

# Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

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## Belmont High School celebrates top graduates

BY DONNA RHODES  
Contributing Writer

**BELMONT** — Belmont High School will be holding its commencement ceremonies soon, and school officials wished to introduce the Top 10 graduates from the Class of 2024.

Leading a competitive and dedicated group of students this year are Valedictorian Cate McDonald of Canterbury and Salutatorian Leanna Rowley of Belmont.

As Valedictorian, McDonald has spent four years involved in not only her academic work, but sports, band and leadership activities. She served as the Student Representative to the Shaker Regional School Board, was voted Secretary of the Student Council, and took part in the Belmont Representatives Advocating for Student Success (BRASS) committee, which worked to successfully change the school's previous mascot to the Red Fox.

Academically, Mc-



DONNA RHODES

Belmont High School officials were proud to announce the Top 10 graduates of the Class of 2024. From left to right (front row) are Emilie DeFrancesco, Valedictorian Cate McDonald, Salutatorian Leanna Rowley, Bree Bailey, and Eleni Papadopoulos. In the back row are Nick Daigneault, Demetrius Kafkoulas, Baidyn Lewis, Jonathan Holmes, and Richard Johnson

Donald was a member of both the National Honor Society (NHS) along with the National English Honor Society (NEHS).

On the athletic side,

she was a member of the Alpine Racing Team and also took part in the Outdoor Varsity Track team where, in her junior year, she set a record in the 4x100 race and the

team brought home the Division-3 Championship trophy that same year. Outside of school, McDonald was involved as a gymnastics instructor at Lakes Region

Gymnastics Academy and has also worked as a summer camp counselor for LRGA.

Since fourth grade, she has played flute in the school band and is a member of the Canterbury Rascals 4-H Group. Through 4-H she

and other students from across the country participated in a national leadership conference in Atlanta, Ga. with a focus on community service.

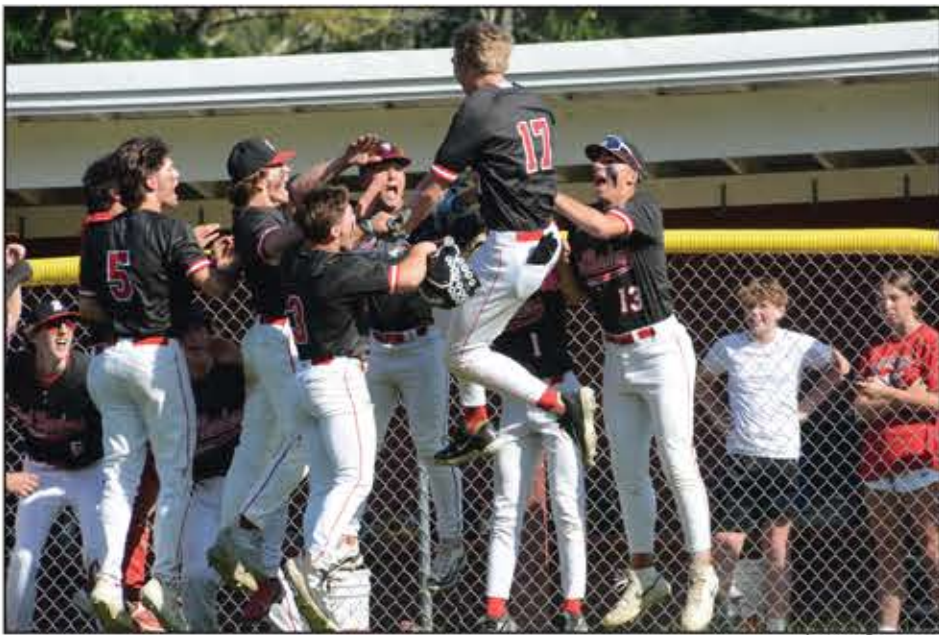
In the fall, she will attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. where she plans to study Elementary Education.

Salutatorian Leanna Rowley was also very involved in both academics and other school organizations while at BHS. She is the Vice-President of NHS, President of NFHS as well as a member of the National English Honor Society. She also served as Co-President of the French Club, took part in the student exchange program to France, served as a member of the school's Student Council and participated in the Granite State Challenge competition for schools across New Hampshire.

Thanks to the assistance and encouragement of her French teacher, Madame Edie Takantjas, Rowley will be off to western France after graduation for an exciting 10-month in-

SEE GRADUATES, PAGE A8

## Raiders blast defending champs, head on to Final Four



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Anakin Underhill jumps into a group of teammates after his homer in the Division III quarterfinals on Saturday.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

**BELMONT** — The Belmont baseball team came charging out of the gate in the Division III quarterfinals on Saturday afternoon, taking an early lead on the defending champion White Mountains Regional Spartans and took the 11-1 win to advance to the Division III semifinals.

"We respect White Mountains a lot, they're such a good team, they're right there every year, we want to emulate them," said Belmont

SEE RAIDERS, PAGE A8

## Las Vegas comedy comes to the Greenside

**TILTON** — With four shows now in the books, the monthly Boston Comedy Series at the Greenside Restaurant function room in Tilton, continues Saturday, June 8 at 8:30 p.m. with an all-star lineup featuring two comedians who have been Las Vegas performers and one of Boston's top rising stars.

Headlining the night will be Steve Bjork a long time Boston comedian whose resume includes Las Vegas, nationwide corporate events, and top clubs around the country. Working the middle will be Joani Grassey who spent 20 years as a Las Vegas comedian before returning home to New England and opening will be rising star Zach Valencia.

Tickets are \$22 and may be purchased in advance by logging on to <https://birdease.com/Comedy-Show2024>. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the show if not sold out.

"We have been very happy with the turnouts," said Michael Smith of Laugh Riot Comedy, which is working with the Greenside and owner/chef David Fraser. "We have brought over a lot of our comedy fans from Pitman's where we spent nearly ten years building both a clientele and friendships with many of the people who attended our shows. And we have added a lot of new people from The Greenside. We feel an obligation to keep bringing high level and affordable comedy to the area and bring in a wide range of comedy styles and backgrounds."

The June 8 show stars Bjork who has performed in Las Vegas, as well as the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, Hilarities in Orlando, Fla. and Cleveland, Ohio, TSM Comedy Club in Louisville, Ky, Crackers in Indianapolis, IN, Penguins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and many others as well as being a New England favorite.

For more than 20 years, Joannie Grassey-Spinazola worked with some of the biggest names in the comedy industry in Las Vegas, working at Catch a Rising Star, The Improv, and The Comedy Stop. She starred in Funniest Females for a year, hosted at Caesar's Magical Empire, and many others.

Valencia, the night's opener has been a finalist in the New England's Funniest Comedian Competition, Winner of the South Shore Comedy Clash, Semi-Finalist in Last Comix Standing, and is a regular performer at Nick's Comedy Stop, The Comedy Connection, Boston Comedy Club, Steve Sweeney's Comedy Den, and Comix Roadhouse.

## Winnisquam Regional Middle School recognizes local veterans

**TILTON** — Winnisquam Regional Middle School students recently gathered to remember our fallen heroes during a school-wide Memorial Day assembly.

Under the direction of staff member and veteran Aaron Baker, the school community participated in a variety of special remembrances throughout the afternoon. Mr. Baker explained that active duty military units frequently march onto the parade field during special ceremonies. The students, had the opportunity to witness some of their fellow students march into the gymnasium, led

SEE VETERANS, PAGE A11



COURTESY

Pictured above are Color Guard members Daisy Curtin and David Messier; Aaron Baker addresses the audience; Kelley Kessler introduces Tom Sawyer; Students line up to personally thank the veterans.



# Volunteers needed for Gilmanton Old Home Day



GILMANTON — The Gilmanton Old Home Day Association is preparing for the 126th Gilmanton Old Home Day on Saturday, Aug. 17. This is a “call out” for volunteers to help with preparations the week before and on the day of the event.

The Association is a volunteer-based organi-

zation. Its mission is to continue the Old Home Day tradition which began in 1898. Old Home Day brings the community together and is a local, family-friendly event held on the Smith Meeting House grounds in Gilmanton, NH.

The Traditional Bean Hole Bean dinner will have two seatings: 11:30

a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets will be available at the event. Learn about the bean pits by visiting our Facebook page – Gilmanton Old Home Day.

There will be entertainment by the Southern Rail Band, Lindsay and her Puppet Pals, an antique auto show, exhibit by the Gilmanton Historical Society,

art show, local artisans, crafts persons, and organization vendors, and much more! There is no admission fee. Donations are appreciated.

“We value and want to preserve this tradition. There is a need for new volunteers. It makes for lighter work, and more enjoyable for all of us,” says Sarah Welcome Baldwin, Event Coordinator.

“It is extremely rewarding to see community members return each year and meet new community members and their families who attend this event. A volunteer who gives an hour or two will make an enormous difference!” says Baldwin.

Please email GILMANTONOLDHOME-DAY@GMAIL.COM to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

# Around and About Tilton

By Gregg DeVolder

Hello and welcome back. Well, I’m very happy to report that the “Movies in the Park” night at the River Front Park Pavilion was a huge success. It was a lovely night, there was a large turn-out and a great evening had by all. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors. The next movie is on Friday, June 21, and I’ll be back with more information as we get closer.

It was great to see a good turnout for the VFW Memorial Day Parade on Monday.” To watch our veterans marching and riding through town along with our high school band, boy scouts, girl scouts and brownies, brought back plenty of memories from years gone by. It’s always a heartfelt moment when they place the wreath at the WWI Memorial and salute.

I’m not sure if you noticed the police presence and their runners in bright green shirts on Tuesday just before noon but our finest along with Northfield’s, brought the Special Olympics torch through town and handed it off to Franklin. What a wonderful organization they are representing and thank you to all those volunteers and officers continuing to make things special for all the participants.

I’m told the Farmer’s market was a big hit on Tuesday. Of course, I had a conflict but can’t wait for next week. There were nineteen tents with an assortment of goods and plenty of people out and about.

# USA Today joins NHMS as NASCAR Cup Series race sponsor

LOUDON — New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS) announced that USA Today will serve as the title sponsor of the USA Today 301 NASCAR Cup Series (NCS) race on Sunday, June 23.

The USA Today 301

NCS race is the grand finale of New England’s only NASCAR weekend that also features the SciAps 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS) race and the Mohegan Sun 100 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour (NWMT) race

on Doubleheader Saturday, June 22.

“We are thrilled to partner with New Hampshire Motor Speedway and Speedway Motorsports for the USA Today 301 NASCAR Cup Series race,” said Gannett | USA Today Network Vice President of Sports Revenue Strategy Nate Scott. “Racing ranks high among our 50 million engaged sports audience, and we can’t wait to share the excitement and incredible content with our loyal fans.”

The USA Today 301 is NHMS’s 53rd NCS race. Martin Truex Jr. is the defending NCS race champion at “The Magic Mile.”

“We are proud to welcome USA Today to New England’s only NASCAR weekend,” said New Hampshire Motor Speedway Executive Vice President and General Manager David McGrath. “USA Today is a highly recognizable and respected name in the media landscape committed to providing high-quality and trusted content to their readers, just as the New Hampshire Motor Speedway team provides an unforgettable experience for our race fans each year. We can’t wait to work with USA Today to give our fans the best NASCAR experience in the country next month!”

NHMS’s 2024 NASCAR race schedule includes:

Sunday, June 23 | 2:30 p.m.: USA Today 301 NCS race (USA | PRN | SiriusXM)

Saturday, June 22 | 3:30 p.m.: SciAps 200 NXS race (USA | PRN | SiriusXM)

Saturday, June 22 | 6:40 p.m.: Mohegan Sun 100 NWMT race (Monday, June 24, on FloRacing (Time TBD))

Log on to NHMS.com for tickets and more information on the weekend’s lineup of action-packed racing. Tickets for Sig Sauer Academy Dirt Duels start at just \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Tickets for Doubleheader Saturday, featuring the SciAps 200 NXS race and the Mohegan Sun 100 NWMT race, start at just \$49 for adults while kids 12 and under are free. Sunday’s USA Today 301 NCS race tickets start at just \$64 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Further details can be found on the NHMS website or by calling 833-4LOUDON.

Keep track of all of New Hampshire Motor Speedway’s events by following on Facebook (@NHMotorSpeedway), Twitter (@NHMS) and Instagram (@NHMS). Keep up with all the latest information on the speedway website (NHMS.com) and mobile app.

The Fire Department will be mailing out a survey in the coming weeks looking for information to help the Building Committee. They would appreciate your thoughts and opinions and will have this available on-line as well. I’ll post the web address when it’s good to go. These are easy things to throw away as junk mail but they’re looking for your input so let your voice be heard and please help them out. Their website is tnfd.org and they video their meetings so you can watch should you have an interest.

I read the Planning Board agenda for last week and was intrigued by seeing Eversource on the docket. They’re replacing 140 transmission poles within the transmission right of way located partially in Tilton. We have approximately five miles and 52 structures to be replaced with weathered steel ones. Interestingly, they had used the latest technology about 15 years ago, which was laminate wood structures. These are now beginning to fail as the wood layers are starting to come apart allowing weather and bugs to take their toll. I guess sometimes the latest and greatest isn’t so great after all. The meeting was packed with mostly folks who have easements across their properties, and you can imagine their concerns about this. The other item was a biggie. Wallace Building Products is looking to relocate their business and is considering Tilton, specifically 83 Manville Rd. There’s approximately 98 acres there and it was the site of asbestos disposal years ago. Two areas were identified and capped, according to the State’s Department of Environmental Services website. They’re proposing the potential of a few hundred apartments and assorted commercial buildings in addition to their own building. It could potentially be a hundred-million-dollar project and bring in multiple jobs, according to the attorney representing the company.

The selectmen’s meeting was fairly short. The Senior Center is looking to purchase a used passenger van for around \$30,000. The town continues to review candidates for the Land Use Technician and Town Administrator’s positions. The crosswalks downtown will be getting a fresh coat of paint soon. There will be a public hearing on June 20 at 6 p.m. at the Tilton Police Department to discuss the traffic situation at the corners of Winter Street, Calef Hill Road, Colby and Clark Roads. The poor site line and speed on these roads is a safety concern for the employees and visitors at the Veterans Home as they enter and exit the parking lots or turn from Winter Street. They’re suggesting a possible three way stop. Personally, I think speed is a problem everywhere in town, or possibly, everywhere we go these days. Or perhaps this is just another sign of my old age.

I promised myself to get more information about the Winnisquam School District out to folks, so I watched the School Board meeting from May 20. Here’s a couple of things I found interesting. They’ve had a number of teachers give notice for next year and won’t be returning. The good news, as of the 20th, they had fifteen new teachers in the queue. The student enrollment numbers continue to drop but that was expected, it’s a state wide conundrum. It looks like the CTE/Ag Building at the high school will be breaking ground sometime in early July for its expansion and renovation and is scheduled to open for the school year ‘25-’26. Friday, June 7 is the high school graduation. Congratulations to all you seniors out there! In my world, senior has a new connotation and that’s ok. I’m pretty sure I wouldn’t want a do-over of my high school years. Best of luck to all you seniors out there, both young and old!

Well, that’s all I have for now. Thank you for reading and all your comments! As always, you can email me at: aroundandabouttiltonnh@gmail.com. I can’t promise I’ll respond to everyone, but I will read them all.

Have a great week!

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# New Hampshire Heritage Museum Trail puts spotlight on “the Village”

CANTERBURY — Located on a country road in rural Canterbury just 20 minutes outside New Hampshire's state

capital in Concord, Canterbury Shaker Village (the Village) sits on nearly 700 acres, delighting visitors from across the

world

“Our campus is expansive, providing visitors with the chance to experience nature on

groomed trails just minutes outside of fairly urban settings,” noted Education Manager Kyle Sandler. “These trails are free and open to the public.”

Founded in 1969 as a nonprofit, the Village has developed an international reputation as one of the oldest, most representative, and best preserved of all the Shaker villages. During its 200-year history, more than 2,000 Shakers called the Village home.

“At its height in the 1850s, 300 people lived, worked, and worshiped among more than 100

buildings laid out in a practical, functional grid,” added Sandler.

The Shakers’ way of life, according to Shirley Wajda, Ph.D., Curator of Collections, offers rele-

vant lessons for today’s visitors.

“The Shakers embraced the values of gender and racial equity, pacifism, simplicity, innovation, resourcefulness, and enterprise,” she said. “Their values and ability to thrive as a self-sufficient community for 200 years offers insight into how we may live better today.”

In talking about their membership in the New Hampshire Heritage Trail, Sandler said he hopes Canterbury Shaker Village inspires visitors to explore other member institutions.

“The Trail is an amaz-

ing asset for the state,” he said. “Each member museum works hard to not only preserve history but also to actively interpret and present it to people of all ages and interests.”

In addition to Canterbury Shaker Village in Canterbury, member institutions on The Trail are located in New Hampshire’s Lakes Region, Merrimack Valley, and Seacoast. To learn more about The Trail or any member institution, including Canterbury Shaker Village, visit [nhmuseumtrail.org](http://nhmuseumtrail.org).

## Support Lakes Region Community Developers during NH Gives



LACONIA — Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD) will participate in NH Gives June 11-12, with the goal of raising \$10,000 for its Eviction Prevention Program, which combines targeted case management with direct financial assistance to help families who are experiencing a crisis to avoid eviction and get back on their feet again. For details, visit [www.LRcommunitydevelopers.org](http://www.LRcommunitydevelopers.org).

Melcher & Prescott Insurance, Bank of New Hampshire, and Franklin Savings Bank have each pledged a dollar for dollar match up to \$1,000 for donations to LRCD’s campaign.

NH Gives, an initiative of the NH Center for Nonprofits, is a powerful, statewide 24-hour online fundraising event that is designed to build community, connect donors to local nonprofits and generate excitement about the nonprofit sector. LRCD is proud to be a part of NH Gives this year, asking the community to join this impactful effort to make a difference right here in the Lakes Region.

LRCD provides affordable housing to 750 people of low income in the NH Lakes Region each year. About 55 percent of LRCD’s tenants have income below 30 percent of the median

income (\$24,200 for a two-person household; \$30,200 for a family of four). These households are financially vulnerable because they do not have any savings. One crisis such as an illness or unexpected car repair is like a wrecking ball to their budget, leaving them unable to cover basic expenses such as rent, utilities, and food.

In 2023, LRCD provided eviction prevention services to 277 households, and issued 138 payments totaling \$36,000 on behalf of 62 of the renters engaged with the program. All of the renters who engaged with the program successfully navigated through their crisis and maintained their housing.

About Lakes Region Community Developers Lakes Region Community Developers’ mission is to create opportunities for the Lakes Region to thrive by developing healthy homes, creating vibrant community assets, and engaging residents.

## LRAA announces May Artists of the Month



TILTON — LRAA members have the opportunity to enter a piece of

artwork into the Artist of the Month Program at each monthly Member Meeting. Winners are able to display and sell a single work for a month in various public venues throughout the Lakes Region in participating Banks and Libraries or Local Businesses.

These winning artists’ artwork will be on display in locations in the Lakes Region through the end of May through the third week of June.

Stephanie McQuade, this month’s First Place winner, has the distinct

honor of displaying several pieces of her artwork at Annie’s Cafe & Catering in Laconia. Warm up with some scrumptious homemade soup and sandwiches

and enjoy the art while you eat!

The art pieces for the Honorable Mention artist will be on display through the third week of May in the following locations:

Terry Calder - Franklin Savings, Franklin  
Jim Cryan, Northway, Laconia  
Sherwood Frazier - Franklin Savings, Gilford

Pat Anderson - Gilford Library  
Sally Hibberd - Northway, Tilton

Fay Lee - Laconia Public Library

The LRAA Gallery is located in Suite 300, 120 Laconia Rd., Tilton, in the Tilton Tanger Outlets, just off exit 20 on I-93.

## Nicole Reusch of Sanbornton named to Lasell University Dean’s List

NEWTON, Mass. — Nicole Reusch, a Lasell University student from Sanbornton, was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the Spring 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

For more information contact: Ian Meropol, Chief Communications Officer, at 617-243-2150, or [imeropol@lasell.edu](mailto:imeropol@lasell.edu).

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# Opinion

## Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a day-time 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.

## Supporting family and friends: A pillar of well-being

The importance of supporting family and friends cannot be overstated. Family and friends serve as our emotional anchors, grounding us during times of turmoil and lifting us during moments of triumph. The presence of a supportive network can make a significant difference in how we cope with life's challenges. For example, the comforting words of a parent or the encouragement from a friend can transform a daunting situation into a manageable one. This emotional support helps build resilience, allowing us to navigate life's ups and downs with greater ease.

Actively supporting our loved ones not only benefits them but also strengthens the bond you have with them. When we invest time and energy in the well-being of our family and friends, we create a reciprocal relationship built on trust and mutual respect. This investment pays off in the form of deeper, more meaningful connections. Celebrating successes, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply being present during life's mundane moments can all contribute to a stronger, more cohesive network of relationships. When we model supportive behavior, we set a standard for others to follow.

Supporting family and friends can take many forms, from grand gestures to small, everyday acts of kindness. Here are a few practical ways to show support:

**Active Listening:** Sometimes, the most valuable thing we can offer is our attention. Truly listening to someone's concerns or joys shows that we care about their feelings and experiences.

**Acts of Service:** Helping with tasks, whether it's running an errand or lending a hand with a project, demonstrates a willingness to share the load and make life easier for others.

**Words of Encouragement:** Simple words of encouragement can boost someone's confidence and morale. Letting others know we believe in them can have a powerful impact on their outlook.

**Quality Time:** Spending quality time together, free from distractions, reinforces the importance of the relationship and provides opportunities to deepen connections.

**Being There:** Sometimes, just being there in times of need, whether in person or virtually, provides immense comfort and reassurance.

It's important to recognize that supporting family and friends is not a one-way street. The act of giving support often brings about a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Knowing that we have made a positive difference in someone's life can enhance our own sense of well-being.



COURTESY  
On Saturday, June 15, with cars departing at 1:15 p.m. from Lane Tavern, we'll have our Sanbornton Historical Society members carpool to Ashland for their Historical Society's treat for us — a reenactment of their 1869 railroad station's passengers waiting. Presenters in Ashland will be David Ruell and The Ashland Reenactors, costumed. There is no admission fee, but donations will be appreciated. The first railroad company in Ashland was the Boston, Concord, and Montreal Railroad, chartered by the New Hampshire legislature on Dec. 27, 1844. Quite a gift to the middle of the state at the time! Freight was hauled and tourists delivered. Please put this on your calendar. Contact Linda S. for info and to "check in." For more information, call 603-286-4526. If you are not a member and would like to join, an individual costs \$15 while a family membership is \$20. These days, that's like buying a big pizza! Please join us for the Saturday fun.

## GOING OUT OF TOWN

# Came for the mansions, stayed for the clam cakes

BY ERIN PLUMMER  
mnews@salmonpress.news

Newport, R.I., is fast becoming a place I am falling in love with. I first came here last year and absolutely loved the relaxed, seaside atmosphere, along with all the little shops and restaurants and the abundance of nooks and crannies to explore. I made a trip back in mid May mostly with the intention of finally exploring the city's famous mansions, but of course I had to take a stop downtown to return to those cobblestone streets and abundance of wharves. It was then when I accidentally stumbled on a whole seafood festival and some parties celebrating recent graduates. Newport is a festive environment in general, but this time the parties were everywhere as was the fun spark of early summer.

Last May, I took a Sunday afternoon to drive down to Newport. I got there on a busy but relaxed time on a gorgeous day, and savored every second exploring its streets and wharves. Newport is such a fun place in general with a bunch of little shops and an eclectic assortment of visitors. The city's views of the sea combined



PHOTOS BY ERIN PLUMMER  
I visited Newport, R.I., and came across a whole food festival. Crowds gathered for the Newport Oyster and Chowder Festival.

with all of its uniquely designed buildings and series of wharves also made this a gorgeous destination. I immediately knew I wanted to come back here, especially to finally get a view of the Newport mansions.

I returned to Newport on another Sunday afternoon; this time, it was a little cloudier but still nice and warm. My destination this time was The Breakers, the massive summer home owned by the Vanderbilt family. My map app ended

up taking me down every tiny back street in Newport for some reason, but I eventually ended up at my destination after countless stop signs and dealing with some annoying traffic.

The Breakers is located by the campus for Salve Regina University. I quickly noticed a lot of the traffic in the area was centering around the school and I saw plenty of people in nice dresses, suits, and business casual wear with a few carrying bouquets and gifts. I knew Salve Regina was having some kind of event and given the timing I guessed that maybe it was their graduation.

After leaving The Breakers and driving downtown, I quickly realized I was absolutely right. Several businesses had signs congratulating the graduates and there were a lot of balloons and banners with images of caps and gowns. I just realized I had come here on a really special day

as well as a really busy one. It certainly added to the fun atmosphere and I mentally congratulated all the graduates and their families.

When I got further downtown, I stumbled across another big party going on. Bowen's Wharf was filled with foot trucks and stalls with a lot of people standing in line and milling around with bowls and plates. I then walked down rows and rows of stands selling clams, oysters, chowder and so much more seafood. To my absolute joy I had just accidentally stumbled on a whole seafood festival. A banner on one building told me everything: this was the Newport Oyster and Chowder Festival, and I was lucky enough to come by on the last day.

This was a perfect opportunity for me. You have no idea how much I love seafood as well as trying the different delicacies from whatever

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**Winnisquam Echo**

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**Delicious clam chowder and amazing clam cakes from Blount Clam Shack's food truck.**



GOING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

er place I'm visiting. I was passing by trucks for ceviche, poké bowls, clam cakes, and so much chowder. After a lot of hemming and hawing, I settled on a food truck for Blount Clam Shack and Market and immediately focused on a \$10 combo of chowder and clam cakes.

I had a choice of the usual creamy chowder or Manhattan style red chowder, a choice I'm not used to but then I've always been around hardcore white chowder territory from Maine to Boston. Maybe another time I'll finally try the other kind of chowder just to see what it's like. I did notice I wasn't seeing any Rhode Island chowder around with the clear broth, though maybe I wasn't spotting it. I got my cup of delicious-looking chowder, but it also came with three little fried balls, and I knew I was going to be trying something new. These were Rhode

Island style clam cakes, which are fried balls of dough with clams. They were like fritters with an extra blessing off clams and they were absolutely delicious. I like to try all kinds of different types of seafood cakes, from New England cod cakes to authentic Maryland crab cakes, and this was a nice addition to my collection of experiences.

After a delectable lunch, I did a little more exploring along Newport's series of docks. Bowen's Wharf and neighboring areas were packed with people from the festival along with a beer tent and a live band playing covers that could be heard all around downtown. People were gathered at all the nearby bars and restaurants too, which created a party atmosphere. From what I had seen of some webcams around the back end of Newport I knew a lot of these areas were under construction through the winter. Some construction was still going on, but the area around Bowen's



After a day of touring a mansion and sampling some local bites, it was time to take in the seaside sights of Newport.



A view of some big boats around Newport Harbor.

BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests from May 13-27.

Aidan Joshua Veverka, age 19, of Londonderry was arrested on May 13 for Conduct After an Accident.

Daniel J. Roberts, Jr., age 20, of Alton was arrested on May 13 for Manufacture and/or Possession of a False Government ID.

Jonathan S. Olisky, age 45, of Tilton was arrested on May 14 in connection with multiple bench warrants.

Sara A. Stevens, age 35, of Belmont was arrested on May 14 for Simple Assault resulting in Physical Contact or Bodily Injury.

David A. Young, age 74, of Belmont was arrested on May 17 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in Bodily Injury.

Seamus L. Murphy, age 42, of Lebanon was arrested on May 19 for Operating After Certification as a Habitual Offender, Disobeying an Officer, being a Felon in Possession of a Dangerous Weapon, and DUI-Impairment.

A 34-year-old male from Belmont was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on May 22 for Disobeying an Officer, operating an Uninspected Vehicle, and driving at an unsafe speed for existing conditions.

Ronald A. Haddock, age 48, of Belmont was arrested on May 24 for operating a vehicle with a Suspended or Revoked License for DWI.

SANBORNTON POLICE LOG

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Police Department responded to 30 calls for service and reported one arrest for the week ending May 25.

Timothy C. Shepard, age 43, of Sanbornton was arrested on May 23 for Violation of a Protective Order.

The breakdown of the remaining calls is as follows:

ALARMS	1
ANIMAL INVOLVED INCIDENTS	1
ASSIST ANOTHER DEPT.	5
DOMESTIC	1
HARASSMENT	1
MONEY RELAYS	1
MV ACCIDENTS	2
MV WARNINGS	2
PISTOL PERMITS	3
POLICE INFORMATION	3
PROPERTY	1
SEX OFFENDER REG.	1
STOLEN PROPERTY	1
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/VEHICLE	2
V.I.N. VERIFICATIONS	4
VENUE COMPLAINT	1

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Wharf and especially 22 Portside Bar were new.

I navigated through the crowds and explored the quieter areas around Newport's Wharves, walking up and down the boardwalks taking in the sights. If all the boats along with spotting some water birds hanging out.

I did get back to Bowen's Wharf when the festival was cleaning up and the crowds were slightly thinning out. I grabbed an ice cream cone at Ben & Jerry's and enjoyed it while sitting in an Adirondack chair on the wharf. By the early evening I had finished my

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp welcomes Randy Woods, Senior VP, Information Technology



Randy Woods

MEREDITH — New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB) is pleased to welcome Randy Woods as Senior Vice President, Information Technology. He will be responsible for overall IT support and infrastructure for NHMB and its affiliate organizations, NHTrust, Savings Bank of Walpole, Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack) and MVS (Meredith Village Savings Bank).

"Randy brings with him a wealth of knowledge encompassing hardware and software components used to support the applications and information management requirements of our systems," said Robert Soloway, EVP Chief Technology & Services Officer at NHMB. "As our company grows, his expertise of the integration of technology into our infrastructure is critical, not only for improving existing processes but also for creating new economic prospects for NHMB. As our infrastructure initiatives continue to incorporate modern technol-

ogy, a qualified IT team is required to design, operate, and manage these systems, and we are pleased to have Randy leading the way."

Woods has more than 30 years of information technology and broadcast engineering experience with other financial institutions as well as Fiserv-CBS Division. He is a member of the IT Committee of the NH Bankers Association.

Randy is a Deacon at Christ Community Church of Weare. In his free time, he enjoys working outside, milling his own lumber, riding his ATV and participating in CrossFit. Randy has a BS in Information Systems. He and his wife live in Henniker and have 4 grown children.

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB) was created through a unique alliance between three mutual community banks and a wealth management firm who maintain separate organizations and management. The companies are able to achieve best in class software, services and staffing while provid-

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ing efficiencies through their shared service provider, NHMB. NHMB provides risk management, facilities, human resource, finance, compliance, information technology, deposit operations, loan operations and digital banking services to Meredith Village Savings Bank, Merrimack County Savings Bank, Savings Bank of Walpole and NHTrust. This strategic partner-

ship has positioned the banks to leverage each other's strengths as they work together to advance a shared vision of maintaining and enhancing community banking standards and values. As of December 31, 2023, NHMB had combined assets of \$3.74 billion and NHTrust had assets under management of \$1.26 billion. For more information, visit nhmutual.com.



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Originally from Mississippi, Jezebel is eager to meet her forever family in New Hampshire! She is a mellow kitty that enjoys the quieter days and lots of yummy treats. Jezebel would make a great solo companion and enjoy days spent curled up in bed or lounging by the window to watch the birds.



# Takantjas captures Division III triple jump crown



**Adeline Takantjas, seen here in the 100-meter hurdles at the Division III State Meet, won the Division III title in the triple jump.**



**David Tripp clears a hurdle during action at the Division III State Meet May 23 in Tilton.**

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Belmont track team made the short trek to Tilton on Thursday, May 23, for the Division III State Meet and the Raider girls came through with a seventh place performance on the day, including one individual championship.

Belmont junior Adeline Takantjas leaped 34 feet, 1.25 inches in the triple jump to claim the Division III title, while teammate Ava Lacasse brought home a point with a sixth place finish at 31 feet, 8.5 inches. Takantjas was also fourth in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing the preliminaries in 17.21



**Hunter Erlick fires the shot put during action in the Division III State Meet on May 23.**

seconds and the finals in 17.31 seconds, with Aspen Fillebrown eighth in the preliminaries in 18.3 seconds and eighth in the finals in 18.45 seconds. In the 300-meter hurdles, Takantjas finished in fifth place with a time of 51.84 seconds and Fillebrown was 13th overall with a time of 56.48 seconds. Lacasse finished in second place in the 200 meters with a time of 26.8 seconds and in the 100 meters, Lacasse was sixth in the preliminaries in 13.13 seconds and

moved up to fourth in the finals in 13 seconds. Jaelyn Nialez ran to 11th in the 400 meters in a time of 65.2 seconds. The Raider 4X400-meter team of Nialez, Rebekah Edgren, Takantjas and Lacasse finished in fifth place in the meet's final event as the sun disappeared, crossing in a time of 4:24.65 while the 4X800-meter team of Devyn VonKadich, Emilie Defrancesco, Riley Degange and Helena Papadopoulos placed fifth in 11:28.41. The 4X100-meter team of Talia Watson, Ella



**Ava Lacasse bursts from the blocks in the 200 meters during the Division III State Meet in Tilton.**

Stevens, Cate McDonald and Kyleigh Roe was 14th in 55.61 seconds. The top performance for the Belmont boys came from Brady Fillebrown in the discus, as he placed third overall with a toss of 133 feet, 10 inches. Hunter Erlick added an eight place in the shot put at 39 feet, six inches and Ethan Rivera was 14th at 38 feet, two inches. Colby Vetter was ninth in the 100 meters in a time of 11.29 seconds and he placed seventh in the 200 meters in

a time of 23.19 seconds. David Tripp took 15th in the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 17.91 seconds. Sam Slayton finished in 14th place in the triple jump with a leap of 34 feet, 11.75 inches. Prior to the meet, Takantjas earned a Division III All-State nod for her efforts throughout the season.

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

## Underhill paces Belmont past Kearsarge in opening round

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

BELMONT — The Belmont baseball team got some early runs and made them stand up as they defeated Kearsarge 6-1 in the opening round of the Division III tournament on Thursday, May 30. Belmont scored two runs in the first, added two more in the second and another in the third before the Cougars scored their first run in the top of the fourth inning. Belmont added one final run in the sixth for the 6-1 final score. Anakin Underhill got

the start on the mound and pitched the first three innings without giving up a hit and Brady Thurber came in and pitched the final four innings, giving up one earned run on four hits. Underhill also had a pretty good day at the plate, as he had a double, triple and single and drove in three runs to

lead the Raiders. Eddie Rochenski had a pair of hits and scored a run, Jaxson Embree had a hit, Owen Waldron had a hit, scored a run and drove in a run, Wyatt Divers had a hit and drove in a run, Michael Collette had a hit and scored a run and Max Ryder had a hit and scored a run. The fourth-seeded Raiders moved on to

face the defending Division III champions from White Mountains Regional on Saturday in the quarterfinal round of the tournament (see separate story). *Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.*

## Softball Bears play well in regular season finale

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
SPORTS EDITOR

BRISTOL — The traditional end of the year Battle of the Bears between the Newfound and Winnisquam softball teams was slated to be played under the lights at Franklin's Odell Park last Tuesday. However, Tuesday's rain made the field unplayable and the game was moved to Thursday at Newfound, with the hosts coming out with the 6-2 win to close out the regular season. "We are a very young team and today they re-

ally were able to do some things that earlier in the year we could not do," said coach Mark Dawalga. "This group's future is very bright. "They have built a bond that will really help them going into next year," the Bear coach continued. "I am very proud of this group with their effort all season." Freshman Danica Weymouth went the distance in the circle for the Bears, allowing two earned runs and striking out five. Addison Bernier had a double and two

singles and drove in a run, Kenzie Bassett had a double and drove in a run, Camilla Cote had a hit, scored a run and stole two bases and Weymouth had a base hit. The Bears will lose just one senior, Lucy Prunier, to graduation this spring. "Her spot next season will be tough to fill," Dawalga said. "Her leadership on the field and off will be missed." The Bears finished the season at 3-13.

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# Softball Raiders drop tight playoff battle to Gilford



Gilford's Rainey Hinds takes a throw as Belmont's Maddie MacDonald dives back into first in playoff action last week.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The first time the Gilford and Belmont softball girls met during the regular season, they played 13 innings before the Golden Eagles emerged with the victory.

While the first round of the Division III tournament wasn't quite as dramatic, host Gilford made a two-run first inning stand up, picking up the 2-0 win over the Raiders on Wednesday, May 29, to advance to the Division III quarterfinals.

Gilford pitcher Belle Dow went all seven innings in the circle, giving up just three hits and striking out 10 while her counterpart, Madi Smith gave up those two first inning runs and then settled in and kept Gilford off the board the rest of the way, giving up

a total of six hits while striking out seven.

Dow also led the Gilford offense with a pair of hits and an RBI, while Kendal Heyman had a double and scored a run, Maddie McKenna had a hit and scored a run and Millie Caldon and Mia Macaione each had a hit.

Rylie Cotnoir led off the seventh inning with a double for the Raiders and moved to third on a fielder's choice, but Belmont could not get her across the plate. Falyon Sicard and Maddie MacDonald each had hits for the Raiders.

"We will miss our three seniors," said Belmont coach Bill Clary, praising the work of Abi Paquette, Avery VonKa-



Molly O'Connell connects with a pitch during action against Gilford in the Division III tournament.

dich and Darci Stone. "However, this was not their last game in a Belmont uniform, they have all been nominated and will play in the senior game June 18 in Manchester."

Gilford finished the regular season at 14-2 to finish as the fourth seed while Belmont finished the regular season at 7-11 and earned the 13th seed in the tournament. Gilford moved on to face Bishop Brady in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

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



Madi Smith fires a pitch in action against Gilford last Wednesday afternoon.

## Tanger Outlets welcomes Ann Taylor

TILTON — Tanger Outlets Tilton announces the addition of leading women's brand Ann Taylor Factory Store to its notable retail lineup. Beloved for generations as a go-to style destination, Ann Taylor offers classic apparel and accessories for the modern working woman. The newly opened store will complement other shopper favorites at the open-air outlet destination, including Talbots, Kate Spade, Banana Republic and more.

"Ann Taylor is a highly-anticipated addition to our center," said Tanger Tilton Marketing Director Eric Proulx. "This iconic brand delivers the latest fashions for women, which we know our shoppers will appreciate. The new store elevates

the onsite experience for guests with even more options to shop in apparel and accessories—at the very best value."

Ann Taylor champions the modern working woman and her love of fashion with a high-quality collection of beautiful wear-now pieces. The 5,000-square-foot store at Tanger Tilton is now open next to Bath & Body Works. The timeless brand offers a unique combination of fashion, work and flattering fit that unleashes confidence, femininity and the feeling of success.

About Tanger Tilton  
Tanger Tilton is Lakes Region's upscale, open-air outlet shopping destination, featuring a coveted collection of top brands and local shops.

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GRADUATES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ternship as an English teacher at a middle school in the city of Angers. When she returns, she will then attend a community college to work toward a career in Food Science and Nutrition.

Among the Top 10 graduates was Canterbury student Jonathan Holmes. Holmes was a fellow member of the NHS, NFHS, and NEHS, as well as the captain of the BHS Granite State Challenge team. Last summer he attended St. Paul School’s Summer Program where he enrolled in an immersive five-week course that was “data driven” with statistics and other mathematical courses. He recently took five AP tests that challenged his knowledge and if he receives successful scores, they will be put toward his college credits when he, too heads off to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in the fall to begin his studies. There he will be working on a double major in Computer Science and Mathematics. In his downtime,

Holmes has also been developing a computer game of his own.

Bree Bailey of Belmont made the Top 10 by concentrating fully on her academic studies and holding down an after school job as well. With an interest in the dental field, she will complete her core classes at New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord then make a decision on her career studies and which school to transfer to in order to meet her goals.

Fellow Belmont resident Eleni Papadopoulos was involved in a number of activities during her four years at BHS. As an athlete she was a member of the varsity soccer team and ran mid-distance races for both indoor and outdoor track.

She was Co-President of the Future Business Leaders of America club (FBLA), President of the National Honor Society, and a member of Student Council.

After graduation she will head to Keene State College where she will major in Biology and be part of their collegiate track team.

Baidyn Lewis was

quite busy throughout his high school years. He is President of the Class of 2024, served as Vice-President of the Student Body, was a member of the Student Council and FBLA, and inducted into both the NHS and NEHS. Additionally, he served as Vice-President of the school’s Astronomy Club, played trumpet in the band, and was a member of the BRASS organization.

For four years, he could be found all three seasons as a member of the cross-country, basketball, and track team where he was a mid-distance runner.

Upon graduation, he will head west to the Univ. of Colorado-Boulder. There, he will study engineering under a four-year Naval Reserves Officer Training Corps scholarship before moving on to a family tradition of service in the U.S. Navy.

Emilie DeFrancesco of Belmont also had a lot on her plate in high school. She was Class Vice-President, a member of BRASS, a member of NHS, NEHS, President of the Environmental Club and served as

Student Representative to the Town of Belmont’s Conservation Commission.

DeFrancesco was a part of the cross-country team, both indoor and outdoor track teams, and was a manager for the BHS Unified Basketball team. She also took part in the school’s Best Buddies Program, where she had the opportunity to work alongside disabled youth in the district to encourage and support them.

When she graduates this weekend, DeFrancesco will begin preparing for her journey to Keene State College, where she will study to become a nurse, and like her classmate Eleni, take part in their indoor and outdoor track teams.

Richard Johnson is another athlete who ran sprints on the spring track team and played varsity football. He began playing clarinet in fifth grade and in high school was named to the All-State Band.

Johnson, too, was a member of BRASS, the NHS and NEHS.

The Belmont resident has been accepted to SUNY New Paltz in upstate New York, and will

enter there “undecided” in his major. Over the next two years he said he will make a decision on what direction his life will take but is currently considering the fields of geography or anthropology, two of his larger interests at this time.

Demetrius Kafkoulas is from Belmont, too, and said that while he participated in both indoor and outdoor track and field, the rest of his time was spent on his studies and working as often as he could at Shaw’s Supermarket in Belmont. He will attend core classes at NHTI in the fall as he considers what his eventual concentration will be.

Last, but by no means least, is senior Nick Daigneault of Canterbury. Over the years Daigneault has served as Vice-President of NFHS as well as a member of NEHS and NHS. He was also named Co-President of the French Club. He began his musical interests in fifth grade as well and played trumpet in the Belmont High School Band. In addition to his academic and musical interests, Daigneault is an advocate for military veterans and works part

time for his father’s commercial construction company.

Upon graduation, he will next head to St. Anselm’s College where he will study Forensic Science with a goal of becoming a Crime Scene Investigator.

A final side note on Daigneault is that he said he is also a “Wanna-Be Singer and Song Writer” who auditioned via Zoom for American Idol last season. While he did not make the cut that time around, he is going back again this year for another shot at making the show now that he is no longer in high school. Best wishes Nick!

Belmont High School Principal Matthew Finch said it was a pleasure to watch to watch these students grow over the last four years.

“They are an extremely diverse group of kids who have done a great deal both in and out of the classroom,” he said. “They are an involved group of individuals who represented us well in all things and I have faith they will continue to do well in the future.”

RAIDERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

coach Matt LeBlanc. “To be able to win the way we did today speaks volumes about our team.”

Belmont pitcher Anakin Underhill set the Spartans down in order in the top of the first before Belmont got on the board in the bottom of the innings. Hutch Haskins led off with a base hit and Jaxson Embree followed with a base hit. After Owen Waldron was hit by a pitch, a wild pitch brought Haskins home and Underhill worked a walk to load the bases again. Watt Divers put down a squeeze bunt to plate another run before Jacob Silver snared a line drive to shortstop and flipped to third to end the inning with a 6-5 double play.

Corey Silver worked a walk to open the top of the second inning before Embree gunned him down stealing second and Underhill retired



Max Ryder dives back into first base during quarterfinal action on Saturday afternoon.

the next two batters to end the inning.

With one out in the bottom of the second, Max Ryder worked a walk and Haskins was hit by a pitch. A passed ball brought in another run and a sacrifice fly by Embree drove in another run. Waldron had a base hit and Underhill reached on an error to bring in another run. Divers reached on an error to plate another run and a Michael Collette base hit pushed across the seventh run before Spartan starter Noah

Covell got a grounder to third to end the inning.

Danny Stinson worked a walk with two outs in the top of the third inning and Brayden Shallow was hit by a pitch to put a pair of runners on base. However, Underhill got a grounder to short to end the inning.

Ryder reached on an error with one out in the bottom of the inning, but catcher Corey Silver picked him off for the second out of the inning. After Haskins reached on an error, Covell got a



Wyatt Divers fires a throw to first to complete a double play in action against White Mountains Saturday.

strikeout to end the inning.

Corey Silver had a one-out base hit in the top of the fourth, but Underhill started a 1-6-3 double play to end the inning and Robert Breault took over on the hill in the bottom of the inning for the Spartans. With one out, Underhill blasted an opposite field homer to stretch the lead to 8-0 and one out later, Collette worked a walk, bringing Deagan Stover to the mound for the Spartans. He struck out the next batter to get out

of the inning.

Ethan Heng beat out a bunt hit in the top of the fifth inning and got to second on an error. Stinson put down a bunt and reached on an error, with Heng racing home with the first run of the day for the Spartans before Underhill got a strikeout to end the inning.

Belmont put the game away in the bottom of the fifth. Wyatt Bamford led off with a base hit and Ryder reached on an error and Nolan Lafrance took over at second for Bamford. After

a wild pitch and a strikeout, Embree was hit by a pitch and a sacrifice fly by Waldron plated another run and an Underhill base hit brought home two more runs to close out the game.

“Anakin was a Player of the Year finalist and we all know why,” LeBlanc said. “But this is a team game and this was a team effort.

“Anyone who saw the game today knows it wasn’t just Anakin,” he continued. “You don’t games like this without several guys stepping up.

“And we have that here, a lot of guys stepping up and now they’re being rewarded for their hard work,” LeBlanc added.

The Raiders finished the regular season at 14-2 and beat Kearsarge to advance to the quarterfinals. White Mountains finished the regular season at 13-3 and beat Newfound to advance to the quarterfinals.

Belmont advanced to the semifinals for the first time since 2019, which took place on Wednesday, June 4, with the Raiders taking on undefeated Conant.

“We’re going to play our game and if we show up like we did today, we’ll give them a game,” LeBlanc said. “Our parents are awesome, our community is awesome, this is a lot of fun.”

The Division III finals are set for Saturday, June 8, at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester.

# Franklin VNA & Hospice holds free summer Grief Group

FRANKLIN — Each Wednesday, beginning on June 26 and ending July 31, Franklin VNA & Hospice will host a Grief Support Group from 2 to 3:30 p.m. We welcome anyone who is struggling with grief to attend. Our hospice chaplain, Mark Williams, MDiv, facilitates the group at our offices on Chestnut Street in Franklin. Experience has shown us that participants are best prepared for the class after at least six months beyond the death of their loved one.

Each of the five sessions will focus on a new skill for dealing with grief. The support group is free to attend but does require pre-registration. To register call 603-934-3454 or email cmurray@franklinvna.org.



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Grief has no timetable. It may come in waves during the turbulent months of an illness and intensify after death. Each experience is unique and deeply personal. Emotions can fluctuate between sadness, anxiety and guilt to anger, helplessness, and depression. The opportunity to talk about a loved one in a safe space is helpful for many people who are processing grief. Meeting other people who have had a similar loss in an environment structured to help navigate the grieving process can provide a practical layer of support.

This grief support group is designed to help people on their journey. Grieving is our natural response to sorrowful change and grief takes as long as it takes. There is no prescribed length of time to grieve and heal. But with compassionate support and acceptance as you share your memories, challenges, and emotions, we can help you learn to grow and thrive in your new normal.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or [josh@salmonpress.news](mailto:josh@salmonpress.news).





New at the Belknap Mill in June

LACONIA — The Belknap Mill invites you to try one or all of our new upcoming classes or workshops in June. For more information or to register, please visit [belknapmill.org/classes](http://belknapmill.org/classes).

On Saturday, June 8, learn to dye wool yarn using food coloring! You will leave with your own colorful creations, and future Belknap Mill workshops will give you a chance to put that yarn to use. No registration is required for this \$20 workshop.

Saturday, June 22, is our Paint with Wool Workshop. Join us for a morning of relaxing fun while creating a beautiful bumblebee design “painting” with wool. You will leave the class with a finished project and a knowledge of needle felting. No experience necessary.

Take a Hand Spindling Workshop on Saturday, June 29. Hand Spindling is a fun and easy way to explore the fiber arts. In this three-hour workshop, you will learn the basic “spin and park” method of hand spinning wool fiber. No experience necessary.

For programs and classes offered at the Belknap Mill, visit our Web site or find us on Facebook.

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# MacDonald throws her way to second place at Meet of Champions

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

DURHAM — Local athletes put on an impressive show at the track and field Meet of Champions on Sunday at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Bringing together the top athletes from each of the three state championship meets the previous week, the Meet of Champions pitted Division I, Division II and Division III stars against each other.

The top local performance came from Kennett senior Aida Wheat, who won the 200 meters in a time of 25.16 seconds, with Newfound's Elle MacDonald in fourth in 25.87 seconds, Ava Lacasse of Belmont in ninth in 26.42 seconds and Macy Sawyer of Gilford in 11th in 26.58 seconds.

White Mountains freshman Olivia Lorenz finished in second in the 400 meters in a time of 57.73 seconds, with Kylie Rapoza of Kingswood in third in 58.57 seconds, Hailey Watts of Moultonborough in ninth in 60.06 seconds and Piper Lopashanski of Kennett in 12th in 61.49 seconds.

Plymouth's Sydney Valenti also picked up a second place finish, reaching 34 feet, 10.5

inches in the triple jump, with Adeline Takantjas of Belmont in sixth at 34 feet, 5.25 inches.

Winnisquam's Lauren MacDonald finished in second place in the shot put with a toss of 36 feet, 1.25 inches

Abby Kenyon of Gilford threw a personal best of 109 feet, seven inches in the discus to place third overall, with Isa LaPlume of Newfound in eighth at 98 feet, two inches and MacDonald in ninth at 95 feet, seven inches.

Wheat finished second in the preliminaries in the 100 meters in a time of 12.44 seconds and took third in the finals in 12.32 seconds. MacDonald was 10th overall in 12.73 seconds and Rapoza was 14th in 12.97 seconds.

Elli Englund of Plymouth finished in fourth in the 3,200 meters in a time of 11:32.44, with Emerald Briggs of Newfound in 13th in 12:31.42. Lorenz added a 16th place finish in the 800 meters in 2:37.69.

Kennett's 4X100-meter relay team of Gabriella Cubero, Shannon Fay, Lopashanski and Wheat was sixth overall in 49.72 seconds, while in the 4X400-meter relay, the Gilford team of Riley Coutts, Maria Tilley,

Maddy Burlock and Sawyer was 12th overall in 4:22.52.

The Plymouth team of Elli Englund, Reagan Sutherland, Addison Englund and Valenti finished in fifth in the 4X800-meter relay in 10:00.32, with Tilley, Alana Sawyer, Burlock and Georgia Eckhardt broke their own school record in a time of 10:19.35 for 11th place overall.

In the 100-meter hurdles, Takantjas was 13th in 18.65 seconds, while Plymouth's Anelie Flynn was eighth in the high jump at four feet, 10 inches. Victoria Kelly of Winnisquam was 12th in the javelin at 95 feet, nine inches and Moultonborough's Sadey Sherkanowski was 13th at 95 feet, two inches.

For the boys, the top performance came from Profile's Wyatt Lawton, who placed second in the 400 meters in a time of 49.47 seconds. Brendan Goodwin of Winnisquam was ninth in 51.41 seconds and Landon Richards of Inter-Lakes was 12th in 53.24 seconds.

David Walker of Inter-Lakes finished fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 43 feet, 10.75 inches, with Garrett Emery of Woodsville in fifth at 43 feet, 5.5 inches and

Nash Harrigan of Kennett in 10th at 41 feet, 10.25 inches. Walker was also sixth in the long jump with a distance of 21 feet, two inches and Emery was 12th at 20 feet, 2.5 inches.

Kingswood's Emerson DeNitto jumped to fifth overall in the high jump, clearing six feet, while in the 110-meter hurdles, Eli Beaulieu of White Mountains was 14th in a time of 16.65 seconds and in the 800 meters, Isaac Nudd-Homeyer of Inter-Lakes was 10th in 2:03.42.

The Kennett 4X100-meter team of Logan Troon, Ross Stephens, Quintin Plourdee and Tyler Walcott finished in sixth place in 43.3 seconds, while the Profile 4X800-meter team of Noah Francis, Isaac Reeder, Emery Young and Lawton finished in seventh in 8:19.82 and Winnisquam's Noah Bassett, Philipp Rompf, Henry Osmer and Goodwin was 10th in 8:41.42.

In the 100 meters, Gabe Kean of Plymouth was 10th in 11.16 seconds and Plourde was 13th in 11.19 seconds. Plourde was also 10th in the 200 meters in 22.99 seconds while in the 1,600 meters, Tate Hayman of Plymouth was 12th in 4:32.6 and Colin Foster of New-

found was 14th in 4:35.15.

In the shot put, Kennett's Owen Arias was 10th at 42 feet, 2.25 inches and Parker Wood of Prospect Mountain was 11th at 41 feet, eight inches. Brady Filteau of Belmont was ninth in the discus at 127 feet, five inches and Malachi Plociennik of Berlin was 12th at 119 feet. Kean finished in 15th place in the javelin with a toss of 127 feet, 10 inches.

All athletes finishing in the top six earned a qualification to the New England Track and Field Championships, which take place on Saturday, June 8, at 10 a.m. back at the University of New Hampshire.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or [josh@salmon-press.news](mailto:josh@salmon-press.news).

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## Belmont Public Library is roaring with pride!

BELMONT — Spring is full of graduations and parties! At Belmont Public Library, we are celebrating the children who have been reading all year long with the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. NH's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten follows a nationwide early literacy initiative that encourages families to read to their young children

and to use the resources available to them at their public libraries. It is a fun, exciting, and free way to start your child on the path to reading!

On June 7, Youth Services Librarian, Rebecca Searles, will recognize those families and the local preschool programs in a small celebration of their commitment to reading. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m.



and end with a small reception with light refreshments. Families who have not yet registered their children will

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VETERANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

by a student color guard and a marching platoon unit.

Students Sydney Warner, Kaia Miller, Griffin Colby and Jemma Moss explained the history of the National Anthem, followed by Khloe Miller,

Cruz and who expounded the importance of Memorial Day. Grade 8 teacher, Dan Kirby, read the Gettysburg Address to the audience.

Mr. Baker reflected on the phrase, “They fought and died for our freedom.” The students shared what freedoms our soldiers have defend-

He explained how soldiers who fought in wars from the Civil War to World War II each played an important role in securing freedom and liberty from many people across the world.

Several residents and staff from the New Hampshire Veterans Home attended and

Army Vietnam Era Veteran, related the disappointment he felt upon return to the states after his time in Vietnam, and particularly his less than friendly interaction with a group at the San Francisco Airport. He later commented that the students’ and staff heartfelt expressions of apprecia-

Veteran Don Overman, US Navy Korean Conflict, also attended the assembly.

Mr. Kessler concluded by encouraging the audience to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day with an eye to the future and to incorporate the Veterans Home mission, which

quality of life for New Hampshire veterans with dignity, honor and respect, into their everyday lives.“

The assembly ended with band students including Olivia Powers, Zach Abbott, Anna Laughy and Simon Ahlgren playing EchoTaps. The full band also played Gallant March earlier in the assembly.

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Finance/HR Assistant**

The Town of Plymouth is accepting applications for a Finance/HR Assistant. The qualified candidate must be able to provide a full range of complex administrative, financial, and technical support duties for the Human Resource/ Finance Director. Candidate must be a team player to join Plymouth's busy office environment. Applicant should be proficient in Microsoft Excel and Word. Preferred applicant will have experience with municipal accounting software, currently BMSI/Gworks.

This position is currently a full-time, benefited position; however, consideration may be given to part-time applicants working no less than 32 hours per week.

Hourly rate will be dependent upon applicant's qualifications and experience. Please submit your resume and letter of interest to the Plymouth Town Manager, N Scott Weden, 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264 or via email at [townmanager@plymouthnh.gov](mailto:townmanager@plymouthnh.gov).

Selected applicant will start in July 2024.  
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**[highway@plymouthnh.gov](mailto:highway@plymouthnh.gov)**

The town of Plymouth Highway Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Highway worker. If you are hardworking, team player, with a positive attitude and willingness to learn, you may be the person we are looking for. Candidates **need a valid driver's license with CDL-B endorsement.** This position performs duties in all areas of construction and other assigned projects to include summer and winter maintenance of roadways. Duties include but are not limited to, operating heavy machinery necessary for road maintenance, maintaining municipal equipment and plowing roadways for winter operations, and other road maintenance tasks. Successful candidate will be required to be on-call for a week at a time on a rotating schedule.

If you are looking for a drug free, appreciative working environment that offers a competitive wage and benefit package including: Vacation, Sick Leave, Personnel Days, Educational Training, Health Insurance (Employee pays 15% of premium), Dental Insurance (Employee pays 100% of premium), Group Disability and Life Insurance, and retirement through NH Retirement System, you may be the person we are looking for. The Town of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are available at the Plymouth Town Hall (603-536-1731), the Towns Website [www.plymouthnh.gov](http://www.plymouthnh.gov) or at the Plymouth Highway Department (603-536-1623) from 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is appointed.

**PSI Molded Plastics**

**OPEN HOUSE – HIRING EVENT**  
**With Snacks and Beverages**  
**Wednesday, June 12th**  
**Morning - 7:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**&**  
**Thursday, June 13th**  
**Afternoon – 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
**PSI Molded Plastics located at Five Wickers Drive Wolfeboro, NH 03894**  
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We also offer competitive pay rates and benefits such as Health, Dental, Vision, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, Life Insurance Matching 401k, 10 paid holidays, and paid time off!

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**Machine Operator –2nd and 3rd shift**  
**CNC Setup Operator- 1st shift**  
**Process Technician – 3rd shift**  
**Spray Painter –2nd shift**  
**Sander – 1st & 2nd shift**

**Rates start at \$18.00 for Machine Operators, and Assemblers**  
**Skilled trades start at \$19 and up.**

**\$2.00 per hour shift differential on 2nd shift.**  
**\$3.00 per hour shift differential on 3rd shift.**

**\*\*\$500 SIGN ON BONUS**  
**\*\*SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

For immediate consideration, please come to Five Wickers Drive Wolfeboro, NH to complete an application or visit our website for more information at [www.psimp.com](http://www.psimp.com). You can also email your resume directly to [donna.doyle@psimp.com](mailto:donna.doyle@psimp.com), please be specific as to what shift and position.



# Kelly wins Division III javelin championship



**Victoria Kelly won the Division III javelin championship at the State Meet on Thursday, May 23.**

JOSHUA SPAULDING



**Skye Tibbetts leaps through the air during competition at the Division III State Meet.**



**Lauren MacDonald fires the shot put during competition at the Division III championships.**

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor



**Victor Pham jumps during the Division III State Meet on May 23.**

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TILTON — In front of their home crowd, the Winnisquam track athletes put up some solid performances at the Division III State Meet on Thursday, May 23, including a state championship performance from a Bear senior.

Victoria Kelly threw the javelin a personal best of 123 feet, six inches on her first throw of the day, easily outdistancing the second place finisher by almost 12 feet, to bring home the Division III championship.

Classmate and teammate Skye Tibbetts jumped to second place in the long jump with a distance of 15 feet, 8.5 inches and she cleared four feet, 10 inches in the high jump to finish in fifth place overall.

Lauren MacDonald threw her way to second place in the shot put with a toss of 35 feet, one inch and set the school record in the discus, firing 105 feet, three inches to place fourth overall.

The Bear 4X100-meter team of Kaiden Robb, Denssa Williams, MacDonald and Tibbetts finished in fifth place overall with a time of 53.3 seconds while the 4X800-meter team of Kyra Russell, Alexis Searles, Abigail Osmer and Emily Tripple was 11th overall in 13:03.77.

Vanessa Power cleared seven feet in the pole vault to place sixth overall while Kelly ran to ninth place in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 53.97 seconds.

In the 100 meters, Williams finished in 13th place in a time of 13.44 seconds and she ran to 12th in the 200 meters in a time of 28.59 seconds. Robb took 10th in the 400 meters with a time of 65.16 seconds.

Brendan Goodwin had the top performance for the Bear boys, finishing in third place in the 400 meters with a time of 51.31 seconds.

The Bear 4X400-meter team of Frank McComiskey, Taber Haggett, Henry Osmer and Goodwin took fifth place in a time of 3:38.18 while the 4X800-meter team of David Swain, Philipp Rompf, Osmer and Goodwin finished in third place in a time of 8:31.92. The 4X100-meter team of McComiskey, Victor Pham, Nathan Lavoie and Dylan Griffin finished in 11th in 46.18 seconds.

Pham jumped 35 feet, nine inches in the triple jump to place 11th overall.

Both Goodwin and MacDonald earned All-State honors for their performances throughout the regular season.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or [josh@salmonpress.news](mailto:josh@salmonpress.news)

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