

Recycled Percussion founders offer sound advice to NMMS students

BY DONNA RHODES
drhodes@salmonpress.news

BRISTOL — There was a bit of controlled chaos, a whole lot of kindness and some great talking points when New Hampshire's very own rock stars, Recycled Percussion, visited Newfound Memorial Middle School for a special hour devoted to sound advice and a lot of fun, thanks to funds the Newfound Area School District received from an anti-bullying grant.

In the mid 1990's, Justin Spencer of Goffstown had the opportunity to



Donna Rhodes

Ryan Vezina and Justin Spencer of Recycled Performance held a Drum Battle as part of their appearance at Newfound Memorial Middle School last Wednesday afternoon.

band playing drums on trash cans," he told his captivated audience last week. "That was supposed to be for one time only, though. Remember that fact."

At the talent show he and his partners "absolutely crushed it" and even though they came in second to a juggling act (the juggler's mom was a judge, he confided), they soon heard from other New Hampshire schools who wanted them to perform for their students.

"They offered us free lunch so we did it," Spencer laughed.

Over the next few years they eventually worked their way up to getting \$200 a performance and thought they were a great success.

"We were rich! You can buy a lot of trash cans for that kind of



COURTESY — STEVE GUNN

A rare sight

On the first day of December, Steve Gunn of Bristol was fortunate enough to capture this photo of a snowy owl in Hebron. The snowy owl typically lives in the arctic regions of North America, but weather and food sources occasionally drive them further south into New England and beyond. Any sighting of the large majestic white bird, such as this, is always an unusual and treasured event, however.

take part in a talent show at his high school. Having grown up playing drums since he was two-years-old, he gathered a group of friends with the idea to do something different.

"I decided to invent a

Officials continue to be tight lipped on details of Lewis investigation

BY THOMAS P. CALDWELL
Contributing Writer

BRISTOL — The Grafton County Attorney's Office has confirmed that it is conducting an investigation into allegations against former Bristol Police Chief Michael Lewis.

Lewis resigned as police chief on Oct. 4 after having been placed on paid administrative leave on Sept. 5. The Bristol Board of Selectmen offered no reason for placing Lewis on leave, and they have refused to release a copy of his letter of resignation.

County Attorney Lau-

ra Saffo has not returned calls seeking information, but Special Services Investigator Wayne Fortier confirmed that an investigation is underway. Grafton County Sheriff Douglas Dutile declined to comment on the investigation, and Rick Alpers, Chair of the Bristol Board of Selectmen, also would not discuss the case, both of them saying any information would have to come from Saffo.

Lewis, upon his attorney's advice, has declined to discuss the matter.

As police chief, Lewis

Giving Tree program helps make the holidays brighter for those in need

BY DONNA RHODES
drhodes@salmonpress.news

HILL — The Hill Fire Department, in conjunction with the Hill Girl Scouts, is sponsoring a Giving Tree again this year for residents of the Town of Hill.

This program helps provide a better Christmas to Hill families who are experiencing a difficult time and would appreciate some assistance during this holiday season.

The Giving Tree is located within the Hill

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office.

Town Clerk Shelly Henry explained that how the program works is people are initially invited to drop by the Town Hall and take a tag off the tree. Each tag describes the desired gift of a local child as well as the age and gender of that child. Next they are asked to purchase the gift listed on the tag they receive, and finally each contributor is asked to bring the unwrapped gift back to the tree by Thursday, Dec. 21, for holiday distributions. Those who are unable to return the gift to the tree by that date are asked to contact Fire Chief Dee Ford to make alternative arrangements for drop-off.

Also, during this holiday season the Hill Girl Scout troop, again working with the Hill Fire Department, will be holding a Food Drive to further assist those need this year and all food collections will be delivered to a local food pantry. Donations

of non-perishable food items may be dropped off at collection boxes located at the Hill Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office and the

Jennie D. Blake Elementary School. Deadline for those drop offs is also Dec. 21.

People with ques-

Well wishers shower Bristol's most famous reptile with love on her birthday

BY DONNA RHODES
drhodes@salmonpress.news

BRISTOL — Bristol's most well-known celebrity, Diane the Turtle, celebrated her 49th birthday last Saturday at her home inside Twin Designs Gift Shop in downtown Bristol, where crowds of well-wishers joined her and her owners, Jim and Brad Tonner, for a party like no turtle has ever seen.

Diane has been Jim Tonner's pet all her life, purchased from a dime store many years ago. Unlike other pet shop turtles in that day and age however, she has flourished under Tonner's love and attention



Donna Rhodes

A pair of friendly turtles greeted Bristol resident Kendall and her family in Central Square last Saturday then escorted them to Twin Designs Gift Shop where a special 49th birthday party for their friend Diane the Turtle was underway.

and illustrated books about Diane the Turtle, created a line of Diane the Turtle gifts, cards and souvenirs but most of all simply

invite their customers to come share in the love they have for the captivating reptile. Diane has also

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Rising school district assessments boost local tax rates

BY THOMAS P. CALDWELL
Contributing Writer

BRISTOL — Most towns in the Newfound Area School District found their local education tax rates increasing between 9.1 and 103.8 percent, although Alexandria had a 16.6 percent decrease. Bridgewater’s property tax rate had not yet been set by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration as of the first of the week.

The school district has a tax cap that limits the increase in the tax assessment to two percent, but voters at the 2017 School District Meeting overrode the cap, adding \$800,000 to the budget

to pay for roof repairs at Newfound Regional High School. School Administrative Unit 4 Business Manager Michael Limanni said the roof repairs, coupled with a decrease in the amount of money the Newfound Area School Board applied to taxes from the 2016-17 fiscal year unexpended fund balance, accounted for the increased assessment to the towns.

The assessment formula has different outcomes for the individual towns making up the cooperative school district because it takes into account the average daily attendance and transportation costs for each community. As a

result, Alexandria’s local education tax rate fell from \$11.71 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation last year to \$9.77 this year.

Alexandria’s total 2017 tax rate is \$22.13 per \$1,000, an increase of \$1.13, or 5.4 percent, from the 2016 rate of \$21, despite a 134.9 percent increase in the town’s net assessed valuation. Taxable property in Alexandria now totals \$468,591,655.

The municipal portion of the tax rate rose from \$5.45 in 2016 to \$8.21 in 2017 — an increase of \$2.76, or 50.6 percent.

The county tax rose from \$1.66 in 2016 to \$1.80 in 2017, an increase of 14 cents, or 8.4 percent.

The state education tax rose 17 cents, or 7.8 percent, from \$2.18 to \$2.35.

In Bristol, the local education tax rate rose 17.3 percent, from \$8.33 in 2016 to \$9.77 this year, boosting Bristol’s total property tax rate by 7.3 percent. The 2017 rate is \$22.13 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an increase of \$1.51 from the 2016 rate of \$20.62.

Bristol selectmen applied money from the town’s unrestricted fund balance, or “surplus,” retaining 8.8 percent, or \$1,093,192, to cover any assessment challenges, property tax exemptions, and other revenue shortfalls the town may face.

The DRA recommends retaining between 5 and 17 percent of general operating expenses as a stabilization fund.

The town’s net assessed valuation dropped during a revaluation in 2016. It stood at \$470,431,229 in 2015, dropped to \$468,238,103 in 2016, and rose to \$468,591,655 in 2017.

Town Administrator Nik Coates said the net assessed valuation will increase next year when the Dollar General Store and a new housing development are added to the tax rolls.

Bristol’s municipal tax rate for 2017 is \$8.21 per \$1,000, a 1 cent drop from 2016.

The county tax rate rose by 2 cents, to \$1.80 per \$1,000 in 2017.

The state education tax rate rose by 6 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$2.35 per \$1,000.

Danbury’s property tax rate rose 2.2 percent, or 50 cents, from the 2016 rate of \$23.

The municipal portion dropped 21 cents, or 3.5 percent, from \$6.04 in 2016 to \$5.83 in 2017.

The county tax dropped 10 cents, or 3.4 percent, from \$2.93 to \$2.83.

The state education tax dropped 23 cents, or 9 percent, from \$2.56 to \$2.33.

The local education tax rate rose by \$1.04, or 9.1 percent, from \$11.47 to \$12.51.

Danbury’s net assessed valuation rose by \$859,670, to \$107,598,607.

Groton’s tax rate for 2017 is \$15.64 per \$1,000, a 33.7 percent increase from 2016 when the rate was \$11.70.

New Hampton officials say consequences of Northern Pass outweigh any economic benefit

BY GARRY RAYNO
InDepthNH.org

CONCORD — New Hampton officials said Tuesday that more tax revenue from the Northern Pass project would not change their opposition to the high-voltage transmission line.

“The character of our community is not for sale,” said New Hampton Selectman Neil Irvine, in testimony before the Site Evaluation Committee. “Regardless of the dollar amount of the benefit, the visual scar to our community is not worth it.”

The negative impact to property values with views would offset additional revenue from the project, he maintains.

New Hampton has properties that are assessed a view factor (view tax) in determining their property assessment, Irvine said.

“If their viewshed is affected, I anticipate they will want to have the view factor removed from their assessment,” he said. “A certain

amount of taxable value could be reduced.”

Irvine estimated the reduction would be from 10 to 50 percent, depending on the site.

The expert hired by project developer Eversource found there would be little to no impact on property values, with the greatest impact on properties bisected by the utility right-of-way and diminishing the greater the distance from the transmission line.

Irvine and other town officials said the project violates the town’s master plan and could not be approved under local ordinances and rules.

“This is a very different animal than the transmission lines there now,” said Planning Board Chairman Kenneth Kettenring, noting site plan ordinances cover changes of use which Northern Pass would be.

And, he said, the ordinances require transmission lines be buried if possible.

“We don’t want something high blocking our views,” he added.

Irvine said a master plan reflects the social and economic values of a community. He said while the master plan does not specifically mention high-voltage transmission lines, that is not an endorsement of that type of development.

Northern Pass consultant and former Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Robert Varney testified earlier that the project did not violate the town’s master plan because high-voltage transmission lines are not mentioned.

The utility project evaluation process allows the Site Evaluation Committee to determine if the project is in the public’s interest bypassing the need for local approval.

New Hampton has opposed the project since 2011 when a resolution was adopted by the town. A 2016 petition signed by more than 700 people in opposition was presented to the Site Evaluation Committee.

Attorney Steven Whit-

ley noted Northern Pass has touted its outreach efforts to towns and asked if the company had contacted the town about proposed changes including using a class six road to access construction roads within the existing right-of-way.

Irvine said the company had not and Whitley asked if the lack of contact would impact a possible future agreement with Northern Pass.

Irvine said he would be uncomfortable.

“Nothing is set in stone; everything is very fluid with the way it’s presented for approval,” he said. “We’re asked to enter an agreement when we don’t know specifics, and that makes us uneasy.”

Whitley noted Northern Pass testified it seeks memorandum of agreements with towns to resolve community concerns and asked if the town had discussions with the company.

Irvine said they had a meeting in May but again the town was concerned about the lack of

specifics.

“Let’s go back to road conditions. Who would be the decision maker to the degree of damage and how to compensate,” Irvine said.

The selectmen are willing to listen and continue talking, he said, but the company has made some unacceptable demands.

Attorney Rebecca Walkley representing Northern Pass showed a document outlining the company’s meetings and correspondence with the town.

She noted Irvine cited the lack of specificity, but asked if the town had outlined its specific concerns to the company.

“If someone wants to come into town and disrupt and create scars and tells us how they will mitigate,” Irvine said. “It is not up to us to say if the mitigation is something we can live with. We like what we have.”

Road closures

Room to work on the underground portion

SEE **NORTHERN PASS**, PAGE A9

tax increased 27 cents, or 103.8 percent, from 26 cents in 2016 to 53 cents in 2017.

Hebron’s net assessed valuation increased \$1,819,275 since 2016, now standing at \$260,116,975.

New Hampton’s 2017 property tax rate is \$19.04 per \$1,000 of net assessed valuation, an increase of \$1.05, or 5.8 percent, from the 2016 rate of \$17.99.

New Hampton’s municipal tax rate dropped by 15 cents, or 2.3 percent, from \$6.65 in 2016 to \$6.50 in 2017.

The county tax rate decreased by 5 cents, or 4.4 percent, from \$1.15 in 2016 to \$1.10 in 2017.

The state education rate rose by a penny, from \$2.20 in 2016 to \$2.21 in 2017.

The local education rate rose by \$1.24, or 15.5 percent, from \$7.99 in 2016 to \$9.23 in 2017.

New Hampton’s net assessed valuation is \$316,636,110, an increase of \$854,645 from 2016 and \$6,350,848 since 2015.

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Newfound Charitable Fund shows support for Cub Scouts

BY DONNA RHODES
dhrhodes@salmonpress.news

BRISTOL — It's been a few months since the "Run Your Buns Off" committee made their donations to three local nonprofit organizations, but the Newfound Area Charitable Fund, the official name of the group that organizes the annual run/walk, recently decided to make an additional donation of \$950 to Bristol Cub Scout Pack 59.

(Right) The Newfound Area Charitable Fund recently made a donation to Bristol Cub Scout Pack 59, and Cub Scout Leaders Nancy Parker and Jason North were pleased to accept a check from Run Your Buns Off Race Directors Garlyn Manganiello, Audrey Goudie and their fellow NACF board members Mary MacCaffrie, Janet Cote, Karen Lukeman, Betsy Schneider and Becca Boudreau.

"The pack is growing, and so are the costs of funding their leadership training," said



Garlyn Manganiello and Audrey Goudie of NACF. "In the spirit of giving, we voted to help them out and keep this vibrant branch of scout-

ing alive and well here is Bristol."

Over the years, other benefactors of Run Your Buns Off have been scholarship funds at Newfound Regional High School, senior care organizations, athletic and recreational groups, and nature/

conservation endeavors in the region.

In their written statement, the women added, "It is always a pleasure to help a group that is struggling financially and we were pleased to give them (Pack 59) this boost during the holiday season."

Project Promise – an overview

BY MELISSA MOORE
Assistant Director
Newfound Area School District Project Promise

REGION — What is Project Promise? Project Promise is an afterschool program serving students of the Newfound Area School District throughout all schools and grades (K-12) between the end of the school day and 5:30 p.m. We serve approximately 250 students throughout the district and that number continues to grow on a daily basis. We run our program Monday through Thursday and students who need afterschool programming on Friday are welcome to go to the Tappl-Thompson Community Center, our non-profit partner.

We are a grant funded program through a grant called 21st Century Community Learning Centers, or 21CCCLC, which is funded through the Federal Government. Five of our six schools are funded by a large grant that we are in the final year of and will be seeking another five year grant to continue with the program. One school is funded by its own grant at this time which is in its third year.

Project Promise provides a safe place for our local children to be while



parents are working. School ends a lot earlier than most jobs, and with this option available, parents feel safe leaving their children in a school setting where they can work on homework and be actively engaged in different learning opportunities. While in the afterschool program, children are given some recess time and a USDA approved snack to help them transition from the busy school day. After they are given time to do homework, and then they participate in different clubs which vary from site to site and last

between 6-8 weeks.

Children who go to Project Promise are given many opportunities to experience different things with clubs like cooking, quilting, Legos, sports and STEM activities. They go on field trips to places like Moulton Farms, and have programs brought to them like Animal Encounters, Girls Inc., and UNH Cooperative. Every site does some sort of Community Service as well.

In upcoming articles, we will highlight each site and some of the fun and exciting things they do.

Minot Sleeper Library to host presentation on construction of NH's legendary ski trails

BRISTOL — For several years in a row, the New England Ski Museum, located just north of the Newfound Region in Franconia, has helped the Minot-Sleeper Library close out the year with engaging presentations on how skiing has played an important role in New Hampshire's history.

The Library welcomes back the New England Ski Museum this month for a presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps and their work constructing trails for downhill skiing on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Beginning around 1933 and throughout the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps completed thousands of projects on state and federal park land across the country. In New England, one of the CCC's first initiatives was the construction of trails for downhill skiing. These projects were a tiny part of the CCC's overall accomplishments, yet they had a major impact on the future development of ski areas in the region. Ma-



The Minot Sleeper Library welcomes back the New England Ski Museum this month for a presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps and their work constructing trails for downhill skiing on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

jor developments grew up around CCC trails on Mount Mansfield, Cannon Mountain, Mount Tecumseh and Wildcat. CCC trails that survived in their undeveloped state today see increased traffic as alpine touring equipment makes access easier.

The presentation "Winter Work: the CCC and New England Skiing" is based on an ex-

hibit by the New England Ski Museum. It explores the story behind these legendary ski trails. The program will be held Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Minot-Sleeper Library, 35 Pleasant St., Bristol. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be generously provided by the Friends of the Minot-Sleeper Library.

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To use pot or not

BY CORRINA KINDER
Plymouth State University

As a college student majoring in childhood studies, I must state my concern about the legalization of marijuana in New Hampshire. The use of marijuana is confusing and hard to understand for youth. Our youth are receiving mixed messages about marijuana, so they don't know what to believe. Is marijuana safe to use or not? I understand there is an argument for both sides, but I want to focus on how the use of marijuana is affecting individuals. Marijuana is not the most harmful drug that is being used today, but it does cause addiction and is a gateway drug to powerful opioids. Here are the facts:

The exposure to THC that is in marijuana changes how the brain responds to other drugs, therefore, it enhances response to other addictive substances (CDC). Youth need to understand the harms of marijuana and how it can hurt their bodies and brains.

Starting the use of marijuana before the age of 18 makes it three times more likely to be at risk for opioid addiction (CDC). Many teens believe they are safe when they use marijuana recreationally, they also believe marijuana won't negatively affect them, which is not true.

Marijuana is harming individuals physically and mentally, short-term and long-term. Some physical effects cited from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), are respiratory problems which can cause lung cancer, increased heart rate leading to a higher chance of heart attack, and problems with child development during and after pregnancy.

Mental effects that

are also short-term include, temporary hallucinations, paranoia, and exacerbated symptoms in individuals with schizophrenia, altered senses, difficulty with thinking and problem-solving (NIDA).

Marijuana use can also cause depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Some long-term effects can also include changes to brain development: marijuana can impair thinking, memory, and learning functions and the building of brain connections (Center On Addiction and Substance Abuse).

There is much higher THC potency in marijuana today than there was back in the 1960's and 1970's (SAM). Higher levels of THC lead to a greater risk of addiction. With regular use, many users will not be able to go a day without the use of marijuana-addiction can happen so unexpectedly.

There has also been an increase in traffic fatalities in states that have legalized marijuana where the driver tested positive for marijuana. According to research by Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM), in one out of every five traffic fatalities in Colorado, the driver had been using marijuana. There has been an increase of driving under the influence of marijuana of 14 percent since 2009 (SAM).

These health and safety risks associated with marijuana use are important for young people to understand. The negative and harmful effects of marijuana are detrimental to our youth and can be prevented. I urge parents to be informed on the facts and to speak with their children to prevent the harms that can result from use.

PET of the Week Bronx

60lbs of glorious rippling muscles draped in an alluring tan and white coat describes Bronx the American Staffordshire Terrier, aged about two.

He was surrendered to New Hampshire Humane Society in August – his former owner could no longer care for him-life at the animal welfare agency was bumpy for him until he started to understand the rhythm of the shelter and got to know his staff and volunteer handlers.

He's a very strong boy but he loves to



cuddle and snuggle. Bronx is learning what it means to be a dog that doesn't have to worry about social settings and has developed quite the human fan club here.

We want to do right by him, place him in a

home that can handle and encourage appropriate play, get him used to and monitor him when enjoying the great outdoors (there was an incident with a groundhog in his former life) take him for rides in the

car and immerse him in your life as a committed dog owner.

Bronx is outgoing and a bit of a clown, a great companion in the waiting for an energetic owner – come and visit him or check www.nhhumane.org



Love snow or loathe it, or regard it as a quilt

The land needs a rest, and a good rest needs a blanket. This is how I rationalize snow, a temporary state of water but water on the brain to many a friend and relation.

You'd think, the farther north you go, the more people would be accustomed to snow and accept it for what it is—one of five seasons, the fifth being Mud. But no, they seem to hate it all the more.

So much so that in late February or early March, when the rising sun begins melting a glaze on southwest-facing snow banks, a good many people—the elderly seemingly foremost

NORTH COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

By JOHN HARRIGAN



among them--actually begin shoveling snow from lawns onto briefly warmed sidewalks. This is one of my enduring memories from childhood days, when Simone Bennett would attack snow with a vengeance otherwise reserved for the only thing she ever admitted hating, Communists.

+++++

A few days ago, remembering days of youthful abandon when



JOHN HARRIGAN

One of Colebrook's old snow rollers harks back to the days before trucks were big and powerful enough to push snowplows, or before there were even trucks. Oldsters might add that it was before kids dared to whine, lest they get more chores.

snow was just another medium for play, I asked someone a bit younger--a couple of decades or

so--whether she had ever warmed up her fingers by thrusting her hands SEE **NOTEBOOK**, PAGE A5

Letters to the Editor

Where there is a will, there is a way

To the Editor:

Rep. Vincent Migliore from Grafton District 9, recently hand-delivered letters to the selectmen in his towns, encouraging them to act quickly to adopt Rights-Based Ordinances (RBO) which assert local authority to defend against projects that violate the inherent and inalienable right of residents to protect the health, safety and welfare of their community.

Rep. Migliore represents five Grafton County towns: Alexandria, Ashland, Bridgewater, Bristol and Grafton. Of these five towns, two have already enacted RBOs in response to multiple industrial wind projects that threatened the health, safety and welfare of residents and ecosystems of the Newfound/Mt. Cardigan region. The remaining three towns are threatened by the Northern Pass transmission line project.

Rep. Migliore encourages communities in the path of Northern Pass to reach out for assistance from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) in drafting an RBO for their town. CELDF is a non-profit, public interest law firm established in 1995 to offer free and affordable legal help to communities that want to say "no" to being designated as host-towns for harmful activities legalized by the state. CELDF's work has since spread internationally and across the United States from Oregon, to Colorado, to Ohio, and New Hampshire, assisting close to 200 communities seeking to ban harmful activities that violate the rights of people and natural environments.

New Hampshire's Community Rights Movement began in 2006 and now includes almost a dozen towns that have enacted RBOs. Some of these towns have witnessed developers walk away from proposed projects, including Nottingham residents whose RBO forced USA Springs, LLC into bankruptcy. To this day, not one New Hampshire community that has enacted an RBO has been the recipient of the harmful

activity they banned as a matter of their inherent and inalienable right to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their human and natural communities.

Time is extremely short for towns affected by Northern Pass to get organized and place an RBO on the town warrant, but where there is a will, there is a way! When it comes to your quality of life and that of your community, it's never too late to make the effort to enact an RBO. In fact, it would make a powerful show of solidarity to join Sugar Hill, Easton, and Plymouth in prohibiting unsustainable industrial hydro power and the invasive transmission lines proposed to bring the power to other states.

This grassroots Community Rights Movement has inspired an effort to unite state legislators across-the-aisle to recognize Community Rights within our state constitution's Bill of Rights. Rep. Migliore is one of the bi-partisan co-sponsors of the resulting NH Community Rights Amendment, CACR19. His endorsement of this amendment directly supports the towns he is encouraging to enact RBOs, and those dozen that have already done so across the Granite State.

We do not have to be a "home-rule" state to exercise our inherent and inalienable rights to protect the future of our children, our communities, and our natural environments. I am ready and willing to assist any community interested in recognizing, securing, and protecting their right to determine the kinds of futures they envision. Contact me via email at michelle@celdf.org, or by phone at 524-2468. Learn more about the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment by visiting

the NH Community Rights Network website at www.nhcommunityrights.org. Time is of the essence – politicians do not change the world, people do!

*Michelle Sanborn
Community Organizer for CELDF
Volunteer coordinator for NHCRN
Alexandria*

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Sheila Janet Adams, 76

BRISTOL — Sheila J. Adams, 76, of Bristol passed away in the loving arms of her family on Dec. 2, 2017.

Sheila was born July 22, 1941 in Swindon, England, the daughter of John and Gladys Duncan. Sheila migrated here from England to begin a new life with her then husband Harold Pond and two daughters, Deborah Charlebois and Denise Stewart. In her second marriage of 44 years to Ernest (Mike) Adams, they had their son, Jamason Adams, and two stepsons, Micheal Adams and Brian Adams.

She was most known in her community as a local hairdresser, owning her beauty salon for many years in downtown Bristol. After her retirement, she worked in the local school, waitressing, and at Annalee Dolls. Her favorite hobby



was Bingo and she won the big jackpot twice in her life. She also loved sewing and crafts. Her brightest times were spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sheila was predeceased by her parents, John and Gladys Duncan, and her son Dale Pond.

She is survived by her husband, Ernest Adams; their son, Jamason Adams of New Hampton, and his wife Cindy Adams; her two daughters, Deborah Charlebois of Danbury and her hus-

band Rob Charlebois; Denise Stewart of New Hampton and her husband, Harvey Stewart; Micheal Adams of Alexandria and his fiancé, Jennifer Sargent; and Brian Adams of Bristol; her grandchildren, Heath Decato, Cory Decato, Ben Stewart, Megan Stewart, Kaylyn Adams, Reagan Adams, Kevin Babbín, Emily Babbín, Sam Adams, Tyler Adams, and Savannah Adams.

A celebration of her life will be held Dec. 10 at the Danbury Community Center located at 15 High St. in Danbury at 11 a.m., and family and friends are invited to share a hug and a story.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Holy Trinity Church Day Away Program — In Memory of Sheila Adams, 46 Langdon St., Plymouth, NH 03264.

Margaret Rose Lawrence, 72

LACONIA — Margaret (Peggy) Rose Lawrence, 72, passed away November 24, 2017 at Lakes Region General Hospital.

Peggy was born in Cambridge, Mass. to the late John and Mary (Meaney) Tiernan and raised in Somerville, Mass. Peggy graduated from the Somerville School of Nursing, and later obtained her BS in Psychology from New England College. On May of 1969 Peggy was united in marriage to Robert E. Lawrence with whom she raised two daughters in Alexandria and Bristol.

Peggy practiced as a Registered Nurse at several hospitals and nursing homes, however the majority of her career was spent as a visiting nurse providing home health and hospice care in the Lakes Region area. After moving to Wisconsin for several years, Peg-



gy expanded her caregiving skills to adults with disabilities as Assistant Director for the COPE program. Peggy was known and respected for the compassionate and dignified care she gave her patients.

In addition to a great sense of humor, Peggy will be remembered for her love of literature, music, and nature. Her biggest love of all however, was that which she had for her family. Peggy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister and her greatest joy came from time spent with all of her family.

Peggy will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 47 years, Robert Lawrence of Alexandria; two children, Michelle Firmin and her husband Scott Firmin of Gorham, ME, and Jennifer Severance and her husband Derek Severance of Northwood; four grandchildren, Hayley, Ryan, Madison and Aiden; two sisters, Anne Dionne and Carolyn Stetson, and two brothers, John Tiernan and Thomas Tiernan; and ten nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Village United Methodist Church. A graveside service will be held in late Spring at the New Hampshire State Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the New Hampshire Humane Society in Laconia.

Towns

Alexandria

Merry Ruggirello 744-5383
sunshine_eyes51@yahoo.com

Looks like I had a case of the Monday fly by this

week. I'm kidding, I participated in the day but my schedule was rearranged. Here we go into the holiday season, full steam ahead!

Town
Budget Committee Meeting, Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building.
Board of Selectmen

Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind. Rest as-

sured, I'll remind you of them again as they come closer!

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018: Public Hearing on 2018 Annual Budget at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018: First Deliberative Session

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018 is the last day for voters to petition selectmen to include an article in the town meeting warrant, provided that if a petitioned article proposed a bond governed by RSA 33:8-a, the deadline is the preceding Friday, Jan. 5, 2018. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from residents that are registered voters in Alexandria.

These meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

Alexandria United Methodist Church

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. will be the Annual Christmas in Song at the Bristol Baptist Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 at noon will be the NAC Advent Worship at New Hampton Community

Church. Lunch follows worship.

Sunday, Dec. 17 will be the Children's Christmas Program during worship which begins at 9 a.m. Children's Christmas Party will be at 4 p.m. with caroling at 5 p.m.

All are welcome to join us any time.

Elementary School Mission

We are now collecting items for children o our local elementary school. The needs are as follows: warn hats, gloves, socks in the children's small and medium. Also collecting underwear, pants, winter coats and snow pants in boys and girls sizes five to 12. All items must be new, with the exception of the snow pants, which can be "used". We will be collecting until the end of December, then we will deliver to the school. If you have any questions, please call the church at 744-8104 and leave a message. Thank you!

I feel great when I
SEE TOWN, PAGE A6

Notebook

FROM PAGE A4

under her armpits. This was a decidedly personal question, but I expected to be forgiven because this person was a nurse trying to get an oxygen count from a thimble jammed onto one cold finger (mine) and then another, to no avail.

No, she answered, looking at me a bit strangely, perhaps as surprised by my question as I was by her answer. Harking back as I did to morning-long outings in the snow to build forts and tunnels and, when conditions were right, to make snowballs, I could not imagine how she had missed out on the armpit business.

Hearing about this exchange, my neighbor, who was my transportation to the hospital and back that night, recalled helping with the milking on the family farm, and putting his frozen hands to warm up in the armpit-like space between a cow's udder and inner thigh. "I don't remember a cow ever complaining about it one bit," he said, both of us knowing from

bitter experience that there are many ways a cow can complain.

+++++

On a Saturday morning, our mother would point to snow-pants and jackets and mittens and muddled piles of boots, and then to the door, and say, in the sweet mid-Fifties version, at least, "Get out." It was her time to do laundry and housecleaning, and our time to get out from underfoot and play in the snow.

For some reason we never thought of snow as a threatening medium, but instead as just something else to push around and play in. Warmer months were no different. While neighbors' kids had to stay inside, noses pressed to windows, we went out and played in the rain.

We had our own front and back yards, but that was a time when everyone's back yards were held in common, and in the winter we crawled and hopped around the neighborhood like snow fleas. At noon or so we'd troop in, divest ourselves

of snow gear, refuel on soup and sandwiches, and go right back out until dark.

+++++

At age 11 or so, I got my first pair of real skis, as opposed to the peg-tipped, leather-harnessed skis our parents grew up on. The nearest rope-tow was across the river in Canaan, Vermont, and the nearest honest to gosh real ski area was at Sunday River, just over the Maine state line.

Billy Haynes and I were desperate to learn the newest turning technique, the stem christie, but back then the conventional wisdom was that you had to have packed snow to do it.

Ray Hicks was a nearby farmer with a heart of gold when it came to kids, and his broad, steep pasture was a half-mile slog from home. Yet there Bill and I headed, week-end after weekend, skis on shoulders, clomping along up Route 145 in the bear-trap ski boots of the day.

It took six ski-lengths to pack a trail wide enough for the turns of



the day. This meant that Bill and I spent the entire morning side-stepping up and down Ray's pasture to create a suitable ski area. Back down home for lunch we went, while the packed snow set up just so, and back up we went to spend the rest of daylight happily climbing up, and skiing down.

In the warming hut of Colebrook's own rope tow a decade or so later, on that very same hill, I told this story to the newest generation of skiers, and even then they couldn't believe it.

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

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Ashland Community Church

Ashland Community Church is located at 55 Main St., on Route 3 in Ashland (across from Shurfine Market). Parking is available next to and behind the church.

Sundays
9 a.m. — Early Worship Service, followed by coffee/fellowship in the church dining room.
9:25 a.m. — KidZone for K-grade six
Special Needs Ministry-high school-adults
11 a.m. — Contemporary Worship Service
11:15 a.m. — KidZone for K-grade 6
11:15 a.m. — Youth Sunday School
“Toddler Zone” is available at both services for infants to age five. Before the contemporary service, please join us for coffee and healthy snacks.

KidZone
Debbie Madden leads the K-sixth grade class. Kids will love the great videos and games that teach someone age appropriate lessons in a loving atmosphere.

Axyon Youth Ministry, for grades six through 12
Frdiays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mill #3 (39 Winter St.), just around the corner from the church. This youth ministry will be meeting every week, and is led by our youth and worship pastor, Aaron Stout, along with our volunteer youth leader staff. This youth group ministry is open to youth

not only from Ashland, but surrounding towns as well. Spread the word and bring your friends.

Mondays
8 p.m. — Alcoholics Anonymous Group meets in the Church dining room.

It is our desire to help you understand God's incredible grace and love. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Ernie Madden at (office phone number) 968-9463. You can also e-mail him at accernie@hotmail.com or visit the church Web site, ashlandcommunitychurch.com.

We believe that you will love it at Ashland Community Church. We are a friendly, loving and caring church that studies and shares the word of our dear Lord and Savior. Our vision is to become a church that un-churched people will love to attend. Our mission is to lead people to live and love like Jesus, and to help others do the same.

Real church. Real people. Real simple.
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday. And remember, just come as you are! No perfect people allowed!

Ashland Episcopal (St.Mark's Church)

The Church of the Holy Spirit has completed its move from Main Street to Griswold Hall, 263 Highland St., Plymouth. From now on the 8

a.m. service on Sundays will be held at Griswold Hall. The 9:30 a.m. service will be at St. Mark's Ashland.

There will be no break-fast on the usual 4th Saturday in December as it is too near to Christmas. The January breakfast will also include a Winter Outerwear Sale of good coats, jackets, parkas, hats, mittens and boots. These are gently used clothes and will be priced reasonably. So - parishionners, please save your outgrown, 'doesn't fit anymore' both kids and adults winter outerwear for this sale.

Four Gospels in Four Weeks began on Nov. 30 at the Christian Life Center at 263 Highland St., Plymouth. It will continue on Dec. 7, 14, and 21. A very easy to

listen to recorded lecture is followed by discussion led by Rev. Randy. The next Gospel is the Book of Matthew.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, the St. Mark's Bishop's Committee and the Holy Spirit Vestry will meet after the morning service to make final preparations for our new priest, Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman and to finalize the budget for 2018. All pledges should be in by that time - if yours is not, please try to get it in the mail or bring it to church as soon as possible.

Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal

It's official! The Church of the Holy

Spirit has moved from Main Street to 263 Highland St. The Rev. Randy Dales, Christina Mason, Dick and Anne Hunnewell oversaw the accommodating Crowley crew move all the furniture and boxes to Christian Life Center (CLC) and Griswold Hall on Highland Street. Because Dick and Anne Hunnewell had prepared and labeled all the various spaces, the moving went very smoothly. Things may be a little tight for a bit until we learn how we want to live, worship and plan for the future in Griswold and CLC. Dick even tickled the ivories on the piano in Griswold and it sounded great. An auspicious start to our new space!

Bible Study Book Group

The Rev. Randy Dales is continuing to lead the study group on the Four Gospels. The group meets on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center at 263 Highland St., Plymouth. Last week, they discussed Mark: Jesus, the Suffering Son of God. After listening to a half-hour lecture by Dr. Bart Ehrman, Professor at the University of North Carolina, they discussed the point of view of this gospel. This Thursday, Dec. 7, they will discuss Matthew: Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Don't worry if you missed the first one, you will still enjoy learning about this gospel. The last two dis-

SEE CHURCHES, PAGE A7

Towns

FROM PAGE A5

finish with the column because it's keeping you informed of what's happening n our town! If you have something you'd like to see, please reach out and let me know!

One more thing before I go..Judy Kraemer is alive an well! Had the pleasure of visiting with her the other day. Thank you Judy, for the lovely compliment. I had some big shoes to fill! Here's to a week of positive things! Enjoy!

Danbury

Donna Sprague
huntoonfarm@myfairpoint.net

South Danbury Church

The worship service on Sunday, Dec. 10 will be at the regular 11 a.m. time. This will be the second Sunday of Advent and another candle will be lit in the Advent wreath - for Peace.

Do you know what a Paper Bag Pageant is? Come to South Danbury Church on Thursday, Dec. 21 (snow date Dec. 22), and find out. Everyone -- young, old, or in-between -- can be part

of the fun. The Christmas program begins at 7 p.m. but come at 6:30 p.m. to choose a bag and get ready. Inside you'll find your role (Innkeeper? Mary? Baby Jesus? Joseph? Angel? Magi? Shepherd? Star? Donkey? Cow? Sheep? Lamb?), your part, and your costume. Expect a merry mixup, and remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome (and needed) at the South Danbury Church. PS: You don't have to be in the pageant to enjoy the pageant. The audience is just as necessary as the actors.

Danbury Winter Market

The winter market on Dec. 2 welcomed their newest vendors, Warner River Organics from Webster NH and Marie Polizzi from Danbury. Warner River has seasonal veggies which last week, included parsnips, Brussel sprouts, carrots, potatoes, garlic, squash and greens. Thank you to the Merrimack County Conservation District for making arrangements for the snap and ebt table and obtaining our produce

vendor . Marie is our local cannoli expert but also makes a variety of Italian cookies and on the side, is a Stampin up consultant. Both vendors will join our regular lineup for the remainder of the season. The next physical market is Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

Third Saturday Pickup Market

The 3rd Saturday by order only market will be Dec. 16 from 9-11 a.m. The online market is open now and will close on Thursday, Dec. 14 at noon. If you missed the Dec. 2 market, this is your next opportunity to get items from those vendors. Call them to place orders for pickup at the grange hall or visit harvesttomarket.com. If you register for the market newsletter, you will get two monthly market updates. Coming up, on Jan. 20, our third Saturday pickup market will feature a Stampin Up class presented by Maria Polizzi. Class attendees will be making three cards including envelopes for a donation of \$7. Preregistration is required and allows the class to be offered at this introductory rate. Signups can be done at the Dec. 16 pick up market, the Jan 6th market, by calling Donna at 768-5579 or emailing BlazingStarGrange71@gmail.com.

Hebron

Bob Brooks 744-3597
hebronnnews@live.com

Hebron Area Women's Group News

The Hebron Area Women's Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Rumney Rocks Bistro at noon. This is our Christmas Party and Yankee Swap event. Please bring some nonperishable food items for the Bristol Food Pantry.

Newfound Area Churches Advent Service Schedule

The Newfound Area Churches are having two more Advent Services at noon followed by a light lunch at the following locations: Dec. 13 at the New Hampton Community Church and Dec. 20 at the Bristol United Church of Christ.

Supervisors of the Checklist

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session upstairs in the Selectmen's Office Building on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 9:30 to 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to register to vote, and/or make corrections to the Hebron Checklist.

Supervisors of the Checklist
Barbara Brooks
Sandra Cummings
Audrey Johnson

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MAE'S PLACE

"We are excited to announce the transfer of ownership of Mae's Place assisted living home, located at 212 Summer St in Bristol, from Marsha Elder to Jacob McCleary, RN. There will be no change in the management of Mae's Place, guaranteeing continued quality care of our residents, sustaining the reputation Mae's Place has built over the last 20 years."

Employment Opportunity

The Campton, NH Police Department is accepting applications for a full-time Police Officer to fill an immediate position.

Candidates must pass a physical agility test, oral board, psychological exam, polygraph exam and medical physical, as well as an extensive background investigation. Applicants must be a US citizen, 21 years of age prior to receiving a conditional offer of employment, and must possess a High School diploma or GED equivalent. Military service and/or a college degree is desirable, but not required. The annual base range is \$44,200 to \$50,830 with a benefits package. The starting pay is negotiable based on experience level. The police department is currently comprised of 7 full-time officers.

Interested candidates are to send a cover letter and resume to Campton Police Department, PO Box 127, Campton, NH 03223, Attention: Chief Christopher Warn. If you have any questions, you can contact Ms. Janet Woolfenden, Secretary to the Chief of Police, or Sgt. Payer at (603) 726-8874 or by e-mail at j.woolfenden@camptonnhpd.org or p.payer@camptonnhpd.org.

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Country great Marty Stuart brings his “Way Out West” sound to Plymouth

PLYMOUTH—Grammy winning country icon Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives bring their critically acclaimed show to The Flying Monkey stage on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Girls, Guns & Glory open the evening. Tickets for this show start at \$45.

With musical legends such as George Jones, Johnny Cash, and Merle Haggard all passed on, country-music purists often echo the question Jones himself asked: “Who’s going to fill their shoes?” The answer, in part, is Marty Stuart.

While Stuart himself may be too gracious to admit it, the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and musician is living, breathing country-music history. He has played alongside the masters, from Johnny Cash to Lester Flatt, who discovered him and has been a worldwide ambassador for Nashville, Bakersfield, and points in between. He safeguarded country’s most valuable traditions and physical artifacts, including its literal shoes: Stuart counts the brogan of Carter Family patriarch A.P. Carter and an



COURTESY
Grammy winning country icon Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives bring their critically acclaimed show to The Flying Monkey stage on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

assortment of Cash’s black boots among his vast collection of memorabilia.

But, most importantly, Stuart continues to record and release keenly relevant music that

honor country’s rich legacy while advancing it into the future. “Way Out West,” his 18th studio album, hits both of those marks. Produced by Mike Campbell (of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers), the album is a cinematic tour de force, an exhilarating musical journey through the California desert that solidifies Stuart as a truly visionary artist.

But Stuart also made “Way Out West” for those who come after. As he sees it, there is no greater responsibility in music than to share what you’ve learned.

“Lester Flatt saw something in me and gave me his wisdom, wit and music. Johnny Cash was my best friend. But all of that doesn’t come for free. The job is to pass it along,” says Stuart, stretching out his arms. “That’s the way it’s supposed to be in country music.”

Tickets to see Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives are \$45, and \$55 for premier seating. For more information on upcoming shows or to purchase tickets call the box office at 536-2551 or go online at www.flying-monkeyNH.com.

Churches

FROM PAGE A6

cussions will be Dec. 14: Luke: Jesus, the Savior of the World and Dec. 21: John: Jesus, the Man from Heaven.

The Journey to Becoming a Beloved Community: An Advent Retreat

Join us at St. Mark’s in Ashland on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for a quiet morning proclaiming your dreams as we journey together in Christ-like ways of becoming a beloved community of God’s people. Leaders Joan Bowers (SCHC, MA) and the Rev. Maryan Davis will offer four short reflections to assist us in exploring our visions within the sacred path of a Labyrinth walk. The Labyrinth will be open from 1 – 3:30 p.m. for individual meditation and walks.

ECW Meeting

The ECW will meet at noon on Thursday, Dec. 7 for their monthly meeting. Please bring a bagged lunch. However, drinks and dessert will be provided. At this month’s meeting we will be writing Christmas cards to shut-ins.

Holy Spirit Quilters

The CHS quilters will meet on Friday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. We are working to finish several quilts to donate for the Christmas season. All are welcome to join them for the morning! If you have any questions, please contact Anne Hunnewell at ahunne@roadrunner.com or Lois Grant at lsg@comcast.net.

Holy Trinity (Roman Catholic)

Day Away Christmas Open House Thursday, Dec. 7, 2-4 p.m. Refreshments & Entertainment! Visit our Web site for more information, www.respiteforcaregiverday-away.wordpress.com.

Mass Schedule Fourth Week of Advent Saturday, Dec. 23

4 p.m. St. Matthew Church

Sunday, Dec. 24

9:30 a.m. Our Lady of Grace

Christmas Mass

Schedule Christmas Eve Sunday, Dec. 24

4 p.m. St. Matthew Church

5 p.m. St. Agnes Church

6 p.m. Our Lady of Grace Chapel

Christmas Day Monday, Dec. 25

Midnight St. Matthew Church

10:30 a.m. St. Matthew Church

Feast of the Holy Family

Regular Weekday Masses

Saturday, December 30th

4 p.m. St. Matthew Church

Sunday, Dec. 31

7:30 a.m. St. Matthew Church

9:30 a.m. Our Lady of Grace

11:30 a.m. St. Matthew Church

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, Jan. 1, 2018

10:30 a.m. St. Matthew Church Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry

Food For Finals — Student help needed: You’ll need a break from studying for finals, so mark two dates on your calendar: Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. to prepare snack packs for Food for Finals at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center, and Monday, Dec. 18, 8-8:15 p.m. to deliver all of the goodies to res. halls and Centre Lodge. Contact Kathy Tardif at kmtdif@plymouth.edu to sign up. Home-baked stress relief: Food for Finals is coming up soon, a time when Catholic Campus Ministry and C3: Caring Campus Coalition deliver comfort food in the form of home-

made goodies to all res. halls and Centre Lodge the first night of Finals Week. Parishioners interested in providing batches of cookies or squares should contact Sandy Abbott at 254-3431 or sandy@michaels-school.com (note new email address) with their name, phone number, what they will bake, and the amount. Baked goods should be dropped off at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 16. The Center is located on Highland St., across from Lamson Library, the next building up from Citizens Bank.

Weekly Meetings Thursday, Dec. 7

Day Away Program, Simard Hall, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Boy Scout Meeting, St. Matthew Hall, 6 p.m.

Webelos Meeting, St. Matthew Meeting Room 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8

RCIA, St. Matthew Rectory, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10

FAITH FORMATION Ashland: St. Agnes Hall, 9:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Bristol: Simard Hall, 10:30 a.m. - noon

CONFIRMATION: Plymouth: St. Matthew Hall, 10:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (including Mass)

Bristol: Marian Center, 9:30 –12:15 p.m. (including Mass)

AA meeting Monday - Saturday 11 a.m., St. Matthew Hall

Restoration Church, Plymouth

Greetings from Restoration Church

Plymouth, located at 319 Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264. If you do not have a home church we invite you to come and join our warm and friendly family here at Restoration Church. Please feel free to contact us at hello@restorationchurch.cc. Our church phone number is still the same, 536-1966. Our schedule has changed to the following:

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service

Monday: First and third Monday of the Month 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Helping Hands Food Pantry

Friday: Second Friday of the month 6 p.m. Food, Fun, Fellowship

On Sunday, Nov. 5, we officially launched as Restoration Church Plymouth. More details about this service will be included in the next article. We also started a new series entitled, Stories. We will be continuing this series this week as well. We have our own worship team during our services in our auditorium and then we watch as a Pastor Nate Gagne preaches via video during our service.

Our Mission Statement: Just One More!

Everyone is welcome to all of our services. The church is handicap accessible on the east entrance.

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Greetings from Restoration Church Plymouth, located at 319 Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264. If you do not have a home church we invite you to come and join our warm and friendly family here at Restoration Church. Please feel free to contact us at hello@restorationchurch.cc. Our church phone number is still the same, 536-1966. Our schedule has changed to the following:

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service

Monday: First and third Monday of the Month 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Help-

ing Hands Food Pantry Friday: Second Friday of the month

6 p.m. Food, Fun, Fellowship

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FROM PAGE A1

Alpers later com-

When a former police officer filed a federal lawsuit seeking full pay for his time attending the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training academy, his court filings also claimed that he left before completing his contract with the town because of a hostile work setting.

While the current investigation reportedly involves questioning the 11 officers who have left the Bristol Police Department over the past three years, Bristol has seen a rapid turnover in other

Residents have been increasingly critical of the Bristol selectmen for withholding information about the personnel they have placed on paid leave or dismissed. The selectmen, who are obligated to abide by state labor laws aimed at protecting the privacy of employees in situations such as this, have said only that "The Town takes very seriously its obligation to protect the

Meanwhile, the town is advertising for a new police chief that more closely conforms to the selectmen's ideal officer.

The new chief also must provide “more transparency into how the department operates ... through increased press and public availability, providing data on daily activities, and being more open and inviting as a municipal department.”

FROM PAGE A2

When the crane is in place to install the vault, there would not be enough room in the state right-of-way for a single line of traffic and the road would have to

He noted part of his barn is actually in the right-of-way but is grandfathered. Ahern also told the committee that recent requests to the Department of Transportation have incorrect information about the width of the

Garry Rayno can be reached at garry.rayno@yahoo.com

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Edward Jones: Financial Focus

Can You Afford to Retire Early?

Some people dream of retiring early. Are you one of them? If so, you'll need to plan ahead – because a successful early retirement can't be achieved through last-minute moves.

So, if you're determined to retire early, consider taking the following steps:

Pick a date. Early retirement means different things to different people. But it's important to pick an exact age, whether it is 60, 62, 64, or whatever, so you can build an appropriate retirement income strategy.

Think about your retirement lifestyle. You may know that you want to retire early – but have you thought about what you want to do with your newfound time? Will you simply stay close to home and pursue your hobbies? Do you dream of spending two months each winter on a tropical island? Or are you thinking of opening your own small business or doing some consulting? Different retirement lifestyles can have vastly different price tags. Once you've envisioned your future, you can develop a saving and investment plan to help you get there.

Boost contributions to your retirement plans. If you want to retire early, you may well need to accelerate your contributions to your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan. You may need to cut back in other areas of your life to maximize the amounts you put into your retirement plans, but this sacrifice may be worth it to you.

Invest for growth. Your investment strategy essentially should be based on three key factors:

your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. When you change any one of these variables, it will affect the others. So, if you shorten your time horizon by retiring early, you may well need to reconsider your risk tolerance. Specifically, you may need to accept a somewhat higher level of investment risk so you can invest for greater growth potential.

Keep a lid on your debt load. It's easier said than done, but try to manage your debt load as tightly as possible. The lower your monthly debt payments, the more you can contribute to your retirement plans.

Life is unpredictable. Even if you take all the steps described above, you may still fall short of your goal of retiring early. While this may be somewhat disappointing, you might find that adding just a few more years of work can be beneficial to building resources for your chosen retirement lifestyle. For one thing, you can continue contributing to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan.

Plus, if you're still working, you may be able to afford delaying your Social Security payments until you're closer to your "normal" retirement age, which, as defined by the Social Security Administration, likely will be 66 or 67. The longer you put off taking these benefits, the bigger your monthly checks, although they will max out once you reach 70.

And even if you are not able to retire early, some of the moves you took to reach that goal – such as contributing as much as you could afford to your IRA and 401(k), controlling your debts, and so on – may pay off for you during your retirement – whenever it begins.

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

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Member SIPC

Percussion

FROM PAGE A1

money,” he said.

But the determined young man, who came from a troubled, low income family, who swore he would never take a drink of alcohol due to his mother’s own problems, soon found there were bigger things awaiting him, all thanks to the trash cans in his garage.

“America’s Got Talent” called.

“One hundred thousand people got that same phone call, too, though,” said Spencer.

But after five months of tryouts in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, Spencer, his cousin Ryan Vezina and friends finally ended up on the big stage in Las Vegas where they came in third in the nationally televised competition. Their “consolation” prize was a fulltime contract in Las Vegas where they now perform professionally for huge international audiences.

“We went to Las Vegas as a headline show. That’s one of the hardest things you can do in entertainment,” Spencer said.

And, imagine this, he added. It all started in the small New Hampshire trailer park where he grew up.

The big spotlight has not tainted them however. He and Vezina still remember their roots in New Hampshire and in their spare time the group developed their



DONNA RHODES

Newfound Memorial Middle School student Eli Sylvain Stott found his moment in the spotlight when Recycled Percussion’s Justin Spencer called him onstage to sing last week.

own ABC television show, “Chaos and Kindness,” spreading kindness and care to towns all across their home state.

Last week, their message to the students at NMMS was one of the same, encouraging students to be kind to one another in a world filled with many challenges.

“We’ve had experiences beyond our wildest dreams and it all boiled down to one thing- being kind to one another,” said Spencer. “No one here in this room is better than anyone else. We’re all the same. When you do good things, good things will come your way.”

He also asked students to be mindful of their words and to be thoughtful in their posts on social media sites.

“There’s nothing cool about making someone feel bad,” he said.

The group then took questions from the audience, which came to a quick end when one student, Eli Sylvain Stott, asked if they could also sing.

“No- the name of the band is Recycled Percussion. There’s a reason for that,” joked Spencer. “Can you sing? Get up here!”

Stott raced onstage and performed his own a capella rendition of the John Legend hit song, “All of You.”

“That was a first! That was bravery right there,” Spencer said as the audience went wild with applause.

Vezina also demonstrated his own personal percussion skills, playing “the cheapest instru-



DONNA RHODES

As his cousin and fellow band member, Ryan Vezina (left), listened in, Justin Spencer of Recycled Percussion (right) had a heart-to-heart chat with students at Newfound Memorial Middle School about the troubled life he led and why it is so important to still be kind to one another.



DONNA RHODES

Recycled Percussion wrapped up their visit at Newfound Memorial Middle School last week with a dance competition among the male teachers at the school.

ment” he could find- his body. By rapping on everything from his head to his toes he played a number of beats, concluding his performance by pounding out the rhythm of “Jingle Bells.”

Spencer and Vezina then pulled out their specially made trashcan drums and held an exciting Battle of the Drums. When they were done, Spencer decided it would be fun to see a couple of NMMS staff members have their own Battle of the Drums and, by popular demand, teachers Chris Cronin and Renee Taylor were selected to participate in the challenge.

The fun didn’t stop there, though.

“Every once in awhile someone shows up in your life and does something kind. Today I’m that person,” Spencer told the students with a wink and a sly grin.

He then called all the male teachers on stage and challenged them to a dance competition in retaliation for all the homework, detention and long term projects they’ve doled out over the years.

When the laughter finally died down, Spencer wrapped up the day with thanks for the opportunity to be at NMMS and offered the one piece of advice that has helped him succeed over the years.

“Continue to be kind to one another,” he said. “Do whatever you can to be kind, especially over the holidays.”

Following the show, Vezina said he and Spencer travel to schools to meet with children whenever the opportunity comes available in their busy schedules. Kids are the future of our world, he said. The decisions they will make in the future will be important, which is why they want to reach out and help them in that development process.

“There’s a lot of [problems] in the world today and we’re trying to counter that with a positive message of being kind to one another. We understand the basic principles of what makes people happy, and as a rock band we have an edge where children can relate to us. We’re reaching out to help kids who face a lot of issues today with social media and other challenges and we just hope it helps,” Vezina said.

Diane

FROM PAGE A1

been featured in New Hampshire magazines and was even seen in an episode of Boston TV station WCVB’s “Chronicle” focusing on the Newfound Region. As a result of all her notoriety, she has fans all across the United States and beyond.

“It was amazing. She got cards from all over and on Saturday people were coming in with strawberries and all sorts of gifts for her on her birthday,” said Jim.

Diane even had birthday wishes from a school in North Carolina that follows her online and there were presents sent from as far away as Florida. One couple, anxious to see Diane and Jim open the gift they had mailed, even rented a car to travel up from Boston when their own vehicle was blocked in



DONNA RHODES

Families gathered in front of Diane the Turtle’s aquatic compound inside Twin Designs Gift Shop in Bristol last Saturday to wish her a happy 49th birthday and have their pictures taken with the renowned and much loved reptile.

its parking spot.

At the party, there was face painting, party hats and hundreds of cookies for her friends to enjoy, along with “turtle donuts” and juice.

People also crowded Diane’s special room to get a peek at her as she prepared to make her appearance and at high noon Jim Tonner brought her out into the store to “blow out the candles” on her cake.

Videos of the event were even shared on WMUR-Ch. 9, where reporter and weekend newscaster Amy Covenno is an admitted Diane the Turtle fan herself.

“It was really incredible. What a day! I don’t know what we’re going to do next year for her 50th birthday but a lot of people have already said we’re going to have to rent a hall,” Tonner laughed.

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Newfound Landing Sports

Section **B**
Thursday,

Thursday, December 7, 2017

What's On Tap

More teams join the regular season schedule as the local high schools head into the month of December.

At Newfound, the boys' basketball team will open the season at Newport on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. and will be hosting Winnisquam at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The Newfound hoop girls will be at Winnisquam for a 6 p.m. game on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

At Plymouth, the hoop girls will open the season at Kennett for a 6:30 p.m. game on Friday, Dec. 8.

The Plymouth wrestling team will also be in action twice, with a trip to Con-Val at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, and will be hosting White Mountains Regional on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

Newfound searching for softball coach

BRISTOL — Newfound Regional High School is looking for a varsity softball coach for the 2018 season. Please send letter of interest, resume, two letters of recommendation and names and phone numbers of two other references. Please send to Supt. Stacy Buckley, SAU4, 20 North Main St., Bristol, NH.

Bears roll in season opener *Dukette, Bony combine for 56 points in win*

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

BELMONT — The Newfound girls' hoop team got the season started on the right foot, dominating Belmont by a 72-38 score on Friday, Dec. 1.

"It was kind of what we needed to see and kind of what I expected and hoped for," said Newfound coach Karri Peterson.

Out of the gate, the Raiders came out in man-to-man defense and struggled to stop junior Ashlee Dukette all night, including in the first quarter when Newfound jumped out to a 17-10 lead. Dukette had 20 points at halftime as the Bears had a 41-18 lead at the break.

Peterson noted that this was the time of the year when she was going to rely on Dukette and senior Savanna Bony, as the two most experienced players and she was pleased with how they stepped up and led the way, with four freshmen in the lineup at certain times as the team learns and grows.

Dukette finished with 34 points and 19 rebounds, while adding four steals and four assists and was a force in all aspects, shooting from three-point land and from in close all night long.

Bony also had herself



BOB MARTIN –

WINNISQUAM ECHO

(Left) Savanna Bony races down the court with the ball during opening night action in Belmont.

a good night, pouring in 22 points, grabbing eight rebounds, grabbing three steals and adding four assists.

Freshman Jasmine Peterson had six points, five rebounds, three assists and a steal and classmate Bailey Fairbank also had a strong start to her career, scoring eight points and adding four rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Newfound will be in action on Tuesday, Dec. 12, as they visit Winnisquam at 6 p.m.

Bob Martin of the Winnisquam Echo contributed to this report.

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

BOB MARTIN

(Left) Tiffany Doan plays pressure defense in action at Belmont Friday night.



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7 p.m., Hanaway Theatre: PSU's dance performance group showcases original works by faculty and students in various genres.

DECEMBER 10 – SILVER SERIES HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERT

3 p.m., Hanaway Theatre: Wonderful holiday music the whole family will enjoy.

DECEMBER 12 – GUITAR ENSEMBLE

7 p.m., Smith Recital Hall: PSU students perform a variety of guitar styles including classical, jazz, original, and blues with slide technique. (Free event!)

DECEMBER 13 – PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

7 p.m., Studio Theatre: The PSU Percussion Ensemble creates music from around the world on an array of percussion instruments, providing an exciting evening both sonically and visually.

For more information about these and other great events visit plymouth.edu/silver-center, or call 535-2787.

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See further up here.

Sports Editor - Joshua Spaulding - 279-4516 (phone) - 279-3331 (fax) - josh@salmonpress.news

Bears look to add to win total

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BRISTOL — For the first time since the 2012-2013 season, the Newfound boys' basketball team has a returning head coach.

And Tom Bourdeau is intrigued by what his team has to offer this season.

"We have had mixed results in our first two weeks of practices and scrimmages," Bourdeau stated. "Look real good at times but also are making the little mistakes that could cost us in games."

"With a little luck and an injury-free season, I am hoping for these kids to get to the six or seven-win total and get into the playoffs," the Bear coach said.

Newfound won just one game last year and has won just two in the last three seasons and Bourdeau will be looking to increase that number with a number of returning players back in the fold.

The Bears will return four seniors from last year's team and Bourdeau expects that all four will see significant minutes on the court this season.

Cam Anderson and AJ Muse will be back as guards for the Bears, while Mike Doan and James Shokal will be playing on the front line.

The junior class will feature two kids who were on last year's varsity team, with Colby Miles and Mason Dalphonse both returning to the front court.

The other four juniors on the roster are Ryan Lyford, Spencer Lacasse, Stine Williams and Justin Shokal. Lyford and Lacasse are both moving up from the JV team and will see time in the front court, while Williams and Justin Shokal are both new to the program and will see time in the back court for the Bears.

The roster is rounded out by a pair of freshmen forwards in Tyler Boulanger and Matt Plummer who will split time between the varsity and JV teams.

The squad had 33 kids show up for tryouts and Bourdeau reported that he had great turnout for the summer program as well, so he is excited about the quality num-



JOSHUA SPAULDING
(Left) AJ Muse will be one of four seniors returning to the court for the Newfound hoop boys this winter.

bers with the team.

Tyler Somers returns as the JV coach and Jared Prince, who played for Newfound a few years ago, will be serving as an assistant coach as well.

The schedule for the Bears will feature four games prior to the end of the year, with two of those games at home and two on the road. Newfound will also be taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford from Dec. 27 to 29, with the Bears hosting Kingswood in the first round on Dec. 27 at 4 p.m.

The Bears will have two games each with

Inter-Lakes, Berlin and White Mountains and single games each with Newport, Winnisquam, Raymond, Laconia, Mascoma, Prospect Mountain, Stevens, Hopkinton, Franklin, Gilford, Somersworth and Belmont. Last year's win came against White Mountains Regional.

The season kicks off on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Newport and the first home game of the season will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12, against Winnisquam at 6:30 p.m.

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

Bobcats blend returnees, newcomers on court

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — With a good mix of returning players and newcomers, coach Kristin Brule is excited to see what results come out on the floor as the Plymouth girls' basketball team prepares for a new season.

"It's exciting to see the new mix of girls that we have working together," Brule said. "All of them are working hard every day at practice."

The Bobcats will be returning eight players to the varsity roster, including this year's three senior captains in Emma Cooper, Jackie Gaumer and Bry Mathews. Brule notes that they



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Jackie Gaumer is one of three senior captains for the Plymouth hoop girls.

are expected to lead the team both on and off the court. The trio all saw time on the varsity court

last year as juniors and should be counted on to pick up their game even more in their senior season.

The team will be returning a pair of juniors as well in Emily Boyd

and Hailey Rousseau. Brule said that she expects the Bobcats to feed off of Boyd's defensive intensity and ability, while Rousseau will be counted on to have solid games in the paint for the Bobcats.

The other three returning players are sophomores, who saw varied time as freshmen last year. Amanda Daugherty saw the most time in her freshman year, while Appal Kunz and Jenna Flaherty will also be returning to the varsity roster and will be looking to step up their games as sophomores.

The team welcomes four newcomers to the varsity team, led by junior Olivia Littlefield, who has spent the last two years developing her skills at the JV level, one of those years under Brule's tutelage when she was the JV coach. The other three newcomers are freshmen Jordan Levesque, Gwen Merrifield and Leia Brunt.

"It's great to see the older players' knowledge and intensity mixing with the younger girls' skill set," Brule stated.

The Bobcats will once again see a schedule peppered with some solid Division II competition, including traditional rivals Kennett and Kingswood.

The schedule will have two games each with Kennett, Kingswood and Merrimack Valley along with one game each with Windham, Kearsarge, Bow, Goffstown, Lebanon, John Stark, Coe-Brown, Pembroke, Bishop Brady, Hanover, ConVal and Laconia. The team will play four games prior to the holiday break, three of those coming at home. The team will also play four of its final six games of the season on its home court.

The Division II season will officially kick off for the Bobcats on Friday, Dec. 8, as they travel to North Conway to take on Kennett in a 6:30 p.m. game. The first home game of the season will take place on Friday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. against Windham.

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

Kuehl chips in again as UNH gets another win

BY ALLEN LESSELS
Contributing Writer

CONWAY, Ark. — They took the starch right out of the "The Stripes."

The defense was immense.

The offense – led in the second half by a red-shirt freshman quarterback who had completed three passes in his career – came up huge as well.

Put it all together and the No. 21 University of New Hampshire football knocked off No. 3 Central Arkansas, 21-15, Saturday afternoon in Estes Stadium where the field color alternates every five yards from purple to gray, thus earning the nickname "The Stripes."

The Wildcats set out to make another statement – yes, they belong in this NCAA Division I FCS tournament - and now are on to the quarterfinals. They play at South Dakota State, the No. 5 seed in the tournament, next weekend, perhaps on Friday night.

"Terrific effort by my guys," said UNH head coach Sean McDonnell. "They just played their tails off. Coming into this situation, playing

the No. 4 seed, No. 3 seed whatever it was in the country, a lot of people didn't think we belonged. . . We told the kids let's go play. That's where things get done, on the field."

There was griping from some in the FCS world when the draw was announced that UNH didn't deserve a spot in the 24-team field with its 7-4 overall record.

The Wildcats beat Central Connecticut State, 14-0, in their first-round game last week and then went on the road and picked up another win Saturday.

UNH advances to the quarters with a 9-4 record. Central Arkansas had its 10-game win streak snapped and finished the season 10-2.

Junior Trevor Knight completed a 10-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Evan Gray to match a Central Arkansas score in the first period.

When Knight got knocked out of the game with an injury late in the second period, the red-shirt freshman, Christian Lupoli, came in and played a tremendous

game the rest of the way.

His beauty of a nine-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Malik Love – it was a great all-out dive of a catch as well – gave the Wildcats a cushion they badly needed in the middle of the fourth quarter. It put them up 21-9 with 7:19 to play.

Lupoli completed eight of his 10 passes for 63 yards and the score. He had completed three of 14 passes coming into the game.

And that defense.

Not only did it for the most part shut down a prolific Bear offense, it contributed a touchdown as well.

Redshirt freshman safety Evan Horn scored it when he picked off a Hayden Hildebrand pass, got to the left sideline and raced 56 yards for a score, the only points in the second period. That helped his team to a 14-7 edge at the half.

The Bears did manage to gain yards on the Wildcats.

But how about these numbers? Central Arkansas averaged 37 points a game coming in.

The Bears had turned the ball over 10 times in

their 11 regular season games.

The Wildcats forced four turnovers on Saturday. Besides Horn, red-shirt freshman Steven Harper had an interception and redshirt freshman Alonzo Addae and junior linebacker Jared Kuehl of Plymouth had fumble recoveries.

Here's another subject senior defensive tackle Rick Holt liked: sacks.

Coming in, the Bear offensive line had protected their quarterback extremely well.

"They gave up six sacks all year," Holt said. "That's incredible almost. A lot of stuff can go wrong. One person messes up and you have a sack. Six. That's a half a sack a game. That's kind of crazy."

The Wildcats sacked Hildebrand five times.

Holt was credited with a career-high two and a half sacks. He had never before had more than one sack in a game.

Junior defensive end Jae'Wuan Horton had a couple of sacks and also deflected the pass that Harper intercepted.

The Bears had turned the ball over 10 times in

sack and seven tackles.

"We game-planned really well and we ran some good stuff," Holt said. "Jae'Wuan did a really good job. Brian (Carter) did a really good job. Me and Ryan just keep working and keep working. . . Our job was to make him as uncomfortable as possible back there and I think we did a really good job of doing that today."

They certainly did.

Now it's on to South Dakota and a chance for the program to play for the first time in another state, as it did in Arkansas, and do a little more proving.

And what, from the defense to the offense to players stepping up and filling in for others, made McDonnell most proud on Saturday?

"How hard we played," McDonnell said. "It's what we do. I can't tell you how proud I am of our kids and our program. Wherever we've gone, we've just buckled up and gone and played. Don't talk much about it. We've done it. I asked the kids to do that and they did. As a coach, you can't ask for anything more."

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Champs return solid group of wrestlers

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — After winning the Division III championship last year, the Plymouth Bobcats return a very strong stable of talent to the wrestling mats in the new season.

“A good balance of senior leadership and underclassmen should make for a good run at a second consecutive state championship and 12th overall,” said veteran coach Randy Cleary.

The Bobcats will bring back 11 varsity letter winners, including among them are four Division III champions, eight Division III place winners and four Meet of Champions place winners.

“The challenge will be to stay healthy and get all returning varsity back in the lineup with the transition to new weight classes,” Cleary stated.

Returning to the varsity lineup as seniors will be Nolan Farina, Joe Collette, Troy Johnson, Thias Silvia, Alex Hamel and Griffin Smith. Smith and Farina will serve as the team’s captains.

Farina missed most of last year with an injury, but finished strong, taking second in Division III at 170 pounds and returns at that weight.

Smith finished fourth in Division III at 145 and also returns to that weight after a season that saw him go 21-12.

Johnson had a strong 33-7 record at 195 and returns to defend his Division III championship at the same weight, while Hamel finished at 34-8 at 152 pounds and won the Division III title. He moves up to 160 pounds this year.

Both Silvia and Collette finished at 7-7 on the season, with Collette moving up from 132 pounds to 138 pounds and Silvia moves from 170 pounds to 182 pounds.

Junior Hunter Lesard finished at 21-10 at 126 pounds last year, winning the Division III title and finishing fourth at the Meet of Champions. He will be wrestling at 132 or 138 pounds. The other returning junior is Trevor Randlett, who was fourth in Division III at 120 pounds and returns at that weight.

Three sophomores are also back on the varsity mat. Joe Cleary finished at 28-8 at 106 pounds, winning the Division III title as a freshman. He will return to the mat at either 120 or 128 pounds. Class mate JC Gaumer finished at 15-13 at 113 pounds and was second in Division III. He will move up to 126 or 132 pounds this season. Jason MacAllister finished at 10-9 last year at 106 pounds and will move up to 113 pounds this winter.

The Bobcats will be hosting five traditional dual meets at home this year, welcoming John Stark, White Mountains, Pelham, Kearsarge and Winnisquam to town. The team will also be hosting an invitational on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Bobcats will once again compete in the Winnisquam Invitational and the Con-Val Invitational.



The Plymouth Bobcats will be returning a solid stable from last year’s Division III champions.

JOSHUA SPAULDING

al, among other meets throughout the season.

The Bobcats were set to open the season after

deadline on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m., hosting John Stark. On Saturday, Dec. 9, the

Bobcats will travel to Peterborough for the Con-Val Invitational at 9:30 a.m. On Wednesday,

Dec. 13, the team is also at home, hosting White Mountains at 6 p.m.

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

Bruins Alumni and Littleton North Stars facing off Hockey game will benefit local non-profit organizations

PLYMOUTH — The Boston Bruins Alumni hockey team will take on the Littleton North Stars, hockey players from the Littleton and Northeast Kingdom (Vt.) area, in a benefit game at Plymouth State University on Sunday, Dec. 10. Opening face-off is at 1 p.m. Hockey fans are invited to fill PSU’s Hanaway Rink for an action packed afternoon of hockey and to assist two key organizations, The Adaptive

Sports Partners of the North Country (AS-PNC), a group dedicated to enriching the quality of life for people with disabilities through year-round sports, recreation, and wellness, and the Support Center at Burch House, a Tri-County Community Action Program, a volunteer-supported specialized service program that provides support and emergency shelter to victims and survivors

of domestic and sexual assault violence and stalking, will share the net-proceeds from the benefit game. Advance tickets are now on sale at www.adaptivesportspartners.org or at the door, adult tickets will be \$12 and youth 12 and under will be \$6.

The Boston Bruins Alumni is a non-profit organization made up of past players of the Boston Bruins. The Alumni actively coordinates

benefit hockey games to raise money for various charities and youth groups. Among the former Bruins who will be participating in the game are former Bs captains Rick Middleton and Terry O’Reilly. For a full lineup or more information on the Boston Bruins alumni association, visit www.bostonbruinsalumni.com.

Fans can also support the event by purchasing raffle tickets. Raffle off

will be Terry O’Reilly, Ray Bourque and Rick Middleton jerseys as well as two seats at the alumni club for the Jan. 6 game vs. Carolina Hurricanes. The drawing will be at the half time of the Dec. 10 game.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact info@adaptivesportspartners.org or call Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country office at 823-5232.

Laconia Lacrosse Club hosting free clinics

LACONIA — In preparation for the spring lacrosse season, girls and boys in grades one through eight from Meredith, Center Harbor, Franklin, Tilton, Sanbornton, Belmont and Laconia are all invited to try lacrosse at the Laconia Lacrosse Club free clinics, Sunday nights, beginning Jan. 7.

Clinics will be held in the Laconia High School gym. All girls and boys in grades one through four will take the floor from 6 to 7 p.m. Boys in grades five through eight will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Some equipment will be available to borrow, but all players need mouth guards to participate.

Contact laconialacrosseclub@gmail.com for questions or equipment needs.

Thanksgiving, Christmas decorations lead to a busy few weeks

It has certainly been a busy couple of weeks, as is usually the case around the Thanksgiving holiday.

As I’ve noted before, Thanksgiving is the one time of year where I take a number of days off in a row and this year was no different, as I journeyed to upstate New York with my mother and her boyfriend, Michael, to visit family. We left for New York the day before Thanksgiving and arrived shortly after 8 p.m. This year’s Thanksgiving was a bit different than in other years. Because a couple of family members had commitments on Thursday, our usual Thanksgiving dinner was moved from Thursday to Friday. However, my cousin Ryan’s wife, Carrie and her family had a Thanksgiving dinner at their camp on Sacandaga Lake, so we spent Thursday evening with some good food and good company.

Our normal Thanksgiving dinner was held on Friday afternoon at what used to be my grandparents’ home, now home to my cousin Justin and his girlfriend Sandy. Justin cooked a couple of de-

SPORTING CHANCE



By JOSHUA SPAULDING

licious turkeys and the rest of the food was just as delicious and for the second day in a row, I ate way too much and completely put my diet out of commission.

After another delicious dinner on Saturday, we headed home on Sunday morning and I was back in the office by about 5:30 p.m. and back at my second job a little after 9 p.m.

After a full week of work, I headed back north to Stark on Saturday morning to start the annual Christmas decorating. I got home just after 8 a.m. and Michael and I went to work on the wreaths and after they were all up, we worked on the trees. I had put up five trees the day before Thanksgiving and one stays up all year, so there were only nine left to put up and we got through them before lunch. We then put all the lights on and then I put up all the candles before dinner, making for a pretty full day of work.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

THE HOUSE in Stark is all decorated for the holidays, as is the covered bridge.

That left Sunday to do the majority of the inside decorating, which is pretty simple compared to the constant up and down of doing the outside decorations. And I was able to head back to work in decent time to get things done before heading to job number two on Sunday night.

All told, we decorated 14 Christmas trees with lights and put up more than 50 wreaths on the house and another 10 or so on the picket fence. All in all, it was a solid day’s work on Saturday. And the house is now ready for the Christmas season, except for the inside Christmas tree, which my mother and Michael will purchase sometime before Christmas. It’s the only

real tree of the entire bunch, with the rest of the trees of the fake variety.

And in another month, it will be time to head back north and take all the lights down.

Finally, have a great day, James and Martha Cross.

Joshua Spaulding is the Sports Editor for the Granite State News, Carroll County Independent, Meredith News, Gilford Steamer, Winnisquam Echo, Plymouth Record-Enterprise, Littleton Courier, Newfound Landing, Coos County Democrat, Berlin Reporter and The Baysider. He can be reached at josh@salmonpress.news at 279-4516, or PO Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.



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The White Mountain School, an independent boarding school serving 125 students, is seeking a diligent and enthusiastic custodial worker to perform daily cleaning in campus buildings. Must be reliable and enjoy working with high school students, faculty, and staff as part of a residential community. Schedule is early morning to early afternoon, Sunday - Thursday. The White Mountain School offers a competitive salary and a generous benefits package. Please submit letter of interest or resume to: The White Mountain School, Attn: Robert Constantine, 371 West Farm Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574 or by email to rob.constantine@whitemountain.org. All employment at The White Mountain School is subject to a satisfactory background check.

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