THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

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COMPLIMENTARY

TTCC celebrates 67 years of Santa's Village with Holiday Stroll



nity an outdoor version of Santa's Village again this year!

This year, Santa & his helpers can be found on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Newfound Memorial Middle School parking lot. The event will be complete with the North Pole Railroad, Mrs. Claus Cookie Kitchen (with cookies!), the Village Workshop and of course...Santa & Mrs. Claus. Each child will receive a special commemorative ornament to hang on their tree.

Parking will be available on North Main Street and in the NMMS parking lot. The stroll will be using the bus lane at NMMS. We will be stopping cars on North Main that are attending to make sure we don't have too many people strolling at one time.

Although kids will not be able to sit on Santa's lap, families will be able to take photos from a safe

We hope you will be able to attend this wonderful annual family tradition! We are hopeful that in 2022 we'll be back inside the TTCC for Santa's

For more information, call the TTCC at 744-2713 or check our Web site at www.ttccrec.org.

Engineering begins on countywide broadband initiative

ANGEL LARCOM angel@salmonpress.news

REGION — Engineering is now underway for the 39-town Grafton County Broadband Now project, a so-called middle-mile "backbone" network that will span more than 350 miles countywide. Members of the eX2 Technology design-build team began work on Monday.

Initial survey work began in 17 different municipal town halls, including Woodstock, Lincoln and Haverhill. Ashland, Holderness, Plymouth and Campton were also included on the list.

GCBN committee member and Bristol Town Administrator Nik Coates said the group was running on three parallel tracks to expedite the infrastructure project, including the application for a \$26.2 million NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant, which could potentially fund the entire build

competitive nature of the grant posed a challenge.

"The Committee has been in meaningful conversations with NTIA staff about our grant application, and we have been told to expect a decision around the new year. The challenge with this grant program is that the projects are expected to be fully built out just one year from award. There is a possibility of a one-year extension, but we didn't want to bank on that. So we are following a second track," said Coates.

The committee decided to complete as much engineering as possible with \$195,000 in ARPA funding, approved by the Grafton County Commissioners in the fall.

"We expect the eX2 team will work quickly and be ready to start the engineering for 22 remaining municipalities in the spring. If we receive the NTIA grant, we

out. However, the highly will be ahead of a very tight one-year deadline and will then continue the engineering and construction in 2022," added

> However, if the GCBN Committee does not receive the NTIA grant, it plans to request an additional \$360,000 in ARPA funds to complete the engineering work for the remaining municipalities. At the same time, the group will seek other large grants and federal infrastructure law funds

SEE **BROADBAND** PAGE A7

Books, Carols and Cocoa at the Hebron Library

Friends of the Hebron Library (FOHL) will host two events on Dec. carols and cocoa.

of the Hebron Library. Hundreds of books in excellent condition will be available. Also for sale are some bookcases, a computer monitor and a telephone set. The Hebron Library annex will be open for browsing and purchase from 9 a.m. to noon. Please note that masks are required inside the library build-

The caroling event

will be from 3 to 5 p.m. bers. Please contact the outside the library. It was a popular holiday event pre-Covid. This 11: a morning used book year, the Friends will sale and an afternoon of keep attendees warm with a bonfire and hot The used book sale is chocolate. There's rufund-raiser in support mors of smores as well!

The FOHL have been stalwart supporter the Hebron Library throughout the years. In 2021, they have purchased early reader books for the children's collection, paid for beautiful wooden bookcases for the children's room and provided refreshments for library programs. They are always eager to help the library. They welcome new memHebron Library if you would like to join, hebronnhlibrary@gmail.

The Hebron Library is open for browsing on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. You can also email us for curbside borrow-

Subscribe to our new digital newsletter! Visit the Hebron Library Web site, www.hebronnhlibrary.org, and look for the subscription box on the home page. The newsletter goes out on a monthly basis and is full of news about our pro-

Pair of Bear boys earn All-State soccer honors

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

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

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

Additionally, swood coach Erik Nelson was named Division II Coach of the Year. Mark Struthers of Coe-Brown was named JV Coach of the Year.

Earning First Team honors for Division II



Josh Blouin earned Division III All-State Honorable Mention.

were goaltender Ryan Lockitt of Souhegan, defenders Griffin Gamache of Lebanon, Nick Giordano of Milford, Nate Dolder of Bow and Josh Warner of Coe-Brown, midfielders Ryan Oliveira of Lebanon, Colin

Gregg of Milford, Daniel Mladek of Lebanon and Henry Zent of Oyster River and forwards Ryon Constable of Milford, Niklas OHern of Oyster River and Krists Putans of Lebanon.

Also earning Second

Team honors were goaltender Cooper Moote of Stevens, defenders John Kotelly of Hollis-Brookline, Jackson Mercer of Merrimack Valley, Carter Rousseau of Con-Val

SEE ALL-STATE PAGE A7

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Karkheck named to girls' soccer All-State team

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

REGION — Following the conclusion of the fall soccer season, the New Hampshire Soccer Coaches Organization has announced the All-State teams and there are a number of local girls who earned recognition.

In Division II, one girl from each of the local teams earned Honorable Mention, with defenders Megan Davey of Kingswood and Emily Kenny of Kennett joining forward Megan Metivier of Plymouth.

First Team honors for Division II went to goaltender Maggie Crooks Hollis-Brookline, defenders Kelly Harris Bow, Brittney Hill Pembroke, Amanda Robbins of Hollis-Brookline and Ella Longacre Lebanon, midfielders Madison Roberge of Bow, Hannah Picott of Pembroke, Arden Ulmer of John Stark and Mary Rainey of Lebanon and forwards Lyndsey LaPerle of Bow, Greta Caulton of Souhegan and Cierra Hill of Pembroke.

Second Team honors went to goalie Mackenzie McDonald of Merrimack Valley, defenders Brynn Murphy of Stevens, Sam Veilleux of John Stark, Elizabeth Philbrook of Merrimack

Valley and Sarah Sawyer of Milford, midfielders Adrienne Dorr of Pembroke, Marissa Sage of Milford, Lindsey Butler of Pelham and Isabella LaPerle of Bow and forwards Ashlyn Walsh of Pelham, Rachel Brackett of Hollis-Brookline and Charlotte Cousins of Oyster River.

Also earning Honorable Mention were defenders Keely Giordano of Milford, Kendall Larson of Con-Val and Marv Joy of Coe-Brown, midfielders Jackie Hayden Souhegan, Somer of Coe-Brown, Loto Paige Magnuszewski of Hollis-Brookline and Brooke Thompson of Ovster River and forwards Alina St. George of Milford, Delaney Deshane of Lebanon and Sydney O'Toole of Sanborn.

Pelham's Carlos Fuertes was named Division II Coach of the Year and Hollis-Brookline's Mike Vetack was named JV Coach of the Year.

In Division III, First Team honors went to defender Jaiden McKenna, midfielder Millie Caldon and forward Geena Cookinham, all of Gilford.

Second Team honors went to defender Courtney Burke of Belmont and Honorable Mention went to defenders Morgan Doolan of White Mountains, Lillian Karkheck of Newfound, Gracey LeBlanc of Gilford and Julia Pendergast of Inter-Lakes, midfielders Jaden Burt of Prospect Mountain and Allie Kenyon of Gilford and forward Ava Bartoli of Berlin.

Also earning First Team honors were goalie Emily Fleegle of Hopkinton, defenders Kally Murdough of Hopkinton, Sarah Bradley of Trinity and Sophie Nadeau of St. Thomas, midfielders Ashlee Brehio of Hopkinton, Caroline Camp of Kearsarge and Ella Pottle of St. Thomas and forwards Maddie Karasonovich of St. Thomas and Annie Higginbotham of Hopkinton.

Second Team honors also went to keeper Macayla Dutile of Laconia, defenders Bella Skoglund of Trinity, Sophie Rose Riopel of Derryfield and Makenzie LaFlamme of Laconia, midfielders Skyle DePetrillo of Trinity, Morgan Wagner of Campbell, Lilly Losey of Derryfield and Mia

Campbell of St. Thomas and forwards Emma Losey of Derryfield, Loren Charron of Hopkinton and Thea Spanos of Kearsarge.

Also earning Honorable Mention were goalies Kayla Sission of Trinity and Abby Rayder of St. Thomas, defenders Ava Houde of Trinity, Nora Dunnigan of Fall Mountain and Lydia Cramer of Raymond, midfielders Jessica Carney of Hopkinton, Devan Booth of Trinity, Jennah Harvey of Conant, Kimmy Nadeau of Hillsboro-Deering, Amanda Behre of St. Thomas, Lydia Tremblay of Bishop Brady, Eva LaValley of Hillsboro-Deering and Josie Oberto of Campbell.

Michael Martinez of Trinity was named Division III Coach of the Year and Berlin's Holly Munce was named JV Coach of the Year.

For Division IV, First Team honors went to goaltender Gracey Boucher of Moultonborough, defender Emily Farr of Woodsville, midfielders Bre Lemay of Littleton and Sophie Bell of Profile and forward Madison McLaren of Profile.

Second Team honors went to defenders Katie Velie of Moultonborough and Sage Gallant of Gorham, midfielder Lauren McKee of Littleton and forward Leah Krull of Woodsville.

Earning Honorable Mention were defenders Sara Brown of Lisbon and Bri Calaio of Lin-Wood, midfielders Madison Ash of Groveton and Sidney Chapman of Gorham and forwards Haily Cavanaugh of Lisbon, Josie Bryant of Littleton, Mya Brown of Profile and Maddie Roy of Woodsville.

Also earning First Team honors were defenders Mallory Syvertston of Concord Christian, Jess Berry of Newmarket and Vanessa Pollari of Sunapee, midfielders Elizabeth Tschudin of Sunapee and Anna Wilerer of Newmarket and forwards Brynn Smith of Sunapee and Maddy Joe of Newmarket.

Second Team recognition also went to keeper Riley Andriski of Newmarket, defenders Isabella Correa of Sunapee and Maggie Moore of Newmarket, midfielders Aubrey Hill of Newmarket, Tatiana Stockbower of Portsmouth Christian and Brooke Pagach of Hinsdale and forwards Emily Dudley of Concord Christian and Lula Wamberg of Portsmouth Christian.

Also earning Honorable Mention were keeper Ella Walsh of Portsmouth Christian, defenders Annabelle Shumway of Epping, Emma McKeage of Colebrook and Isis Young of Pittsfield, midfielders Jade Gagnon of Epping, Riley Skarin of Newport and Anne Marie Sweet of Mount Royal and forward Marianna Vicinanzo of Holy Family.

Newmarket's Andrew Dawson and Annaliese Schmidt were named the Division III Coach of the Year and JV Coach of the Year, respectively.

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

SLA to host stargazing hike through Chamberlain Reynolds

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Join the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) on a night hike through the Chamberlain Reynolds Memorial Forest on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. for a night of stargazing and meditation. Led by Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC) AmeriCorps member, Kyle Wolz, this hike will take participants through the forests and swamp of Chamberlain Reynolds out to the shore of Squam Lake where we will take a break to search for constellations in the sky. The new moon is a great time to set new intentions for the com-

ing month so there will

HOLDERNESS

be a walking meditation along the swamp boardwalk, and time to further meditate, reflect, or journal once at the beach.

Participants meet at the Chamberlain Reynolds Memorial Forest West parking lot at 6pm and should plan for a two-hour excursion. This hike is accessible to hikers of all experience levels, but participants should expect areas of uneven terrain and small elevation changes. Participants should bring water, food, a headlamp, and warm, comfortable clothing and shoes for hiking. Additional items participants

may bring if they'd like include a notebook and writing utensil, portable telescopes, small blankets or mats to lay on, a thermos with warm drinks or soup, and anything else needed for a two-hour outing.

For more information, or to sign up for this Adventure Ecology program, visit the SLA website (squamlakes.org) or contact the SLA directly (603-968-7336). The SLA also offers other Adventure Ecology programs throughout the year. These free programs are open to the public and cover a variety of nature and conservation related topics. The Adventure

Ecology programs are presented by the LRCC AmeriCorps members at the SLA who perform important conservation work in support of the Association's mission.

The Squam Lakes Association is dedicated to conserving for public benefit the natural beauty, peaceful character and resources of the watershed. In collaboration with local and state partners the SLA promotes the protection, careful use and shared enjoyment of the lakes, mountains, forests, open spaces and wildlife of the Squam Lakes Region.

New Hampton resident inducted into Alpha Eta honor society at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Jordan Ray of New Hampton, a student in the Pathologists' Assistant program in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University, was inducted into Alpha Eta, the national honor society for the allied health professions, during a recent on-campus ceremony.

To be eligible for in-

duction, undergraduate students must have a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and graduate students must have a GPA of 3.8 or higher and be in the top 20 percent of the graduating class. All inductees must show a capacity for leadership and achievement, show promise for their profession and be recommended by a faculty member or dean.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,715 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering,

Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 387 Colleges." For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

Newfound <u>Landing</u>

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Executive Council reverses course on **COVID** funding

BY TARA GILES TARA@SALMONPRESS.NEWS

REGION — Earlier this fall, the Executive Council voted not to accept \$22.5 million in federal aid for vaccination and COVID mitigation efforts in New Hampshire.

The money is to aid vaccine providers in the state by utilizing the immunization information system to better track vaccination data. In rejecting the proposed American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Republican Council's contingent expressed concern that to accept would trigger an obligation on the part of the state to adhere to any vaccination mandates issued by the federal government.

Gov. Chris Sununu reminded the Council that none of the language regarding COVID funding from the federal government has changed, and that the Council had previously accepted those funds. Sununu was in favor of accepting the fed-

eral funds. A notice was sent out by New Hampshire's Attorney General, stating that the contracts would not require New Hampshire to submit to federal pandemic policies, including quarantines and vaccines.

While reversing course, the Council only did so by including a resolution that condemns mandates. This resolution however is not law. just an official state-

Executive Councilor for District 1, Joe Kenney, said, "It's simple the Council voted for the \$22.5 million contract, after the Governor agreed to our resolution against the federal mandate that included isolation and quarantine enforcement."

The Council voted 4-0 to accept the funds, with one member abstaining. That member was Ted Gatsas, who said attaching a resolution may set a "negative precedent."

After the Council finally agreed to accept

on to accept close to \$5 million in vaccine funding from another source. Further, the Council approved \$6 million to aid health care workers in rolling out more vacci-

nation shots.

After acknowledging that the initial rejection caused a delay in booster shots as well as vaccinations for children at the state level. Sununu said. administration worked with the Council to find a solution to move forward in a bipartisan manner and ensure we got these funds out to help with vaccine distribution and a variety of other issues, as well."

Councilor Cinde Warmington of District 2, and also a health care attorney noted that the resolution is "meaningless" and only used to provide political cover to those who voted wrong the first time.

Give back to the trails this December: Volunteer with SLA Trail Crew



HOLDERNESS — If you love hiking and/or want an excuse to get outside this December, consider volunteering with the Squam Lakes Association trail crew for a day of trail maintenance! Although trails may look like they occur naturally, they require routine maintenance to keep them safe for hikers and to limit the impact on the surrounding ecosystem. By joining our trail crew you'll learn the basics of trail work--with a focus on removing blowdowns, clearing branches in the corridor, improving trail markers, and clearing drainag-

Volunteer days in December include halfdays on Sundays (the 5th, 12th, & 19th) where you'll join our crew from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and full-

es--and get to enjoy a day

out in the woods.

days on Thursdays (the 2nd, 9th, & 16th) that are scheduled for 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for one day or can join multiple times. You can register to join the trail crew on our Web site, www.squamlakes.org or by calling (603) 968-7336. Trail days are limited to six people.

The trail for the day will be shared via email or phone with those who sign up for the day. Due to shifting priorities, the trail may not be confirmed until the day

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Volunteers should bring appropriate clothing, water, and food. We can supply microspikes and/ or snowshoes if helpful. Masks are optional outdoors. As always, this work is weather dependent. Should any changes to plans arise, we will provide updates. We encourage help from volunteers who love the outdoors, enjoy hands-on conservation work, and are excited to work with our LRCC members!

before the volunteer day.

Mid-State Health Imaging Center earns ACR accreditation

ed a three-year term of accreditation in Ultrasound - General, Gynecological, and Vascular, as a result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR) - the gold standard practice in Medical Im-

The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting strict ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after an evaluation by board certified-physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adeassurance programs are assessed. The Mid-State Imaging Center passed each category with no deficiencies.

Mid-State offers onsite x-ray and ultrasound in its Plymouth Office, as well as ultrasound services in its Bristol Location. Having an inhouse imaging center has allowed Mid-State to strengthen its integrated model of care and its commitment to meeting the needs of the whole person.

Imaging Center Manager, Mark Cartier says, "Having a high-quality in-house Imaging Center has become an integral part of our care model. Providers can bring

PLYMOUTH — Mid- quacy of facility equip- their patients just down State Health's Imaging ment, quality control the hallway to get their Center has been award- procedures and quality x-rays, instead of sending them to the hospital, which would create another bill, and extra stop for the patient."

> Mid-State Chief Executive Officer Dr. Robert MacLeod says, "It's about patient care, patient safety, and affordable access. We strive to provide the highest quality of care to patients, at the most affordable cost. This accreditation is yet another way to show our community our commitment to this."

Mid-State would like to commend Mark, Amanda, Wendy, and the Imaging Center staff for maintaining superior quality and safety in their work.







Ora Schwartzberg, Esq.

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What to know about early IRA withdrawals 10%penalty.

While you're working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact until vour retirement. After all, vou could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you'll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you'll consider taking money from your IRA. You'll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you turn 59½, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you'll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you're 591/2.)

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before vou're 591/2, vou may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

Paying for college - You are allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student's eligibility for financial aid.

· Buying a first home - You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase. Having a child - Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from

your respective IRA without paying the

Before investing in bonds, you should understand the risks involved, including credit risk and market risk. Bond investments are also subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the onces of bonds can decrease, and the investor car

· Covering medical expenses - You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you, your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability,

may not apply These aren't the only exceptions to the 10% withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligi-

the 10% early withdrawal penalty also

bility for avoiding the 10% penalty.

Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months' worth of living expenses with the money kept in a liquid account You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well. Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you'll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be famil iar with the possible drawbacks - and how you might avoid them.

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Opimion

What's your story?

It's holiday party season, and for most of us that, is a good thing. We get together with friends and family, enjoy some eggnog and a plethora of our favorite appetizers. However, we do know that oftentimes, we are invited by our significant others to attend a work soiree or we are attending one ourselves. Being in a room where you only know one or a few people could seem like a daunting task for our introverted readers, but have no fear — we have ways for you to have memorable conversations that you may end up actually enjoying.

Instead of discussing the weather or asking the mundane questions such as 'Where are you from?' why not simply ask, 'What's your story?' Other conversation starters include, 'How do you know the host?' 'What was the highlight of your week?' or 'Are you working on anything exciting?'

If you're shy or feeling a bit awkward, you can keep the conversation going by talking about the food being served or the venue where the event is taking place. Asking a person what they have tried so far, and how they liked it is an easy conversation starter. If you research the history of a place, you can always begin with the 'Did you know?' questions. We know everyone loves a good history story and bits of local trivia

If the person you are speaking with is from the area, ask them what they do for entertainment in town, including where and what their favorite restaurants are. Looking up recent sports standings is never a bad idea, even if you don't particularly care for sports. This way when you nod and smile, you can have some confidence in knowing that you are at least somewhat in the loop. If you've bumped into a fellow skier, discussing snow conditions and ski hills is an easy topic. Look up a recent odd news story that is interesting and humorous, that way during a lull, you can say, 'So, I was reading about a man who appeared before a Dutch court and requested that he legally be made 20 years younger.' (Yes, that actually happened; if we see you at a holiday bash, we will fill vou in.)

Most conversations remain on the surface which is appropriate when you don't really know someone. However, if you feel comfortable and are enjoying the conversation don't be afraid to go a bit bolder. Generally, most people like to talk about themselves, not necessarily for selfish reasons, but who doesn't want to be known and appreciated? We all have unique personalities that are worth sharing.

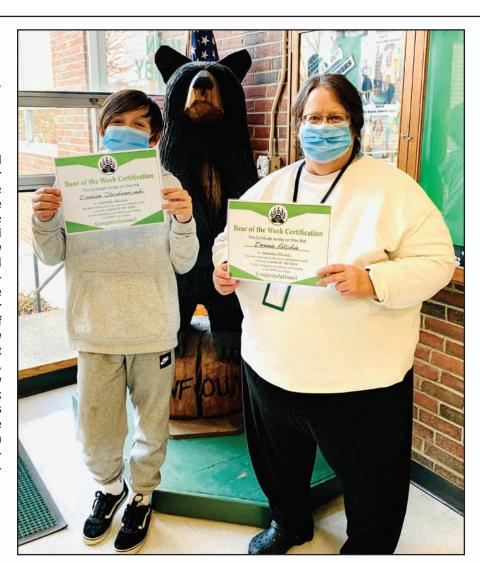
Such questions that go beneath the surface may include, 'What is your biggest fear?' 'When you were growing up, what was your dream job?' 'Have you been to any interesting places lately?' 'Have you learned anything this week, that you weren't aware of last week?'

The easiest thing to do while in conversation this month is to ask how a person celebrates the holidays. Asking about traditions and the best holiday a person has ever had brings up fond memories and positive energy.

These questions tend to snowball naturally and voila a solid, meaningful conversation has been had and you could even make a new comrade along the way.

Bears of the Week

Newfound Memorial Middle School's Bear of the Week Student & Staff Winners for the week of Nov. 19 are Damien Sherkanowski and Donna Ritchie. They have been recognized for their representation of the NMMS Core Values. Thank you for being great members of our NMMS community and showing us what Respect, Responsibility, Pride, and Integrity are all about! Thank you to Franklin Savings Bank in Bristol and the Newfound Lake Inn in Bridgewater for sponsoring this week's winners!



CADY Corner

The truth about holiday spirits

BY DEB NARO Contributor

Many of us look forward to celebrations during the holidays, a time when some people are more likely to drink beyond their limits than at other times of the year. Some will suffer adverse consequences that range from fights to falls to traffic crashes. Sadly, we often put ourselves and others at risk because we don't understand how alcohol affects us during an evening of celebratory drinking.

Despite the dangers, myths about drinking persist, which—for some—can prove fatal. Scientific studies supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism provide important information that challenges these widespread, yet incorrect, beliefs about how quickly alcohol affects the body and how long the effects of drinking last. Holiday revelers may not recognize that critical decision-making abilities and driving-related skills are already diminished long before a person shows physical signs of intoxication.

Initially, alcohol acts as a stimulant, so people who drink may feel upbeat and excited. But don't be fooled. Alcohol soon decreases inhibitions and judgment and can lead to reckless decisions.

As we consume more alcohol, reaction time suffers, behavior becomes poorly controlled and as drinking continues, we can experience slurred speech and loss typically balance, associated with being drunk. At these levels and above, alcohol can also cause blackoutswhich are when a person does not remember what happened while he or she was intoxicated. At higher levels, alcohol acts as a depressant, which causes the drinker to become sleepy and in some cases pass out. At even higher levels, drinkers face the danger of life-threatening alcohol overdose due to the suppression of vital life functions.

During an evening of drinking, it's also easy to misjudge how long alcohol's effects last. For example, many people believe they will begin to sober up—and be able to drive safely—once they stop drinking and have a cup of coffee. The truth is that alcohol continues to affect the brain and body long after the last drink has been consumed. Even after someone stops drinking, alcohol in the stomach and intestine continues to enter the bloodstream, resulting in impaired judgment and coordina-

tion for hours. Of course, we don't intend to harm anyone when we celebrate during the holiday season. Yet, violence and traffic fatalities associated with alcohol misuse persist, and myths about drinking live on—even though scientific studies have documented how alcohol affects the brain and body. Because individuals differ, the specific effects of alcohol on an individual will vary. But certain facts are clear there's no way to make good decisions when you are intoxicated and there's no way to sober up faster.

If you are hosting a holiday gathering, consider offering a variety of nonalcoholic drinks and bottled water, be sure to provide a variety of foods and snacks for your guests especially if you are serving alcohol, food can slow the absorption of alcohol in the body by approximately one-third. Help your guests get home safely use designated drivers, anyone getting behind the wheel of a car should not have any alcohol. If you are a parent, understand underage drinking laws and always prevent those under age 21 from accessing alcohol—and remember to set a good example.

For more tips on how to talk to your child about alcohol, please visit our website at cadyinc.org. If you, or someone you know, struggles with substance misuse or addiction, please call 2-1-1 or the Doorway at LRGH Healthcare (934-8905) for help. You can also connect with Plymouth Area Recovery Connection (PARC), our local recovery center, located at Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth at info@ parcnh.org or 238-3555.

Letters to the Editor

Examining NH's transportation infrastructure

To the Editor:

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) consists of five Executive Councilors and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. GACIT along with the Regional Planning Commissions have an initial role to provide input into the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan. Also, the Executive Council votes accept and expend federal transportation funds.

GACIT has conducted 22 statewide public hearings to receive input on the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan. In December 2021, GACIT will provide its recommendations to the Gov-

ernor who will in turn assign it over to the NH Legislature for its input and review. After the House and Senate passes the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan, the Governor will sign it into law by June 2022.

There has been a lot of news surrounding the new federal infrastructure five-year plan called the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). New Hampshire is programmed to receive \$1.139 billion for its highway programs. Even so, this highway program-ming amount remains the lowest nationally for a state. Moreover, New Hampshire will be confronted with a revenue shortfall in its road tolls, Betterment and SB367 programs. But having

said that, the IIJA federal funding will help to advance many projects.

One of the bright funding sources will be the bridge program category. This IIJA funding amount is \$225 million(m) to address state/town red listed bridges. The strategy is to use 15 percent of the bridge fund to support the municipal bridge aid program (\$6.75m/ year). Allocate the re-\$38m/year maining bridge funds to existing state bridge projects to free up funds with greater spending flexibility. The municipal red listed bridges are over 200 and the state red listed bridges are over 100. It is the intent to lower the state red listed bridges from its current amount of 118 to 88 during this ten-year period.

One of the other strategies is to increase the following mandated programs by 24 percent: HSIP, TAP, CMAQ, Rec Trails, etc. (\$8.3 million). These are popular programs that each District Councilor has a lot of say in. It is the intent to alternate the TAP and CMAQ from year to year. Other funds for these programs will support administrative project changes, project inand recomcreases mended changes.

Additional transportation IIJA categories include Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (\$17.3 million), Public Transportation (\$131 million), and Airports

(\$45.6 million). And other infrastructure items include Broadband (\$100 million), Wildfires (\$5.6 million), Cyber Security (\$12.4 million) and Water (\$418 million).

GACIT public hearing comments brought out the need to expand travel options, improve safety, maintenance of the present system, congestion reduction and enhance system resiliency. In these hearings, it has become clear there is going to be a reduction in state revenue for unrestricted road tolls, Betterment and SB367 funds in the coming years. The TIFIA financing for I-93 will start to take out \$23.4 million a year starting in 2026 for nine years.

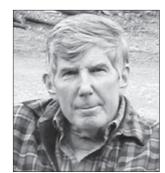
The NH Legislature will be forced to look at future gas tax revenues and how it will support our paving and maintenance programs.

Additionally, the NH Legislature will be looking at policy issues such as: how does the state tax electric vehicles on our roadways, the reduction in gas tax revenue (due to more workers working from home), state workforce issues, material costs, contracted labor, safety, and transit issues.

I will always do my best to advocate for District 1, and I look forward to hearing from you.

> Serving you, Joseph D. Kenney Executive Councilor, District 1 Wakefield

When deer herds "need" thinning, and the most efficient way known



By John Harrigan

COLUMNIST

are spiraling down toward the darkest day of the winter, Dec. 21. On this long-known day---the Winter Solstice---the Earth will be at its utmost tilt away from the sun.

Why did I use "spiraling down," anyway? Probably because of the negative-positive way the date's always been seen. On the one hand. you knew that Earth's orbit would bring the sun's return. On the other, you knew that our end of the Earth---the northern climes---would take another four months to warm up again.

No wonder so many prehistoric people found ways to mark the Solstices. They represented plans, like planting crops, and one of those essentials to life, called hope.

A recent column on the priceless privilege of trespass on private land generated more than the usual mail, and I'll respond in time. But northern New England is truly blessed with this tradition, which is exactly the opposite of what's found in many other states.

In Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, it is assumed that you can set foot on someone else's

land unless posted otherwise. There are many degrees of "No," and divers varying themes, but one way or another they all whittle away at the presumption of invitation.

I thought about all this (again) as the boys, their hunter-orange hats and vests glowing in the gloaming, vanished into the swamp across the back driveway two mornings after Thanksgiving. Their commute to hunt had been down through shop and shed and right out the barn

Never did we post our land, and never have any of our neighbors posted theirs. If I so chose, I liked to say, I could draw a bead on some distant point, throw on a pack, and just go, with nary a tug on my forelock to clergy, gentry, or sheriff.

Every deer season, people new to the idea or bothered by it write letters to their local editors or bring up the subject at the table. What's it all about, and why?

Whether New Hampshire's deer population "needs" to be hunted is a thorny subject, and if you want to get a hefty argument going among even people who know something about the subject, try it. Or you could bring up whether it's better to hang a deer from its head or it hind legs. Or why, the minute you cross into Maine, the hotdogs have to be wicked red.

It's worth noting. perhaps, that the places where road kills are astronomical and people's fruit trees and lawn shrubberies are being gnawed to the nub are where deer might "need" some thinning. In many such places the deer's natural predators have disappeared, housing developments have burgeoned into habitat, and deer have simply adapted to new circumstances.

Nowhere in New Hampshire are deer scarce, nor are their numbers anywhere threatened by hunting, which is carefully monitored by a Fish and Game Department hunters help fund. And it can be (and is) argued that hunters are merely taking their fair share of the pie.

Not for nothing, by the by, are deer known as one of the most adaptable species in the wild kingdom. For second place (maybe first), I nominate the covote. The raccoon and skunk belong in there somewhere too.

It can be argued that hunters' license dollars pay for their own season. But their license dollars, even with all the other licenses and fees added in, do not "pay for Fish and Game." The Department's annual budget is way more than that, and even then it is understaffed and not even sufficiently funded to meet its mandates.

One thing has not changed, however. There is no cheaper, more easily administered, more efficient way to take a slice out of a deer population than by having a hunting season. Birth control? Ye gods, what pie in the sky.

Thoughts on the Solstice remind me that for many people the win-



else---will eventual become liquid again. (Courtesy LPC)

ter is indeed long. This is particularly true for shut-ins and those whose neighbors, friends, and family are far away.

Facebook, email and other social media are just fine for those who are familiar with them, but it's worth noting that many of the elderly are not in the least familiar, or even have access, or even want anything to do with it all.

But one thing is familiar, all right, and works like a champ---the U.S. Mail. A couple of months ago I dropped a note to a

long-lost cousin, on real note paper, with matching envelopes, and she called me right up as if she'd been made Queen for a Day. (Note to the younger set: that's an old TV game show.)

There's a lesson in this. Emails are fine, but even as fast as the give and take can be, even electronic mail can rule your day. As for Facebook, let's double down on that. For the life of me I don't know how peo-

But an honest to gosh real letter, with a stamp,

right there in your postbox, or even better, delivered by an actual mail carrier---now, there's a real treat in an often unfamiliar and frenzied world.

(Kids: think "cheap," "easy," and "grandparents.")

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

Towns

Bristol

Al Blakeley adblakeley0@gmail.com

The Friends of the Minot-Sleeper Library are having a Holiday Cookie Sale instead of their usual Cookie Buffet this season. You can pre-order cookies on the MSL website or pick up order forms at the library. All orders must be submitted to the MSL by Friday, Dec. 3. Cookies will be available for pickup at the MSL on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. MSL phone: 744-3352, Web site: www. minotsleeperlibrary.org.

During the month of December, "Where's Frosty?" a Facebook Contest, will be held by following the Community Events Facebook page. Weekly prizes will be given for your guesses on where Frosty is photographed each week.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, Breakfast with Santa will take place at the Masonic Hall from 8 until 10 a.m.

The TTCC's 67th Annual Santa's Village will be held outside again

this year on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 4 - 7 p.m. A Holiday Stroll will take place at the Newfound Memorial Middle School Parking Lot. The event will be complete with the Village Workshop, Ms. Claus' Cookie Kitchen, North Pole Railroad, a Surprise Scene, and of course... Santa Claus! The stroll will be through the bus lane at NMMS with parking in the parking lot and on North Main Street. Registration will be on North Main Street prior to the bus parking lot. Santa's Village will be held rain or shine, so mark your calendars, dress warm and come out and enjoy this magical holiday tradition!

The Friends of Newfound Drama held the Festival of Trees for the fifth year, displaying 58 trees. The Muzzey Family with the ELF themed 'The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer' tree won fan favorite. Next year the Festival will be held on Nov. 25 and 26.

Dance classes at the TTCC will be offered by the Newfound Dance Company starting in January! The classes

will be held on Saturday mornings from Jan. 8 until Feb. 12. These classes are for children from age groups 3-5, K-grade 2 and grades 3-6. For more information, please contact https://ttccrec. org/youth_programs/ dance/.

New Yoga classes for kids will be offered at the TTCC by the Rooted Yogini starting in January. Classes will be for ages five and up. Ages five to nine will meet on Mondays from 6-7 p.m., ages 10-13 will meet on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m., and ages 13-17 will meet on Fridays from 6-7 p.m. For more information, please contact the TTCC at the address

Kung Fu Lessons for adults and teens will be offered at the TTCC on Wednesday evenings from 6:55-7:40 p.m. For more information on these classes, contact the TTCC at 744-2713 or ttcc@metrocast.net.

Karate Lessons the TTCC are available to most age groups on Wednesday evenings. You can join any time. Ages five and six from 5:15-6 p.m., ages seven to nine from 6:05-6:50 p.m. and ages 10 and up at 6:55-7:40 p.m. Contact the TTCC for more information.

The Minot-Sleeper Library's Giving Tree is now up! The community is invited to find book titles listed on tags hanging on the tree and consider paying for the purchase of one or more. The staff will order the book using those funds and get them on the shelves for all to enjoy.

Ongoing events at the MSL include: Poetry Night, Thursday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m.; Nonfiction Books Group, Thursday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. (a discussion of 'Running with Sherman; the donkey with the heart of a hero" by Christopher McDougal); Classics Book Group on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. - (Virtual) A discussion of 'The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran; The Movie Group on Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m. - (Virtual); Third Monday Book Group on Monday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m., a discussion of the book "Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish.

Recurring Events include: Knot Only Knitters every Monday from 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Tech Help Drop In every Thursday

from 2-5 p.m.; Craft to Go: Literary Hot Chocolate available starting Dec. 1, you can reserve your craft in the catalog; Book Bundle available Dec. 1; Let's Learn About Chanukah with the Jewish Federation of NH on Friday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.; Home School Hang Out: DIY Holiday Cards on Monday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m.; Let's Learn About Christmas With Mrs. Claus on Friday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.; DIY Ugly Sweater Decorating on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.; Winter Holiday Hangout: Pixel Art Pillow on Monday, Dec. 27 at noon (RSVP); Life Size Pac-Man on Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m.; Geography Bee on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. (RSVP); Winter Walk at Kelley Park on Wednesday, Dec 30 at 1

Hebron

Bob Brooks 744-3597 hebronnhnews@live.com

An Old Fashioned **Tree Trimming**

Please join the B-HVS PTCO for an old fashioned tree trimming on Friday, Dec. 3 at 3:30 p.m.

at the Hebron Gazebo. Families and community members are invited to celebrate the season.

On this special afternoon, we gather to hang unique decorations created by the B-HVS student volunteers and enjoy holiday music, delicious hot chocolate and homemade goodies.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Connor at kconnor@sau4.org or 744-6969.

Turkey Trot

My dog and I participated in the 40th Annual Bridgewater Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day; a great time was had by all. If you are looking for something to do next Thanksgiving Day before sitting down and eating your turkey, I highly suggest that you consider joining the many people doing the Trot. Registration is at Newfound Country Store starting in November or online, but it is never too early to mark this event on your calendar.

A6 NEWFOUND LANDING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

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\$165,000

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Town	Address	<i>Type</i>
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Ashland	14 Main St.	Department Store
Ashland	194 River St.	Single-Family Residence
Bridgewater	Whittemore Shores Condo Unit 37 Condominium	
Bristol	333 Lake St.	Single-Family Residence
Bristol	43 Pikes Point Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Campton	219 Lower Beech Hill Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Ellsworth	99 Ellsworth Pond Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Hebron	230 Hobart Hill Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Holderness	89 Lane Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Holderness	25 Tadadump Rd.	Single-Family Residence
Plymouth	101 Boulder Point Dr., Unit B Office Condo	
Plymouth	384 Main St.	Single-Family Residence
Plymouth	453 Mayhew Turnpike	Single-Family Residence
Plymouth	8 Rogers St.	Single-Family Residence
Thornton	30 Maxies Way	Single-Family Residence
Thornton	N/A	N/A
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ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the colagency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com

based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public umn "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www. the warreng roup. com

All-State

FROM PAGE A1

and James O'Connell of Sanborn, midfielders Sam Lapiejko of Coe-Brown, Colby Smith of Bow and Dylan Chambers of Stevens and forwards Nicholas Brill of Lebanon, Hunter Perry of Oyster River and Zach Burgess of Con-Val.

Honorable Mention also went to keepers Miles Lanier of John Stark, Wyatt Beaulieu of Con-Val and Destin Bahara of Manchester West, defenders Nate Pettengill of Milford, Brad Luzcek of Oyster River, Alex Gagnon on Pelham, Stephan St. Laurent of Pembroke and Alex Knight of Coe-Brown, midfielders Gavin Wheeler of Merrimack Valley, Hunter Crea of Hollis-Brookline and Bryson Boice of Con-Val and forward Conor Sullivan of Mil-

For Division III, First Team honors went to defender Chance Bolduc and midfielder Anthony Aguiar, both of Gilford, Second Team went to defender Mitchell Berry of Belmont, midfielders Ben Estrella of Berlin and Max Bartlett of Gilford and forwards Aid-

en Bondaz of Gilford and Ayden Cushing of Winnisquam and Honorable Mention went to keeper Alex Potter of Inter-Lakes, defenders Tyler Lafond of Gilford and George Belville of Newfound, midfielder Ryan Bousquet of Inter-Lakes and forwards Brody Labounty White Mountains, Josh Blouin of Newfound and Cameron Dore of Prospect Mountain.

Also earning Division III First Team were keeper Aidan Burns of Hopkinton, defenders Peyton Marshall of Hopkinton, Ryan Latsha of Campbell and Sam Boulton of Kearsarge, midfielders Evan Haas of Bishop Brady, Eric Coates of Campbell and Quinn Booth of Trinity and forwards Quinn Whitehead of Hopkinton, Nate Shipman of Trinity and Ben Seiler of Mascoma Valley.

Second Team honors also went to keeper Garrett Somero of Conant, defenders Ian Moulton of Mascoma, Cam Harriman of Laconia and Josh Duval of Hopkinton, midfielders Bryce Charron of Hopkinton and Toby MacLeod of Kearsarge and forward Keegan Smith of Bishop Brady.

Also earning Honorable Mention were goalies Samuel Reine of Trinity and Lucas Beane of Laconia, defenders Derrick Dewees of Conant, Derek Bader of Fall Mountain, Jackson Cocozella of Mascenic and Brady Potter of Raymond, midfielders Mason Dutile of Laconia, Vinny Simonelli of St. Thomas, Dugan Brewer Little of Derryfield and Parker Root of Kearsarge and forwards Noah Mertzic of Conant, Dylan Selby of Kearsarge, Connor Donnahy of Campbell and Georgios Pananas Monadnock.

Tom Harvey Conant was named Division III Coach of the

Division IV First Team honors went to keeper Liam Cairns of Gorham, defender Jack Price of Profile, midfielders Nolan York of Gorham and Sammy Sarkis of Woodsville and forwards Cam Tenney-Burt of Gorham and Teagan LeClerc of Gorham. Second Team went to goalie Cam Davidson of Woodsville, defenders Carson Roberge of Gorham, Grady Millen of Littleton and Connor



George Belville of Newfound was named Division III All-State Honorable Mention

Houston of Woodsville, Michael midfielders Hampson of Littleton and Ben Taylor of Woodsville and forward Dylan Colby of Lisbon. Honorable Mention was presented to goaltender Ethan Larson of Moultonborough, ers Michael Maccini of Woodsville, Riley Plante of Profile and John Perry of Lin-Wood, midfielders Brendan Saladino of Gorham and Chris Corliss of Groveton and forwards Pierson Freligh of Profile and Cam Clermont of Lin-Wood.

Also earning First Team honors were defenders Andrew Claus of Sunapee, Jacob Loving of Epping and Levi Campbell of Concord Christian, midfielders Rupert Dalton of Sunapee and Tyler Napoletano of Newmarket and forward Mike Picard of Epping.

Second Team honors also went to defender Dominic Hutchinson of Wilton-Lyndeborough, midfielders Troy Brennan of Wilton-Lyndeborough and Hunter Morse of Sunapee and forwards Sam Kress of Sunapee and Andrew Berthiaume of Newmarket.

Honorable Mention also went to keeper William Barker of Epping,

defenders Caleb Runey of Portsmouth Christian and Noah Pangelinan of Hinsdale, midfielders Maddox Godzyk of Colebrook, Ethan Young of Concord Christian, Asher Graves of Franklin, Liam Ouellette of Mount Royal and Parker Clark of Pittsfield and forward Graham Wilerer of Newmarket.

Kerry McDermott of Epping was named the Division IV Coach of the

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

Broadband

FROM PAGE A1

for construction.

The group's third funding path is the recently-opened USDA Reconnect grant program, which allots significant funds similar in size to the NTIA program. Coates said that if the project secured NTIA funding, the USDA grant would be used for "lastmile" construction and partnerships with internet service providers. However, if the NTIA application fails, the USDA funds will apply to middle-mile construction.

Only \$140,000 of the \$195,000 ARPA funds are being used for engineering and survey work. The Broadband Committee designated a portion of the remaining \$55,000 for a CDBG grant application for \$22,000, which it received earlier this month. Those funds will be used for high-level designs and last-mile cost estimates for all 39 towns, said Coates.

"The gist behind the HLDs (high-level designs) and cost estimates is to give municipalities the tools they need to find the funding and partnerships private needed for final design and construction of the last mile utilizing the Town Hall head-ends as the jumping off points. Municipalities have already received ARPA funds that can fund the construction of these last-mile projects," said Coates.

"This expands the County's ability to provide some assistance to all Grafton County communities for high-level broadband design," noted Grafton County Administrator Andrew Dorsett.

The Broadband Committee anticipates municipal outreach and introducing town officials to the eX2 representatives by January.

Churches

Christian **Science** Society. **Plymouth**

We'd love to have you join us at our Sunday services which are held at 10 a.m. each week at out church on Emerson Street. The services include a Bible lesson sermon, one which is read Christian Science churches all around the world, as well as music and prayer. This week's lesson is "God the Only Cause and Creator" and begins with the verse from Proverbs "The Lord hath made all things for himself." Sunday school is held at the same time. We welcome all children

and young people up to the age of twenty who would like to join us. Students become familiar with the Bible, and learn truths which can help them in their everyday lives. There is also a nursery for little ones.

In the church building we have a Reading Room which is open on Mondays from noon to 2 p.m., and has a wealth of materials which you can read, borrow or buy. We have all books published by the Christian Science Publishing Society, Bibles and reference books. You can read the Christian Science magazines, the Sentinel and the Journal, which have articles by members from around the world with helpful, practical

thoughts on meeting everyday challenges, and accounts of healing experienced through prayer. We welcome you to stop in and browse what's available.

On Wednesday evenings, we have a meeting at 6 p.m. which includes short readings from the Bible and from the Christian Science textbook, and also time for sharing with one another gratitude for healing experiences in our lives, as well as thoughts and insights from our Bible study and prayer. Everyone is very welcome at this meeting.

Both the Sunday and the Wednesday services are available to attend on Zoom and we love to have visitors from near and far. You can visit our

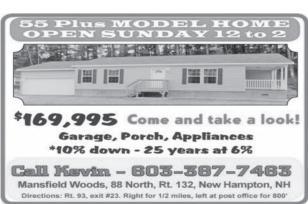
church website www. cs-plymouth-nh.org learn about joining online services.

On www.jsh-online. com there are videos, podcasts and articles, including many for children and teens. week there is a helpful podcast "Listen to God" which tells experiences of being helped in difficult situations by this kind of listening.

On www.christianscience.com you can learn more about Christian Science. It's also possible to link to and read The Bible and the Christian Science textbook "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy.

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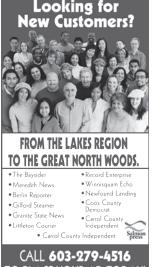
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Our Ashland location is searching for a member of our Lumber & Building Materials Yard Team. The primary responsibility of a Lumberyard Associate is to maintain customer service per company standards, the accurate and efficient loading and unloading of all lumberyard related transactions. In addition, you will be responsible for maintaining the appearance of the yard and racks in an orderly and clean manner. Forklift experience and heavy lifting is required. Weekend hours required on a rotating basis.

You may apply in person or download an application from our website. All applications should be submitted to:

> Dan Uhlman, General Manager 20 West Street, Ashland, NH 03217 or you may email to duhlman@belletetes.com.

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Holiday Gift Guide



The benefits of in person holiday shopping

The 2020 holiday season was unlike any other. The COVID-19 pandemic was still affecting daily life across the globe over the final months of 2020, prompting many families and individuals to alter holiday traditions they'd embraced for decades. That included how people shop. Many people avoided in person holiday shopping in 2020. However, the successful rollout of various COVID-19 vaccines has made in person shopping safe again. That's good news for local businesses and great news for shoppers, who may have forgotten just how much they can benefit from shopping in person.

• In person shopping is convenient. Much is made of the convenience of online shopping. And it's undeniable that the ability to shop at all hours of the day and night is convenient. However, in

person shopping, especially when shopping for others, is much more convenient than shoppers may realize. When shopping in person, shoppers can get a feel for an item, size it up and even inspect its quality prior to purchasing it. That can save shoppers from that disappointing feeling of receiving an item in the mail only to realize it's poorly made or oddly sized and therefore unlikely to fit its eventual recipient.

 In person shopping isn't all about shipping. Shipping speed is a significant factor for online shoppers, and that may affect just which gift they give come the holiday season. According to a Dotcom report titled "How Fast Delivery and Quality Packaging Drives Customer Loyalty," 87 percent of shoppers surveyed indicated shipping was a key factor when

deciding whether to shop with an e-commerce brand again. That's an important consideration, as shoppers may be more inclined to buy an item from a retailer simply because of their shipping speed capabilities and not because of the quality of the item and whether or not it's what they want to give to their loved one. Shopping in person removes shipping from the equation, ensuring gift givers will give a gift they truly want to give and not just the one that will arrive on time.

 In person shopping allows for more accessible browsing. Within minutes of entering a store and walking around, shoppers may see a handful of gifts that will ultimately be great for various people on their lists, even if they had no idea what to get prior to entering. That ability to browse is more



difficult when shopping online, especially when buying from online retailers with massive inventories of a range of products. Such sites often require visitors to pick a category to streamline their searches. That's not always easy or enjoyable for shoppers who cherish

the opportunity to uncover hidden gems or more unique gifts that aren't available all over the internet.

· In person shopping gets shoppers out of the house. Since the onset of the pandemic, people have spent more time than ever within the confines of their homes. The 2021 holiday shopping season provides a great opportunity to get out of the house and disconnect from devices. Shoppers can even do so alongside friends and family members they weren't able to see last holiday season.

A guide to picking the perfect fresh Christmas tree



Come the holiday season, perhaps no tradition evokes the warm and fuzzy "feels" more than a family outing to pick a Christmas tree. Whether it's a trek to a live Christmas tree farm or a short drive to the nearest precut tree lot, the process of selecting a tree that will serve as the crown jewel of the entire season is a

great way to make lasting memories.

Selecting a tree is a yearly ritual and each person has his or her set of criteria for what makes the ideal Christmas tree. These tips can help families find the right tree.

Choose your species Do some homework on the type of tree you want prior to buying the tree. Balsam fir and fraser fir are popular Christmas tree varieties, but there are many others, such as noble fir and Norway spruce. Balsams are known for having the most fragrant smell, but frasers tend to keep their needles the longest. For those who prefer a douglas fir, keep in mind that they sometimes drop their needles prematurely due to foliar diseases like needle-cast fungus.

Space for ornaments In addition to aroma and needle longevity, look for trees that have a desirable shape and allow for adequate space between branches, advis-

es the home and garden resource The Spruce. Trees groomed to be lush and full will look beautiful unadorned, but once ornaments are added, full branches may cause those ornaments to hang low or even fall off. Trees with sparse branches allow for ornaments to hang straight.

Measure your space

Trees in the field or smaller than they do through the tree. when brought into the living room. Don't make the mistake of selecting a tree that is too large for your home. The agricultural firm Ragan & Masey says to measure the room from floor to ceiling and subtract the height of the tree stand and tree topper. It's equally important to measure the width of the area where the tree will stand and allow for ample space for foot traffic around the tree.

Perform a needle check

Every tree will drop some needles, and most

evergreens hold their foliage. Modest needle loss is not an indicator of a poor tree. However, Decker's Nursery in Greenlawn, NY says if 50 percent of the needles are lost when you swipe vour hand down three to five different branches around the tree, the tree likely is not a good choice. In addition, avoid a tree that has glaring defects in the trunk as in a lot may look much it can impede water flow

Heavier is better

A heavy pre-cut tree means it is full of water and has been cut more recently. A healthy, fresh tree is going to require an effort to lift. Older, dried out trees will not be heavy.

Upon arriving home, make a fresh cut off the tree trunk and get it in water as soon as possible — even if that's a bucket until the tree stand can be set up.



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Fall ball



A group of 17 dedicated, enthusiastic first-fourth grade girls from the Laconia area, all new to the sport of lacrosse, have been practicing this fall to hit the ground running for the spring season. Pictured are (I to r, back to front), Emily Cardinal, Mackenzie Mondok, Aubrey Rushton, Ashleigh Sopinsky, Adrianna Genon, Patience Fleming, Larenne Houston, Addison Smith, Erin Piper, Abigain Rushton, Piper Roberts and Melanie Smith. The non-profit Laconia Lacrosse Club's first-fourth grade girls' teams are full, but spaces are available on the boys' teams, and fifth-eighth grade girls' teams for the spring. Please visit the club's web site for more information about winter clinics and registration.

COURTESY PHOTO



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Trees on display

The Newfound Area Drama group was pleased to present their fifth annual Festival of Trees back to the Old Town Hall in Bristol last weekend, with a record number of 58 trees on display. The public not only had the chance to admire the creativity of local businesses and residents but were able to purchase tickets for a chance at taking one of them home for their own holiday celebration. Each year, proceeds from the raffle benefit local schools and community groups for their theatrical performances. After examining all the beautiful trees and the adornments and gifts they presented, people could drop their tickets into bins in front of the trees they would like to win then vote for their favorite tree of them all. Shown in the photo is the "Elf Tree," created by the Muzzey Family who not only depicted all elements of the movie through the decorations and gift items, but cleverly designed their entry to look like an elf. too.

Elizabeth Croxon named to Dean's List at Stonehill College

EASTON, Mass. — Elizabeth Croxon, of Bristol, a member of the Class of 2022, has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the College engages over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of



