

Gilford Steamer

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

GILFORD, N.H.

Barnstead voters to decide on BES expansion

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

BARNSTEAD — Two proposed expansion and renovation projects at Barnstead Elementary School will be on the warrant: one a bigger project depending on the school receiving state aid and the other a smaller project in case that aid isn't received.

Numerous studies have shown that the school is undersized and in need of expansion and renovations. Voters at the March 25 district meeting will decide on a proposed \$23 million renovation project provided that the school receives over \$10 million in State Building Aid. The second article would put forth a smaller \$1.8 million project in case the previous article fails or the school doesn't receive that aid.

The Barnstead School Board unanimously voted
SEE EXPANSION, PAGE A11



COURTESY PHOTO

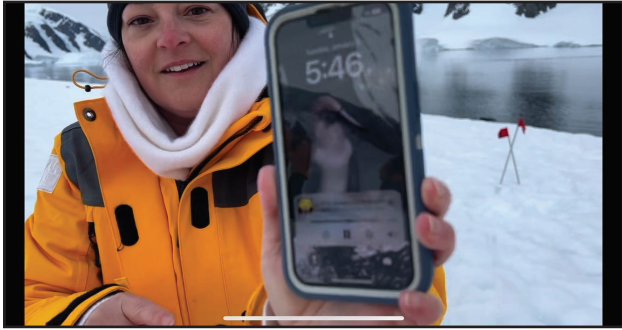
Perfect season

The Barnstead girls' middle school basketball team completed an undefeated regular season for the second year in a row. They also took first place in the Laconia Holiday Tournament, the Winnisquam Tournament and the Farmington 500 Tournament not losing a single game in any of the tournaments this year, capping off a perfect season.

Local "Star Wars" podcast makes its way to Antarctica

GILFORD — The "Star Wars 7x7" podcast, hosted by Allen Voivod, has now been downloaded and listened to in Antarctica, marking a significant milestone for the show. The unofficial podcast, hosted from New Hampshire since its inception in 2014, has been heard on all seven continents, and in more than 160 countries around the world.

"We're unbelievably thrilled to have reached this milestone," Voivod said. "Over the years, as our listenership spread globally, I discovered that Antarctic downloads wouldn't show up in our statistics. The only way we'd ever know whether someone



listened to us in Antarctica is if they sent us proof."

That proof arrived in January 2023 from a listener named Kelly Chapman, the founder of Meredith Whole Living Center in Meredith. While traveling to Antarctica, she recorded a video that showed her listening to an episode of the podcast on Danco Island, having download-

ed it from their ship's satellite Internet. That video has been shared across Star Wars 7x7's various social media channels.

"The episode she chose was one of our monthly looks at what's happening in the world of Star Wars storytelling, for January 2023," Voivod notes. "It's a popular feature on the show, and now that episode

– 3,103 – will hold a special place in our show's history."

Those monthly preview episodes encapsulate the range of Star Wars coverage provided by the unofficial fan podcast. They cover 12 areas of storytelling, including live action, animation, publications, video games, live events, and more.

About Star Wars 7x7
With more than three million downloads since its debut, Star Wars 7x7 is the go-to source for fans seeking daily news, analysis, interviews, and discussion of all things Star Wars. The podcast
SEE PODCAST, PAGE A11

Gilford voting on short term rental ordinance, bathhouse fund

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

GILFORD — Short term rental regulations, creating a fund for a new bathhouse at the town beach, and some new equipment purchases are among the 27 different articles Gilford voters will decide on at town elections.

Town elections and town meeting voting will take place on Tuesday, March 14, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Gilford Youth Center.

Voters will elect town offices in Article 1. Article 2 is three different proposed zoning amendments. Article 2.1 would place certain regulations on short term rentals. Article 2.2 Would remove the sentence that states the Zoning Board may make interpretations of the zoning ordinance, a power that is not actually granted by state law. Article 2.3 would put certain requirements on excavating and filling lots with slopes between 15 percent and 25 percent grade.

Article 3 is the town's operating budget of \$16,913,194. If the article fails, the default budget will be \$15,604,596.

Articles 4 and 5 are collective bargaining agreements between the town and different groups of employees.

Article 4 would approve the cost items in the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the selectmen and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Local 534 representing certain Public Works employees. The contract will carry increases in wages and benefits of \$142,532 in 2023, \$146,096 in the second year, and \$149,748 in the third year.

Article 5 is the collective bargaining agreement between the selectmen and Teamsters Local 633 of New Hampshire representing certain Police Department employees. This contract would have an increase of \$195,046 in 2023, \$199,923 in 2024, and \$195,046 in 2025.

Article 6 would create a new Town Beach Bathhouse Capital Reserve Fund to design and construct a new multipurpose facility at the town beach. The article would establish the fund with \$100,000 from the surplus fund balance.

The town would enter into a lease purchase agreement for a new fire engine under Article 7. The town would enter into a finance agreement of up to \$650,000 and use \$200,000 for the initial payment.

Article 8 would purchase a medium duty pickup truck or the Department of Public Works for \$156,000.

The town would raise and appropriate \$156,000 for a skid steer with plow and accessories for the DPW with the passage of Article 9.

Articles 10-20 and Article 22 would place money into different capital reserve funds (CRF). Article 21 would create a new fund for the town's share of the regional waste transfer station.

SEE GILFORD, PAGE A11

GHS theater presents "Arsenic and Old Lace"



Gilford High School students fresh from Winter Carnival games get right into rehearsal mode for their coming production of "Arsenic and Old Lace."
BY ERIN PLUMMER

GILFORD — The classic dark comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace" will be coming to the Gilford High School stage in the next few weeks before

students bring part of the show to a coming theater festival.

GHS theater will present the show at the end of the month, including a show for a special au-

dience of seniors, before taking a section of the show to festival.

In "Arsenic and Old Lace," recently married drama critic Mortimer Brewster returns home

to Brooklyn and visits his eccentric aunts who have some dark secrets. The show was written in 1941 and made into a movie in 1944 directed by Frank Capra and starring Cary Grant.

This is the first time in a while the company has done a full stage play that's not a musical. Director Matt Demko said they wanted to get back to that.

"We wanted to do something with a nice cast of some good, meaty characters, some humorous and some serious," Demko said. "It's a great example of black comedy, some fun moments but in a serious way."

He said the students involved in the show has been having fun and seem to be enjoying the show so far.

SEE GHS, PAGE A11

Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Trivia Night- Test your Knowledge

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring their first Trivia Night on March 16 at the Gilman Library from 6-7:30 p.m. Program is free. Join the game as a team or an individual player. Test your knowledge and compete for the first place prize. Categories include: History; Pop Culture; Entertainment; Art; Science; Sports; Geography; and more. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov to guarantee your seat in the game. Snow date is March 23.

Spoon Carving Workshop

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Alton Hand Carvers are sponsoring a beginner wood carving workshop on Friday, March 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center. At this workshop participants will learn the basics of wood carving by carving a simple wooden spoon that can be used as an everyday staple. A one-time \$30 registration fee will cover the cost of two carving knives which will be yours to take home. Once you have these knives you

will be able to attend all future Alton Hand Carvers workshops for free apart from the cost of materials. Register for the workshop by contacting parksrec@alton.nh.gov. Registration closes March 21.

Men's Basketball 18 years and over- Thursday nights

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Men's Basketball 18+ pickup games at Alton Central School on Thursdays starting March 9 from 8-9:30 p.m. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

Weight Training Classes- Mondays and Wednesdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Weight Training Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library for adults of all ages and abilities. Learn new exercises and build strong muscles and bones. \$20 per month or \$5 drop in. Bring light hand weights, a mat and water. For more information contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Yoga Flow to Yin Class with Sheila Marston

Join a fun flow Yoga Class on Sundays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 9-10 a.m. \$10 drop in fee. Yoga Flow to Yin is an all levels flow class incorporating strength, core and balance. Bring mat and water. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Yoga Sculpt Class with Sheila Marston

An energetic class that is a combination of vinyasa, strength training, cardio and core at the Alton Bay Community Center 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bring two sets of weights, water and a yoga mat.

Little Pesaukees-Drop-In Playgroup

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a drop-in playgroup for children age five and younger at the Alton Bay Community Center on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. We provide the toys and activities, and you provide the interaction. The ongoing program is free and is a great place to meet new people. Please bring a peanut free snack for your child. Please note- we will not be meeting on March 28. For more information, contact parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

BY HERB GREENE
Director
Gilford Parks and Recreation

28th Annual Francoeur/Babcock Memorial Basketball Tournament! Come and see Youth Basketball at its best in Gilford during the 28th Annual Francoeur/Babcock Memorial Basketball Tournament taking place at the Gilford Middle School from Thursday, March 9 to Sunday, March 12. Sponsored by the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department, the tournament will host 12 area teams consisting of boys and girls in grades 3 - 6 from Franklin, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia and Sanborn-ton. This invitational tournament is held in memory of Aaron T. Francoeur who was a thirteen year old Gilford Middle/High School student when he succumbed to cancer in the summer of 1993. Nathan Babcock's name was added in 2006 after he lost his battle with cancer in the fall of 2005. All proceeds from this tournament are given in scholarships to Aaron's and Nate's names to deserving Gilford students who are furthering their post high school education. Many former players and scholarship recipients return each year to help at the tournament, be it officiating, scoring, timing, selling tickets and t-shirts, or working at the concession stand. The tournament this year will consist of the following divisions and teams:

Family Pass (all games) is also available for \$10.

Junior (Coed) Division (Grades 3 and 4) - Gilford, Gilmanton, Lou Athanas and Sanbornton Senior Girls Division (Grades 5 and 6) - Gilford, Franklin, Gilmanton and Lou Athanas Senior Boys Division (Grades 5 and 6) - Gilford, Gilmanton, Lou Athanas and Sanbornton

The schedule for the opening rounds of play will be:

Thursday, March 9 Junior Division (Coed) Gilford vs. Sanbornton at 5 p.m. Junior Division (Coed) Gilmanton vs. Lou Athanas at 6:15 p.m. Senior Girls Division Gilford vs. Gilmanton at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 10 Senior Girls Division Lou Athanas vs. Franklin at 5 p.m. Senior Boys Division Gilford vs. Sanbornton at 6:15 p.m. Senior Boys Division Gilmanton vs. Lou Athanas at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, March 11, games will begin at 8 a.m., and the last game of the day will be played at 6 p.m. On Sunday, March 12, the Championship round games are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

The tournament is open to the public, and everyone, young and old alike, is invited to attend. The admission fee is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. A Tournament

Family Pass (all games) is also available for \$10. Children not of school age, coaches and players are free. Be sure to mark your calendars now and come join us for some great basketball, positive competition, good sportsmanship, and community spirit!

Senior Moment-um Ice Cream Buffet and Show "Arsenic and Old Lace" on March 29 (Wednesday) Gilford Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Gilford High School Performing Arts, and the Gilford High School's National Honor Society is sponsoring an evening at the Theatre for participants of the Senior Moment-um Program. This activity is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29. Participants will meet in the Gilford High School cafeteria at 6 p.m. to enjoy an Ice Cream Buffet put on by the National Honor Society before heading to the Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. to watch the High School Performing Arts performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace." There is no fee for this program, but space is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first come basis. RSVP no later than Wednesday, March 22.

For more information or to RSVP please call the Parks and Recreation Office at 527-4722.

Two contested races in Barnstead

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

BARNSTEAD — Voters will decide on two contested races with most of the other town and school offices uncontested.

Town elections on Barnstead will take place on Tuesday, March 4, at Barnstead Town Hall from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Three candidates are vying for two open spots on the board of se-

lectmen. Rick Therrien is running for another three-year term on the board against Gary Madden and Priscilla Tiede.

The rest of the offices are uncontested.

Two positions are open on the Planning Board with current alternate Tim Eade and Alan Glassman both running for a three-year term.

Two positions with three-year terms are

also open on the Zoning Board. Alan Glassman is running for reelection and Andrew Sylvester is running for a seat on the board.

Road Agent George Drew is running for another three-year term.

Hilary Henry is seeking a three-year term as treasurer.

Ann Cwick is running for reelection to the Library Trustees for a three-year term.

Karen Montgomery is seeking a three-year term as Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Elaine Swinford is running for a one-year term as Overseer of Public Welfare.

Voters will decide on one proposed change to the zoning ordinance. Under the change accessory dwelling units will be allowed by special exception in all zoning districts that permit

single family dwellings. This changes the previous ordinance that said accessory dwellings were allowed by special exception in all zoning districts.

For SAU 86, four people are running for two open seats on the Barnstead School Board, each with three-year terms. Board members Brandy Pelletier and Lyla Adkins are running for reelection against

Erin Emery and Kevin Genest.

The remaining offices are uncontested.

Timothy Eade is seeking a one-year term as school district clerk.

Hilary Henry is running for reelection as school district treasurer for a one-year term.

No one filed for school district moderator and that office is open to write-in candidates.



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Alton Democrats to hold caucus March 20

ALTON — The Alton Democratic Party caucus will take place Monday, March 20 at 6 p.m. in person at the Pearson Road Community Center. The meeting will also be held via Zoom; e-mail ruthlarson@msn.com to sign up.

All registered Democrats in Alton are eligible to vote in the caucus elections for town

Democratic committee officers and for two delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

We encourage you to attend, and welcome your participation! Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Ruth Larson at (603) 364-4003 (landline) or (603) 520-5542 (cell), or by email at ruthlarson@msn.com.

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Alton Rotary seeking more vendors for annual Home Show

Plans to add 10-15 more vendors

ALTON — The Alton, Barnstead, New Durham Centennial Rotary Club will host its 17th annual Home, Garden and Recreation Show, Sat., April 22, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Prospect Mountain High School, Alton. This year, plans are to increase the number of booth spaces, both inside and outside the school, to accommodate 10-15 more vendors.

Alton Rotary Club President, Terrance Small, says, “This event is our single biggest fundraiser. All net income is used to fund the many charities we support, and by increasing the size of the home show, we’ll be able to raise more revenue for helping to save and improve lives - Rotary’s main goal.”

All businesses, from start-ups to the well-es-



COURTESY

The Alton, Barnstead, New Durham Centennial Rotary Club will be hosting its 17th Annual Home, Garden and Recreational Show, Saturday, April 22, at Prospect Mountain High School. Indoor and outdoor booth space is still available for local and Lake Region businesses and crafters from \$85 each. To register online go to: AltonRotary.org. Expected turnout based on attendance numbers from previous years will be more than 1,000. Admission is free. All net proceeds donated to charities Rotary supports.

established are invited to join the one and only annual (not for profit) home show in the Lakes Region. This is a great opportunity for local-business to promote, market and sell its products and/or services to hundreds of buyers. Cost to participate as a vendor, a sponsor or

both, is far below what is charged by other (for profit) home shows.

“Both the amount of booth space available and time to sign-up is limited,” said co-chair for the show, Rotarian Richard Leonard. “Printed advertising cannot be guaranteed after April 1, so it’s best to register early, he added. To register online, as a vendor or show sponsor, go to: AltonRotary.org, or call: 805-288-0517. Public admission to the Rotary Home, Garden and Recreation Show is free. Not only does it feature many vendors, it also includes food, raffles, prizes and surprises. Other organizations participating include the Alton Business Association (ABA), and the Boy Scouts.”

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Frigid

I could have worked today inside a nice warm school with a bunch of pretty cool kids. I told them that I’d let them know if my mountain work today for some reason got canceled due to the frigid cold weather. I didn’t suspect that it would, I mean, that’s our business, being out showing people how to have fun in the cold snowy mountains.

When I got up this morning, the outside temp read 11 degrees. By the time I fed the cat, it had dropped to seven. When I left the house, my car said that it was four. These are

a welcome change from the thirties and forties that we’ve been having of late. I hope for a week’s worth of below zero every winter. It’s really not cold if you dress for it. I see kids walking into school wearing crocks and those stylish jeans that have the fronts of the legs burnt off with acid exposing bare flesh. There’s no way to get long johns into them undetected. Totally not cool, but a lot warmer.

If you’d see all the devastation to our forests that have been caused by the emerald ash borers and all the other invasive species that have been spreading north in the last few

years, you’d wish for a long enough cold snap to make it so they don’t wake up in the spring too. It also works on good old gypsy moths and ticks.

The temp reading when I made it to the mountain was still four. Listening to the radio driving in there was all kinds of weather warnings and advisories. DON’T GO OUTSIDE IF YOU DON’T HAVE TO! Don’t go outside, go south. Like all the snowbirds do. If you can’t take a little cold. I remember getting up to go skiing and having to jump start all the cars at the inn because it was twenty below. Good Lord, this is New Hampshire. It’s winter. It’s supposed to be cold.

all converged at pretty much the same time. An hour was just about enough for everyone to be out in an effective minus sixteen degrees.

With no more lessons scheduled, my supervisor, not expecting any walk ins, said that we might as well go home. I happily accepted his offer as I had another objective on my mind. I don’t believe that it’s February and I haven’t lit the sauna yet. It’s been either too warm, or I’d have gigs, or I’d work too late to get to light it. There’s something to be said for an electric one that you can program to heat up on its own, but there’s nothing like heated rocks when it comes to a sauna.

developed some means of making it happen. For their better health. You ought to try it.

It’s now twelve below and I just went out and loaded the stove again. It’s up to around one sixty. I’ve sent out a text invite to all my sauna friends. I don’t know

who will show, but it’ll be nice to sit out there and bake, even if no one else shows up. I’ll be taking advantage no matter what.

E.Twaste
Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com



COURTESY

Safety bags

Gilford Elementary School received a generous donation of 40 backpacks to use as safety bags in case of an offsite emergency. Nurse Jen and Timberlane’s employee, Kristen Evangelo, are pictured with the bags.

After I got to the shack, we were sitting around wondering if the people were going to show up for their lessons. They were a little late, but they made it. After getting them their equipment, we headed out. I instantly could feel that the wind gusting to forty with these temps was going to be pretty brutal. I aimed my lesson into the trees for a little relief. I could tell that my cheeks were definite candidates for frostbite so I would gaze into the sun whenever the opportunity arose.

My hands and feet always get cold, and they certainly didn’t let me down today. We made it through the lessons and didn’t lose anyone, so that was good. Everybody hurried back to the shack to thaw out. All of a sudden, the whole group, those in the lessons and those who went out on their own,

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Things aren't always what they seem

We see it on Facebook, and other social media accounts — seemingly happy people carrying on about their lives without a care in the world. As we scroll, we tend to pass judgements on what is in reality, a blip in the lives of those who's photos we are currently looking at. A mere moment, that perhaps lasted less than a second, is captured, and in that moment, we feel that we are free to make a distinction on what that individual is going through in the moments and days prior, or what they may be feeling like in the moments just after. Don't do that.

The best way to find out how a friend, co-worker or family member is, is to simply ask them. With the past year being what it was, mental health issues and rates of suicide are sky rocketing. Is this really a time to pass judgement? Or is this an opportunity to lift those up around us and to make sure that we're all hanging in there?

As humans, some of us can handle any given situation with more grit than others. Some can carry on for just so long until it just becomes too much. Those that have that grit, are those who have the ability to extend their hand, tell someone that they will be ok and that they are not alone. Support for a person overwhelmed, depressed or anxious is paramount to their well being. Sure, it feels good to act tough, and announce that X, Y, or Z doesn't bother you, but the world is not all about you and it never will be. Be kind, it just feels better.

When a person breaks their leg and can temporarily no longer work, they are sent flowers, offered encouraging words of support, given sick time and sent home with casseroles. If a person with a mental health condition takes time off to regroup and to seek the help and therapy that they need to live, it becomes an issue. Because you can't SEE the injury. What you might see is a smile that lasted a split second, and you pass judgement — 'Oh, they aren't really sick.' Guess what? You are wrong. Make no mistake, we all go through challenging times, that doesn't mean that we all handle them in the same way.

Discrimination against a person with any health issue, whether it be physical or mental, is illegal. Furthermore, it's morally wrong. Do we really want to be a society that has stopped supporting one another? We vote no. When we see a neighbor plow the driveway of the house down the street, or three neighbors pulling a stranger's car out of a ditch, we are reminded of how at our cores, we are all kind.

Take note — mental illness is not a character defect. There are many reasons a person may develop an issue, whether it's temporary, brought on by stress, illness or whether it's genetic. Some anxiety may resurface as an adult, due to childhood trauma. Either way, we don't know unless we know.

When people don't understand mental illness, they tend to behave prejudice against those who admit they have an issue. Those people are often treated as though they don't have a real health issue and are then discriminated against. This leads to shame in the person who openly admits that they need help, and so the stigma surrounding mental health is born.

Many workplaces have excellent support systems in place for employees who need help, these to include police and fire departments. These places are to be commended for looking out for one another.

Here are ways to decrease the stigma, be in the know and help your neighbors. Educate yourself, be aware of your attitude towards those who confide in you, pay attention to your judgements and choose your words carefully. When you do educate yourself, spread the word. Treat those around you with respect and offer encouragement, or a slice of pizza, anything goes. We say it often, take care of each other, now more than ever. Being kind is pretty darn easy.

More ice than fish

There were more snowmen -- and snowfish -- at the Barnstead Recreation Department's annual Ice Fishing Derby than fish. Thirty-four youngsters caught four fish. And the day was beautiful, the sun made multiple appearances, the snow was perfect, the food and prizes awesome. Many, many great memories were preserved on family phones.



Letters to the Editor

Kyle Sanborn has shown the leadership Gilford's School Board needs

To the Editor:
As we approach the upcoming election, I urge you to re-elect Kyle Sanborn to the Gilford School Board. Kyle is a proud son of Gilford, having grown up here and graduated with the Class of 2001. He is deeply invested in this community, and his passion for serving its people shines through in all he does. I grew up with Kyle in Gilford, and I can attest to his unwavering dedication to our town. He is a team player who works well with others, and he has proven himself to be a man of his word time and time again. Kyle was an integral part of the School

Board when we faced the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and his leadership helped ensure that our schools remained open and safe for our students.
Kyle understands the importance of balancing students' needs with taxpayers' obligations and has consistently demonstrated his commitment to achieving this balance. He knows the difference between needs and wants, and he has the experience and expertise necessary to support the necessities of our students while being conscious of our taxpayers' wallets. Kyle has been an active and

reliable member of the School Board for years. He currently serves as the vice-chair of the board, and he has also served as the School Board's representative on our town's budget committee. In addition, he spent two years on the policy committee and is the School Board liaison to the Huot Technical Center. He also strongly advocates for FIRST robotics and FIRST LEGO, recognizing the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math education for our student's futures.
I do not doubt that Kyle will continue to do a great job for our community. He is a devoted

family man, and father of three children. He spends countless hours behind the scenes preparing himself for the meetings, and his hard work and dedication to his duties are truly commendable.
In these challenging times, we need leaders like Kyle Sanborn who are committed to serving their community with integrity, passion, and a deep sense of responsibility. On March 14, I would like to ask you to vote to re-elect Kyle Sanborn to the Gilford School Board.
Sincerely,
Chris Banks
Gilford

Autocracy disguised as liberty

To the Editor:
Many Republicans have been slow to recognize what extremists in their party are doing and the effects of their actions. As the extremism has intensified, some prominent members of the party are starting to speak out. For example, Republican National Committeewoman from our state Juliana Bergeron has just stated publicly: "There are people in our party that want to put women back into the 1960s...I wish I didn't have to say that, but that's how I feel."
The extremist group that trumpets its deep commitment to liberty denies women the liberty to make healthcare de-

cisions relating to their own bodies. But their suppression of liberty does not end with denying women the right to choose.
The extremists are, in effect, rewriting the Pledge of Allegiance; "Liberty and Justice for All" is in practical effect being changed to "Liberty and Justice for White People." Black history, clearly a significant and in many instances a sad part of American history, may not be taught in our schools because it makes white people uncomfortable.
These extremists are also seeking to negate that concept of liberty incorporated in our Constitution that guarantees freedom from any gov-

ernmentally imposed religion. Their concept of religious liberty is that we all should be free to practice Christianity as defined by the Christian nationalists where "far right" notions of right and wrong have replaced the teachings contained in the Sermon on the Mount.
What we are seeing from the extreme right is the introduction of

autocracy disguised as liberty. We should all be mindful of the words of Patrick Henry in his last public speech in 1799: "United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs."
Hunter Taylor
Alton

Swenson has taxpayers' best interests at heart

To the Editor:
First, we moved to New Durham 23 years ago from Portsmouth; big difference from city government.
My wife and myself have gotten involved in the community. We try to go to the meetings, but we aren't always able to. We really got involved when the previous select members wanted to do away with all the town services and privatize our jobs. When it came to voting on these matters, it was always a 2-1 vote, where Mr. Swenson's vote didn't count.
In our opinion, Mr. Swenson has the best heart for the taxpayers in our town. He only wants what's best for our community unlike the others that were on the board. He is a knowledgeable asset to our town of New Durham. His honest and practical approach to getting things done so he cares about the citizens who live here.
Do to having surgery, I wasn't able to make it to candidates' night, but I ask for you to join us in supporting Mr. Swenson for select board in New Durham. Thank you,
Ken and Virginia Fanjoy
New Durham

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.
It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

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Open enrollment represents an opportunity for Alton & Barnstead -- and for Lakes Region students

BY TIMOTHY BROADRICK, EDD
Superintendent of Schools
SAU 72, 86, & 301

A majority of the United States have some form of public school choice. In most of these systems, a limited number of students may be allowed to attend a school outside of the community where they reside, subject to admissions criteria and other limitations determined by school boards or state legislatures. Surprisingly, although New Hampshire's laws allow mobility among school districts on a case-by-case basis or by agreements directly between local school boards, for the most part each local New Hampshire school board has near-total control over where its resident students are allowed to attend public schools. It may surprise many to learn that this makes New Hampshire an exception among US states, where it is more common for families to be allowed greater choice over where their children attend public schools.

It doesn't necessarily have to be that way. On March 14 and 25, voters in Alton and Barnstead will consider warrant articles that would allow Prospect Mountain High School to become an "Open Enrollment School" under RSA 194-D, an apparently little-known 2009 state law. If these articles pass, the Prospect Mountain JMA Joint Board would be able to run the school more like a public academy. First, every student who resides in Alton or Barnstead would be entitled to attend the school, just as they have been

since PMHS opened in 2004. Then, the Joint Board could open a limited number of seats, using defined admissions criteria, to students who reside in other towns and are able to provide their own transportation to and from PMHS.

This begs the question, why would a student wish to attend PMHS instead of some other public high school? Every child is different, and many states leave it up to families to determine the schools that best fit their children's needs. On behalf of PMHS, I would note that its four-year graduation rate is the highest in the immediate area, its dropout rate is the lowest, and the average SAT ELA and Math scores among PMHS 11th graders are the second-highest among the six public high schools located closest to Alton and Barnstead. Even more importantly, the school's professional staff have built a culture where nobody thinks about what town each student comes from. The motto "We Are Prospect" rings true in everything that happens at the school. Notably, the school has a 75 percent student participation rate in extra-curricular activities. In addition to effective core academic programs, the school boasts a Woodworking shop and a Welding shop, two Fine Arts studios, a Family & Consumer Science program, and outstanding facilities for both Band and Chorus programs that perform in a modern, 800-seat auditorium. PMHS is also home to one of New Hampshire's

oldest and most successful Robotics programs, with plans for a new Robotics and Engineering diploma pathway ready to launch next fall.

In most states, open enrollment or school choice laws are not meant to significantly expand the size of any school. Rather, open enrollment allows a school to fill seats that would otherwise be empty. At PMHS, this may mean adding no more than 30 students per grade level. That might increase Math class sizes from 13 to 17, or English class sizes may rise from 15 to 19 students. These courses already exist; teachers are already employed; the building is already open, heated, and the lights are on. As a result, open enrollment creates very little additional cost to the school, and much of the revenue generated can be returned to the taxpayers or-with separate approval-used to fund capital improvements, which also serves to provide relief to local property taxes.

I am aware, and so are Joint Board members, that this proposal may not be without controversy. But, for the voters of Alton and Barnstead there is little risk, and no economic downside. Faculty, staff, and the Joint School Board are rightly proud of Prospect Mountain High School; it is a "hidden jewel" among lakes region public high schools. Open enrollment could provide a win-win opportunity for local taxpayers and for students in the region who see PMHS as a good fit with their individual educational goals.

Two school construction bond requests for Barnstead voters

BY LYLA ADKINS
Chair
Barnstead School Board

At this year's annual school district meeting, Barnstead voters will be presented with two school construction bond requests. While seemingly contradictory, the school board is seeking approval of both articles, which have also been unanimously recommended by the Barnstead Budget Committee.

The Space Needs Committee (SNC), a long-standing, town-formed committee representing a wide array of interested parties from the community, met frequently over the last two plus years to research options to address building and space needs at Barnstead Elementary School.

The School Board engaged the architecture and engineering firm of HL Turner to prepare a needs assessment and plan of the existing building. The SNC explored a variety of options, specifically: new construction on a district-owned piece of land; new construction on the existing BES site; an expansion and remodel of the current BES building; and to do nothing.

After much discussion and due diligence, the SNC's recommendation is to proceed with expansion and remodel of the current BES building.

Barnstead Superintendent Timothy Broadrick and Business Administrator Heidi Duford prepared and submitted the lengthy application for state building aid. The application was accepted, and ultimately ranked tenth out of a total of 17 projects. The cost to fund all 17 building aid requests on the list is about \$227 million. At the time of this article, Governor Sununu's proposed budget would fund of state building aid at \$75 million per year, meaning it is only likely that the top 4 projects on the list could be funded

this upcoming budget cycle. Building aid applications that are not funded do not remain on the list, and must be resubmitted for the next biennial state budget cycle.

Disappointed with the ranking results, the SNC returned to the drawing board and recommended the following two options which the School Board is bringing forward on this year's warrant.

Project 1, listed as Article 2 on the warrant, involves moving forward with the proposed expansion and renovation project of \$23,398,200, but only if the state budget is somehow amended in the coming months to include enough aid to help pay for Barnstead's project. Construction would be funded with a combination of a long-term bond (approximately 55% of the total building cost), and state building aid (approximately 45% of the total building cost). It is important to understand that, with approval of this article, the School Board will NOT move forward with any borrowing unless and until state building aid of not less than \$10,210,940 is received. Currently there are legislative efforts underway which may result in additional building aid funding in the biennial state budget. It is necessary that Article 2 pass in order for the district to be able to accept and receive building aid funds, should they become available. Without the passage of this article, Barnstead's project would be passed over.

Project 2, listed as Article 3 on the warrant, involves a smaller alternative project. Knowing that BES currently has deferred maintenance needs of approximately \$3.3 million, and that these needs will only grow with the passage of time, the School Board collaborated with HL Turner to develop a smaller renovation project to address several immediate needs including HVAC, window re-

placement, and remodeling needs in the oldest sections of the building (A Wing, B-Wing and the Old Lobby), as well as new flooring for the multi-purpose gymnasium space, and other improvements. Project 2 would be funded by a short-term bond of \$1,800,000, with payments approximately equivalent to those of the PMHS construction bond which was recently paid off, as well as with the usage of remaining grant funds. As they are completed, these improvements would then be removed from the overall scope of the larger Project 1. This alternative project will only proceed if state building aid is not received, and the larger building project proposed in Article 2 does not move forward at this time.

The result of voter approval of both of these articles will be that the School Board will have a plan to keep addressing Barnstead Elementary's building needs after the state budget is finalized this summer: if Barnstead does receive state building aid, then the full renovation and expansion project could proceed; if Barnstead does not receive state building aid, then a smaller, interim project could take place while the Board and the SNC regroup to plan for next steps to address the other needs of the school.

The results of the legislative efforts to increase building aid funding will not be known for some time. Therefore, in order to be best prepared for any outcome, the School Board is requesting that both articles be passed with the understanding that only ONE of these options will be pursued.

Further information on the details of both projects, the building maintenance assessment needs, and the findings of the SNC can be found on the school's Web site: www.mybes.org.

Letters to the Editor

Swenson is the obvious choice

To the Editor:
On March 14, there will be a very important decision for the residents of New Durham. Our decision is to elect one of two former selectmen to help manage our town government.

One of the former board members, Mr. Rosiello, walked out of a meeting after a two to one vote against him and then shortly thereafter, he resigned his position. He is now stating his resignation was for health reasons, but his letter of resignation clearly states he resigned because of critical disagreements with

the Chair of the Board.

On the other hand, Mr. Swenson was voted out of office after a small group of residents made an overblown issue about Selectman Swenson going to Florida for a time during the winter months. He always attended every meeting by Zoom while he was away, and did the lion's share of the work on issues that came before the board. No time off for selectmen who receive a small stipend and have retired from a long and successful professional career? It was as ridiculous then as it is now.

Selectman Swenson

had been a part of a three member board from 2014 to 2016 where he often had to accept 2 to 1 votes. He never resigned in anger or petulance. Do you want a selectman who takes his ball and goes home when a vote doesn't go his way, or one who continues to work to represent the best interest of our town, even when he takes a vacation from the New Hampshire cold, as so many residents of our small town do? The answer is obvious.

Ellen Phillips
New Durham

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Letters to the Editor

Terry Jarvis for New Durham Budget Committee

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of Terry Jarvis for Budget Committee in New Durham. I've had the pleasure of working with her on several town committees and boards and have always found her to be a

dedicated public servant who keeps the best interests of our town and its citizens in mind at all times.
When it comes to the Budget Committee, Terry has the important historical knowledge, always has information at her fingertips when a

question is asked, is extremely organized and works for days preparing for a meeting. Let's keep her on this important committee!
David Wessel
New Durham

Fiscal responsibility drives our Granite Advantage

To the Editor:
The cost of health care has been a historically harsh reality for families across the United States, and it's not only an issue for the uninsured. We all pay into the health care system through monthly insurance premiums or co-pays, but hospitals remain obligated to treat patients regardless of their actual ability to pay. When uninsured patients are unable to pay out of pocket, the cost of their uncompensated care has to be made up by the insured population, leading to higher insurance premiums for Granite Staters. Our state was in desperate need of a way to help provide care to low-income families without passing on the costs to taxpayers, leading to the evolution of the Granite Advantage Health Care Program.

Medicaid expansion has been a controversial topic in New Hampshire for the past decade, and for good reason. Fiscal conservatives were concerned about signing up for a program based on the promises of Washington, D.C., only to have federal funding dry up down the line. Using federal Medicaid funds to help Granite Staters who didn't qualify for existing support made sense, but only if we could find a New Hampshire way to deliver.

Over several years, lawmakers built Granite Advantage, using a federal contribution of 90 percent, and insuring that if that federal share ever went away, New Hampshire's program would end. We have also found a way to fund the state's 10% share with-

out hurting New Hampshire families, using a combination of health care industry fees and dedicated funds to protect taxpayers. These guardrails make Granite Advantage both financially responsible and advantageous to every New Hampshire resident.

Since the start of this program, we've witnessed a 63% reduction in the number of uninsured patients seeking emergency care. We've also seen a 57 percent drop in uninsured patient admissions, along with a 41 percent reduction in uninsured outpatient admissions. Financially speaking, the cost of uncompensated care attributable to uninsured patients plummeted from \$173 million in 2014 to \$69 million in 2021 in New Hampshire hospitals. The program was working as anticipated, and the benefits were exponential.

We're lowering costs for everyone and expanding health care access in the process. Instead of pushing the cost of unpaid care onto the insured, we're providing low-income families with Medicaid access. The difference between what we've done in New Hampshire, as opposed to other states, is that we set standards to ensure our taxpayers will not be left with the bill. This program was built with the same common-sense financial directive as past successful state budgets. New Hampshire Republicans have your back; we're always fighting to protect your hard-earned income.

The letters of support

we received for this program from over 70 businesses and organizations are further proof of its success. The Seacoast Chamber Alliance (2,500 businesses), Business & Industry Association (400 companies), NH Municipal Association, and the NH Commerce Corridor (which includes the Greater Manchester, Greater Concord, Greater Nashua, Greater Salem, Greater Hudson, and Greater Merrimack-Souhegan Chambers of Commerce), among others, all support making the Granite Advantage program permanent. New Hampshire companies are eager to confirm the effectiveness of this program and the positive impact it brings to our state's workers and overall business climate.

The solid financial benefit to our Granite State communities has been the inspiring factor for many fellow Republicans, including myself, to rally support for this program. We've taken what may have been another expensive Washington D.C. mandate and turned it into a New Hampshire success story.

As the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I'm always considering the financial health of our state with the utmost seriousness. After deep discussion and vetting, I can sincerely report that the Granite Advantage program is worth our continued investment and is delivering positive long-term returns.

Sen Jim Gray
Rochester

To the Editor:
Alton's Town Election Day is March 14. I am writing to encourage town residents to vote for Doug Brown and Thomas Lee for Planning Board.
Both Doug and Tom have relevant board experience and are highly qualified to be full

members of the Board. Doug has served on the Planning Board and has proven to be a thoughtful, informed and fair member. Tom currently serves as the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and runs an orderly meeting that focuses on treating all applicants in a helpful and

fair manner. I believe having both Doug and Tom's skills on the Planning Board will be very helpful to the Planning Department and to applicants coming before the Board.
Russ Wilder
Alton Bay

Vote yes to continue Meetinghouse restoration

To the Editor:
New Durham residents, please vote yes on Article 21. If you do: the 2023 contribution toward the 1772 Meetinghouse will add to monies in the CRF and those fundraised to allow us to request higher matching grant amounts; it will put us in a better position to be awarded grants, as adding to a CRF is an indication of community support; and we'll be one step closer to restoring the building

for community use.
When Fritz Wetherbee featured the Meetinghouse on "NH Chronicle," he called the history of the place "palpable." It is the most fundamental symbol of our town - where the early settlers came to worship and govern. With the compromised integrity of the roof and of the timber frame, the next few years are crucial to saving the building. You can help with this!

Townpeople have

been committed to the Meetinghouse since the 1990s, and our investment has paid off with a stable foundation and a wide variety of programs and events through the years. Vote yes on Article 21 to continue the restoration process as we work to save the Meetinghouse!
Cathy Allyn
1772 Meetinghouse Committee
New Durham

I have the experience to serve as your selectman

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to introduce myself to the voters of Alton. My name is Richard Shea, and I am a candidate for a three-year term on the Alton Board of Selectmen. My wife Carole and I relocated from Connecticut to New Hampshire in 2018, building our retirement home on Roberts Cove Road. I enjoyed a long career in the Aerospace field, holding numerous positions in engineering, manufacturing, and general management. More significantly, I have had a fair amount of experience in local government, being elected twice to four-year terms each on the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen in Marlborough, Conn., a town similar in size to Alton. I was able to work with other town and state officials

to keep property taxes in check while providing critical municipal services. I also learned to deal with state regulations and mandates, which were far more intrusive in Connecticut than they are currently in New Hampshire. I believe I have the business background and town government experience to be effective as an Alton selectman.

This year, we will lose the services of both Bob Holt and Ruben Wentworth, two individuals who have done an extraordinary job as Selectmen. Both are longtime Alton residents, and their knowledge of the town and its needs has been invaluable. They will be missed. I do not have the advantage of long-term residency, but I have invested considerable time in attending town meetings and have

a grasp of the issues of concern to Alton voters. I'm also retired, so I can devote the time necessary to serve. My primary objectives are to keep taxes low, maintain and improve town services, and support carefully planned growth while retaining Alton's small New England town atmosphere.

Please consider supporting me for one of the two open selectmen's positions. I believe Nicholas Buonopane III would be an excellent choice for the other. Election day is Tuesday, March 14. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Saint Katharine Drexel Church on Hidden Spring Road (Route 28).

Richard Shea
Alton

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	Route 28	N/A	\$1,645,000	M. Cohen Enterprises LLC	Ns RETail Holdings LLC
Barnstead	Locke lake Colony	N/A	\$50,000	Jennifer A. Wise	Rf Downing Homes LLC
Barnstead	Locke Lake Colony	N/A	\$280,000	Virginia Ruth Pearson Estate and Katherine E. Jones	Matthew Peetz and Danielle
Tassinani					
Barnstead	24 Rangeway Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$315,000	Jolenes Investments LLC	Colin Grosman
Barnstead	Windsor Way		N/A	\$42,000	Sean Dunne and Kenneth Murnane
J2 Custom Homes LLC					

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

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Gilford Community Church creates space for local organizations

GILFORD — Space is an important resource for local community organizations, many of whom struggle to find or afford it, which is a challenge addressed by Gilford Community Church (GCC) throughout the year.

"We provide space to so many diverse community groups, who are welcome to use our facilities free of charge," said GCC Pastor Michael Graham. "If they had to pay, they might cease to exist."

GCC 's capacity to serve the community in this way is enhanced by its close proximity to Gilford Youth Center (GYC), which it helped found in 2009. Located next door on the GCC campus, GYC is also available for use by community organizations. "It's a wonderful space

available to any organization that serves the community," added Graham.

According to Sue King, assistant with the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department, GCC and GYC have been "extremely important and valuable" to their overall operation.

"Both GCC and GYC are both well set up to accommodate our various program needs," she explained. "Without them, we would not be able to offer the variety of programs that we do to individuals of all ages and abilities."

Some of these programs include Senior Momentum, Senior Strides, Santa Land, Adult Pickleball, Youth Soccer, and Youth Basketball. The Gilford



Parks and Recreation Department also holds

meetings for various committees at GCC.

church."

"Churches and other places of worship have a responsibility to serve their communities in ways that bring people together," he said. "For us, 'creating space' is an inclusive metaphor as well as how we conduct our business."

Located in Gilford at 19 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford Community Church (GCC) is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. Viewable live on YouTube, Sunday service at GCC takes place at 10 a.m. To learn more about GCC, or virtually attend service, visit gilfordcommunitychurch.org.

"All the staff at both GCC and GYC are great to work with—very accommodating, cooperative, and understanding of our needs," added King.

Gilford Rotary Club also regularly uses GCC's campus, as President Nick Trudel said they host a weekly breakfast there.

"It's great for us because of the location and kitchen to support breakfast," he said. "We have over 50 members, so the large space is accommodating."

In reflecting on their broad based mission to make a difference in Gilford and surrounding communities, Graham said he looks forward to "strengthening existing relationships and forging new ones."

"It's always a hub of activity, hosting fundraisers and a variety of community outreach events," he said. "It also serves as a place for people to gather during difficult times, regardless of whether or not people are members of the



State champs

The Back Bay U14 hockey team won the state championship title last weekend in Concord. The team will go on to the New England Regional Tournament in Exeter March 17-19. Anyone interested in joining next season's teams should visit www.backbayhockey.com. Back row (l to r), coaches Matt Steele and Tim O'Keefe, James Rogers, William Lefty, Myles O'Keefe, Keller Peacock, coach Sam Danais and Kempes Corbally. Front row (l to r), Jake Pieth, Owen Steele, Nate Cloos, Reid Swinerton, Wyatt Thayer, Carson Macdonald and Ryker Booth, with Jake Dubuc in front. Missing in photo are Aaron Bartlett and Aaron King.

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GES students learn about a NH tradition

GILFORD — Gilford Elementary Learners are tapping into a New Hampshire tradition right here in Gilford. They were recently visited by Ernie Bolduc, a Gilford resident whose sugar shack has been producing maple syrup since 1779.

In a sweet effort to connect with other schools in the area, Gilford Elementary School has partnered with neighboring institutions to learn about the art of maple sugaring.

As part of this initiative, students have been engaged in various ac-

tivities related to maple syrup production, including tapping maple trees, collecting sap, and boiling it down to make syrup. Students have also been learning about the history and culture of maple sugaring, as well as the science behind the process.

The partnership has been a valuable opportunity for students to connect with their peers from other schools, including Sanbornton Central, Woodland Heights, and Belmont Elementary. Teachers and students alike have expressed excitement about the opportunity to collaborate and share

their experiences.

In addition to the educational benefits, the project has also provided a hands-on learning experience that has fostered teamwork and camaraderie among the participating schools.

This community-wide initiative highlights the importance of collaboration and cross-disciplinary learning in education, and serves as a testament to the power of collaboration.

Joshua Allen joins NHTrust in the Lakes Region



Joshua Allen

MEREDITH — Joshua Allen, Financial Associate, has joined the NHTrust Meredith office, located at 24 NH State Route 25 in downtown Meredith. Allen will assist NHTrust clients as well as Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVS) customers and prospects with comprehensive financial plan-

ning services and support.

“I’m excited to welcome Josh to our Meredith team,” said Paul Provost, President. “Hiring the right employees has been a top priority for us. Josh is a Lakes Region native and he is committed to continuing to build his career suc-

cess in this region he is proud to call home. Josh comes to NHTrust after an impressive start to his profession with NY Life, also in the Lakes Region.”

Allen graduated from Southern NH University (SNHU) and is now living in Meredith. When he isn’t coaching

baseball for Inter Lakes Middle School, he enjoys sports, four-wheeling, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

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Pittsfield Players announce auditions for “Jack of Diamonds”

PITTSFIELD — The Scenic Theater will host auditions for “Jack of Diamonds” a comedic mystery, directed by Carole Neveux of the Pittsfield Players on Sunday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 28 in the evening at 7 p.m. at the Theater, 6 Depot St., Pittsfield.

Alton’s Fay Lee named LRAA’s Featured Artist



Fay Lee

TILTON — The Lakes Region Art Association’s February Featured Artist is Fay Lee of Alton.

Lee has been an artist from a very young age. Growing up in rural Alabama, she found flowers and nature her early inspirations. Later in life, classes with various instructors expanded her inspirations into landscapes and her favorite genre, seascapes.

Despite moving several times in her life, the desire to learn never stopped. While living in New York, she attended continuing education art classes. Upon returning to Alabama, she took classes in watercolor, charcoal, pencil and expanded her knowledge of color and color palettes.

Her favorite part of being an artist is the uniqueness her talent

provides. She loves seeing public reaction to her art. She also states that she enjoys working in the Lakes Region Art Gallery with, and learning from, the other artists.

Friday Featured Artist is a weekly program that highlight an artist from the Lakes Region Art Gallery each Friday for four consecutive weeks each month. Subscribe to our Facebook or Instagram channels to receive these videos and more in your social media feeds. Past videos are also available on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@LAKESREGIONARTGALLERY.

Visit our Web site for more information about the gallery: www.LRAANH.org.

Business Excellence Award goes to Belknap Landscape



Left: Hayden McLaughlin, Principal of Belknap Landscape. Right: Mark Smith, Sales Manager of Belknap Landscape.

GILFORD — Belknap Landscape, LLC of Gilford was named the recipient of this year’s President’s Award for business excellence by LandOpt, a nationally-recognized green-industry management consulting firm.

Chosen from more than 30 member companies at the 2023 Annual Principals Meeting held on February 23rd in Phoenix, Arizona, Belknap Landscape was

selected for their excellence in raising recruiting standards, employee on-boarding and retention, serving as a model for mergers and acquisitions through service expansion and growth, and a continued commitment to engagement with LandOpt’s network of companies.

LandOpt’s Managing Director, Andrew Dickson, praised Belknap Landscape’s business principles,

growth, profitability and sustainability for the 2022 fiscal year.

“Not only is Belknap Landscape a model for the LandOpt network, they are model for the green industry and all service industries which strive for continued growth and reward. They have shown that looking for and hiring hardworking individuals who fit the Belknap culture is more impactful to the business than

what you see on a resume. It is evident to the leadership of the Belknap organization that a positive culture drives their organization.”

Hayden McLaughlin, principal owner of Belknap Landscape, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the prestigious award, commenting “LandOpt’s continued coaching has helped us focus on best landscape business management practices. We are grateful for the guidance, coaching and modeling LandOpt has provided in Belknap Landscape’s continued growth.”

Belknap Landscape employs more than 120 employees throughout the greater Lakes Region of central New Hampshire in its three business units: Belknap Landscape, Carroll County Landscape, and Belknap Tree and Plant. 2023 will mark Belknap Landscape’s 35th year of continuous operation. The company’s service offerings include hard and soft scaping services, irrigation, lawn/plant/tree health, and arbor services, irrigation, lighting to residential and commercial customers.

For more information about Belknap Landscape, visit belknaplandscape.com.



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OBITUARY

Mary Schillereff running for at large School Board seat



ELISSA PAQUETTE
Mary Schillereff, candidate for an at large seat on the GWRSD school board, spoke to a Tuftonboro audience at the Candidates Night hosted by the Tuftonboro Association on March 1.

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE
Contributing Writer

WOLFEBORO — Mary Schillereff, an at large candidate for the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board, introduced herself to voters at the WCTV Candidate's Night at Town Hall on Feb. 22 and at the Tuftonboro Association's Candidate's Night at the Tuftonboro Free Library on March 1.

Schillereff's family has roots in the area since the 1920s, she said. She has recently retired from teaching for

30 years in North Carolina and resettled in Wolfeboro in 2010. Her experience ranged from teaching fifth grade to teaching academically gifted K-12 students. Schillereff described her interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities, which led to pulling together a team to apply for a NASA Explorer School grant. The school received the grant for a four year commitment to provide STEM content professional development.

Her other interests

include ham radio operation and raising puppies for Assistance Canine Training Services.

Speaking from experience as an educator, Schillereff said she knows what teachers have to accomplish to achieve certification and the rigorous assessment process schools have to go through for accreditation, and has faith in the integrity of public schools.

"I support public schools 100 percent," said Schillereff.

Edward D. French, 84



Edward D. French, 84 of Gilford, NH passed away on February 28, 2023, with family by his side at Concord Hospital.

Ed was born in Manchester, NH on January 24, 1939, and was raised in Amherst, NH. He graduated from Milford High School and went on to become a member of the US Naval Reserve where he was able to see and experience much of the world. His love for the water and all things nautical followed him throughout his life. His favorite pastime was boating on the ocean and

New Hampshire lakes.

Ed spent his entire career working as an Engineering technician for Sanders Associates/Lockheed/BAE Systems in Nashua, NH.

Ed was predeceased by his parents Howard C. French and Faith (Griffin) French and his wife, the love of his life, Annette Jean (Ledoux) French. He is survived by his sons Stephen French (Michele French), Timothy French and his grandchildren Shelby, Morgan, Dylan and Sydney.

SERVICES: Calling hours were on March 7th from 6 to 8pm at Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm Street, Milford, NH. There will be a private burial service at Meadowview Cemetery in Amherst, NH later in the spring. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please go to www.smith-heald.com

Lucas Beane from Laconia named to Bryant University's Deans' List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize Lucas Beane from Laconia for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement by naming Lucas to the fall 2022 Deans' List. To earn a place on the Deans' List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

Jacob Slide from Center Barnstead named to Bryant University's Deans' List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize Jacob Slide from Center Barnstead for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement by naming Jacob to the fall 2022 Deans' List. To earn a place on the Deans' List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

* LEGAL NOTICE *

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 151:4, Huggins Hospital hereby gives notice of intent to file an application to reopen a Laboratory Collecting Station license for the hospital's Alton Family Medicine office located at 27 New Durham Road, Alton, NH.

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 SNOW-DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 6:15 PM @ NEW DURHAM TOWN HALL

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 23, 2023, beginning at 6:15 PM at the New Durham Town Hall, with a Snow Date of Monday, March 27, 2023 at 6:15 PM at the New Durham Town Hall, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 231:163 and 43:2, for the purpose of considering amending all existing pole licenses to include language regarding taxation pursuant to RSA 72:23.

The Board will also consider adopting a revised Pole and/or Conduit License form which will include language regarding taxation pursuant to RSA 72:23.

The hearing is being held to determine if it is in the best interests of the public good to amend pole licenses so that they are consistent with the property taxation statutes (RSA 72:23).

Board of Selectmen
Town of New Durham

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Jenni

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Lucy

Meet Lucy! Seeking all hound dog loves, this girl is looking for her retirement home. She loves nothing more than belly rubs and finding all the yummy treats you are hiding. Lucy has done well with other animals and could be a good candidate for a multi-pet household with proper introductions.

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LCA to hold Father Daughter Dance

LACONIA — Laconia Christian Academy will hold its sixth annual Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, March 25 at 6 p.m. in the school gymnasium. The dance is open to the public and will be the delight of

girls young and old. The school is located at 1386 Meredith Center Rd. in Laconia, just north of the NH Humane Society. In what has become a favorite tradition at LCA, girls of all ages will be escorted by their dads

for an evening of being treated like a princess. (If a father is unable to attend, stand-ins are more than welcome.) Memories that will last a lifetime are made at gatherings like this.

The evening will feature lots of memorable activities including fun group dances, hors d'oeuvres, and a limbo contest. Local DJ Carroll Brown will be Master of Ceremonies again this year, bringing back his flair for creating a great evening. Come and find out if we will be doing "The Macarena," "The Chicken Dance" or "The YMCA." Professional portraits will be available for an additional small fee.

Please join us for a fun and wholesome evening, tell your friends, and your dad! Tickets are available at the door for \$15 per couple, and \$5 for each additional child with a family cap of \$25. For more information call LCA at 603-524-3250, or go to www.laconia-christian.org. You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

Laconia Christian Academy is a non-denominational Pre-K through grade 12 school committed to providing a stimulating educational experience in a nurturing environment that fosters a passion for God's truth.



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Winni Dip fundraiser returns to Lake Winnepesaukee

LACONIA — It's "Back to the Big Lake" for the 2023 Winni Dip events to benefit Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH). The fundraisers have been "Do-It-Yourself" events for the past two years and will be returning to the Margate Resort in Laconia in a new three-day format.

Friday, March 10 will bring the High School Dip and Middle School Dip back to the Margate. The school-based events are open to students as well as school faculty and staff throughout New Hampshire. Saturday is reserved for the Law Enforcement Dip open to police officers and other public safety personnel. The 2023 Winni Dip on Sunday, March 12 is open to all ages 15 and older. For the hearty dipper seeking a challenge there is also

the MEGA Dip consisting of one dip-per hour for 24 consecutive hours across the weekend.

The theme for all of this year's Winni Dip events is "Party Like It's 1999."

Given the success of the "D-I-Y" version of these events in both 2021 and 2022, that version of the fundraiser remains an option to participants. Most fundraising is done online at the SONH website and via each dipper's existing social media. This allows most people to reach their fundraising minimums in as quick as just two or three days. Registration is open now at www.SONH.org. Participants choose which event they want to take part in and whether they will be doing so in-person at the Margate or utilizing the "D-I-Y" op-

tion. Those opting for the latter will receive their very own "Party Pail" delivered to their home ahead of the Winni Dip weekend.

The 2022 Winni Dip is presented by Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast.

"The Winni Dip events are companion pieces to February's Penguin Plunge event in Hampton. Given the success of that weekend, we're really excited to see everyone back at the Margate," said SONH President and CEO Mary Conroy. "These fundraisers are more important than ever as our athletes return to a full schedule of in-person regional and state competitions for the first time in more than two years," she continued.

Funds raised from the Winni Dip events will go towards athlete training

and upcoming competitions like the State Basketball Tournament in April, several regional competitions in May, the State Summer Games at UNH in June and more. All funds raised from the Winni Dip stay in the Granite State.

Those joining in-person at the Margate enjoy a pre-dip party and costume contest as well as a post-dip awards ceremony. Dippers doing the D-I-Y Dip are asked to always keep safety in mind. Pictures or video should be posted to social media using #sonh-dip.

More info about all events can be found at www.SONH.org. More information about Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast can be found at www.cokenortheast.com/.

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EXPANSION
(continued from Page A1)

to recommend both warrant articles during a public hearing on March 1.

Article 2 would appropriate \$23,398,200 to create an addition to the building that will include a gym, additional classroom space, unified arts programs, and science labs. This article would be contingent on the school receiving \$10,210,940 in State Building Aid and bonding the remaining \$13,187,260.

If Article 2 is defeated or the school doesn't receive the over \$10 million in Building Aid, Article 3 proposes a scaled back expansion project for \$1.8 million. This project would construct and renovate additions to the A and B Wings as well as the cafeteria and the "Old Lobby." The \$1.8 million cost would be bonded.

BES was built in 1956, additions were constructed in 1971 and 1995, and some additional space renovations occurred in 2004. The BES

Space Needs Committee has been working for over 20 years to address ongoing building and space issues and in the past several years they have worked with HL Turner Group for studies and proposals. The committee gave a presentation on the proposed project during public information sessions on Feb. 8, and posted it on the school's Web site.

A previous article to fund a design study was rejected at the 2016 school district meeting. After several changes took place at the school, the bond for PMHS was paid off, and the state lifted its previous moratorium on Building Aid the project took a new life. The Space Needs Committee reformed in 2020 with several school and community stakeholders and voters approved a facilities assessment by HL Turner Groupe at the 2021 district meeting.

Studies have shown that BES has extensive maintenance, space, and other building needs. According to the presen-

tation the building is undersized by 40 percent for its intended uses. Work needs to be done on the safety systems, locker rooms, kitchen appliances, library, classroom and lab space in several departments, and many others. The school is utilizing modular buildings that carry a high lease cost every year.

According to the presentation the committee examined several different options including constructing a new school building on Hannah Nutter Road for around \$44 million or constructing a new school on the current campus for around \$40 million. The committee decided on a renovation and expansion project for more than \$23 million. The committee did find that not doing anything would still result in costs of around \$3.2 million for maintenance and probably around \$8-\$10 million in costs over the next 10 years.

The proposed \$23 million project is depends on the school receiving

over \$10 million in State Building Aid. Superintendent Tim Broadrick said during the March 1 hearing that aid is in a precarious position with the state, though if there is no warrant article or the article fails they will not receive any potential aid at all.

Receiving that state aid depends on what is budgeted in the state's biennial budget process. Broadrick said the state Department of Education has ranked 17 different projects for state aid with the BES project rated at 10th on that list. He said if the state budgeted \$225 million for building aid every project on that list would receive its funding, however the amount that is usually budgeted is around \$50 million or up with the money only going to a few of those top projects.

He said under the circumstances it is unlikely that BES will receive that \$10 million in state aid. There are possibilities that the school could move up in the rankings if another project on that

list fails to receive approval from its respective legislative body or isn't put for a vote to begin with. Broadrick said the school still needs to put the full project to a warrant article that receives voter approval if it wants to even be considered for state funding regardless of how much of a chance it has to receive those funds.

"One of the problems with this process is there are contingencies on top of contingencies, the opposite of what you want when you go to the public and try to ask a question," Broadrick said.

Former Space Needs Committee chair Kate Crary said the committee wanted to collect and give as much information as it could to the public. While there has been a divide between the school and the town, she said so many people from across the community have been involved in this process and everyone has a stake in this project. This project will also create more spaces the public can access during the school

day while still keeping students safe including meeting and gym space.

"We can come together and work on those things and I know that's really idealistic, but it was very, very cool to see that happen and to see it manifest," Crary said.

Selectman and former school board member Diane Beijer said something needs to be done at BES and the more projects are deferred the more they cost down the road.

"We can't keep putting band aids on this school, we just can't," Beijer said. "It needs to be for the next generation obviously of kids that are going to be coming in, but if we continue to wait, because that's the line that we always hear: we can do it next year, we can do it the year after."

She said one example was how voters defeated a roofing project at PMHS for a few years and the costs went up, ultimately costing Barnstead voters around \$400,000.

GILFORD
(continued from Page A1)

cle 10 would put \$2,900 into the Police Dog and Training CRF. Article 11 would put \$10,000 into the Sidewalk CRF. The Technology Capital Reserve Fund would get \$50,000 in Article 12. Article 13 would put \$25,000 into the Building Repair CRF. The Public Works Building CRF would receive \$100,000 in Article 14. Article 15 would put \$25,000 into the Fire Water Supply Maintenance fund. The Recreation

Facilities Maintenance fund would get \$25,000 in Article 16 with a portion going to replacing lights at Village Field with LEDs. Article 17 would put \$20,000 into the Glendale Boat and Launch Ramp Facilities CRF. The Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund would receive \$100,000 in Article 18. A \$100,000 deposit would also go into the Highway Equipment Capital reserve Fund in Article 19. Article 20 would put \$300,000 into the Bridge Replacement

CRF. Article 22 would put \$10,000 into the Sewer Maintenance Capital reserve Fund.

Article 21 would put \$58,000 into the Lakes Region Business Park Capital Trust Fund.

Articles 23-26 are petition articles requesting money for different area nonprofit organizations that serve Gilford residents. Article 23 would provide \$10,000 to the Laconia Resource Center of the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.

Article 24 would give \$2,660 to New Beginnings Without Violence & Abuse. Granite VNA would receive \$24,000 in Article 25. Article 26 would provide \$21,000 to Lakes Region Mental Health Center.

Article 27 would re-adopt the \$500 optional veteran's credit effective on April 1. All property owners who are honorably discharged veterans would be eligible for this credit.

PODCAST
(continued from Page A1)

provides listeners with a comprehensive view of Star Wars storytelling in a quick, informative, and entertaining format. The show can be found on all major podcast apps and YouTube. For more information, visit <https://sw7x7.com>.

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GHS
(continued from Page A1)

"A lot of them were kind of excited to do a full length play they haven't experienced before," Demko said.

Demko said rehearsals have been going well and the program has a great team behind it.

He credited auditorium director Scott Piddington for his efforts through the whole process. Amanda Babcock, the choir director of the Gilmanton School, has also been helping work with students.

A few parents have bene greatly helping out behind the scenes, including Karen Madon and Kristin Nazer.

GHS will perform the

show at the GHS Auditorium on March 29-31 and April 1. On March 29 seniors from the Parks and Recreation Department's Senior Moment-Um group will get a special show with the Ice Cream Buffet & a Show event.

The students will then take the production to the New Hampshire Educational Theater Guild's coming high school festivals. The regional festival will take place at Salem High School's Seifert Performing Arts Center March 18. GHS will be hosting the state festival April 7 and 8.

Students will get a 40 minute scene from the show ready for festival. While the performers re-

hearse for their time on stage, the tech crew will also have to rehearse for setting the stage. Demko said this production will have a "huge" set and the tech crew will need to rehearse taking the pieces on and off-stage within a certain time limit in time for the

festival. He said having the state festival at GHS gives them an advantage because they are already familiar with the layout of their stage.

The New England Regional Festival will be at Camden Hills Regional High School in Camden, Maine. April 20-22.



GHS theater will present "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the end of the month for local audiences and will bring a scene to a high school theater festival.



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181 Corliss Lane, Colebrook, NH 03576

Phone: (603) 388-4236

Ucvh-hr@ucvh.org

EOE

the

Kalled Gallery

THE KALLED GALLERY will be hiring an exceptional part-time employee for the 2023 Summer/Fall season... yes, weekends are a must. We are looking for qualities in a candidate that will compliment our friendly team and the culture of the gallery. When sharing your learned knowledge using your love & appreciation for artisan work and using your professional communication skills; you will be an asset to our team. The right candidate will have retail experience, a strong work ethic, computer skills, POS system knowledge, strong communication skills and pride themselves on their customer service skills. Willingness to learn with a positive attitude and a sense of humor is a must. We will train you with respect and patience to excel at your job. Please send your resume and cover letter to: kalledgallery@kalledjewelrystudio.com or stop by the gallery for an application. Please direct all inquiries to Mal Stirt.

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Local
residents
make Dean's
List at
Wentworth
Institute of
Technology

BOSTON, Mass. — The following local students have made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2022 semester.

- * Cameron Dugan of Gilford
- * Sofia Sawyer of Gilford

Wentworth Institute of Technology Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked university offering career-focused education through bachelor's and graduate degree programs in areas including engineering, architecture, computing and data science, life sciences, management, and design. Its 31 acres are situated in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Mass., within walking distance of several leading cultural, educational, sports, and medical hubs. Wentworth is known for its emphasis on career preparation for students through its leading co-op programs, hands-on learning approach, and alignment with 21st-century workforce needs.

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Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Concert

"Haydn Seek"

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Bernstein / Vivaldi / Dvorak

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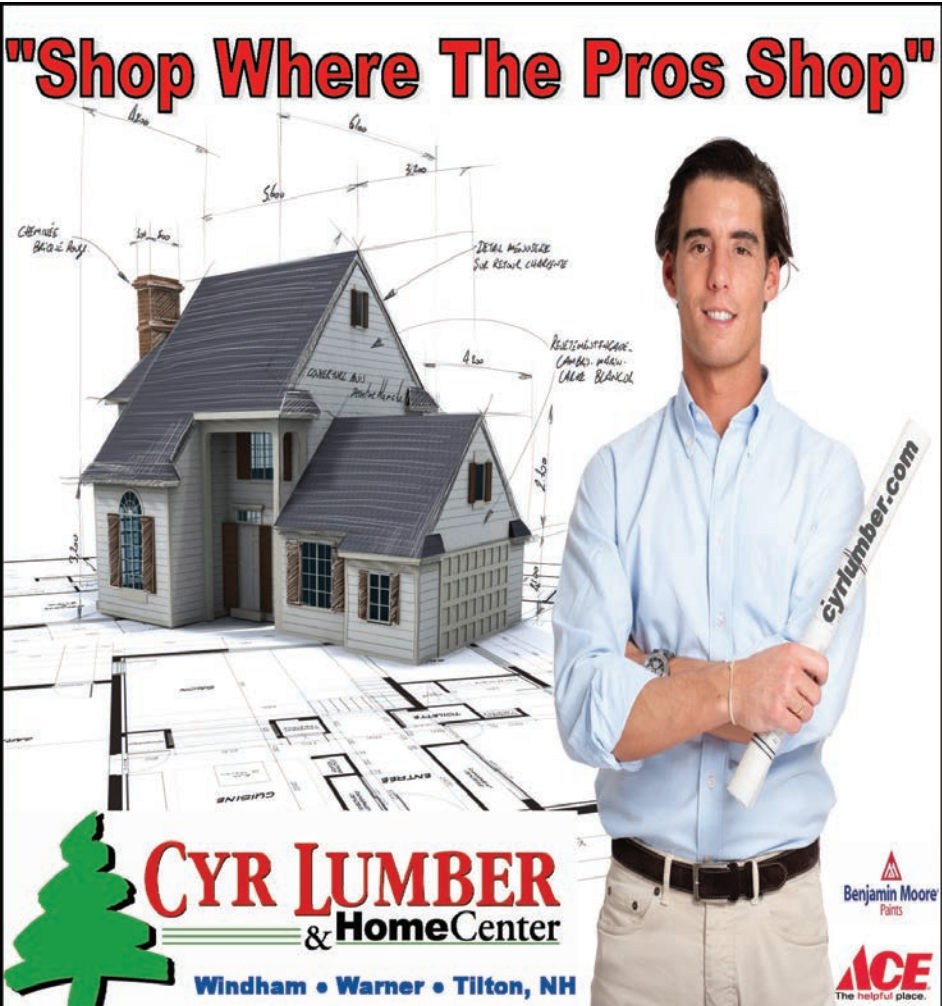
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