

# Gilford Steamer

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

GILFORD, N.H.

## Superintendent gives pre-COVID highlights from local schools



The Go Baby Go project and Winter Carnival were some of the highlights superintendent Kirk Beitler gave of the 2019-2020 school year before the schools switched to remote learning in March.

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
mnews@salmonpress.news

Before the pandemic shut down the schools the 2019-2020 school year, students in Gilford had a number of successes and highlights, some of which are still ongoing

and will pick up for the next school year. Superintendent Kirk Beitler gave the board of selectmen an update during their Aug. 26 meeting on what was going on in the schools. In the spring, Beitler said

they made a huge shift when they went to remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students and teachers were out of school for 12 weeks through the last trimester of school. Beitler gave a number

of highlights from the school year before the shutdown including theater productions, math competitions, sporting events and championships, and more. One new program included a role model

program that connected National Honor Society members with elementary school students. The district was getting ready for a visit from representatives from the New England Association of Schools

and Colleges (NEASC) for Gilford High School's accreditation review. The committee visits the school every 10 years and the district was preparing. NEASC required all

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 7

## DPW building to get needed repairs

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
mnews@salmonpress.news

The Public Works building will get some needed repairs to one wall with rot, drafts, and rodent damage before winter.

Public Works Director Meghan Theriault spoke with the board during the Aug. 26 meeting about repairs needed to the building.

Theriault said there is significant weather damage to the back wall on the lower entrance.

There is no lashing between the first and the second floor and the roof has been falling apart for a while. The windows don't shut well, and they had some bad drafts over the winter.

Water has been spill-

ing into the mechanic's office from heavy rains, creating rot and rodent issues. Rodents were also eating the insulation in the wall.

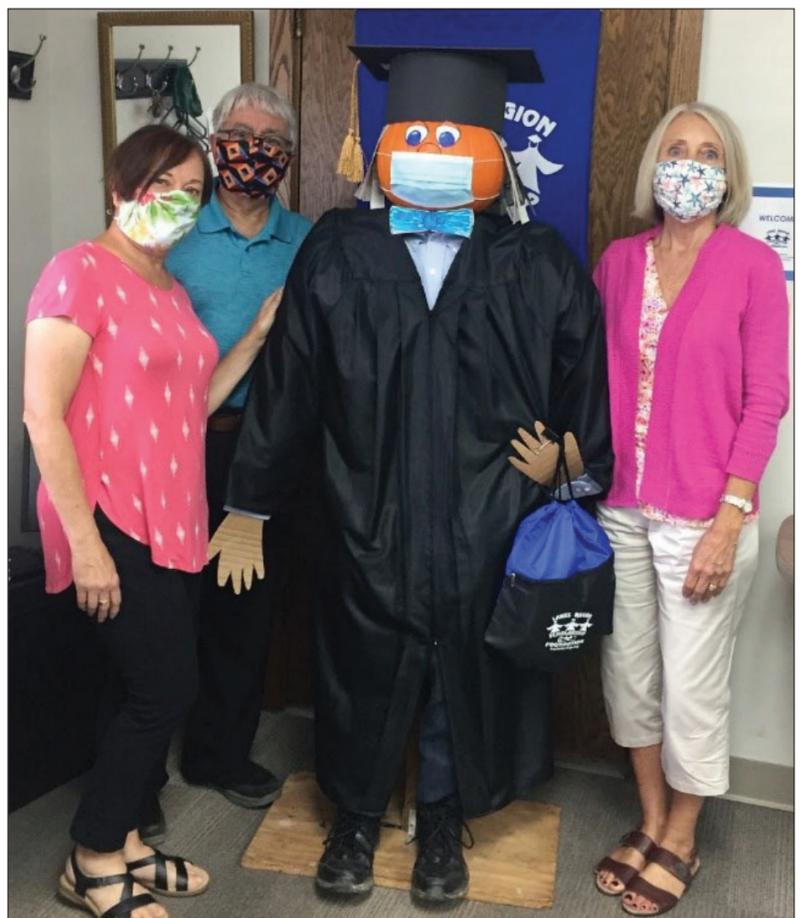
Theriault said the department talked about calling some contractors to address this, though no one was calling back because everyone was busy. They got a call back from a carpenter who gave them an estimate for redoing the whole wall. A carpenter did get back to them with an estimate of around \$18,000 to redo the whole wall including the windows. On closer inspection the carpenter said the windows were in better shape than expected, which lowered the cost.

Theriault said the carpenter will remove and replace the T111 siding from the corner to past the lower entrance, an area with multiple windows that have had issues. A new seal plate will be installed in a higher location and some insulation eaten by rodents will be replaced. The windowsills will also be repaired and the rotting areas removed.

"So they were just trying to do some repairs to get us functional," Theriault said. "I understand there are long term plans and hopes to build a new facility someday, but like I said to Scott (Town Administrator Scott Dunn) I need to keep the build-

SEE **REPAIRS** PAGE 7

## Scholarship Foundation announces new Pumpkin Figure Contest



COURTESY

LRSF Board Vice President, Joan Frates is joined by her husband, local artist, Larry Frates, to work on the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation's 2020 Pumpkin Figure. The Scholarship Foundation is hosting the First Annual Pumpkin Figure Contest this October. Joining the Frates was LRSF Executive Director, Karen Switzer. Pictured l to r (Joan Frates, LRSF Vice President, Larry Frates, "Brad the Grad" and LRSF Executive Director, Karen Switzer.

The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is planning a new Fall event this year: the First Annual Pumpkin Figure Contest.

The event is similar to the pumpkin people events held in other communities in our state. The figures must

include at least one pumpkin with the added twist that the judges will be looking to see that the figures include some recycled materials along with other creative parts. Entrants are asked to use their imagination and come up with something unique and creative. Perhaps

something that fits their business or hobbies, for example: a set of pumpkin figures might be exercising, if a gym enters; or group might choose to create a character or perhaps a set of characters from their favorite movie. The creations could even be as simple

SEE **CONTEST** PAGE 7

## Town assessors work within a unique year

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
mnews@salmonpress.news

Town assessors are managing a unique year with the pandemic resulting in some difficulties in home inspections and some different market trends.

During the Aug. 26 selectmen's meeting, Marybeth Walker of Corcoran Consulting Associates gave the selectmen an update on the assessing activities done this year.

"It has been a little bit more challenging this year both in the of-

fice and out in the field," Walker said.

Every year, they will assess a fifth of the town, with the whole town completed over a five year period, visiting around 1,400 properties in that five year period. A town wide revaluation was conducted in 2019 and Walker said the state is now in the process of reviewing and certifying that data. She said this is to make sure their records are accurate and up to date. This isn't meant to adjust the value of a property un-

less they find something that wasn't on the card.

This year they have been doing their usual assessing duties while managing social distancing and changing how they do things in and out of the field.

"We have still been out in the field doing regular, normal activities, we've just had to be a little bit more flexible with how we are approaching people," Walker said.

She said in the field some people have been welcoming.

SEE **ASSESSORS** PAGE 7

## Notes from the Gilford Public Library

Notes from the Gilford Public Library

By Mark Thomas  
Library Correspondent

The eastern coyote is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma for most of us living in New England. Misunderstanding breeds fear, especially when we hear about tragedies of lost pets or livestock. Two means of overcoming misunderstanding are communication and education, which is why we've invited Chris Schadler back to talk about the behaviors of eastern coyotes tonight, Thursday, Sept. 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Schadler

has a M.S. degree in conservation biology and has 30 years of wolf and coyote research, sheep farming, pet rearing, and teaching experience. Schadler argues that eastern coyotes behave predictably and sensibly, giving participants a chance to solve the riddle.

The story begins with how the eastern coyote arrived in New England in the mid 20th century--It's migration and behavior driven by human factors. The story continues as the eastern coyote becomes the local apex predator, a critical part of the wild ecosystem. Schadler will describe how the eastern coyote has become the

most persecuted carnivore in North America, and how it survives just out of sight.

Schadler believes that coexistence with eastern coyotes is a better option. It's possible with a fundamental understanding of eastern coyote behavior and the flexibility to tweak our own behaviors in regards to pets and livestock.

Tune in to tonight's program by signing up for the limited in-person seating at the Library, requesting a link for the Zoom meeting, or by tuning in to the livestream on Facebook. Be ready for an informative and interesting presentation!

Sign up at the same time for another presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m. called Colorful Journey. Sue Anne Bottomley has drawn a scene from all 234 towns and cities in New Hampshire! Now she'll share her adventures visiting each location and authoring her book compiling it all. We've got new and fascinating programs happening at the Gilford Public Library, so take a look at the calendar and don't miss a thing!

### Classes & Special Events

Sept. 10 - Sept. 17

\*Sign up and masks required

Thursday, Sept. 10  
\*Advanced Line Dancing, 10-10:30 a.m.

\*Beginner Line Dancing, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

\*Book Discussion, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

This month's book is *The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo. Described as "A mesmerizing tale of murder, romance, and superstition... 'this discussion will be led by Molly Harper."

\*Knit Wits, 1-2 p.m.

\*Conversational French, 4-5 p.m.

\*Got Coyotes? Learn to live with them, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

See article above

Friday, Sept. 11  
\*Bridge, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 14  
Elementary STEAM Challenge, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us to get hands on knowledge through different weekly STEAM related challenges. Most materials will be avail-

able in your home. If you do not have materials available please email library@gilfordlibrary.org and we will provide materials for you. Videos/Instructions will be available every Monday on Facebook Live and on our YouTube channel. Tune in to view the challenge and try it at home!

\*Line Dancing, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

\*Geri Fit, 10-11 a.m.

Stuffed Animal Storytime (Virtual), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us virtually on zoom to sing, dance, and read stories. Sign-up ages 2.5 - 6.

\*Colorful Journey, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

See article above.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

Check Out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon  
Call the Library for technical tips!

\*Geri Fit, 10-11 a.m.

Read With Me, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Early readers often are not confident in their abilities. Studies show that reading to a non-judgmental adult or animals will boost reading confidence.

Join Miss Jill for a one-on-one reading experience. Each child will have a reading log and weekly prizes will be earned after each session. \*sign-up ages 3-6 required (sessions will be 10-15minutes)

Teen Club, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Afterschool Teen Club. Hangout with friends, play games, and make stuff. This club is whatever you want it to be! 5th-12th grade.

Read With Me, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 3

\*Advanced Line Dancing, 10-10:30 a.m.

Mother Goose on the Loose (Virtual), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Miss Maria on Facebook Live for an interactive experience with you and your baby with rhymes, songs, movement, and more! \*ages two and a half and under

\*Beginner Line Dancing, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

\*Knit Wits, 1-2 p.m.

\*Conversational French, 4-5 p.m.

## Gilford Public Library Top Ten Requests

1. "Too Much and Never Enough" by Mary L. Trump
2. "1st Case" by James Patterson
3. "The Midwife Murders" by James Patterson
4. "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley
5. "28 Summers" by Elin Hilderbrand
6. "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett
7. "Cajun Justice" by James Patterson
8. "The Silent Wife" by Karin Slaughter
9. "The Order" by Daniel Silva
10. "Hello, Summer" by Mary Kay Andrews

## Lakes Region Chamber carves out new initiative

LACONIA — Despite the disappointment of cancelling the 2020 NH Pumpkin Festival in Downtown Laconia, festival organizer Lakes Region Chamber is excited to announce a new initiative, "Come Catch the Glow! Discover Autumn in the Lakes Region." The event will take place throughout the month of October.

"Without the pumpkin festival and businesses experiencing the most challenging economic times, the chamber realized the need to create an initiative that supports our local businesses on a road to recovery," shared Karmen Gifford, President of the Lakes Region Chamber. "We are moving from a summer of sunshine and

outdoor social distancing, visitors and staycationers into cooler climates and what we call our shoulder months before winter activities start. It's the chamber's mission to create opportunities that help drive economic growth, promote a more engaged community that supports a thriving economy for businesses in the

Lakes Region."

"Come Catch the Glow! Discover Autumn in the Lakes Region" will take place the entire month of October with a new website ComeCatchTheGlow.com featuring an interactive map that drives consumers across our 24 towns and cities in the Lakes Region. The goal is to encourage consumers to visit local

businesses while creating fun experiences, discovering or re-discovering and exploring safely without encouraging large gatherings. The Lakes Region glows with the colorful foliage, activities that only happen this time of the year offering bountiful fall flavors with fresh apples, pumpkins and perhaps a slice of butternut squash lasagna.

to be discovered in the Lakes Region Chamber's Come Catch the Glow! Discover Autumn in the Lakes Region initiative, go to LakesRegionChamber.org or call 524-5531. The cost to participate is \$100. If you are a business or a school that would like to host a pumpkin display, give the Chamber a call to learn how.

Columbus Weekend will feature the discovery of glowing pumpkin displays hosted by local businesses across the region including Vista Foods, Prescott Farm, T-Bones & Cactus Jacks, and Chisholm, Persson & Ball PC & many more. If you are a business that is open for business in October and would like

The Lakes Region Chamber is a private, non-profit organization striving to create and promote a more engaged community and thriving economy for the businesses in the Lakes Region. For a directory of Lakes Region businesses and a full community calendar of events, go to LakesRegionChamber.org.

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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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NH

# With an eye to better distancing, LRCA goes with 'sturling' program

REGION — In place of standard four-on-four curling, Lakes Region Curling will run a sturling program this Fall in order to provide a less-congested playing environment.

Sturling is a variation of curling that involves teams of two instead of four. During a match, one player from each team stands at opposing ends of the curling sheet. Sweeping is limited, and players never cross the middle of the sheet.

Sturling reduces the number of players on the ice by at least half, and the limited sweeping reduces the exertion required during a match. The game provides more opportunity than a standard curling match to

develop the skill of delivering a stone. It also gives every player the chance to learn strategy.

Information about sturling can be found on the LRCA Web site at [lakescurlingnh.org](http://lakescurlingnh.org).

LRCA sturling matches will take place on Sunday evenings, with a first session scheduled for 4:50 p.m. Matches will last an hour, and teams will be randomly assigned each week. This will provide an opportunity to play with and against members of all skill levels and to emphasize the LRCA's focus on having a good time during these trying times.

The season will run for eight weeks, from Oct. 18 to Dec. 13, with a

week off for the Thanksgiving weekend.

If the number of registrations is sufficient, a second one-hour session will begin at 6 p.m. When registering, curlers should indicate their preference for playing during the first or second session. Every effort will be made to accommodate players' preferences, but registration is first come, first served.

Points for wins and ties will be awarded to individual players rather than teams, and the end-of-season championship will recognize players with the highest scores.

Cost of the eight-week season is reduced to \$175, and both registration and waiver forms are



COURTESY

Sturling is for those who want to deliver curling stones with a push stick or with the traditional slide.

available on the LRCA Web site. Curlers are urged to register early.

In keeping with state

and local protocols, curlers will be required to wear masks and observe social distancing while in Pop Whalen ice arena. Rules for the use of the arena are intended to keep participants from different programs such as hockey and public skating from mixing with curlers.

For anyone looking to break out of stale routines, the LRCA's sturling program offers a chance to take on a new challenge while following all the safety protocols required by current conditions.

## Bank of New Hampshire holds 189th Annual Meeting

LACONIA — Bank of New Hampshire, the oldest and largest independent bank in New Hampshire, recently held its annual meeting of Corporators and reported solid growth in deposits, loans and capital for the year ending June 30. Michael J. Long, President and CEO, reported that the bank's assets now total a record \$2 billion and deposits grew to \$1.6 billion. The bank continued to support thousands of New Hampshire families and businesses as the bank's loan portfolio reached a record \$1.6 billion, which represents growth of 13 percent.

Bank of New Hampshire remained strong with capital and reserves totaling over \$194.8 million or 10 percent of total assets. As it has since 1831, the bank remains steadfast in its commitment to mutual-ity and independence. In the past year, Bank of New Hampshire worked to enhance the products and services offered by making everyday banking more convenient and accessible. Offerings such as mobile banking and Pay A Friend capabilities have been en-

hanced to keep up with ever evolving advances in electronic banking.

Long was also enthusiastic about the bank's continued focus on local communities and growth of customers, employees, and the bank itself, commenting "We're grateful to have been able to invest in our local community non-profits and civic organizations throughout the state with donations to over 400 entities. Giving back to the communities we live, work, and serve in is paramount to who we are as a bank. Our employees hold this value near and dear as well; together, they contributed more than 10,000 hours of their time to volunteering. Our promise to our employees, customers, and communities has always been, and will always be, to be the best place to work, best place to bank, and best community partner that we can be."

The meeting also highlighted the bank's notable recognition received over the past year. Bank of New Hampshire was voted Best Local Bank for Small Business in New

Hampshire Business Review's Best of Business Awards and received the Gold title for Best Bank in the Services Category in the Union Leader's Readers' Choice Awards. Additionally, the bank received three Gold awards from the Laconia Daily Sun's Best of the Lakes Region annual program including Best Bank, Best Customer Service, Best Place to Work, and a Silver award for Best Financial Advisor/Planner. Most notably, Bank of New Hampshire was named Bank of the Decade by Business NH Magazine in their Business of the Decade edition.

Two new Board Directors, Benoit L. Lamontagne, State of New Hampshire Dept. of Business & Economic Development, and Charles F. Rolecek, Owner - CR's Restaurants, were introduced. Five new Corporators were also introduced: Allison Ambrose, Attorney - Wescott Law; Susan Burpee, Burpee Family Chiropractic; Rosemary Heard, President & CEO - CATCH Neighborhood Housing, Alliance Asset Management; Kaitlin O'Neil, Attorney - Normandin,

Cheney & O'Neil; and Andrew Pike, Vice President - Opechee Construction.

"As we continue to stand strong and support our employees, customers, and communities amidst the challenges of 2020, we are extremely optimistic and eager for what the coming year - and every year after that - will bring to Bank of New Hampshire," Long added.

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831, provides deposit, lending and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire. With 23 banking offices throughout New Hampshire and assets of \$2 billion, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and largest independent bank in the state. Bank of New Hampshire is a mutual organization, focused on the success of the bank's customers, communities and employees, rather than stockholders. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit [www.BankNH.com](http://www.BankNH.com).

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## The flavors of fall

The first day of fall is upon us. Sept. 23 will mark the first day it is socially acceptable to drink pumpkin and apple flavored coffee, doughnuts, bread and burn fall scented candles. Coffee shops and bakeries are already busting out the fall flavors.

Pumpkin enthusiasts beware, on the flip side, there are several people who think it is too soon. A survey that posed the question, "When is it OK to start drinking and eating pumpkin?" produced the following responses:

"Right now!"

"First day of fall."

"I always strive for after Labor Day, but often start on July 12th."

"I'm waiting until September 1st."

"After zucchini season."

It is true, there are more people in New England who are holding on to every last bit of summer than those looking forward to fall. To those people, we get it. Some people refuse to swap their flip flops for boots until the first snow fall. The end of the summer season really isn't so bad. With fall comes hearty crock pot recipes, crisp evenings, sweaters, boots, and Halloween. The closer to Halloween we get, the closer to snow, which means the ski resorts will soon be open for businesses. What could be better?

Perhaps the best part about fall is foliage. The leaves are already changing and soon New England will be swarming with tourists, camera's in tow. Peak foliage will hit during the last week of September through the first week of October.

Within the next four weeks, temperatures will drop drastically, with some hot days still sprinkled in for balance. The good news is, there is still plenty of time to sneak in a few more summer hikes, a kayak excursion on the lake, a few more backyard barbecues, or a day reading out on the hammock.

The Old Farmer's Almanac says of winter 2021, "Our long-range forecast is calling for a cold winter with normal to below-normal temperatures in areas from the Great Lakes and Midwest, westward through the Northern and Central Plains, and Rockies. Remember last year's almost snow-free winter in the Northeast? Well, this year our prediction is very different, with the possibility of a blizzard hitting the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states during the second week of February. This storm may bring up to one to two feet of snow to cities from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts."

So whether you're still sipping pina colodas or drinking a pumpkin spiced latte while dreaming of jack-o-lanterns and the smell of wood stoves, this IS the perfect time of year for you.

## Send us your letters!

We seek your input! Tax rate got you down? Glendale too congested for your liking? Do you approve of a recent selectmen decision? Hate the paper? Love the paper? Let us know!

Send your letters to:

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Our fax number is 279 3331.

E-mail us at [brendan@salmonpress.news](mailto:brendan@salmonpress.news). We're looking forward to hearing from you!

## Sportsmen's Association to hold annual chicken BBQ

GILFORD — The Belknap County Sportsmen's Association will be holding its annual CHICKEN BBQ on Friday, Sept. 11 at our club house at 182 Lily Pond Rd. (Route 11C) in Gilford.

Due to Covid, dinner will be served as curbside pickup, where you can then take it home or pull over and eat in your car in our parking lot or sit at one of the outdoor tables we will have available in the parking lot. One family per table.

Food will be served in Eco friendly containers. The menu consists of Barbeque chicken, corn on the cob, homemade potato salad, cornbread, a bottle of water and plasticware.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$10. Must make reservations!

To Reserve your meal please call or text Kathy at 581-5062 provide her your name, and how many meals to reserve to ensure we have enough food to feed everyone.

When picking up your meals please be responsible and wear a mask we want everyone to be safe.

This event is open to all BCSA club members as well as the community at large.



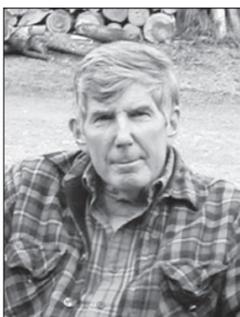
COURTESY

## Meredith Village Savings Bank contributes to Bolduc Park

Meredith Village Savings Bank recently made a major contribution to Bolduc Park's efforts to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the Lakes Region public. The Bank's support helps the non-profit, all volunteer run Bolduc Park in Gilford offer an affordable nine hole golf course, disc golf course, cross country skiing, walking and snowshoe trails, lessons and outreach programs to low and moderate income youth.

## NORTH COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

### TV show inspires thoughts of the (not so) lowly beaver



By JOHN HARRIGAN  
COLUMNIST

*Editor's note: Mr. Harrigan was not able to submit a new North Country Notebook column in time to meet our accelerated press deadline for this week's edition. The following column was originally published in 2018.*

My siblings and I were fortunate to grow up within reconnoitering distance of a swamp. My mother, a non-helicopter Mom before her time, saw swamps as safer than streets and sidewalks. Hence her frequent suggestion, "Go play in the swamp."

I only had to hear this suggestion once, and the further I explored the swamp the more of it I wanted. And it wasn't long before I came smack up against the works of the beaver.

+++++

Beaver Brook, which begins in Stewartstown and Colebrook as springs and trickles amongst the ridges of South Hill, in those years pretty much ended in a huge alder swamp behind our house on Park Street, one of the main routes into town. It was here, in the vestiges of an 1880s water-powered manufacturing complex, that I stumbled onto an amazing waterworks complex of the beaver's very own.

There were major dams and minor dams, walking dams and canals,

and in the midst of it all, quite a far cry apart, two very big and very active beaver lodges.

Soon I was absorbing all that I could get to know about beavers, adding to in-the-field observations by looking stuff up. The beaver, resources said, is among Earth's oldest warm-blooded species. And the beaver has done more to reshape major landscapes and to create or alter habitat than any other creature on the planet, including man.

What dredged all this up was a Nature series special I bumped into on late-night TV on, of course, the beaver.

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The swamp inspired a big part of my early life. It was the source of my first public drawing, in Mrs. Drew's fourth grade class (I think). It was a rendition of a red-winged blackbird perched on a cattail. I remember that I first sketched it out in black and white, because it was for a class in water-color painting. When I had the soft lines of pencil just where I wanted them, I painted in the colors.

I had chosen the red-winged blackbird because it was among the first birds of spring, right along with the crows, which back then were migratory. The crows, hungry upon arriving back home, made a lot of noise, being a garrulous bunch by nature. When the crew at Pollard's slaughterhouse up on Cooper Hill threw out bones and offal, they became downright raucous.

It was the caws of crows that somehow became the signal for my brother Peter and I to throw our bedroom window open for the first breath of spring air. And right along behind



COURTESY

A beaver about to make a big splash. I've long thought that this startling tail-slap is an inherited trait to gain a second or two on the beaver's would-be predator (a bear, a coyote) rather than to warn the rest of the colony, as is so often told. (Courtesy NH Fish & Game, ardea.com)



There's plenty going on in this 18th Century fantasized illustration of a beaver colony—beavers building a dam, another felling a tree, and others here and there if one looks, some actual beavers, some not. (Courtesy NH Fish & Game, shutterstock.com)

the crows came the song of the male red-winged blackbird, announcing his territory and seeking someone to share it.

+++++

Beavers young and old were building and digging and channeling and cruising all over the swamp, and eventually some of them became less wary as Pete and I built rafts and poled them all over the place. They became less prone to frantic tail-splashing and swimming away, and sometimes just followed along, perhaps out of curiosity.

As I explored much farther to fish, most often alone, the beaver encounters became up close and personal. Once, as I roll-cast my baited hook up under alders arching over the deep channel, a submerged beaver swimming by became entangled in my line. Once

we both relaxed things a little, he went on his way unhooked.

+++++

I've often looked through old town histories, as Helenette Silver did in researching her classic History of New Hampshire Game and Furbearers, and the reader encounters some great stories about beavers and beaver dams.

These accounts often mention loggers in the 1800s finding beaver dams of twenty and even thirty feet in height, hard to imagine. Even harder to imagine is how these dams survived spring freshets. But of course sooner or later a particularly hard winter and abrupt spring came along, and the oldest and weakest dams went out. What the loggers found were the survivors.

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# Lakes Center for the Arts receives donation from Meredith Village Savings Bank

MEREDITH — Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB) has purchased \$10,000 in tax credits through the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) in support of Lakes Center for the Arts, a subcommittee of the Greater Meredith Program (GMP). These funds will support the organization's goal of creating an incubator for the arts, transitioning artists into successful sustainable businesses that will enhance growth in the local economy.

The Lakes Center for the Arts hopes to preserve and repurpose a unique local building with the goal of developing a hub of cultural

vitality, creating a new focal interest for an underused zone in the town of Meredith. The building, the former Annalee Doll factory, is a 35,000 square foot post and beam facility.

"Our plan is to provide a center for the Lakes Region community that is devoted to the arts and able to foster careers in the arts by providing training in business skills and marketing," noted Kathryn Rolfe, committee chairperson. "We are grateful to MVSB for their tax credit purchase and support, and we look forward to partnering with other local businesses in this effort."

"The Lakes Center for

the Arts is an ideal addition to our community," added Rick Wyman, president of Meredith Village Savings Bank. "With a focus on art, the center will greatly benefit Meredith, as it is designed for aspiring, emerging and established artists. At the Lakes Center for the Arts, artists can expand their talents, thereby enhancing and enriching our community."

There are still tax credits available for purchase for local businesses who wish to support the Lakes Center for the Arts. CDFA tax credits allow businesses to fund qualifying economic or community development projects in exchange for a tax cred-

it that can be applied against state business tax payments. The tax credit program allows NH businesses to use their state tax dollars to support local projects they care about. CDFA reviews many project applications each year and awards tax credits to those that they determine are feasible, and will make the biggest impact on economic development in the state. For more information, visit nhcdfa.org.

The Lakes Center for the Arts is in the process of repurposing a landmark factory building that has a history connected to art, business and the community. The committee intends to provide an incubator for

the arts, offering space to both established and aspiring artists in a collaborative atmosphere. The program encourages interdisciplinary expressions, and includes enriching experiences for the under-served and differently-abled local population through visual art. They envision an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome, respected and appreciated. For more information or to support their efforts, visit lakescenterforarts.org.

Unlike a stock bank, MVSB is a mutual savings bank that operates for the benefit of their depositors, borrowers and surrounding communities. As a result, MVSB has remained steadfast

in fostering the economic health and well-being of the community since being founded in 1869. For more than 150 years, Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB), has been serving the people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities of the Lakes and Seacoast regions of NH. MVSB and their employees are guided by the values of accountability, mutuality, excellence, respect, integrity, teamwork and stewardship. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvsb.com.

## STRATEGIES FOR LIVING

### The search for significance

BY LARRY SCOTT

It was early afternoon at Rosalia (Wash.) High, and along with most of my classmates, I was awaiting the arrival of our director for our next choir practice. It was for me a favorite class, but for this young sophomore, the world suddenly came unglued.

Without warning, a group of the guys wrestled me to the floor, unbuckled my belt, drew my slacks down to my knees, then jumped up and quickly went back to their seats. Leaving me exposed and embarrassed, to say I was humiliated is, to put it mildly; even the girls thought it was funny. Not this kid!

As the son of missionary parents to Peru, I was more Peruvian than American. Home-schooled for most of my grade school years, I was uncomfortable in a

classroom setting, clearly a fish out of water. I was the school "goat," the one you messed with when things were slow. You cannot imagine, especially with my desire to be accepted, what this and several similar experiences did to me. It was a lark for them; for me it was traumatic, an experience I cannot recall even now without deep emotional discomfort.

It is axiomatic that each of us is in search of significance, driven to discover purpose and meaning to our lives, anxious to make a difference. The quest to be noticed and respected is a human trait, and the extent to which we will go to achieve it at times drives us to resort to the ridiculous.

We carefully craft our public image and yet ignore personal weaknesses that cry for attention; we attempt to impress

our friends with homes and automobiles we can't afford, so deeply in debt we can't afford to retire; athletes excel in their sport, develop an enthusiastic following, yet have problems simply growing up. Why is that? It takes only a bit of honesty to realize many of us are in deep trouble. Without any objective standard of right and wrong, we flounder in the dark with no means to find our way.

But it need not be

so. Moses, the adopted grandson of one of the most powerful men on earth, spent his first 40 years of life thinking he was somebody. After a run-in with the Pharaoh of Egypt, he escaped to the Sinai and spent forty years, isolated and forgotten, shepherding his father-in-law's sheep, thinking himself to be a nobody. And then finally, at 80 years of age, God called him to lead his real family, the people of Israel, out of Egypt-

tian bondage. It was only then that Moses discovered that God can take a nobody and make a somebody out of him!

I am no Moses, but I am deeply grateful for a God who is committed to my well-being. Even though I still find times when I am out of step with my peers, I have had to remind myself that it is not what others think about me, but what I think about me, and more importantly, what God thinks about

me, that really counts.

And so, and despite what is happening in Washington, I face the new year with optimism and a commitment to pursue God's best in my life. No resolutions, no promises, mind you; just a keen sense that God isn't through with me yet and that the best is still to come.

For more thoughts like these, follow me at [indefenseoftruth.net](http://indefenseoftruth.net).

## Gilford field hockey a young bunch

### Veteran coach returns just three seniors

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

GILFORD — Dave Rogacki has been around New Hampshire field hockey for 33 years, and without a doubt, this year is going to be something different.

"Never envisioned starting my 10th year at Gilford this unique way," said Rogacki.

But like everyone else in the state, Rogacki and his Gilford Golden Eagles field hockey team will be making adjustments and rolling with the punches.

Rogacki noted that he thought last year's team was a young group, but this year sees a team that is even younger.

"Last year, I thought we had a young team, but underestimated this starting my 33rd year in New Hampshire field hockey with only three seniors and 17 freshmen and sophomores," he commented.

The Golden Eagles will return just one four-year starter in Taryn Fountain, while Ashley Hart and Allison Carr

also return for their senior season.

"(They) will be depended on to teach the rest of the team as we go through the season," Rogacki said of his three seniors.

The veteran coach said that he is hopeful that the players will continue to learn throughout the season and get the experience that will pay off down the road.

"Our goal for the season is for all the players to learn their positions and to gain that experience through games this year and apply these skills in the upcoming years," Rogacki said. "The season will be a learning experience for the entire team and a coaching experience for the seniors."

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing a late start, all sports are making adjustments following the protocols set forth by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association.

The Golden Eagles were set to begin official practices after dead-

line on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Field hockey is one of the "moderate risk" sports as categorized by the NHIAA, which means that it is among the sports that can start official games on Sept. 18.

The Golden Eagles will start with games on the first day, as they will be on the road at Winnisquam for a 4 p.m. game. Gilford is also on the road on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 4 p.m. in Laconia.

The first home game of the season is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25, at 4 p.m. against Newfound.

The Golden Eagles will play back to back

games with Laconia on Sept. 29 and Oct. 1, with the first at home and the second on the road.

Next up is a home and home series with Franklin, on the road on Oct. 7 and at home on Oct. 9.

The final two games of the season are scheduled to be against Division II Kingswood, at home on Oct. 13 at 3:30 p.m. and on the road in Wolfeboro on Oct. 15, at 6 p.m.

As always, the schedule is subject to change.

*Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or [josh@salmonpress.news](mailto:josh@salmonpress.news).*

## Notebook

FROM PAGE A4

During my years of statewide feature writing for the New Hampshire Sunday News, my search for the state's longest trap-line led me to Elias Hopps of Groveton, who had a seemingly never-ending trap-line up in the Phillips Brook country. We arranged to meet one day at four in the morning, and off we went, first by snowmobiles, then on snowshoes.

The day will always stand out for me in many ways, not the least because I got to help Elias pull two traps that had what the old-timers called "plenty big beaver" in them.

I will remember the day best for using our snowshoes to dig a big hole in the snow, wherein to kindle a fire for lunch. There we were, in the middle of this vast, silent wild place, alone.

Well, not quite. With hardly a movement of an alder branch, out

stepped game warden Arthur Muise. We had not had a clue that he was there.

"Hello, boys," said Arthur, digging for his pipe. "Hello, Arthur," said Elias, looking surprised. "Join us for lunch?"

He did, and there was none of what Elias later referred to as "that official talk stuff," just visiting as if encountering each other in that vastness was the most natural thing in the world.

I'll always savor that day, and that part of it in particular. As for Elias, he was happy to call it, as he happily did on the way home, a two-beaver day.

*(This column is syndicated in papers covering two-thirds of New Hampshire and parts of Maine and Vermont. Address letters, with town and telephone numbers in case of questions, to [campguyhooligan@gmail.com](mailto:campguyhooligan@gmail.com) or to Box 39, Colebrook, NH 03576.)*

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### Edward Jones: Financial Focus

#### Grandparents: Consider These Financial Moves

Each year, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, we observe National Grandparents Day. Although it's not as widely recognized as Mother's Day or Father's Day, if you're a grandparent, you probably want to do whatever you can to help your grandchildren on their journeys through life. So, you might want to consider the following moves:

- Contribute to their education. If you want to help your grandchildren pay for college, you have a variety of options, including 529 plans. You could also simply set aside some money in an investment account earmarked for education. But you don't just have to stick to helping out financially – you might also want to do some research to see what scholarships are available.
- Consider a UGMA/UTMA account. The Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfer

to Minors Act (UTMA) are custodial accounts that provide a relatively easy way for you to give money to your young grandchildren. A financial advisor can help determine if such a plan is right for you. However, once you put money into the UGMA or UTMA, you no longer have any legal access or authority over the funds unless you are the custodian managing the account.

- After children reach the age of majority – typically 18 or 21 – or the age of termination if the state where they live allows for the assets to be held until a later age, they will control the assets, and they may not want to use the money as you had envisioned, such as for college. (Also, tax issues for custodial accounts can be complicated, so, before opening an UGMA or UTMA, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor.)
- Consider gifts to older grandchild-

dren. If you have older grandchildren, you might want to help them out if they're saving for a down payment on a home, or are between jobs, or perhaps are even having children of their own. You can give \$15,000 per year, per individual, without having to file a gift tax return. Your spouse can also give \$15,000 per year to the same individual, again without triggering the need for a gift tax return.

- Review your will. If you've already created your last will and testament, you may want to review it upon the arrival of grandchildren. You can include specific instructions, such as requiring your grandchildren to turn a specific age before they can receive their inheritance. You could also codify the same requirements through the use of a living trust. Contact your legal advisor to determine if such a trust is appropriate for your situation.
- Update beneficiary designations. If you want your grandchildren to receive proceeds from various accounts, such as your 401(k), IRA and life insurance, you may need to update the beneficiary designations, which can even supersede the instructions on your will. Keep in mind that if you have grandchildren with special needs, you may want to designate a supplemental needs trust for your grandchild as the beneficiary instead of naming your grandchild directly. Again, contact your legal advisor for more information. These aren't the only steps you can take to help your grandchildren, but they should give you some options to consider. The world is an expensive place, and any assistance you can provide to your beloved grandkids can make a big difference in their lives.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use of your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. For more information or to sign up for their monthly newsletter, contact your local Financial Advisor.

Member SIPC

## Gilford Library hosting informative programs

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
ernews@salmonpress.news

Learn some new skills and about some interesting topics with some events coming up at the Gilford Public Library.

From learning about coyotes, STEAM topics, a new language, and more, so many different programs can be found at the library for a variety of different interests.

Learn more about coyotes and the importance of co-existing with them in "Got Coyotes? Learn to Live With Them." Wolf

and coyote researcher Chris Schadler will talk about coyotes and how learning to coexist with them benefits ecology. The presentation will be on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. There will be limited room for in-person attendance, but the presentation will be streamed live on the library's Facebook page.

Artist Susan Anne Bottomley will present a "Colorful Journey" of New Hampshire. She has drawn a scene from each town and city in New

Hampshire and written a book about ehr art and travels. The presentation will be on Tuesday, Sept. 15 starting at 5:30 p.m. Space in person is limited to eight people, contact the library to reserve a space. The event will be livestreamed.

A number of regular events go on during the week.

Every Monday the library holds a STEAM challenge that will mostly use materials people can find at home. Video instructions will be

given over the library's Facebook page from 10:30-11:30 a.m. If anyone doesn't have any of the materials for the challenge contact the library at [library@gilfordlibrary.org](mailto:library@gilfordlibrary.org).

Join dance instructor Bonnie Deutch for Line Dancing every Thursday, with Advanced Line Dancing from 10:10-10:45 a.m. and Beginner Line Dancing from 11:15 a.m.-noon. Sign up in advance, classes are limited to eight.

Learn French at the

library on Thursdays with a conversational French group from 4-5 p.m. Space is limited to 10 and masks are required.

"Check Out an Expert" on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Experts will be on hand to answer questions about a number of different topics. Sessions are 20 minutes max if someone is waiting. Sign up for a session with a library card.

"Geri Fit" provides a workout for people over

55 as well as an opportunity to be active and minimize falls. Sign up at the library with a library card for the class every Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. Maximum 10 people per class. Participants are asked to bring their own two to three pound dumbbell, a stretchband, and water.

So many other programs and activities for all ages are scheduled at the library. Visit [gilfordlibrary.org](http://gilfordlibrary.org) for more information.

## Gilford soccer girls happy to be back on the pitch

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

GILFORD — Like most teams out there, Gilford girls' soccer coach Rob Meyers says that his team is just happy to be playing.

And now that the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association has approved the fall sports season, the Golden Eagles are ready to go.

"We are just happy to be having a season," said Meyers. "The girls

worked hard through the summer following the NHIAA/Gilford guidelines to be able to participate in summer activities."

The Golden Eagles will return some solid experience across three different grades as well as a couple of solid newcomers who should be contributing out of the gate in their inaugural season.

Callista Carpenter and Caroline Dean are

seniors who will be returning to the midfield, while fellow senior Emma Ramsey would have been an anchor of the team's defense, but is injured and will miss the season.

Juniors Jaiden McKenna, Molly McLean and Reece Sadler will all contribute in the midfield or on defense while classmate Ashley Kulcsar will be playing on defense.

Sophomore Hannah Gannon will be the

team's goaltender while classmate Vanessa Flanders will be working on the front line and Allie Kenyon will be in the midfield.

Newcomers who should be contributing right away include junior Alyssa Craigie on defense or midfield and freshmen Millie Caldon and Geena Cookinham up front.

Last year's version of the Golden Eagles finished at 10-6 and lost in the opening round of the tournament, something Meyers said was definitely disappointing. That team lost six starting seniors so this year's squad will be relatively young.

"Gaining experience at the varsity level, working together and continuing to improve

as a group will be the focus," Meyers said.

Like other teams around the Lakes Region and the state, Gilford will be playing a modified, shortened schedule with 10 games on the docket with an open tournament at the end of the season.

Gilford's season will feature two games each with neighbors Prospect Mountain, Laconia and Belmont as well as two games each with Division II squads at Kingswood and Plymouth.

The season starts with two games against Prospect Mountain, the opener on the road in Alton on Monday, Sept. 21, then at home on Thursday, Sept. 24, both set for 4 p.m. starts.

Laconia is the next opponent, with a game

in the Lake City on Monday, Sept. 28, and then at home on Thursday, Oct. 1, both at 4 p.m.

Belmont is next on the schedule, with the Golden Eagles hosting on Monday, Oct. 5, and the Raiders hosting on Thursday, Oct. 8, both at 4 p.m.

The final four games take place at 3:30 p.m. Gilford hosts Kingswood on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and visits Kingswood on Thursday, Oct. 15. On Monday, Oct. 19, the Golden Eagles host Plymouth and on Thursday, Oct. 22, Gilford visits Plymouth.

As always, all schedules are subject to change.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or [josh@salmonpress.news](mailto:josh@salmonpress.news).

## Roche Realty Group sells Trustworthy Hardware building



LACONIA — Tom Drouin of Roche Realty Group represented both the Seller and the Buyer of the Trustworthy Hardware Store building located at 1084 Union Ave. in Laconia, which has been in operation since 1978. The hardware store has enjoyed a long-standing relationship serving the needs of thousands of Lakes Region residents and second homeowners over the past 42 years.

The Seller of the property, Pamela Martineau-Langlitz, commented "My dad was amazing."

He started as a master plumber and master electrician in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Then he started Masi Plumbing & Co. in Nashua. He moved to Laconia in 1971 and

opened a rental business in the 'old Laconia shoe building' and then acquired the land at 1084 Union Ave shortly thereafter built the commercial building with major improvements to follow. 'Moe' Martineau added to the business over the years, was a fixture in the community, and loved by everyone over the years. Moe Martineau's daughter Pam and his son-in-law, Mark, have operated the business after Moe's passing to continue the family tradition.

The property includes a 24,020 sqft retail building on 1.8 acres with 390 ft of waterfront on Paus Bay at Lake Winnepesaukee

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The new owners of the property Nicholas Tramposi and Dr. Craig Gruskowski, have formed a new commercial group and have just closed on the property. Mr. Tramposi originally grew up in the Nashua area. After working with his father and family's commercial endeavors. He then worked with the family's development business in Citrus Hills, Florida. Nick currently resides in Laconia on Lake Winnepesaukee. Dr. Gruskowski, DMD, is a retired dentist from Littleton Mass and now resides in Meredith at Lake Winnepesaukee. He is a newly appointed forensic dental team member in New Hampshire, working with the medical examiner's office at Concord Hospital.

The property was originally listed of sale by Roche Realty Group at \$1.2 million. The new owners plan to lease the store to a national brand hardware franchised vendor.

Tom Drouin of Roche Realty Group commented, "The new owners are excited about continuing the tradition and provide vital services to the community. You couldn't have a better location overlooking the lake with an abundance of parking onsite."

## LRGHealthcare purchases temperature kiosks made by local company



COURTESY

Pictured, left to right: Corey Carroll, Orion Special Projects Coordinator, Roger Shepherd, Orion Customer Care Field Technician, Kevin Donovan, LRGHealthcare President and CEO, Scott Gage, Director, Materials Management, LRGHealthcare, and Jerry Waldren, Orion Customer Care Manager.

LACONIA/FRANKLIN — Two temperature kiosks made by Orion Entrance Control Inc., a Laconia based manufacturer, were delivered to LRGHealthcare recently. One kiosk will be placed at Lakes Region General Hospital and the other will be at Franklin Regional Hospital.

Steve Caroselli, CEO

and President, from Orion, said "The OPTR scans your temperature without anyone having to get near you or touch you. That keeps you and the employees at LRGH safer by limiting contact. There's no learning curve to using the OPTR, you just walk up and look at the screen. It's also very easy to in-

stall, just plug it in, wait approximately five minutes while it adjusts to ambient temperature and you're ready to go. We're proud to be a New Hampshire business supporting our regional and traveling front line workers."

"Funds for the kiosks were made available by various COVID-19 grants received. The goal of the kiosk is to improve and streamline the temperature checking process upon entry to LRGH facilities," said Kevin Donovan, President and CEO of LRGHealthcare.

Orion recently developed their 'Orion Pre-Entry Temperature Reader' (OPTR) to support businesses with COVID19 return-to-work strategies. According to their product information, the kiosk's infrared sensors and intuitive user interface can be put into use with virtually no training.

## Quilters Guild hosting free outdoor community event

LACONIA — Beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, and lasting until 2 p.m., art in the form of quilts will be on display in more than 30 businesses in downtown Laconia! The Belknap Mill Quilters Guild won't let COVID stop them! While they can't hold their annual indoor quilt show, the Guild is sharing their artistic talents and connecting local quilters with our community in a safe and responsible way. Begin your socially distanced, self-guided journey by picking up a map at the Belknap Mill, or at any participating local business. Get your map stamped at each location you visit, return to the Mill by 1 pm to collect tickets, and win prizes! The Guild will also have our Attic Corner and Quilted Treasure booths under a big tent at the Belknap Mill. This is your chance to pick up fabric, quilting supplies, or handmade gifts at great prices.

## Red Cross helping five people displaced by Laconia fire

LACONIA — Disaster responders from the American Red Cross of Northern New England are helping five people displaced by a home fire last Wednesday.

Red Cross volunteers are making sure that their immediate needs such as food, a safe place to sleep and other essentials are met. To protect safety, volunteers follow coronavirus protocols including virtual interactions and social distancing.

The Red Cross will remain in contact with the displaced residents to provide community referrals as they begin their road to recovery.

For tips on home fire preparedness, visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies>.

html.

The Red Cross helps people affected by home fires and other disasters with their immediate physical needs and also provides them with emotional support. Individuals wishing to support Red Cross Disaster Services can call (800) RED-CROSS or visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

About the American Red Cross  
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/NNE](http://redcross.org/NNE) or visit us on Facebook at @RedCrossNNE, Instagram at @RedCrossNNE or at Twitter at @ARC\_NNE.



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**SCHOOLS**

(Continued from Page A1)

high schools to have a "Portrait of a Graduate" program prepared, but Beitler said the district decided to make this a "Portrait of a Learner" that extended into all three schools. Teachers from all three schools were involved in the process that identified attributes that students should have throughout their school experience. "It's not just those four years in the high

school, but we're taking children from kindergarten and we're working all the way through to graduation," Beitler said. Gilford Middle School's Silver Hawk Award was connected to Portrait of a Learner, identifying students each trimester that exemplified these attributes. All the ongoing projects fell by the wayside when schools were shut down, though plans are

being made to keep these going. The NEASC visit has been rescheduled to 2021 and representatives will review the school virtually instead of making an in person visitation. Beitler said they will also continue the work of Portrait of a Learner. One of the highlights of the school year was the Go, Baby, Go project where engineering students continued the pro-

gram to modify motorized toy cars and made them into mobility devices for a few elementary school students with disabilities. Beitler said the program will be continuing and it received a donation over the summer. This past year, a number of long serving educators retired including social studies teacher Mike Zulauf, math teacher Dick Dumais, kindergarten teacher Jill Cof-

fey, high school physical education teacher Terry Wilson, middle school reading teacher Carol Barbour, elementary school art teacher Kim Valpey, high school special education teachers Jean Moreau and Mary McCall, Patti Hines who worked in administrative support for the elementary school, Irene Dami from the high school guidance office, high school paraeduca-

tor June Boutwell, district business administrator Scott Isabelle, Deb Wheeler from Personnel and Business for the district, and John Whitman from maintenance. "We filled all their positions, but certainly a pretty large list of people who have been in the district for quite a while who retired this year," Beitler said.

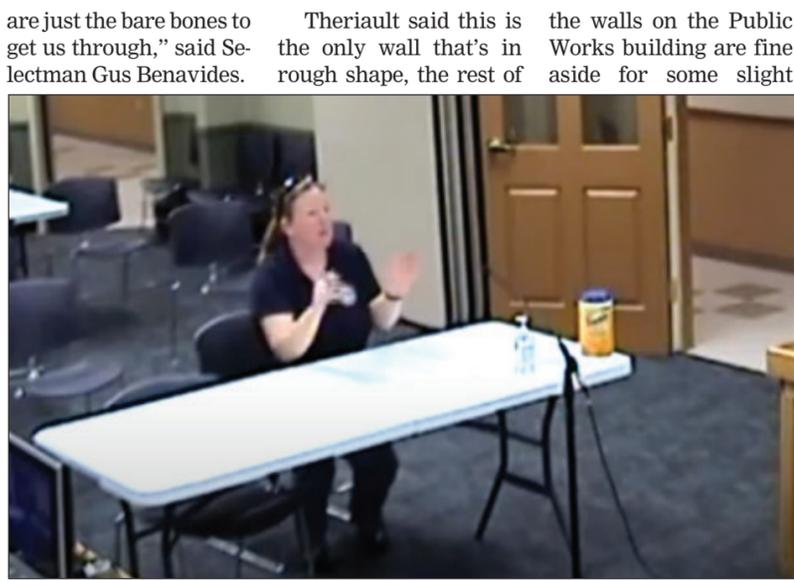
**REPAIRS**

(Continued from Page A1)

ing functional and safe and I don't want to have mold and I can't have water coming into offices and so that's why we were nervous to miss the opportunity asked him to come to at least start some work." The project to work around especially problematic areas would be around \$6,300, with around \$4,800 in labor and \$1,500 in materials. The remaining two-thirds of the back wall is in less dire shape and Theriault said that section of the wall would be quicker to repair. The siding is rotting and would be replaced and missing insulation

would be reinstalled. This part of the project would cost around \$8,200, the total work on the back wall would be around \$14,500. She said Dunn told her there is money in the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund that could cover the cost. Theriault said the department is working to keep the costs down, including making dump runs with the debris. Dunn said all of the money for the project will come from the capital reserve fund as this was not something that was budgeted for. "It's not like you're trying to wish list, these

are just the bare bones to get us through," said Selectman Gus Benavides. Theriault said this is the only wall that's in rough shape, the rest of the walls on the Public Works building are fine aside for some slight panel curling by the garage. This wall, however, gets full sunlight all day and snow loads coming off it in the winter. She said they are aiming to protect the building from any further damage. Benavides asked if they would need any more than the \$14,500. Theriault said that's unlikely because the windows were in better condition than they thought. Selectman Kevin Hayes made a motion for up to \$16,00 in case something else is discovered. The board approved the motion unanimously.



Public works director Meghan Theriault talks with the selectmen about a repair project to one wall of the public works building.

COURTESY PHOTO

**ASSESSORS**

(Continued from Page A1)

"Others have been a little fearful and asked us to go elsewhere and we have," Walker said, saying they will follow up with property owners about inspections as time goes by. One way they have been able to inspect properties is to take part in virtual tours on the

MLS database, though these usually only show favorable sides of the house and not deficits. Every year they receive a ratio report from the state and will look at if any of the sales are arms-length transactions. So far there have been 280 deed transfers since October of 2019, 195 of which were consid-

ered "valid" sales. The remaining were sales made with other factors such as between family members, foreclosure sales, estate sales, and others not included with market factors. In 2019, the mean evaluated ratio was 97 percent within the market, so far with those 195 sales that rate is closer

to 90 percent. She said usually these numbers would mean it was time to do a statistical update to keep up with market value. "I do not suggest doing that this year because it's a very unique year," Walker said. "We're not finding that sale prices are going down, but the amount of sales have

gone down a bit. Part of that was probably in place because there's less on the market. Everybody kind of sat still and didn't do much, they stayed at home." Walker said if the market stays how it is this will need to be addressed somehow. Looking at market data the areas with more growth this year are condos and boat slips. Walker said some boat slips

are selling for double what they're assessed for, which she said might be motivated by the surge in people doing outdoor activities. She said if they do a town wide update they might focus a bit more on condos and boat slips. She said they have completed the "normal" work this year which she emphasized is in quotes considering that this isn't a normal year.

**CONTEST**

(Continued from Page A1)

as a scarecrow with a pumpkin head, a snowman made of pumpkins. Anyone interested in registering for the contest should do so by Oct. 1. Interested parties should go to the Lakes Region Scholarship Web site, www.lrscholarship.org, and click on Pumpkin Figure Contest or check the foundation FACEBOOK page. There will be a number of categories to enter: individual, small group, family, school, organization or business. Once the creation is complete, entrants are asked to send a picture of their pumpkin figure to the Foundation office by Oct. 5 either by mail to LRSF, PO Box 7312, Gilford, NH 03247 or via email at scholarship@lrscholarship.org. There will be prizes, donated by area businesses and local individuals. The scholarship foundation plans to have a number of judging categories which may possibly include such things as: Best overall, Cutest, Scariest, Best by a Child or Children, Most Unique, Best Business, Best Non-Profit, Best Family or Group. Members of the LRSF Board and/or possible guest judges, will be reviewing the entry photos. Following this first round of judging, on-site visits will be arranged for those who qualify for the final round. Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 10th on their Facebook page. LRSF board president, Lori Fasshauer, said that "Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is excited to introduce this new Fall event this year, and she hopes to see many figures dis-

played throughout the community." Fasshauer further commented, "We wanted to host an event that involved the Foundation and the community. We thought that this would be an activity to share with others, while they could stay safer at home. There will be some small

entry fees to go with the registration, which will go to our Friend of the Foundation Operating Fund. If this event is successful, we are hoping to hold it again next year." LRSF Executive Director Karen Switzer added, "We plan to have a map of the locations

of all of the entries published on our FACEBOOK page and our Web site. We will be judging the weekend of Oct. 10 to join in the community-wide Come Catch the Glow celebration taking place throughout the month of October. It should be fun to see pumpkin people throughout the area!" She added that she hopes that this event will allow residents of the area to "Make new memories...start a new tradition."

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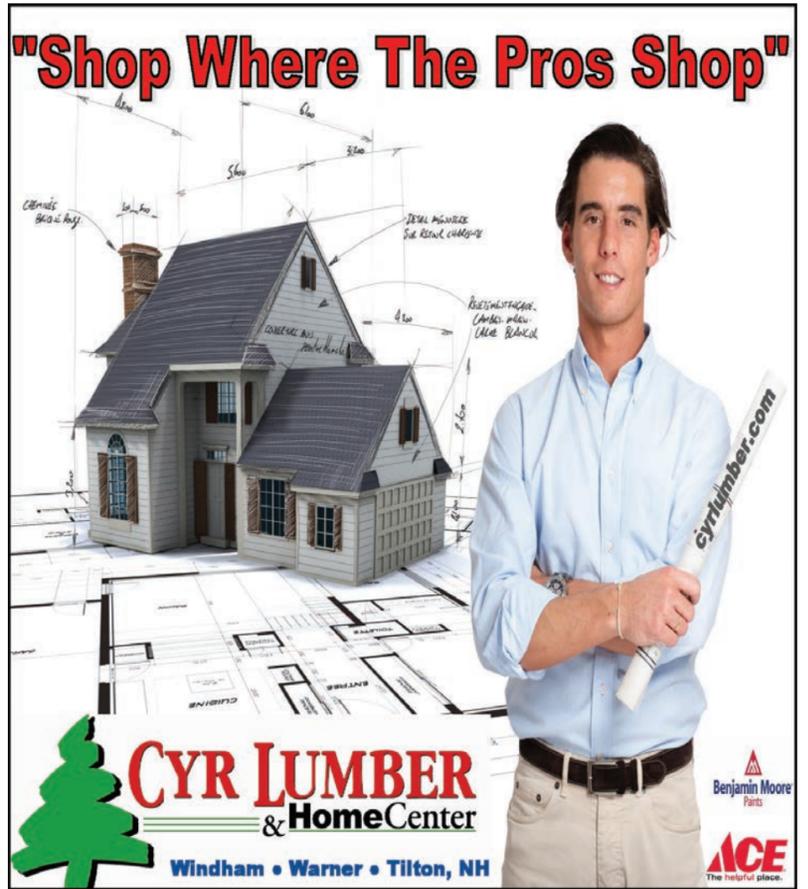
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