

Timber Wolves not deterred by low numbers

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

ALTON — The Prospect Mountain girls' basketball team is looking at some low numbers this year, but coach Rick Burley is excited about

the girls that he has as the season gets under way.

"I feel like I have a group of kids that are going to have really good chemistry," Burley said. "Sometimes a small

group is good, chemistry-wise.

"They seem to be working well together

already," the veteran coach continued. "We'll have to try to stay healthy, that's the key

for us."

The Timber Wolf program has just 10 players this year, with two

seniors, three juniors, three sophomores and a couple of freshmen.

SEE WOLVES, PAGE A6

Additional terrain, lodging in proposed plan for Gunstock

BY ERIN PLUMMER
ernews@salmonpress.news

A phased, multi-year plan for Gunstock Mountain Resort includes proposals for new lifts, expanded trails, more hospitality and camping services, and possibly space for new hotels.

The Gunstock Area Commission held a public presentation on Saturday in Gunstock's main lodge outlining the resort's master plan and proposals for phased expansion.

Gunstock Area Commissioner Brian Gallagher said in a history of the resort that in 2018 a study committee examined whether the property should be retained by the county under the 1959 enabling act or to sell or lease it. The committee concluded that the county should retain the property and legislation was drafted that 1.75 percent of every dollar that comes into Gunstock would go back to the county. Gallagher said that was the greenlight for the Gunstock and the Gunstock Area Commission to work on a master plan for the resort's future.

Gunstock worked with The SE Group, a Vermont-based company that has worked on master plans for several ski resorts across the country. After a few years of study, the plan was introduced to the public.

"This plan is reasonable, feasible, defensible, and it differentiates us from every other ski resort in New Hampshire," Gallagher said.

Gunstock President and General Manager Tom Day said they wanted to maintain and grow Gunstock while preserving its character, architecture, and

other classic aspects.

Day presented the plan with Claire Humber, Director of Resort Planning and Design for the SE Group.

Over the past five years, Gunstock usually sees an average of 172,000 patrons. That figure did not include 2019-2020 season when the mountain closed early because of COVID. The 2020-2021 season was the mountain's most successful, bringing in around 203,000 people. Humber said the mountain's average utilization rate is about 38 percent.

Day said many ski resorts in the state are opening with major new lifts and features, including Gunstock's direct competitor Mount Sunapee.

"If you don't keep up with what's happening around you, you fall behind," Day said, later adding, "It's almost impossible to get skiers to come to your resort if they've moved on."

While the resort is sustainable, the plan identified a few things that could use improvements.

Day said utilization of the mountain is "lopsided" with more people lining up for the Panorama and Pistol lifts on the east side of the mountain and fewer people going to Ramrod on the west side. There is also a long stretch of space between both sides of the mountain.

On the guest services side, it can be difficult to find seats in the lodge. Rental services are located in the basement, which Humber said does not create a great impression especially for new skiers trying to maneuver that area on skis.

SEE GUNSTOCK, PAGE A9



COURTESY

Festive Friends

The Friends of the New Durham Public Library held its annual Holiday Open House on the library grounds this year, complete with live music, warm drinks, games, and lots and lots of cookies. Santa and Mrs. Claus were once again in attendance, and members of the group took some time out from serving hot cocoa to chat with the couple from the North Pole.

All-State honors for Dore, Morrissey and Alberto

Kingswood's Erik Nelson named D2 Coach of the Year

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The New Hampshire Soccer Coaches Organization has announced its All-State lists for the recently concluded high school season and there were a number of locals who were honored.

In Division II, Second Team honors went to Kingswood midfielder Carter Morrissey, while Honorable Mention went to Plymouth defender Will Fogarty, Kennett midfielder Alex Clark and forward Ethan Clay-Storm and Kingswood forward Dom Alberto.

Additionally, Kingswood coach Erik

JOSHUA SPAULDING
(Right) **DOM ALBERTO** of Kingswood was named Division II All-State Honorable Mention.

Nelson was named Division II Coach of the Year. Mark Struthers of Coe-Brown was named JV Coach of the Year.

Earning First Team honors for Division II were goaltender Ryan Lockitt of Souhegan, defenders Griffin Gamache of Lebanon, Nick Giordano of Milford, Nate Dolder of Bow and Josh Warner of Coe-Brown, midfielders Ryan Oliveira of Lebanon, Colin

JOSHUA SPAULDING
(Right) **CARTER MORRISSEY** of Kingswood earned All-State Second Team.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

CAM DORE of Prospect Mountain earned Division III Honorable Mention All-State.

Gregg of Milford, Daniel Mladek of Lebanon and Henry Zent of Oyster River and forwards

Ryon Constable of Milford, Niklas O'Hern of Oyster River and
SEE ALL-STATE, PAGE A6

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Early deadlines for Christmas

To ensure that the Dec. 23 edition of The Baysider arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been changed to Thursday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@salmonpress.news.

The staff of The Baysider thanks our readers for cooperating with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

TUBACHRISTMAS returns Dec. 11

W O L F E - BORO — The 17th TUBACHRISTMAS concert in Wolfeboro will be Saturday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. at All Saint’s Episcopal Church, 258 South Main St. Bring your family and friends and enjoy this free public concert of holiday music and traditional carols, which will be performed by a low brass ensemble. All in attendance are required to wear a mask.

The ensemble of low brass instruments, such as tubas, baritone horns and euphoniums normally found at the back, will be the featured instruments. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted for the L.I.F.E. Ministries Food Pantry to help provide food and other necessities for area residents. The Wolfeboro TUBACHRISTMAS



concert is a regional event with tuba and euphonium players from various community, university, and school bands as well as professional musicians, both working and retired. Accord-

ing to the conductor “The arrangements are wonderful, very fresh and appealing, for they focus upon the melodic capabilities of the instruments and their rich mellow sound when played together in close harmony. For the audience, it’s very much like listening to familiar music being performed in an interesting new way, quite warm and welcoming.”

TUBACHRISTMAS was founded in 1974

by Harvey Phillips, a renowned tuba virtuoso and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Indiana University, School of Music. The very first concert was held on the Ice Rink Stage of New York City’s Rockefeller Plaza in December of 1974, with over 300 participants. Since then, the popularity of TUBACHRISTMAS has grown considerably among performers and audiences alike, and in 2021, con-

certs are scheduled in cities and towns across America, plus several foreign countries. Nancy Donahue, who studied with Harvey Phillips at Indiana University, is returning for her seventh year as the Conductor of the Wolfeboro TUBACHRISTMAS.

The public is invited to attend the Wolfeboro TUBACHRISTMAS concert, which will begin at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of All Saints’ Episco-

pal Church on Saturday, Dec. 14. If you have never heard a TUBACHRISTMAS performance before, you are in for a musical treat, so mark your calendar, bring your family, invite your friends, and wear a mask! For more information about this concert, contact the local TUBACHRISTMAS co-coordinator, Joe Ewing, at (603) 569-3861 or the TUBACHRISTMAS Web site.



COURTESY

Rotary partners with Meals on Wheels for Thanksgiving deliveries

The Alton Centennial Rotary Club partnered with Meals on Wheels to help make Thanksgiving deliveries extra special for the community. Volunteers form the Alton Centennial Rotary Club baked countless apple and pumpkin pies to include in last week’s Thanksgiving meal deliveries. The Club plans to partner with the meal delivery service again for Christmas Dinners, and will be baking fruit breads for Christmas Week. To learn how you can volunteer with the Alton Centennial Rotary Club, join them at their next meeting at the Pearson Rd Community Center in Alton, Thursday mornings at 7 a.m. Meals on Wheels volunteer George is pictured here holding up a pie baked by Alton Centennial Rotary Club volunteers.

ALTON PARKS AND RECREATION CONNECTION

“Light Up Alton” Event Holiday House Decorating Contest & Business Decorating Contest

Let’s make the season bright by bringing holiday spirit to Alton.

For Residents: The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a Holiday House Decorating Contest. The contest is open to homes within the Alton and Alton Bay zip codes (03809 & 03810). For an Entry Form and Contest Rules go to www.alton.nh.gov or contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

FOR BUSINESS-ES/Nonprofits: The ABA is sponsoring the

Business Decorating Contest. For Business Entries, email your pictures to the ABA info@altonbusinessassociation.com or post on the ABA/Alton Parks & Recreation Facebook Event Page, be sure to include your business name!

Please send photos by Dec. 17. Prizes will be awarded to category winners! Winners will be announced on Dec. 20. Categories for prizes are: People’s Choice (Facebook Vote); Most Holiday Spirit; Creative Use of Lights; and Best Main Street Location.

No Sew Fleece Blanket Kit

Stay cozy and warm this Winter with your very own homemade

blanket. Alton Parks and Recreation is offering a No-Sew Fleece Blanket kit for ages eight to 99! The blanket features a fun snowflake print on one side, and “bright icy blue” plain fleece on the other side. Blankets are 48” wide in a cozy throw size. \$6 each. To reserve your blanket for pickup at the Parks and Recreation office (328 Main Street), please contact parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Stockings for Seniors

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Alton Senior Center, is collecting stocking stuffer items for Alton seniors in

time for Christmas. Our goal is to collect 50 items, which will be hand delivered in stockings to the Seniors in town. If you would like to participate please drop off your cheerful items by Dec. 17 to the Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 328 Main St. Desired items include: Puzzles with large pieces/300 pieces; adult coloring books and colored pencils; hand written notes; hand lotion, soap, body wash; warm socks; soft throw blankets; chocolates/assorted nuts. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

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The Baysider is published weekly by
Salmon Press, P.O. Box 729,
5 Water St., Meredith, NH 03253.
ISSN: 1945-5836. USPS 024921
periodicals postage paid at Meredith,
NH 03253. POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the Baysider,
P.O. Box 729,
Meredith, NH 03253.

THE BAYSIDER
PUBLISHED BY SALMON PRESS
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Knight hoop boys getting back to normal D2 schedule

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — After a week of practice, Kingswood boys’ hoop coach Joe Faragher likes to remember that at this time last year, there was no season.

While the Knights eventually had a season last year, it was a truncated version that

featured just games against local teams, with no summer and fall workouts, meaning the team basically came together for the season.

So, as the Knights kick off the new season, many of the players are still new to Faragher’s system and he is liking what he

sees from the team.

“Last year there was no summer of fall workouts, so some of these guys are really in their first go with me,” Faragher stated. “We were able to build relationships over the last year and that has been huge.”

The Knights had tryouts last Monday and

Tuesday and headed to the Newfound jam-boree over the week-end gearing up for the start of the regular season, which will be even more different than usual, as the team will play three games a week, with the regular season ending in the first week of February.

SEE KNIGHTS, PAGE A6

PETS OF THE WEEK
Gannon
Meet Gannon! This big doofus loves to play, go for walks and eat treats. He’s an experienced fella who needs an experienced owner to help him learn his manners! Gannon isn’t a big fan of other dogs or cats, so he’s seeking to be the only pet in his new home. Because Gannon is inexperienced with petting and handling, and he’s still learning to share his things, he will do best in a home without children. Gannon is currently being treated for a skin condition that may or may not resolve with his current treatment plan. His adopters should speak to their veterinarian, and be prepared for the possibility that Gannon will need to take medication or be on a perscription diet for the rest of his life. If you are looking for a mature dog who needs help learning what love is really all about, then ask us about Gannon!

Cinder
Cinder here, and I have got some stories for you! My background is not like most, making it even harder for you to say no to adopting me. I am quiet around new people, but enjoy petting sessions. I would prefer a quiet home, one where I can warm up at my own pace and be the snuggle bug everyone here at the shelter knows I can be.

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Friends of the Gilman host holiday event

ALTON — Four lucky winners were chosen from 584 total tickets, to be the recipients of the Friends of the Gilman Library Basket Raffle on Thursday, Dec. 2. The Friends Corner was sparkling and twinkling with Holiday lights and seasonal crafts and décor sale items. Patrons, Staff, and Friends members gathered for the drawing.

Library patron, Doug Rooney, shook the box of tickets for each drawing. Teen Volunteer, JiWoo Hwang drew and announced the names. Cheers and applause were offered to the winners, by the disappointed losers, though none



COURTESY
Library Director, Holly Brown, pictured here with staff and Friends, was presented with a delicious candy-filled, white chocolate sleigh and card of appreciation from the Friends of the Gilman Library, in acknowledgment of her 25 years of public service as the Gilman Library Director.

Douglas Smith, Michael Geljookian receive 2021 Hank Why Award

WOLFEBORO — Douglas Smith and Mike Geljookian have received the 2021 Hank Why Volunteer Award for their respective service to the New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM).

"I was very surprised and extremely honored to have received this annual award," said Smith, who serves on several NHBM working committees. "I know that this award has been given to volunteers in the past who have really worked long and hard for the museum, so I am surprised that the Board of Directors felt that I, too, was at that level."

Martha Cummings, NHBM executive director, credited Smith with helping care for the museum's existing facility over the course of the past two and a half years, while also advancing their Capital Campaign.

"This year, Doug also helped transport the boats given to the museum's collection from Dr. Stowell from Lake Sunapee up to Meredith and Wolfboro, which entailed several trips," she said.

Geljookian said his award selection is the result of a team effort.

"I'm grateful for all of the volunteers that took time away from their families and businesses to keep an historically important part of the Boat Museum's DNA going," he said.

According to Cummings, Geljookian has been instrumental in the past three bienni-

al Wolfboro Vintage Race Boat Regattas.

"Mike spent many hours putting together all the logistics and volunteers necessary for the racecourse, which required a very early morning start," she said. "He and his crew also oversaw the safe maneuvering of the hydroplanes with the crane...With Mike in charge of the 'hot pits,' we knew safety was a top priority and that he had it under control."

Serving as Launch Director for the Regatta for the first time in 2021, Geljookian assembled a wide range of local marine business owners, employees and close friends who all share the same passion for boating.

"In the end, they all not only wanted to personally let me know that they were in for the 2023 event, but some of them were even motivated to purchase their own piece of Regatta history -- specifically a Jersey Skiff," he said. "It was great to see the group's reinforced commitment to future events and equally important to see the interest in keeping the boats alive that make the Regatta possible."

This year's Hank Why Award took on special significance this year, as its namesake, longtime volunteer Hank Why, passed away in July. Why was a longtime supporter and advocate for NHBM and was still involved with the museum via Zoom up until his passing.

"Hank was a wonderful ambassador to the museum," said Cummings. "He attended every event and program at NHBM, because the museum was his passion, particularly our educational programs and getting youth involved. His support and dedication are what I will always remember about Hank."

As for what motivates him to volunteer at NHBM, Smith said the museum is much more than boats and related artifacts.

"There are many educational programs for both children and adults," he said. "There are fun things to do for children, too...The New Hampshire Boat Museum is really a unique destination for anyone with an interest in boating, especially in the Lakes Region."

Geljookian agreed and added, "One visit [here] will immerse you into a world that should not be forgotten, but integrated into our current lives."

Founded in 1992 by vintage boating enthusiasts, NHBM is sponsored this year in part by Goodhue Boat Company, Eastern Propane & Oil, Meredith Village Savings Bank, FL Putnam, Stark Creative, Bank of New Hampshire, and NH Humanities.

To learn more about NHBM, or its Capital Campaign, visit nhbm.org. To learn more about volunteering, email programs@nhbm.org.

Locals earn football All-State honors

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The Division II East Conference football All-State teams have been announced and a number of Plymouth, Gilford-Belmont, Kennett and Kingswood athletes were on the lists.

First Team Offense went to wide receiver Jake Crowley and linemen Caden Sanborn and Eddie Camp of Plymouth and lineman Michael Macaione of Gilford-Belmont.

First Team Defense went to Kennett linebackers Evan Koroski and Tanner Bennett, linebacker Michael Kitto and defensive back Riley Marsh of Gilford-Belmont and lineman Tyler Stokowski and defensive back Brock Tanner of Plymouth.

Second Team Offense went to quarterback Isaiah Reese of Gilford-Belmont, lineman Kyle Stearns, tight end Brady Robitaille and slot receiver Isaiah Mojica of Kennett and running back Joe Peters of Plymouth.

Earning Second Team Defense were lineman Jaivon Cadore, linebacker Calvin Swanson and defensive back Kurtis Cross of Plymouth and lineman Sam Seavey of Kennett.

Honorable Mention went to running back Andrew Kenis-

ton and lineman Robert Hotchkiss of Kingswood, running back Dylan Welch of Plymouth, running back Austin Normandin of Gilford-Belmont and quarterback Camden Bailey of Kennett.

Also earning First Team Offense honors were Dominic Coppeta (QB), Dominic Pallaria (RB), Daniel Post (RB), Ethan Stewart (slot) and Malakai Colon (OL) of Timberlane, Liam Sullivan (RB), Connor Toriello (TE) and Billy Wood (OL) of St. Thomas, Alex Francouer (RB) of Pembroke, Jake Currier (OL) of Merrimack Valley and Nate Ashby (KR) of Sanborn.

First Team Defense also went to Camden Zambrowicz (LB), Evan Roeger (DL), Bryce Parker (DL), Jaden Mwangi (DB) and Harrison Bloom (K) of Timberlane, Kevin Kolodziej (LB) and Jake Comely (DL) of Sanborn and Devon Paquette (DB) of St. Thomas.

Also earning Second Team Offense were Jo-

seph Luchsinger (OL) and Tyler Leedberg (RB) of St. Thomas, Niko Langlois (OL) and Matthew Williams (WR) of Timberlane and Cody Leclair (OL) of Pembroke.

Second Team Defense also went to Logan Drew (DL) and Aidan Miller (DB) of Merrimack Valley, Joe Pickett (DL), Samuel Grondin (LB), Spencer Lassard (DB) and Taig Healy (K) of St. Thomas, Spencer Foley (DL) of Sanborn and Aiden Weldon (LB) of Pembroke.

Also earning Honorable Mention were Charlie Ransom (WR) of Pembroke, Tristan Donigian (OL) of Sanborn and Trey Baker (DB) of Timberlane.

Cooper Kelley of Timberlane was named Player of the Year and Kevin Fitzgerald of Timberlane was named Coach of the Year.

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

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Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!

From apples to oranges (in stockings): The origins of Christmas traditions

Driving about town is fantastic this time of year, as more and more homes are decorated with bright lights to welcome the holiday season. Some people go all out, and others... well, they don't, and that's OK too. The important thing to remember as we get older is that right now, as you read this, there are countless children counting down the days until Santa arrives, or just finishing up with Hanukkah.

As our Editor was dragging their family tree into the house over the weekend, they started to think about how silly this tradition was. Why cut down a tree and drag it indoors, decorate it, and vacuum up pine needles all month long? We will admit, having the tree is fun, especially at night. With that, the research into holiday traditions began.

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

The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today. Way back when, a common Christmas eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire, boo.

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

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

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

Pope Julius I proclaimed Dec. 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Christ in A.D. 350.

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

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

In England from 1649-1660, Puritanical guardian of the realm Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols, which he and his fellow Calvinists viewed as vestiges of Catholic excess.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased.

In Poland, spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus.

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

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

President Teddy Roosevelt, widely acknowledged as one of the first environmental advocates, banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901.

Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations.

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

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



COURTESY

American Legion Riders collecting children's coats

The American Legion Riders are collecting coats for children in need. Please bring your new coat donations to the Claude R Batchelder American Legion Post 72 on Route 28 in Alton before Dec. 19. We could also use hats, mittens and snow pants. Thank you in advance for your donations.

STRATEGIES FOR LIVING

An early inheritance

BY LARRY SCOTT

What do you do with a son who is too impatient to wait until you die to inherit... so asks for his inheritance now, then runs off and spends it all on parties, prostitutes, and passionate living? Sound familiar? Indeed, human nature has never changed, and the story has been repeated many times, but this story is an ancient one and comes from Jesus Himself as found in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15.

As often happens, when the money ran out, so did the friends. Alone and abandoned, tending a herd of swine to survive, the Prodigal Son took a good look at himself and decided to return home

and take the fall for his foolishness. To his surprise, however, when his father saw him coming, he ran to him, embraced him, and welcomed him home. And to the chagrin of the older brother who had covered for him during his absence, the father threw a party to celebrate. "Son," he said to his oldest, "don't be mad. Your brother was dead, and now he's alive. He was lost and has been found."

Jesus, of course, was telling the story to make a point.

First of all, I note that, in a day when many are questioning even the existence of God, Jesus never got caught up in that argument. I find no

evidence that Jesus ever attempted to prove the existence of God; He simply took it for granted. What you do find, however, is that Jesus spent quality time describing who and what this God is all about.

The picture of a loving father ready to welcome a son who has returned with a repentant heart is typical, and that, too, is a scenario I have been privileged to witness many times. The greatest miracle I have ever seen, hands down, is the miracle of conversion. So dramatic have been the changes I have observed I can easily make the case that if there isn't a God, to believe in him is still to our advantage!

I find it interesting

that in a realistic perspective on life, Jesus' story has the wandering son discovering sin to be a vicious taskmaster. Sin is fun, grant the point, but sooner or later, the chickens come home to roost. God is not unfeeling; He understands human nature, and the Bible itself talks of "the pleasures of sin for a season." The results, however, can be devastating, and Jesus pictured a Father who is more than anxious to forgive the past and give the man a new lease on life. In God's world, the lost can be found, the wicked can be forgiven, and the wayward can come home.

You want to talk about it? Hit me up at rlarry-scott@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

A case of Trump Derangement Syndrome

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Henderson's ongoing rant, I offer the following. You don't like Mr. Trump, we get it. Nobody cares anyway, and the longer you carry on, you are just showing that you have a chronic case of Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS). The only cure, if at all interested, is to learn some facts and don't just follow what CNN tells you to think. Here's a place to start. The Russian Collusion dossier was finally proven to be completely false, despite multiple claims by the mainstream media of it being corroborated. Facts vs feelings.

Trump's pre-pandemic economy was thriving, with record low minority unemployment, energy independence, and reasonable costs for gas, building materials, and groceries. A far cry from the near 100 percent increase in gas prices, well over 100 percent increase in building material costs, and ever skyrocketing grocery prices. And that is if you can find the products you are looking for, given the current supply chain disaster.

Biden's Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, blames the worst supply chain disaster I can remember on there not being enough child care. So, there were no children in need of care for transportation workers until this year? Sure, that makes sense.

Biden's Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkis, has completely turned a blind eye to the crisis at our southern border. Illegals coming in from Haiti, a country with less than a 1 percent COVID vaccination rate, pour in unchecked and unvaccinated, and Biden relocates them via plane across our country under the cover of darkness.

Biden's Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, laughed out loud when asked about the out of control gas prices. The last time gas was this expensive, Obama was president, who just bought a \$12 million house. No doubt another one of your heroes. How did this "public servant" afford that house? Could it have been kickbacks from oil companies, or worse?

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi just purchased a \$22 million house in Florida. Ever wonder how she could afford that? And why won't she stay in her beloved state of California? Probably too expensive.

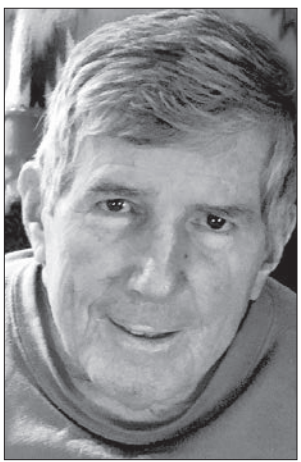
The US has not had a budget since Oct. 1, 2021. The country is operating on a continuing resolution, which is a fancy term for kicking the can down the road. Instead of Biden urging congress to pass a budget months ago, he and congress looked the other way, too focused on their green new deal bill disguised as an infrastructure bill. There is a section in that bill that reads, "Directs DOT to establish a pilot program to demonstrate a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee..." What? A vehicle per mile fee? After paying an income tax, gas tax, registration fees, and town taxes, Biden wants us to get ready for a vehicle per-mile fee too? He sure is looking out for us.

You like to call Trump a dictator, and say he violated the Constitution, but can you back that up with facts? There are many readers that would like to read something fact based from you, instead of some futuristic fictional peek into the future like you recently offered up. A dictator might put in a vaccine mandate that would cause you to lose your job, even if you were a doctor, nurse, first responder, or military member. Biden did that, but fortunately it is getting pummeled in court. A dictator might also want to have the banks report any transactions over \$600 to the IRS. Biden tried that too. Facts vs. feelings.

Mr. Henderson, maybe you can point to a liberal run success story in the USA to show us how effective your heroes really are. California? New York? Michigan? Detroit? Chicago? Nope. And your current savior Biden has been in Washington, D.C. for almost 50 years, with nothing to show as a success. NOTHING! While I appreciate our first amendment right to have this exchange, do you have any thoughts that don't come from a miserably biased CNN anchor, or back issues of Vanity Fair?

Bruce Jakubauskas
Center Barnstead

North Country Notebook



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

Here, back by popular demand, is an updated version of the cherished, traditional, last-minute Christmas Gift List, brought to you after endless hours of study by our Crack(ed) Crass Commercialism Team, after rigorous field-testing of certain items (see “Wildlife Conserva-

Back, by popular demand: It's the Christmas Gift List!

tion Kit”) at numerous back-country camps, featuring the likes of Herb Drake, Steve Merrill, Fenton Hardwick, Charlie Felton, and various guys named Hughes.

Kids, don't forget to leave poor, tired old Santa some cookies, and of course a “glass of milk” (wink wink).

---Partridge Cleaner. The last time I saw Steve Merrill was at the Ronnie Hughes camp on Whipple Ridge, kneeling beside that little non-stop brook that was always running down across Ron's lawn, the upkeep for which he invented his famed Night Mowing. Feathers



Santa and his toy-filled sleigh, as those reindeer dash on through the moonlit night.

from Steve's bird were floating everywhere, wafting around in the evening air. If apple aficionados could invent and perfect an apple-peeler that also cored the apple, why not a Partridge Cleaner?

---Combo hunting and fishing license. Look, the math is simple here. Divide the cost (\$56) by the numbers of hours enjoyed (unlimited). To figure this, you don't even have to take off your shoes.

---Knife for Swagging. This consists of, oh, maybe a Bowie Knife, or why kid around, might as well get a machete. Useless at camp, except for swaggering. Brandishing anywhere will get you a fast trip to the slammer.

---Knife with Gazillion Blades. Also known as Swiss Army Knife with a Gazillion Knockoffs. Look, Switzerland never even had an army, for Pete's sake. Doesn't history show us that Switzerland was always neutral? Who could get across the Alps anyway? Okay, Hannibal did it, including pachyderms. But these multi-bladed-until-they-make-you-faint knives are truly invaluable around camp. Make sure you get one with a corkscrew.

---Mousetrap, as in “Beat a path to your door if you build a better one.” Grizzled, woodchuck-like old trappers have been emerging from winter cabins for years babbling about building a better mousetrap. This is just before their partners strangle them. As for mousetraps, nothing has bested a bucket with some antifreeze in it and a little mouse-ramp, and some wire and one of those little spinner thingies with some bait on it, like peanut butter. Stay toward the rear of the crowd upon camp-opening in the spring. Think, “Gag me with a spoon.”

---Live-Trapped Woodpile Weasel, trapped by caring, sharing, tender, loving, not-ready-for-prime-time players in Feelgood, Fredonia, care/of Marx Brothers, Hollywood, Cal.

Get one of these babies and set it loose in your woodpile and you'll never need mouse-traps again.

---Genuine New Hampshire maps, based on the 1907 GS series, or better yet, on the 2021 Total BS series, with absolutely no field work. Hell, we stayed right in camp. Go out there in the rain with a rod and chain? Are you kidding?

---Genuine NH Maps, the real thing. Arrows show vehicles rushing south for yet another shopping plaza ribbon-cutting, or another lane opening on Interstate 93 (to facilitate exits in Salem, Pelham, Derry, Manchester, Hooksett, Concord, and coming soon, Plymouth).

---Wildlife Conservation Kit. Why attend costly wildlife conservation school? Our special Wildlife Conservation tools have saved more wildlife than all the laws, court fines, policies, or pointy-headed wildlife biologists ever assembled in one room. Includes a deck of cards and a jug of hooch.

---Fisher (Cat) Poster & Finger-Wagger. Put this full-sized poster up and finger-waggers will pop out of the woodwork everywhere. Comes with recorded harangues about fishers having nothing to do with cats.

---Road-Banding Machine. Comes with a year's supply of Road Bands, just like the ones they use at the lumber yard.

(Please address mail, including phone numbers for questions, to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or 386 South Hill Rd., Colebrook, NH 03576.)

Comfort Keepers

What is respite care?

BY MARTHA SWATS

Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

Respite care is defined as the transfer of primary caregiving responsibilities to another person, typically a professional caregiver, relative or friend, for primary caregivers to receive temporary relief from caregiving responsibilities. Respite care takes many forms—some family caregivers choose to have someone take on caregiver duties for a few hours a week or a few hours a day. Or some schedule respite care for longer periods of time to accommodate an extended break or vacation.

What You Need to Know When Caring for a Senior Loved One

In its Caregiving in the U.S. report, AARP estimates that 39.8 million family members provided unpaid care to an adult in 2014 and 2015. And the Centers for Disease Control reports that over half (53 percent) of caregivers indicated that a decline in their health compromises their ability to provide care.

Caring for a senior loved one is both rewarding and challenging. Family caregivers need to remember that it's important to take necessary breaks and practice self-care so they can ensure that they continue to find joy in their role.

This can be particularly important for those caring for a senior that has a severe illness. A

study led by the Stanford Center on Longevity and Stanford University Psychology Department, which was conducted with assistance from Comfort Keepers and Clear Care, found that for older family caregivers:

- Caring for a loved one with a mild illness generally leaves them in the same emotional state as their peers – with emotional well-being generally greater than that of younger adults.

- When responsible for a loved one with a severe illness, reported emotional well-being tended to be lower than those of their peers.

- The cause of a decrease in emotional well-being is attributed to caregiver's inability to pursue their social goals and friendships.

The purpose of this study was to help identify the unique challenges and stressors that family caregivers face. As a partner in this research study, we reached out to the family members and decision-makers of approximately 2,000 Comfort Keepers clients.

These results suggest that older people have higher emotional well-being than younger people but not when they have a relative with a severe illness. Not all older people with ailing relatives have low well-being; rather, it depends on the severity of the relative's ailment.

Caring for a senior loved one can be fulfilling and can strengthen bonds within a family.

But it's important to recognize that being a family caregiver can come with feelings of loss, stress and physical strain. Caregivers risk their own health and wellbeing when they don't account for their own needs or take a break when necessary, and respite care provides a convenient solution for many families.

Comfort Keepers® can help

Trusting your loved one with someone else can be difficult, but with Comfort Keepers®, you can trust that he or she will be in capable hands. Our specially trained caregivers will stay with your loved one while you take care of yourself, for as much or as little time as you need. And every client receives a custom care plan that aims to engage them in intellectual, physical and emotional

exercises and activities. To learn more about our uplifting in-home and respite services, contact your nearest Comfort Keepers® office 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.

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brad@altonbay.org

THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	220-222 E. Side Dr.	Res.-Mtl. Bldg.	\$140,000	William F. Doyle Estate and Jason W. Doyle	Matt L. and Mary E. Johnson
Alton	15 Georges Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$995,000	GSW Alton RT and Betty A. Sackos	Omer and Shelley Gingras
Alton	N/A	N/A	\$400,000	Vincent and Ann Laraia	Marc A. Derooy and Elizabeth Nadeau-Derooy
Barnstead	6 Maple St.	Single-Family Residence	\$250,000	Proud Yankee Investments LLC	Jacob W. Gray
Barnstead	Ridge Road	N/A	\$75,000	L.F. McAllister, Jr. RET	Michael C. McAllister
Barnstead	147 Wes Locke Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$190,000	Peter Witham	Jesse Emerson



COURTESY

Helping veterans in need

Families Of Post #72, American Legion, Sons and Riders came together to present a donation to David Gray, the Director of the New England Chapter of Hometown Hero Outdoor, this week to help our veterans in need. To learn more about this organization and their great work visit <https://www.hometownherooutdoors.org/>. Pictured, left to right: William Holmes, Finance SAL; Brad Cardinal, Sgt Of Arms SAL; David Gray, Director Of the New England Chapter Hometown hero; Douglas White, Post #72 Commander; Bruce Cornish, Legion Finance Officer; William Connors, Riders Director; Julie Connors, Riders Membership and Chaplain.

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Friday, Dec. 10
KENNETT

Boys' Hoops at Hollis-Brookline; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Hollis-Brookline; 5:30

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hoops vs. Souhegan; 6:30
Girls' Hoops at Souhegan; 6:30

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Boys' Hoops at Newfound; 6:30
Girls' Hoops vs. Newfound; 6

Monday, Dec. 13
KENNETT

Boys' Hoops vs. Milford; 5:30
Girls' Hoops at Milford; 6:30

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hockey at Dover; 5
Boys' Hoops vs. Merrimack Valley; 6:30
Girls' Hoops at Merrimack Valley; 6

Tuesday, Dec. 14
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Boys' Hoops vs. Campbell; 6
Girls' Hoops at Campbell; 6

Wednesday, Dec. 15
KENNETT

Boys' Hoops vs. Laconia; 5:30
Girls' Hoops at Laconia; 6
Hockey at Berlin-Gorham; 6

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hockey at Spaulding; 6
Boys' Hoops at Coe-Brown; 6:30
Girls' Hockey at Central-Memorial; 4
Girls' Hoops vs. Coe-Brown; 6

Thursday, Dec. 16
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Alpine Skiing at Bretton Woods; 10

All schedules are subject to change.

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TOWN OF BARNSTEAD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FULLTIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS

The Barnstead Highway Department has a position for 1 fulltime year-round truck driver/heavy equipment operator. A valid NH CDL-B, a driver's test and criminal records check required. Skill in the operation and maintenance of heavy-duty trucks, heavy equipment and prior snow-plowing experience preferred. Excavator or Grader experience a plus. Applicants must be flexible during winter months, able to work nights and weekends as needed and must live within a reasonable travel distance of the Barnstead Highway Garage.

The part-time position does not require a CDL-B license but skill in the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment and snowplowing experience preferred.

Pre-employment drug and alcohol screen and physical required. Subject to periodic random drug and alcohol screening. The fulltime position offers a complete benefit package and a competitive wage (commensurate with experience). Professional training opportunities are available for those wishing to have a career with the Barnstead Highway Department.

Applications are available at the Selectmen's Office, and on the Town's website at: www.Barnstead.org. and must be submitted by the close of business Dec. 10, 2021 to:

Board of Selectmen "Highway Dept. Position"
P.O. Box 11, Ctr. Barnstead, NH 03225
Or: barntownhall@metrocast.net

Advertise
Here



Claire Humber of The SE Group and Tom Day from Gunstock present Gunstock Mountain Resort's proposed master plan.

GUNSTOCK

(continued from Page A1)

The plan includes short- and near-term improvements as well as three levels of long-term improvements. Each proposal came with a projected cost calculated in 2021 dollars.

Short term improvements include getting a second detachable chairlift that would replace the Tiger and Ramrod lifts with a lift closer to Panorama. This would give the mountain four acres of new terrain and balance trail capacity. Humber said doing this would result in a major improvement to the skiing experience and could create a nice segue to future expansion.

A new detachable lift would cost around \$5.5 million.

Another idea is to add a new trail with more accessibility that would loop to the top of the mountain. The trail would be shorter with less gradient to give more people the opportunity to experience the mountaintop. Another idea would have another way to access the mountain than just the lift, such as a shuttle service.

Humber said campsites with utility hookups and cabins are especially in demand and the report recommended adding more of those. Another proposal was adding cabins on the mountain for “glamorous camping” (glamping) experiences.

The proposal for major expansion would be a three-phase, multiyear process focusing on different areas of the resort.

The first phase, called Eastside, would add a second summit lift and 70 more acres of terrain with 11 new trails on the east side of the mountain, possibly generating 48,100 new skier visits. This project could cost \$15.3 million.

The second phase would be Alpine Ridge on the west side. This would open the former ski area on the west side of the mountain and create a new portal to the mountain. The proposal includes a triple chairlift and opening up the area’s advanced terrain. This project would have an estimated cost of \$7.4 million and could generate around 18,000 new skier visits.

The third proposal is called Backside/Weeks and would be put in on the northeast side of the mountain.

While the first two proposals take place within the boundaries of Gunstock’s property, the third proposal would go beyond the property’s current boundary and would involve a more advanced process to accomplish.

Another detachable chairlift would be installed, and eight more trails would be created, adding potentially around 54,100 new skier visits. The Backside project could cost around \$17.3 million.

Each different phase

would also involve expansions to parking and guest services facilities.

“We’re not going to go and do something we don’t think we can pay for,” Day said.

An additional proposal would also involve new hotels on the property. The plan found three possible locations for hotels, which could also be doing in a phased approach. The first proposed site would be in the Eastside area by the summit road, which planners said has great views. The second would be by where the main parking lot is today. The third would be around Pistol across from where the ski jumps are now.

Humber and Day said any hotels would require Gunstock to partner with a third party who would open the hotel.

“(This is) not happening tomorrow, there have been a lot of conversations over the years around this being a possibility,” Humber said.

Gunstock Area Commissioner Rusty McLear talked about the revenue his hotel properties in Meredith have generated, saying a ski area like Gunstock could generate so much more business with hotels.

“We would have a fun, exciting, look to Gunstock if we could build the right kind of hotel,” McLear said.

Gunstock Area Commissioner Gary Kiedaisch said any hotel would have to be carefully reviewed and negotiations would have to be made.

Day said any project would require the support of the community. He said this is a plan that would be executed over multiple years and done so in a fiscally responsible way.

Humber said resorts and ski areas that make sequential and disciplined capital improvements will improve, whereas resorts that do not will eventually fail against the competition.

Project principals answered different questions from community members.

Olympic skiers Penny Pitou and Heidi Preuss, both of whom said Gunstock was vital to their lives and careers, spoke in favor of the proposed expansion.

Pitou, who has a lift named after her, said Gunstock has been a key part of her life since she was a child.

“I know this has taken a lot of time and effort on your parts,” Pitou said. “I think it’s going to be a wonderful, wonderful plan and I hope we can institute it just as soon as possible.”

Preuss said this is an exciting concept that could open up opportunities for more people to explore Gunstock.

“The concept of expansion and the concept of the opportunities I think is really good for Belknap County and I support it,” Preuss said.



ERIN PLUMMER



ERIN PLUMMER

A map of Gunstock’s proposed master plan with different sections part of a multi-phase proposal.

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LXT 18V Cordless Brushless Hammer Drill and Impact Driver Kit
Both tools are equipped with an efficient and compact brushless motor that is engineered for longer run time, increased power and speed and longer tool life. (2801561)(XT269M)

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Mini Pneumatic Hand Nailer
Drives bulk nails up to 3.5 inches in applications too tight to swing a hammer. (2367456)(PC1195)

\$109⁰⁰

18V LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless Impact Driver Kit
BL™ brushless motor delivers 1,500 in. lbs. of max torque. (2008095)(XD131)

\$323⁹⁹

Metabo HPT 21 Ga. Pneumatic 21" Nailer
Used for floor and wall framing, truss build-up, window build-up, construction of subflooring and roof decking. (2799476) (NR83A5)

\$20⁹⁹

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Superiorly designed Flame Shield portable fuel cans with compliant spouts. (7797590)

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10" Dual-Bevel Sliding Compound Miter Saw w/Laser
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NBT's "The Nutcracker" is back and better than ever

WOLFEBORO — Northeastern Ballet Theatre (NBT)'s "The Nutcracker" is back and better than ever! Hailed by New Hampshire Magazine in 2018 as one of their Top 10 things to do in New Hampshire in December, Northeastern Ballet Theatre's professional "The Nutcracker" is the original rendition of this holiday classic ballet. Come along with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince on their journey! This year's pro-



duction will carry you into the Silberhaus' home and through the Kingdom of Snow and into the Land of the Sweets with lush state-of-the-art projection backdrops! Top it off with professional dancing and a real live Mother Ginger, and you have the perfect holiday event for all family members. Get your tickets today for this year's production: Dec. 11 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. at Dover High School, Dover. The performances that were scheduled for the Kingswood Arts Cen-

ter in Wolfeboro will now be shown virtually rather than live due to certain restrictions placed on the production. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors 60 and older, and \$17.50 for students/children. Tickets will be \$5 more at the door. To purchase tickets to the Dover shows or the virtual performances, visit <https://www.northeasternballet.org/performances> or call (603) 834-8834. Access to the virtual performance is \$40. Sponsored in part by the Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation, Dover Bowl, Seacoast Radiology, Calling All Cargo, The Storage Barn and El Centenario.

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COURTESY

Setting the scene

Volunteers have decorated the New Durham 1772 Meetinghouse for the final Meetinghouse Merry Meeting of the year. Join the Restoration Committee for "Christmas at the Meetinghouse," this Saturday, Dec. 11, at 1 p.m. with a presentation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, holiday storytelling by Miss Cathy, caroling, hot mulled cider, and colonial cookies. Performances begin at 1 p.m.; masks are recommended. The event is free, and attendees can also walk the yellow Storywalk trail to read "A New Durham Christmas Carol."

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