

Local Girl Scouts host Easter dinner for Mae's Place residents and staff

BY DONNA RHODES
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NEW HAMPTON — Members of Girl Scout Troop 11161 hosted a community egg hunt to benefit the New Hampton Fire Department on April 8, and last weekend, they backed up their love for the Newfound Region with a special Easter dinner for nine residents and the staff of Mae's Place Assisted Living Facility in Bristol.

Held at the New Hampton Community Church, the event included white linens on each of the intimate round tables, specially made centerpieces, and placemats created by the troop's Daisy Scout partners. The menu



Residents and staff of Mae's Place in Bristol posed with the Easter Bunny at the end of an Easter dinner presented to them by the Daisy and Girl Scouts of Troop 11161 in New Hampton.

go above and beyond Easter Bunny hopped in to say hello as well and cameras captured all

the fun between the girls and their new friends.

As a special thank you, one resident even presented beautiful shellacked jigsaw puzzles to many of the girls he has come to know.

Marsha Elder, the owner of Mae's Place, acknowledged that the girls have come to mean a lot to everyone at her assisted living residence.

"I'm amazed. They do such a great job and the folks always look forward to seeing them," she said.

As the bunny made his way on his appointment-SEE **EASTER DINNER**, PAGE A12

Easter egg hunt has things hopping at Tapply Thompson Community Center

BY DONNA RHODES
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BRISTOL — Things were hopping last Saturday when the annual Tapply-Thompson Community Center's Easter Egg Hunt got underway, as once again, hundreds of children and their families from all over the Newfound Region took part in the spring festivities.

Organizing the day's fun were the staff of TTCC, local Girl Scouts, members of the TTCC Teen Council and other local volunteers.

As children awaited a chance to gather eggs from the hunt, they were entertained with many other events. There was face painting by Girl Scout Troop 51661 of Bristol, a candy-guessing contest, and a coloring contest.

Another popular destination was the incredible balloon art from the NH Balloon Man. Some children opted for his pretty flowers and friendly dinosaurs, while others held tight to their spooky scorpions and



DONNA RHODES
(Left) Six-year-old Mariah of Bristol donned a pretty dress and some bunny ears for the Tapply-Thompson Community Center's Easter Egg Hunt last weekend.

spiders, all of which were specially made for each of them.

There was also the opportunity to have photos taken with the Easter Bunny himself, a venue that drew another large crowd as people worked their way through the many activities for the day.

Eventually, everyone was called up by age groups for the egg hunt on the upper level of the community center. With 15 prizes up for grabs in each phase of the hunt, there was also a Grand Prize winner for the child who

SEE **EGG HUNT**, PAGE A12

NHCS to receive playground funding if money is available

BY THOMAS P. CALDWELL
Contributing Writer

BRISTOL — A tax-capped budget did not allow the funding of new playground equipment at the New Hampton Community School, but now the PTO will receive as much as \$15,000 from the Newfound Area School District toward the cost of the equipment, provided there is enough money in the unreserved fund balance at the end of the year.

The PTO has been raising money for the playground, and it approached the school board late in the budget season to seek public funding to complete the equipment purchase. At that time, the board already was facing a budget at the upper

level of the amount allowed under the district's tax cap, and members turned down the request.

Voters at annual meeting increased the proposed budget by \$800,000, but that money was intended to address the leaking roof at the high school. However, through careful budgetary oversight, the school district typically comes in under budget by year's end, and those undesignated funds then become available for other projects or are returned to the towns to reduce taxation.

Sue Cheney of Alexandria offered the motion to match the PTO's fundraising with as much as \$15,000, with the mon-SEE **PLAYGROUND**, PAGE A10

"Minute to Win It" event puts mother-son teams to the test

BY DONNA RHODES
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BRISTOL — While it was touted as "A Minute to Win It," it actually took some time for mothers and sons to work their way through a number of fun, minute-long challenges at the Tapply-Thompson Community Center last Friday night.

Each year, fathers and their daughters come to the community center for an elegant night filled with corsages and dance at the community center, but the boys and their moms have their special night, too, to get "down and dirty" together and that's what Minute to Win It was all about.

The evening started



Fourteen teams that took part in the Mother and Son "Minute to Win It" game night at Tapply-Thompson Community Center gathered for a highly spirited group photo last Friday night.

with each mother and son working together to create a name and poster for their team. They then spent a little time mingling with their challengers before the competition got underway.

Throughout each round of play, with contests lasting only a minute each, they were all laughing as they tried to do things such as eat an Oreo cookie that was balanced on their forehead, create Skittles rainbows, or go "ice fishing" with their mouths only for Swedish fish candy swimming in a mound of chilled whipped cream.

Along the way each team racked up points toward the championship.

"It's a little messy," laughed eight-year-old Jace's mom Sonia as

SEE **MINUTE**, PAGE A10

Alexandria selectmen face challenges

BY THOMAS P. CALDWELL
Contributing Writer

ALEXANDRIA — Questions about the legality of the town’s storm-delayed elections were of little concern as the newest selectman, Chet Caron, joined other members of the Alexandria Board of Selectmen on April 4 to discuss more pressing matters — like the defeat of a proposed building permit ordinance.

New Hampshire House Speaker Shawn Jasper has argued that towns such as Alexandria had acted illegally when, in response to a winter storm, they rescheduled their elections from the constitutionally designated second Tuesday in March. Jasper said those towns could face lawsuits by disenfranchised voters, and he proposed legislation to allow those towns to ratify their election results through a special meeting on May 23 — a measure that failed on a tie vote later in the week.

Chair George Tuthill spoke for the other Alexandria selectmen in saying the election-day issue should be left to the courts to settle, rather than having towns hold special meetings. Unless the election is declared invalid, he said, Caron has a right to sit on the board.

What the selectmen cannot do, they agreed, is to approve a building permit application they had been asked to sign. Voters had defeated an article on the town meeting ballot that would have adopted a new building permit ordinance to replace the old ordinance, from 1979, that had been declared invalid. As a result, “We have no building permit,” Tuthill stated.

Road Agent Jeffrey Cantara spoke of the importance of having a building permit process to ensure the town is collecting all its revenue. He said one property owner had built a home off Borough Road in Alexandria 11 years ago, but the town was unaware the house was in Alexandria. Officials here thought it was in Hill and Hill officials thought it was in Alexandria. It was not until the owner went to register a boat in Hill that the misunderstanding was discovered. Cantara said a town can go back only seven years in assessing a property, so four of the years that homeowner lived there were property tax-free.

Caron noted that the town still has an ordinance requiring driveway permits, which should alert the assessors to new construction; but, without a building

permit, the town has no control over potential health and safety issues — matters the proposed ordinance would have addressed.

Selectmen were able to act on some of the measures that did pass at town meeting, applying with Tax Exempt Leasing Corp. for the \$107,000 in financing to purchase 12 new pieces of self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire department and with Ford Credit for the \$62,000 lease of a GVW truck for the highway department. They also entered into a contract for the replacement of the Knowles Hill Road bridge.

There was some back-and-forth discussion with the audience on the bridge project, continuing with some of the contentions brought up at town meeting about the building of a temporary bridge and the need to straighten the bridge approach. Cantara said the town would have to purchase land and complete a more substantive dredge-and-fill permit from the state to fully straighten the bridge, and that would cost more than the town could afford. He said he has negotiated with the abutters to allow the

town to access a corner of their property to straighten the bridge enough that emergency vehicles and travelers can more safely cross it when it is completed.

Selectmen approved a new contract with an independent auditor for the town’s financial records, and approved two intents to excavate. They also appointed fire wardens and reappointed Ernie Lamos to the Alexandria Conservation Commission.

In addressing four requests for abatements, the selectmen went along with the assessor’s recommendations and denied each one. Two were from residents who were dissatisfied with their assessments, and the others were from Eversource Energy and Northern New England Telephone Operations, companies that have been bringing legal challenges to municipal tax assessment methods and are pressing the New Hampshire Legislature to pass a bill establishing the Department of Revenue Administration’s methodology as the sole means of assessment.

In his letter to the town, assessor Gary Roberge of Avitar Associates of New England, Inc., said, “I do not rely

on DRA’s opinion of value for many reasons. The most glaring reason why I recommend you do not accept the DRA opinion of value is that it does not report an opinion of market value, but rather an opinion of regulated value while the law clearly requires an estimate of fair market value. Just as important, it does not assess the property physically located in the town, but rather allocates a value to the town with no regard to the actual property or the age and condition of that property in town.”

Roberge said the DRA also adjusts for the negative impact of regulated income while ignoring the benefits of a guaranteed rate of return on the investment and the elimination of competitors.

“Let the courts decide,” said Tuthill.

Selectmen approved a resident’s application to expand the amount of land in current use and another applicant’s forest stewardship plan.

In other business, Tuthill agreed to serve as the selectmen’s representative to the budget committee, and Caron agreed to serve as the liaison to the planning board.

Selectmen also dis-

cussed the District 9 representative’s seat that has been empty since Jeff Shackett, R-Bridgewater, resigned in February. Referring to a letter from Vincent Paul Miglione of Bridgewater, who urged selectmen not to ask for a special election because of the cost, the Alexandria board agreed. They estimated it would cost \$3,000 to hold a special election in an uncontested race, and \$6,000 if there also had to be a party primary. By the time the election is over, the 2017 legislative session would essentially be finished. The selectmen agreed the benefits of holding a special election would not be enough to justify the expense, especially since District 9 still has its second representative, Robert Hull, R-Grafton.

“It doesn’t change the balance of power, with the majority of those in Concord being Republicans,” Tuthill said. “I don’t see a compelling reason to hold a special election.”

Selectmen also had a brief discussion about the impact of Indeck Energy’s decision to shut down the Alexandria biomass plant at the end of the month. While they were not sure of the tax impact of the shutdown,

selectmen said it could be a substantial hit on the town’s revenues. While the plant in South Alexandria would still generate tax revenue, it would be lower than an operating plant would provide.

Indeck spokesman Rich Killion said the company hopes to reopen the plant in the fall, but that will depend upon the marketplace.

What might offset that revenue loss, Tuthill said, is National Grid’s proposal to bring Canadian hydropower through the existing power corridor that passes through Alexandria. The 170-mile power line, known as the Granite State Power Link, would carry 1,200 megawatts of power to Massachusetts. The proposal is competing with Eversource’s Northern Pass project, which involves 192 miles of power lines, to meet the demand identified in Massachusetts’ comprehensive energy bill.

Tuthill said National Grid would need to upgrade the existing line for the project, which could begin transmitting power in 2022. That is one year before the 99-year lease of the right of way expires, so that would be up for renegotiation at the same time.

Newfound Regional High School honor roll

BRISTOL — Newfound Regional High School has released its honor roll for the third term of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Grade 12

High Honors: Samantha Akerman, Maddisyn DeCormier, Cierra Greene, Molly Schilling, Reece Sharps

Honors: Tylor Austin, Rachel Bixby, Crystal Conkey, Nicholas Crosby, Gretchen Dancewicz-Helmers, Richard DeLuca, Nathan Desrochers, Paige Dostie, Megan Gebhardt, Ivy Guyotte, Emilee Haselton, Amanda Johnston, Emily Judkins, Lisa Kato, Devon Kraemer-Roberts, Brooke

LaBraney, Suez Lai, Phalen Leclerc, Toni Memmolo, Mackenzie Morton-Kevlin, Rebekah Norton, Leo Ntourtourekas, Grace Page, Abriale Pratt, Riley Provencher, Alyssa Shaw, Rebecca Simison, Emily Wolters

Grade 11

High Honors: Devon Anderson, Christopher Costigan, Victoria Roman

Honors: Montana Bassett, Taylor Bourbeau, Shanley Camara, Elizabeth Croxon, Quentin Dancewicz Helmerson, Michael Doan, Jessica Gosson, Emma Lagueux, Bradley MacDonald, Kylee MacDonald, Zachary Patten, Makayla

Pixley, Ethan Pruett, Mikayla Royea, James Shokal, Madison Timmins, Emma Woodbury

Grade 10

High Honors: Jillian Buchanan, Hannah Eastman, Cole Frye, Madison Gould, Matthew Libby, Logan Rouille, Cameron Smith, Faith Smith, Trinity Taylor

Honors: Jonathan Blake, Lilyana Cloutier, Cian Connor, Mackenzie Davis, Kathryn Drapeau, Elliot Economides, Nicholas Green, Spencer Lacasse, Rachel Manita, Deanna Martin, Madison Martin, Josiah Page, Madison Paige, Kimberly Payne, Jacob Pfister, Aryn Prescott, Julia Rose, Leslie Shat-

tuck, Megan Stafford, Cheyenne Weisberg, Reid Wilkins

Grade 9

High Honors: Leah Bunnell, Evelyn Cutting, Isaiah Dokus, Maura Geldermann, Ashlynn Hatch, Michael Hislop, Ezekial Richardson, Anna Watson

Honors: Jade Batch-

elder, Lillian Colby, Carter Davis, Danielle Duclos, Duncan Farmer, Madison Hanley, Brandyn Ly, Caroline Marchand, Kassandra McClay, Stephanie Norton, Ethan Pena, Sophia Pettit, Riley Pierce, Alexis Raimondi, Valentina Rosendahl, Madison Royea, Keegan Sanborn, Wil Taylor

Gospel singer Don Smith to perform at Bristol Baptist Church

BRISTOL — Bristol Baptist Church, located at 30 Summer St. in Bristol, will be hosting Don Smith, a Country Gospel singer, on Sun-

day , April 23 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

For more information, please call 744-3885.

Minot-Sleeper Library to host program on “Comics in World History and Culture”

BRISTOL — The Minot-Sleeper Library will be hosting a presentation on "Comics in World History and Culture" on April 20 at 7 p.m. This free event will be presented by Marek Bennett of the New Hampshire Humanities, and refreshments will be generously provided by the Friends of the

Minot-Sleeper Library. This program is "A whirlwind look at comics around the world and throughout human history, through the lens of multicultural education."

An experienced teacher and cartoonist, Marek Bennett (M.Ed.) touches on comics from ancient and medieval US, European, Mayan and Japanese history, including ways this rich heritage can speak to and inform modern readers, and inspire comics artists and fans of all ages. Marek holds a B.A. degrees in Mathematics and Music, and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (K-8), and is a rostered teaching artist with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

SEE COMICS, PAGE A10

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Sat. - Thurs.: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 PM

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Bridgewater Fire/EMS responds to lawnmower accident

BY DONNA RHODES
drhodes@salmonpress.news

BRIDGEWATER — On Friday, April 14, Bridgewater Fire and EMS were called upon to rescue a woman who had inadvertently gone over a steep embankment while driving a riding lawnmower.

The accident occurred at 8:05 p.m. near a residence located at 859 River Rd. in Bridgewater. Upon arrival on the scene, crews found the victim and the overturned equipment approximately 150-feet down the banking.

Chief Donald Atwood said a Technical Rescue Team and additional manpower from Plymouth and Ashland



A Technical Response team was called upon to help local fire departments rescue a woman in Bridgewater last weekend after her riding lawn mower went over a 150-ft. embankment.

fire departments were immediately requested to respond to provide assistance with the res-

cue. Working together the crews managed to extricate her from the wreckage in about an hour.

Atwood reported that due to the extent of her injuries, the DHART helicopter was also asked to respond to the incident so the woman could be airlifted to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon for medical attention. In an attempt to help her before First Responders arrived, her husband sustained minor injuries as well, but the crews on scene did not transport him to the hospital.

Double feature in Danbury

DANBURY — It's a two for one event on Saturday, April 29 when the United Church of Danbury and the Blazing Star Grange combine an evening of Dutch Auction fun with a feast of chicken pie. Two events on one night along with the fact that it's a repeat performance for both events must mean that two is the magic number. The chicken pie menu served with vegetable, rolls, beverage and dessert has become so popular that

the grange now serves chicken pie twice a year. Tickets are \$9/adults with meals available for eating in or taking out.

Meanwhile, the members of the United Church and the community love Dutch Auctions so much that it seemed like this evening of fun and comradery should be had in Danbury more than just the once at Grange Fair. The church has gathered some great prizes and also have a quilt to raffle. While the sup-

per is served from 5-6:30 p.m., Dutch auction tickets will go on sale at 4:30 p.m. with the drawing of the lucky tickets following the close of the supper. Winners do not need to be present to win. Combining organization events and making strong community connections is just one of the great parts of living in a small town. Attend Danbury's dynamic duel events at the Blazing Star Grange hall, 15 North Rd. in Danbury.

Spring is coming...Imagine That!

BRISTOL — Spring really will get here, and we're getting ready to celebrate. On May 4 at 7 p.m., the Friends of Minot-Sleeper Library will sponsor an evening of fashion and fun. All are invited to this "ladies' evening" at the library.

Nancy Spears, owner

of "Imagine," the new women's specialty shop in Bristol, will entertain and educate the audience on the latest trends in fashion with an eye toward smartening up our "already in the closet" wardrobes. Her associate, Michelle Sistek, who among other things

is an expert on tying and draping scarves, will add her expertise to the effort.

As you would expect from a Friends function, the décor will be festive with punch and pastries being served throughout the evening.

There is no fee for this party, but you are asked to reserve a spot by calling the library (744-3352) before April 28. Space is limited, so call soon.

School Vacation Week at Minot-Sleeper Library

BRISTOL — The Minot-Sleeper Library invites all kids to a Star Wars-themed April Vacation Week, from Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28. Fun, free activities include:

"Star Wars"-themed Lego Drop-In on Monday, April 24 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 25 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome!

"Star Wars"-themed Drop-In Craft with a snack provided on Wednesday, April 26 from 3-5 p.m.

"Star Wars" Party on Thursday, April 27 at 3:30 p.m. Join us for a story, games, and a sweet treat! Costumes are encouraged.

"Star Wars" Storytime on Friday, April 28 at 10:30 a.m. Our all-ages storytime is taken over by "Star Wars!" Older siblings are welcome to join.

A Movie Matinee: "Star Wars: Rogue One" on Friday, April 28 at 3:30 p.m. Popcorn will be served!

No RSVP is needed and all activities are free of charge, thanks to the generous contributions

from the Friends of the Minot-Sleeper Library. For more information, call the library at 744-3352 or email childrens@townofbristolnh.org. The Minot-Sleeper Library is located at 35 Pleasant St., Bristol, NH 03222.

PBVRC spaghetti dinners return Friday night

ASHLAND — We're back! The first Pemi-Baker Valley Republican Committee's All-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner of 2017 will be held on

Friday, April 21 at the American Legion Hall, 37 Main St., Ashland. You can join us in everybody's favorite meal, spaghetti, meatballs, Ital-

ian sausage, salad, garlic bread, beverages, and dessert.

This the ninth year that the PBVRC has hosted these dinners,

frequently with special guest speakers. Our experienced members work hard to provide a meal to come back for, with many guests often journeying from as far away as Littleton and Lebanon. Here they get to know our local folks and enjoy dinner with them. Reservations are not required.

How much does it cost? Tickets are \$10 at the door for adults, \$5 for children five to 12 years, and four and under are free, with a special family price of \$25. Non-perishable items or cash donations for the Plymouth Food pantry are encouraged.

For more information, call Cindy at 536-3880 or cindy@hdatech.com.



COURTESY

Students bring their pennies to fund new school playground

New Hampton Community School students Aubrey-Lynn Sirles and Bailee Burke bring their donations and crazy hairdos to school for Crazy Hair & Hat day. The monthly "Pennies for Our Playground" event, hosted by the NHCS Parent Teacher Organization, features a fun activity for students in exchange for making a donation towards the new playground. The PTO has been raising money to replace the school's deteriorated play structure and is \$9,000 from its \$50,000 goal.

Local Alzheimer's/dementia program participants learn ancient art of Taiko

The "Day Away" Program is a Social Day Care Program developed to allow a loved one diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related dementia a day for themselves and provide their caregiver a day of rest. Studies have shown that music therapy helps people who suffer with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia both cognitively and in movement. At Day Away, a fun part of the day at the weekly program is the Sing Along with participants and volunteers. Recently Sensei Stuart Paton of the Burlington Taiko Group of Burlington, Vt. shared his talents in the ancient art of Taiko (Japanese Drumming). Sensei Paton brought with him various sized drums, and under his tutelage, taught the new artists a short course in this performing art. There are currently openings at Day Away for qualified participants in the Lakes Region. For more information contact Christine Santom at 786-2283



or via email at mcost@princeton-ma.us. Visit our Web site at www.respiteforcaregiverdayaway.wordpress.com. Shown in the photo are participants and volunteers on Taiko drums.



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Local police departments taking back unwanted prescription drugs April 29

BY DEB NARO
Contributor

On Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., CADY and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 13th opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to Alexandria, Ashland, Bristol, Lincoln, New Hampton, Plymouth, Thornton, and Waterville Valley Police Departments. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last April, Americans turned in 447 tons (over 893,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 11 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds—about 3,200 tons—of pills. In October, 2016, the last Take Back Event, 56.3 pounds were turned in for the Central Region sites, and a total of 8,088.3 lbs in the State of New Hampshire.

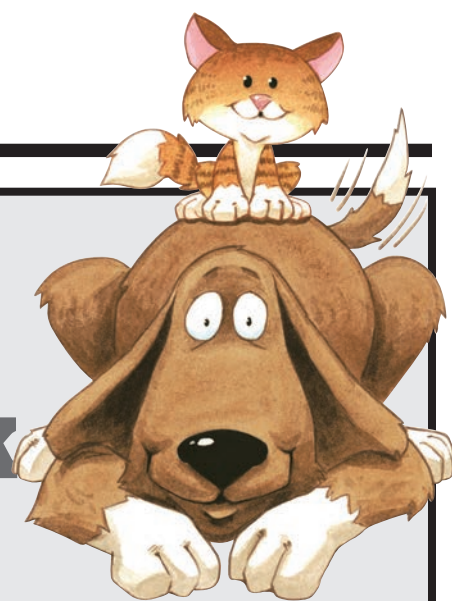
This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public

health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Substance abuse prevention requires community action and our collective commitment will help keep our children safe from the harms of substance abuse. Thank you for being part of the solution by helping to limit illicit access by decreasing the supply of unused prescription medications in the home!

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 29 Take Back Day event, go to <https://www.dea-diversion.usdoj.gov/> or www.cadyinc.org. You can also contact the CADY office at 536-9793.

PET of the Week Sprinkles



Sprinkles is as sweet as the confection she is named after.

She was rescued off the streets of Belmont

while we were all coping with the winter that just wouldn't leave.

This lovely little cat was starving and

emaciated, bedraggled, barely alive. Later we diagnosed Sprinkles with feline diabetes. In the short term we are

treating her condition with a specially formulated diet. She's doing so much better already.

We'd like to place her in a foster home, a less stressful option for this adorable long haired tabby girl, giving us time to regulate her system.

Could you offer your heart and home for perhaps the most affectionate, gentle cat we have who surely deserves a second chance? She will repay your kindness with affection and purrs a plenty!

Check www.nnhumane.org for more details.

Strategies for Living

BY LARRY SCOTT

In an effort to start a new church, I was canvassing door to door in my neighborhood inviting anyone who would talk to me to visit us and at least see what we were all about.

A well-dressed gentleman answered the door and it was evident he was about to leave for work. When I stated why I was there, he said, "To be honest, Mr. Scott, I don't need God. I have a lovely home, a good job, a fine family. What do I need God for?"

Somewhat taken aback, I thought a moment and then responded.

"Mr.," I said, "I submit that within 50 years you are going to change your tune!"

"Fifty years?" he replied. "I won't be here then."

As I turned, I said,

"Precisely!" and walked away.

He wasn't being unkind; he was just being honest.

And I surely understand where he was coming from. Unless one takes the time to read and give thought to Jesus Christ, His world view, His philosophy of life, and the message He preached, it will be difficult to think in terms of God and eternity with any degree of certainty. The easy way out, of course, is to give God no thought at all. To be free of all constraints, able to do what we want, when we want, we are proud to say without apology, "I did it my way!" But that doesn't alter the truth; ignoring reality changes nothing.

And, secondly, belief in God and submission to His authority is too confining to many. To

discover there is a God, and to surrender to His will really cramps our style! The convenient way out, again, is simply to ignore Him.

Atheist Philosopher Thomas Nagel, in his book, *The Last Word* (as quoted by Timothy Keller in *Preaching*, p. 82), is honest enough to admit, "It isn't that I don't believe in God and naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that."

And that, I believe, is the real issue here. Whatever our world view, whatever our religious convictions, whatever our life-style, it is so tempting to opt out for a belief system that leaves us free to do our own thing. Grant the point. Surrendering

our freedom, even to God, is not to be taken lightly.

The kicker here, however, is that not a one of us is truly free. Writing in *Out of the Saltshaker*, Rebecca Pippert notes, "Whatever controls us is our god – even if we hate it. ... We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our life. ... Jesus always preserves our freedom. ... [He] will not control us in the wrong way. ... Jesus will accept our faith, but he will never accept our controls. ... He knows he is the only one in the universe who can control us without destroying us (pages 52, 53, 54). Genuine freedom, obviously within limits, is still an option for all.

You want to talk about it? I would be honored, so hit me up at rlarryscott@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

NHCS PTO thanks voters for support of town donation

To the Editor:

On behalf of the New Hampton Community School Parent Teacher Organization (NHCS PTO), I wish to sincerely thank the New Hampton community for supporting our request for a one-time donation to go towards a new playground at the elementary school. The donation helps put us closer to our \$50,000 goal to replace the existing play structure, which, due to cracked components, rusty metal, and chipped paint, is no longer a safe and inviting play space for students. As the only playground in the town of New Hampton, the proposed, new playground will provide improved accessibility and encourage play and increased physical activity among students and New Hampton children.

The NHCS PTO is continuing its fundraising ef-

forts to meet the goal by June 15 and encourages individuals and businesses who would like to support this project to do so. Tax deductible contributions (check payable to NHCS PTO) can be sent directly to the New Hampton Community School at 191 Main St., New Hampton, NH 03256.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the town officials and employees, as well as community members who did such an outstanding job on a very challenging Election Day. We are grateful to those who braved the weather to get to the polls and appreciate all the support and words of encouragement we've received from community members.

Nora Foster
New Hampton

Our citizens deserve representation

To the Editor:

Do you live in Ashland, Alexandria, Bristol, Bridgewater, or Grafton? If so, Jeff Shackett's resignation from the New Hampshire Legislature (less than a month after being sworn in) has left you under-represented in Concord. With many important issues coming up in this term—Northern Pass, to name just one—that isn't something you should accept.

The Plymouth Area Democrats understand that the affected towns may be hesitant to incur the cost associated with a special election, but we believe that the price of having a diminished voice in the Legisla-

ture outweighs that cost. No matter the party of the candidate who wins the election, our citizens deserve representation.

Call your selectboard members and let them know you want a special election to replace Jeff Shackett. It's your right to be represented!

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Newfound Landing

Proudly serving Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Danbury, Groton, Hebron, Hill, New Hampton and the surrounding communities.

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Drought, fire risk and ravens, and on to Northern Pass woes

At the end of last week, the newspapers, radio and TV were full of warnings about the continuing drought and forest fire danger.

“Forest fire” can mean anything from a grass fire to a brush fire to a full-fledged event involving actual trees. New Hampshire has had precious few of the latter in recent decades, thanks to better fire suppression and communications.

The news media did deign to mention that the drought and fire danger alert involved all of New Hampshire except the North Country, without explaining just where the North Country actually is.

In such cases, we defer to former Governor and White House aid Sherman Adams, who defined the North Country as those lands to the north of the great notches.

+++++

Snow-melt reveals, on many people’s lawns, the sure evidence of moles, in the form of networks of pushed-up dirt tunnels.

These sometimes look like entire villages, with intersections and side-streets. These little guys were busy down there all winter, while you and I were still thinking about the potential for more snow and diminishing piles of firewood.

+++++

Among guests at my

NORTH COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

By JOHN HARRIGAN



bird feeders toward the end of March were a couple of Canada jays. I’m always happy to see these big, puffy birds, associated with high-country regions here and boreal forests on up to the sub-Arctic.

If offered a piece of meat or other treat from the fingers, which they will often take, they haul it off to the nearest tree to stand on a branch and hold it with their feet so they can tear it apart, all the while keeping an eye out for the next possibility.

+++++

While moving vehicles and equipment around one day last week, I heard a familiar “gurgle-squawk,” and scanned the sky for ravens, and sure enough, there they were, four of them squawking and gurgling their way southward to other high-country places.

I love to see and watch these big, scruffy birds, a bit larger than a crow but with a distinctly different language. They are among the few creatures on earth that know how to play, a skyward treat to see.

+++++

Several years ago, while speaking brief-



A Canada jay, on the outstretched hand of ATV trail coordinator Harry Brown, just after taking a tidbit in balmier times near the summit of 3,490-foot Dixville Peak.



Mole tunnels revealed by melting snow can reveal some crazy-quilt patterns, but one assumes that the mole knew where it was going.

ly to an anti-Northern Pass crowd, I said that right of way clearance was the sleeping giant in the entire scenario.

Now, more than seven years after the battle began, adjacent residents and homeowners with views are realizing that Northern Pass would often

involve use of the entire right-of-way width, not just the strip down the middle that utilities have previously used.

In many cases this clearing would come right up to people’s back yards. And, predictably, people from Plymouth to Deerfield

are up in arms, to which we can only say “Welcome aboard.”

(An anti-Northern Pass event, “Hands Around the State House,” is set for Sunday, April 23. Beginning at noon. Details can be found on Protect the Granite State’s Facebook page.)

(This column runs in papers covering two-thirds of New Hampshire and parts of Maine and Vermont. Letters should include town and telephone numbers in case of questions. Write to campguyhoo-ligan@gmail.com or Box 39, Colebrook, NH 03576.)

Obituaries

Trudy Mae Powers, 68

MEREDITH — Trudy May Powers, age 68, of Bristol passed away Thursday evening, April 13 at The Retreat at Golden View in Meredith, surrounded by her family.

A longtime resident of New Hampton, born Aug. 31, 1948, to Donald Merton Mudgett and Thelma Marion Brown, she taught English to thousands of kids in the region over a 38-year career in the Inter-Lakes School District in Meredith. She loved teaching (even the eighth graders), family trips to the ocean, reading while watching her birds, gardening, doting on her grandchildren and driving her car with the top down - even in winter.

Beloved wife of Joel



Powers of New Hampton for 45 years, she will be missed by her children, Whitney Stinson of Meredith and JP Powers of Charlestown, Mass., and her loving grandchildren, Ainsley May Stinson and Isla Mackenzie Stinson. She leaves behind her favorite sister, Cindy Keenan of Gilford, and big brother, Lt. Colonel Donald Merton Mudgett, Jr. of Indianapolis. The family wishes to

thank all of Trudy’s caregivers who made it possible for her to see her grandchildren become such a big part of her life.

Visiting hours were held Tuesday, April 18, 5-8 p.m. at Church Landing in Meredith; funeral services were on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the New Hampton Community Church on Main Street, where she and Joel were married in 1972.

Remembrance gifts may be made to the Gordon-Nash Library in New Hampton where she served for many years, or to the Inter-Lakes scholarship fund.

Dupuis Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. For more information, go to Dupuisfuneralhome.com.

James N.F. Phillips, 53

HEBRON — James N.F. Phillips of Hebron passed away surrounded

by family on Feb. 23, 2017. He was 53 years old.

A celebration of life is planned for September at the lake.

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From my dooryard
The phoebes arrived before the last snow melt, once again building their nest in the south wall eave. Every year since we built this house there has been a phoebe nest there.

On the east side, the crocus are in full bloom. A striking contrast as the Northern Flicker checked out the area today. Spring Larksbur's tiny buds have broken through the leaf piles. Spring has started.

Jazz concert at NRHS
It was a pleasant Tuesday evening as we attended the annual Jazz concert. The NMMS band was enthusiastic, obviously having a fun time. The NRHS band was serious and intent on every cord. The Adult group took me back to Boston so many years ago. Thank you for the great event!

From the town
Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day the Alexandria Police Department will be at the Station Transfer for collection.

Danbury
Donna Sprague
huntoonfarm@myfairpoint.net

South Danbury Church
Rev. Gray Fitzgerald of Concord will return to lead the South Danbury Church worship service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 23. Conversation and refreshments will follow. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

An evening with Rebecca Rule
Blazing Star Grange hosts Rebecca Rule on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 15 North Rd. in Danbury. For more than 20 years, Rebecca Rule has been telling and collecting stories in New Hampshire (and New England). In this program, she'll tell some of her favorites (especially the funny ones)

about life in this rocky old place, Yankee character and characters, who we are, and maybe even why. In the storytelling tradition, one story leads to another, so stories from listeners are most welcome. This will be — all goes well — an old-fashioned story sharing gab fest. Refreshments served.

A double feature
On Saturday, April 29, the United Church of Danbury and the Blazing Star Grange combine an evening of Dutch Auction fun with a feast of chicken pie. Tickets for the Dutch auction begin at 4:30 p.m. while the supper begins serving their meal at 5 p.m. The ticket sales and supper ends at 6:30pm after which the drawing begins for the ticket holders. Winners do not need to be present to win. Tickets will also be on sale for a quilt raffle.
The church/grange event is the second event involving combined community organizations aimed at connecting the community and groups helping each other. The first event, held on April 8, was a poetry and pastries night, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Grange. In honor of National Poetry Month, there were poems read, poems acted out as skits, poems recited and even original poems. The evening ended with a buffet of pastries and desserts.

Danbury Country Store
The WMUR Viewer's Choice Awards has deemed the 2017 Best Country Store in New Hampshire to be the Danbury Country Store. Of course, store patrons already knew that. Congratulations to Audrey, Jimmy, their family and staff for creating a store worth voting for.

Hebron
Bob Brooks 744-3597
hebronnnews@live.com

Hebron Area Women's Group
The Hebron Area Women's Group will be meeting on Thursday,

April 20 at the Hebron Union Congregational Church, at noon. Our guest speakers are Mary Joyce and Ruth Gaffey who will inform us about the Circle Club Mentoring Program. Refreshments will be provided by Nadine Hession and Joan Matthews with the assistance of Barbara Stevens. Please bring some non-perishable food items for the Bristol Food Pantry. All area residents are welcome.

James Langill Fundraiser Update
The night of Friday, March 10 came with a sudden freak snowstorm. James' Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser which was happening that night was well attended however better weather conditions would have been ideal as only a quarter of the amount needed for his allergy sniffing dog was raised. James is a seven year old BES student that lives with a life threatening peanut allergy. He struggles each day, fearing that he might have a bad reaction. He has been granted the chance to get a peanut sniffing service dog from Texas. This dog will go everywhere James goes and will help him detect when something is around him. If you would like to donate to his GoFundMe page, here is the link: <https://www.gofundme.com/james-peanut-service-dog>.

Stand up Newfound
There will be a Community Meeting of Stand Up Newfound at the Tapply-Thompson Community Center on Thursday, April 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please attend and learn what can be done about eliminating substance abuse in our community.

Churches

Ashland Community Church

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

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

KidZone
Debbie Madden leads the K-6th grade class and uses the exciting new Elevate curriculum! Kids will love

the great videos and games that teach awesome age appropriate lessons in a loving atmosphere!

What Makes You Happy?
April 6 "The Ultimate Hope for Happiness"
April 23 "Nothing"
April 30 "Plan For It"
May 7 "Peace with God"
May 14 "Happy Monday" (Mother's Day)
May 21 "Shoes"
May 28 "You're Not Enough"

Special Needs Ministry
Beck McCuin will be leading a new special needs ministry for high school age teens and adults at the Early Worship Service. Please let Ernie know if you know of anyone that might be interested in joining this class. We are very excited about this opportunity.

New college/career group (ages 18-25)
Monday nights, 6:30-8 p.m. at Plymouth State University. Contact Ernie Madden for more information.

Small Group Study Building Your Marriage to Last Led by Ernie Madden
Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Childcare provided for infants through sixth grade
Your marriage is under construction every day, as you build on the promises that you've made to each other and learn to deal with setbacks and challenges. Some days, it's less than you hoped for, and other days, it's more than you ever dreamed. No matter how good, difficult, long or short your marriage has been, you can start building — or re-modeling — right now.

Who Needs God?
Perhaps nobody. Perhaps everybody. Perhaps we should talk about it.
Led by Ernie Madden
Thursdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m.

Axyon Youth Ministry, for grades six through 12. Fridays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mill #3 (39 Winter St.), just around the corner from the church. This youth ministry will be meeting every week, and is led by our new youth and worship pastor, Aaron Stout, along with our volunteer youth leader staff. This youth group ministry is open to youth not only from Ashland, but surrounding towns as well. Spread the word and bring your friends.

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

It is our desire to help you understand God's incredible grace and love. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Ernie Madden at (office phone number) 968-9463, (home phone number) 968-7770, or his cell phone

at 412-2045. You can also e-mail him at acernie@hotmail.com or visit the church Web site, ashlandcommunitychurch.com.
We believe that you will love it at Ashland Community Church. We are a friendly, loving and caring church that studies and shares the word of our Dear Lord and Savior. Our vision is to become a church that un-churched people will love to attend. Our mission is to lead people to live and love like Jesus, and to help others to do the same.
Real church, real people, real simple.
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday. And remember, just come as you are! No perfect people allowed.

Christian Science Society, Plymouth

"Learn to Pray and Heal - a spiritual adventure", a talk by Nate Frederick, C.S. Please enjoy this with us on Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. at Christian Science Society, 7 Emerson St. in Plymouth. The event is free.

Interested in learning how to pray effectively? Then this is the talk for you! Nate will be sharing some of his best experiences, insights, and tips on how to heal mind and body. His lecture, explores faith that isn't blind, how to understand God as Love itself, and express Love in a way that heals.

Nate is a spiritual adventurer who has traveled the globe sharing healing insights, documenting spiritual experiences, hiking the Himalayas and performing music. As a media producer, Nate launched and produced the award-winning Daily Lift podcast for The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston

Nate commits himself to doing what he loves most – praying with others and experiencing first-hand the healing power of God's love.

Star King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a multigenerational, welcoming congregation where different beliefs come together in common covenant. We work together in our fellowship, our community, and our world to nurture justice, respect, and love.

Always be a work in progress. – Emily Lilian

Sunday, April 23, 9:30 a.m. Tools of the Resistance: Morality, Honor, Shame
Rev. Linda Barnes
The moral code of our society is shaped by honor and shame. For better or worse these are the tools of social change. Join us

as we explore the history and possibility of using these to leverage the transformation of our society to one that promotes equity and justice for everyone.
Visitors are invited to attend the service as well as all programs at the church. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers. The children's program is usually held downstairs concurrently with the service.

Join us for a soup, bread and conversation lunch today following the service

Children and Youth Religious Education, Meredith Flynn, DRE
Room 1: Preschool-Kindergarten: Chalice Children- Core Message- At our church we care for the earth.
Room 3: First-Fifth grade: 7 UU Principles with Dr. Seuss- Core Message- All people have a right to speak out and vote on things that matter to them- "Yertle the Turtle" by Dr. Suess
Middle school: Neighboring Faiths- The middle school youth meet from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the upstairs youth room.
High school: Youth Group- The high school youth meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. in the upstairs youth room.

Social Justice Community Outreach for April - Voices Against Violence provides free and confidential assistance to women, men and children throughout lower Grafton County. Voices maintains a 24-hour crisis line, a confidential shelter for women and children seeking safety, individual support and advocacy and much more. Voices works with children and teens, helping them understand that the violence is not their fault and is not acceptable, even if that is all they have ever known. Voices shares a common belief that all people are worthy of respect and happiness and deserve to live a life free of violence.

Please bring canned or dry packaged food items for our local Community Closet collection basket in the foyer.

Upcoming: Saturday, May 13, Roy Zimmerman, musical satirist. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Silent auction in Fellowship Hall.

Starr King UU Fellowship is located at 101 Fairgrounds Rd., Plymouth. The phone number is 536-8908. The website is www.starrkingfellowship.org where you can access "Newsletters" to read, or print out, any of several past issues; "Podcast" to enjoy listening to sermons you have missed, or just want to hear again; "Events Calendar" to find out what is going on in our Fellowship and other activities we enjoy together.



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David Bromberg Quintet brings “Nothing But the Blues” to Plymouth

PLYMOUTH — The Flying Monkey Performance Center presents The David Bromberg Quintet on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Bromberg has always been quite difficult to categorize (to his delight), but is often called the Godfather of Americana. Tickets for this show start at \$35.

Calling all audiophiles. If you listened to bluegrass, folk, country, blurd or rock music during the 1970s, you’ve probably heard the songs of singer-songwriter David Bromberg. Nearly five decades later, Bromberg has gained accolades and recognition for his skilled musicianship of guitar, dobro, fiddle, and mandolin.

A godfather of Americana, decorated multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, gifted song interpreter,



The Flying Monkey Performance Center presents The David Bromberg Quintet on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

and lauded band mate to the stars, David Bromberg recently released “The Blues, The Whole Blues and Nothing But

The Blues,” produced by Levon Helm and Bob Dylan’s longtime collaborator, Larry Campbell. His first album since

2013 is a wonderfully curated selection of deep cut blues, in addition to original compositions.

As said by Dr. John, Bromberg is “an American music icon.”

Bromberg is one of the most engaging, indeed mesmerizing, of performers. It’ll be a treat to hear him and his quintet perform their bluesy distillation of Americana united by Bromberg’s soulful picking and gravelly vocals.

Tickets to see David Bromberg Quintet are \$35, and \$45 for premier seating. For more information on upcoming shows or to purchase tickets call the box office at 536-2551 or go online at www.flyingmonkeyNH.com.

Tickets for 2017 NH Music Festival go on sale May 1

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The Flying Monkey Performance Center presents Carbon Leaf on Friday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Indie rockers Carbon Leaf spring into Plymouth

PLYMOUTH — The Flying Monkey Performance Center presents Carbon Leaf on Friday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. Carbon Leaf is known by legions of loyal fans as DIY indie rockers with energetic live shows. Me & My Brother will open the show. Tickets for this show start at \$25.

Sitting amid stops in major cities up and down the east coast, Virginia-based alt-country indie rock band Carbon Leaf makes a stop at The Flying Monkey Perfor-

mance Center in Plymouth on May 5.

With 23 years together and 12 studio albums, the polish, precision and maturity is palpable in the band’s sound, which spans from rocky-pop to folky, Celtic-infused jams to twangy alt-country.

The group jumped onto the national scene in 2002, winning an American Music Awards in the “New Music” category, performing its Irish-tinged song “The Boxer” to an audience of

80 million TV viewers as an unsigned band.

Over the years, the quintet has shared the stage with such acts as The Avett Brothers, Toad The Wet Sprocket, Dave Matthews Band, Jason Mraz and David Gray.

Tickets to see Carbon Leaf are \$25, and \$33 for premier seating. For more information on upcoming shows or to purchase tickets call the box office at 536-2551 or go online at www.flyingmonkeyNH.com.

PLYMOUTH — The New Hampshire Music Festival celebrates their 65th season this summer with free outdoor special events, an expanded orchestra, a new concert series in Wolfeboro, a new series of ArtsWalks as part of the Music in the Mountains series, the fourth annual Make Music Plymouth, international soloists, and the return of music director Paul Polivnick.

This summer’s popular orchestral events continue in the Hanaway Theatre at the Silver Center for the Arts on Thursday evenings offering a range of orchestral emotions beginning

with the opening night featuring the Festival’s concertmaster and international soloist Yulia Milshtein performing the Bruch Violin Concerto paired with Beethoven’s epic Symphony No. 5. The season finale features renowned 26-year-old pianist Steven Lin performing the Prokofiev Piano Concerto and the orchestra on Rachmaninoff’s Symphonic Dances. In between these two masterwork concerts, the Festival presents a series of diverse concerts including Mozart and Mahler featuring a concert version of Mozart’s short opera The Impresario which pits two compet-

ing sopranos against each other and Copland in Mexico, a multimedia exploration of Copland’s time in Mexico and featuring a full showing of the film Redes accompanied by live orchestra. This performance is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This year, the Festival is also thrilled to present their fourth annual Composer Portrait concert welcoming to New Hampshire composer Huang Ru who has been lauded by the New Yorker magazine as “one of the world’s leading young composers.” A

SEE **FESTIVAL**, PAGE A10

Pemi Choral Society, PRHS chamber singers to perform special concert

PLYMOUTH — The Pemi Choral Society has planned a truly magnificent concert series to be performed in May. The 75-singer adult community chorus, which is based out of Plymouth, will be performing Gabriel Faure’s Requiem with orchestra on May 11, 12, and again on Mother’s Day, May 14. The chorus has been in rehearsal since late January and is comprised of members from all over the central New Hampshire region.

“The spring concert series was really centered around the ‘Fauré Requiem,’ mostly because it’s a choral masterwork that is well known, well loved, and fits the chorus well,” stated Will Gunn, Pemi Choral Society Music Director.

The choral-orchestral setting of the shortened Catholic Mass for the Dead in Latin is the best known of his large works. The Requiem is unlike most settings where the mood of colors and sounds are warm and ethereal. The final version of the Requiem was published in 1901 and was often referred to as the “lullaby of death” due to its lack of dramatic texts of fear and judgement.

Fauré once said, “But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience.”

The orchestra will feature the Rutter edition of the Fauré which includes low strings such as violas and cellos as well as a violin soloist. Many of the musicians are members of the New Hampshire

SEE **CONCERT**, PAGE A11

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Ashland	8 Vista Drive, Unit 89	Condominium	\$94,000	Robert S. Reuben	Joseph A. Simko
Campton	84 Birch Circle	Single-Family Residential	\$139,933	Christopher and Hillary Sowa	Tod Marvell and Nicole Pirog
Campton	Hodgeman Hill Road (Lot)	Residential Open Land	\$15,000	Daniel and Karen Shea	Richard J. and Catalina J. Celentano
Campton	NH Route 175 (Lot)	Acc. Land Imp.	\$62,533	Jeffrey Angus and Cheryl Van Scoten	O'Connell Properties LLC
Campton	7 Perch Pond Rd.	Single-Family Residential	\$112,000	Melanie J. Luce and FNMA	FNMA
Holderness	40 Asquam Rd.	Single-Family Residential	\$457,533	Susannah K. Scully RET and Daniel V. Scully	Eleanor W. Smith Trust and Donald M. Smith
New Hampton	46 Smoke Rise Rd.	Single-Family Residential	\$307,000	Joseph N. and Joyce A. Cioffi	Michael and Linda Digregorio
Plymouth	US Route 3	N/A	\$129,933	Joanna Warner	Lance and L.A. Bernard-Ouellette
Thornton	22 Sholan Rd.	Single-Family Residential	\$103,000	JJM Field Services LLC	Crystal M. Cook
Waterville Valley	21 Mountain Brook Way, Unit 17	Condominium	\$156,000	Jeanne B. Jackson	Gregory and Karen Vandeoere
Waterville Valley	N/A	N/A	\$184,000	Waterville Co., Inc.	Edward M. and Pamela Sheehan

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 based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency 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 or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium.

THE WINNIPESAUKEE TALKIE

Sales up, supply down, Quarter 1 prices rise



BY RANDY HILMAN

First quarter regional home sales rose more than 4 percent year-over-year to 715 closed transactions but declined 37 percent from the previous quarter, during which 1,139 single-family homes and condominiums traded hands, according to the New England Real Estate Network Multiple Listing Service.

Meanwhile, the quarterly year-over-year median home price in Belknap, Carroll and Grafton

counties also rose 4 percent to \$189,000, an indication of rising home values in the area.

Transacted dollar volume for the quarter increased 9.3 percent to \$182.2 million, compared to the first three months of 2016, another indication that home prices are exceeding the rate of sales, experts say.

"The start of the year ushered in a wave of good news about a hot stock market, higher wages and an active home sales environment," the New Hampshire REALTORS® wrote in its winter housing report. "At the same time, housing prices have continued to rise, and the low inventory situation and affordability crunch has been particularly hard on first-time buyers struggling to get into the market."

"Nevertheless, buyer activity is easily outpacing seller activity ... culminating in relatively quick sales and low supply."

In New Hampshire, as in many other regions across the nation, unemployment has reached pre-recession levels and Americans are optimistic about finding quality jobs, which matters in housing markets because job and wage growth fuel home purchases, NHR reported, adding, however, that employment and wage growth may not kick start the housing market today, if rising home prices and mortgage interest rates outpace income growth, as is the current trend.

The fact is "sellers are getting a generous number of offers in this market" but these sellers may find there will

be fewer homes from which to choose when they become buyers,

wrote NHR.

New listings statewide were down 20.5

percent for single-family homes and 21.0 per-

SEE TALKIE, PAGE A11

MARK ON THE MARKETS

Spring volatility!



BY MARK PATTERSON

'Sell in May and go away' has been a mantra that has been heard every spring in regard

to the stock market. The term was actually born in London's financial district. The full saying is "Sell in May and go away; come back on St. Léger's day." The St. Leger Stakes is the oldest of England's five horse racing classics and is the last to be run, typically mid-September.

According to the Stock Trader's Alma-

nac, since 1950 the Dow Jones Industrial average has had an average return of 0.3 percent from May–October vs. 7.5 percent during the November-April time frame. The only "danger" month is September that has had a negative return of minus 0.06 percent says the STA.

Data from Standard

SEE MARKETS, PAGE A11

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Be an "Environmentally Friendly" Investor

On April 22, we observe Earth Day, a worldwide event focusing on protecting the environment. As a citizen of this planet, you may want to take part in Earth Day activities. And as an investor, you can learn some valuable lessons from the environmental movement.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

- **"Recycle" proven strategies.** Over the past few decades, we have discovered ways of bringing new life to objects we would have previously thrown away. When you invest, you also don't need to discard things you've used before – such as proven investment strategies. For example, one tried-and-true technique is to simply purchase investments appropriate for your needs and risk tolerance, and then hold these investments until either your situation changes or the investments themselves are no longer the same as when you bought them. (To illustrate: You might have bought stock in a company whose products or services are not as competitive as they once were.)

- **Avoid "toxic" investment moves.** Since the first Earth Day in 1970, we have had some success in identifying and eliminating toxins in our air and water. You can also

find – and avoid – "toxic" investment moves. One such move is chasing a "hot" stock. By the time you hear about this stock – from a friend, relative or even a television or internet commentator – it may already be cooling off. Even more importantly, it might not be suitable for your needs, either because it's too risky or because you already own several similar stocks. "Hot" stocks aren't so hot if they aren't right for you.

- **Reduce "excess" investments in your portfolio.** Environmentalists stress the need for all of us to reduce our "footprint" on earth – that is, we can help improve the environment by owning less "stuff." The same idea can also apply to investing. If you took a close look at your portfolio, you might find investments that you've held for years but whose purpose is no longer clear to you. Some may even be duplicates, or near-duplicates, of other investments. You might be able to improve your financial picture by getting rid of this "clutter." By selling investments you no longer need, you could use the proceeds to purchase new investments that may be far more effective in helping you meet your objectives.

- **Plant "seeds" of opportunity.** Many Earth Day lesson plans

for students emphasize the value of planting gardens and trees. As an investor, you, too, need to look for ways to plant "seeds" of opportunity so that you can eventually harvest the results. Specifically, look for those investments that, like trees, can grow and prosper over years and decades. Of course, growth-oriented investments carry investment risk, including the possible loss of principal. Yet, to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you will need some growth potential in your portfolio. You can reduce the level of risk by owning a mix of investments – including less aggressive vehicles, such as bonds – in your portfolio.

Each year, Earth Day comes and goes. But its messages have had a profound impact on generations of people interested in preserving our environment. And translating some of these lessons to the investment arena can have a powerful effect on your financial future.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

For more information or to sign up for their monthly newsletter, contact **Jacqueline Taylor**, Financial Advisor, at 279-3161 or email Jacki@edwardjones.com. Her office is located at 14 Main Street, Downtown Meredith. For more information, see <http://www.edwardjones.com/> or "like" her on Facebook www.facebook.com/EJAdvisorJacquelineTaylor.

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Playground

FROM PAGE A1
ey to come from those potential excess funds. If the district ends up spending its whole budgeted amount, the PTO would receive nothing. Business Manager Michael Limanni said it was important to stipulate that it would be matching funds because Danbury Elementary School also needs a new playground, and the district tries to avoid favoring one school over another.

Cheney also offered a motion to contribute \$4,000 to support New Hampton's Destination Imagination team, which will be going on to the national competition in Tennessee on May 22-29. The board has offered a similar amount to past DI contestants. The district also will be paying \$2,500 for the expenses of the team leaders who will be overseeing the local contestants.

A larger cost to the district will be a replacement of its core reading program with an updated version of Reading Street. Superintendent Stacy Buckley explained that the current materials were purchased in 2003, and the program has been updated twice since then. Because of the age of Newfound's materials, the company will no longer offer support, and the upgrade will cost \$114,854.19.

Buckley said the English-Language Arts committee had intended to try out two other ELA courses in pilot programs, but that would have cost \$30,000 for limited trials, and the staff is satisfied with its current program. By updating the current material now, the district can realize significant savings, she said, and staff members will be able train with the new material over the summer before rolling out the new edition in the fall.

She noted that the ELA program has about \$100,000 in encumbered funds from last year, limiting the amount coming out of the current-year budget.

All of the motions passed unanimously, including one to enter

into a three-year agreement with Primex, the insurance pool handling worker's compensation for the district. The contract would limit annual increases to eight percent, and Limanni said the increases would likely be much less than that.

The school board ratified an updated tuition agreement with Hill and asked Buckley to develop a proposal for including Hill students in the Newfound athletic program.

Hill School Board members Shelly Henry and Nancy Coffin said they have heard nothing but praise for their students' experiences at Newfound and, during Hill's second year with the district, the criticism some Hill residents had with the decision to send students here, rather than to Franklin, seems to have died down.

Buckley said the Hill students have integrated so well, they're seen as part of Newfound, even though Hill is not officially part of the Newfound Area School District.

The school board turned down an offer to purchase land abutting the New Hampton Community School. Buckley said it would only be useful if they anticipated expanding the playground area, but that is not in the plans.

The board agreed to hire an additional para-educator to assist a foster child who started attending Newfound this year. The cost will be borne by the sending school district, Connecticut Valley.

The board also discussed updates to faculty handbooks, as well as increasing the number of credits required for graduation from 22 to 23. The additional credit must be in science, technology education, or computer science.

Student representative Nick Crosby said the student senate is supportive of weighted grading for advance placement courses, noting that there has been an increased interest in those more difficult courses now that taking them will not negatively affect a student's grade-point average.

Buckley presented an outline for strategic planning, with the development of vision and mission statements taking place over the summer and the work continuing over the next year. The committee will present a final plan for school board approval in the fall of 2018.

She suggested membership on the committee should include herself, the curriculum coordinator, special education administrator, business administrator, a principal from each level — elementary through high school — two teachers from each level, one support staff member from each level, two school board members, and two community representatives.

Don Franklin of Hebron questioned the heavy weighting of academics over community members, suggesting a single teacher from each level could serve as a liaison for the others, allowing more people from the community to participate. He also said the timeline could be shortened by using the existing mission statement, rather than spending time creating a new one.

Jason Robert of Bristol agreed with having more community members involved, suggesting one from each of the member towns.

Other board members cautioned against having too many on the committee, and agreed with Buckley that it should be weighted with "the people in the trenches" who understand the process. When Franklin pointed out that School Administrative Unit 16 had 70 people taking part in its strategic planning process, Chair Jeff Levesque of Groton said, "More important than the number on the committee is the number who actually attend the meetings."

Vincent Paul Migliore of Bridgewater said the ability to meet is critical. Scheduling meetings right after school allows more teachers to attend, but limits how many people in the community can be there. Holding it at night makes it available for the community, but teachers have a harder time attending.

Cheney suggested that there should be more elementary school teachers on the commit-

tee, since the district has four elementary schools, but only one middle and one high school.

When Franklin suggested inviting some-

one from Freudenberg-NOK, as the region's largest employer, Levesque said there are many small, locally owned businesses that also could be represent-

ed. Buckley said she would keep the board's comments in mind as she updates the guidelines for strategic planning.

Minute

FROM PAGE A1

she swallowed her Swedish fish and wiped the whipped cream from her face.

Twelve-year-old Reisse of Danbury added, "It's funny to see everyone's faces in the whipped cream. This is my first time here and I hope they keep doing it."

A human variation of Hungry, Hungry Hippos found mom and son teams vying to collect the most plastic balls by way of a laundry basket and a rolling dolly cart and another challenge was to shoot down a pyramid of soda cans with rubber bands.

"I think this is a blast," said one mom



DONNA RHODES

Twelve-year-old Broderick took his time as he worked an Oreos cookie from his forehead to his mouth during a "Minute to Win It" challenge for moms and their sons last week at Tapply-Thompson Community Center.

from Hill. "I'm excited about it and my son is, too!"

The final challenge of the night involved lining up paper bags along the gym floor using only their mouths.

As points were tallied from each highly com-

petitive event, tie-breakers were necessary for both second and third place so a cup stacking competition determined the winners for both levels.

Groton resident Devin, whose "Fruit SEE **MINUTE**, PAGE A12

Comics

FROM PAGE A2

(Arts In Education and Community Arts rosters), Children's Literacy Foundation, and Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, among others. He is also the Xeric Award-win-

ning author of "Mimi's Doughnuts," "Nicaragua Comics Travel Journal," and the 24 hour comic collection "Hour 72!" His most recent graphic novel explores the culture and history in Eastern Europe, from the perspective of a comics-drawing rabbit.

For more information about Marek Bennett, visit www.Marek-Bennett.com. For more information about the presentation, call the Minot-Sleeper Library, located on 35 Pleasant St. in Bristol, NH, at 744-3352. This event is free and open to all ages.

Festival

FROM PAGE A7

variety of Ruo's music will be performed including his piece Leaving Sao, where Ruo will be featured as a vocalist in traditional Chinese folk style. This concert will conclude with Haydn's powerful Lord Nelson Mass performed by the Festival's Symphonic Chorus, conducted by Dr. Dan Perkins and featuring four Plymouth State University alumni who have continued their professional careers in opera and voice performance returning to the region as soloists for this great work.

Alongside the orchestral series the New Hampshire Music Festival continues the long-standing chamber music series on Tuesday evenings in the Smith Recital Hall at the Silver Center for the Arts. This acoustical gem of a venue showcases the Festival musicians in an

intimate setting performing Mozart piano sonatas to large scale compositions by contemporary composers. The full programming schedule for this series is personally curated by the musicians of the Festival and will be updated online as information becomes available. These concerts have been known to sell out the last several years so purchasing tickets early is recommended.

To celebrate Season 65, the New Hampshire Music Festival is expanding their orchestral offerings to a new region of the state by bringing performances to Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. On the opening and closing weekends of the New Hampshire Music Festival the entire orchestra will present repeat performances of their Plymouth concerts at the Kingswood Regional Performing Arts Center. Other weeks during the summer will showcase cham-

ber music on Saturday evenings and select outdoor events as part of the Music in the Mountains series. A Wolfeboro series subscription for all concerts will be available for purchase.

With generous support from the Lincoln Financial Foundation and with new support from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire Music Festival is excited to continue their third annual Music in the Mountains series presenting free informal concerts on lakesides and mountaintops. This year the series evolves to include a new set of events called ArtsWalks. On Friday mornings in select communities musicians will be performing along nature trails partnered with local artists who will be creating new work. At the head of these trails, local conservation organizations will be pres- SEE **FESTIVAL**, PAGE A11

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Concert

FROM PAGE A7
Music Festival orchestra.

“The chorus will perform the Requiem in memory of loved ones whose names will be listed in remembrance in our program,” stated Ann Nichols, Pemi Choral Board President. “We have made this memorial contribution opportunity available to the general public so anyone who wishes to honor a loved one in this way can do so. For more information, please visit our website at www.pemichoral.org and provide us with your name and email address using the ‘Contact Us’ tab so that we can share details with you.”

The deadline for memorial contributions is May 1.

The chorus will be joined on Sunday’s (May 14) performance by the Plymouth Regional High School Chamber Singers, also directed by Will Gunn.

“This is a very select choir comprised of 24 singers that rehearse after school on a week-

ly basis. In addition to singing the Fauré with the Pemi Choral Society, they will be performing ‘Diraton’ by Morten Lauridsen and a version of ‘Take Me Home’ as performed by Pentatonix. We are very excited to have both choruses collaborate together for this performance!” stated Gunn.

“When selecting the music that will be performed, my goal in this concert series was to pair the Requiem with music that celebrated life. From Paul Basler’s Alleluia to Keith Thompson’s True Light, I tried to find text that would help reinforce our message. I’m also very excited to add a piece that the Plymouth Regional High School Concert Choir commissioned last year: ‘Time’ by Ian Soderberg. The text was written by a local author and former PSU professor, Jane Babin, who lost the battle to ALS two years ago. Ian has re-orchestrated the piece to fit our orchestra as well,” states Gunn.

Concert performanc-

es are scheduled on Thursday, May 11 at the Gilford Community Church in Gilford, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and on Friday, May 12 at St. Gabriel’s Catholic Church in Franklin, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission to these two concerts is by your choice of donation. The final concert will be held on Sunday, May 14 at Silver Center for the Arts, Hanaway Theatre, Plymouth State University beginning at 3pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Silver Center Box Office, PSU by calling (603) 535-ARTS, or by ordering online via Tickets.com. The box office will open one hour before performance.

Will Gunn is in his seventh year as music director at Plymouth Regional High School. He conducts the Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Singers. He has degrees from Colorado State University and Ithaca College. He also sings regularly with the New Hampshire Master Chorale.

Markets

FROM PAGE A9
and Poor’s takes the statistics to another level that shows an approximate 8 percent return in the markets if the your money was left in a broader S+P 500 index; however, if, on May 1 through the end of October, your portfolio was re-allocated or rotated towards defensive stocks and health care, your returns average near 11 percent. Defensive stocks are those that typically do better than others during difficult market periods. Examples are companies or funds in Tobacco, oil, utilities or food.

So my take away on this data; that it makes a lot of sense to reposition your equities or exchange traded funds in the spring to reflect defensive and healthcare related stocks or ETF’s especially in qualified or

tax deferred accounts, those taxable accounts should weigh the tax ramifications of selling and buying.

The data also suggest that a buy and hold strategy works, however a buy and reallocate strategy works better. Statistically the difference of 8% versus 11% over a period of years will have a dramatic difference in the value of your investments, and possibly the amount of your retirement income.

April, historically has been a very good month in the markets and can be a very good time to make adjustments towards liquidity or to hedge your portfolio with ETF’s like VXX which is a short term volatility control fund. As the S+P 500 becomes more volatile, the price of VXX goes up. Due to the extreme lack of volatility that we have had, this could be the “undervalued” addi-

tion to your investment mix. We are also eight years into a bull market with no real corrections. We are due.

A proper mix of low and non-correlated asset classes using “modern portfolio theory” can increase your returns while lowering the standard deviation or risk in the portfolio.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETF’s) are a very efficient and cost effective means of executing this type of re-allocation strategy. Some ETF’s can be traded with no commission and very low fee’s, just do your homework or work with a professional to implement this strategy.

Mark Patterson is an Investment Advisor in Wolfeboro with MHP Asset Management and can be reached at 447-1979 or Mark@MHP-Asset.com.

Festival

FROM PAGE A10

ent to provide guided walks describing their efforts to promote and improve the ecology of their specific region. Details about ArtsWalk events will be available on the Festival’s website – www.nhmf.org - along with other Music in the Mountains series concerts that will be taking place across the state, including a chamber concert at St. Gauden’s National Historic Site, a free series of concerts at the Taylor Community in Laconia, the fourth annual Make Music Plymouth with a free family concert on July 22 and the second annual New England Choral Institute.

Single tickets range from Free-\$75. Subscription packages begin at \$90. Subscriptions are available for the Plymouth chamber series, the Plymouth orchestral series, and the Wolfeboro classical series. Free events include Make Music Plymouth, our Family

Concert, ArtsWalks, and Music in the Mountains.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.nhmf.org or by calling the New Hampshire Music Festival Office at 238-9007 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the NHMF office at 7 Main St., Plymouth, May 1-19 and at the Silver Center for the Arts for the remainder of the season at 114 Main Street., Plymouth, NH. Wolfeboro tickets can be purchased starting at 4 p.m. on concert days at the concert venue. Full season details can be found at www.nhmf.org.

About The New Hampshire Music Festival

The New Hampshire Music Festival is a summer festival that honors the tradition of classical music while exploring new artistic paths. Our organization offers patrons an engaging, immersive festival experience by presenting world-

class performances of symphonic, choral and chamber music. Strong collaborations with community partners are a hallmark of this important cultural institution, enabling transformative music experiences and educational programs to students of all ages.

For 20 years, the Festival has been in residence at Plymouth State University at the Silver Center for the Arts. The festival was founded in 1952 as a small chamber orchestra performing on Melody Island in Lake Winnepesaukee and has grown to be a highly-valued community asset. Every summer during July and August, professional musicians from around the country come to Plymouth to perform well-known classics and contemporary works. www.nhmf.org www.facebook.com/NHMusicFestival

Talkie

FROM PAGE A9

cent for condo properties, NHR reported. In the three counties covered in this housing report, first quarter new listings fell 24 percent year-over-year to 1,139 units against 715 closings, according to NEREN.

Statistically, homes sold faster compared to the first quarter of 2016 with median days on market declining to 85 days, down 23 percent from the 110-day first-quarter median a year ago.

In yet another indication of a market favoring home sellers, closed transactions, as a percent of new listings, rose 4.5 percent from January through March to 60 percent of newly listed properties, compared to 43.7 percent of newly listed properties in the same period three-month period last year, NEREN figures show.

In Belknap County, first quarter single-family and condo sales declined 1.7 percent year-over-year to 227


transactions, but the pace of sales quickened significantly with the median days on market declining 21 percent to just 80 days, NEREN figures show. In the same period, the median price of a Belknap County home rose 7.5 percent to \$192,500.

Carroll County homes sold statistically faster than a year ago but sales declined 3 percent for the quarter to 215 closed transactions, compared to 221 quarterly sales a year earlier, NEREN figures show. Median days on market dropped 13 percent to 110 days. The median price of a Carroll County home declined to \$191,500, down 2 percent from \$195,000 posted for the first quarter of 2016.

Home sales in Grafton County increased nearly 17 percent to 273 closed transactions, while the pace of sales dropped 18.5 percent to just 92 days on market. The median home price rose to \$172,500, up nearly 5 percent year-over-year, NEREN figures show. Are you think-

ing of selling your home? Recent statistics show that our regional housing market is short on inventory and needs quality homes. This may be a good time to get top dollar for your home and pay real estate commissions as low as 1.5 percent. Ask me how. Meanwhile, thank you for reading The Winnepesaukee Talkie.

The Winnepesaukee Talkie is a real estate feature column produced by Randy Hilman, an award-winning former business journalist for The Tennessean, a Gannett daily newspaper located in Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Hilman today is an associate broker at Keller Williams Lakes & Mountains Realty, Wolfeboro. He can be reached at 610-8963 or by email at rhilman@randyhilmanhomes.com.



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Photos are also welcome, but must be submitted in jpeg format.

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Easter Dinner

FROM PAGE A1

ed rounds and the dinner came to an end, Elder addressed the Daisy and Girl Scouts, thanking them for all of their service.

“Typical of going out to dinner with people serving you a great meal, there comes a tip,” she said as she handed them \$40 toward their future endeavors.



Isabella, a Daisy Scout from New Hampton, served dessert to Ace during a special Easter dinner for residents of Mae's Place in Bristol, which was presented and prepared by the Daisy and Girl Scouts of Troop 11161 last Saturday afternoon.



Alexia of Bristol Girl Scout Troop 51661 was one of many in her troop who volunteered to do face painting for boys and girls who attended the Easter Egg Hunt in Bristol.

Minute

FROM PAGE A10

Loops” team was in the four-way tiebreaker for second place, was thrilled when he heard about that challenge.

“I’ve been practicing with my aunt to do this with 32 cups and tonight I only had to stack 10,” Devin said after he and his mom finished in second place for the night.

Third place went to the Patriots team, comprised of Bristol resident Austin and his



A human version of Hungry, Hungry Hippos was just one of the many fun challenges moms and their sons took part in at the “Minute to Win It” game night last Friday in Bristol.

mom, and taking home the Grand Prize for the night was Team Sullivan, made up of Alexandria residents Brenda and her son Conner.



Four-year-old Scott of Bristol loved the dinosaur balloon he received from the NH Balloon Man during the TTCC Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday afternoon.

Egg Hunt

FROM PAGE A1

chick inside in all four rounds. Throughout the day, found an egg with a donations were also gratefully accepted for the support of future community programs and events at TTCC.

Douglass Weiss, MD, joins Plymouth Orthopedics & Sports Medicine



Prior to earning his medical degree at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical School, Dr. Weiss was a professional athlete. He played hockey in the US and Europe and was selected to participate in the 1991 Olympic training camp.

He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester and his orthopedic and sports fellowship in Vail, Colorado.

Today he is a team physician for USA Hockey and the most recent addition to the orthopedic team at Speare Memorial Hospital.

Plymouth Orthopedics & Sports Medicine is pleased to welcome Dr. Douglass Weiss to the practice.

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What's Happening at
Plymouth State University

Mindflight 2017
Secrets of the Universe, Seen and Unseen...

Mindflight is a six day, five night residential program offering interdisciplinary experiences. Mindflight is open to motivated students currently entering the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. Students stay on the Plymouth State University campus and are immersed in a living learning community that combines academic and social enrichment. July 16–21, 2017.

For more information on this year's camp contact Rachelle Lyons at rlyons@plymouth.edu or Nina Domina at (603) 535-3271, or visit <http://tinyurl.com/mozs52c>.



See further up here.

Newfound Landing Sports

Section **B**
Thursday,
Thursday, April 20, 2017

Homers power Bears to big opening win

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BRISTOL — The Newfound softball team got the season off to a great start, even if they



Mackenzie Ryan rounds third with Julianne Marchand right on her heels on April 14 in Bristol.

RC GREENWOOD

What's On Tap

As schools hit vacation week, there are fewer games than normal on the schedule, but there are still plenty of games to be played in the coming week.

At Newfound, the baseball and softball teams will be at Belmont on Friday, April 21, at 4:30 p.m. and will be at Stevens for 4:30 p.m. games on Wednesday, April 25.

At Plymouth, the girls' lacrosse team will be hosting Bishop Brady on Friday, April 21, at 4 p.m. and will visit Derryfield on Wednesday, April 26, at 4 p.m.

The Bobcat lacrosse boys will be at Bishop Brady on Friday, April 21, and will return home on Tuesday, April 25, to host Monadnock at 4 p.m.

The Plymouth baseball and softball teams will be at Goffstown on Monday, April 24, at 4:30 p.m. and will be hosting John Stark on Wednesday, April 25, at 4 p.m.

The Bobcat track team will be at Merrimack Valley on Saturday, April 22, at 10 a.m.

had to take the game on the road to open the season.

The Bears traveled to downtown Bristol to Kelley Park, as the Newfound fields were not ready for play on Friday, April 14.

After the Lakers got on the board first, the Bear bats came alive and never quieted, get-

ting the 17-5 win over the Lakers in five innings.

"Going into the game, (we) were not sure how the team would hit off live pitching, due to the late season snow," said coach Corey Johnston. "But we found out in the second inning and the Bears just kept hitting the ball hard for 20 hits."

Johnston was quick to

point out that the team's four homers on the day did not come from the two, three or four hitters and the Laker pitchers didn't walk a single batter.

"This was all muscle in this one from the entire lineup," Johnston said.

The Lakers got a homer in the first inning to

go up 2-0 but Newfound scored nine runs in the bottom of the second inning to take the lead.

Julianne Marchand and Mackenzie Ryan both had homers in the second inning, as the Bears blasted 10 hits in the frame. The Bears added two more runs in the third inning on a homer by Kylee Mac-

Donald and then Kasey Basford added her own homer in the fourth inning, as Newfound added to the score. The Bears scored five more runs in the fifth to close out the game with the 17-5 win.

Marchand finished three-for-four with a homer, triple and four runs batted in, while Ryan also was three-for-four with a homer, a triple and four RBIs. MacDonald was three-for-four with a homer and one RIB and Basford was one-for-three with a homer and an RBI. Amanda Johnston added three hits, including two doubles and she knocked in three runs, Ashlee Dukette had three hits and two runs batted in, Hayleigh LeTourneau had three hits and Victoria Roman added a pair of hits.

On the defensive side of things, the Bears committed just two errors and took advantage of three Inter-Lakes errors. Dukette picked a runner off of third with a nice throw from the plate to Paige Dostie at third. Hailie Clark led the defense with several put-

SEE **SOFTBALL** PAGE B4



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(3) AUCTIONS

Per Order of the USDA
Thursday, May 4th

USDA

11:00 a.m. - Berlin, NH - Selling to the Highest Bidder Above: \$15,000
113 Poplar Drive is a 900± sq.ft. Cape that was built in 1930± and includes 2 BRs and 1 BA. The lot totals .06± acres and includes a 1 car garage. The home is serviced by municipal water and sewer. Tax Map 128, Lot 38. Assessed Value: \$42,600.

1:00 p.m. - Dalton, NH - Selling to the Highest Bidder Above: \$10,000
403 Dalton Road is a 1,116± sq.ft. Cape that was built in 1888± and includes 3 BRs and 1 BA. The lot totals .53± acres and includes a 1 car detached garage. Tax Map 403, Lot 27. Assessed Value: \$48,600.

3:30 p.m. - Canaan, NH - Selling to the Highest Bidder Above \$55,000
6 Crate Lane is a 1,751± sq.ft. 1 ¾ story Cape that includes 3 BRs and 2 BAs. The property totals 1.4± acres and includes a detached barn. Tax Map 7, Lot 12-I. Assessed Value: \$198,600.

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JOSHUA SPAULDING
Tristan Keller races toward third base during her team’s game against Lebanon on April 12.



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Emma Cooper connects with a pitch during Plymouth’s win over Lebanon last week.

Bobcats rip Raiders in season opener

Sandhu and Johnston combine to throw no-bitter for Plymouth softball

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — For starters, it wasn’t too bad.

The Plymouth softball team, after just one day out on the field, dominated Lebanon on Wednesday, April 12, running away with a 15-0 win in the season opener at Chase Field at D and M Park.

Senior Jevan Sandhu and freshman Kacie Johnston combined to no-hit the Raiders on the afternoon.

“It was good for us to get out and see competition,” said Plymouth coach Brian Blanchard. “I was very happy with the beginning.”

Sandhu got the start in the circle for the Bobcats and struck out two in the first inning. Plymouth got her a couple of runs in the bottom of the inning. Jordan Meier led

off with a bunt hit and stole second. She went to third on a Jackie Gaumer base hit and Gaumer also stole second. Two outs later, Emily Boyd reached on an error and both runners scored. Sandhu followed with a base hit but courtesy runner Emma Campbell, after stealing second, was stranded.

Sandhu struck out two more Lebanon hitters in the second inning, working around a walk and the bats really came to life in the bottom of the second for Plymouth.

Emma Cooper led off with a walk and a Grace Comeau base hit put runners on the corners. A sacrifice fly by Meier plated Cooper and after a strikeout, Tristan Keller ripped a triple to drive in another run. Johnston followed with a base hit to plate Keller and a Boyd base hit drove in

another run. A Sandhu double plated one more run and a hit from Taylor Eaton made it 8-0 before the inning was over.

Sandhu dominated in the third as well, striking out three in the frame, working around a Bobcat error. Comeau and Keller had base hits in the bottom of the inning but Plymouth did not add any runs to the scoreboard.

After Sandhu struck out the leadoff batter in the top of the fourth, Johnston took over on the hill and promptly made a great play on a bunt in front of the plate and recorded her first varsity strikeout to end the inning.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Boyd led off with a base hit and one out later, Eaton walked and Cooper doubled Boyd home for a 9-0 lead. A Comeau base hit plated another run and one out later, Gaumer ripped a triple to drive in two more runs for a 12-0 lead. Keller then drove Gaumer home with a double and after Jenna Flaherty worked a walk, Boyd had her second hit of the inning. Sandhu reached on an error to drive in another run and then Molly Edmark reached on a fielder’s

choice, allowing the 15th run to cross the plate.

Johnston walked the leadoff batter in the top of the fifth inning but then got a grounder back to the circle to force the runner at second. She then got a strikeout and a grounder to second to close out the 15-0 win.

Blanchard praised the work of his two pitchers, who combined to keep Lebanon from reaching base and didn’t allow a single hit while striking out 10.

“I thought Jevan threw the ball very well,” Blanchard said. “They both did a good job for us.

“And I was very impressed with our freshman catcher (Flaherty),” the Bobcat coach added.

Blanchard noted that key for the game was adjusting to the relatively slow pitching of Lebanon.

“It looks like you can drive it a mile, but you can’t really do that,” Blanchard said. “Once we adapted to that pitching, we were OK.”

He pointed out it will be important to adjust to different pitchers throughout the season, depending on who the Bobcats are facing.

Plymouth hit the road on Friday, April 14, and defeated a strong Pem-

broke team by a 4-3 score.

The Bobcats scored a run in the first, as Keller doubled with two outs and was driven in by a Johnston base hit. In the third, Meier cracked a solo homer to make it 2-0 before the Spartans added a run in the bottom of the inning. The Bobcats added a run in the fifth on singles by Comeau and Meier for a 3-1 lead.

The Spartans tied the game at three with two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning but Plymouth came back and added a run in the top of the seventh inning. Comeau

singled and Meier doubled her in for the winning run.

Sandhu went the distance in the circle, striking out five and giving up just four hits. Blanchard noted Flaherty behind the plate and Boyd at shortstop were the defensive players of the game.

The Bobcats will be in action on Monday, April 24 at Goffstown at 4:30 p.m. and will host John Stark at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26.

Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 569-3126 or sportsgsn@salmonpress.com.

Softball

FROM PAGE B1

outs at first base.

Johnston got the start in the circle and pitched all five innings and struck out six batters.

Newfound was slated to be at Belmont for

a 4:30 p.m. game on Friday, April 21, and will be at Stevens for a 4:30 p.m. game on Wednesday, April 26.

Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 569-3126 or sportsgsn@salmonpress.com.

Junior Legion baseball tryouts are May 7 and 14

ALTON — Alton Post 72 Junior American Legion baseball tryouts will be held on May 7 and May 14 at Prospect Mountain High School, 242 Suncook Valley Highway, Alton. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and tryouts will begin at 9 a.m. Players ages 13 - 17 who attend Prospect Mountain, Kingswood, Farmington, Pittsfield, Inter-Lakes, Moultonborough, Belmont, Gilford, Laconia and Newfound are eligible to tryout.

For more information, contact coach Gary L. Noyes, Sr. at coachnoyes@metrocast.net or at 393-8349.

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Busy time of the year in more than one way


This is a pretty busy time in the professional sports world, particularly if you happen to be a fan of Boston teams.

Of course, first and foremost in my mind in that regard are the Red Sox, since baseball is my favorite sport.

It has been a fairly uneven season so far for the hometown nine and that’s kind of disappointing. The offense has not been driving in runs on a regular basis and the pitching has had good days (welcome, Chris Sale) and bad (yikes, Steven Wright), though over the course of the season that is bound to happen. Of course, as I wrote last week, there are already issues I’m thinking about, but it helps to remember that there’s 162 games in a season and over the course of the season, those things will work themselves out, at least that’s the general hope.

Also a big thing this season is the return of playoff NHL hockey

SPORTING CHANCE



By JOSHUA SPAULDING

to the Boston area, as the Bruins are back in the playoffs after a few years away. Hockey is my second-favorite sport and I love listening to the playoff games on my iPad while I’m working or turning on the television when I get home and seeing the Bruins playing postseason action again. The first game of the series had a great ending after some scary moments in the first two periods, but they finished strong. The second game saw a lot of good stuff going on in the first two periods but a tough finish.

Also, the Celtics are the number one seed in the Eastern Conference and they kicked off the playoffs on Sunday (I’m listening to Sean Grande and Cedric Maxwell

as I write this) and I’m also happy to see them get a good seed in the playoffs. Of course, basketball is not my favorite sport to cover, but Grande is one of the best play-by-play guys out there and I really enjoy listening to him. When he’s out doing other broadcasts (as was the case a lot this season), the quality of the Celtics radio broadcasts went downhill significantly.

Of course, with the pro teams pretty busy this time of year, the spring sports season for the local high school teams has also come into full swing after a slow start, thanks in part to the late snow that kept field covered in many places and left others soaked for the weeks of the preseason. Last week I had a few tennis matches, a pair of lacrosse games (thanks Kingswood turf), a softball game and a track meet to cover. And this week promised my first baseball games of the

season, plus more softball, track and lacrosse. I am also heading out of town on Saturday but hopefully should be back by the time the Muddy Moose Trail Races start on Sunday morning at Kingswood (as long as there are no flight delays).

Of course, with the luck I’ve had with flights over the last year, I’d be surprised if things work out like I’m planning.

Finally, have a great day Mike Manning.

Joshua Spaulding is the Sports Editor for the Granite State News, Carroll County Independent, Meredith News, Gilford Steamer, Winnisquam Echo, Plymouth Record-Enterprise, Littleton Courier, Newfound Landing, Coos County Democrat, Berlin Reporter and The Baysider. He can be reached at sportsgsn@salmonpress.com, at 569-3126, or PO Box 250, Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896.