103 pounds in his freshman season and will be at 120 pounds this year. Hunter Lessard wrestled at 120 and 126 pounds last year and is expected to be at 126 pounds this season.

"And we have a very talented freshman group," Cleary said, noting that five of the 10 freshmen come in with junior high experience.

"Ten might not seem like a lot, but in the world of wrestling, that's more than some teams," Cleary said. "I'm excited about the freshman class."

Three weeks into practice, Cleary noted he has 30 kids on the roster and there's a goal to improve every day and as always, win the Division III title.

The veteran coach expects Campbell, the returning champions, to once again be top contenders for the title.

"They're looking to be the team to beat again, they're very similar to last year, a very strong

program," Cleary said. "And White Mountains is making a comeback, their numbers are up, they have a good coach with a good core of kids with experience."

He also pointed to Winnisquam as a team who will continually be in the discussion at the end of the season.

Winnisquam will also be the site for the Division III championship.

"That's the first time I can remember that the Division III championship is north of Concord."

The team opened the season after deadline on Dec. 7 against John Stark and Franklin and will be at the Con-Val Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 9:30 a.m.

"There's a good variety fo teams at the tournament, teams that we don't usually see," Cleary said of the meet at his alma mater. "It's a good tournament test."

The team will be at White Mountains on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. The team's first home meet is Dec. 22 against Mascoma and former Bobcat Ricky Simula.

Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 569-3126 or sportsgsn@salmonpress.com.



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