40th annual Children's Auction brings in \$583,752

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

TILTON - The Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction celebrated its 40th year, bringing in over \$583,000 that will go to kids and families across the Lakes Region.

The 40th annual auction ran from Tuesday through Saturday at its new home at the Tanger Outlets in Tilton. For four days, people and businesses donated items and services to bid on and several businesses, groups, and others presented checks to the auction.

At the auction's close on Saturday night, the final number of \$583,752 was announced.

"I knew that once we were part way through the week, I knew it was going to be good," said auction chair Jaimie Sousa. "I didn't know it would be that high."



Courtesy Photos

Supporters and volunteers celebrate the final number of the 2021 Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

40th annual auction returned as an in-person event this year after going remote in 2020. In response to the

al format with hosts, guests, and the phone bank checking in re-

Last year Pub Mapandemic, last year's nia and its fundraising auction took a virtu- efforts changed into an

all-yearlong event, the "It's For the Kids" Community Challenge.

This year the live format was back. Sousa said things were a bit chaotic, but there was

new energy being back in person.

"There's a special spark of having the people to interact with," Sousa said. "It's just something completely

different when it feels like the whole community came together."

Sousa said they did face some challenges with a lack of volunteers this year.

The auction had its highest overbid ever this year when someone bid \$40,000 on one item valued at around \$5,000.

The Laconia County Club Community Challenge team offered the auction a membership to the country club worth \$5,000. There is currently waiting list of 200 people to be a club member and this prize would bring someone right into the club without waiting.

One bidder bid \$40,000 for the item, a \$35,000 overbid. Sousa said the bidder is moving to the Lakes Region full time and wanted to do something to contribute to their new community.

SEE **AUCTION** PAGE 12

Town officials discuss beach passes

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

Town officials are discussing the best way to approach reports of overcrowding at the town beach by nonresidents, with the selectmen recommending getting rid of the new seasonal passes.

The board discussed the issue with Parks Recreation Herb Greene during their meeting on Wednesday.

Greene said it was brought to the board's attention that there might

have been overcrowding passes for short-term at the beach, especially by nonresidents.

"I would say we did have more complaints about that this year than we have in the past," Greene said. "Not to say the people there didn't they looked to reduce have proper passes, but the number of tempothey maybe had guest passes they aren't local residents per se."

The beach is designated for town residents only, but different passes are available for visitors: a day pass requiring visitors to accompany by a resident, temporary renters and family members of residents, a commercial pass for hotels and commercial lodges, and the new seasonal

Greene said last year, rary guest passes. The selectmen approved a proposal to implement a seasonal guest card.

He said implementing the new system did reduce the number of temporary passes issued.

At the same time, the number of short-term rentals has increased

in the area, which increased the number of guest passes and seasonal cards that were issued. Additionally, while a property owner might request one temporary pass for one vehicle, some property owners will request mul- one would be issued per tiple passes for family members coming up in multiple vehicles.

This resulted in reports of overcrowding at the beach. Greene said the gate at the beach will track the number of nonresidents that come through and numbers creased.

Greene said the Recreation Commission recommended increasing the prices on guest passes. The weekly temporary pass for renters and family members would go from \$25 to \$50 and household. The seasonal guest card will double from \$200 to \$400.

"Hoping that would sort of reduce the crowding issues but letting property owners get passes for their guests and hopefully reducing any potential abuse

Greene did say many complaints about nonresidents at the beach stem from someone seeing an out of state plate in the lot and assuming that person shouldn't be there. He said people who aren't New Hampshire residents can still be Gilford taxpayers who can use the beach.

Selectman Hayes said he would prefer doing away with the seasonal passes altogether and doing weekly passes for one household per week.

SEE **PASSES** PAGE 9

Early deadlines for Christmas

To ensure that the Dec. 23 edition of the Gilford Steamer 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 Gilford Steamer thanks our readers for cooperating with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

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show that amount inof the system," Greene Community Challenge brings in more than \$331,000 for Children's Auction



Teams and supporters with the "It's For the Kids" Community Challenge present a check for \$331,727+ to the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

REGION — The "It's For the Kids" Community Challenge celebrated a successful year bringing in a check for over \$331,000 for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

Community Challenge Teams and supporters gathered in front of the Tanger Outlets on Friday, the last day of the 2021 Children's Auction, and presented a check for \$331,727 with a plus for more coming in.

The Community Challenge is a new evolution of Pub Mania at Patrick's Pub and Eatery in Gilford. Pub Mania, the "24-hour barstool challenge," couldn't go on in

its original form in 2020 because of the pandemic. As a result, organizers came up with a new version of the team challenge where many more teams could fundraise all year. The first ever Community Challenge presented a check for \$249,460 at the 2020 auc-

"Like Pub Mania, the

Challenge is a success because it's in the contexts of the Children's Auction because we know what the mission is," said Patrick's co-owner and Community Challenge co-founder Allan Beetle during Friday's presentation. "The mission is about helping

SEE **CHALLENGE** PAGE 9

Comfort Keepers — 50 ways to bring seniors comfort and joy this season

BY MARTHA SWATS

Owner/Administrator Comfort Keepers

There are many ways to bring connection, purpose, and hope to seniors this holiday season and all year round. It can be refreshing and fun to incorporate new ideas and shake up our everyday routine, especially during holidays.

These fun ideas for families focus on activities to do with seniors, including grandparents, older parents, and elderly neighbors. Some are free or affordable, and others may require some planning ahead. These ideas can be enjoyed together or apart to bring joy and make new memories. Others are intended to bring joy to those that can't spend time together in person.

Bake cookies or a favorite holiday treat

Make an ornament or cute holiday decoration as a gift

Help a senior shop for holiday gifts online

Wrap gifts on behalf of a senior and deliver them to loved ones

Have a drive-through holiday parade outside of a senior's home

Gather everyone in your household and go caroling for seniors

Put together a gift basket of hot chocolate, baked goods or favorite holiday snacks

String lights outside of a senior's home

Make a wreath for a senior's door

Print photos of holiday memories and share

them Send cards, letters or notes of encouragement

Run a holiday errand for someone that is isolating at home

Snap a few photos of your friends, family, and pets to send by text or email

Plan a surprise meal for a senior, either by cooking for the senior in your household or arranging meal delivery if

you can't be in-person Draw a picture and send it in the mail

Lend a senior a favorite book or movie and explain why you love it

Take a senior in your household for a sunset

Celebrate the 12 days of Christmas by sending a senior gifts and treats.

Color a page from a coloring book and give it as a gift

Surprise a senior by playing or singing their favorite song over the phone or on a video call

Paint a picture and give it to a senior

Make and send a handmade card

Post sticky notes with uplifting messages around the house

Make origamis and present them as gifts

Tell a senior what you admire about them

Create a book of holiday memories for someone special

Thank someone that you appreciate

Listen to a senior reminisce about the "good old davs'

Surprise a senior by dancing to a favorite song on video or dance household!

Write a poem and give it as a gift

Bring coffee from their favorite coffee shop

Frame a senior's favorite quote give it to them

Decorate for the holidays, either outside of their home or inside if you're in the same household

Read a favorite holiday book together over the phone

Send a senior a poinsettia or other seasonal plant for their garden

Gift an indoor garden to someone that can't be outside due to weather

Order supplies from an online crafts store for your loved one's favorite hobby or something fun and new

Have your senior narrate parts of their life for you. Write down the memories and create a booklet with photos for you all to cherish.

Have a fashion show showcasing silly holiday looks over video or with a senior in your house-

with a senior in your hold and dress up in themes from your loved one's favorite era

> Watch a favorite classic movie with a senior in your household

Ask your senior loved one to gather items to donate, and take them to a charity drive for them

Have family phone or video calls

Record a voice journal and share it

Create a family holiday recipe book

Play Bingo online

Create a collage and gift it to a senior loved one

Play charades in-person with those in your household or over video chat

Find a senior pen pal and send letters and notes on a regular basis Share a favorite pod-

cast or audio book Make a family tree

and gift it to a senior Comfort Keepers® can

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and help seniors engage in the activities they love the most. And, our caregivers can help seniors stay connected with loved ones through video chats, phone calls, and care updates. We believe that every senior should experience the best in life. If you have questions about Comfort Keepers uplifting in-home care services, please contact us today.

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GILFORD POLICE LOG

The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 3-9.

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Dec. 6 for Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products by a Minor.

Patrick J. Ciampo, age 37, of North Conway was arrested on Dec. 6 for Violation of a Protective Order and Breach of Bail.

Matthew Alighieri, age 41, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 6 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault involving Physical Contact

David J. Fournier, age 70, of Manchester was arrested on Dec. 8 for Unlawful Activities-Litter

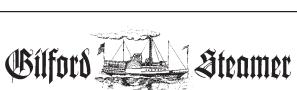
Control. A 38-year-old male from Gilford was taken into protective custody

for intoxication on Dec. 9. Lynne Thomas Nesbitt, age 59, of Holderness was arrested on Dec. 9 for Conduct After an Acci-

dent. Elijah Michael Bravo, age 19, of Clinton, Mass. was arrested on Dec. 9 on multiple counts of Theft By Unauthorized Taking.







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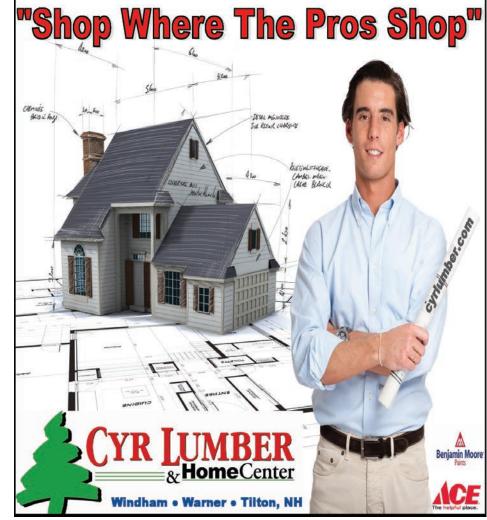
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Bank of New Hampshire donates to 20 food pantries across the state



Bank of New Hampshire employees deliver donations to food pantries across New Hampshire.

LACONIA — From Oct. 12 through Nov. 12t each Bank of New Hampshire office participated in the annual Banking on Kindness Funds for Food Drive, which in total raised \$15,151.43 for twenty different food pantries across the state

of New Hampshire.

Thanks to generous Bank of New Hampshire customers, the Bank collected \$10,122.43 in donations monetary at our offices. Furthermore, with Bank of New Hampshire's commitment to match donations

up to \$250.00 per office, the Bank's match was \$5,029.00 resulting in total donations of \$15,151.43.

Each Bank of New Hampshire office had the opportunity to choose a local food pantry in their community to support, and were able to deliver

the funds they raised in their office, along with the Bank's match, to that local food pantry during

the week of Thanksgiv-These monetary donations allow the local food pantries to purchase food to stock their shelves during a season when many are experiencing an increased struggle with food insecurity.

"Our customers have once again blown us away with their generous donations to our Funds for Food Drive," said Chris Logan, President

and CEO for Bank of New Hampshire. "Together, we were able to make record breaking donations to our local food pantries, and I am confident that those donations are directly impacting the lives of individuals across our state who are bearing the weight of food insecurity this holiday season."

Bank of New Hampshire is proud of the impact of our Funds for Food Drive as we aspire to remain an independent mutual financial institution, delivering innovative solutions and exceptional while assisting our employees, customers and communities to build brighter futures.

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 21 banking offices and assets exceeding \$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 1-8000-832-0912 or visit www.BankNH.com.

Currier takes over Gilford girls' hoop program

Sports Editor

GILFORD the first time in a long time, the Gilford girls' hoop program has a new coach, as longtime mentor Rick Forge retired and Scott Currier takes over the helm of the Golden Eagles.

Currier comes to Gilford from Inter-Lakes, where he was the girls' basketball coach and is working on getting to

where everyone fits.

"We had a solid preseason, as a new coach coming in there is a lot of getting to know players and what we are comfortable with and what we need to improve on," Currier said. "That being said, their effort, attitude and work ethic has been great, so that is a good building block to start from."

The Golden Eagles

know everyone and see will be looking to the re- big impact on this year's schedule this year, play- home against Belmont. turning trio of Maggie Shute, Maura Hughes and Vanessa Flanders to provide plenty of leadership up front, while Olivia Keenan, Ryan Guyer and Millie Caldon are expected to play key roles as they integrate into the team. Caldon and Keenan are freshmen looking to make an immediate impact while Guyer returns to the team ready to make a

squad.

"We are focusing on growing and improving as a team day to day and week to week," Currier said. "Our thoughts are that if we keep the focus on those attainable goals and that process, than the larger goals or accomplishments will come as a result of that work."

Gilford returns to a regular Division III

ing two games each against Belmont, St. Thomas, Prospect Mountain and Berlin and single games each against Monadnock, Hopkinton, Mascoma, Stevens, Somersworth, Laconia, Newfound, White Mountains, Winnisquam and Inter-Lakes.

The season began at Monadnock last Friday and continued after deadline Tuesday, at The Golden Eagles will be hosting Hopkinton on Monday, Dec. 20 and Mascoma on Wednesday, Dec. 22, both at 6

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

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Friday, Dec. 17

BELMONT Boys' Hoops at Berlin; 6:30 Girls' Hoops vs. Berlin; 6 **GILFORD** Boys' Hoops vs. Stevens; 6

Boys' Hoops at Somersworth; 7 Girls' Hoops vs. Somersworth; 7

Saturday, Dec. 18 BELMONT-GILFORD Hockey vs. Con-Val-Conant; 5:15

WINNISQUAM Hockey at John Stark-Hopkinton; TBD Wrestling at Con-

WINNISQUAM

cord; 10 Monday, Dec. 20 BELMONT

Boys' Hoops Campbell; 6 Girls' Hoops at Camp-

bell; 6

GILFORD

Alpine Skiing at Bretton Woods; 10 Boys' Hoops at Hop-

kinton; 7 Girls' Hoops vs. Hopkinton; 6

WINNISQUAM Boys' Hoops at Ste-

Girls' Hoops vs. Stevens; 7

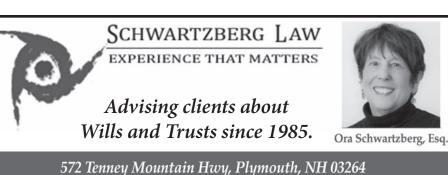
Wednesday, Dec. 22

BELMONT Boys' Hoops at Winnisquam; 7 Girls' Hoops vs. Winnisquam; 6 Hockey vs. Berlin-Gorham; 5:15 **GILFORD** Boys' Hoops at Mascoma; 6:30 Girls' Hoops vs. Mascoma; 6 WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops vs. Belmont; 7 Girls' Hoops at Belmont; 7 Hockey at Kennett; 6:30

All schedules are subject to change.





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An epidemic of 'experts'

"Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge." — Charles Darwin

It seems as though in today's society, everyone is an expert. It's one thing to have a specific belief system or an educated opinion on a certain topic, (with the operative word here being educated) this to include all topics. However, it seems as though critical thinking has all but flown right out of the window. Common sense is used less and less with people making outlandish assumptions, believing misinformation and falling into line with outright absurdities. Social media doesn't help. Unfortunately, some people will read a meme and take it as face value. Some people even think JFK, Jr. is coming back to life.

With that, let us make one thing clear. None of us are experts — unless, well, we are. It turns out there's a name for this phenomenon, called the Dunning-Kruger effect. This is defined as a cognitive bias in which people think they are smarter and more capable than they are. So much so that people don't recognize their own incompetence.

The Dunning-Kruger effect takes place when a person begins speaking at length about a topic they know nothing about, yet claims everyone else is uninformed and wrong. For an example, if a student fails a test, yet believes they should have received an A. They are incapable of seeing their own faults.

David Dunning, an American social psychologist who along with Justin Kruger discovered the phenomenon, described it as such: "Instead, the incompetent are often blessed with an inappropriate confidence, buoyed by something that feels to them like knowledge. The trouble with ignorance is that it can feel just like expertise."

The cause of this effect, as described by Dunning, is that people are too incompetent to realize how incompetent they are. These individuals will fail to recognize the skill and expertise of others.

Also mentioned by Dunning is what's called metacognition. This is the ability to look within and evaluate yourself honestly. Oftentimes, those who suffer from this syndrome hear a small amount of knowledge on a topic, and then think they are experts.

No one person is an expert at everything. Dunning pointed out that everyone has areas in which they are incompetent. Oftentimes, if a person is an expert in one area, they mistakenly think they are an expert in all areas. Dunning did point out that those individuals who are genuine experts in any given field, are more likely to see their own flaws in other areas, and are able to accept the knowledge and expertise in others who truly possess it.

If your car breaks down, you will not bring it to the dentist. If you have a toothache, you will not go see a florist. Further, with the divide in our country politically, let us remember, that politics has zero to do with anyone's skill set. Our healthcare workers are being harassed daily by those who believe they are experts. There are doctors, nurses and healthcare providers who are both Republicans and Democrats or Independents. Car repair is car repair, healthcare is healthcare, creating a fine dining menu and becoming a top-rated chef is simply about food and creativity. We need to stop politicizing anything other than politics.

Common sense and critical thinking needs to find its way back into our society. Common sense is defined as the sound and prudent judgement based on a simple perception of the situation or fact.

As far as the political divide that has taken hold in this country. It's ridiculous. There is no need for anyone, on either side, to be filled with so much anger, because their candidate lost, or because someone disagrees with your way of thinking. The beauty of our country is that we can all think differently and still respect one another, and still have the ability to laugh over beers and pizza on a Friday night. The angry political signs still strewn about on either side, are tacky, immature and unintelligent. We can do better

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COURTECY BUOT

Lending a hand

By John Harrigan

Living off the land

has always been the key

to life as we've known it,

from Native Americans

to European colonies to

today's people, with one

foot in the past and the

other feeling around for

Right now, the next

step seems to be using

the landscape as a back-

drop for everything from

leaf-peepers) to land

development and sus-

tainable logging. Then

we have the current vi-

rus-driven land specu-

lation and what the gov-

ernment calls "housing

starts," another turn of

events that has generat-

ed little media attention.

scratch out a living here

have relied on hunting

and gathering, timber

exploitation, subsistence

farming, potato whisky,

starch mills, cheese fac-

tories, dairy farming,

migration from the cit-

ies, immigration, nat-

ural growth, and land-

scape-driven lifestyles.

Thus, any new develop-

ments in trying to eke

out a living from the

land should come as no

One of New Hamp-

shire's most sustainable

resources is its people.

Nothing much is likely

to knock them down,

not even the occasional

rampant virus. "There

is a certain boldness and

brightness to the step,"

is how one long-ago writ-

er put it. It is the kind of

effect that can make you

think you can do busi-

surprise.

trying

People

recreation

ATVs,

the next step.

motorized

(snowmobiles,

COLUMNIST

Aroma Joe's in Alton loves their community. They love their regulars, their summer guests and those just traveling through town. They know that it is this community that helps them stay open and they are truly thankful. Each year they try and do something fun around this time to celebrate not only the holidays but the shop's birthday. In the past we have had Mr. and Mrs. Claus come to the hut, have donated toys to Toys For Tots, and once braved the winter winds with the fire and police department to host a Touch a Truck. This year, Aroma Joe's community outreach manager, Lindsey Ellis, wanted to focus on the community's bellies. She suggested a can drive. When they realized that the hut is too small to be a home to 100s of cans, they knew that wouldn't work. Together Ellis and owner Amanda Parkhurst put their minds to work. They decided that the owners would give \$1 for every \$1 the baristas made in tips on Thanksgiving weekend. Together with a community that supports the hard working baristas so much, they raised \$927 that will be donated to the Alton Community Services. When delivering the check, Alton Community Services told the Aroma Joe's staff how much the donation is going to help and how grateful they are.

North Country Notebook

It wasn't about cows, but sheep; and making stone walls was cheap ness on a handshake (ca- one time about half- crass commercialism and the standard (which is true). But it is the spatial.

veat emptor).

+++++

Long-distance races are a recent evolution, ranging from runpaddle-run events to bicycle races. One can visualize a pretty simple food-to-energy cost in such enterprises, and they are relatively easy on the landscape.

At the high end of such things is the attempt in Colorado to emulate the Europeans in their alpine-skiing three-to five-day treks. The term "hut" hardly does justice to the new American West experience, which offers creative food, hot showers, and fresh linens. Guests do none of the work. Firewood, for instance, is evidently brought in by elves.

The Colorado experience primarily tracts people who are fit enough to be on the high end of back country skiing, and who are prepared to put skins onto alpine skis and schlep cross-country to ski the slopes of one peak after another. But the real attraction is not just the landscape, but the "huts," and the level of service they offer.

In terms of jobs, this kind of thing can be seen as a high return. It could never equal that of the grand hotels, but its strength is in its spreadout variety.

+++++

New Hampshire is about 84 percent forested, second in the Lower 48, behind only Maine (89 percent). Most people I run into who care about this kind of thing (they mostly run away) think this state was at

one time about half-cleared (which is true), and that it was for dairy cows. Nay, nay (wait-that's a horse), not true. It was for sheep.

New England at one time rivaled the likes of Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland in the export of wool. In general, in the post-Industial Revolution world, Europe had the machinery, and we and the other countries had the land. In the end, of course, we took over the machinery leadership and surfed the wave well until synthetic fiber came along.

For a while there, New Hampshire had thousands of wool-producing farms big and small, ranging from subsistence farms with only half a dozen sheepscissor-shorn---to --all larger outfits that had water-powered shearing machines and, later, steam-driven machinery, and then electricity until the wool market began its waning years.

Not until the arrival of the railroads and refrigerated cars could the dairy industry evolve and take its successive hold on northern New England farms. Until then, the driving force behind those stone walls we now step over far back in the woods, all over hill and dale, were driven not by cows, but sheep.

+++++

Because I've been newspapering for so long, and so enjoyed doing radio and television on the side, I've also had a keen ear for advertising—the driving force behind the news business. Well, to call it "the news business" is a bit of a misuse. News is supposed to be sacrosanct, a healthy step away from

crass commercialism. But it is the capitalist system--call it crass commercialism--that allows the news world to exist.

Anyway, lest we wallow in this swamp, I've long had an abnormal interest in the content of newspaper ads and radio and television commercials, and how and why they are made.

---A round of applause for MacDonald's, for a TV commercial featuring two working stiffs in a truck, one sound asleep while the other orders early morning coffee for two from the drive-through. For city and small-town Americans alike, this ad resonates.

--A big "boo" for all the sound-alike ads hovering around the Medicare signup period, like vultures. Many of the supposed freebies are rare to nonexistent, Medicare itself has all sorts of free help available, and the "health plans" these outfits offer add their own costs to the heap.

+++++

Many people out and about on the landscape have no clue about the role of potatoes in the clearing of the land. As I understand it, our acidic soils produce potatoes that are very good, for sure (in fact, superior, in my book), but have a lot of blemishes. Thus when fickle, spoiled consumers began getting picky about appearance, our spuds could not compete with gorgeous, designer-potatoes from Oregon and California.

Maine, meanwhile, held onto its potato industry, and did it by forgetting supermarket

SEE **NOTEBOOK** PAGE 5

Gilford hoop boys setting sights on another championship

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

GILFORD — The Gilford boys' hoop team is coming off back-to-back Division III championships and will return a large group of players who should be able to help the Golden Eagles make another run toward the title.

"Our focus is to get better each day and to be a hard "out" in the end," said third-year head coach Rick Acquilano.

The Golden Eagles will be looking at a large

flock of returning players, including seniors Rilev Marsh. Austin Normandin and Mitch Pratt, juniors Jalen Reese and Sam Cheek and sophomore Isaiah Reese.

Jalen Reese is expected to be what Acquilano calls the team's stat guy. "Rebounds, scoring, blocked shots and assists, he does it all," the Golden Eagle coach said.

Marsh has continued to grow in the team's system and is a strong leader and defender and a capable scorer as well.

Isaiah Reese comes to the team as a complete player who can lead the team in scoring on any given night and also control the glass and make plays all over the floor.

Normandin is the team's workhorse, who is a strong rebounder and defender and also a capable scorer. Acquilano notes that his leadership skills are continuing to develop as well.

Cheek will be taking over the center position for Gilford this season as a capable scorer and also someone the team the new season. will count on to anchor the defense and control the glass.

Pratt plays with a high motor and will be a pivotal player, as he can score and defend as well.

"Much of our depth is still being put together and we will see from that group who emerges," Acquilano said.

Newcomers include Mike Macaione, Logan Grant, Noah Smith, Brendan Baldi and Cam Corcoran will all be battling for playing time in

The Golden Eagles will return to a regular Division III schedule, with two games each against Belmont, Thomas, Prospect Mountain, and Berlin and single games each with Monadnock, Stevens, Hopkinton, Mascoma, Somersworth, Newfound, White Mountains, Winnisquam and

Inter-Lakes. Gilford kicked off the season with a 72-40 win over Monadnock on Friday. The schedule

continued after deadline Tuesday at Belmont and will continue with a home game against Stevens on Friday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m., at Hopkinton on Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. for a rematch of last year's title game and will finish up the 2021 portion of the regular schedule at Mascoma on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Atlantic Broadband supports children in need through Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction

QUINCY, Mass. — Atlantic Broadband, the eighth-largest cable operator in the U.S., worked to provide food, education, and healthcare for children in need through its participation in the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, which ran from Dec. 7 through Dec. 10.

Over its 40-year history, the benefit has raised more than \$7 million for charities across the Greater Lakes region through volunteer work, community donations, and corporate sponsorships. Last year's donations supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire,

(Continued from Page A4)

of the material, and to be

made fit for plowing the

Got Lunch! Laconia, the Lakes Region Mental Health Center, and many other organizations.

As a media partner, Atlantic Broadband has been providing a live stream of the auction since 1998. This allows viewers to watch the auction and bid on items from home. Donors can watch bidding in real time at childrensauction.com. Atlantic Broadband also provides a live feed of the auction to Lakes Region Public Access Channel 25. This year, volunteers from Atlantic Broadband also answered phones and took bids on those auction items callers saw on air and online.

"Atlantic Broadband proudly supports the mission of the Children's Auction, which empowers children to succeed

and positively impact the Greater Lakes Region," said Nadine Heinen, Region Operations Director for Atlantic Broadband.

The auction depends on the support of generous donors and volunteers. This year, more than 700 volunteers from central New Hampshire collected more than 2,000 donations from local businesses for auction.

"We could not do this auction without the community support we have," said Jennifer Kelley, Executive Director of the Children's Auction. "Atlantic Broadband is integral to bringing the Children's Auction to life for underserved kids in the community."

For more information about the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, visit childrensauction.com. To learn more about Atlantic Broadband, visit atlanticbb. com.

About Atlantic Broadband

Atlantic Broadband, a subsidiary of Cogeco Communications (TSX: CCA), is the eighthlargest cable operator in the United States. The company provides its residential and business customers with Internet, TV and Phone services in 12 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. WiFi Your Way is a registered trademark of Atlantic Broadband.

NOTEBOOK

appearance and going for industrial uses instead. These include everything from French fries to potato puffs to canned potatoes, which I've used and are in fact pretty good. Why New Hampshire didn't opt for a similar tack is another question.

As for potato whisky, this was either top-shelf stuff or something to be spat out until some rum or hard cider got passed around. Today, there are half a dozen or so distilleries in New Hampshire that produce potato vodka, but none making potato whisky that I could find. Suffice to say that in days of yore the stuff was produced hither and yon and was not perishable until ingestion, after which the jury is still out.

+++++

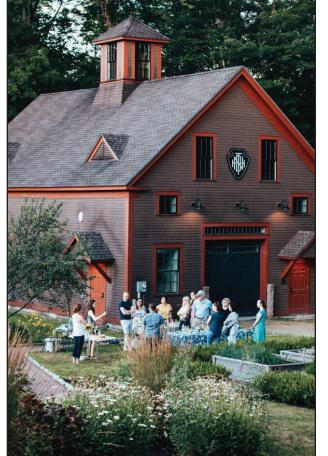
As for stone walls, there was never any lack

land had to be cleared of stumps and stones. Thus, everything that could be pried onto a stone-boat was hauled to adjoining boundaries, and remaining outcrops of bedrock and glacial erratics were left to roving (and pricy) dynamiters, or left to the ages, to be plowed around for generations.

Stone walls can be seen as cheap alternatives to expensive and rock-free bottomland, and anyone who knows history can understand why the enticement of stone-free land in Illinois and Indiana made local farm families move out there in droves.

The stone walls we step across today were built by husbands and wives and teenagers and even kids, who joined forces and pried rocks out of the ground and hauled them to the edges or a central pile. They are testimony to just how far people had to go, and did go, to eke out a living from the land.

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



An event at Tamworth Distilling, one of several such enterprises around the state, some producing potato vodka but evidently none producing potato whisky. (Courtesy Tamworth



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What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial reso-

Here are a few ideas to consider: • Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

· Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33% of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your

401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. • Reduce your debt load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll

have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for

tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress - at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right

· Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation - it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates?

How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't for get extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial reso lutions you can make - but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence



Jacqueline Taylor 3 Mill Street PO Box 176 Meredith NH 03253 603-279-3161 Fax 866-532-8685

35th Annual Cash & Cans schedule set



Rob & Bob Bolduc of Piche's Ski & Sport Shop help jump-start this year's Mix Cash & Cans campaign with a \$500 donation.

REGION — 'Making a difference one donation at a time,' Mix 94.1 FM's 35th annual Cash and Cans Money & Food Drive for the holidays is set for Dec. 13-17. All monies and food raised stays local, benefiting several area organizations, including the Franklin Police Toys for Tots Program; the Belmont Police Santa 'Lil Helpers program; Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry; Bread & Roses Soup Kitchen; Tilton/ Northfield/Sanbornton Christmas Fund; Every Child Is Ours; Greater Lakes Region

Santa Fund, Meredith Emergency Food Pantry, the Northfield-Til-Congregational Church Food Pantry, St. Joseph's Belmont Food Pantry and others.

Last year was another record year for donations, with over \$52,000 in cash and more than 30,000 non-perishable food items raised.

Mix 94.1 FM's Fred Caruso, who started the program in 1987, looks forward to this week every year, commenting "We meet so many generous people during Cash and Cans week. It's a heart-warming week.

from kids giving their piggy bank money to the business community donating, all we ask is people give what they can. And the best part...it all stays right here in our central New Hampshire Community."

Caruso acknowledg-

es this will be another different year, still dealing with the pandemic, adding "We're taking all precautions but, we'll be out there. Many people are hurting right now due to job loss and sickness. Our goal is to try to help as many people as possible through the organizations that benefit from the generosity of our listeners."

Caruso and morning co-host Amy Bates will broadcast live from 18 different locations, accepting your Cash and Cans donations. All broadcasts are outside with all safety protocols in place. Here where they'll be, and when they'll be there:

Monday, Dec. 13: 5:30-9 a.m., George's Diner, Meredith; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Vista Foods, Laconia; 2-5pm, Verizon Wireless Zone/American Shaman, Laconia.

Tuesday, Dec. 14: 5:30-8 a.m., Willow Hill Food Beverage, Franklin; 9-11 a.m., Stafford Oil Laconia: 11 a.m.-1

p.m., HK Powersports, Laconia; 2-5 p.m., Belk-Subaru, Tilton

Wednesday, Dec. 15: 5:30-10 a.m. Dunkin' Donuts, West Main Street, Tilton. Make a minimum ten dollar donation, get a dozen donuts free; 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Prescott's Florist, Laconia; 1-3 p.m., Irwin Motors, Laconia; 4-7 p.m., McDonald's Tilton

Thursday, Dec. 5:30-10 a.m., Park-N-Go Market, Northfield; 11 a.m.-1 p.m., T-Bones Laconia; 2-4 p.m., Franklin Savings Bank Up-Central Street, Franklin; 4:30-7 p.m., Planet Honda, Tilton.

Friday, Dec. 17: 5:30-

10 a.m., McDonald's Franklin; 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Benson Auto, Franklin; 2:30-5:30 p.m., Grevior Furniture, Franklin.

Donations may also be made by mail. Please make checks payable to Mix Cash and Cans and mail to Mix 94.1fm. PO Box 99, Franklin, NH 03235 or Venmo @ Mixcashandcans. more information about the Mix Cash and Cans program, visit www. mix941fm.com or contact Fred Caruso at fred@mix941fm.com. Mix Cash and Cans is a public service of Mix 94.1 FM, a locally owned and operated Northeast Communications Corporation radio station.

Candlelight Stroll is this Saturday

BY ERIN PLUMMER mnews@salmonpress.news

The Gilford Village Candlelight Stroll will take place this Saturday after being postponed the week before due to bad weather.

The stroll was initially scheduled for Dec. 11, but a rainy weather forecast resulted in the event being postponed to the week after. The event has been rescheduled to this Saturday, Dec. 18, from 4-7 p.m.

This year, the stroll will take place within a loop of Belknap Mountain Road, Potter Hill Road, and Bacon Drive. Belknap Mountain Road will be closed off from Potter Hill Road to the Bacon Drive.

Several different events and activities will go on during the stroll.

The Gilford Community band will perform at the Gilford Community Church from 4-5 p.m. Events will go on for the rest of the stroll from 5-7 p.m.

The Village Field will have a bonfire tended to by members of the Gilford Fire-Rescue Department. People can enjoy s'mores and visits with Santa.

A horse drawn carriage will offer oneway rides between the Gilford Public Library and Bacon Drive. The library will also have cookies, cocoa, and ornament making.

The Belknap Mountain Grange will be open, and people can tour three areas of the building.

The Union Meetinghouse will have a Christmas village set up and live musical performances.

Different stands and activities have traditionally take place along the route.

Parking will available at Gilford Elementary School and the Gilford Middle and High School lots. Parking can also be found at the Gilford Community Church and the upper lot of the Gilford Public Library.

Gilford Parks and Recreation

BY HERB GREENE

Director Gilford Parks and Recreation

Bolduc Park Cross Country Ski program The Gilford Parks and Recreation Department will be offering four weeks of Cross Country Ski Lessons at Bolduc Park this winter. Lessons begin on Saturday, Jan. 8, and will continue through Jan. 29, 2022 (in the event a day is cancelled because of poor weather, it will be made up the week(s) following Jan. 29). Lessons begin at 10 a.m., and rental skis may be picked up at 9 a.m. at Piche's Ski Shop! Registration forms are available at the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department, the department's Web site at www.gilfordrec.com, Bolduc Park and Piche's Ski Shop. Please mail,

fax or drop off your directregistrations ly to Piche's Ski Shop.

Cost: \$100 per person includes rental equipment! \$50 per son if you have your equipment!

If you have any questions, please contact Bob or Pat Bolduc at 387-4202.

Boston Celtics bus trip scheduled for March 1 The Gilford Parks and Recreation Department Moultonborough Recreation Department are co-sponsoring a Bus Trip to Boston to see the Celtics take on the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday, March 1. The cost of the trip includes round trip motor coach from Moultonborough or Gilford and your ticket (section 324 of the balcony) to the game. Our deluxe motor

coach will depart from Moultonborough Central School at 4 p.m. and the Gilford High School at 4:45 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. game. You will have time to visit the pro-shop and get dinner on your own prior to the game. Seats are limited; a registration form must be completed accompanied by payment and tickets are non-refundable. Please be sure to review COVID-19 restrictions for the Coach Company, TD Garden and the City of Boston prior to registering.

\$100 per person

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

MVSB kicks off annual Mitten Drive to benefit children, families and nonprofits

MEREDITH — Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB) is looking for donations of new handmade or bought mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for their annual Mitten Tree drive, now through December 31. All items will be donated to local nonprofits serving children and families and for each item donated, MVSB will make a \$2 contribution that will be evenly split among Interlakes Community Caregivers, GOT LUNCH! Laconia and GOT LUNCH! Ashland.

Mitten Tree donations can be dropped off at any MVSB branch location. Nonprofits in need of mittens, hats, gloves and scarves should contact the Bank office closest to them. A complete list of offices and hours are available at mysb.com.

"The Mitten Tree is a simple way that community members can give back to those in need this holiday season," said Rick Wyman, President of MVSB. "It is a holiday

tradition we've proudly hosted since 1979 and we are excited to contribute to these local organizations helping to ensure local children and families don't go hungry."

A donation of \$2 for every item collected throughout the drive will be evenly divided and awarded to:

Interlakes Community Caregivers, a volunteer organization that provides supportive services and information for neighbors to assist them in their daily lives. Visit www.interlakescares.org for more information.

GOT LUNCH! Laconia, a collaboration of community partners coming together to help feed children during the summer months. Visit www.gotlunchlaconia. com for more information.

GOT LUNCH! Ashland, a collaboration of community partners coming together to help

feed children during the

summer months.

Unlike a stock bank, MVSB is a mutual savings bank that operates for the benefit of its depositors, borrowers and surrounding communities. As a result, MVSB has remained steadfast in fostering the economic health and well-being of the community since it was founded in 1869. For over 150 years, Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB), has been serving the people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities of Central NH. MVSB and its employees are guided by the values of accountability, mutuality, excellence, respect, integrity, teamwork and stewardship. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mysb. com.



Roche Realty Group sells two medical office buildings in Laconia





COURTESY

Two large medical office buildings located at 724 and 734 N. Main St. in Laconia have recently changed ownership.

LACONIA — Two large medical office buildings located at 724 and 734 N. Main St. in Laconia have recently changed ownership. Concord Hospital/Laconia will continue to operate their multi-specialty clinic, obstetrics, and gynecology practices in these two adjacent landmark buildings. Constructed in 1937, The Laconia Clinic building has served the medical needs of surrounding communities for decades. Now, with Concord Hospital operating the facility, it's certain to continue for many

Bruce Labranche of Roche Realty Group in Meredith represented the buyer, Yankton Property CHL, 724 and 734 LLC, in acquiring these two properties in the heart of downtown Laconia which have ac-

tive leases in place with Concord Hospital. The seller of the property was Laconia Clinic Properties, Inc., represented by Laura Gamache of KW Metropolitan. The closing was held at Wescott Law in Laconia with Attorney Sarah N. Rubury.

The principal of Yankton Property, John Anderson, commented, "My family is pleased to be investing in the Laconia community and in particular in a health care provider whose doctors have continuously provided crucial clinical care to the Lakes Region at these locations for decades. We are proud to be associated with Concord Hospital/Laconia and look forward to a long relationship with them."

According to Bruche Labranche of Roche Realty Group, "The 724 N. Main Street building, where the clinic is located, includes 28,373 sf. This three-story brick medical office building has 95 exam rooms and offices. There are 12 reception and work station areas, six waiting rooms, 21 bathrooms, 900 sf. designated employee space, x-ray, lab, and pharmacy areas."

Labranche commented, "The paved parking area on 2.26 acres is huge and includes 145 parking spaces with easy entrance and exit. The building's contemporary portico and expansive glass windows present a pleasing architectural feel. The second building, 734 N. Main St., where the obstetrics and gynecology practices are located, is an attractive brick building with wood accents, lots of windows and includes 9,538 sf. with two stories

and offers an additional 15 parking spaces."

According to Frank Roche of Roche Realty Group, "This was the highest-priced commercial sale for 2021, for the 25 towns and cities throughout the Lakes Region. It's another indication of Laconia's impressive growth moving forward. There's great momentum with many changes in ownership and substantial investments being made within Laconia... the city is in a great place right now. When Concord hospital announced the acquisition of Lakes Region General Hospital, it was very exciting and well-received news for our communities. Concord Hospital has a tremendous reputation statewide and is now a major asset for Lakes Region. We are very fortunate to have them in our

backyard."

Roche Realty Group has been a leader in commercial, business sales, and development projects throughout the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. For a comprehensive list of our commercial, hospitality, business, and development achievements, please visit www.rocherealty.com.

Alton Fire Department auctioning off two snowmobiles

ALTON — Now that winter is almost here, are you in the market for two snowmobiles? The Town of Alton Fire Department is currently auctioning off a snowmobile package containing two Polaris snowmobiles and an open trailer. This online auction is open to the public at municibid.com and ends on Thursday, Dec. 16. New Hampshire residents are able to bid in this government auction online, 24/7, on Municibid.

All of the proceeds from this auction is going right back to the Town of Alton Fire Department. The funds can be used to purchase new fire safety equipment for rescues and to fund other initiatives that will help keep the local Alton community safe.

This auction is for one package containing two **Polaris** snowmobiles and an open trailer — it will be sold as a complete package only. It contains one 1998 Polaris Indy Trail Touring 500 snowmobile, which is liquid cooled with 2500 miles. It features an electric start and reverse, but it is currently not running

due to a suspected head electric start does not gasket issue. The engine

The package also contains a 2002 Polaris 550 Trail Touring snowmobile, which is fan cooled with 500 miles. It is currently running, but the

was rebuilt by HK Pow-

ersports about 200 miles

work. The machine rides and runs as it should. The included Snowpro 101x10 trailer's tires hold air and its lights are operational. All of the items in the package are being sold as is, as seen, with no warranty expressed or implied. All sales will be final.

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Send a letter to Santa at the Belknap Mill



LACONIA — Santa will be answering children's letters dropped at the Belknap Mill until 5 p.m. Monday, Dec.

Recently, new Laconia resident Kimberly Smith was reminiscing about a 'Letters to Santa Program' that was held by the town recreation department where she used to work. Kim shared that, "the program was phased out, which was rather sad, as it was so magical for many." Kim decided that she wanted to bring the program to the community where she and her family are now calling home. She reached out via Facebook to the Belknap Mill and Tara Shore, Program & Operations Manager thought this was an opportunity for a wonderful collaboration.

Children are invited to visit the Mill Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to write their letters at a specially designed Santa Letter Writing station in the lobby or drop off their already written letters in Santa's mailbox.

Kim, Santa's designated Volunteer Elf for Laconia, will pick up the letters and send them straight to Santa so that he can respond before Christmas. Once the letters have been responded to, Kim will donate the original letters to Macy's Believe Program, which donates \$1 to Make-A-Wish for every letter they receive.

To ensure all children who write to Santa receive a response, the child's name and address must be attached to their letter and dropped with a prestamped envelope. Kim Smith is volunteering her time for this project and is looking forward to giving back to the Laconia community! The Belknap Mill expects this program to become a

permanent part of our Annual Yuletide traditions event held each November.

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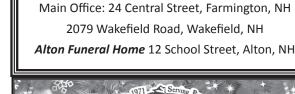
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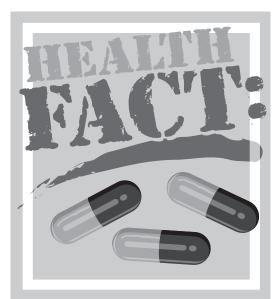
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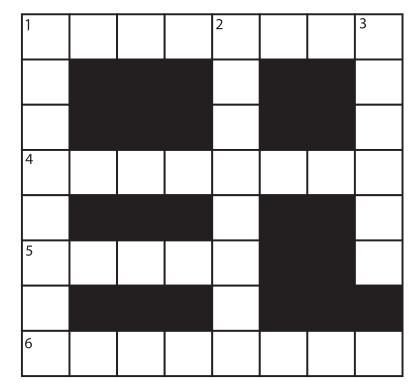




THESE ARE MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS THAT ARE FOUND IN THE AIR, ON VARIOUS SURFACES, AND IN SOIL AND WATER. THEY SOMETIMES CAN MAKE YOU SICK.

YN2MEK: GEKW2

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Treats an illness
- 4. Heating device
- 5. Another name for stomach
- 6. Clean and hygienic

DOWN

- 1. Germs
- 2. Something that starts an event
- 3. Strength and vitality

1. Microbes 2. Catalyst 3. Energy UMOCI

1. Medicine 4. Radiator 5. Belly 6. Sanitary Across :SIOMSUY



- 1773: THE BOSTON TEA PARTY TAKES PLACE.
- 1920: ONE OF THE DEADLIEST EARTH-QUAKES IN HISTORY HITS THE GANSU PROVINCE IN CHINA.
- **1944**: THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE DURING WORLD WAR II BEGINS IN BELGIUM.



a period of sickness



ENGLISH: Bacteria

SPANISH: Bacterias

ITALIAN: Batteri

FRENCH: Bactéries

GERMAN: Bakterien



THE NOVEL CORANAVIRUS COVID-19 ARRIVED IN THE WINTER OF 2019 AND HAS BEEN A HEALTH CONCERN FOR NEARLY

TWO YEARS.





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

PNSMEK: HYNDMYSHING

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A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gifting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = P)

5 18 23 14 14 11 21 Α.

Clue: Outer covering

18 6 10 6 11 14 24 В.

Clue: Proof of purchase

18 11 7 7 2 21 C.

Clue: Strip of fabric

14 9 18 10 22 23 17 6 D.

Clue: Acquire something

SUDOKU

9 3 6 7 4 8 7 3 5 2 6 4 3 6 9 5 4 7 doooo - Constant 6 5 9

Numbers

Fun By The

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

wrapping

 \mathcal{B} .

receipt

 Ω

ribbon

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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	~	6	Z	9	Þ	and.	G	8

HANSMA

Bank of New Hampshire Joins Gilda's Club New Hampshire's Red Door Society



Susanne Stiles, Chairman of the Board, Bank of New Hampshire; Chris Logan, President & CEO, Bank of New Hampshire; Pat Anderson, Board President, Gilda's Club NH; Scott Kalicki, Executive Director, Gilda's Club NH; Rod Dyer, Board Member, Gilda's Club NH.

LACONIA — Gilda's Club New Hampshire welcomes Bank of New Hampshire as the newest member of their Red Door Society. The Red Door Society is a fundraising campaign designed to help Gilda's Club establish a sustainable income through a multi-year financial commitment. Bank of

New Hampshire joins the Red Door Society as a "Champion" member, the highest level of support, by making a funding commitment of \$30,000 to Gilda's Club New Hampshire.

"Bank of New Hampshire strives to make a difference in the community," stated Chris Logan, President & CEO

for Bank of New Hampshire. "The efforts being made are fueled by passion. We look forward to the impact that Gilda's Club will have for so many here in New Hampshire."

"Since 2018, when we received our charter from the Cancer Support Community to es-

Belknap Landscape wins four Cornerstone Awards



Hayden McLaughlin of Belknap Landscape holds the four Cornerstone Awards his company won in 2021.

GILFORD week, the New Hamp-Association announced winners of the annual Awards. Cornerstone recognizing excellence in the building industry. Winners included local firm Belknap Landscape netting four awards in the categories best outdoor living space, landscape design, landscape construction, and stone/ masonry work. These awards add to a total of twenty-one Cornerstone Awards Belknap Landscape has received. Owner Hayden McLaughlin is quick to point out the group efforts a winning project requires.

"It takes a great team. From design to permitting, construction and finishing touches, everyone needs to execute on a level worthy of an award. You can't have a weak link and be successful," McLaughlin says. "One

—Last of these properties had over twenty-five Belkshire Home Builders nap team members and partners involved from start to finish. Every one of them contributed their unique skills and craftsmanship."

> Located on Alton Bay, that property featured a terraced landscape with natural stone retaining walls and patios, a perched beach, fire pit, built-in spa, rolling lawn, and ornamental gardens. Another winning property on Silver Lake features a twenty-five-foot-long, sevenfoot-tall cylindrical retaining wall capped with a stone patio seating area. This wall, reminiscent of a castle tower, was constructed using a dry-stacked stone technique with some stones protruding into the retained earth over three feet, belying their size but creating a feature that will last the test of

time.

"Landscapes like these are complex. Everything we do is custom, built specifically for each project. While some may not understand everything that goes into building something like these landscapes, when you get recognized for doing a good job by those who do understand, the builders association, it means a lot," McLaughlin continued. "It makes me proud to win these awards because it shines a light on the work my team does. They deserve that."

Belknap Landscape is a locally operated full-service landscaper based out of Gilford with locations in Belmont and Wolfeboro. To learn more about Belknap Landscape, visit belknaplandscape.com

has been a community leader in their financial support to our organization and our mission to open a facility to support those impacted by cancer," commented Pat Anderson, Board Chair and founding member of Gilda's Club New Hampshire. "This is their third gift to Gilda's Club, and because of continuous support, we are on the cusp of "opening our

Gilda's Club New Hampshire, an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community, the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support, is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by

Bank of New Hampshire community.

"With over 9,000 individuals in New Hampshire projected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, they and their families are in dire need of the support and services that a Gilda's Club offers," added Scott Kalicki, Executive Director of GCNH. "Our services are an essential complement to medical care, providing support groups, healthy living workshops, educational programs, and social activities for adults and children, all free of charge and all outside of a clinical environment, in a welcoming, safe space."

When Gilda's Club opens in the greater Lakes Region, it will be the first Gilda's Club in New Hampshire and

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CHALLENGE

(Continued from Page A1)

BankNH.com.

kids and all of the teams know that's what we're doing and that's why it's so successful."

Individual teams raised money throughout the year for the auction.

The event culminated with its first ever closing ceremony at Patrick's on Thursday night. Representatives from local organizations spoke during the event including the Boys and Girls Club, the Circle Program, St. Vincent DePaul, and Step Up Parents.

Beetle recognized the top fundraising teams for the 2021 challenge.

This year's top team was Birdies for a Cause, the Laconia County Club's team. The team offered a club membership for the 2022 season. The prize was worth around \$5,000, and around 200 people were on the waiting list.

One bidder came forth and bid \$40,000 for highest the membership. As a result, the Laconia Country Club team was the top fundraiser this year.

Café Déjà Vu in Laconia, which Beetle described as, "Probably the hardest working team, the most passionate team," came in second with \$27,082 raised.

Patrick's Pub and Eatery's own King's Corner team was the third highest fundraiser with \$25,341.

The Lakers, representing Lake Winnipesaukee communities, were in fourth place with \$22,563. Fifth place was the

Iron Butts of Laconia Harley Davidson in Meredith with \$20,563. The Diving Ducks

of the Winnipesaukee Yacht Club in Laconia were sixth, bringing in \$19,684. The Merry Misfits of

Belknap Landscaping of Gilford brought in \$17,908, coming in seventh place. Tagg Team from Gil-

ford was eighth with \$13,737 raised. The Gunstock team

was ninth, raising \$13,594. Team Verani won the Outstanding Partic-

ipation Award, raising \$13,580 and was the 10th fundraising team. "We couldn't do it

without all the inspiration that we get from all of you and for the kids, we love it," said Deb Peverley from Verani Realty.

The rookie team that raised the most money was Gator Graphix of Gilford, which raised \$12,707.

"We put together a team last minute, real quick," said Kevin Buttermore of Gator Graphix. "Couldn't have done it without our team, so thanks to them and were just really happy to be part of it and were going to do more."

Beetle said the pandemic created challenges rolling things out. He said in the coming year they want to have more events and improve communication with the teams.

"That's our goal is to make the challenge a sustainable event over the next decade," Beetle said. "Let's see if we can keep playing the game of plus one."

Beetle said they invite more teams to take part. He also said they would like to see more participants from further corners of the Lakes Region such as Moultonborough, Plymouth, Franklin, and other communi-

"These funds are being distributed to the grater Lakes Region area; we want you to come and play with us in the 2022 Challenge," Beetle said.

PASSES

Town Administrator Scott Dunn said from an administrative standpoint it would be easier to sell only season passes and get rid of the temporary passes, potentially limiting one guest pass per resident.

Greene said he understood that option would be easier form an administrative standpoint. He said they could get complaints that only one guest comes up and visits for one week and might not want to pay \$400.

Greene said they wanted to keep flexibility for residents, including those who have had a Gilford property in their families for generations, who might have multiple guests coming up. Board chair Gus Benavides said, however, if a resident is unavailable during the day, their guests can still use Ellacoya State Park and don't necessarily have to use the town beach.

The board asked Greene to go back to the Recreation Commission with the idea of eliminating the seasonal guest pass. Additionally, the board proposed

to keep the day pass at \$15, increase the cost of the family pass to \$50 a week, and make the renters pass \$100 with passes limited to one per household/property per week.

(Continued from Page A1)

Greene will talk to the Recreation Commission at its next meeting on Jan. 3.





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an inexperienced fella who needs an experienced owner to help him lean 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 than 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!



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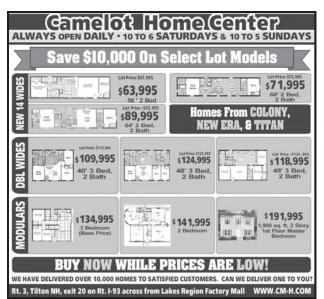
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New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp welcomes Jay Bisson as Vice President, Information Security Officer



ay Bisson

MEREDITH — Jay Bisson has joined New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB) as Vice President, Information Security Officer. In this position, he oversees cyber and physical security for the company and its subsidiary financial institutions, MVSB (Meredith Village Savings Bank), Merrimack County Savings Bank Merrimack), Savings Bank of Walpole and NHTrust.

"Jay's deep understanding of IT security and passion for technology made him an ideal candidate for this position," said Robert Soloway, Executive Vice President, Chief Technology and Services Officer. "We know having Jay's leadership as part of the organization will only strengthen and grow the already talented team we have here at NHMB."

Bisson obtained a Technical Certificate in Computer Networking from Boston University and he brings more than 20 years of technology and information security experience to the role. Prior to joining NHMB, he managed the security program for Granite State Management and Resources. He also managed security and

national Association of Privacy Professionals.

He is a member and proud supporter of the Elks Lodge. He currently resides in Farmington.

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB) was created through a unique alliance between three mutual community banks and a wealth management firm who maintain separate organizations and management. The companies are able to achieve best in class software, services and staffing while providing efficiencies through their shared service provider, NHMB. NHMB provides risk management, facilities, marketing, human resource, finance, compliance, information technology, deposit operations, loan

engineering at the Inter- operations and digital banking services to Meredith Village Savings Bank, Merrimack County Savings Bank, Savings Bank of Walpole and NHTrust. 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 standards and values. NHMB combined assets total more than \$2.8 billion. For more information, visit nhmutual.



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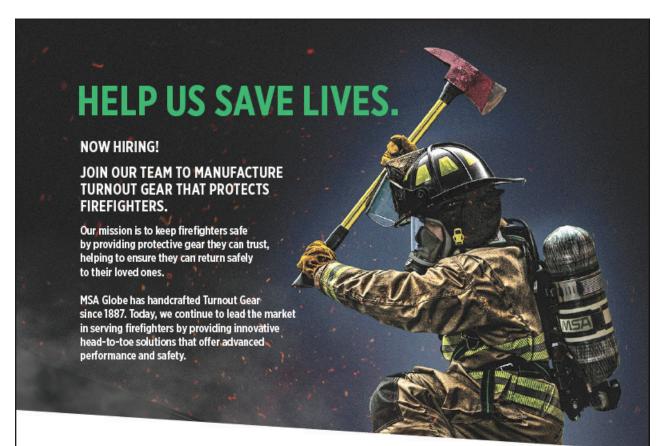
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AUCTION

The Children's Auction celebrated its 40th year this year. The WLNH Children's Auction started in 1981 with DJ Warren Bailey doing the auction out of a van in downtown Laconia.

Bailey stopped by the auction on its first day.

"I've said this so many times, but I mean it from the bottom of my heart: being in the Lakes Region has got to be the best place on the planet earth," Bailey said during his appearance. "We're all blessed to be here."

Bailey said this is an area with a lot of poverty where so many people live paycheck to paycheck. He said every year he sees people and businesses coming to help the auction.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work everyone's doing," he said.

Bailey said his goal

has always been to get \$1 more than the previous year.

"If we can, the Lakes Region in general comes up and surpasses those numbers it's just an amazing thing to watch throughout the auction," Bailey said.

Bailey talked about the change in technology over the auctions' history.

"We would start it off with a microphone and a pad of paper," Bailey said. "As people would bring things in, you'd write them down and put them up on the auction block and answer the phones while a song's playing." Sousa said she also realized she has been part of the auction for 10 years.

"I think it's the magic of the auction," she said. "It's like it's something within the community, it's not something that's easily replicated. I think

that 40 years is part of it being a part of something that's so special."

(Continued from Page A1)

When the last boards closed out on Saturday, the final total of \$583,752 was revealed. That number also includes the \$331,727 plus raised by the Community Challenge.

Funds raised will go to over 80 nonprofit organizations around Central New Hampshire that help children and families.

Funds will be dispersed in around January and February of 2022. Sousa said they used to disperse funds in December for immediate needs such as food, clothing, holiday presents, and others. She said they learned that many families in need have already been in contact with different resources thus time of year and the auction decided to disperse all funds in early 2022.



Hosts Heather Bishop and Zack Derby announce the final number at the end of the 40th annual Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.



Children's Auction founder Warren Bailey makes an appearance at this year's auction.





Happy holidays, neighbors.

Mike Testa, Agent 101 Court Street Laconia, NH 03246 Bus: 603-524-7733 mike-testa.com

I wish all my neighbors a safe and happy holiday season and the very best in the New Year. It's a true joy to be part of such a wonderful community.

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