



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020 GILFORD, N.H.

# Gilford School District keeping with COVID-19 protocols

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
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The Gilford School District has been following recommended protocols after a small number of positive COVID-19 cases have been reported in the district and will continue offering the options for remote or in-person learning when the second trimester starts on Dec. 14.

Superintendent Kirk Beitler wrote a letter to parents dated Nov. 13 that was posted on the district website to update families on how the district has been handling the pandemic.

Beitler said as of Nov. 13, there had been four documented cases of COVID-19 in the district since school opened, two at Gilford High School and two at Gilford Elementary School.

“The administration and the school nurses in both the high school and the middle school acted swiftly and connected with DHHS (The Department of Health and Human Services) to make sure everything

was covered and that the correct procedures were followed,” Beitler wrote.

Since school started up through Nov. 13, 151 students and staff members had been tested for COVID-19: 37 in Gilford Elementary School, 38 at GMS, and 76 at GHS.

“It is not a requirement, but it is helpful if the nurses know if students or staff have been tested and the results of the test,” Beitler wrote.

He said the nurses in all three schools have been communicating daily.

Three days after that notice, GHS Principal Anthony Sperazzo announced two more students at GHS tested positive for COVID-19. After contact tracing, 36 students and three staff members were asked to quarantine because of the first case. The school went to remote learning the last few days before Thanksgiving break and were scheduled to come back to school in-person on Nov. 30.

Beitler thanked everyone who is continu-



PHOTOS BY ERIN PLUMMER

Signs welcome d students back to Gilford Middle School in September. Since in-person learning resumed there have been two documented COVID-19 cases at GMS.

ing to fill out the daily screening information everyday.

“This year more than ever, we need people

to keep their learners home if they have any of the classic symptoms: fever, runny nose, headache, sore throat or body

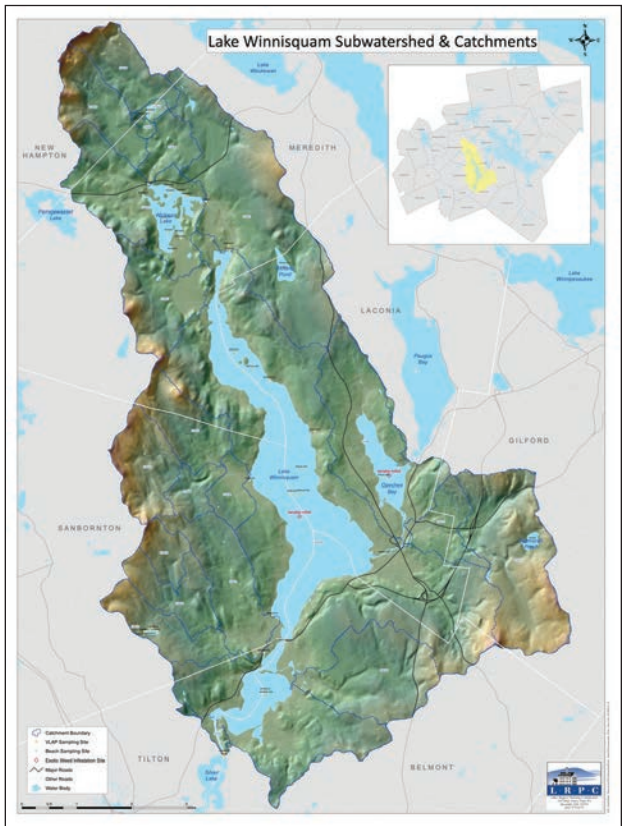
aches,” Beitler wrote.

The second trimester of school is scheduled to run from Dec. 14-March 26, 2021. After surveying

families on theat learning method they prefer, Beitler wrote the schools

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE A10

## Watershed based management plan underway for Lake Winnisquam



REGION — The Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN) is excited to announce that preparation of a Watershed Based Management Plan for the Lake Winnisquam watershed is officially underway.

A consulting team comprised of FB Environmental of Dover NH and the Horsley Witten Group out of Sandwich MA has been engaged by the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 1 office to develop a Watershed Based Plan that meets watershed planning and implementation requirements for the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Program.

The approximately \$80,000 project is being funded through EPA’s CWA Section 303(d) Program. The watershed management plan will identify and quantify sources of pollutants to Lake Winnisquam, determine the water quality goals and the pollutant reductions needed to meet those goals, and identify best management practices and protection strategies to be implemented in the watershed to achieve the pollutant reductions needed.

“The Winnisquam watershed is being impacted by increasing recreational activity and development pres-

sure, while at the same time struggling with the effects of climate change and threats from invasive species. If we want to maintain the high quality of our lakes, it is of vital importance that we as a watershed community recognize the potential impacts of those changes and have in place a long-term strategy to address them.” says Lisa Eggleston, WWN President. “This plan will provide a roadmap for the WWN, communities and stakeholders in the watershed to protect the high quality of Lake Winnisquam and the smaller lakes in our watershed, including Opechee and Wicwas. It will also make future implementation projects eligible for federal Section 319 funding.”

The Winnisquam watershed includes land within the communities of Meredith, Sanborn, Belmont, Laconia, Tilton, New Hampton and Gilford that drains to Lake Winnisquam downstream of the Lakeport dam.

The WWN will be working closely with the consultant team and local stakeholders throughout the planning process and intends to keep the public engaged and informed. A public workshop will be held sometime in the next

SEE WATERSHED PAGE A10

## Gilford tax rate drops 83 cents

By Erin Plummer  
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Gilford’s tax rate is now set and shows an 83 cent decrease from last year, though the town’s value has increased over eight percent after a town wide revaluation.

The town announced on Thursday that the Department of Revenue Administration set the 2020 tax rate and issued a statement outlining this year’s rates and changes.

The total tax rate is \$15.03 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, an 83 cent decrease from 2019.

The municipal portion of the tax rate is

\$1.84 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, which decreased four cents or .2 percent from last year.

Local education is \$7.42 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, dropping 69 cents or 8.5 percent from 2019.

The portion to Belknap County is \$1.12 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, a nine cent (7.4 percent) decrease.

State education is \$1.84 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, a penny less than 2019 (2.1 percent).

The tax rate for the Gunstock Acres Village Water District has more than doubled from last year. In 2020 it will be

\$1.33 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, an increase of 70 cents or 111 percent from 2019.

Gilford recently underwent a townwide statistical revaluation, which resulted in a valuation increase. The town’s valuation is now \$2,032,075,540, an 8.5 percent increase from the previous valuation.

Tax bills are expected to be in the mail sometime in the last week of November with a projected due date of Dec. 31.

During the Nov. 4 selectmen’s meeting, Town Administrator

SEE TAX RATE PAGE A10

## Minor injuries in airport plane crash

SKELETAL REMAINS FOUND ON THE SCENE

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
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A father and son from Kingston sustained minor injuries after their plane overturned at the end of the Laconia Airport runway. The investigation into this incident also revealed some skeletal remains that are now being analyzed.

Gilford Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee said on Monday, Nov. 9, NH E911 transferred a call to Gilford rescue services before 4 p.m. from a man involved in a plane crash at the air-

port.

Gilford Fire and Rescue and Police went to the airport and found a 61-year-old Kingston man with his 19-year-old son.

Bean Burpee said they found out the two decided to take advantage of the nice weather and go for a flight. They took off from northern Massachusetts and were about to land at the Laconia Airport. As they were landing, they overshot the runway and a tree clipped the wing, overturning it into the area

at the end of the runway on the side of Patrick’s Pub and Eatery.

“It ended up on its side, almost upside down,” Bean Burpee said.

Someone inside the plane called 911 and rescue crews responded. Bean Burpee said the two suffered minor injuries. Neither were transported to the hospital, but both went to the hospital on their own for treatment.

Gilford Police notified

SEE CRASH PAGE A10



# GHS goes remote due to COVID-19 cases

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
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Gilford High School is going to remote learning until after Thanksgiving after two students tested positive for COVID-19 in one week.

Last Wednesday, Principal Anthony Sperazzo updated parents on the situation with an announcement that appeared on the school's website.

At the beginning of the week Sperazzo reported to parents that one student tested positive for coronavirus and the school conducted contact tracing. On Wednesday Sperazzo wrote that after reviewing video and seating charts and conducting

interviews, 36 students and three staff members had close contact with the student and had to complete a 14-day quarantine. Sperazzo told parents those who needed to quarantine had been notified.

"Please note that if you or your child are currently quarantined, you must complete it in its entirety, even if your test is negative," Sperazzo wrote. "This is because the maximum amount of time from being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 and testing positive is 14 days. Therefore, even if your child tests negative today, they would need to quarantine until they reach the 14th day fol-

lowing exposure."

Sperazzo wrote that at 5:15 p.m. that same day they learned another student tested positive and contact tracing was underway.

The school went to full remote learning the last days before Thanksgiving break and would return to in-person learning on Monday, Nov. 30.

Because of the change, the performances of the musical "Godspell" on Nov. 20 and 21 were postponed.

Sperazzo also reminded parents to not send their children to school if they are feeling sick.

The previous week Sperazzo had reminded families of the sched-



PHOTO BY ERIN PLUMMER

Signs around Gilford High School advise students about the importance of social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

ule and procedures if the school did have to go back to full remote learning, including a full remote schedule and out-

lines of learning expectations in general and on Google Meet. He wrote if this had to be done they wanted to make this as seamless a transition as possible.

## Dine on leftovers with the Duke on LRPA this weekend

LACONIA—Join Lakes Region Public Access Television at 10 p.m. this Friday and Saturday night (Nov. 27 & 28) for our LRPA After Dark presentation of 1947's romantic western melodrama "Angel and the Badman," starring The Duke himself, John Wayne, as well as Gail Russell and Harry Carey.

"Angel and the Badman" tells the tale of Quirt Evans (Wayne), an infamous gunslinger who's been wounded

and is on the run. He winds up at a farm run by a Quaker family, where he collapses from fatigue. Quirt is taken in and nursed by the family, particularly their lovely daughter Penelope (Russell). As Quirt regains his strength, he is slowly drawn to the family's peaceable ways, and he and Penelope begin to fall in love. Men from Quirt's troubled past come seeking vengeance against him; will he choose violence, or will he find another way to confront them?

John Wayne was not only the star of "Angel and the Badman" -- he was also its producer. After having been a contract player at Republic Studios for eight years, he flexed his desire to have more artistic control over his films and roles, and "Angel and the Badman" was the result. Although not wildly popular with audiences of its day, it was a hit with the critics. Variety called it "...solid entertainment way above what might be expected

from its western locale and characters, and loaded with sharp performances." The years have been kind to this film, and many Wayne fans consider it to be one of his finest performances. Will you agree? Grab your popcorn and join LRPA after dark for this wonderful romantic western.

And mark your calendars: we're only weeks away from the annual Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, presented by Hannaford Supermarkets, Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Friday, Dec. 11. This year we're broadcasting from the Bank of New Pavilion. Join LRPA for minute-by-minute coverage all week long, locally on Channel 25, on Atlantic Broadband Channel 12 and streamed in HD on the Laconia Daily Sun Web site (laconiadailysun.com)! Or listen in with our fantastic radio partners 104.9 FM The Hawk and Lakes FM 101.5 FM! high and bid often – it's for the kids!

You can't find television like this it anywhere but LRPA TV, Atlantic Broadband Channel 25. Not a subscriber? Then watch us online at [live.lrpa.org](http://live.lrpa.org) to catch all the fun.

About Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA)

Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA) is a nonprofit, non-commercial public access TV station and community media center located on the Laconia High School campus in Laconia, NH. LRPA cablecasts locally on Atlantic Broadband Channel 24 (educational programming and public bulletin board), Channel 25 (information and entertainment) and Channel 26 (govern-

ment meetings) to more than 12,000 homes in our member communities 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](http://www.lrpa.org).

## Hannaford Fight Hunger program supports Gilford Got Lunch

In this time of uncertainty due to COVID-19, supporting local non-profits has never been more important. As you make essential trips to the grocery store, you can purchase a \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford, located at 1425 Lakeshore Rd., Gilford, in November to send Gilford Got Lunch a \$1 donation.

If you do pick one up, be sure to practice standard safety protocols. Just like you need to wash your hands regularly, always wash your reusable bag before and after use. If possible, bag your own groceries at check out when using a reusable bag. Thank you in advance for your support!

About Gilford Got Lunch

Gilford Got Lunch was started in 2014. The program provides meals not only during the summer school vacation, but also on weekends during the school year. This program is made possible by active support of volunteers, in conjunction with the Gilford School System and has made a real difference to those families in need.

If you are interested in more information about the Gilford Got Lunch program, visit our Web site at [www.gilfordgotlunch.com](http://www.gilfordgotlunch.com).

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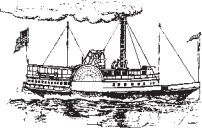
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GILFORD POLICE LOG


The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 16-19.

Nicole Collins, age 29, of Concord was arrested on Nov. 16 for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest or Detention.

Kevin L. Gobeil, current address unknown, was arrested on Nov. 17 in connection with a warrant.

A 34-year-old male from Gilford was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Nov. 17.

Andrew M. Ramsey, age 41, of Gilford was arrested on Nov. 18 for Endangering the Welfare of a Child.





# Carol Bickford retires after 37 years Supporting Local Mutual Banks



Carol Bickford

MEREDITH — After 37 years, Carol Bickford, the Senior Vice President and Retail Lending Officer for Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB), Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack) and Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) is retiring. Bickford currently stewards the mortgage and personal lending programs for all three banks. Her last working day is Dec. 18.

Bickford joined the MVSB lending team in 1983 and quickly moved up through the ranks. She was promoted to Senior Vice President of Retail Lending at MVSB in 2009; and was promoted to include the Merrimack in 2014, and again to include Savings Bank of Walpole in 2019. She has been a valued member of the senior level staff for over fifteen years.

Bickford’s success is attributed to her quick understanding and assessment of New Hampshire’s unique home market. As a community banker, she has led her team to become experts in the region, helping them appreciate the challenges and rewards

of building, buying and owning a home locally. The highly skilled mortgage specialists of MVSB, the Merrimack and SBW offer personal, tailored support that fit individual needs. They specialize in first-time home-buying, construction lending and second homes. They also manage many partnerships with an array of vendors and businesses involved in the home buying process.

“For almost four decades, Carol’s leadership in our residential lending area has been a cornerstone to the success of our company, making thousands of dreams come true with home ownership in our state,” said Rick Wyman, President of Meredith Village Savings Bank. “Her leadership and service has made us stronger and better through the years. Carol will be very missed, and we wish her the best in retirement.”

“It has been an absolute honor to spend my banking career at such a remarkable organization,” said Bickford. “Our three banks have each recorded a significant amount of success over the past 150 years. I am deeply fortunate to have worked with such incredible colleagues and have been blessed to connect with so many people over the years. Now I’m looking forward to many new experiences with family and friends and opportunities that will allow me to continue making a difference.”

Carol Bickford is a

member of the Mortgage Market Committee for American Bankers Association. She also previously served on the Mortgage Committee for New Hampshire Bankers, and was a Board Member of Lakes Region Community Developers (formerly Laconia Area Community Land Trust) as well as the Lakes Region United Way. She has also been involved with several past projects with the Town of Meredith, including an update of the town’s Master Plan. Bickford attended New Hampshire College for business and is a graduate of the ABA Graduate School of Banking at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

Unlike stock banks which focus on driving income to their stock-holders, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Merrimack County Savings Bank and Savings Bank of Walpole are mutual savings banks that operate expressly for the benefit of their depositors, borrowers and surrounding communities. As a result, each bank has remained steadfast in fostering the economic health and well-being of their communities, prioritizing the values of accountability, mutual-ity, excellence, respect, integrity, teamwork and stewardship in all matters of business and service.

Founded in 1869, Meredith Village Savings Bank has been serving people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities of Seacoast, Cen-

tral and Lakes Region of NH for over 150 years. To learn more, visit any of their local branch offices in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth or Wolfeboro, call 800.922.6872 or visit mvsb.com.

sFounded in 1867, Merrimack County Savings Bank has been serving the people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities in central and southern New Hampshire for over 150 years. The Merrimack was voted “Best Bank” by the Capital Area’s People’s Preferences for the 10th consecutive year in 2020. To learn more, visit any of their local offices in Bow, Concord, Contoocook, Hooksett and Nashua, call 800.541.0006 or visit themerrimack.com.

Founded in 1875, Savings Bank of Walpole is headquartered in Walpole and serves the Connecticut River Valley and Monadnock Regions of New Hampshire and Vermont from offices in Walpole and Keene. With assets totaling \$460 million, the Bank offers a wide range of financial products, including services to individuals, businesses and organizations. For more information call 603.352.1822 or visit walpolebank.com.

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp, a shared services organization, was formed in 2013 when two New Hampshire-based community banks, Meredith Village Savings Bank and Merrimack County Savings Bank, formally affiliated – the first relationship of its kind in the state. This

strategic partnership has positioned the banks to leverage each other’s strengths as they work together to advance a shared vision of maintaining and enhancing community banking standards and values. MillRiver Wealth Management joined as a third affiliate in 2015, combining the financial advisory divisions of MVSB and the Merrimack. Savings Bank of Walpole joined NHMB in 2018. In 2020, Mill-River Wealth Management affiliated with the New Hampshire Trust Company and Savings Bank of Walpole Wealth Management to become NHTrust. NHMB combined assets total more than \$2.8 billion. For more information, visit nhmutual.com.

## Got Lunch chosen as Shaw’s Give Back Where it Counts beneficiary

Gilford Got Lunch has been selected as a beneficiary of Shaw’s Give Back Where it Counts Program for the month of November.

The Shaw’s Give Back Where it Counts Program, which launched in April 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Gilford Got Lunch will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Give Back Where it Counts Bag is purchased at Shaw’s 1400 Lakeshore Drive, Gilford, NH. If you do pick one up, be sure to practice standard safety protocols. Just like you need to wash your hands regularly, always wash your reusable bag before and after use. If possible, bag your own groceries at check out when using a reusable bag. Thank you I advance for your support!

### About Gilford Got Lunch

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If you are interested in more information about the Gilford Got Lunch program, visit our Web site at [www.gilfordgotlunch.com](http://www.gilfordgotlunch.com).

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*Happy  
Thanksgiving*



# To infinity and beyond

On Nov. 15, the world watched as a Space X spacecraft blasted into space with four astronauts on board. As one news outlet put it, it was ‘eight minutes of terror’ as the fiery bullet took off. This title nailed it. As we watched the rocket take off, we were awestruck at how far mankind has come. The science and intelligence that is behind what was once unthinkable, is mind blowing.

Watching the takeoff on Sunday evening was just as exciting as it was nerve wracking. In 1986, while in school, we all watched as the Challenger met it’s fatal fate after just 73 seconds after taking off. In 2003, the Columbia shuttle broke apart while attempting to reenter the Earth’s atmosphere, killing all seven crew members.

The crew, made up of Victor Glover, Shannon Walker, Soichi Noguchi (of Japan) and Michael Hopkins, traveled the 27 hours it takes to get to the International Space Station. As we write this, the crew is safely in orbit.

The launch was delayed from Saturday to Sunday due to bad weather from Hurricane Eta. The trek is historical in that it’s the first fully operational mission for the private company, SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk. A test mission did take place this past spring with two test pilots, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley who successfully traveled to the space station.

The crew will remain in space for six months, where they will administer several experiments. One experiment includes how microgravity affects human heart tissue. Microgravity is defined as the condition in which people or things appear to be weightless. An attempt to grow radishes will also take place, which could lead to longer space missions.

In 2011, NASA did away with the Space Shuttle program. Since then the United States has used Russian spacecrafts to bring astronauts to the International Space Station. SpaceX created and developed the Crew Dragon capsule.

In 1961, Russian Lt. Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the Earth in Vostok 1. The flight lasted for 108 minutes, reaching an altitude of 202 miles. That same year, Alan Shepard became the first American to go to space. A year later in February, John Glenn became the first American to land on the moon. In 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first human to walk on the moon.

Some interesting facts about space are that it is completely silent. Because there is no atmosphere in space, sound has no way to travel. Astronauts use radios to communicate. In 1986, NASA discovered what could be fossils of microscopic living organisms on a rock brought back from Mars. Halley’s Comet won’t orbit by the Earth until 2061. A space suit from Nasa costs \$12,000,000. A research by Yale scientists suggests that there may be a planet made out of diamonds, that is twice the size of Earth and eight times greater. They say it’s 40 light years away; however, it can be seen by the naked eye in the constellation of Cancer. The footprints left on the moon will last for 100 million years. One day on Venus is longer than one year due to a slow axis rotation which takes 243 Earth days to complete it’s day. If two pieces of metal touch while in space, they will weld together. There is floating water in space. The moon was once a piece of the Earth. Scientists say that when Earth was young, it was struck by a giant object breaking a piece off that began to orbit the Earth due to gravity.

Sunday evening’s excitement was a much needed break from the national news cycle. Listening to the ground crew at NASA headquarters was like listening to something out of a movie. It was a refreshing reminder that there are bigger, more positive things taking place in our lifetimes and for that, we are thankful.

## 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!



## Artists of the Month

Because Covid-19 remains a threat, the Lakes Region Art Association Gallery requires customers visiting their Gallery, and LRAA artists members attending its monthly meetings there, to adhere to the strict guidelines for maintaining social distancing and to wear a mask. At its recent monthly meeting, members attending, selected six fellow artists as their “Artists of the Month” for excellence in creating original art and photography. Temporarily removing their masks for this group photo are the winners, seated (L-R): Barbara McClintock, Audrey Rougeot, Martha Aucion, Standing, (L-R) Ron Bowman, Duane Hammond, and Sherwood Frazier. Each artist will have their winning entries on public display in 5 different bank lobbies in the region, and one in the Laconia Public Library, from mid-November to mid-December. The Lakes Region Art Association, Tanger Outlet Mall, suite 132, is now conducting a special exhibit titled ‘Art for Giving,’ collecting Toys for Tots and raising funds for charitable giving this holiday season. It is open Thursday, thru Sunday, 10AM-6PM. LRAA is a non-profit 501c-3 organization.

## 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 press deadline for this week’s edition. The following column was originally published in April of 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, wing 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.

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 Polard’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 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.

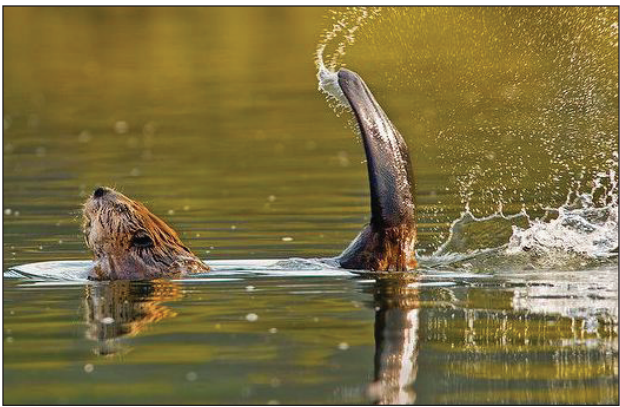
As I explored much farther to fish, most often alone, the beaver encounters became

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.

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



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)



# Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction announces last call for donated items

LACONIA — The Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction will hold its final pre-Auction item drive at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion on Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion.

New, unused and unwrapped items are desperately needed to help the Children’s Auction raise the same level of funding in 2020 as it has in recent years. COVID-19 has put an enormous damper on the organization’s abil-

ity to gather items and on volunteers’ individual fundraising efforts through events, primarily.

“While many items have been received at this time, there is a need for thousands of items to raise enough money to meet the needs of the community,” said Jaime Sousa, GLRCA board chairperson. “Local businesses have stepped up to gather items and even allowed us to have item drives in their parking lots, but we are not done yet. We need more items to serve

more people in 2021.”

While all new items are welcome, traditionally gift cards, electronics, tools, toys, sporting goods and household items bring in the highest bids.

Completed donor forms must accompany each donation; forms are available at <https://bit.ly/32ahYHb> and will also be available at the pavilion.

Gift card donations can be dropped off at the pavilion; mailed to GLRCA, 383 South Main

Street, Laconia, NH 03246; or ordered online and delivered to GLRCA.

Because of the threat of the pandemic, this year’s auction will be held virtually from the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion. Auction leaders will not accept donations during the event to ensure there is time to properly sanitize and photograph every item in a manner in which volunteers can social distance.

For more information, contact Jennifer Kelley, Children’s

Auction Coordinator at [Jenn@ChildrensAuction.com](mailto:Jenn@ChildrensAuction.com).

About the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction

The Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction is a charitable event held every December in central New Hampshire. Countless volunteers and donors have turned the Auction and its many fundraising events, including, It’s for the Kids Community Challenge (formerly PubMania), into a major annual campaign. In the 39 years that the

community has come together for the Auction, more than \$6 million has been raised for local charities, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps community organizations in the Central New Hampshire region. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit [ChildrensAuction.com](http://ChildrensAuction.com).

# Colonial Theater’s ties to the invention of Christmas tree lights

BY KRISTIN O'BRIEN  
Bonnette, Page & Stone

LACONIA — Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp., a Construction Management firm based in Laconia, is part of the ongoing renovation of the historic Colonial Theater in downtown Laconia. One of the many things we enjoy about working on historical construction projects are the stories shared with us by those with past connections. Historic structures being given a second chance to be brought into the present can evoke numerous emotions, reactions and spark memories to be shared.

A Lakes Region native shared a memory with us he had of the Theater Manager who kept a friendly but acute eye on everything taking place there. Recently we had the pleasure of learning of a fun story timely for the holiday season that involves that same Theater Manager. Did you know the Colonial Theater has a connection to the invention of the first string of electric Christmas Tree Lights? It’s true! Stories credit the Colonial Theater’s Executive Theater Manager, Ralph E. Morris, with the invention of wired miniature Christmas tree lights back in 1911. Mr. Morris was the Manager of the Colonial Theater from 1933 until 1965.

Prior to his employment with the Colonial Theater, Ralph Morris, a Massachusetts resident who relocated to Laconia, worked at the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company. The telephone switchboards at that time used little flashlight sized bulbs to light up the boards and indicate which number was being called. Some stories say the invention was a result of Ralph’s toddler son, Leavitt, nearly setting the family Christmas Tree and house on fire after knocking over a lit candle. This was far too common an accident back in those days. Mr. Morris was determined to create a safer way to illuminate the tree and parlor area of his home and other family homes without the use of candles. During the next year, he spent hours soldering the small light bulbs similar to what was used at the telephone company, to strands of wire. He used pieces of colored crepe paper and formed covers to place over the light bulbs creating colored light. The next Christmas he surprised his family and friends with a beautiful gift of yellow, orange & green electric lights decorating the family tree and parlor.

For many years, it was believed by Morris, his friends and family he was the inventor of

the first Christmas Tree Light. However, they were not aware the first Christmas Tree light was invented in the late 1800’s by the Vice President of Thomas Edison’s electric company, Edward Johnson. Johnson resided in one of the first neighborhoods in NY to be wired with electricity. One evening while setting up the family Christmas tree he hand-wired 80 incandescent electric bulbs covered in red, white and

blue paper on his tree, connected them to a power source and voila! The debut of the first electrically lit Christmas tree.

An estimated 150 million light sets are sold in America each year lighting approximately 80 million homes each holiday season (according to a Dec. 15, 2016 blog posted by HolidayLEDS). We have come along way since the days of hanging candles on a tree (thankfully) and are grateful for

the out-of-the box thinking of Mr. Edward Johnson and Laconia’s own, Ralph E. Morris.

From all of us at Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp. we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy & healthy New Year. We hope you enjoyed this story!

For more information about Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp. please visit our Web site [www.bpsnh.com](http://www.bpsnh.com) and follow us all year-long on Face-

book at [facebook.com/bpsnh](http://facebook.com/bpsnh).

To our best knowledge, the above is all factual. However, if there is anything incorrect that has been noted, we welcome you to contact us and let us know! Thank you to the variety of sources used to research this information including: Smithsonian Magazine, HolidayLEDS Blog, Warren Huse and The Laconia Historical and Museum Society.

# Belknap House receives grant from BCAF

LACONIA — Belknap House received a generous grant award from the Bishop’s Charitable Assistance Fund (BCAF). The grant will provide additional technology, enabling families access to agencies and educational opportunities. Belknap House will be able to further expand its capacity for parents to connect and collaborate with social services and support systems. Our shelter programs and case management, work

directly toward empowering homeless families to become self-sufficient.

Significant changes have taken place since the onset of the pandemic. Parent meetings with agency personnel and education classes, some of which were held at Belknap House, are now accessed remotely. Through their grant award, the Board of the BCAF recognized the importance for parents to maintain consistent connections with sup-

port services, in order to make progress on their goals toward re-housing. Belknap House staff and families extend heartfelt gratitude to the BCAF.

Belknap House is the only family-centered shelter in Belknap County providing homeless families safe shelter and case management.

Paula Ferenc, Executive Director shares, “Our goal is to provide safe shelter enabling families to first feel safe and stabilized when they

arrive. Then parents are ready to collaborate with case management. Together they develop a plan with goals and step to reach those goals, with the ultimate goal of re-housing. This approach offers families a helping hand-up, enabling both parents and children opportunities to grow, developing skills and confidence that will serve them well beyond their stay as Belknap House.”

# Bank of New Hampshire listed as state’s fastest growing bank

LACONIA — Bank of New Hampshire was recently recognized as the fastest growing bank in New Hampshire and the 39th fastest growing company in the state as reported by Business NH Magazine’s Top 100 Private Companies. Bank of New Hampshire was once again the only bank to make the list.

“We are proud to stand among New Hamp-

shire’s top private companies,” stated Chris Logan, incoming President & CEO for Bank of New Hampshire. “Our continued organic growth has been a result of our attention to premium customer service. We are fortunate to have a culture and staff that is focused on long-term relationships which has resulted in a dynamic and loyal customer base.

Our growth is a positive by-product of this effort.”

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831, provides deposit, lending and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire and southern Maine. With 23 banking offices throughout New Hampshire and assets of nearly \$2

billion, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks 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).

# Notebook

FROM PAGE A4

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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MARK ON THE MARKETS

Market rotation



BY MARK PATTERSON

The hot stocks of yesterday does not mean they're going to be the hot stocks of tomorrow, to my point many of the "stay-at-home" stocks like Zoom video, Spotify and Netflix have come off some recent very high prices. It does not mean that the stocks will return to their highs, however as companies announce success in the

COVID-19 vaccine race, we see some softening in many of those sectors and strengthening in some of the otherwise softer areas like travel and tourism. But then wait a minute, and you hear about potential new lockdowns going forward by many states and you will see a reversal back into "stay at home" stocks. So, what is the average investor to do when the news changes the direction of sectors and asset classes? If you are invested in a passively managed portfolio such as mutual funds, then you just hope that the fund managers are not behind the curve on a lasting sector rotation. One issue with some of the large Capitalization growth style mutual funds is that they must

gravitate towards the very liquid large companies' stock, like Apple, Amazon, and Microsoft to name a few. If you look at your mutual fund's current holdings, it is always interesting from my perspective to look at the top 10 holdings of these large capitalization growth funds. Many looks like mirror images of each other and the S&P 500 index. My point is to bring awareness to mutual fund investors that the criteria of some of the companies held by these large funds cannot be met until it many times too late to get the vast majority of upside. Let us look at Tesla for example. Even last year there were many skeptics and short sellers around Tesla. I would guess that it did not fit the criteria for

large-cap growth funds. Now that it is going to be added to the S&P 500 index you may start to see some of these funds take a position in Tesla. The price of Tesla stock has already gone up an extraordinary amount, and now will be added to all S&P 500 index funds. I do know of some much smaller exchange traded funds that were in on Tesla before the big run-up in price. Certainly, owning Tesla is not suitable for everyone in everyone's portfolio because of the volatility and risk in the stock. But as a mutual fund investor, if you had wanted a small portion of Tesla, you would've had likely had to go outside of your fund family to own Tesla stock. In the past, I have talked about "modern

portfolio theory "which really means having multiple non-correlated asset classes throughout your investment portfolio. In my opinion it is exceedingly difficult to achieve this asset class diversification in a family of mutual funds. For example, the precious metals such as gold, silver and industrial metals like copper have done very well recently. This would be an uncorrelated asset class to growth stocks, bonds, or even crypto currency. Crypto currency or Bitcoin is another uncorrelated asset class that has done very well, and again, it is not for everyone but if you wanted some exposure to some of these other non-correlated asset classes, you would have to seek them out outside

of your traditional family of mutual funds. The equity markets, bonds, metals, crypto currencies will always have sector rotations where that asset class can be in it out-of-favor at any one time. If you want to achieve real asset class diversification in your portfolio, I believe it is particularly important to work with an advisor who can access asset classes that may be beneficial to your portfolio. Customizing your portfolio for you, your needs, objectives, and risk tolerance is, in my opinion, Paramount! Mark Patterson is a portfolio manager at MHP Asset Management and can be reached at 447-1979 or Mark@MHP-asset.com.

Comfort Keepers  
Dealing with a cancer diagnosis later in life

BY MARTHA SWATS  
Owner/Administrator  
Comfort Keepers

Being diagnosed with cancer later in life can be scary and overwhelming. A cancer diagnosis can make a person feel like their world is out of control. People often say they feel helpless and powerless after they find out they have cancer. However, many find that making a personalized plan for dealing with a cancer diagnosis can help older adults make treatment decisions and feel in control of their lives again. And, by taking intentional action, it is possible to

continue to focus on quality of life and joyful moments even in a difficult time. Here are some strategies for coping with a cancer diagnosis: Absorb the information – People need to give themselves as much time as they need to take in the news. Processing a diagnosis can be difficult, and the person should feel comfortable taking the time and space they need to come to terms with the next steps in their treatment plans. Encourage education– As the saying goes, "Knowledge is power." Encourage them to learn

as much as they can about their type of cancer and the treatment options available. Health care professionals are more than willing to provide resources to help someone understand their diagnosis. Express feelings – It's normal to feel depressed, angry, sad or overwhelmed after being diagnosed with cancer. There are many opportunities to talk about their feelings, whether it's with someone in their life that they trust, a mental health professional or a local support group. Maintain healthy habits – Continuing

healthy habits is important following a cancer diagnosis. Those with a cancer diagnosis should follow a doctor's advice regarding nutrition and exercise, and make an effort to take care of themselves mentally and physically. Evaluate financial needs–Reviewing insurance and having a plan for how they will pay for their treatment will help relieve stress down the road. Focus on other parts of life –Focusing on the things in life that can be controlled will help people remember that they have the power to decide how they live life.

Comfort Keepers® Can Help If you need help during your battle with cancer, Comfort Keepers provides services for clients with a range of needs and physical abilities. Whether it is a ride to the doctor or help around the house, our goal is to provide compassionate care that helps clients find the joy and happiness in each day. To learn more about our in-home care services, contact your local Comfort Keepers location today. About Comfort Keepers

Comfort Keepers is a leader in providing in-home care consisting of such services as companionship, transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, bathing, mobility assistance, nursing services, and a host of additional items, all meant to keep seniors living independently worry free in the comfort of their homes. Comfort Keepers have been serving New Hampshire residents since 2005. Let us help you stay independent. Please call 536-6060 or visit our Web site at nhcomfortkeepers.com for more information.

STRATEGIES FOR LIVING

Thank you...thank you!

BY LARRY SCOTT

From Max Lucado's book, "In the Eye of the Storm," comes this story: "It happens every Friday evening, almost

without fail, when the sun resembles a giant orange and is starting to dip into the blue ocean, Old Ed comes strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand is a buck-

et of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. ... Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him. Ed stands there tossing out shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you." In a few short minutes, the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. ... On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Mirac-

ulously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane and climbed into a life raft. Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the eighth day, their rations ran out. No food. No water. ... They needed a miracle. Time dragged. ... Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on top of his cap. It was a seagull! Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He

tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal – a very slight meal for eight men – of it. They used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait ... and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued. Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first living seagull. And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk out to the end of that pier with a bucket

full of shrimp and heart full of gratitude" (pp. 221, 225-226). Eddie Rickenbacker's thankfulness for a seagull that had to die that he and his crew might live is a rather crude reminder of the One who died that, to paraphrase Jesus' words, "We might have life and have it abundantly." Far from following his precepts as a matter of obligation, we serve Him because we love Him, from a heart of deepest gratitude. The self-discipline required of our drives and ambitions is as nothing when compared to the peace of mind, the sense of purpose, and the promise of eternal life that is ours due to the death (and resurrection, I might add) of the One who loved us first. "Thank you, dear Lord. Thank you ... thank you ... thank you ... thank you!" For more thoughts like these, follow me at indenseofftruth.net.

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PET OF THE WEEK  
JOAN  
Meet sweet Joan! Joan came all the way from Lubbock, Texas to find her forever family. She is a 2 year old boxer mix ready for adventure. Joan is currently learning quite a bit at our shelter. She is food motivated and willing to train! Currently Joan knows sit, down, is learning leash skills such as 'with me' aka heel, and loose leash walking. Joan would do best in an active adult only home as the only animal. If prospective adopters have another dog, we are happy to try them, however Joan has been a little over the top with her doggy friends. No cats for this sweetheart!  
NH Humane Society  
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# Curtain to open on historic collaboration

LACONIA — The Belknap Mill and the Colonial Theatre are both unique, historic gathering places located in downtown Laconia which have provided the foundation for Laconia’s artistic, cultural, industrial, and educational life. Both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; a tremendous commitment has been made to preserve their historical and cultural significance.

The Belknap Mill established Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative in 2020. Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative will utilize both the newly restored and renovated Mill and the Colonial Theatre to deliver high quality theatrical arts programming.

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative is named in honor of the Belknap Mill’s original, preserved Powerhouse which now serves as a museum. When the Mill was built in 1823, the Winnepesaukee River was diverted under the building into sluiceways and was the source for powering the Mill’s manufacturing operations via a water wheel. Later, the system was converted to hydroelec-

tric power. Excess power created by the Mill’s Powerhouse provided electricity to downtown Laconia. Therefore, as the Mill’s Powerhouse once turned on the lights for Laconia, the Mill’s new Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative will bring the lights up on performing arts in the Lakes Region!

Managed by Bryan and Johanna Halperin, Powerhouse will provide high-quality artistic and educational experiences for local community participants. The Halperins will be building on the programming they began at the Mill in 2019 and plan to provide an annual ‘Colonial Series’ and ‘Mill Series.’ The Colonial Series will focus on large scale community theatre plays and musicals with casts of 20 or more. The Mill Series will continue with a series of workshops, play readings, smaller productions and playwriting festivals. Powerhouse will also seek opportunities to collaborate with other theatre organizations and already have plans in place to work with NCCA at Jean’s Playhouse on a musical in December 2021 and a spring 2021 playwriting festival with

the Community Players of Concord. Powerhouse will also be collaborating with TS Event Productions of Nashua to provide professional quality lighting, sets and sound for its Colonial Series.

Programming will begin this spring online and outdoors.

“While we are as anxious as anyone to get going on both our Colonial and Mill Series events, we realize the uncertainty of the pandemic and understand we are building a performing arts program for the long haul. We will enthusiastically begin in 2021 focusing on building relationships with Spectacle Management and other community partners, creating small scale theatrical opportunities around the Mill, and planning for the day it will be safe to do our first big Colonial production,” say the Halperins.

The Halperins are no strangers to the Lakes Region theatre scene. After moving to the Lakes Region and co-founding The Winnepesaukee Playhouse in 2004, the Halperins moved on after 2014 and have since been working to build the theatre program of the Inter-Lakes School District. They’ve also

produced, performed and directed shows at various other NH theatres including The Hatbox, The Little Church Theatre of Holderness, Community Players of Concord, NH and NCCA at Jean’s Playhouse. Bryan was also the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Theatre Awards for three years and has directed its annual Awards show at the Capitol Center for the Arts for the past five years.

“Being nomadic theatre producers for the past six years has been a great way to expand our

horizons, meet new people, and learn to adapt our work to different venues. But there is no substitute for having our own theatre home. We hope the relationships we’ve created with other theatre companies and practitioners from all over the state will join with our existing ties to the Lakes Region theatre community to help us create a “Powerhouse” theatrical organization,” says Bryan.

Belknap Mill Executive Director Karen Prior stated that “Bryan and Johanna joined the Belknap Mill over a year

ago as our Theatrical Artists-in-Residents and delivered programming that included several well received play readings and a play writing workshop. The addition of Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative is a natural evolution of the Mill’s commitment to its mission of celebrating the Lakes Region’s cultural heritage through the arts, education and civic engagement. The Board and staff of the Belknap Mill look forward to playing a significant role in Laconia’s future as a destination for the arts and culture.”

## Hope Ministries to resume online worship

Due to the rapidly increasing rates of Covid-19 in the Lakes Region, Hope Ministries at First United Methodist Church will be worshipping exclusively online beginning Sunday, Nov. 22.

The service will be available live at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom and Facebook. A recording of the service will also be available on the church’s Web site, nhhope.org, and on Lakes Region Public Access Channel 25. In addition, those without internet or cable access can listen to the service live over the phone.

More information about online worship and other programs of Hope Ministries is available on the church’s website, or by calling the church office at 524-3289.

## Crash

FROM PAGE A1

the airport, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Federal Aviation Administration of the incident and did some preliminary procedures before the other agencies took over the investigation.

Bean Burpee said a few people from the airport were looking over the site on Wednesday, Nov. 11, when they found

skeletal remains at the scene. Gilford Police responded, cordoned off the area, and talked with the people who found the remains. The NH State Police Major Crime Unit came to the scene and spent the better part of that night investigating, then brought cadaver dogs there on Thursday.

Bean Burpee said the remains were “very, very deteriorated” and had clearly been there for a while. He said Gil-

ford Police would send them to the state lab that week for analysis, which could take around a month.

Bean Burpee said there is an outstanding missing persons case from 2011, but they don’t know if this is related.

“The lab will have to do some DNA analysis on the bones to see what they can find,” Bean Burpee said.

## Watershed

FROM PAGE A1

several months to discuss the development

of the Winnisquam Watershed Based Plan and to solicit input from the public on their goals and interests. To provide comments or sign up to

receive further updates from the Winnisquam Watershed Network, please visit their Web site at winnisquamwatershed.org.



The area outside Gilford Elementary School designated for mask breaks with social distancing.

## Schools

FROM PAGE A1

will continue to have the options of in-person or remote learning.

Beitler wrote that remote learning in the second trimester will be the same for elementary and middle school students, though the model will be different for high school students with more details coming soon.

The winter sports season will be delayed under the NHIAA’s reopening guidelines. Skills and drills start on Nov. 30, tryouts and practices starting Dec. 14, and games will start on Jan. 11, 2021.

Beitler also reminded families about the state’s travel requirements, which require a 14 day quarantine for all those who are traveling in and out of the six New England states.



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## Tax Rate

FROM PAGE A1

Scott Dunn said the tax rate process had been delayed and there were concerns that it wasn’t going to be set before Dec. 1. Dunn said employees from the Department of Revenue Administration have been working from home and was likely setting the tax rate wouldn’t be a smooth process. He said the town provided the DRA with its informa-

tion months ago and it hadn’t been checked off as of the beginning of November.

The board also vot-

ed to notify taxpayers ahead of time about the valuation increase and its potential impact to their taxes.

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Please submit letter of interest and application to the Public Works Director, 143 Main Street, PO Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220, position will remain open until filled. Town of Belmont is an EOE.

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# Prescott Farm hires Volunteer Coordinator/Development Assistant

LACONIA - Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center is pleased to welcome Maria Sorensen as Volunteer Coordinator and Development Assistant.

In her role, Sorensen will act as liaison between staff and volunteers to enhance and expand the current volunteer program. She will also assist with aspects of Prescott Farm's fundraising, such as grant writing, donor stewardship, and event planning.

Sorensen holds a B.S. in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut. She was community service chair for UConn's Dressage Team, where she gained experience in volunteer management.

"I know how important volunteers are to a community and how valuable it is to connect with others," Sorensen said. "I'm excited to get to know the community around Laconia and can't wait to expand the scope of the volunteer and fundraising programs here."

"Education is at the heart of everything we do at Prescott Farm," Executive Director Jude Hamel said. "With Maria's leadership, we will be able to provide more opportunities for Lakes Region residents and visitors to expand their knowledge and skills in a variety of area – with the added benefit of feeling great about giving back to our community!"

Maria comes to Prescott Farm through the Catholic Charities NH AmeriCorps VISTA program and will serve at Prescott Farm for 12 months. Community members interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Prescott Farm can reach Maria at [msorensen@prescottfarm.org](mailto:msorensen@prescottfarm.org).

**CCNH Mission**  
Grounded in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities New Hampshire responds to those in need with programs that heal, comfort and empower.

**AmeriCorps VISTA**  
AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

**VISTA members** commit to serve full-time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more. With passion, commitment, and hard work, you'll create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

**Prescott Farm**  
Prescott Farm is a nonprofit 501c3 organization dedicated to providing year-round environmental education programs for all ages and a place in the Lakes Region community that encourages curiosity, discovery, fun and connection to the natural world. For more information about programming, events and volunteer opportunities at Prescott Farm, please visit [prescottfarm.org](http://prescottfarm.org).



COURTESY  
**Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center welcomes Kathryn Downey as the Volunteer Coordinator, Catholic Charities NH AmeriCorp**

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## “Grief in the Winter & Holidays” support groups online

LACONIA — We are entering a time of year when we may feel the absence of a loved one more acutely. And in this challenging year, we may face layers of additional loss or wonder whether or how to gather safely with those we love.

Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice invites you to join us for a special online session to explore ways to share and honor our grief and how to take care of ourselves and each other this season.

"This season is always hard for those who have suffered a death. And this year, the questions, emotions, and heartache of this time may be even more intense," notes Dan Kusch, Bereavement Care Coordinator. "There is no right way to grieve and no right way to move through this season. But together with others we can acknowledge our heartbreak, anticipate what we may need, and find courage with others as we make our way without a map."

Whether you have already observed the Jewish High Holy Days or are looking ahead to Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Kwanza, Bodhi Day or other cherished cultural or religious days, or simply readying for the onset of winter; you are welcome. We all turn together into this darker, colder time of year and can join each other to give and receive light and warmth.

The groups will gather via Zoom video meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6 – 7:15 p.m. The groups are open to adults, non-religious, no cost and facilitated by trained staff and volunteers. Pre-registration is required.

Gentle technical support is available if you are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with Zoom. You can access the sessions via phone, tablet or iPad, laptop or desktop computer.

For more information and to register, please contact Dan Kusch, Bereavement & Spiritual Care Coordinator: 524-8444, ext. 2390 or [dkusch@centralvna.org](mailto:dkusch@centralvna.org).

## LRPC TAC Committee meets virtually Dec. 2

REGION — The Lakes Region Planning Commission's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The TAC will discuss public transit issues in the Lakes Region with guests Cindy Yanski, Mobility Manager at Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program, and George Cleveland, Executive Director of the Gibson Senior Center in Conway.

Other transportation topics will include an update on potential bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the Lakes Region submitted for consideration in the next Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

As a result of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 public health crisis and pursuant to Emergency Order #12 issued by Gov. Sununu on March 23 regarding the state of emergency currently in effect through Nov. 19, as extended by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-21, the Lakes Region Planning Commission has determined that this meeting of its Transportation Advisory Committee will not be held at a physical location, but will be conducted via Zoom.

There are two ways for the public to access the meeting: Online at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84908642829> or by telephone at 1-929-205-6099 and enter Zoom Meeting ID 849 0864 2829. These instructions are also provided on the LRPC website at [www.lakesrpc.org](http://www.lakesrpc.org).

Anyone who has trouble accessing the meeting can call 279-5334 or e-mail [admin@lakesrpc.org](mailto:admin@lakesrpc.org) for assistance.

The LRPC TAC encourages all members of the public who are interested in any aspect of transportation to provide input during the meeting. For additional information about this meeting, please contact the LRPC at 279-5334.

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