

Gilford Steamer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

GILFORD, N.H.

Gilford Parks and Rec reports busy summer amid staff shortages

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

The Parks and Recreation Department had a busy summer with a lot of people at the beach and full programs, though staff shortages posed some challenges.

Parks and Recreation Director Herb Greene gave the board of selectmen a regular update on the goings on in his department during the Dec. 8 meeting, including how the summer went.

The beach was staffed from June 19 until Aug. 27 and the restrooms were kept open as weather allowed. This summer 10,588 cars came through the gate at the town beach. Greene said the number was lower than last year, but it is hard to compare because the gate wasn't as well staffed this year because of the labor shortage. He



The return of Gilford Old Home Day was one of the highlights of the summer season for the Parks and Recreation Department.

said the season started busy and probably ended bust as well, though July was a bit slow because of the rainy weather.

The beach was closed early on three days due to severe weather. There were no days closed because of high bacteria counts and Greene said the water tested okay throughout the season.

Greene said the lifeguard shortage made the season challenging and oftentimes staff had to do multiple duties.

"As opposed to guarding the water as normal we were limited to just having two or three staff on at any one time patrolling the beach to enforce general rules for the most part," Greene said. "They were available if needed to perform a water rescue as most of

SEE GILFORD PAGE 7

Work continues on 2022 budget, warrant

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

The town is putting finishing touches on the proposed 2022 budget and town warrant.

Town Administrator Scott Dunn and the selectmen discussed a few tweaks and details on the budget and warrant during the Dec. 8 selectmen's meeting.

Dunn said the Budget Committee reviewed the selectmen's recommended budget. The only cut they made was reducing the insurance contingency account from \$28,907 to \$8,907.

The board unanimously approved the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$15,555,148 to go forward through the town meeting process.

Dunn said after getting a better look at the revenue and knowing what the tax rate is, they could get the same municipal tax rate. He said the current municipal tax rate of \$4.05 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation can be maintained by adding an additional \$310,000 from surplus funds. The selectmen indicated they were okay with that.

The selectmen also agreed to the draft warrant.

One article will be some changes to the noise ordinance, the final details to be worked out by the selectmen. Board chair Gus Benavides said the police department should take a look at it before it goes forward, and Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee said they would want to look at it.

"If we have to tweak it a little bit more, let's tweak it and do it right," Benavides said.

One article was for \$36,000 for converting town lighting to LED as part of a program by Eversource, though Dunn said there had been talk from the Pub-

SEE BUDGET PAGE 7

School District implements targeted masking policy

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

The Gilford School District is implementing a strategic mask policy based on the number of cases in a school.

The Gilford School Board made changes to its mask policy during the Dec. 6 meeting, changes announced by superintendent Kirk

Beitler on the district's Web site.

Under the previous plan masks were optional for students and staff in both indoor and outdoor settings. They are mandatory on buses, as school buses are covered under federal guidelines on public transportation.

Now the masking

policies will depend on the number of cases or clusters (which are defined as three related COVID-19 cases).

According to the district's COVID-19 dashboard, as of Wednesday night, there were 14 active cases of COVID-19 at GES, two at GHS, and one at GMS. There is also one active cluster at

GHS.

Under the recent update, targeted masking will be done in Gilford Elementary and Middle Schools if there is a COVID-19 cluster. Under the revised policy, masking will be used by the grade level if a cluster had been identified in a classroom or a grade

SEE MASKING PAGE 7

Bulldogs win battle of Merrill Fay Arena squads



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Austin Keenan of Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes reaches in to control the puck as Belmont-Gilford's Owen Guerin chases the puck down.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

LACONIA — After playing in front of an empty rink last year, the Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes and Belmont-Gilford hockey teams were both excited to get on the ice at the

Merrill Fay Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 15, for the opening of the Division III season.

The Bulldogs got out to a 4-0 lead in the opening frame and came through with a 7-1 win over the Lakers to kick off the year.

"We had a crowd, it was nice," said Belmont-Gilford coach Jason Parent. "The kids were pumped to get the fans back in here, especially the students cheering them like that. That's what high school hockey is about."

"I could not wait for the puck to drop," said first-year LWI head coach Dave Wheaton. "There was almost no season."

LWI originally was not going to field a team due to low numbers, but

SEE BULLDOGS PAGE 7

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Gilford Community Church spreading cheer and more this holiday season

The holidays are a busy time for members at the Gilford Community Church (GCC), which impacts hundreds of kids and families through several community-based initiatives, beginning with the distribution of Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Bags.

We handed out close to 60 bags to area families,” said Pastor Michael Graham, who noted GCC is now “fully engaged” in its Angel Christmas Program.

“This program serves 800 children with requests for pajamas, socks, underwear and hygiene items,” he added.

Jessica Fleck of GCC’s Outreach Committee said the church has also “adopted” several families in the community.

“We offer a helping hand to those who need it – anything we can do to help others have a Merry Christmas for their children,” she said.

For Graham, the holidays – regardless of one’s religious beliefs – are a time to gather together.

and everyone deserves care and compassion.”

Located in Gilford at 19 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford

Community Church (GCC) is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. To learn more about GCC, or any upcoming event, visit gilfordcommunitychurch.org.



Gilford Rec preparing for winter season

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

The Parks and Recreation Department is getting ready for its winter season with some repairs coming up.

Parks and Recreation Director Herb Greene gave an update on what was going on with the coming season during his regular report to the selectmen during the Dec. 8 meeting.

Greene said the pre-season work has been done on the ice rink and now they’re waiting for the weather to cooperate.

“We’re somewhat of in a holding pattern, but still hoping we’ll get ice down and be open in time for the holidays,” Greene said.

Parks and Rec is also co-sponsoring a home decorating contest with

the Gilford PTA for the second year.

Several Senior Moment-um programs are coming up, including senior walking in January.

The learn to ski and snowboard program is coming back to Gunstock and cross-country ski lessons will be happening at Bolduc Park. The adult curling program will start up at the ice rink.

placed and they were waiting for the roof to be put on.

Greene said they hoped the decking could get done this year, but after talking with someone from Buildings and Grounds they learned the material is best installed in milder temperatures since it can expand and contract in the cold weather.

“You may have to wait until spring, but that’s kind of depend on the weather moving forward,” Greene said.

At that same meeting, the selectmen approved some extra money for repairs to the bandstand. Board chair Gus Benavides said during the project workers discovered rotten sheeting that needed to be replaced at a cost of \$710.28. The board previously approved \$20,046.56 from the Recreation Facilities capital reserve fund for the repairs.

The selectmen unanimously approved the additional invoice to repair that rotten sheeting with funds coming from the same capital reserve fund.



Happy Holidays!

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jbarnettbuilding@gmail.com

Holiday tournaments swing back into action

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — Many local teams will be getting the chance to compete over the holiday break, as local basketball and hockey holiday tournaments return to the court and the ice.

New Hampshire's largest holiday basketball tournament, the Mike Lee Holiday Basketball Bash in Farmington, will be featuring a number of local teams. The Littleton girls, the Profile boys, the Inter-Lakes boys and girls and the Kennett boys and girls will all be competing.

The tournament runs from Sunday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Dec. 30, with champions being crowned in the finals that day at 5:30 p.m. for the girls and 7 p.m. for the boys.

The Inter-Lakes girls will be playing in a pair of round-robin on Sun-

day, Dec. 26, one against Holy Family at 10 a.m. and another against Littleton at 10:30 a.m. The Lakers continue on Monday, Dec. 27, with the girls against Concord Christian at 9:15 a.m. and the boys against Portsmouth Christian at 10:30 a.m. The Laker boys do not play on the opening day.

The Littleton girls will be playing in the round-robin halves against Inter-Lakes at 10:30 a.m. and Holy Family at 11 a.m. Littleton continues the next day with a game against Farmington at 7:15 p.m.

The Profile boys will play round-robin halves against St. Thomas at 11 a.m. and Holy Family at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 26. They continue the tournament on Monday, Dec. 27, at 11:45 a.m. against Epping.

The Kennett boys and girls will open against

Epping on Sunday, Dec. 26, with the boys at 12:30 p.m. and the girls at 1:45 p.m. They get the next day off and return to action on Tuesday, Dec. 28, girls at 2:45 p.m. and boys at 4 p.m.

Just up the road in Gilford, the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament swings into action on Monday, Dec. 27 and Prospect Mountain, Belmont, Newfound, Kingswood, Winnisquam, Plymouth and Gilford will all be sending their boys and girls.

In the high school gym on the first day, the Prospect girls play Laconia at 11:30 a.m. and the Prospect boys follow against the Sachems at 1 p.m. Plymouth and Gilford will square off in the other two games in the high school gym with the girls at 2:30 p.m. and the boys at 4 p.m. In the middle school gym, Belmont and Newfound

take the court, with the girls at 11:30 a.m. and the boys at 1 p.m. They are followed by Winnisquam and Kingswood, with the girls at 2:30 p.m. and the boys at 4 p.m.

Action continues the next day with games at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for the girls and 1 and 4 p.m. for the boys, with consolation games in the middle school and semi-final games in the high school.

The tournament finals are Wednesday, Dec. 29, with the girls at 4:30 p.m. and the boys following at 6 p.m.

The Lin-Wood hoop programs are hosting a holiday jamboree this year. While there will not be a champion crowned, AD Matt Manning noted it is a chance to get teams extra games. The Gorham boys and girls, Moultonborough boys and girls, Lisbon boys and girls, Lin-Wood boys

and girls, Littleton boys and Woodsville boys will all be competing.

Action starts on Wednesday, Dec. 29, with the Gorham and Littleton boys at 10 a.m., Gorham and Moultonborough girls at 11:15 a.m., Moultonborough and Lisbon boys at 12:30 p.m., Lisbon and Lin-Wood girls at 1:45 p.m. and Lin-Wood and Woodsville boys at 3 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 30, the Littleton and Woodsville boys will play at 10 a.m., Moultonborough and Gorham boys play at 11:15 a.m., Lin-Wood and Gorham girls tip off at 12:30 p.m., Lisbon and Moultonborough girls play at 1:45 p.m. and Lin-Wood and Lisbon boys play at 3 p.m.

Kennett hockey will once again be hosting the Peter Hall Christmas Tournament at the Ham Arena in Conway. Kennett, Kingswood and

Berlin-Gorham will be the local teams competing.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, Kennett takes on Somersworth-Coe-Brown at 4 p.m. and Kingswood plays Berlin-Gorham at 6 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 27, Kingswood takes on Dover at 10 a.m., Berlin-Gorham will play Dover at 3 p.m. and Kennett will take on John Stark-Hopkinton at 5 p.m.

The tournament concludes on Tuesday, Dec. 28, with the consolation game at 3 p.m., third place game at 4:45 p.m. and championship game at 6:30 p.m.

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



PHOTO BY ERIN PLUMMER

Making some snowy magic

The snow guns at Gunstock were putting a wintery carpet over the mountain a week before the ski season opened.



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Edward Jones: Financial Focus

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

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

Here are a few ideas to consider:

- **Prepare for the unexpected.** If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to con-


tain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

- **Boost your retirement savings.** The pandemic caused many of us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33% of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic. According to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones, this year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.
- **Reduce your debt load.** The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for

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

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

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



Jacqueline Taylor
Financial Advisor
3 Mill Street
PO Box 176
Meredith NH 03253
603-279-3161
Fax 866-532-8685
jacqueline.taylor@edwardjones.com

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Popular toys through the years

“Being there for a child is the most noble thing a toy can do.” — Woody

Santa is preparing for his big night, which is just three days away. His elves are always busy working in the toy shop, year after year, and have created memorable toys, that always leave children wide eyed every Christmas morning. Some toys that children found under the tree more than 100 years ago are still popular today.

In 1920, just a mere 101 years ago, the hot toy for Christmas was the Raggedy Ann doll, that sold for \$1. Raggedy Ann and her brother Andy were created by a political cartoonist named Johnny Gruelle. In 1921, Lincoln Logs were the hot ticket. Lincoln Logs originally cost 50 cents.

Tinker Toys were first created in 1922, a toy that was a big hit in the 1980’s as well. In 1924, the Erector Set was a favorite. In 1925, the classic Teddy bear was a popular, and cost 79 cents.

Crayola Crayons date all the way back to 1926. Crayola means ‘chalk and oily’ in French. Noted is that the original crayons were created in 1903, and the box contained just eight colors. The Radio Flyer wagon came out in 1927 and cost \$2.99.

Yo-yo’s were all the rave in 1928, and cost just five cents. This toy dates back to 500 BC. In 1929, pop-up books became popular. In 1930 the Mickey Mouse doll hit stores. Mickey was discovered in the cartoon ‘Steamboat Willie’ that first aired in 1928. During Christmas in 1930, demand was so high for Mickey dolls that crafty mothers ended up creating their own.

Finger pain and sock monkeys came out in 1931 and 1932, respectively. In 1933, tin Marx wind-up toys were the new thing.

In 1935, it was the Shirley Temple doll that had little girls everywhere smiling on Christmas day. Monopoly first hit stores in 1937, inspiring decades of family meltdowns...excuse us, family fun. Some people still get excited if they land on Baltic Avenue.

The original view master that became popular in the 80’s, first came out in 1939.

In 1940, the Red Ryder BB gun cost \$5.00. Everyone loves a good Golden Book and in 1942, they cost just .25. In 1943, green army men became popular. The Slinky (who didn’t have one?) first appeared under trees in 1945. In 1946, Lionel Trains cost \$30. Tonka trucks came out in 1947. The original Clue board game first appeared in 1949.

In 1951, Colorforms cost 25 cents. Colorforms were the invention of art students who liked to be artistic, sans the high cost of paint. In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head hit shelves for just 98 cents. Model cars became popular in 1953. In 1954, Scrabble hit stands and in 1955, Silly Putty could be found in stockings everywhere.

Play-Dough (can you ever forget that smell?) first came out in 1956. Barbie appeared in 1959. Anyone who could keep two Barbie shoes in one place for more than 24 hours was/is a special kind of person.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch was created. A great toy if you had the patience for it. In 1961, even though it was winter, children everywhere wanted a Slip n Slide.

The Easy Bake Oven first appeared in 1963 for \$15. In 1964, G.I. Joe appeared for \$1.95. Twister appeared in 1966. The Lite-Brite and all its pieces first came out in 1967 for \$10. Hot Wheels came out in 1968 and LEGOs in 1969.

In 1970, Nerf balls were being thrown about in homes everywhere. Weebles were a hoot in 1971. In 1973, Shrinky Dinks were a blast. Stretch Armstrong was popular in 1976 and a year later, in 1977, the Atari hit stores. Skiing is by far the best Atari game invented, and Pitfall.

In 1982, He-Man was a hit, followed by My Little Pony in 1982. In 1983, the infamous Cabbage Patch Doll appeared, complete with all of their bizarre names. Even our Editor had one named ‘Merci Rhonda.’ The original Nintendo Entertainment System appeared in 1986.

In 1995, Beanie Babies took over toy stores everywhere. Some rare Beanie Babies sell for thousands of dollars today. Pokemon cards appeared in 1999. In the early 2000’s, it was Bratz dolls, Xbox 360’s and Playstations. In 2006, the Nintendo Wii almost seemed futuristic. In 2010, the first iPad appeared, and interestingly enough, in 2021, kids old and young have the new version on their Christmas lists.

We hope you all remember this holiday season, that we’re all just a bunch of big kids.

RC GREENWOOD

Gilford girls

Maura Hughes reaches for the ball during action against Belmont on Tuesday, Dec. 14. The Golden Eagles will be taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament, opening against Plymouth in the high school gym on Monday, Dec. 27, at 2:30 p.m.



North Country Notebook

Of Christmas, and traditions, some of them pretty strange



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

Editor’s note: Mr. Harrigan was unable to submit a new North Country Notebook column in time to meet our press deadline for this week’s edition. The following column was originally published on Dec. 24, 2016.

Few grownups would be likely to associate Christmas with cruel and unusual punishment, but waking up to a blanket tacked up over the head of the stairwell to block all view of the Christmas tree and its presents would seem to fit. And then there was the Interminable Breakfast.

I don’t know where our parents learned these unusual holiday practices, but any doubters can ask my siblings, although their memories are not as sharp as mine.

Neither do I know where the idea of opening two presents on Christmas Eve came from, but I’ve since learned that this is a wide-spread tradition, so in that, at least, our household was normal.

The two gifts business was preceded by the entire family singing carols around the McPhail upright piano, with our grandmother White at the keys. We were a family of singers and could break into pretty good harmony, our grandmother singing along as she hit the chords with aplomb and lightly tripped the notes between. It was a scene that younger members



JOHN HARRIGAN

THIS PHOTO has run before, but it seemed a fitting way to say “Merry Christmas, from our house to yours.”

of the family could be lulled into thinking would last forever. Yet the old McPhail and many of our loved ones are gone, and only the memories live on.

++++

On Christmas morning we tore away at our stockings pinned at the foot of our beds, my brother and I soon bringing ours to our sister Susan’s bed to compare loot. At the bottom of each stocking we were sure to find an orange, a humdrum thing today but back then a supreme treat, fresh fruit next to impossible to find during winter.

But then we would rush to the stairs only to find the way blocked by a blanket. “Not ‘til we’re ready,” Mom or Dad would shout from below as they rushed around for last-minute

gifts they’d somehow kept hidden.

And then, permission granted, downstairs we’d rush, to give the tree and gifts a quick scan before the final, inevitable show-stopping command “Not until we’ve had breakfast.”

Relatives in Bethlehem and Lisbon and over in Andover and Jonesport, Maine, were scandalized at this inhumane treatment, thinking, perhaps, that our parents were scarring us for life.

+++++

This behavior must be an inherited trait, because with my own kids I did the same, only different. While the rest of the household was still asleep or up tearing away at stockings, I was up early and in the kitchen, preparing the basic elements of break-

fast and leaving the eggs for last. At what I figured was a reasonable hour, say 8, I selected what was and still is my favorite wake-em-up variety of Christmas music, Mannheim Steamroller, which I always called “Manhattan Steamroller,” and turned it up full blast.

“Not until we’ve had breakfast,” I’d yell when I herd the stampede coming down the stairs. But at least I spared them the blanket.

This column runs in weekly newspapers covering two-thirds of New Hampshire from Concord to Lower Quebec and parts of western Maine and northeastern Vermont. Write to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or Box 39, Colebrook, NH 03576.

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THE GILFORD STEAMER
PUBLISHED BY
SALMON PRESS

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(603) 677-9083
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
(508) 764-4325

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
JIM HINCKLEY
(603) 279-4516

MANAGING EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(603) 677-9081
brendan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(603) 677-9092
julie@salmonpress.news

USPS 024967
The Gilford Steamer is published weekly by Salmon Press, P.O. Box 729, 5 Water St., Meredith, NH 03253. Periodicals, postage paid at Meredith, NH 03253. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Gilford Steamer, P.O. Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.

Jackson Musgrave’s time at LRCC planted a seed that grew into budding business empire



LACONIA—Growing up in Bedford, Jackson, the second-eldest of five boys in the Musgrave family, was unsure of his next steps after high school. He spent the months following graduation working a series of odd jobs with a moving company, officiating youth hockey games and selling Christmas trees. Little did he know, the latter experience planted a seed that would ultimately grow into his own arboreal empire.

Though he enjoyed his time selling Christmas trees, he initially did not think much of it and later that spring decided to explore a potential career as a firefighter. He enrolled in the Fire Protection program at Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) in Laconia. Around this same time, the Musgrave family was preparing to embark on a trip for their annual family reunion, this time hosted by relatives who resided on a Christmas tree farm. It was here that Jackson had an epiphany which would radically change his future goals and aspirations.

“A light bulb went off in my head at the family reunion,” said Jackson. “I had liked

selling trees, but it was that moment that I realized, ‘Holy cow, I have a family member that is a wholesale Christmas tree farmer and grows hundreds of thousands of trees!’”

When he returned to LRCC the following semester, he had a plan in mind. LRCC didn’t have established student apartments yet. Instead, they had an agreement with a local hotel down the road from the college on Main Street, on one of the busiest intersections in the Lakes Region. The third floor of the hotel was reserved for student housing.

“I thought, hey, we could probably sell Christmas trees here – I have an idea of how to sell them and I have an uncle that grows them,” he continued.

That entrepreneurial spirit led Jackson to meet with the hotel’s management to discuss his proposed business idea of selling trees in a corner of the hotel parking lot. Understanding the challenges of starting a new business, the two parties negotiated an agreement: the hotel wouldn’t charge him for using the space until he recouped his initial in-

vestment, after which he would pay them a percentage of all profits. With a team of fellow LRCC students, whom Jackson counts as some of his best friends to this day, he spent the holiday season selling Christmas trees and learning as he went how to refine his budding enterprise.

“We really engaged the community – people loved the idea of local students in business together,” said Jackson, “but that first year wasn’t profitable. We didn’t order the right trees for the market because Laconia is really more of a city; people

would be buying a tree for an apartment and really wanted something smaller than the seven or eight-footers that I had ordered.”

Where others might have written off the experience as a fun experiment, Jackson was motivated. Though he had started off in LRCC’s Fire Protection program, he enrolled in business courses to learn more and improve his strategy for the next season. The following year he leveraged referrals from past customers, placed flyers around town and ran a Facebook advertising campaign. That

second year was much more successful, and they actually sold out of inventory twice. Although their retail business was stable, Jackson wanted to go bigger and embark upon forming a wholesale operation of his own. When he began looking for land to start his own Christmas tree farm, he stumbled upon a property in the northern Maine town of Van Buren and could hardly believe what he had found.

“When I saw the price-per-acre, I thought it had to be too good to be true!” said Jackson. “When I went up to check it out, the asking price made much more sense. The trees on the land were planted in 2000 and after the recession of 2008 it had largely been abandoned and was really overgrown.”

While most of the trees on the property were 20-25 feet tall, they were healthy and dropping a lot of cones, resulting in tens of thousands of saplings and growing smaller trees in between. He could see the potential and decided to purchase the land and start down his own path in the family tree business.

As the owner of MMB Trees, Jackson balances day-to-day management of his sprawling tree farm with the interstate logistics of quickly getting those trees to market. Today, MMB Trees is a wholesale, retailer, and grower of farm-fresh Christmas trees and wreaths.

“Most people start from scratch and go years before making a profit – I’m sort of doing it backwards by reclaiming the overgrown land.”

Jackson has expanded his empire, which

coincidentally is helping bring him back to his roots. For the past three seasons, he has partnered with a farmer in Bedford to provide wholesale customers in New York and Massachusetts with a convenient pickup location, saving them 500 miles of transportation. In addition to the wholesale lot, Jackson acquired a long-running retail tree stand in Nashua, where he typically sells more than 800 trees each season.

Jackson’s passion and enthusiasm make it abundantly clear that he loves what he’s doing. He credits his time at LRCC as both an incubator for his budding business as well as a support system that helped him grow himself:

“I knew I had a passion for Christmas trees and wanted to continue growing the business. My professors helped me tailor my education back to the business and connect the concepts I learned in the classroom to what I was doing on the lot. LRCC not only provided me with a foundation for continuous learning and the tools to bring my dream to reality, but I also found an incredible community of professors who believed in me and friendships I maintain to this day – many of them even come up to visit and help me at harvest!”

During the holiday season and the busiest time of the year for Christmas tree sales, MMB Trees is harvesting and delivering 14,000 wholesale orders all over the East Coast from Canada to Florida. Today, MMB Trees can be found throughout the state at many retail locations including Whole Foods and are sold through local Boy Scouts troops.

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HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Monday, Dec. 27
BELMONT
Boys' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 1
Girls' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 11:30
GILFORD
Boys' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 4
Girls' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 2:30
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Hoops vs. Kingswood (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 4
Girls' Hoops vs. Kingswood (Gilford Holiday Tourney); 2:30

Tuesday, Dec. 28
BELMONT
Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
GILFORD
Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Wrestling at Middlebury, Vt.; 12
Wednesday, Dec. 29
BELMONT

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
GILFORD
Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Holiday Tourney); TBD
Wrestling at Middlebury, Vt.; 9

All schedules are subject to change.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to The Federal Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to make, print, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale, or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

(The Fair Housing Act of 1968 at 42 U.S.C., 3604(c))

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You may also call The New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights at 603-271-2767 or write The Commission at 163 Loudon Road, Concord, NH 03301

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Last-minute holiday shopping tips

Some people thrive by doing all of their tasks early. Others seem to do their best work when faced with a time crunch. The methods individuals use to manage their time at work and play may extend to the ways they approach holiday shopping as well.

There's no right or wrong way to handle holiday shopping tasks, though Christmas Eve crowds at malls and throughout shopping districts suggest that there's more late com-

ers than there are early birds. The following tips can help those who typically wait until the last minute to check names off their lists.

- Utilize free shipping services. Shoppers who shop for gifts online at the last minute run the risk of gifts not arriving on time. Many online retailers charge a premium for expedited shipping. Try to stick to shopping at online retailers that offer free shipping even in the eleventh hour.

- Create a budget. When rushing around from store to store, it may be easy to spend more than you want to. Make a list of how much you want to spend on each person, and stick to that limit for each person. Move on to the next store if you didn't find what you need in your price range.
- Establish a time limit. Stores have strategies in place to keep shoppers in their establishments longer, hoping you'll make impulse buys. These tricks include scenting the air with inviting aromas, putting necessities at the rear of the store, failing to display the time, and putting discounted items by the registers or door to attract shoppers. Set an alarm on your watch or phone for each store so you get what you need and get out on time.
- Subdivide bulk gifts. Think about purchas-

ing bulk gifts like gift baskets from wholesale clubs and then breaking them down into individual gifts. This way you can gift several people on one purchase and save time in the process.

- Choose one-size-fits-all gifts. Think about a gift that can be purchased for multiple people so you can save time shopping for individualized gifts for everyone. For example, print a personalized photo calendar for several members of your family. You also can purchase multiple subscriptions or memberships to zoos or magazines for people on your list. Streamlining gifting in this way may save money as well as time.
- Choose in-store pickup. Rather than scouring various aisles, you can shop a retailer's website and then pick up items in the store. You'll save on potential ship-



ping fees but still benefit by avoiding crowds.

Some people wait until the last minute to do their holiday shopping. A few tricks of the pro-

crastinator's trade can make last-minute shopping go smoothly.

HELP WANTED

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PART-TIME SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARY

The Shaker Regional School Board is seeking a secretary to take minutes at board meetings. The board averages 2 meetings per month, usually on Tuesdays, with meetings typically starting at 6 pm. This position pays \$16.56 per hour, for time spent at the meetings and transcribing the minutes. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest, resume and 3 letters of reference to Debbie Thompson, Business Administrator; SAU 80; 58 School Street; Belmont, NH 03220.



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RE/MAX Bayside gives back this holiday season

REGION — The owners, staff and associates of RE/MAX Bayside strongly believe in giving back to our community during the holiday season, and all year long. “We care so much about families and businesses that support us, and feel that since we are so fortunate, we want to help those less fortunate in any way we can,” said Chris Kelly, Broker/Owner.

For the past 14 consecutive years, the owners, staff and associates of RE/MAX Bayside have been deeply involved in the Toys for Tots program. Our offices are some of the region’s busiest drop off locations. It’s not too late to drop off some new, unwrapped toys at either location. We are at the junction of Routes 3 & 104 in Meredith (603-279-0079), and at 604 Main St., across from


the Colonial Theatre in downtown Laconia (603-527-8200). Just call ahead for curbside pick-up.

This year, RE/MAX Bayside purchased and donated 50 turkeys to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Thrift Store in Laconia. St. Vincent de Paul offers so much to those in need throughout the Lakes Region. This charitable organization distributes hundreds of Thanksgiving baskets to families throughout the area.

RE/MAX Bayside is extremely involved with the Boys & Girls Club of Central New Hampshire. We all look forward to putting together gift bags for some of the many youngsters that are part of this worthwhile organization. This year, company staff and associates took the time to compile gift bags for 21 individual children of all ages.




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GILFORD POLICE LOG

The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests from Dec. 10-14.

Matthew Scott Alighieri, age 41, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 10 for Breach of Bail and multiple counts of Violation of a Protective Order.

Trevor Robert Bond, age 38, current address unknown, was arrested on Dec. 12 for Criminal Trespassing. Patrick J. Ciampo, age 37, of North Conway was arrested during the same incident for Violation of a Protective Order and Breach of Bail.

Robert George Poulin, age 54, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 13 for Prohibited Sales of Alcohol.

Cerrissa Lamos, age 23, of Bristol was arrested on Dec. 13 for Prohibited Sales of Alcohol.

John M. Stebbins, age 47, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 14 in connection with multiple warrants.



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When you give to Plymouth through the 150th Anniversary Brick Campaign, you invest in campus beautification for the next generation of Plymouth State students.

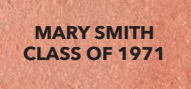
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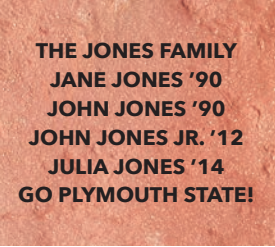
4"x 8" Engraved Brick - \$150
3 lines of text, 20 characters per line including spaces and punctuation
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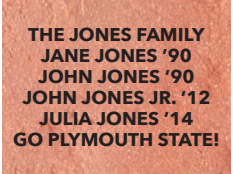
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