



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

GILFORD, N.H.

Harris makes Division I softball commitment

GILFORD PITCHER SIGNS TO PLAY AT UMASS-LOWELL NEXT YEAR

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — Joan Forge has been coaching softball since 1978 and in all that time, has never had a player make a commitment to a Division I college to continue her softball career.

Until now, that is. Last Thursday afternoon, in front of a small gathering of family, friends and coaches in the Gilford High School cafeteria, Ella Harris signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball for the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

For Harris, going to UMass-Lowell has been something that's been at the top of her list for a long time, noting she went to a camp at the school when she was in seventh grade.

"I fell in love with the team and the coaches and the campus," Harris said. "They were pretty much always my top choice."

In addition to her pitching duties for the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Joined by her mother, Sarah (left) and Gilford coach Joan Forge, Golden Eagle senior Ella Harris signs her Letter of Intent to play softball at UMass-Lowell next year during a ceremony last Thursday in the Gilford cafeteria.

Gilford Golden Eagles, Harris also plays for Rip City USA, a team based out of Salisbury, Mass., which means she has spent a lot of time traveling around the Eastern

Seaboard for tournaments, though this year the team stayed local due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harris, the daughter of Sarah and Will Har-

ris, said she is looking forward to being part of the River Hawk family.

"I am looking forward to being in that family," she said. "I am excited to be in that community."

The Gilford senior noted that she is planning on pursuing a degree in public health and is also excited about that portion of her upcoming collegiate experience.

Last Thursday's ceremony started with a few words from Gilford Athletics Director Rick Acquilano.

"It's always a privilege when we get to support one of our own and recognizing their accomplishment," Acquilano said. "We know that behind all this there is family, a support system, a ton of grit and a lot of work."

"She will always be a Golden Eagle to us," he added.

Joan Forge, who coaches the Gilford softball team in addition to coaching volleyball at Plymouth State, noted it is an incredible honor to coach Harris and pointed out that aforementioned fact that she has never had a Division I softball player in more than 40 years coaching the sport.

"This is really impressive," Forge said. "It's an incredible accomplishment and it

SEE HARRIS PAGE A10

Selectmen recommending \$15.7 million budget

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

The town is getting ready for the 2021 budget process with a proposed budget figure and a new approach to recommending the regional agency articles.

The selectmen's recommended operating budget for 2021 is \$15,702,861. Town Administrator Scott Dunn said during the Nov. 4 meeting they got some new information that changed the bottom line, including wage adjustments. The board approved the recommendations and the budget will go to the

Budget Committee.

The board also unanimously approved the first draft of the warrant articles. This warrant will go on to the Budget Committee and be used to discuss capital improvements.

For the first time in a number of years, the board voted in favor of recommending the petitioned articles for regional agency funding. Over the past several years, the board has voted unanimously in favor of not recommending these articles. Board members have said this

was intended to let taxpayers make their own decisions about contributing to organizations as there is no provision for the selectmen to take no action to recommend. This approach has received criticism from people who say this looks like the selectmen oppose the articles and this could deter voters from approving these articles.

This year, the selectmen voted 2-1 in favor of recommending the regional agency articles.

SEE BUDGET PAGE A10

Police Chief finds traffic backups at GES unavoidable



PHOTO BY ERIN PLUMMER

The loop in front of Gilford Elementary school where parents will pick up their children in the afternoon.

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

According to the police chief, traffic backups in front of Gilford Elementary School during dismissal appear to be a short window of time where a long line of parents will line up to pick up their children.

During the previous selectmen's meeting, Selectman Kevin Hayes shared concerns about traffic backups on Belknap Mountain Road in front of GES around 3 p.m. Police Chief Anthony Bean Burpee looked into the matter and reported on his findings at the Nov. 4 meeting.

Currently, parents have to pick up their children in the school parking lot and can't park around the street to do so. Bean Burpee said he observed that parents will generally come up

Alvah Wilson and line in front of Pine Grove Cemetery to make a right turn into the parking lot. After going through the loop to pick up their kids, they will exit by the staff parking lot. The majority of cars will make a right turn on Belknap Mountain Road. He said there are exceedingly few cars that will make a left on that road toward Alvah Wilson and the majority will do only right turns.

Bean Burpee said the biggest issue seems to be how the elementary school and kindergarten get out at the same time so parents will be going into the lot at the other end by the Imagination Station at the same time as parents are coming into the elementary school.

"The only time we're having any congestion is

between 2:50 and 3:08, it's an 18 minute window; that's when releasing time is and the parents are on this cycle," Bean Burpee said,

He said parents will keep in an organized line to pick up children, but for anyone else coming down that road at that exact time it can force them to go into the oncoming lane to avoid the line.

Bean Burpee said this is all happening in such a small window of time, and there is really nothing the police can do about it. He said the school works closely with the police on traffic and have been working toward a quick and organized pick-up process.

Hayes said he was satisfied with the answer.

"If you and the fire chief are happy, I'll allow it," Hayes said.

Election Day a smooth process in Gilford

BY ERIN PLUMMER
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Selectmen said the general election went smoothly for Gilford voters and thanked those involved in the process.

A huge turnout came to the polls at the Gilford Youth Center on Nov. 3. A few weeks prior, the selectmen had a conversation with Town Clerk Danielle LaFond and Town Moderator Sandy McGonagle about some planning details around the election including parking and safety with the pandemic.

During the Nov. 4 meeting, Selectman Gus Benavides thanked everyone who came out to the election the previous day and all those who worked at the polls, in-

cluding the town clerk, moderator, supervisors of the checklist, police, and everyone else who had a part in it.

"It was a tremendous turnout as everybody knows," Benavides said. "We thank everyone for what they did to make it as smooth as possible."

Benavides said 300 people registered to vote at the polls that day.

Board Chair Chan Eddy said he thought the process went really well, including the changes in parking. Poll workers were asked to park at the Village Field, which freed more space for voters.

"I heard a lot of positive comments about the changes including one email from a constituent

who said we should leave it that way for future elections because she thought everything just flowed better and much faster," Eddy said, "so something worth considering with the elections going forward."

There were also accommodations for people who didn't wear masks, including a line outside the building. Eddy said they had space for a few hundred people who weren't wearing masks, but he said few people came without masks.

Eddy said if COVID-19 is still a factor for the town elections in March, they could use all of these arrangements for voting.

"A job very well done by everyone," Eddy said.

Sara Lauze promoted to Senior Vice President, Operations Officer for NH Mutual Bancorp



Sara Lauze

MEREDITH — Sara Lauze has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Operations Officer for New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB). In this role, Lauze will

provide leadership of loan operations, deposit operations, collections, and digital banking services for Savings Bank of Walpole, Merrimack County Savings Bank and Meredith Village Savings Bank.

“Sara’s experience and expertise have been essential in the success of many of our major company-wide projects – most recently upgrading our online banking system for our banks,” noted Angela Strozewski, Executive Vice President and Senior Opera-

tions Officer. “Sara has a wonderful ability to meet the needs of our customers as well as her colleagues at the Banks. She is very well regarded by her staff and her peers and I am confident she will continue to excel.”

Lauze joined the Merrimack in 2005 as an ATM Deposit Services Assistant. She has held several positions in operations and information technology services. Lauze has held several roles in operations with increasing responsibili-

ties – she was promoted to Operations Supervisor in 2014, to Digital Banking Officer in 2015, Assistant Vice President in 2016, and Vice President in 2018.

Lauze is a graduate of New Hampshire Technical Institute and the New England School for Financial Studies. She also earned her Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) status in 2012 from the Project Management Institute.

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp, a mutual

holding company, was formed in 2013 when two New Hampshire-based community banks, Meredith Village Savings Bank and Merrimack County Savings Bank, formally affiliated – the first relationship of its kind in New Hampshire. This strategic partnership has positioned the Banks to leverage each other’s strengths as they work together to advance a shared vision of maintaining and enhancing their community banking standards and values. MillRiver Wealth

Management joined as a third subsidiary of NHMB in 2015, combining the financial advisory divisions of MVSB and The Merrimack Savings Bank of Walpole joined NHMB in 2018. In 2020, MillRiver Wealth Management affiliated with The New Hampshire Trust Company to become NHTrust. NHMB combined assets total more than \$2.8 billion. For more information, visit nhmutual.com.

Belknap Landscape offers nationally recognized apprenticeships

GILFORD — It seems a perfect storm is brewing in the workforce of the Lakes Region. As the cost of attending college rises, the shortage of skilled labor persists, and New Hampshire is challenged with retaining or attracting young residents, a renewed focus on workforce development has been growing in our area. Now, there is another option for young workers to learn and grow into a career.

Last week, Belknap Landscape Company of Gilford celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with their first apprentice, Garrett Peaslee. A 2019 graduate of Gilford High School, Peaslee is the first participant in the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP)

apprenticeship program in New Hampshire. He began the 2-year program in April, is gaining on-hands training at Belknap Landscape and classroom course instruction through online classes provided by Colorado State University.

“The program helps you to gain general knowledge on all the topics within the trade. From weed whacking, to reading blueprints and setting grades. I have been surprised to see how many layers there are to this industry.” Says Peaslee

This apprenticeship in landscaping joins dozens of other apprenticeship programs offered to New Hampshire residents. For several years high school graduates have had their choice from HVAC, culinary,

hospitality, healthcare and construction

apprenticeships just to name a few, but landscaping apprenticeships did not exist in the state. This year Belknap Landscape joined the NALP program to fill this void.

“Our industry requires a diverse set of skills, and we needed to find a way to fill some complex roles” said Jeff Sirles who manages recruiting for Belknap Landscape. “We have always tried to support education and training in the area, so this program was a great fit.”

Apprenticeship programs have an important effect of our local workforce. They provide young adults an option of continued education and professional development outside of the traditional university



Garrett Peaslee

system, allowing them to live locally. While most apprenticeship programs do require classroom learning, often these costs are covered by the employer, and the ability to gain real-world experience while also being paid for their work

makes continued education obtainable for virtually anyone. Finally, they help develop local workers, providing our local businesses with the skilled employees we need to continue to prosper.

For more information

on Apprenticeships in New Hampshire visit apprenticeshipnh.com or to learn more about landscaping apprenticeships email jsirles@belknaplandscape.com.

Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction announces new Super Bidder option

LACONIA — The Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction (GLRCA) has created a new benefit for potential bidders for this year’s upcoming auction, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8 through Friday, Dec. 11. Anyone looking to in-

crease their support of the auction—or to have an edge on bidding—can now become a Super Bidder.

For a donation of \$100, Super Bidders will be granted a look at the items on the auction boards as soon as they

are available. Super bidders can: bid on items before they are open to the public; submit bids with incremental increases up to the bidders pre-chosen maximum; see how many bidders are also bidding on the item that they are in-

terested in; enjoy VIP check-out and pick-up service; and be proud to support the children of the Lakes Region during an especially challenging year.

Interested community members can become a Super Bidder at bids.childrensauction.com.

“In past years, community members have mentioned that they would love to be able to have tools available so that they could spend less time babysitting the auction for the items that they most wanted to bid on,” said GLRCA chairperson Jaimie Sousa. “It will also give people an opportunity to donate directly to the auction to assist children in need while getting some great

benefits.”

“I was thrilled to become a Super Bidder,” added Cindy Hemon-Plessner, GLRCA board secretary and first official Super Bidder. “It was easy to sign up. I was able to support impressive local nonprofits, and now, I’ll be able to bid while I’m cooking dinner, in a meeting or going for a walk. I’m excited for the opportunity to be able to automatically bid often!”

Because of the threat of COVID-19, this year’s auction will be held virtually from the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion. Auction leaders will not accept donations during the event to ensure there is time to properly sanitize and photograph every item in a manner in which volunteers can social distance.

While many items have been received at this time, there is a need for thousands of items to raise enough money to meet the needs of the community.

Visit www.childrensauction.com for drop-off locations. Volunteers will also collect items on Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion. At all drop-off sites, donors must bring a completed form, available at <https://bit.ly/32ahYHb>.

Gift cards can be ordered online for donation to the auction; mail gift card donations to GLRCA, 383 South Main St., Laconia, NH 03246.

Only a small group of volunteers, radio and TV personnel will be welcomed on the auction set during the event.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction

The Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction is a charitable event held every December in central New Hampshire. Countless volunteers and donors have turned the Auction and its many fundraising events, including, It’s for the Kids Community Challenge (formerly PubMania), into a major annual campaign. In the 39 years that the community has come together for the Auction, more than \$6 million has been raised for local charities, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps community organizations in the Central New Hampshire region. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit ChildrensAuction.com.

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Curtain to open on historic collaboration

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

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

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative is named in honor of the Belknap Mill's original, preserved Powerhouse which now serves as a museum. When the Mill was built in 1823, the Winnepesaukee River was diverted under the



Bryan and Johanna Halperin

building into sluiceways and was the source for powering the Mill's manufacturing operations via a water wheel. Later, the system was converted to hydroelectric power. Excess power created by the Mill's Powerhouse provided electricity to downtown Laconia. Therefore, as the Mill's Powerhouse once turned on the lights for Laconia, the Mill's new Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative will bring the lights up on performing arts in the Lakes Region!

Managed by Bryan and Johanna Halperin, Powerhouse will provide high-quality artistic and educational experienc-



es for local community participants. The Halperins will be building on the programming they began at the Mill in 2019 and plan to provide an annual 'Colonial Series' and 'Mill Series'. The Colonial Series will focus on large scale community theatre plays and musicals with casts of 20 or more. The Mill Series will continue with a series of workshops, play readings, smaller productions and playwrighting festivals. Powerhouse will also seek opportunities to collaborate with other theatre organizations and already have plans in place to work with NCCA at Jean's Play-

house on a musical in December 2021 and a spring 2021 playwrighting festival with the Community Players of Concord, NH. Powerhouse will also be collaborating with TS Event Productions of Nashua to provide professional quality lighting, sets and sound for its Colonial Series.

Programming will begin this spring online and outdoors.

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

The Halperins are no

strangers to the Lakes Region theatre scene. After moving to the Lakes Region and co-founding The Winnepesaukee Playhouse in 2004, the Halperins moved on after 2014 and have since been working to build the theatre program of the Inter-Lakes School District. They've also produced, performed and directed shows at various other NH theatres including The Hatbox, The Little Church Theatre of Holderness, Community Players of Concord and NCCA at Jean's Playhouse. Bryan was also the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Theatre Awards for three years and has directed its annual Awards show at the Capitol Center for the Arts for the past five years.

"Being nomadic theatre producers for the past six years has been a great way to expand our horizons, meet new people, and learn to adapt our work to different venues. But there is no substitute for having our

own theatre home. We hope the relationships we've created with other theatre companies and practitioners from all over the state will join with our existing ties to the Lakes Region theatre community to help us create a 'Powerhouse' theatrical organization," says Bryan.

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

RE/MAX Bayside/Weeks Commercial welcomes Kathryn (Kat) Johnson as new associate

LACONIA — Kathryn Johnson has joined RE/MAX Bayside/Weeks Commercial Division as the newest member of this growing dynamic sales team.

Johnson said, "Growing up in New Hampshire, I always knew this was where I wanted to live and work and raise a family. After attending college at the Universi-

ty of New Hampshire, where I received a degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Education, my husband and I settled in Gilford. We, along with our two children, enjoy many of the activities the lakes and mountains offer us year-round. After working as a teacher for many years, I stayed home while our children

were young. Now that our children are a little older, I have decided to pursue my passion for helping others realize their real estate dreams. As a lifelong resident of the Lakes Region, my familiarity and love for this area will give both buyers and sellers the confidence that I can assist them with their specific real estate goals.”

She has chosen to affiliate herself with one of the most experienced and knowledgeable teams of commercial agents in the Lakes Region.

Johnson noted, “As a REALTOR with RE/MAX Bayside’s Weeks Commercial Division, I am provided the train-

ing and support by an unsurpassed team of professionals.”

Johnson can be reached at 387-8888, at katpjohnson4@gmail.com or simply stop by RE/MAX Bayside at 604 Main St. in Laconia. She is just a phone call away and looks forward to assisting you with all your real estate needs.



Kat Johnson

STRATEGIES FOR LIVING

My message to America

By Larry Scott

What does a conservative evangelical have to say to America at a time like this? With a nation as divided as in the days of the Civil War, what can a Christian say to our current state of mind that will resonate, be helpful, and address the issues we now must confront?

To those cheering the outcome of our recent election, I would encourage caution. America has gone progressive, and this election only formalizes the fact. But hold steady, America. The dream is always more exciting than reality, and a new administration in Washington is not going to solve our problems or bring us greater prosperity, and it certainly won't change the social and moral rebellion that has overtaken our nation.

And don't misunderstand. I do not begrudge Mr. Biden and his followers for wanting a chance to lead these United States. But let's be clear: Mr. Biden did not win this election, Mr. Trump lost it. And he did so not on policy, but on style.

A significant number of Americans voted not in favor of a new administration but in protest against an outspoken, self-confident President who alienated many of those who once supported him. No president in American history has been as hated and vilified as has been Mr. Trump, and that despite the fact much of what he did for America was to our benefit.

My distress is not in the turn away from the conservative direction America took the last four years. My concern is that it reflects not just a difference in political philosophy. You may not see it unless you look closely but there are moral overtones to a number of social trends that have now become an accepted part of the American lifestyle. They have, I fear, been precipitated by our society's further alienation from God and the principles given us in His word.

Each generation, beginning with the moral rebellion of the mid-1960s, has drifted a bit further toward a pragmatic, secular, humanist agenda. A generation

of Americans now leads our country who have no place for God in their lives, have never read a Bible, and give little thought to their eternal well-being. The mantra of what I have termed the Me Generation is, "Eat, live and be happy; do your own thing, for tomorrow we die." And the outcome has been devastating. When a society reaches the point where the life of the unborn can be terminated on the very day of their birth, we have reached depths of degradation by which everything else pales.

So how, then, should a conservative Christian respond to the course America has determined to take? Hold steady, don't panic, be kind. And by all means, take a stand, let your voice be heard, but do so respectfully. If our fears materialize, America will soon need us for sound advice and responsible leadership.

How all of this will evolve is not apparent at this time, but history has proven that when a nation turns away from God, there is hell to pay. The Pandemic has

shown how easy it is for something as innocuous as a virus to bring a nation to its knees. In these difficult times, we again turn to Jesus Christ. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me." America ... there can be no other way!

For more thoughts like these, follow me at indefenseoftruth.net.

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A story of inspiration for a sunny morning

Twenty-one-year-old Chris Nikic of Maitland, Fla. made history last Saturday when he became the first person in history with Down Syndrome to complete a full distance Ironman triathlon. Watching the video of Nikic crossing the finish line in Panama City, Fla., did not leave this writer with dry eyes. This was good news, in an otherwise chaotic news cycle.

As most people know, a full Ironman consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. The race, has a time cap of 17 hours. Nikic completed the race in 16:46:09.

Nikic had a few setbacks throughout the race, including two falls from his bike.

Special Olympics Florida President and CEO Sherry Wheelock released a statement. In it she said, “He’s become a hero to athletes, fans, and people across Florida and around the world. He’s an inspiration to all of us.”

Nikic is no stranger to triathlons and has been training since he was a teenager. Looking ahead he will strive to qualify for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

In an Instagram post, Nikic wrote “Goal set and achieved. Time to set a new and bigger goal for 2021. Whatever it is, the strategy is the same. One percent better every day. Yes, I did the work, but I had angels helping me. God surrounded me with angels. Best part of all. New family and friends. All about awareness and inclusion. Awareness for Down Syndrome and Special Olympics. Inclusion for all of us with all of you.”

His proud father, Nik Nikic, released his own statement: “To Chris, this race was more than just a finish line and celebration of victory. Ironman has served as his platform to become one step closer to his goal of living a life of inclusion, normalcy, and leadership. It’s about being an example to other kids and families that face similar barriers, proving no dream or goal is too high,” he said.

Nikic completed the 2.4 mile swim (along with his coach Dan Grieb) in just under two hours. Just prior to getting on his bike to attack the 112 miles, he was bitten by fire ants. He forged ahead and finished the bike portion in 8:12:37. He then went on to finish the 26.2 mile run in 6:18:48.

Nikic’s father says that the mantra is to improve one percent each day. His coach, Grieb said in a statement, “I’m no longer surprised by what Chris can accomplish because I recognize who Chris is; a human being that has goals and dreams just like everyone else. He wants to make the path easier for those just like him and can follow his lead.”

He is now a Guinness World Record holder.

This is a story of inspiration, hope and positivity, and now, more than ever, the world needs more of it.

FROM OUR READERS

Your support has been humbling

To the Editor:

To the voters of Gilford and Meredith, I would like to sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to run for State Representative to represent you in Concord. Although I did not win, I am quite humbled by and appreciative of the support I received from so many of you. They say many hands make light work, and it was certainly true with campaigning this year.

As always, I will continue to advocate for what I believe are fair measures for working families, supporting Gunstock Ski Area, and protecting Lake Winnepesaukee for all of us.

I offer my congratulations to those that won election. In addition, I am so thankful for the rapid and efficient delivery of our state and local election results! Our town elections officials did a terrific job preparing for this year’s challenging circumstances. Enlisting the help of the Boy Scouts was a great help and great idea. Perhaps we can corral more youth involvement in upcoming elections as another opportunity to foster civics and personal responsibility.

In closing, I offer sincere thanks again and good health to you all.

Cheers,

DIANE HANLEY
GILFORD

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We’re looking forward to hearing from you!



PHOTO BY ERIN PLUMMER

Late fall in Gilford

Orange leaves carpet the ground across the street from the Benjamin Rowe House.

North Country Notebook

“The Wreck of the Hesperus” translates to “Hoorah’s nest”



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

It blew a gale Sunday, a phrase used by seafarers who wished it would do something else. Like us, the phrase followed the rivers on up.

“No good going out,” Rudy would say, a full hundred miles from the ocean, waving at whitecaps on Clarksville Pond, darkish water, a loose boat on the other side. “It’s blowing a gale.”

To me, a high wind is a good excuse to stay indoors. Not much good comes from a high wind, except something simmering on the stove all day. Better to scoot the chair toward the fire and reach for a good book.

Wind is the only kind of weather I do not like. Maybe it’s because it’s hard to hear much in a high wind, unless the sound is coming from the same direction. Even then you hear it for only an instant before the wind snatches it away. “What was that sound?” you think, and then you chase it downwind, to oblivion.

+++++

Our grandfather White had roots in Jonesport, Maine, where his ancestors were saltwater farmers just a generation removed from the sea. Freshwater streams flowed through their meadows. My grandfather told stories about

sea trout, creatures I’ve never seen.

My mother Esther White and I went to a family reunion down there once, away down East, where I remember a couple of cousins who looked like me, or maybe I looked like them. This was back in the Seventies, which makes me sound older than dirt. “Poor lugs,” I thought, looking at my cousins, using an old dock-worker’s term. They had close-set, beady eyes.

My grandfather had a lot of those old terms in his head. “Lowery” was one he used, and it was in common use up until the turn of the last century, meaning a low and dull overcast, or what pilots (the flying kind) would call a very low ceiling, low and grey and somehow almost threatening, although to admit that would be to admit fright, which you never did.

Still, there was that time when Rudy and Joan had to go somewhere and left Jeannette and Kathleen and me with the Hurlberts, who had been around since the first stumps were pulled, and a lightning storm came up, and old Mrs. Hurlbert made us kneel by the bed, upon which was the Bible.

The Bible, of course, was open to a significant passage, the significance of which I’ve totally forgotten. Perhaps I was more focused on the crashing thunder that threatened to bring the entire house down around our pointed little heads.

Oddly enough, I did not grow up fearing the weather whatsoever, and to this day, the first peal of thunder will send



COURTESY

This woodcut engraving is often used to depict the schooner “Hesperus” in the full teeth of a gale. (Courtesy wordhistories.net)

me galloping for the porch.

+++++

If my sister Susan happened to run by with hair asunder, our grandmother would say “Susan! Your hair looks like the wreck of the Hesperus!” and I remember thinking, “In a few years nobody’s going to know what that means,” and then of course I looked it up.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem, published in 1840, drew on an infamous winter storm that wrecked more than 20 ships off the New England coast. It was the age of sail, in this case sails in tatters, all askew, like my hapless sister’s hair.

Longfellow kept a diary, as did most people of letters in that time, and he was bounced in and out of bed on the night “Hesperus” came to his head. And it did not come in lines, he said, but in stanzas.

+++++

At the big Down East family reunion, a

good part of the throng suddenly broke off and headed for vehicles, obviously bound for somewhere worth going, so my mother and I followed. The parade went to Beal’s Island, where a distant cousin thrice married and twice removed or something like that, as people were always saying, was building a boat.

Now, I’d helped Rudy build rowboats with nothing but plans in his head, but nothing had prepared me for this. My cousin was building a boat, all right—putting down the framework for a 40-footer.

He was over about twenty feet in front of the bow, huddled with various aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews, squinting at a plumb-line—for all I knew, allowing for windage. “That’s all he’s using,” someone said.

(Please address mail, with phone numbers in case of questions, to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or 386 South Hill Rd., Colebrook, NH 03576.)

Board suggests e-signatures for regional agency requests

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

The board of selectmen is recommending that regional agencies that might have difficulty or safety concerns about getting in-person signatures for petitioned warrant articles look to e-signature options. This suggestion came in response to one organization’s concerns and suggestions the town consider other options besides petition warrant articles for funding this year.

Ann Nichols, Development Director for Lakes Region Mental Health Center, spoke to the selectmen during the Nov. 4 meeting about an alternative option for providing funding to the organization without going through the petition process for a warrant article.

Nichols said of the 24 communities LRMHC serves, Gilford and Ashland are the only two that require them to put a petition article on the warrant for funding re-

quests. She said every year she goes through the process of getting 25 signatures to put a petition article on Gilford’s warrant for funding and the voters have generally been exceedingly generous.

This year, however, she said they are especially concerned about being able to get those signatures considering the surging pandemic and the risks of meeting people face to face to sign the petition. Nichols asked the board if they could waive the process this year and if it would be possible to get the funding on the warrant another way. She said communities like Meredith, Alton, and Gilman-ton have an application process where regional agencies have to fill out forms to receive funding through the towns’ budget process, asking the Gilford selectmen if they would consider that this year.

Selectman Gus Benavides said requiring a petition warrant article

for regional agency funding has been done for more than 10 years. He said in the past the town would fund the organizations, though many of these organizations wouldn’t have representatives speak to the Budget Committee to discuss and answer questions about the work of their organizations.

“People were just wanting a blank check and they weren’t even showing up,” Benavides said.

The town then started requiring organizations to petition for funding, through this process representatives would come to the town and talk about their organizations. Because of this new process Benavides said a number of organizations stopped requesting funding and didn’t come back to request it again.

Benavides said there could be another way to get these signatures, saying the organization must have the email addresses of those who

have supported them in the past.

“I absolutely for one appreciate what you’re doing and I also understand as selectmen we appreciate what we’re all doing in these crazy unprecedented times trying to reduce the spread,” Benavides said, “so I agree with you there’s different ways that we can handle it, but I think you have plenty of time to get 25 people, that’s for sure. That’s just my opinion here.”

Nichols said she understood the reasoning behind that requirement, though said collecting 25 signatures face-to-face carries big risks right now. She said people can’t show up to LRMHC to sign because it is a healthcare center with screening requirements.

Nichols said she would be happy to do an application process this year like a number of other towns require. Benavides said this would be a “dramatic change”

in how the town handles regional agencies and they would rather not make that change now, saying it could have unintended consequences that would impact other groups or people.

“As much as I sympathize with her situation, I think we have to maintain the course we have because it really separates the organizations that need it versus the organizations that might want it, so I agree with Gus,” said selectman Kevin Hayes.

Board Chair Chan Eddy said there might be a compromise on this for this year, suggesting maybe they fill out an application this year while the pandemic as a factor and see how it goes. Nichols said they hadn’t started collecting signatures yet, Benavides said they should wait until an attempt was made to do so before making any other decisions.

Kristin Snow, who serves on the boards of both LRMHC and Central New Hampshire

VNA & Hospice echoed Nichols’ request to have a different process this year. Speaking as someone with a doctorate in epidemiology, she said getting these signatures in person would be problematic with a rising pandemic.

Benavides said when he suggested using emails, he wasn’t saying they should use them to get people to sign in person. Instead he suggested the organization look at e-signature options, which he uses in his real estate business on a regular basis. He said programs like DocuSign and others are legally binding and can be used to collect signatures while identifying the signers. The other members of the board also supported this option.

“We will suggest perhaps to the other organizations to do likewise,” Eddy said.

Nichols and Snow said this seemed like a viable alternative and a “reasonable compromise.”

Delve into “The File on Thelma Jordan” with LRPA

LACONIA—Join Lakes Region Public Access Television at 10:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday night (Nov. 20 and 21) for our LRPA After Dark presentation of 1950’s film noir crime drama “The File on Thelma Jordan,” starring Barbara Stanwyck and Wendell Corey.

Assistant District Attorney Cleve Marshall (Corey) is having mar-

riage problems, which aren’t helped by the fact that he’s gone on a drunken bender and missed his anniversary celebration with his wife. Enter into his office the seductive and mysterious Thelma Jordan (Stanwyck), to whom Cleve feels an immediate attraction. She’s there to report an attempted burglary at the house of her elderly Aunt Vera. Cleve

can’t get Thelma out of his mind, and the two begin an affair. Meanwhile, Thelma has also been seeing Tony Laredo, a thug and a thief. Of course, she lies to Cleve about their relationship. Sometime later, Aunt Vera is shot by an intruder. Thelma calls Cleve to the house to help, all the while casting suspicion on Tony. Cleve gets assigned to

the case. The evidence points to Thelma, and Cleve does everything he can to defend her, putting his reputation on the line. Although the odds are stacked against Thelma, Cleve chooses to believe her—but in the shadowy world of film noir, is anything ever the way it seems?

Barbara Stanwyck made her share of notable films noir in her

long and illustrious career, including two that are infamous -- Double Indemnity and The Strange Love of Martha Ivers (which LRPA plays every now and then), – so it’s an interesting footnote that “The File on Thelma Jordan” is a relatively obscure film. It was well received by critics in its day, with Variety noting that it “... unfolds as an interesting, femme-slanted melodrama, told with a lot of restrained excitement.” It features very strong performances from both Stanwyck and Corey, the latter of whom was usually relegated to supporting character roles. “The File on Thelma Jordan” was supposed to have been directed by Otto Preminger, and Stanwyck was excited to work with him. It turned out that Preminger’s schedule could not accommodate this film, and so it was taken over by the German émigré director Robert Siodmak. Legend has it that Stanwyck did not enjoy working with Siodmak, but the results of this stylish noir with great cinematography and a wonderful supporting cast speak for themselves. Grab your popcorn and meet us after dark for a twisted tale of tense noir.

And mark your calendars: we’re only weeks away from the annual Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, presented by Hannaford Supermarkets, Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Friday, Dec. 11. This year we’re broadcasting from the Bank of New Pavilion. Join LRPA for minute-by-minute coverage all week long, locally on Channel 25, on Atlantic Broadband Channel 12 and streamed in HD on

the Laconia Daily Sun Web site (laconiadailysun.com)! Or listen in with our fantastic radio partners 104.9 FM The Hawk and Lakes FM 101.5 FM! high and bid often – it’s for the kids!

You can’t find television like this it anywhere but LRPA TV, Atlantic Broadband Channel 25. Not a subscriber? Then watch us online at live.lrpa.org to catch all the fun.

About Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA)

Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA) is a nonprofit, non-commercial public access TV station and community media center located on the Laconia High School campus in Laconia, NH. LRPA cablecasts locally on Atlantic Broadband Channel 24 (educational programming and public bulletin board), Channel 25 (information and entertainment) and Channel 26 (government meetings) to more than 12,000 homes in our member communities of Belmont, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith and Northwood. Programming is produced by and for the people of the greater Lakes Region. LRPA’s mission is to empower our community members to produce content that fosters free speech and the open exchange of ideas, encourages artistic and creative expression, promotes a well-informed public through governmental transparency, and unites our communities through the power of media and technology.

LRPA’s slogan: Community empowered by media. Visit us on the Web at www.lrpa.org.

Comfort Keepers

Loneliness and isolation can affect senior health

BY MARTHA SWATS
Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

For seniors, maintaining social connections and staying in touch with loved ones not only improves quality of life, it improves health. Socially isolated seniors have a 59% greater risk of mental and physical decline than those who do not experience social isolation, and socialization has been shown to slow Alzheimer’s and Dementia patient’s decline.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 11 million, or 28 percent of people who are aged 65 and older, now live alone and almost half of women over 75 live alone. By taking intentional steps to reduce isolation and reduce lack of contact, overall wellbeing is also improved.

So, how can seniors foster connection and reduce loneliness?

Social Media – Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites can help seniors stay connected to friends and family across the coun-

try. And, many social media platforms have built in chat functions, games and other features that foster connection.

Togetherness Activities – For older adults, planning activities reduces lack of contact. This can be in-person, when possible, or through video chat and phone calls. Virtual or in-person activities can include good conversation, cooking and eating together, reading together, playing games, scrapbooking, or listening to music. And, studies show that planning and looking forward to an event can have mental health benefits too!

Online Interaction – Seniors may enjoy virtual meetups, online worship services, Facebook trivia night, virtual communities focused on hobbies, and other online activities can help people connect to others in their community without leaving home. For those that are able to go out, sharing hobbies and activities with others can bring joy and connection.

Virtual Volunteers – For seniors looking for a sense of purpose, there are opportunities to volunteer to help others from the comfort of home. This can include building Easter baskets for children’s charities, sewing quilts for shelters, writing cards for military service members overseas and other activities that allow people to do good works in their free time.

Isolation and loneliness can be signs that a senior lacks the support and tools needed to live a healthy, independent life. However, with planning and deliberate action, fostering positive relationships and connections can be incredibly rewarding for everyone involved.

Comfort Keepers® Can Help

For seniors that need companionship or help fighting loneliness, Comfort Keepers caregivers can help with encouragement, support and assistance with daily living. And, caregivers can encourage overall health through meal planning, grocery shopping, meal

preparation and activities. Our custom care plans focus on physical and mental health and wellness activities. Our goal is to see that clients have the means to find the joy and happiness in each day, regardless of age or acuity.

To learn more about our in-home care services, contact your local Comfort Keepers location today.

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

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Local field hockey players earn All-State nods

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The New Hampshire Field Hockey Coaches Association recently announced the All-State teams for the recently concluded season.

The season was certainly an unusual one, with all teams playing a regionalized schedule due to COVID-19 and the NHIAA opening the tournament to every team. A random draw for playoff seeding saw undefeated teams playing on the road in early round games and there were some forfeits due to COVID along the way. In the end, among local teams, Kennett had the strongest finish, as the Eagles won the Division II championship and

Berlin advanced to the Division III championship, but had to forfeit their game due to the school district’s COVID restrictions, leaving the Mountaineers as the Division III runner-up.

For Division II All State, Kennett’s Maddie Stewart and Ella Chandler, Kingswood’s Abby Kelley and Allie Drew and Plymouth’s Holly Hoyt all earned First Team honors.

Division II Second Team honors went to Kathryn Hawkes of Kennett, Alexis Booth of Kingswood and Gwen Merrifield and Emma Webster of Plymouth.

Also earning First Team honors in Division II were Alexandra Larabee of Bow, Charlotte Rohlf and Kira Ged-

des of Derryfield, Grace Murphy and Makayla Strickulis of Goffstown, Katie Blaisdell and Natalie Chapman of Hanover, Delaney Weimer of Hollis-Brookline, Sydney Pelletier and Jackie O’Donnell of John Stark, Sydney Gonyea and Amalia Hickey of Lebanon, Reilly Swislosky of Merrimack Valley, Erin Jasper and Allison Demmons of Milford, Ashley Harvey of Oyster River, Madi Robito and Gwen Dallinger of Pelham, Mia Edwards and Charlotte Marston of Portsmouth, Mariana D’Amelio and Emma Crowe of Sanborn and Cari Mastergeorge and Catie Summers of Division II runner-up Souhegan.

Blaisdell was named

Division II Offensive Player of the Year and Mastergeorge was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Also earning Second Team honors for Division II were Madeline Michaelis and Amelia Coe of Bow, Abbey Carr of Derryfield, Maggie Hansen of Goffstown, Mia Edmonds of Hanover, AnnMarie Tremblay and Alyssa Hill of Hollis-Brookline, Gracie Bolduc of John Stark, Molly Smith of Lebanon, Caitlyn Fortier and Taylor Bailey of Merrimack Valley, Nora Breton of Milford, Annika Kell and Alice Judge of Oyster River, Sydney Nutter of Pelham, Janelle Gagnon of Pembroke, Alexis Dumont of Portsmouth, Elinor Cotter of Sanborn and Miya Chorney of Souhegan.

Locals earning Division III First Team honors included Kenna Balderrama and Mickailey Walsh of Berlin, Taryn Fountain and Laurel Gingrich of Gilford, Mackenzie Allaire

and Emily Tholl of Littleton, Haley Dukette and Tiffany Doan of Newfound, Jennifer Fowler of White Mountains and Madison House and Alexis Poole of Winnisquam.

Division III Second Team honors went to Becca Pouliot of Berlin, Maddie Guest of Gilford, Alexi Hastings of Littleton, Mackenzie Bohlmann of Newfound, Kennedy Overhoff and Olivia Baker of White Mountains and Kaitlyn Carey of Winnisquam.

Also earning First Team honors for Division III were Ashlyn Toupin and Halle Laramie of Bishop Brady, Elizabeth Gonyea of Conant, Jada LaPierre and Emma LaPierre of Franklin, Kate Bouchard of Hopkinton, Kate Cochran and Abby Nadeau of Kearsarge, Lydia Tucker of Laconia, Allison Adams of Mascenic, Paige Jette and Natalie Poitras of Mascena, Carly Bernard of Monadnock, Eliza Bates and Kelsey Wheeler of

Newport, Brianna Frisbee and Julia Turksy of Stevens and Olivia Kimball of St. Thomas.

Bates and Toupin were named Division III Co-Players of the Year while Patty Deschaine of Stevens was named Division III Coach of the Year.

Second Team honors in Division III also went to Libbey Hicks of Bishop Brady, Chelsea Dupuis and Bella Hayes of Conant, Elizabeth Guillotte and Jasmyn Long of Franklin, Caroline Barrett and Julia Baer of Hopkinton, Sophia Guzciewicz of Mascena, Isabelle Sutton and Mackenzie Hopkins of Monadnock, Maddie Miller of Newport, Gabriella Savo of Stevens and Sara Anderson and Brooke Chandler of St. Thomas.

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

Lions and Unitarian Universalists recycle plastics

LACONIA — On Saturday, Nov. 21, from noon-4 p.m., the Laconia-Gilford Lions Club, in association with the Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, will hold a Plastics Bag Recycling collection event - a ‘Plastics Round-up’ - at the parking lot of the UU meetinghouse at 172 Pleasant St. in Laconia.

All types of plastic bags - grocery bags, produce bags, store bags, ice bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, Ziploc and other disposable bags, bubble wrap - will be accepted. All donated items

will then be transported via our ‘Collections Caravan’ to disposal bins at area stores where they will be recycled properly.

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue.

There is no charge or fee involved.

“This event has been set up to be as safe as possible,” explained Lions Club President Matt Soza. “Folks will drive by and drop off their items. Then Club members and volunteers will collect them.”

So on Saturday, Nov. 21 from noon-4 p.m., simply drop off your un-

wanted plastics and help raise awareness of how these items can be kept out of our ecosystem via easy, safe, responsible recycling. Help us wrangle those plastics, herd them together and hit the trail to take them on their last ride!

The Green Sanctuary movement is a program of the Unitarian Universalists whereby involved congregations engage in activities to protect our environment and create a sustainable future for all life. To learn more about the Laconia UU, call 524-6488. For questions about this event call 998-5549.

HARRIS

couldn’t have happened to a better person.”

The Gilford coach pointed out that Harris is the ultimate teammate and is always able to keep winning and losing in perspective, which isn’t always an easy thing to do. She also was quick to add that in addition to being a stellar pitcher, Harris is also a versatile player, leading the team in batting average as a freshman and picking the team motto of “fearless” in her sophomore year. And after last season was cancelled due to the pandemic, Forge is looking forward to one more year with Harris.

“I am hoping things will happen so she can have a banner senior year,” Forge said. “UMass-Lowell is very fortunate to have you.”

Rick Forge, who has served as Gilford’s assistant coach and as a pitching coach for Harris and the rest of the staff, also took a few moments to

honor Harris. He noted that he has been coaching softball since 1975 and this is only the fourth player that he has seen go on to play Division I softball.

“I watched every one of those players, I know what it took for those players to get to Division I,” Rick Forge stated. “It is a tribute to you that you’re being offered this opportunity and it is well-deserved.”

He noted that pitching can be a lonely job, as it takes a lot of time put in outside of the game to excel at the position.

“Not everybody can do it,” Rick Forge said. “Making that commitment, that long journey, and now it’s all coming to fruition. It speaks volumes that you have embraced the sport of softball and the position of pitcher.”

Rick Forge noted that Harris is a great teammate and more importantly, a good person.

“I am honored to have had the opportunity to be a small part of your career,” he stated.

Sarah Harris, who joined her daughter at the signing ceremony, noted that her dad, Will, was working in the Midwest and decided against

traveling during the pandemic, but they were both excited for their daughter.

“He wanted to, but he can’t be here,” Sarah Harris said. “He’s a big part of her story too.”

As for Ella Harris, she’s excited about her

upcoming senior year of softball at Gilford, no matter what it might be like.

“I am really looking forward to being a captain,” she said. “I think I’ve always been somewhat of a leader, but I am excited to play a major

role in leading the team this year.”

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

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Gilford School District

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Interested candidates should email Athletic Director,
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These positions are opened until filled.
Gilford School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBSTITUTES - \$100 PER DAY!

Seeking qualified individual to cover teaching absences on an on-call/as needed basis. Shaker Regional School District pays \$100/day; \$50/half-day. Applications can be obtained on the District website, https://www.sau80.org/departments/human_resources, by visiting the Superintendent of Schools office at 58 School Street, Belmont, NH or by calling 603-267-9223 extension 5300. Successful completion of a post-offer, pre-employment physical and criminal background check, including fingerprinting, is required. Shaker Regional School District serves the communities of Belmont and Canterbury, NH and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Employment Opportunities

Shaker Regional School District is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Belmont Elementary School:
Classroom Assistant – 6 hrs/day
General Special Education Assistant – 6 hrs/day
1:1 Behavioral Assistants – 6 hrs/day

Belmont Middle School:
Title I Tutor – 7 hrs/day
Glade Level Assistant – 6 ½ hrs/day
1:1 Behavioral Assistants – 6 ½ hrs/day

Belmont High School:
1:1 Behavioral Assistant – 6 hrs/day

Canterbury Elementary School:
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Please visit the Human Resources page on the District Website, www.sau80.org, for details and to apply for any of these positions. Application must be made through SchoolSpring.com.



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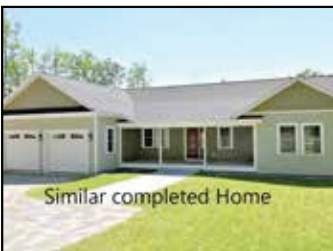
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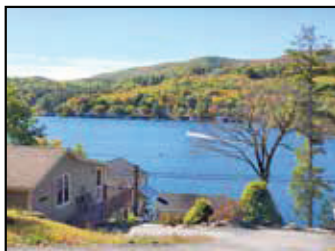
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Holiday Gift Guide

The holiday season is a busy time of year. So many activities are packed into a relatively short period of time, and it is easy to become a tad overwhelmed by it all. Once Black Friday ar-

rives on November 27 (or Thanksgiving evening for those who can't wait until Friday), holiday shoppers have less than a month to get all of their shopping done.

Planning, decorating, entertaining, and socializing takes time away from shopping. To find the time to get everything done — especially shopping — consider these time management tips and tricks.

- Shop during off-peak hours. The busiest times of the day for holiday shopping will be lunch hour during a business day and right before or

after supper time. Wading through crowds can be time-consuming. Try to shop when the stores are more sparsely populated so you can get in and out faster.

• Shop local. Think about patronizing small, independent retailers. Not only will you enjoy customized, exemplary customer service, but the stores probably will not be able to fit as many customers as large chains. That means you can browse more readily and shop faster and more safely.

- Schedule online shopping blocks. Pep-

per your calendar with blocks of time devoted to online shopping. This way you can handle it without distraction and easily check people off of your list.

- Delegate some tasks. Pool your resources with friends or family members and divide up your shopping lists. Each person can be in charge of a different category of shopping. For example, if you are in charge of gaming gifts, buy all of these and then distribute them to whoever needed them. Delegating saves time and lets shoppers avoid rushing from store to store.

- Take a day off. While it may not be ideal to use vacation time for holiday shopping, sometimes it can be an effective way to check off a good portion of your list. Start in the early morning when the children are at school and visit as many stores as possible. Stow away those gifts until you have the opportunity to wrap them. Make the day off a little more special by treating yourself to a solo lunch or a midday meal with a friend.

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year. Finding the time to finish shopping and complete other tasks is challenging, but possible.

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Holiday Gift Guide

Tips for successfully gifting teens

Giving gifts during the holiday season may be rewarding, but certain people on your shopping list may leave you scratching your head wondering what to buy.

Teenagers often fall into that confusing category. As trends and interests change at a moment's notice, adults may not know what to get the teenagers on their list. These suggestions can set you on the right course.

Gadgets

Teens like staying abreast of the latest technology, and what better way to do so than with hot-off-the-assembly-line products? Moderns teens use multiple mobile devices — from tablets to smartphones to notebook computers — so an outlet multiplier with surge protection could be the way to go. A charging caddy that keeps all of their devices organized and within reach while replenishing the batteries can

make for another go-to gift.

While shopping for gadgets, think about investing in Bluetooth-enabled earbuds or over-the-ear headphones. This way teens can enjoy their favorite streaming music stations or binge Netflix series without disturbing others.

Gym equipment

Adolescents are conscious of their personal health and body image. To foster positive experiences, gift givers can encourage healthy physical activity. A gym membership or personal fitness equipment can help teens get on track with a weekly regimen.

Luggage/travel gear

A thirst for exploration may inspire teens to travel the country or the world. A high-quality piece of luggage can be a building block for teens' travel gear. Other travel items to consider are RFID blocker ID and credit card holders, money toward a pass-

port or an overnight toiletries bag.

Gaming

Many teens immerse themselves in gameplay, whether solo or online multiplayer. Games can be enjoyed while using various consoles, computers and even smartphones. Find out which platform teens are using and then purchase gift cards, points or e-codes so that they can get new games or enjoy in-app purchases and upgrades.

School funding

Some gifts can focus on the future, including teens' education. Consider donating to or opening up an account to help fund college costs. Different plans have different annual contribution limits and tax deferments, so it's a good idea to speak with a financial professional to figure out which avenue is right for you and your gift recipient.

Retailer gift cards

Teenagers always



enjoy some extra purchasing power, so gift cards to their favorite retailers are likely to be a hit. If you're not sure where the teen on your list shops, consider a gift card good for any store in a local mall.

Shopping for gifts for teens can be a little easier if shoppers get a nudge in the right direction.

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Did you know?

Giving the gift of an experience is a rising trend, particularly among millennials. Harris research has determined that millennials (defined as people born between 1980 and 1996) highly value experiences, and they are increasingly spending time and money on them. Types of experiences include athletic pursuits, cultural visits, concerts, social events, and various travel. The research goes on to say that more than three out of four millennials choose to spend money on a desirable experience instead of buying a product. And it's not just millennials. Overall, consumer spending has shifted in the last 10 to 15 years. HSBC bank chief economist Kevin Logan has said consumer spending on recreation, travel and eating out has been trending upward for more than a decade, while purchases of clothing and shoes as a share of discretionary spending has dropped. These trends can help drive purchases during holiday gift-giving. Gifts that are more experience-oriented may be more appreciated by their recipients.



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Playhouse production streaming over Thanksgiving weekend

MEREDITH — While many theatregoers were happy to return to live theatre when the Winnepesaukee Playhouse presented a small, socially distanced season in early fall, others were not yet ready. The Playhouse heard from many theatre fans who were intrigued by the local set-



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ting of the Playhouse's October production, "No Wake" by Erica Berman, but not ready to sit in an auditorium with others. In response, just prior to the show's closing, the Playhouse hired a local filmmaker and filmed a special performance of the play which anyone across the country (and world) can view over Thanksgiving weekend.

The decks of two neighboring houses in Moultonborough is the setting of this new play which, over the course of a summer, illustrates a burgeoning friendship between a cynical local teenager and an irascible snowbird with a penchant for screaming at the jetskiers who disrupt his treasured loons. As the two unlikely friends navigate a generational divide, they learn that life experiences transcend age. In scenes both humorous and poignant, bonds form over loneliness and loss as both reveal secrets that impact their lives.

The play is directed by Samantha Tella, who previously helmed hit Playhouse productions of "The Graduate" and "Boeing Boeing." To add even more local flavor to the production, the cast consists of local professional actors Teghan Marie Kelly and Ray Dudley. Meredith native Teghan was last seen at the Playhouse in "Beauty and the Beast" and "Mamma Mia!" A Gilmanton resident, Ray has won New Hampshire Theatre Awards for his work at the Playhouse including roles in "Of Mice and Men," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," and "The Graduate."

"No Wake" will be available for streaming beginning at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 26 and ending at midnight on Sunday, Nov. 29. A \$20 admission (plus a small online fee) allows patrons to view the production as many times as they'd like in a 48 hour period via their computer, phone, iPad, or other device with an internet connection. For more information, or to purchase an admission, visit www.winnepesaukee-playhouse.org.

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