



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016

GILFORD, N.H. - FREE



ERIN PLUMMER

Residents and staff members of the New Hampshire Veterans Home with members of Gilford High School's Student Council. Veteran's Home residents Harry Trott, Edmund Krolikowski, Bill Bertholdt, Gary Simard, Scottie Warburton, Al Seney, and Joe Butler met with a group of GHS students during their advisories.

Veterans Home residents visit Gilford High School

BY ERIN PLUMMER
 eplummer@salmonpress.com

Gilford High School students had the opportunity to meet and hear stories from a number of residents of the New Hampshire Veteran's Home, learning about their service they gave to their country.

On Tuesday morning eight veterans from the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Til-

ton came up to GHS to speak with students. Students in different advisories gathered in the library. Harry Trott, Edmund Krolikowski, Bill Bertholdt, Gary Simard, Scottie Warburton, Al Seney, and Joe Butler each at an advisory table and told stories of their experiences in the military. Some of the veterans served during

World War II and other wars.

Students were given a list of questions to ask, though many of the veterans told their own stories and the students listened.

The visit is an annual event organized by Student Council.

"We wanted to have a day where people of the older generation, particularly those

who experienced war, can talk to students," said Student Council co-president Jack Harding.

Before discussions started, Harding told the veterans that the students want to hear what the veterans know.

Harding said he listened to a lot of the conversations.

"The kids seemed

really invested, more than I've ever seen," Harding said.

Student Council co-president Kayla Zarella said this was an

emotional experience.

"You don't know these people, but one (listening) session

shows how much experience

SEE VETERANS PAGE A7

Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation approves challenge grant for conservation of key property in Belknap Range

GILFORD — The Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) is excited to announce that the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation has approved a challenge grant of \$20,000 to help LRCT raise the remaining funds needed to purchase a key 273-acre parcel of land on Piper Mountain in Gilford in the Belknap Mountain Range.

LRCT and the Gilford Conservation Commission are working together to conserve this important property. The parcel encompasses Piper Mountain's open summit (elevation 2,044 feet), the surrounding unfragmented forest and wild habitat, and parts of key hiking trails.

Anyone who has hiked on Piper Mountain or elsewhere in the Belknaps, or who enjoys the views of the Belknaps from around the region, can attest to the beauty of this landscape. Contiguous to thousands of acres of conserved land, the Piper Mountain parcel has long been a conservation priority for LRCT and the Town of Gilford. We now have the opportunity to protect

SEE PIPER MTN PAGE A7



The view toward the northeast from Piper Mountain.

COURTESY

Youngsters get festively creative at the Gilford Library

BY ERIN PLUMMER
 eplummer@salmonpress.com

Neighborhoods of little, colorful houses painted in frosting and candy sprang up at the Gilford Public Library during the annual Gingerbread House sessions.

For three days, children from preschool and elementary school along with their families came into the library to decorate their own sweet houses. Two decorating sessions were held for preschoolers in one day and two sessions were spread over two days for elementary



ERIN PLUMMER

Kids work on their little, sweet houses during the Gingerbread House decorating at the Gilford Library.

school students.

Participants were each given a house made from graham crackers along with icing and an assortment of candies. The kids could decorate their houses however

their imaginations dictated.

The library has been doing the decorating event for around a decade. Children's librarian Abi Maxwell said

SEE GINGERBREAD PAGE A7

School district reaches tentative agreement with teachers

The Gilford School Board and the Gilford Education Association (GEA) are pleased to announce that they have reached a tentative three year agreement encompassing the years 2017-2020. The tentative three year agreement has been ratified by the GEA membership and the Gilford School Board.

The negotiations were friendly, open and both sides bargained in good faith. Some of the highlights include additional time set aside to meet District wide goals and additional funds available for professional development and gradu-

ate classes. The Gilford School Board has agreed to salary increases for the GEA over the three year contract and the GEA has agreed to increases in their contribution to the health insurance benefit. There were other minor language changes and cleanup of the contract representing the current practice of the District.

The tentative agreement will be presented to the Budget Committee as a warrant article on Jan. 5, 2017. The warrant article will be presented to the voters at the Public Hearing on Jan. 12, 2017 and at the Deliberative Session on Feb. 9, 2017.

New Year brings early deadlines

MEREDITH — The offices of the Gilford Steamer, located at 5 Water St. in Meredith, will be closed Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

In order to ensure that our Jan. 5 edition arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases, letters to the editor, and obituaries intended for publication next week has been moved up 48 hours. Submissions should be dropped off at our offices or e-mailed to steamer@salmonpress.news no

later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29 for inclusion in our Jan. 5 edition. Any submissions received after 4 p.m. on the 29th will be held for publication on Jan. 12.

For information on the holiday deadlines for display advertising, please contact our Sales Representative, Maureen Padula, at 569-3126 or maureen@salmonpress.com.

The staff of the Gilford Steamer thanks our readers for their cooperation with this change in our usual schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and very happy New Year.

Notes from the Gilford Public Library

BY MARK THOMAS

Library Correspondent

We wish you continued happiness during the holidays from the Gilford Public Library. Even if you are in a daze throughout the holidays, we hope things go well for you. Seriously, have a good time. Rock the Casbah. If you haven't

eaten enough cookies, we still have some cookie cookbooks left for borrowing. Enjoy the holidays!

Classes & Special Events

Dec. 29 to Jan. 4

Thursday, Dec. 29
Vacation Legos, 10:30-

11:30 a.m.
Conversational French, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 30

Social Bridge, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Knit Wits, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 31
Closed for New Year's Eve

Monday, January 2nd
Closed for New Year's Day

Tuesday, Jan. 3
Toddler Time, 10-10:30

a.m.
Fiber Friends, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Come to Fiber Friends for a chance to work on your fiber crafts! Rug hooking, latch hooking, quilting, needle felting, and any other fiber crafts are welcome to join in!

Social Bridge, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Storytime, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Line Dancing, 9-10:30 a.m.

Check Out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon

Gilford Public Library Top Ten Requests

1. "Night School" by Lee Child
2. "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult
3. "The Whistler" by John Grisham
4. "Cross the Line" by James Patterson
5. "No Man's Land" by David Baldacci
6. "This Was a Man" by Jeffrey Archer
7. "Hillbilly Elegy" by J. D. Vance
8. "Two by Two" by Nicholas Sparks
9. "The Magnolia Story" by Chip Gaines
10. "Turbo Twenty Three" by Janet Evanovich

GILFORD POLICE LOG

The Gilford Police Department responded to 126 calls for service and made the following arrests from Dec. 15-21. Please note that the names of juveniles, and those of individuals taken into protective custody but not formally charged, have been withheld.

Jennifer L. Watson, age 24, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 17 for Theft By Unauthorized Taking or Transfer (Larceny).

Danny Osbon, age 30, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 18 for Possession

of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs, Second Degree Assault, and for being a Fugitive From Justice.

A 50-year-old male from Gilford was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Dec. 19.

Janice Brinkley, age 59, of Belmont was arrested on Dec. 21 for Misuse or Failure to Display Plates, and on two counts of displaying a False Inspection or Registration Sticker.

Allen J. Milliard, age 44, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 21 for Driving While Intoxicated.

LACONIA — The New Hampshire Humane Society hosted its first Christmas tree decorating event on Saturday, Dec. 17. Despite snowy weather and some slick roads, Christmas with Fur-Ever Friends was a success!

At least a dozen children came to participate in holiday crafts, including wildlife friendly popcorn and cranberry strings and pinecones covered in peanut butter and bird seed for the outdoor tree, which was graciously donated by Miracle Farms in Moultonborough. Merry makers arrived at the shelter in time for a tree blessing and decorating and a cheerful bonfire, as well as to partake in food and drinks. Visitors were also welcome to tour the shelter facility, and meet the many cats and dogs waiting for their forever homes this

Christmas with Fur-Ever Friends a success



COURTESY

The New Hampshire Humane Society hosted its first Christmas tree decorating event on Saturday, Dec. 17. Despite snowy weather and some slick roads, Christmas with Fur-Ever Friends was a success!

holiday season. Two cats were adopted during the event, and many dogs spent time with potential new families in our visiting rooms.

"The New Hampshire Humane Society

is part of the Lakes Region community and we like to open our doors to welcome visitors, especially during this time of holiday cheer. This community gives us so much - donated items,

financial support, and volunteer hours - and we like to give back," says Marylee Gorham, Executive Director of the Humane Society. "This event was a huge undertaking but came off seamlessly, even with a little winter storm in the mix, thanks in large part to our volunteers and fundraising committee. We couldn't do it without them."

The New Hampshire Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to find responsible and caring forever homes; provide shelter for the lost, abandoned and unwanted animals; advocate and be the voice for the voiceless. The Society works hard to prevent cruelty to animals and offers education and outreach programs, pet therapy, and many community initiatives to help people and their pets. To view adoptable pets visit www.nhhumane.org. The New Hampshire Humane Society also accepts monetary donations online at www.nhhumane.org, or specific items, which can be found online at our "Wish List," can also be dropped off during shelter hours or by special arrangement.

GILFORD PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

BY HERB GREENE

Director

Gilford Parks and Recreation

Boston Celtics bus trip scheduled for March 15

The Gilford and Belmont Parks and Recreation Departments are co-sponsoring a bus trip to Boston to see the Celtics take on the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday, March 15. Cost of the trip is \$137 for lower level Loge seats and \$92 upper level balcony seats and includes round trip motor coach from Gilford or Belmont and tickets to the game. Our deluxe motor coach will depart from Gilford High School at 5 p.m. and the Belmont Park & Ride-share (Route 106) at 5:15 p.m. You will have time to visit the pro-shop and get dinner on your own prior to the game. Our seats are in section #19 (Loge) and 329 (Balcony) for the 7:30 p.m. game. Seats are limited; a registration form must be completed accompanied by payment and tickets

are non-refundable.

For more information, please contact the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department at 527-4722 or visit their Web site at www.gilfordrec.com.

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. 7, 2017 and will continue through Jan. 28, 2017 (in the event a day is canceled because of poor weather, it will be made up the week(s) following Jan. 28). Lessons begin at 10 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, Bolduc Park and Piche's Ski Shop. Please mail, fax or drop off your registrations directly to Piche's Ski Shop.

Cost: \$70 per person includes rental equipment!

\$40 per person if you have your own equipment!

If you have any questions, please contact Bob or Pat Bolduc at 524-2068.

Senior Moment-um Bingo Day on Jan. 9

The Gilford Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a Senior Moment-um program on Monday, Jan. 9. We will meet in the Gilford Community Church's Fellowship Hall at noon for a fun afternoon of Bingo. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch and the Parks and Recreation Department will provide coffee, tea and water as well as some fun bingo prizes. Participants are asked to RSVP by Friday, Jan. 6.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Gilford Parks and Rec. Department at 527-4722.

Kelley Corner School preservation project receives LCHIP grant

GILMANTON — The Lower Gilman Community Club, and the Gilman School District have received a grant of \$17,250 from the State's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to support their project to preserve and renovate the Kelley Corner School.

The Kelley Corner School was the first school authorized by the Town in 1778. It is one of two surviving public buildings in Lower Gilman, the first village settled in the Town. (The other is the First Baptist Church on Route 107, just north of the junction with Stage Road.). The Lower Gilman Community Club has leased the building from the School District since the late 1940s after schools in the



COURTESY

The Kelley Corner School in Lower Gilman, the Town's first school and its only remaining publicly owned one-room schoolhouse, will be protected and renovated with assistance from the New Hampshire Land and Community Investment Program (LCHIP).

Town were consolidated and it was no longer used as a school. Since then it has been used as a meeting place and for neighborhood events such as the Harvest Supper and educational visits by school classes.

The project to renovate the school is supported by the Gilman-

ton Historical Society as well as the Gilman School District which owns the building. Tax deductible donations should be sent to the Gilman Historical Society, indicating support for the Kelley School project, at PO Box 236, Gilman, NH 03237.

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Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!

Speed limit lowered for Olde English Lane neighborhood

BY ERIN PLUMMER
eplummer@salmonpress.com

The speed limit in one local neighborhood will be lowered following a vote by the board

of selectmen, though one board member voiced concerns about creating more issues than it might solve.

Last Wednesday, the

board voted two in favor and one opposed to lowering the speed in the neighborhood of Olde English Lane, located off Cherry Valley Road,

from 30 miles per hour to 25. The vote took place following a public hearing.

Public Works director Peter Nourse submitted

a memo dated Nov. 20 requesting that the board consider lowering the speed limit for Olde English Lane, Aspen Circle, Knowlwood Drive, and Harvest Run. He said the town received a request from a resident of Knollwood Drive to lower the speed because 30 miles per hour in that area seems excessive.

Nourse said the road has a lot of hills and hard bends. He said he drove that road at 30 miles per hour and said it was hard staying on the road at that speed.

Nourse said the police department recorded the speeds in that area over a two-week period. Of the 1,492 passing vehicles that went down that road, three percent exceeded 30 miles per hour and most vehicles were doing speeds in the 20's.

There was no public comment during the hearing. Selectman Gus Benavides asked if all residents of those roads had been notified. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said all residents of those roads were given a notice of the hearing.

Selectman Chan Eddy said he also drove down that road prior to the discussion.

"Even in my truck 30 miles per hour is a

little hair-raising going through some of those roads," Eddy said.

Given the road and the speed study by the police, he said 25 seems to be a more reasonable speed.

Board Chair Richard Grenier, however, expressed concern that artificially lowering the speed limit might encourage people to go faster down that road. He said if the speed is lowered, speeding will go up and there could be a speed problem and possible future requests for a speed table. Grenier said the area is mostly dead end roads and the majority of the people driving down it are residents.

"I'm just concerned about unintended consequences," Grenier said.

Eddy said his own prior research indicated people will travel at the speed they're comfortable going regardless of the posted limit. Given the layout of that road, he said it was unlikely lowering the speed would be that much of a problem.

Dunn said in 2010 the police chief and public works director both recommended the speeds be lowered from 30 to 25.

The board approved the speed limit change in a vote of two to one, with Grenier opposed.

Boys and Girls Club gets a makeover

BY ERIN PLUMMER
eplummer@salmonpress.com

LACONIA — Children and teens across the region now have a bigger playing space, a kitchen for meals every night, a place for teens to hang out, and so much more thanks to a lot of local donors who made the renovation of the Boys and Girls Club's building possible.

From summer through the late fall, work was done on the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region's building to make it even better for its visitors.

After several years of repeated location changes, The Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region found its permanent home in the former St. James Episcopal Church building on North Main Street in Laconia. The club officially moved into the 17,000 square foot space in June of 2014.

The club fundraised and arranged for work to be done to fix parts of the building and make the space better for the growing number of kids.

Advisory committee member Scott Knowles the project kicked off at the beginning of summer and construction ran through the middle of November.

Knowles said the biggest project was installing a brand new roof on the building, which required a lot of new insulation.

One part of the building was expanded to accommodate a new front lobby area and new exterior entrance. Visitors now check in with a receptionist at the front.

"It's a lot safer for the kids," Knowles said.

There are also two entrances going to the main level and the areas downstairs.

An elevator shaft was installed to make the building more accessible, though more fundraising will have to be done to get an elevator.

Downstairs a series of separate classrooms were turned into a teen center with an art room and a collection of couches.

The gym area in the former church's sanctuary was redone. The vestibule and the upper mezzanine from the



The new exterior entrance to the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region.



The new lobby area for the Boys and Girls Club, a major part of the renovation project.



Kids play kickball in the remodeled gym.



The kitchen at the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region now has new, commercial appliances thanks to some generous donors.

church were removed and the interior was renovated.

The kitchen has new, commercial grade equipment thanks to numerous donors. There is a convection oven thanks to the Common Man. The Kids Café dining area now has new flooring.

The Roy Foundation and T-Bones gave significant donations to the project. Knowles said Water Street Café was instrumental in getting the kitchen done and the Roy family gave a sizeable donation. T-Bones contributed \$25,000 to the project.

"Our goal is to have dinners here every night," Knowles said.

SEE RENOVATIONS PAGE A12

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Consider Some New Year's (Financial) Resolutions

We're just about ready to open the door to 2017, so you might be thinking about some New Year's resolutions. What's on your list this year? More visits to the gym? Learning a new language? Mastering the perfect beef bourguignon? All worthy ambitions, of course, but why not also include some financial resolutions?

By reviewing your needs and goals, you can identify some resolutions that are particularly relevant to your own situation. But here are a few suggestions:

- Build an emergency fund. If you needed a major car repair or a new furnace, or faced some other large, unanticipated expense, could you cope with it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might have to dip into those investments intended for long-term goals, such as retirement. Instead, build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, kept in a liquid, low-risk account.
- Cut down on debts. It's not easy to cut down on one's debt load. But if you can find ways to reduce your debts, you'll help improve your overall financial picture. Many

debts are not "useful" – that is, they don't carry any tax advantages – so every dollar you spend to pay down those debts is a dollar you could use to invest for your future.

- Boost contributions to your retirement plan. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow tax deferred and your contributions may lower your taxable income. Plus, most plans offer a selection of investment options, so you can choose the investment mix that fits your objectives and risk tolerance. Therefore, if your salary goes up this year, or if you think you can find other ways to free up some money, increase your contributions to your retirement plan.
- Review your portfolio. Is your investment portfolio still on track toward helping you meet your long-term goals? If not, you may need to make some changes. You'll also want to study your investment mix to make sure it still accurately reflects your risk tolerance. Over time, and often without your taking any significant actions, your portfolio can "drift" to a place where

you are taking on too much risk – or even too little risk – for your needs and long-term objectives. If this happens, you may need to "rebalance" your holdings.

- Avoid mistakes. None of us can avoid all mistakes, in life and in our investment activities. But as an investor, you'll clearly benefit from minimizing your errors. For example, it's generally a mistake to jump out of the market in response to a period of volatility. If you wait for things to "calm down" before investing again, you might miss out on the opportunity to participate in the next market rally.
- Think long term. Keep this in mind: You're not investing for today or tomorrow, but for many years from now. Try to keep a long-term focus when making all your key investment decisions. By doing so, you can avoid overreacting to short-term developments, such as a sudden drop in the market or a "momentous" political event that actually decreases in importance as time goes by.

Try to follow these financial resolutions as best as you can. You could make 2017 a year to remember.

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

For more information or to sign up for their monthly newsletter, contact

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www.facebook.com/EJAdvisorJacquelineTaylor.

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Wishing Everyone a
Very Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year.

-Deb Rano

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Pet of the Week: Pig Pen



Handsome, loyal, debonair, a canine widower, Pig Pen arrived in October at New Hampshire Humane Society because his owner died.

WE provide care and comfort to over 1000 animals each year, lately many because their owners have passed away or can no longer provide for their pets due to age and infirmity.

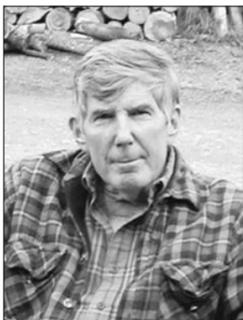
Pig Pen is the polar opposite of his Charlie Brown name, dapper, clean, neat as a pin, with a clear pristine will to find a new forev-

er home. His birthday is January 1st, shall Pig Pen not ring in the New Year still waiting in a kennel at the shelter for a new set of humans to fall in love with him.

Experienced dog owners in a cat free home is preferred, with adults who can 1st)give him a chance to thrive & 2nd)provide him a warm, safe environment to flourish and blossom into the devoted dog he was before and can be again. Merry Christmas Pig Pen, you ARE a good dog!

NORTH COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

Of mice and men, and New Year's regimen



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

This column will appear just four days shy of 2017, too late for my usual Christmas Gift List, but not too late for readers to roll their eyes at my infrequent New Year's Resolution List.

This is actually an unusual thing for me, because I long ago resolved to avoid resolving anything because (a) I've never lived up to a resolution list, and (b) nobody cares. But I received a shocker of a telephone call this morning, and a resolution list will sooth my shattered nerves.

The telephone call came from a reader in Lincoln who reported that there is a move to regulate log and firewood piles there on account of endangering neighbors' property values. This made me rush out to take a fresh look at my own log piles, which are admittedly pretty shabby. But the prospect of putting up a giant painted pastoral scene or something to screen my log piles from possible



JOHN HARRIGAN

A typical scene at the end of my barns, showing what a dandy place it would be for solar panels.

tax litigators moved me to mollify myself with a Resolution Column. So here goes.

--Burn more wood in spring and fall chill fires. Of late I've become lazy about this, and have been burning a little oil instead. This is un-American of me, and in line with keeping energy dollars at home I should think about friends and neighbors who run skidders and chainsaws, and get my butt in gear.

--Plant some fruit trees. I've been putting this off on account of life expectancy (mine, not the fruit trees'). But I've already defied my own expectancy by living past 65, and new varieties of fruit trees bear fruit in an amazingly short time.

--Ditto for solar panels. I have an ideal southwest-facing situation in the form of the back wall of my last (so far, at least) barn. Never mind that for most of the year it is enshrouded in snow, mist, fog and low-lying

clouds. Besides, solar panels are cheaper by the minute, and all I really have to do is look up my nearest Solar Power Guru.

--Downsize my garden. Currently I could feed half of Texas. I should leave all that grubbing to grubs, of which I have plenty. My lawn has so many craters it looks like the moon.

--Speaking of which, I should look into various strategies on skunk control. This was never a problem before, because what few skunks I ever saw around my place were just passing through on sort of seasonal visits, like leaf-peepers, and evidently sought warmer climes before the snow flew. These days some skunks are looking suspiciously like squatters. I'm blaming global warming.

--Double up on the birdfeeders (or double down, as gamblers and political commentators are fond of saying). This

is partly because I like seeing lots of happy, otherwise starving winter birds, and partly because I sometimes fail to heed overwhelming Fish and Game warnings and take my birdfeeders down before the bears get them. This past fall it was Bears 3, Harrigan 0.

--Get another cat that is from a proven long line of really good mousers. This will enable me to avoid having to tend a trap line. Trap lines are no fun unless you get to hole up in a cabin all winter, drinking cheap whisky and thinking about how to build a better mouse trap, and emerge in the spring, rubbing your eyes like a half-blind woodchuck.

--Wire up the Deep Winter Woodshed, right there beside the outdoor furnace, so I can actually see what I'm doing when I'm out there in the dark heaving 100-pound pieces of wood around. It's an expensive prospect, but it has to be a whole lot cheaper than visiting the Emergency Room.

--Happy New Year to you and yours, and the best for 2017 and beyond.

(This column runs in papers covering two-thirds of New Hampshire and parts of Maine and Vermont. Letters should include town and telephone numbers in case of questions. Write to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or Box 39, Colebrook, NH 03576.)

THE WINNIPESAUKEE TALKIE

Mortgage loan denied: You bought what, a snowmobile?



BY RANDY HILMAN

Oh God of my Understanding!

I recently had a real estate transaction collapse because my first-time homebuyer purchased and financed a \$10,000 snowmobile after being pre-approved for a mortgage loan.

Dumb. My buyer did this not realizing that "pre-approval" is not the same thing as "approval." He saw this sexy orange beauty in one of those outdoorsman toyshops and had to have it. Unfortunately, he didn't share his enthusiasm for snowmobiling with me before his loan officer's call arrived.

"Hi Randy, we

have a problem," said the voice on the other end of the phone. "We're not going to be able to fund John Doe's mortgage loan."

It's when I asked why that I learned of the newly financed purchase. Thankfully, for my buyer, the lender's underwriting department pulled his credit report and discovered the newly acquired debt just before we reached the contract-financing deadline. Had this credit investigation occurred shortly before closing, as is typical, my buyer's \$5,000 deposit could have been forfeited to the seller as liquidated damages.

Because the amount of new debt dramatically changed my buyer's debt-to-income ratio, the lender calculated that my buyer did not have sufficient available cash to comfortably service the mortgage debt. LOAN

DENIED. No deal.

So the object lesson, of which I was so painfully reminded, was simply this: loan pre-approval, which is always the recommended first step of the home buying process, does not guarantee that a borrower will receive financing. Mostly it's the buyer who is responsible for the lender's decision to deny a loan but lenders can deny loans for other reasons, like internal policies and revised lending guidelines.

My friends and colleagues at RochesterRealEstateBlog.com have compiled a great list of the most common reasons why lenders deny mortgage loans to borrowers who have been pre-approved. Don't be foolish like my client. Familiarize yourself with these common reasons, if you've just been pre-approved for a loan or are about to seek a home loan, and you'll reduce your risk of denial after pre-approval. Here they are:

Change of job or employment status. Certain loan programs have length of employment requirements. Know if your loan program has such a requirement before you change jobs and always disclose a contemplated job switch with your loan officer.

A new job may be okay if the line of work is similar to your current employment. Going off into a new line of work can result in loan denial.

Negative credit report items. This is one of the biggest reasons loans are denied, experts say. You'll learn what your current credit score is when you seek pre-approval. You don't need perfect credit to qualify for a loan, but you can't allow your credit score to decline after you've been pre-approved. It is critically important to continue to pay bills on time and to monitor your credit score for potentially negative impacts. The RochesterRealEstateBlog suggests using free credit monitoring services like Kredit Karma.

Incurring new debts after pre-approval. No, No, No. Loans are approved with the expectation of repayment. Consumer debt added to your financial statement after pre-approval changes your debt-to-income mix and can lead to mortgage denial. It probably will. If your lender discovers new debt (and it will) after you've passed the financing contingency deadline in your purchase and sale contract, your deposit may be forfeited for failing to complete the

SEE TALKIE PAGE A7

Gilford Steamer

Established May 6, 2004
Published every Thursday at
5 Water Street, Meredith, New Hampshire 03253
Telephone: (603) 279-4516
Toll Free: (877) 766-6889
Fax: (603) 279-3331

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Classifieds: jumbo@salmonpress.com

Circulation figures available on request.
Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertising at any time.
USPS 024967

The Gilford Steamer is published weekly by Salmon Press, P.O. Box 729, 5 Water St., Meredith, NH 03253. Periodicals, postage paid at Meredith, NH 03253. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Gilford Steamer, P.O. Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.

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Farm-fresh produce still available at Gilford Farmer's Market

GILFORD — There may be snow on the ground but it is still possible to purchase fresh produce at the Gilford Farmer's Market held at the Gilford Youth Center in Gilford on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Thanks to their greenhouses, Beans and Greens in Gilford have many varieties of lettuces and greens, along with squashes and beets. They also offer chicken that is GMO free, along with pork and beef, plus eggs from their free roaming hens. If you are looking for a practical gift, they offer gift cards for medium and small sized gift baskets that can be filled with either produce or meats. If you have relatives who do not need more "things," this could be a very helpful gift.

They usually alternate coming with Winnipesaukee Woods Farm since they both offer a similar wide assortment of produce that they both grow in their greenhouses.

Our Place Farm in Loudon also offers a wide variety of healthy beef products, their cattle were grass fed and their pork was also pasture raised, all drug free, as are their chickens. They also offer suet bird feeders that are made by their six year old daughter.

At the Stage Road Farm Stand from Gilmanton Iron Works, you can also find mixed greens, radishes, potatoes, squashes, along with apple cider, sweet breads and their special cinnamon and cranberry



COURTESY PHOTO
Some of the fresh produce offered by the farmers at the Gilford Farmer's Market at the Gilford Youth Center. It will be open on Saturday, December 17th and December 31st, from 9:00 am. to noon.

applesauces.

Picnic Rock Farms from Meredith also offers a variety of goods

and produce, they still have some of the tastiest apples, try one and you will want to buy more.

PTA on the rise in Gilford School District

GILFORD — The Gilford District Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which serves the three town schools, Gilford Elementary, Gilford Middle and Gilford High Schools has been around since the mid-1980s. Affiliated with the better-known National PTA and a fully sanctioned N.H. non-profit charitable association separate and apart from the schools, it has long supported the extra efforts undertaken to improve and enrich the education of all students in the Gilford district. According to Merry Jeffreys, a past-president of the association, "Something that makes the Gilford PTA unique is that there is only one PTA for the entire district, including the high school whose students come from both Gilford and Gilmanton. While there are other booster and club organizations in town that support children who participate in certain activities, our PTA is devoted to empowering families and advocating for all our children."

Benefiting from a groundswell of recent support from private and corporate donations, Gilford PTA recently hosted a Rock 'n Roll and Fall Extravaganza at Bank of NH Pavilion at Meadowbrook attended by families, staff, teachers and administration mingling together to raise money for support and sponsorship of qualifying children wishing to attend the elementary summer camp, as well as all of the exciting opportunities to be offered to students in grades K-12 this year and in the future. Fundraising Chairperson and Event Coordinator Virginia Johnson explained that this type of fall fundraiser was a new idea for Gilford. It was piloted on a smaller scale last spring to test the waters for what kind of support such an event would garner. Fresh on the heels of a sold-out event last spring, Johnson hit the ground running this year with a much more expan-

sive event hosting more than 100 supporters for dinner, dancing to live music and fundraising through both live and silent auctions. "It was a resounding success," noted current PTA President Sharyn Sasserson. Sasserson has been with the PTA for eight years and is excited for the possibilities this kind of community support will bring to town.

"It was impressive to see the support from the different Lakes Region businesses that donated items for the auction and then the community members and their willingness to bid on those items was fun to witness," noted SAU 73 Superintendent Kirk Bietler, who went on to thank everyone who participated in any way.

Johnson elaborated that, "The intent of the renewed efforts from PTA is so that grants can be offered to support the dynamic educational efforts made in the district, as well as to partner with other organizations to support families with issues that matter to them most."

In that vein, a School Safety Night was held on Dec. 6 covering safety concerns and emergency preparedness, as well as volunteer training and review of the district's bullying policies. The PTA has also been able to support grant requests from the elementary and middle schools. The Reflections Arts Recognition Program is also under way now through January, and a Winter Fun Night is being planned, which will include snowshoeing and sledding for elementary and middle school children that will coincide with the annual One School One Book selection. The annual spring poetry competition will be held in April and May, along with other various parent information nights on relevant family topics throughout the year, including guest presenters on topics including stress/anxiety in students and substance abuse and how families can recognize the signs.



GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COURTESY PHOTO
Mrs. Anderson's first grade class learns about boundaries and personal space on a specially designed rug, which outlines where children should sit to meet expectations during story and instruction time, provided by funding from Gilford District PTA.



GILFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL - COURTESY PHOTO

Older middle schoolers enjoy playground balls provided by P.T.A. to support quality and productive recess time, provided by funds from Gilford District PTA.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support making every child's potential a reality, PTA volunteers will be happy to hear from you. Further information is available on the PTA web site, <https://sites.google.com/a/sau73.org/pta/home> or by e-mailing GilfordDistrictPTA@gmail.com.



GILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COURTESY PHOTO

A second grader uses a "wobble ball" designed to encourage subtle bouncing/rocking movements without getting up from his seat, which studies have shown improves academic performance, provided by funding from Gilford District PTA.

They also have maple syrup, eggs, jellies and pastries.

Some of the farmers took a week or so off, but they are now back. If you want food that you know is healthy, come and see what they have to offer.

If you want a tasty treat for yourself, come to the Double Ranch table and see all the Italian cookies that are offered. Marie has handmade Sicilian cannolis and she will fill them to your order while you watch.

If, after going to all the craft fairs, you realize you still need a gift or two, come and see what our craftspeople have to offer. Art Sweatt from Gilford has unique pens that can last a lifetime as the ink cartridge replacements may be bought at Staples. For the sportsman, give a pen with a fly fishing, hunting, or sports motif; he also has beautiful pens that any woman would be delighted to use.

Emma Chase Designs from Salisbury offers a wide variety of jewelry, many necklaces and earrings to choose from. Good quality and beautiful.

If you are looking for items to give at a Yankee Swap or as a Secret Santa gift, come to Andrea's Quilted Kitchen table and you will find a wide variety of placemats, potholders, and

hot pads. If someone is interested in yoga, her yoga potholders have been a popular seller.

At the Big Bag and Udder Things table you will find the perfect items for those interested in sports, there are wine bags/holders, insulated washable lunch bags, all with a sports motif, plus many other items.

Sue Harris of Gilford has many quilted Christmas items, such as placemats and runners that will give your table that special festival look, they are one of a kind so no one else will say, "I have that same runner on my table." The same can be said for her fabric art postcards (with envelopes). She also has a few wall hangings still available, along with the warmest double layer mittens.

The Gilford Farmer's Market at the Gilford Youth Center will be open Dec. 17 and Dec. 31, from 9 am. to noon. Come and see what healthy items the farmers of the area are offering and what our craftspeople have to offer.

The proceeds benefit the Youth Center; if you buy a cup of coffee and a Brother's Doughnut those proceeds benefit the Rowe House Restoration project to replace the roof with new wood shakes.

Aglow Prophetic Connection in February

The Gilford Aglow invites female prophetic artists to a Prophetic Connection event 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Weirs Fountain of Life Church. Artists, dancers, musicians, singers and writers are invited to perform, and/or display/sell their creations at the conference.

The Gilford Aglow Lighthouse is part of the international interdenominational Women Aglow that was founded in 1967, to encourage Christians toward a

deeper spiritual walk. The organization is now known as Aglow International and the Lighthouse sponsors a monthly meeting for ladies.

Call Valerie at 832-1955 to register for the conference, which is \$20 a participant and includes lunch. The deadline is January 15th. The event offers an opportunity to share gifts and network statewide across denominational lines but is limited to artist participants only.



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Pearl Rita Constant, 87

LACONIA — Pearl Rita (Boissonneault) Constant, 87, passed into a better life on Dec. 21, 2016. Born on May 5, 1929 to Joseph and Bertha (Perkins) Boissonneault, she lived all her life in Laconia.

Pearl married the love of her life, Herbert Constant, on July 31, 1948. Pearl and "Joe" as Herbert was better known as, raised four children. Pearl loved her family, her cats and was known for her knitting and crocheting expertise. She was a wonderful homemaker and Mom and kept everyone laughing with her sense of humor and wit. Always ready with a comeback, she enjoyed a joke. She especially found her husband's jokes "funny."

Pearl leaves behind her loving husband, Herbert "Joe" Constant of



Laconia; her son, Thomas, and his wife, Betty of Gilmanton; their children, Kenny and Sara, her son Gary and his wife, Linda of Laconia and daughter-in-law, Karen, Gary's daughters, Krystal and Bethany; her daughter, Jo-Ann Tuttle, and her husband Scott of Gilmanton, and grand cats, Misty, Mandy and Magnum. She is welcomed to Heaven by her son, David and is remembered lovingly by her daughter-in-law, Mary, and their children Bryan, Timothy, and

Carrie; she also leaves behind her sister, Irene Chandronnait, and sister, Norma Danforth and her husband, George, and many loving nieces, nephews, neighbors, and friends. She also leaves behind her five furry feline kids.

There will be no services, but loving thoughts of our loving mom and wife are appreciated.

Donations in Pearl's name would be welcomed to a charity of one's choice in lieu of flowers.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 164 Pleasant St., Laconia, is assisting the family with the arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, go to www.wilkinson-beane.com.

Wilfred N. Godbout, Jr., 85

LACONIA — Wilfred N. Godbout, Jr., 85, a longtime resident of the Tilton, Laconia and Belmont areas, died on his birthday, Dec. 18, 2016 following a long illness at the Genesis Laconia Center.

Wilfred was born in Laconia, Dec. 18, 1931, son of

Wilfred N. Godbout, Sr. and Dora (Nadeau) Godbout. For several years, he worked as a machinist at Scott and Williams for 13 years, Carpenter Paterson for 24 years, and later at the IPC Company in Bristol for eight years.

A U.S. Army Veteran, Wilfred served from 1949 with the 42nd Ord MAM Co. until his honorable discharge as Corporal (T) in 1952.



Wilfred was predeceased by his stepfather, Ludovic Kliszewski, and sister Doris Lepianka.

He leaves his son, David Norman Godbout of Laconia; two grandchildren, Nicholas David Godbout and Natalie Ann Godbout; and three great-grandchildren, Justin Levesque, Olivia Levesque, and Aiden Robert Godbout. He also leaves his former wife and mother of David,

Sue (Davey) Sleeper of Ozark, Ala.; a nephew, Michael Lepianka of Jacksonville, Fla.; and niece Andrea Lepianka, also of Florida.

He was a devout Catholic. Wilfred was also an avid motorcyclist who enjoyed day trips into the White Mountains as well as around the beautiful lakes in our area. His love and generosity will be missed.

A graveside service will be held at the family lot in St. Lambert Cemetery in Laconia later in the spring when weather permits.

Assisting with arrangements is the William F. Smart Sr. Memorial Home of Tilton.

For more information, go to www.smart-funeralhome.com

Bank of NH Pavilion pledges \$80,000 to Colonial Theater project

LACONIA — Recently, the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion pledged \$80,000 toward the Colonial Theater project.

Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion will support the project by purchasing \$80,000 of New Hampshire community development investment program tax credits which were awarded to the project this fall.

RJ Harding, President, stated "We are very proud to support the Colonial Theater and look forward to it reopening in the future!"

"The theater will serve as an anchor to our community and we encourage other organizations to consider making a donation to this worthwhile project," further stated Harding.

In accepting the donation, Justin Slattery, Executive Director of the Belknap EDC, stated, "We are honored to receive a donation from Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion. They are a strong community partner in the Lakes Region and we appreciate their support of the Colonial Theater project." Any



Pictured, left to right: Michael Seymour, Bank Of NH Pavilion COO, Bridget Harding Bank Of NH Pavilion Owner, Justin Slattery, Belknap EDC Executive Director, Dom DeCarli, Bank Of NH Facilities Director, Marci DeCarli, Bank Of NH Pavilion Marketing Director.

business or resident interested in learning more about the Colonial Theater capital

campaign to contact us at 524-3057 or 609Main-Street.org."

Laconia Rotary Club pledges \$35,000 to Colonial Theater project

LACONIA — Recently, the Laconia Rotary Club pledged \$35,000 toward the Colonial Theater project.

Seeing the economic and community development potential for a completed Colonial Theater in Laconia, the club generously voted to financially support



Rotary Club Board Members and Rotary President, Joanne Lang presenting a check to Randy Eifert, Belknap EDC Chairperson.

the project in November. Joanne Lang, President, stated, "As a long standing service club

supporting the Laconia community, Laconia Rotary is proud to support the Colonial Theater Project. Many of our members have fond memories of the theater when it was a focal point of the downtown and look forward to attending a performance there in the future! It is exciting to see the theater re-emerging as an anchor to our community. We encourage other non-profit organizations to consider making a donation to this worthwhile project," further stated Lang.

In accepting the donation, Justin Slattery, Executive Director of the Belknap EDC, stated, "We are honored to receive a donation from the Laconia Rotary Club. The Rotary Club has a long history of supporting community projects in Laconia and we appreciate their support of the Colonial Theater project." Any business or resident interested in learning more about the Colonial Theater capital campaign to contact us at 524-3057 or 609Main-Street.org."



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VETERANS

(Continued from Page A1)

rience they have," Zarella said.

The veterans and the students spoke together for around half an hour before advisory period ended. The veterans said they greatly enjoyed meeting the students.

"They ask a lot of great questions," Bertholdt said.

Krolikowski said it was wonderful meeting the students. He gave them advice, such as staying in school.

"They're wonderful kids," Krolikowski said. "Just try to give them a few tips."

Trott said some of the students were talking like they wanted to enlist in the military themselves.



ERIN PLUMMER
Bill Bertholdt talks to GHS students about his experience in the military.



ERIN PLUMMER
Harry Trott, a World War II veteran, speaks to GHS students.

PIPER MTN

(Continued from Page A1)

it forever. This project will ensure that Piper Mountain's wildness and scenery, popular trails, and magnificent views of surrounding mountains and lakes can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Don Berry, LRCT President, says that the Pardoe Foundation's challenge grant couldn't have come at a better time.

"We are extremely grateful to the Pardoe Foundation for this very generous challenge. We're entering the home stretch of the Piper Mountain campaign and need to raise the remaining funds by early January," Berry said. "The Pardoe Foundation challenge grant provides a tremendous boost that we expect will bring us to the successful completion of the campaign."

Berry explained that

LRCT and the Town of Gilford have already raised over 80% of the funds needed to complete the project. The Pardoe Foundation challenge grant will match—dollar for dollar—up to \$20,000 of additional project donations received by LRCT. "If we're successful in raising \$20,000 more and thus utilizing the full amount of the challenge, we will have met the campaign goal and finished the project."

Berry encouraged people who have not yet donated to the Piper Mountain project, as well as project donors who wish to make additional contributions, to donate now to take advantage of the Pardoe Foundation's generosity.

You can make a contribution for the Piper Mountain project by sending it to LRCT

at PO Box 766, Center Harbor, NH 03226, or by calling LRCT at 253-3301, or visiting LRCT's Web site (lrct.org) and clicking the Piper Mountain link on the home page.

The Lakes Region Conservation Trust, founded in 1979, has conserved nearly 25,000 acres of land throughout the Lakes Region in more than 140 properties. LRCT's land conservation work preserves community character, conserves critical wildlife habitat and diverse ecosystems, protects natural landmarks and scenic landscapes, and provides recreational opportunities for people of all ages. To learn more about LRCT, please visit the LRCT Web site at lrct.org.

TALKIE

(Continued from Page A4)

transaction.

Internal changes to lending policy. This is beyond your control. After you've been pre-approved your lender may change its acceptable credit score guidelines and apply the change retroactively, or change its debt-to-income ratio guidelines or require that you put more cash into reserves. Your loan is likely to be denied if you can't comply with the changed guidelines.

Low appraisal or appraisal-related issues. Loans are typically approved subject to a bank appraisal of the subject property. If the property does not appraise, or the appraiser raises structural, neighborhood or environmental issues, the lender may have no choice but to rescind its approval.

Is there anything you can do to increase

the chance your home loan will be funded? The folks at RochesterRealEstateBlog suggest that you "continue to do what you did prior to getting pre-approved." That means no additional lines of credit, no new debts, no large withdrawals of cash from bank accounts, and no large deposits of cash without proof of source.

Positive steps include continuing to save in case closing costs exceed what was originally estimated and giving your loan officer all documents requested in timely fashion.

Be sure to call me if you're contemplating the purchase of a home and need help getting pre-approved for a loan and learning more about your responsibilities as a borrower. I will introduce you to the re-

SEE TALKIE PAGE A12

GINGERBREAD

(Continued from Page A1)

every year they get between 100 and 120 kids in the library and decorating over the multiple sessions.

This year, the elementary school kids had a session for building and decorating

"I think it's really fun; so many kids come out for it, and it's a lot of people's favorite events of the year," Maxwell said.

A number of people also showed a lot of generosity for the popular event. Maxwell said the school donated a lot of leftover Halloween candy for the activity. Parents donated a lot of supplies as well.

"It's one of the most exciting programs of the year," said children's librarian Maria Suarez. "Talk about Christmas cheer."

A number of volunteers helped with the event in numerous ways. Volunteers worked with staff to make icing, put out decorations, help the kids, clean up, and many



ERIN PLUMMER
Graham cracker houses all ready to be decorated.



ERIN PLUMMER
The Gilford Public Library program room was packed with kids and families for the Gingerbread Houses activity.

more tasks.

Volunteer Blandine Shallow said she enjoys the event, especially seeing the kids working.

"They get so into it; it's fun to watch," Shallow said.

A number of other holiday-themed events took place in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Teens could decorate

their own cookies the previous Monday. The next week, author Karel Hayes did a special story-time with younger kids reading her story "Santa's Tatty Old Boots." Mrs. Claus was at the library a few days later to read a story. Kids could also make their own gifts during Santa's Workshop.

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New year comes in with a ring at Belknap Mill

LACONIA — The Belknap Mill invites you to ring in 2017 at its gala celebration on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. Hosted by the Belknap Mill Society dinner, dancing, caricatures by “Frates Creates,” photo booth, sou- venirs, fireworks and

Two Laconia residential communities donate to Belknap House

LACONIA — This holiday season, two local residential communities generously pitched in and donated to Belknap House.

The facility will serve as the cold-weather shelter in Belknap County for homeless families with children. A late January 2017 opening is planned. Belknap House is located at 200 Court St. in Laconia.

The South Down Shores Garden Club traditionally uses a Giving Pail at the end of each club meeting to collect donations. This month, Belknap House was the recipient. The club co-chairs, Laura Polakowski and Susan Gilchrist, presented a check in the amount of \$100 to President Colleen Garrity. South Down Shores is a large residential community on Lake Winnepesaukee in Laconia.

Later in December, the Taylor Community held a food drive for Belknap House. Staff



Maureen Ballister, Taylor food drive organizer, Colleen Garrity, Belknap House President, and Taylor staff members Paul Charlton, Tammy Stevens, and Cathy Landroche prepare to load the Taylor Community's 146 bags of donated groceries.

members collected 146 grocery bags of non-perishable food items and necessities including paper towels and disposable diapers. Donations of cash added up to \$570.00. Maureen Ballister, Taylor administrative assistant, was instrumental in organizing the event, with assistance from staff members Paul Charlton, Cathy Landroche, and Tammy Stevens. She remarked that on the day of collections, Taylor Community CEO Michael Flaherty drove a bus around the commu-

nity, chatting with residents and gathering the groceries. The Taylor Community is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community that prides itself in being an active, good neighbor in Laconia and the greater Lakes Region. The slogan for the community's outreach efforts is “Taylor Cares.”

Belknap House is grateful for the continued support throughout Belknap County. Donations from generous area residents, businesses, and community and religious organizations sustain the shelter and are of utmost importance. To donate to the current “Open Our Doors” \$25,000 Annual Appeal, please go to www.belknaphouse.org Belknap House encourages and needs volunteers. To view the current list of volunteer opportunities, please visit www.facebook.com/belknaphouse/.



Ring in the 2017 at The Belknap Mill. Enjoy dinner, dancing, fireworks, bell ringing and more on Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. For more information, visit our Web site at www.belknapmill.org.

ringing in 2017 with the famous Belknap Mill bell. The evening will conclude with a champagne toast at midnight.

Dinner by “Christine the Caterer” will include an antipasto & cheese station, Caesar salad station with grilled shrimp, chicken and beef, pasta station, dessert station and coffee. A cash bar will be provided by

Contigiani's Catering and DJ Jonathan of Crown Entertainment will provide music to dance the night away.

Dinner will be available from 8-10 p.m. and the party continues with dessert and coffee. Fireworks proudly sponsored by Weld Fab, will begin at 11:15 p.m. Welcome in 2017 with a champagne toast at midnight and a few lucky people will

have the opportunity to carry on the Mill's New Year's Eve tradition by ringing the bell.

Tickets are \$75 per person/\$140 a pair for BMS members and \$80pp/\$150 pair for non-members.

If you have plans earlier in the evening please join us for dessert, dancing, fireworks & a champagne toast after 9:30 p.m. for only \$25 pp/\$40 per couple.

The Belknap Mill is the oldest unaltered brick textile mill in the country and its society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the Belknap Mill as a unique historic gathering place a center for award winning cultural and educational programs. Your donations and membership support the mission and enhance programming for the Lakes Region Community.

For more information call Jennifer McLean, Event & Program Coordinator at the Belknap Mill at 524-8813.

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Pleasant Street Elementary School first graders' community service project benefits NH Humane Society

LACONIA — The New Hampshire Humane Society is pleased to be the recipient of a community service project conducted by the first graders at Pleasant Street Elementary School. Mrs. Best's and Mrs. Friend's classes learned about wants and needs in their social studies classes, and focused their attention on the animals living at the New Hampshire Humane Society this holiday season.

Using the NHHS "Wish List," the students decided to hold a collection drive to collect canned cat and dog food, toys, and paper towels, as well as monetary donations to address all of the other needs of the shelter. The plea went out to the entire Pleasant Street

School community and resulted in the collection of 121 items (counted and tabulated by the first graders) and \$160 raised. Students who brought in an item to donate were allowed to participate in "Hat Day," on Friday, Dec. 16 — when the NHHS Development Director, Lissa Mascio, visited the first graders to collect their donations. Some students brought in more than one item and shared with a friend, so that all of the first graders could participate in Hat Day. The students decided to donate \$100 of that monies collected directly to the shelter and use the remaining \$60, and their math skills, to purchase cat litter for the shelter.

The New Hampshire Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose



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Mayor Ed Engler donates \$10,000 to Colonial Theater project

LACONIA — "Since the start of the capital campaign, we have received an outpouring of support from businesses and residents in the Lakes Region," said Justin Slattery, Executive Director of the Belknap EDC. "We are making good progress and ask that any business or resident interested in learning more about the Colonial Theater capital campaign contact us at 524-3057 or 609MainStreet.org." Belknap EDC was



Left to right: Mayor Ed Engler presenting donation to Randy Eifert, Belknap EDC Board Chair.

mission is to find responsible and caring forever homes; provide shelter for the lost, abandoned and unwanted animals; advocate and be the voice for the voiceless. The Society works hard to prevent cruelty to animals and offers education and outreach programs, pet therapy, and many community initia-

tives to help people and their pets. Community fundraising efforts, such as the supplies and monetary raised by the Pleasant Street Elementary first graders, are an integral part of keeping the shelter open and providing valuable services to the 17 communities in the NHHS area, and beyond. To view adoptable

pets visit www.nhhumane.org. The New Hampshire Humane Society also accepts monetary donations online at www.nhhumane.org, or specific items, which can be found online at our "Wish List," can also be dropped off during shelter hours or by special arrangement.

Cary Grant and Irene Dunne star in "Penny Serenade" on LRPA this weekend

LACONIA — Join Lakes Region Public Access Television at 10:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday night (Dec. 30 & 31) for our "LRPA After Dark" presentation of 1941's heart-wrenching classic "Penny Serenade," starring Cary Grant and Irene Dunne.

"Penny Serenade," the story of an ordinary married couple who must handle life's many ups and downs, is told in flashbacks. Grant and Dunne play Roger and Julie Adams. Roger, a newspaper reporter and confirmed bachelor with no desire for a wife or family meets Julie, a young working woman who dreams of a loving husband and baby. When Roger gets assigned a post in Japan, he realizes that he can't live without Julie. They get married and very soon, Julie is pregnant. Life seems perfect for the couple, but then tragedy strikes, and Julie and Roger must find ways to cope with grief, anger and disappointment, and the toll that it takes on a marriage.

"Penny Serenade" is the third of three movies that Dunne and

Grant made together, including "the Awful Truth" in 1937 and "My Favorite Wife" in 1940. Those first two movies were romantic comedies, but "Penny Serenade" is a bona fide tear jerker, with outstanding performances by both Dunne and Grant, who, for his emotional performance earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. Dunne often pointed out that, of their three films, "Penny Serenade" was her favorite. We dare you to watch without shedding a tear. So grab your popcorn (and your tissues) and join LRPA after dark for this sentimental movie from the past.

You can't find television like this it anywhere but LRPA TV, MetroCast Channel 25. Not a subscriber? Then log onto Live Stream through our website (www.lrpa.org) where you can catch all the fun.

About Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA)

Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA) is a nonprofit, noncommercial public access TV station

and community media center located on the Laconia High School campus in Laconia, NH. LRPA cablecasts locally on MetroCast Channel 24 (public bulletin board), Channel 25 (information and entertainment) and Channel 26 (government and school meetings) to nearly 12,000 viewers in our member towns and cities of Belmont, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith and Northwood. Programming is produced by and for the people of the greater Lakes Region. LRPA's mission is to empower our community members to produce content that

- fosters free speech and the open exchange of ideas,
- encourages artistic and creative expression,
- promotes a well-informed public through governmental transparency, and
- unites our communities through the power of media and technology.

LRPA's slogan: Community empowered by media. Visit us on the Web at www.lrpa.org.

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founded in 1992 with the mission of promoting economic vitality in Belknap County and the Greater Lakes Region. One of ten non-profit regional development corporations in New Hampshire, Belknap EDC aims to attract and retain young talent, support creative entrepreneurs, enhance workforce development programs and be a pro-active catalyst, partner, and investor in property development that enhances economic opportunity in Belknap County. For more information, visit belknapedc.org.

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Winnepesaukee Playhouse presenting Jack and the Beanstalk

MEREDITH — A poor lad, his long-suffering mother, a cow, and a beanstalk make for a giant good time this holiday season at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse.

And while American audiences may be more used to seeing A Christmas Carol and The Nutcracker at the holiday time, this version of Jack and the Beanstalk, which will be presented in the style of a Traditional English “panto,” will bring the Lakes Region a new New England tradition, straight from old England.

Jack and the Beanstalk features sensational songs, dynamic dance, silly slapstick and mysterious magic. This zany and interactive show will be a treat for audience members

of all ages and families are encouraged to come as a group. The show is specifically written with jokes that will appeal to young children, along with double entendres and humor aimed directly at adults. A mixture of favorite pop songs, coupled with classic musical theatre tunes, will also have wide appeal.

This new version of Jack and the Beanstalk is written and directed by the Playhouse’s Artistic Director, Neil Pankhurst. It will encourage kids to get involved in the action, asking them to “boo” the villain, cheer the hero and help the cast along the way. Says Pankhurst, “the show will be fun, silly and interactive. Parents who worry that their four



COURTESY PHOTO

Last year's holiday panto was Sleeping Beauty. This year's performance will be Jack and the Beanstalk.

Traveling piano teacher accepting new students for Christmas

LACONIA — Veronica Say, B.A., is a traveling piano teacher who has returned to the Lakes Region and is accepting beginning to intermediate students, ages four and up. If the child shows eagerness to learn the keyboard or piano and has a good voice, these are signs of readiness. “Music for Little Mozarts” is designed for preschoolers, and the content can actually be a component in learning to read, while other Alfred curriculum trains older students in a thorough, classical manner.

Giving the gift of music for Christmas is a great idea. A study conducted by Northwestern at a Los Angeles community music school in a low income neighborhood showed the serious study of instruments (not just music appreciation) resulted in 93 percent of the music students attending college. This in an area where there was normally a 50 percent dropout rate (as reported in Time Dec. 16, 2014).

The results of the neurological research published September 2014 in the Journal of Neuroscience, “showed



COURTESY PHOTO

Veronica Say

direct evidence that music training has a biological effect on children’s developing nervous systems.”

Enjoying and making music is a pleasurable lifelong hobby and somewhat like a pet, it is good company. Other studies have shown it can help keep some arthritis under control.

Say has given lessons since 1995, started to compose sacred and

praise music, played on several praise teams and for area nursing homes. A picture book to make learning theory more fun for young students is in the works.

The first lesson is free, to ensure that the student and teacher are a match. Please call Say at 892-5175 or e-mail pianolessonswilltravel@yahoo.com for more information.

year old can’t sit quietly in the theatre should rest assured that Jack and the Beanstalk will keep them interested, engaged, and shouting at the stage – on purpose.”

The cast includes favorite professional actors from the Playhouse’s summer productions, plus some

talented locals. It also features young dancers from local dance studios who will all share the stage with talented professional and local actors.

Jack and the Beanstalk will run for 12 performances over the holiday period with different performance times to accommodate

many different family’s schedules. A full list of performance times can be found at www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org. Tickets range from \$12 to \$22. Tickets can be ordered by calling 279-0333 or online at www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org.

Community generosity and holiday spirit spreads cheer to LRCS families

LACONIA — Lakes Region Community Services (LRCS) relies on the support of donors, volunteers and community partners all year long. But something extra special happens this time of year when so many come together to give children and families a wonderful holiday.

On Monday, Dec. 12, from 5-8 p.m., LRCS’ Family Resource Center, located in downtown Laconia, became a regional outpost of Santa’s North Pole, as volunteers and elves staged a Family Fun Night for area families.

The event, which takes months to organize, gives children access to their own personal elf. Through a penny sale, craft table and wrapping stations, children purchase or make gifts and elves help to wrap the gifts. The event was attended by 65 families (112 adults and 147 children), making it the largest Family Fun Night to date.

“So much work and planning goes into Fam-

ily Fun Night, but the results are worth it,” said Family Resource Center Director Erin Pettengill. “We are so grateful to the volunteers and businesses who help us make this happen. We could never do it without them and it means so much to the parents and children.”

Children and their parents were also able to sing along with professional musician Don Bergeron and visit with Santa. All of this activity causes one to work up quite an appetite, so thanks to Fratello’s of Laconia, there was also time to sit and share dinner with other families.

The community has also come out in full force to support the LRCS Giving Tree, which is providing presents to 110 children this year. AFL Noyes of Belmont and the Laconia Rotary Club were major supporters of the Giving Tree. Every child who received presents through the Giving Tree also got a brand new pair of pajamas donated by Service Master Restore. Thanks also go out to SAU 30, the Division of Children Youth

and Families, LRCS employees and many community members for supporting this program.

LRCS is known as a family-centered agency dedicated to providing supports to individuals with developmental disabilities or acquired brain disorders, and their families. For hundreds of families living in the Lakes Region, the Family Resource Center of Central New Hampshire, a program of LRCS, offers respectful, non-judgmental education, early intervention, and support to assist families in their efforts to meet needs, make positive connections, and prepare children for success today and tomorrow because the Family Resource Center believes strong families lead to strong communities.

LRCS has offices in Laconia and Plymouth which combine to serve families residing throughout Belknap and Southern Grafton Counties. To learn more about the Lakes Region Community Services, contact Joanne Piper Lang at 524-8811.

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The Rest of the Story

RENOVATIONS

(Continued from Page A3)

T-Bones is in on a regular basis donating food for the kids. The Kids Café also gets food from the NH Food Bank.

"We love it, the kids love it," Knowles said. "They have a renewed

sense of pride in the building."

He said the staff doesn't need to tell the kids as much to care for the building because the kids have a new sense of pride in it.

"I think it's fantastic," said branch director Jim Holmes. "I think it shows commitment from the community that we're here to stay and here to do good stuff."

TALKIE

(Continued from Page A7)

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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, NH. He can be reached at 610-8963 or by email at rhilman@randyhilmanhomes.com.



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Franklin Regional Hospital
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FRH- Program starts on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 3-4 pm
Learn more at our free info session: January 25, 3-4 pm

LRGH- Program starts on Thursday, Feb. 2, 9-10 am.
Learn more at our free info session: January 26, 9-10 am

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