

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

SERVING TILTON, NORTHFIELD, BELMONT & SANBORNTON, N.H

Ninth Annual Easterseals NH Veterans Count Jeepin’4Vets to rally support for military community

FRANKLIN — Jeep drivers, passengers, and supporters will come together at Easterseals NH’s new Military and Veterans Campus in Franklin for the Ninth Annual Easterseals NH Veterans Count Jeepin’4Vets presented by Bonneville & Son on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is open through Sept. 16 for those who

want to join the patriotic caravan benefiting service members, Veterans, and their families across New Hampshire at <https://vetscount.org/events/jeepin4vets/>.

The event will begin and end at the Easterseals NH Military and Veterans Campus in Franklin. Participants will take to the road in their Jeeps while raising funds for Veter-



ans Count, a program of Easterseals NH that provides a safety net of critical case management and emergency financial assistance for service members, Veterans, and their families.

“Jeepin’4Vets brings people together around a shared commitment to New Hampshire’s military community,” said Maureen Beauregard, President and CEO, Easterseals NH and VT. “Every participant and supporter helps the Veterans Count program provide timely, meaningful sup-

port to service members, Veterans, and their families when they need it most.”

Veterans Count program includes confidential care coordination, housing stabilization, mental health support, emergency financial assistance, and other essential services. The program meets Veterans where they are, providing outreach and support in communities across New Hampshire.

“Jeepin’4Vets brings people together around

SEE **JEEPIN’4VETS**, PAGE A11

Raiders second in Salem, sweep at Apple Hill

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

SALEM — The Belmont golf team recorded its highest point total since the relaunch of the program on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Campbell’s Scottish Highlands in Salem.

The Raiders finished with a flurry and almost overcame a large Derryfield lead but settled for second place behind the Cougars with 91 points while Derryfield won with 94 points. Host Pelham was third with 69 points and Milford rounded out the field with 46 points.

Jacob Akerstrom, playing in the seventh spot in the Belmont lineup, shot an even-par 36 to earn 27 points and medalist honors for the day.

Jordan DeFrancesco had his all-time best round with 23 points out of the second spot with Max Ryder scoring 22 points from the third spot and Tyler Kelly finishing with 19 points out of the fifth spot to round out the scoring for the Raiders.

Jasper Sottak finished with 17 points from the sixth spot, Ben Girard finished with 16 points from the fourth spot and Alex Rowley rounded

out the field of Raiders with 15 points from the top spot in the lineup.

The next day the Raiders battled through threatening weather and slow greens to take the sweep at Apple Hill Golf Club. Belmont finished with a score of 81 points to beat Gilford’s 73 points while host Sanborn finished with 66 points and Milford finished with 57 points.

Ryder and Akerstrom tied for medalist honors for the day with scores of 21 points with Akerstrom in the seventh spot and Ryder in the third spot while Girard finished with a score of 20 out of the fourth spot. DeFrancesco out of the second spot and Rowley out of the first spot both finished with 19 points with one of those scores counting toward the team score. Kelly finished with 17 points from the fifth spot and Sottak finished with 14 points from the sixth spot to round out the field of Raiders.

The Raiders are slated to be in action on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Sunapee Country Club.

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

LRAA Gallery hosting Paint & Sip with juried artist Susie French

TILTON — The Lakes Region Art Association will host a Paint & Sip on Friday, October 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lakes Region Art Gallery in the Tanger Outlets, 120 Laconia Rd., Suite 300, Tilton.

Juried artist Susie French will lead guests through an 11-by-14-inch painting of an autumn canopy seen from the forest floor—dark trunks rising toward a blue sky, with red, orange, and gold leaves. No painting experience is required. All skill levels are welcome.

The fee is \$40 per person. The full amount is a donation to the LRAA Gallery.



Light refreshments will be served. Registration information will be announced shortly.

The Lakes Region Art

Association, founded in 1940, is a nonprofit supporting Lakes Region artists through exhibits, classes, and community events at its

Tilton gallery.

Event details

Date: Friday, October 2, 2026

Time: 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Location: Lakes Region Art Gallery, Tanger Outlets, 120 Laconia Rd., Suite 300, Tilton, NH 03276

Instructor: Susie French, juried artist

Project: 11” x 14” “October Canopy”

Fee: \$40 (donation to LRAA Gallery)

Refreshments: Light refreshments provided

Registration: <https://www.lakesregionartgallery.org/paint-sip>

lakesregionartgallery.org

Soccer Bears rally for tie in wild shootout with Newfound



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Newfound’s Ryan Blais and Winnisquam’s Jon Wright charge after the ball along the sidelines in action on Friday, Sept. 11, in Tilton.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Braeden Perrault corraling the ball during his team’s game against Newfound on Friday afternoon.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — In a wild and crazy Friday afternoon shootout, the Winnisquam boys’ soccer team scored in the final minutes to pull even with Newfound and the two teams settled for the 5-5 tie on Sept. 11 in Tilton.

Winnisquam wasted little time getting on the board, as the blue and white Bears scored just 1:10 into the game with Braeden Perrault scoring off a throw-in from Noah Bassett to give the hosts the 1-0 lead. Jon Wright came back with a chance for Winnisquam that was turned back by Newfound’s Ryan Blais and Wright had another bid cleared by Ricardo Rivera-Soto. Perrault and

Wright teamed up on a bid that was cleared by Jacob Dumont and Jayden Belyea went the other way with a chance that was turned back by Jack McGranaghan in the Bear defensive backfield.

Chase Cazeault had a nice cross for Newfound that Oliver Hatfield cleared for Winnisquam and Cazeault just missed connecting with Belyea on a bid. Wright had a chance denied by Newfound goalie Nate Arnold and Brady Nelson sent a long ball in for the hosts. Dumont had another solid defensive stop for Newfound and Perrault sent a shot over the top of the net while Arnold stopped a bid from Kane St. Hilaire.

Winnisquam upped the

SEE **SOCCER**, PAGE A11

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Public invited to upcoming information sessions on proposed Fire District facility

TILTON/NORTHFIELD — At the Tilton-Northfield Fire District’s annual District Meeting in March of 2026, voters approved Warrant Article 4 for the purpose of funding design, engineering, and architectural fees associated with the construction, addition, and/or renovation of a fire station or fire stations.

Belmont police log

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 31 to Sept. 7.

Christina Marie Conley, age 46, of Belmont was arrested on Sept. 2 in connection with multiple warrants after receiving a summons for owning a dog deemed a menace, nuisance, or vicious.

Morgan Elizabeth Lawrence, age 35, of Concord was arrested on Sept. 3 for DUI-Impairment and Speeding 16-20 mph over a posted limit of 55 mph or less.



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Following the vote, the District sent out two separate Requests for Proposal for professional services related to the project. We are pleased to announce that the District has entered into agreements with two firms to assist us in moving this project forward. On June 18, the Fire Commission voted to partner with Sheer McCrystal Palson Architecture (SMP) for Design and Engineering services.

Since its founding in 1983, SMP Architecture has focused on municipal and non-profit projects that support and enhance New Hampshire's communities. We team with our clients in the design of high-performance buildings for emergency services, public libraries and adaptive re-use of our aging buildings and are excited to bring our expertise to the Tilton-Northfield Fire Department.

On Aug. 17, the Fire Commission voted to partner with Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp. (BPS) for Construction Management Services. Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp., based in Laconia since 1969, has been selected as Construction Manager for the proposed new fire facilities. BPS has a deep history of managing and constructing municipal facilities throughout the state of New Hampshire. Their team is excited to be on board and looking forward to compiling estimates, schedules, and safety plans ahead of the Spring 2027 District vote.

The District has been busy working with both firms on designing a new headquarters facility to replace our current station on Center Street, which is approximately 160 years old. A smaller addition is also planned adjacent to our current substation on Park Street. We look forward to sharing the designs with the community.

The District will be hosting two public information sessions to share the initial schematic designs with the

community and give our citizens an opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and tour the current facilities. Both SMP and BPS along with the Fire Commission and Fire Department leadership will be at both information sessions.

- The first session will take place at the Center Street Fire Station, 12 Center St., Tilton, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29
- The second session will take place at the Park Street Fire Station, 149 Park St., Northfield, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7

The District will be providing regular updates through our website and social media, as well as hosting additional sessions in the future as the planning progresses. Please look for communications and advertisements regarding these sessions and other opportunities to learn about the project. If you cannot make the sessions, I encourage you to reach out for a tour of one or both of our stations. I can be reached by email or phone at the Center Steet Station. svalovanie@tnfdnh.gov (603) 286-4781.

We would like to thank our community for its continued support over the years. This project is the culmination of years of planning, input, and hard work by the Fire Commission, Building Committees, Firefighters, and most importantly members of the community. Input received through surveys, public information sessions, and countless conversations with residents has helped shape this project, and we look forward to continuing that process as we move toward the March 15, 2027 District Meeting.

KIDNEY NEEDED

Blood type O for young man.

Call or text 603-556-1213

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Sept. 17
BELMONT
Volleyball vs. Inter-Lakes; 6:15

Friday, Sept. 18
BELMONT
Boys' Soccer at Hillsboro-Deering; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Hillsboro-Deering; 4

GILFORD
Boys' Soccer vs. Farmington-Nute; 4
Field Hockey vs. Bishop Brady; 4
Volleyball vs. Manchester West; 5:45

WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer at Stevens; 4
Field Hockey at Newport; 4
Volleyball vs. Portsmouth Christian; 6

Saturday, Sept. 19
GILFORD
Cross Country at Manchester Central; 10
Football at Epping-Newmarket;

WINNISQUAM
Cross Country at Manchester; 10

Monday, Sept. 21
BELMONT
Volleyball at Hillsboro-Deering; 6:15

GILFORD
Girls' Gilford vs. Hopkinton; 4

ton; 4
Golf at Pheasant Ridge; 3:30

WINNISQUAM
Volleyball vs. Concord Christian; 6

Tuesday, Sept. 22
GILFORD
Boys' Soccer at Laconia 4
Field Hockey at Kearsarge; 4

WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer at Bishop Brady; 4
Volleyball at Mascenic; 6

Wednesday, Sept. 23
BELMONT
Golf at Sunapee CC; 4
Volleyball vs. Trinity; 6:15

GILFORD
Girls' Soccer at Laconia; 4
Volleyball at Pembroke; 6

WINNISQUAM
Cross Country at Moultonborough; 4

Thursday, Sept. 24
BELMONT
Golf at Farmington Country Club; 4

GILFORD
Golf at Pheasant Ridge; 3:30
Cross Country at Kearsarge; 4

All schedules are subject to change.

Laconia Adult Education Fall 2026 Class Schedule

Course Title	Day(s)	Start date	Start Time	End Time	# weeks	Cost	Location	Instructor Name
Health & Wellness								
Freedom Through Forgiveness	Thu	11/19/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	1	\$45.00	615	Brenda Paquette
Introduction to Spiritual Energies	Thu	10/8/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	1	\$45.00	615	Brenda Paquette
Meditation 101	Thu	11/5/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	1	\$45.00	615	Brenda Paquette
What are Angels & How to Communicate w/them	Thu	10/22/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	1	\$45.00	615	Brenda Paquette
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 1	Tue, Thu	9/29/26	5:00 pm	6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H141	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 2	Tue, Thu	10/13/26	5:00 pm	6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H141	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 3	Tue, Thu	11/10/26	5:00 pm	6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H141	Bonnie Morin
Beginner East Coast Swing	Wed	9/30/26	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	4	\$95.00	LHS-Café	Juli Pruden
Beginner Country Two-Step	Wed	9/30/26	6:45PM	7:45PM	4	\$95.00	LHS-Café	Juli Pruden
Beginner Cha Cha	Wed	9/30/26	6:45PM	7:45PM	4	\$95.00	LHS-Café	Juli Pruden
Learning a skill								
Basic Woodworking*	Thu	10/1/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	8	\$110.00	517	Wes Anderson
Dog Obedience: Advanced	Wed	9/30/26	7:00 pm	8:00 pm	8	\$75.00	WHS-Gym	Carolyn Bancroft
Dog Obedience: Beginning	Wed	9/30/26	6:15pm	7:15pm	8	\$70.00	WHS-Gym	Carolyn Bancroft
Open Shop Woodworking	Tue	9/29/26	6:00 pm	8:30 pm	10	\$110.00	517	Ed Philpot
Intro to Intermediate Woodworking	Wed	9/30/26	6:00 PM	8:30 PM	10	\$120.00	517	Ed Philpot
Diploma Classes*								
Physical Science	Mon	9/14/26	5:30pm	8:30 PM	15 Weeks	\$300.00	LHS-901	J. Lacroix
English	Tues	9/8/26	6:00pm	9:00pm	15 Weeks	\$300.00	LHS-603	P. Mignanelli
The Odyssey	Wed	9/9/26	6:00pm	9:00pm	15 Weeks	\$300.00	LHS-304	T. Osborne
Math	Thurs	9/10/26	6:00pm	9:00pm	15 Weeks	\$300.00	LHS-611	A. Stefanik
* Additional Supply/book fee or pre-class requirement is additional in this course.								
Adult Education and Literacy Classes (AEL)**								
High School Equivalency (GED or HiSET) Prep	Mon, Wed	9/14/26	6:00pm	8:30pm	12 Weeks	Free	LHS-611	A. Stefanik
English as a Second Language (ESL)	Tues, Thurs	9/15/26	6:00pm	8:30pm	12 Weeks	Free	LHS - 604	M. Rudolf
**AEL classes for students 18+ and not enrolled in high school								

CHECK ONLINE FOR MORE DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION
(Including materials, book fees or Labs)

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Still have questions? Call Laconia Adult Education at 524-5712



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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Boba!



Meet Boba! Like bubble tea, he is sweet and squishy, a sweetheart who does not take long to warm up to new people. He has done well with sharing a room with other cats, and is generally an aloof gentle cat. He is looking for a home without dogs, as in the past they have been too overwhelming for him.

This true lounge cat would

love a home where things are quiet and easygoing, with or without other cats who know their kitty manners. He could do well with young kids that are cat-savvy.

He is looking for an indoor-only home where he can thrive. He is a vocal boy who will greet you and meow in charming and adorable ways.

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Volleyball Bears shut out Conant, Mascoma

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam volleyball team picked up its second win in a row to start the season on Thursday, Sept. 3, traveling to Jaffrey and defeating Conant by a 3-0 score.

“I thought tonight we played very well as a team with everyone

contributing towards the win,” said coach Mark Dawalga.

Defensively, the Bear coach praised the play of Addie Bernier (eight aces), Kenzie Nelson and Amelya Robinson while on offense, Sophie Fair had seven kills, five digs and three aces, Danica Weymouth had nine aces, three digs and

two kills, Abby Meunier had six assists and four aces, Eila Petty had three blocks, two aces and two kills, Claire Hart had two aces, two digs and two kills, Aaylah Cartier had a pair of aces and a pair of digs, Alissa Jean had three kills, one block and two digs and Autumn Sorette had five assists and two

blocks.

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, the Bears took a 3-0 win over Mascoma, 25-8, 25-16, 25-16.

“Great team win with everyone contributing for the win,” said Dawalga.

Weymouth finished with five kills, six aces, one dig and one block, Fair had five kills, three

aces and five digs, Alana Cruz had four kills, Meunier had four aces and seven assists, Petty had two kills, two aces and one block, Sorette had a kill and seven assists and Jean had two kills and three digs.

The Bears closed out the week with a 3-1 loss against Raymond on Friday, Sept. 11.

The Rams took the first set and Winnisquam battled back to win the second set before the Rams won the next two to take the win.

“I was really proud of our team tonight, they battled a very good team

on the road and gave ourselves a chance,” Dawalga said. “Give Raymond credit, they made more plays than us down the stretch to get the win.”

The Bears are slated to be in action on Friday, Sept. 18, at home against Portsmouth Christian, Monday, Sept. 21, at home against Concord Christian and Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Mascenic, all with 6 p.m. scheduled starts.

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

Prescott Farm announces fall programs

LACONIA — Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center is excited to announce the release of its Fall 2026 Program Guide, offering a diverse range of opportunities for people of all ages to learn, explore, and connect with the natural world year-round.

From creative arts and culinary workshops to guided nature hikes and garden explorations, the fall schedule includes:

Hands-on Workshops: Traditional crafts such as making fall vases out of natural materials and beeswax resist black walnut dyeing.

Culinary Arts: Garden-to-table cooking

classes, sourdough bread making, and nature-inspired baking led by Chef LaShunda Allen.

Outdoor Exploration: Guided nature hikes, moonlit fall tractor tour, and a wild edible & medicinal plant walk.

Creative Expression: "Nature Inspires Art" sessions hosted by local artist Larry Frates, Autumn and Winter wreath workshops, and home-made candles.

ply exploring our trails, these programs offer meaningful ways to engage with the environment during all months of the year no matter your experience level.”

Programs for youth & families

In addition to adult programs, Prescott Farm offers year-round educational experiences for preschool, school-aged, and homeschool learners.

Polliwogs (Ages two and up): A weekly discovery program for toddlers and their caregivers. Held select Wednesdays from 10–11:30 a.m. \$15 per child/adult pair.

Homeschool Series (Ages six to 14): Specialized nature-based

curriculum held every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Price varies per program, accompanying adult required. Education Freedom Account Payments accepted.

Private programs: Create a unique, memorable experience by scheduling a private program with one of our knowledgeable instructors at Prescott Farm! Offered year-round on a wide-range of topics at a time convenient for you.

About Prescott Farm

Prescott Farm is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing nature-based learning experiences for children and adults to cultivate a lifelong connection to the natural world.

Laramie, Andrews lead Raiders in Concord

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

CONCORD — The Belmont cross country team took part in the Cofrin Classic Cross Country Race hosted by Concord High School at NHTI in Concord on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

For the Belmont girls, Jenna Laramie led the way with a 36th place finish in a time of 27:09 with Lyla McSheffrey right behind her in 37th place in 27:10. Zoe Perlet was next for Belmont with a 45th place finish in a time of 28:52 and Violet Smith finished in 51st place overall in a time of 30:35. Allieanna Steele finished in a time of 33:08 for 59th place with Neala Murphy finishing in a time of 36:09

for 63rd place and Sara Milotovic finished in a time of 37:39 for 67th place overall.

Sean Andrews led the way for the Belmont boys with a 38th place finish in a time of 21:14 with Brodie Henry finishing in a time of 21:23 for 40th place. Henry Ashworth finished in 70th place with a time of 30:46 and Daniel Tripp was 71st overall in a time of 31:02.

The Raiders are slated to compete on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Moultonborough Academy at 4 p.m.

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

“Girls Night: The Musical” coming to the Colonial

LACONIA — Coming to the Colonial Theatre of Laconia Saturday, Oct. 17: “Girls Night: The Musical!”

Share the fun & laughter at this hilarious, feel-good comedy as five girlfriends go from heart-break to happiness during a wild night of karaoke. Get your girlfriends together and come sing along, dance along, and sip on cocktails as you take in this party of a show!

“Girls Night: The Musical” has been thrilling audiences and earning raves from critics throughout North America since it began touring after its sensational Off-Broadway debut. This touching and hilarious 'tell-it-like-it-is' musical takes audiences on a journey into the lives of a group of female friends. Audience members can't help but laugh, cry and even find themselves singing and dancing in the aisles as some of the most popular hit songs of the '80s and '90s make this musical a fan favorite! Follow five friends as they re-live their past, celebrate their present, and look to the future on a wild and hilarious karaoke night out... and you'll recognize a bit yourselves in every one of them! It is described as “Desperate Housewives meets Mama Mia” (Applause Magazine), “A boisterous, bust-out, bawdy musical revue” (Wisconsin State Journal), “An infectious, exhilarating sense of intoxication (Hollywood Reporter) and “As funny and outrageous as Sex in the City!” (The Advocate). “Girls Night” is bursting with energy, and is packed with hits “Lady Marmalade,” “It’s Raining Men,” “Man I Feel Like A Woman,” “I Will Survive,” “We are Family” and many more.

British playwright,

author and television producer, Louise Roche has written and produced six other plays including Girls Night (UK Tours 2003, '04,'06), Bobby and Johnny (UK Tour 2005), Girls Behind (UK Tour 2005), Checkout Girls (Milton Keynes 2005), Lucky Balls (Milton Keynes 2002), and Milton Keynes The Musical (2002). Her novel, Glutton for Punishment is published in paperback, and her television writing includes “Where The Heart Is,” and “Doctors.”

Director, Sonya Flaherty has been with Entertainment Events, Inc. since 2007. She originally performed the role of Liza in the US premier of “Girls Night: The Musical” in Scottsdale, Az. in May of 2007. After touring for two years in “Girls Night: The Musical” and still working full-time in International Risk Management at American Express, EEI brought Sonya Carter and her 12 years of experience at American Express on board as its production supervisor in 2009. In 2010, she was promoted to Chief Operating Officer. In addition to her responsibilities as the COO of Entertainment Events, Inc., she continues to supervise all production aspects from casting to closing night

for all EEI productions. She still performs in “Girls Night: The Musical.” She has played three of the five roles in the show and has amassed over 400 performances on tour and Off-Broadway. Sonya has directed several of the touring companies of “Girls Night: The Musical” and originated the role of co-host Janice and directed the world Premier of WPMS: The Musical at the DuPont Theater in Wilmington, DE on June 29, 2010. Sonya Carter directed, co-authored and performed the role of Janice in the Off-Broadway premiere “Dishing With the Divas: The Musical” in January of 2011. “Cuff Me: The Fifty Shades Of Grey Musical Parod”y is

the third Off-Broadway production she has directed.

Performances of “Girls Night: The Musical” at the Colonial Theatre of Laconia are on Saturday, Oct. 17. Ticket prices range from \$46 to \$90. To purchase tickets or for more information about group rates, call the Colonial Theatre of Laconia Box Office at 1-800-657-8774 or on the Internet at ColonialLaconia.com.

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Opinion

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.

Turning a show of support into help that matters

There are many ways to say thank you to those who have served. Sometimes, it is a ceremony. Sometimes, it is a flag placed carefully beside a grave. Sometimes, it is standing along a parade route or shaking the hand of a veteran and taking the time to listen. And sometimes, it looks like a long line of Jeeps traveling New Hampshire roads.

The Ninth Annual Easterseals NH Veterans Count Jeep-in'4Vets event, scheduled for this Saturday, Sept. 19 in Franklin, is certainly designed to be fun. It brings together Jeep owners and passengers for a patriotic caravan, gives people a reason to gather and offers a visible display of support for New Hampshire's military community.

But the importance of the event is found in what happens after the engines are turned off. Money raised through Jeep-in'4Vets supports Veterans Count, the Easterseals NH program that assists service members, veterans and their families when they encounter needs that cannot always wait for another appointment, another application or another round of paperwork. Those needs can be remarkably ordinary and remarkably urgent.

A family may need help paying rent. Someone may need gas to get to work or an appointment. A household may be struggling with a utility bill or the cost of groceries. A veteran may need help finding stable housing, accessing counseling or navigating the maze of programs and benefits that exist but can sometimes be difficult to reach.

These are not necessarily the needs that come to mind when Americans talk about honoring military service. Yet they are often the places where gratitude becomes most meaningful.

Veterans Count reports that it served more than 1,660 veterans last year, helping connect them with benefits, housing, counseling and other services while also providing emergency financial assistance when necessary.

That number should remind us that supporting veterans is not something reserved for Veterans Day or Memorial Day.

Service does not end when a uniform is put away, and neither do the responsibilities a community assumes toward the people who wore it.

There is also something fitting about this year's Jeep-in'4Vets beginning and ending at Easterseals NH's Military and Veterans Campus in Franklin. The campus represents a significant investment in creating a place where veterans, service members and their families can find services, recreation, connection and support. Bringing a fundraising event there helps connect the celebration directly to the work it is intended to sustain.

Last year's Jeepin'4Vets raised more than \$16,000. That is an impressive result for an event built around something as simple as people sharing an enthusiasm for their vehicles and wanting to help their neighbors. It also demonstrates one of the strengths of community fundraising.

Not everyone can provide professional counseling. Not everyone understands veterans benefits or knows how to help someone facing a housing crisis. Most residents cannot personally solve the complicated challenges confronting every military family that needs assistance. But people can contribute to organizations that know how to do that work. They can register for a ride. They can volunteer. They can donate. They can support an event. They can tell someone about the services that are available. Individually, those actions might seem modest. Together, they create the resources that allow an organization to answer when somebody needs help.

The sight of a caravan of Jeeps traveling through New Hampshire will certainly attract attention Sept. 19. It should. Public demonstrations of appreciation have value, particularly when they remind veterans and military families that their communities have not forgotten them.

But the greater value of Jeepin'4Vets will be harder to see. It will appear later in a rent payment that helps keep someone housed, groceries placed on a family's table, a counseling connection made or a veteran guided toward benefits that can provide greater stability.

That is where appreciation becomes action. And that is where a Saturday drive becomes something much larger than a ride.



COURTESY PHOTO

September is National Senior Center Month! Through Community Action Partnership, Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. and the Tilton Senior Center Executive Committee, the Tilton Senior Center offers many important ways for older adults to remain active. Tilton Senior Center provides community dining and take-out meals, exercise and wellness activities, education, health clinics, evidence-based classes, social activities, and transportation, all designed to keep older adults healthy, independent, and connected to community life. The Tilton Senior Center is located at 11 Grange Rd. in Tilton and is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 603-527-8291 and look for them on Facebook at TiltonSeniorCenter.

The great September thermostat standoff

KIND HEARTS, COLD WINTERS

By CHIPPY

There comes a morning every September when a New Hampshire man wakes up and realizes that summer has betrayed him. It usually happens around 5:30.

You get out of bed, put your feet on the floor and immediately reconsider every decision that led you to this moment. The floor is cold. The bedroom is cold. The bathroom is somehow colder, despite being only eight feet away. You look out the window expecting to see frost. There isn't any. This is important, because frost would provide evidence. Frost would give you permission to admit that it is cold.

Instead, the thermometer says 44 degrees. Forty-four degrees in January is practically beach weather. Forty-four degrees in September is an emergency. My wife understands this distinction perfectly.

"Are you going to turn the heat on?" she asked recently.

I reacted as though she had suggested we sell the house.

"The heat?"
"Yes."
"It's September."
"I know what month it is."

Apparently, this is one of those discussions married couples can have after 30 years

without either person providing useful information.

There is an unwritten rule among certain New Hampshire men that the furnace cannot be turned on too early. Nobody knows who established this rule. There is no state law. I have never seen it printed in a homeowner's manual. Yet we obey it. Turning on the heat before October somehow feels like surrender. So instead, we begin an elaborate campaign of denial.

We close windows that have been open since May. We find sweatshirts. We put on socks. We mention that the sun will warm the house once it gets over the trees.

Then we stand in the kitchen drinking coffee with both hands wrapped around the mug for survival.

"It's not cold," we say.

You can sometimes see your breath while saying this. The strange thing is that there is no prize for holding out.

Nobody from the state arrives on Oct. 1

with a certificate saying, "Congratulations. You refused to be comfortable for 17 days." The oil company doesn't send a fruit basket. Your neighbors don't know. And yet, there is satisfaction in making it another day.

My father belonged to an even tougher generation. When I was growing up, suggesting that the house was cold was treated as a character flaw. "Put on a sweater," was the standard response. If you were already wearing a sweater, you were told to put on another one.

Had I continued complaining, I suspect eventually I would have been wearing every piece of clothing I owned while sitting in the living room.

I have inherited enough of that mentality to be ridiculous about the thermostat, although age is beginning to weaken my resolve.

At 25, you can prove something by being cold. At 60-something, you start wondering exactly what it was you

were trying to prove.

Besides, September cold never lasts. By noon, the temperature outside may be 72. You take off the sweatshirt. You open a window. You start thinking perhaps summer isn't finished after all. Then the sun disappears behind the trees at 5:30 and somebody closes the window again. This goes on for weeks.

It is New Hampshire's annual season of wardrobe confusion, when you leave the house wearing a jacket in the morning and carry it over your arm in the afternoon.

Eventually, of course, somebody wins the thermostat argument. At our house, I will walk past it one chilly morning and notice that the heat is already on. I will say nothing. My wife will say nothing. The furnace will quietly hum from the basement.

And I will stand over the register for a minute, warming my feet, while maintaining the dignity of a man who absolutely did not turn it on. That seems like a reasonable compromise. After all, marriage is about knowing when to admit the other person was right. And knowing when it is much smarter not to discuss it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for Riverfront Park's new addition

To the Editor:

There's a new addition to Riverfront Park in Tilton – a beautiful free-standing playground!

The Tilton Parks Commission sends a huge thank you to Franklin Savings Bank for their generous grant to the Tilton Parks Commission that made this all possible. Your commitment to local communities is stellar, and Tilton is grateful to you. We dreamed

and hoped to have this equipment in place, but FSB helped us realize the dream. Thank you so much for your support.

Kathi Mitchell
Secretary
Tilton Parks Commission



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Bank of New Hampshire donates \$50,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH

LACONIA — Bank of New Hampshire has donated \$50,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern New Hampshire, reinforcing the Bank’s commitment to investing in the young people and families who help shape the future of New Hampshire communities.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH provides safe, supportive spaces where young people can learn, grow, build meaningful relationships, and develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Through its programs and services, the organization works to ensure youth have access to positive role models, educational opportunities, and experiences that encourage them to reach their full potential.

“Strong communities start with giving young people the opportunity to succeed,” said Chris Logan, President & CEO of Bank of New Hampshire. “The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH creates a place where kids can feel safe, supported, and encouraged to discover what they’re capable of. We are proud to support their mission and make an investment in the young people and families who are helping build the future of our communities.”

The donation will support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH as it continues providing programs and opportunities designed to help youth thrive both inside and outside the classroom. From academic support and leadership development to healthy lifestyles and positive relationships, the clubs play an important role in helping young people build a strong foundation for their future.

“Every day, we see what’s possible when young people have a place where they feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged to be themselves,” said Chris Emond, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH. “This generous gift from Bank of New Hampshire will help us continue creating those opportunities for kids across Central and Northern New Hampshire. We’re grateful for their partnership and their belief in the potential of every young person who walks through our doors.”

For Bank of New Hampshire, supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH is part of a broader commitment to strengthening the communities where its employees, customers, and neighbors live and work.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Walkley, SVP - Senior Commercial Banking Manager for Bank of New Hampshire; Cohen Pelletier; Tiffany Baert, SVP - Marketing & Public Relations Officer for Bank of New Hampshire; Chris Logan, President & CEO for Bank of New Hampshire; Chris Emond, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH; Alexandra Pelletier SVP - Retail Banking Administration Officer for Bank of New Hampshire; Harrison Pelletier

Chris Logan, President & CEO of Bank of New Hampshire. “The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH creates a place where kids can feel safe, supported, and encouraged to discover what they’re capable of. We are proud to support their mission and make an investment in the young people and families who are helping build the future of our communities.”

Sara Evans coming to the Colonial stage Dec. 3

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Sara Evans on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Multi-platinum entertainer Sara Evans is at the top of her game. As the fifth most-played female artist at country radio in nearly the last two decades — her five No. 1 singles include “No Place That Far,” “Suds In The Bucket,” “A Real Fine Place To Start,” “Born to Fly,” and “A Little Bit Stronger”. Several of those #1’s spent 2 weeks in the top spot and were certified platinum by the R.I.A.A. Overall, she’s had 15 songs chart in the top 20.

Sara continues to thrill audiences around the world playing over 70 shows each year. Sara’s “stunning, country voice” (Rolling Stone) has earned her the prestigious Acade-

my of Country Music Top Female vocalist accolade as well as numerous American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, Country Music Association, CMT and Grammy Awards nominations. In addition, the CMA awarded Video of the Year honors for her hit chart-topping single, “Born to Fly” from her double-platinum album of the same name. Evans’ discography also includes the multi-platinum selling studio albums Real Fine Place and Restless as well as the gold-certified projects Stronger and No Place That Far. Evans is also a proud member of the Grand Ole Opry.

The original owner of The Colonial, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partner-

ship with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. www.coloniallaconia.com

Spectacle Live’s mission is to create connections that make exceptional live experiences happen. Founded in 2012 and headquartered in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Spectacle Live is a live event and venue management company specializing in performing arts centers across the Northeast. The company partners with municipalities and arts organizations throughout

New England to provide comprehensive services, including venue operations, marketing and promotion, booking and talent buying, ticketing, food and beverage management, technical production, and consulting. Spectacle Live currently works with more than a dozen venues across

tomorrow. Celebrating 195 years of commitment to the community, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks headquartered in the state. With assets exceeding \$2.8 billion and 21 banking offices across New Hampshire, the bank provides comprehensive deposit, lending and wealth management solutions for families and businesses. As a mutual organization, Bank of New Hampshire is focused on the success of its customers, communities and employees—rather than stockholders. With a legacy of strength and stability, the bank combines local decision-making and trusted guidance with modern technology to deliver a seamless banking experience. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit bnh.bank.



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Desrochers leads Bears in opening race at Newfound

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

BRISTOL — The Winnisquam cross country team kicked off the new season on Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Earl Mills Newfound Invitational. The meet took place after last week’s early deadlines for the Labor Day holiday.

On one of the toughest courses the team will compete on this season, the Bear boys finished in fourth place and the girls finished in sixth place with the Kennett boys and Laconia girls taking top honors for the day.

The highlight of the day for the Bears was a strong finish from Cullen Desrochers, who made a mad dash down the stretch to finish in second place in a time of 18:40.

Lazar Arbutina finished in 10th place overall in 20:44 with Ryan Courtney in 18th place in 21:21 and Lucas Durphey in 28th place in 22:39. Owen Bakis finished in a time of 23:56 for 34th place to finish out the scoring for the Winnisquam boys.

Carter Lloyd was 35th overall in 24:02, Kyren Whitmore placed 37th in 24:09, Tristan Honeman was 41st in 24:42, Alexander Paquette was 42nd in 24:51, Tyler Robb placed 48th in 25:44, Kellan Hilliker was 49th in 26:16, Kamdyn Reagan finished in 53rd place in 28:24, Jaxon Loutrel was 55th in 28:49, Grayson McSweeney placed 57th in 29:25, Andrew Paquette was 61st overall in 31:26 and Christopher Collins placed 64th in 33:07.

The Winnisquam girls were led by a 13th place finish from Katherine Al-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Cullen Desrochers ran to second place overall in the Earl Mills Newfound Invitational in Bristol on Saturday, Sept. 5.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Katherine Allen runs for Winnisquam during the Earl Mills Newfound Invitational on Sept. 5 in Bristol.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Lucas Durphey runs for Winnisquam during Saturday, Sept. 5’s Earl Mills Newfound Invitational in Bristol.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Natalie Wolfe competes in the Earl Mills Newfound Invitational at Newfound Regional High School on Sept. 5.

len in a time of 26:30 while Natalie Wolfe finished in 33rd place in 32:40. Penelope McSweeney was 34th overall in 33:04, Ariana Maxwell crossed in a time of 40:24 for 41st place and Clara Sancho Yague was 42nd overall with a time of 41:27.

The Bears are slated to compete at the Manchester

Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 9 a.m. and at the John Eisner Invitation-al at Moultonborough on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 4 p.m.

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



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Bridge to Recovery Walk returns Sept. 20 to support mental health and substance use recovery



COURTESY PHOTO

The Concord Hospital Trust partnered with volunteers from throughout Concord Hospital Health System and the community, including Dr. Paul Racicot and Boomer's Barbeque, to host the Bridge to Recovery walk in 2025. The event raises money to help patients access services and resources that support them throughout their recovery.

FRANKLIN — Concord Hospital Health System (CHHS) invites community members to come together in support of individuals and families affected by mental health and substance use disorders at the annual Bridge to Recovery Walk, taking place Sunday, Sept. 20 at Concord Hospital – Franklin.

The approximately two-mile walk brings together people in recovery, their families and friends, healthcare professionals, community members, and supporters to raise awareness and funds for mental health and substance use disorder programs and services at Concord Hospital – Franklin and Concord Hospital – Laconia. The event will also feature live music, a patient speaker, and a complimentary pancake breakfast prepared by Dr. Paul Racicot and Boomer's BBQ.

"The Bridge to Recovery Walk is about showing people that they don't have to face recovery alone," said Philanthropy Officer for Concord Hospital Trust and Bridge to Recovery Event Coordinator Heidi Smith. "Every person who walks, donates, volunteers, or sponsors this event helps create a visible community of support around our patients and families. It's an uplifting morning that reminds us how much can happen when a community comes together with compassion and a shared purpose."

In 2025, the Bridge to Recovery Walk raised more than \$50,000 for Concord Hospital Recovery Clinics in Franklin and Gilford, helping patients access services and resources that support them throughout their recovery. Funds raised have helped cover insurance co-pays and care for uninsured patients, provide gas cards for transportation to appointments, support basic personal necessities,

and fund scholarships for local fitness programs.

For Corey Gately, MLADC, director of Substance Use Services at the Recovery Clinics and Laconia Doorway at Concord Hospital – Franklin and Laconia, that practical assistance can help address barriers that may otherwise make recovery more difficult.

"Recovery looks different for every person, and it rarely happens through one service or one moment," said Gately. "People need access to treatment, but they also need connection,

encouragement, and practical support that helps them continue moving forward. The Bridge to Recovery Walk shows our patients that there is an entire community standing beside them and believing in their ability to build a healthier future."

Participants are encouraged to form teams with family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others who want to show their support. The walk is designed to welcome people at every connection to recovery; whether they are celebrating their own journey, supporting someone they

love, honoring someone they have lost, or simply demonstrating that help and hope are available.

The event also provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the resources available locally for people experiencing substance use disorders and their families. CHHS's recovery services connect patients with treatment and ongoing support while helping address individual barriers to recovery.

"Every registration represents more than participation in a walk," Smith said. "It helps us provide resources that can make a very real difference for someone trying to take that next step. We hope people throughout the Lakes and Three Rivers Regions will join us in September and help make sure our neighbors know support is here."

To register, create a team, donate, or learn more about the Bridge

to Recovery Walk, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Franklin/BridgetoRecoveryWalk>.

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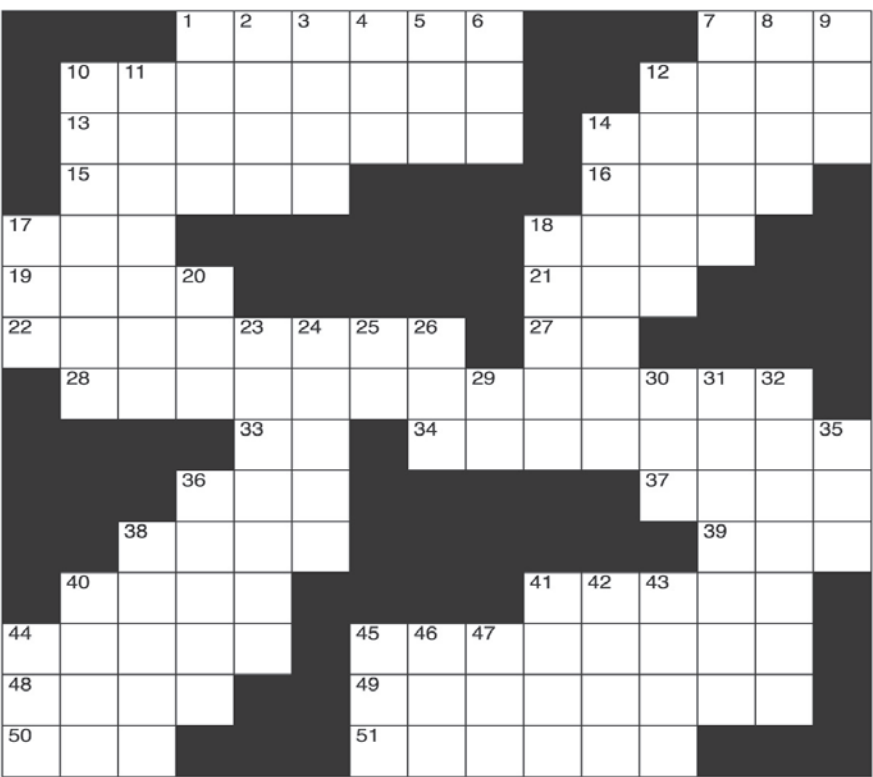
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CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women’s undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It’s a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. __ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. “A tragedy had __ him”

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe’s middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. “Shane” actor Ladd

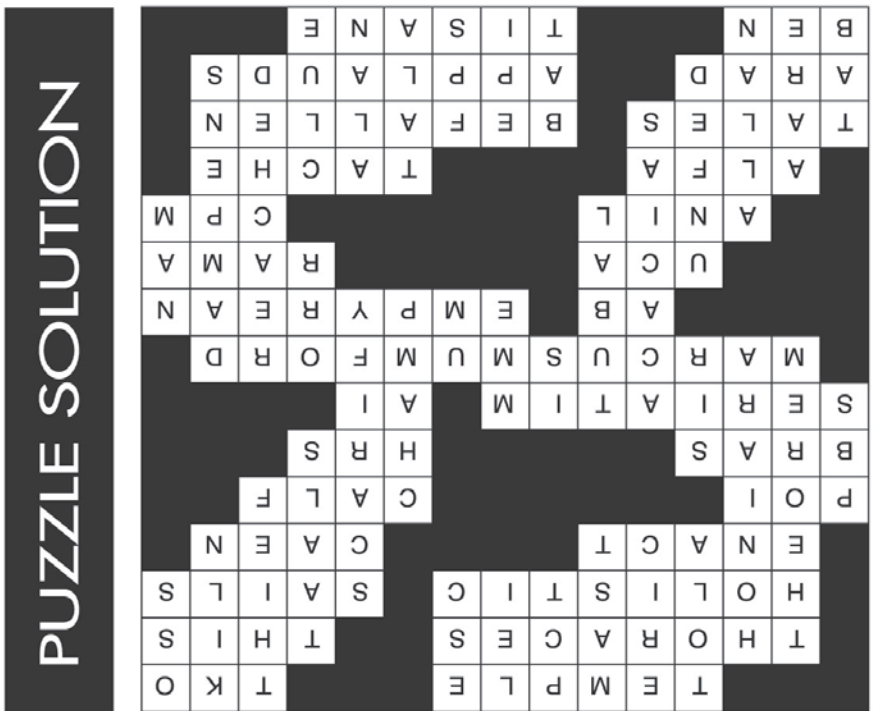
43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

45. Ballplayer’s tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second



All-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland tour stops in Laconia Nov. 22



LACONIA — TCG Entertainment, the leading producer of live entertainment, announces its all-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland tour across the U.S. and Canada. A must-see holiday event and beloved tradition for families everywhere, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland visits the Colonial Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 22. Tickets are on sale now at www.CirqueMusica.com. <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/39284770/cirque-musica-holiday-wonderland-laconia-colonial-theatre>

This holiday season, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland 2026 invites audiences into a luminous world where time bends and wonder takes over. When our heroes are swept into an enchanting winter realm, they begin to rediscover something unexpected—the magic, curiosity and joy they thought they had outgrown.

Reimagined for 2026, this all-new production features your favorite holiday music and a bold lineup of breathtaking cirque acts. From gravity-defying aerialists to edge-of-your-seat acrobatics, each moment is crafted to feel more dreamlike and emotionally resonant than ever before. It’s a fresh take on a beloved tradition and unlike anything audiences have seen from Cirque Musica in its 17-year history.

Touring cities across North America, the pro-

duction brings together elite performers from around the globe to create a visually stunning and musically rich holiday experience for audiences of all ages. In select markets, guests can enhance their visit with a VIP experience, offering exclusive behind-the-scenes access, cast meet-and-greets and interactive photo opportunities.

“We wanted this year’s production to feel transportive in a completely new way—something that doesn’t just celebrate the holidays but makes audiences feel like they’ve stepped inside them,” said Stephen Cook, President of TCG Entertainment and Producer of Cirque Musica. Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland is an unforgettable experience for the entire family to enjoy – a world-class circus experience infused with the holiday classics we all love. Experience the magic live at the Colonial Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 22—and step into a holiday world you won’t want to leave. For more information on ticketing, visit www.CirqueMusica.com.

About Cirque Musica

Cirque Musica is one of the top cirque-style shows in the industry. Since its inception in 2010, the world-renowned cast has performed feats of grace, skill, and strength to audience members worldwide. The visually stunning masterpiece of

artistic interpretations combines mesmerizing acrobats, aerialists and daredevil athleticism with the greatest music of all time. Current and past productions include Cirque Musica Symphonic, Cirque Musica Querida-The Official Celebration of Juan Grabiél, Heroes and Villains, and more, Cirque Musica shows are ground-breaking productions guaranteed to thrill and captivate audiences of all ages. For more information visit, www.CirqueMusica.com

About TCG Entertainment

TCG Entertainment is a leading producer of creative content for live entertainment properties and touring productions. Owning multiple intellectual properties, and partnering with top IP holders and studios, TCG has generated decades worth of live family fun and entertainment. With a laundry list of productions enjoyed by millions of audience members around the globe, TCG is the leading authority in providing brands a visionary, one-stop source for live touring and experiences. Current and past productions include DC Films in Concert, multiple productions of Cirque Musica, MasterChef Live, Rocky in Concert, A Night of Symphonic Rock, and more. www.TCGEnt.com

Granite VNA offers “A Matter of Balance” volunteer coach training

LACONIA — Granite VNA is seeking “A Matter of Balance” Volunteer Coaches to help strengthen the independence of older adults throughout the Lakes and Greater Capital regions. The virtual training is Thursday, Oct. 1, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and the in-person training at Granite VNA Office – Laconia, 780 No. Main Street is Monday, Oct. 5 and Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A Matter of Balance Coaches will:

- Help participants become more confident about

managing falls

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- Feel great about giving back to their community

Register by calling (603) 224-4093 or (800) 924-8620, ext. 85664 or by visiting www.granitevna.org.

About Granite VNA

Granite VNA is a not-for-profit licensed and certified home health and hospice care provider. The agency serves people of all ages in 72 communities

across the Greater Capital Region and Central New Hampshire by providing home care, hospice care, pediatrics and maternal child health services, and wellness programming. The agency has offices in Concord, Laconia and Wolfeboro. Formed through the merger of Concord Regional VNA and Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice, Granite VNA has served New Hampshire since 1899. For more information about Granite VNA, visit www.granitevna.org.



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MVSB Fund grant applications due Oct 15
New annual focus area announced

MEREDITH — MVSB (Meredith Village Savings Bank) is reminding nonprofit organizations throughout the Lakes Region, White Mountains, Mount Washington Valley, and Seacoast regions that applications for the 2026 MVSB Fund grant program are due by Oct. 15. The focus area for this year's grant cycle is food insufficiency. The MVSB Fund is seeking proposals from organizations and projects that work to address hunger, improve food access, strengthen local food security, and ensure that individuals and families throughout the communities we serve have reliable access to nutritious food.

Beginning with the current application cycle, each annual grant season will focus on one specific area of community need. By concentrating resources on a single impact area each year, the committee aims to maximize the positive results achieved through the program while helping a greater percentage of applicants receive funding.

Since 1997, the MVSB Fund has awarded annual grant-based contributions to nonprofit organizations that make a meaningful difference in the lives of local residents. Over the program's history, the Fund has awarded 621 grants totaling more than \$2.2 million to support a wide range of environmental, social, educational, cultural, and historic initiatives throughout the communities MVSB serves.

"As the popularity of the MVSB Fund continues to grow, so does the number of deserving organizations seeking support," said Carmen Lorentz, MVSB Fund Committee Chair "By fo-



COURTESY PHOTO

The MVSB Fund Committee members present the 2025 distribution last year. The 2026 MVSB Fund application deadline is Oct. 15. From left, Charley Hanson, Carmen Lorentz, Marcus Weeks, Patrick Cate and Andy Hartmann stand inside the MVSB Main Office in Meredith.

cusing on one critical community need each year, we can make larger, more meaningful investments in the organizations addressing that issue. We also hope this approach will reduce competition among applicants and increase the likelihood that the dedicated staff and volunteers leading these important nonprofits achieve a positive funding outcome. Food insecurity affects neighbors in every community we serve, and we believe this year's focused approach presents an opportunity to make a measurable impact on a fundamental human need."

The MVSF Fund is separate from MVSF's ongoing community support efforts, which include donations, sponsorships, scholarships, and thousands of volunteer hours contributed annually by employees. The Fund specifically provides grant-based support to organizations whose work enriches and improves the quality of

life throughout the region.

Over the years, MVSB Fund grants have supported literacy and after-school programs, environmental conservation and monitoring efforts, historic preservation projects, organizations serving individuals and families facing challenging circumstances, and initiatives that improve health, safety, and quality of life in local communities.

The MVSB Fund Board seeks opportunities where a modest investment can create a significant local impact. Grant requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered, with historical awards averaging approximately \$5,000. Eligible applicants must demonstrate tax-exempt status or public agency status, a primary presence within MVSB's market area, organizational sustainability, community impact, and the ability to effectively leverage grant funding.

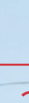
Nonprofit organizations interested in applying are

encouraged to review eligibility requirements and application materials at the MVSF Fund Application Web page.

Applications must be submitted by Oct. 15.

MVSB has been serving the essential banking needs of people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities for over 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, MVSB has no stockholders but rather operates for the benefit of its customers, employees and community. Since our founding, one thing has always remained true:

caring is at the heart of everything we do. By building and nurturing relationships, we believe that we can cultivate a community where we all thrive. It all starts with caring about our customers and neighbors. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in New Hampshire in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Exeter, Gilford, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, North Conway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvbsb.com.



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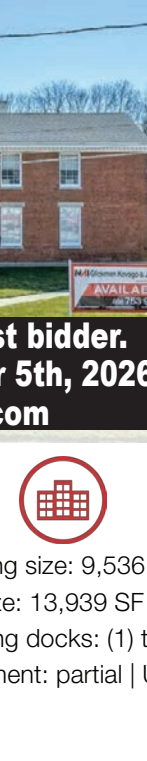
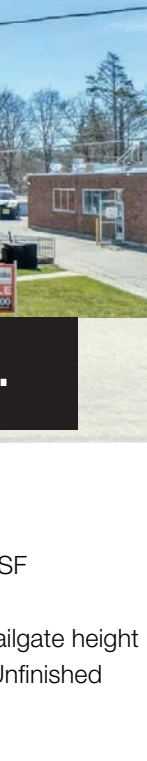
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*Belknap Mill Quilters Guild to host 49th
Annual Harvest of Quilts Show in Laconia*

LACONIA — More than 150 handcrafted quilts will be on display when the Belknap Mill Quilters Guild presents its 49th Annual Harvest of Quilts Show on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19-20, at Lakes Region Community College.

The annual event, one of the Lakes Region's premier quilting showcases, will be held at LRCC, 379 Belmont Road, Laconia. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view more than 150 quilts created by guild members while also enjoying vendors, handmade gifts, quilting supplies and prize drawings throughout the weekend.

One of the highlights of the show is the popular vote competition, where attend-

ees determine the winning quilts. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, with winners announced following the close of balloting.

In addition to the quilt exhibition, guests can browse the Attic Corner, featuring gently used quilting supplies, and Quilted Treasures, offering handmade gifts crafted by guild members. Multiple door prizes will also be awarded during the event.

The celebration extends beyond the college campus through the Mysterious Quilt Journey, which features quilts displayed in dozens of downtown Laconia businesses from Sept. 11 through Sept. 20. The community-wide exhibit encourages visitors to explore local shops while enjoying a variety of quilt designs throughout downtown.

The guild will also raffle

its 2026 quilt, "Mountain View," a 70-inch by 84-inch quilt featuring a pattern designed by Edyta Sitar for Laundry Basket Quilts. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and participants do not need to be present to win.

Admission to the Harvest of Quilts Show is \$10 for adults. Children younger than 12 are admitted free with a paid adult admission.

For more information, contact the Belknap Mill Quilters Guild at info@bmqq.org.

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Bank of New Hampshire donates \$5,000 to Family Promise of the Lakes Region

LACONIA — Safe, stable housing is an important foundation for the health and well-being of children and families. Across the Lakes Region, organizations are working to help families, facing hous-

(Right) Gina Lincoln, Assistant Banking Office Manager - Laconia Branch; Janna Thompson AVP - Banking Office Manager - Laconia Branch; Amber Cook, Customer Service Manager for Bank of New Hampshire and Board Treasurer for Family Promise of the Lakes Region; Nicole Shedd, Executive Director for Family Promise of the Lakes Region; Windy Carnes, VP - Retail Banking Regional Manager for Bank of New Hampshire.



ing instability, financial challenges, and limited access to essential resources. To support this important work, Bank of New Hampshire recently donated \$5,000 to Family Promise of the Lakes Region in support of its Homelessness Prevention and Stabilization Program.

“By helping families secure and maintain safe, stable housing, we reduce the trauma and uncertainty that negatively affect children’s emotional and developmental health. Through a Mobility Mentoring framework, we work alongside parents to build financial stability, access employment, and connect to critical resources such as healthcare, mental health services, and childcare. This holistic approach allows caregivers to be more present and consistent, creating a healthier environment for children to thrive,” said Amber Cook, Customer Service Manager for Bank of New Hampshire and Board Treasurer for Family Promise of the Lakes Region.

“Our program empowers young people by strengthening the stability of their home environment, improving school attendance,

and increasing access to supportive services. By addressing the root causes of stress and instability, we help families build resilience, foster a sense of security and authenticity, and create a foundation for long-term success and well-being,” said Nicole Shedd, Executive Director at Family Promise of the Lakes Region.

Celebrating 195 years of commitment to the community, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks headquartered in the state. With assets exceeding \$2.8 billion and 21 banking offices across New Hampshire, the bank provides comprehensive deposit, lending and wealth management solutions for families and businesses. As a mutual organization, Bank of New Hampshire is focused on the success of its customers, communities and employees—rather than stockholders. With a legacy of strength and stability, the bank combines local decision-making and trusted guidance with modern technology to deliver a seamless banking experience. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit BNH.bank.



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Andover: Situated two blocks from Proctor Academy on a 0.78-acre lot, this versatile duplex offers rental income or potential conversion to a single-family home. Includes a detached two-story barn.

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Laconia: Priced \$830,000 below appraised value, this 3-level home offers 86' of Winnepesaukee shoreline with a permanent dock. Features a chef's kitchen, primary suite with private balcony, whole-house generator, heated 2-car garage, and a separate walk-out 2-bedroom guest apartment.

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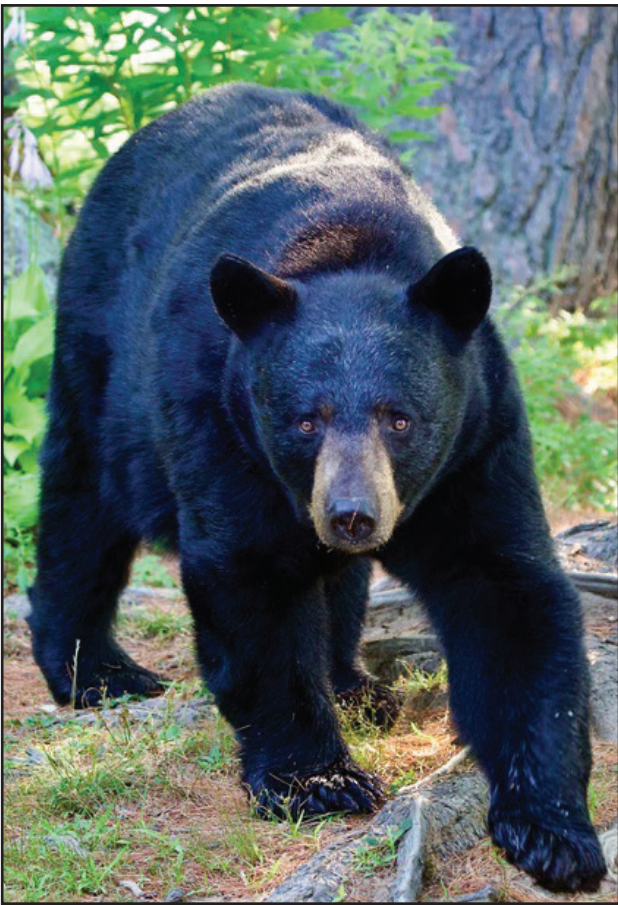
Audubon announces wildlife photo program

MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

at the Loon Center in Moultonborough, the Lakes Region Chap-

ter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will present a program

called “Wild America Coast to Coast” by Andy and Beth Green-



JEEPIN’4VETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

a shared commitment to New Hampshire’s military community,” continued Beauregard. “Every participant and supporter helps our Veterans Count program provide timely, meaningful support to service members, Veterans, and their families when they need it most.”

The 2025 Jeepin’4Vets event raised more than

\$16,000. Easterseals NH Veterans Count invites the Jeep community and supporters from across the state to build on that momentum while showing their support for those who served.

About Veterans Count

Easterseals New Hampshire’s Veterans Count program was founded in 2007 to provide case management and emergency financial assistance to meet the

unexpected needs of service members, Veterans, and their families. Veterans Count provides critical and timely financial assistance and services when no other resource is available. Emergency financial assistance may include rental assistance, gas, food, or utility payments. Last year alone, the program served more than 1,660 Veterans, assisting them in accessing eligible ben-

efits and services, housing, counseling services, and other needs, including emergency financial assistance, to build sustainable, secure, and viable futures. Our commitment is to ensure the dignity, health, and overall well-being of each service member, Veteran, and their families.

For more information, visit <https://vetscount.org>.

SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

lead to 2-0 with 22:55 to go in the first half, as Nolan Abbott found the back of the net. Ryder Sargent came back with a bid for the green and white Bears that went wide of the net and Abbott made a run that Arnold was able to chase down at the other end. Arnold made a nice save on a Perrault shot and Zach North sent Belyea in with a chance that Winnisquam goalie Jacoby Keith stopped. Arnold snared another bid from Perrault and Wilder Irving made a nice defensive stop on another Perrault chance.

Abbott sent another shot wide of the net and the hosts had a corner kick that Arnold grabbed and North just missed connecting with Sargent going forward. Wright had a cross into the box cleared by Rivera-Soto and Sargent sent a shot over the net. Newfound had a corner kick that Keith saved and Perrault and St. Hilaire just missed connecting on a bid.

With 3:44 to go in the first half, the visitors cut into the lead as North sent a nice ball through to Sargent and he buried the shot to make it 2-1. Abbott made a defensive stop on a Belyea chance and Mason Brown had a good defensive stop on a Perrault bid as the first half came to a close with Winnisquam up 2-1.

Katelyn Pacetti took over in net for Winnisquam to start the second and she was immediately tested, as Newfound scored just 45 seconds into the half, with Ca-zeault sending a ball up to Sargent, who crossed the ball into the box where Belyea headed it home to tie the game at two. Arnold came out to snare an Abbott chance and Newfound came right back to take the lead with just 2:33 gone in the half, as Belyea’s shot went off Pacetti’s fingers and into the net for the 3-2 lead.

After a nice cross from St. Hilaire was cleared the hosts were able to tie the game at three, as Abbott

hustled to get to a loose ball, fired a cross in front of the net and Perrault was there to bang it home to make it 3-3 with 36:45 to go in the game. Brown had a nice defensive clear on an Abbott cross and Perrault had a long direct kick chance. Kaito Tamaru had a good clear for Winnisquam and Simon Ahlgren sent a corner chance wide of the net for Winnisquam.

Newfound had a corner kick but could not connect and both Connor Harker and Rivera-Soto had good defensive stops and Dumont was able to clear an Abbott cross. Pacetti was able to get to a Belyea bid as Newfound went the other way for a bid.

The hosts took the 4-3 lead with 22:08 to go as Abbott finished off another strong throw-in from Bassett and Perrault headed the ball over the net on a Winnisquam corner kick

chance.

With 19:55 to go, Sargent was able to break through for Newfound and hustled in to drill the shot into the net to tie the game at four. Arnold made a save on a Winnisquam corner kick and also made a nice save on an Abbott chance.

The visitors took the 5-4 lead with 16:52 to go as Belyea picked up his third goal of the game, drilling the ball to the far post. Pacetti stopped another Belyea bid and Sargent and Aaron Bastarache both had chances for Newfound that Pacetti handled. Sargent had a shot on a corner kick that the Winnisquam goalie snared and Dumont had a good defensive stop on chances from Abbott and McGranaghan. North had a direct kick for Newfound that Bassett headed out of the box and Bastarache cleared out a Win-

nisquam corner kick. Belyea sent a shot high on a Newfound corner as well.

The hosts pulled even in the final couple minutes of the game, as Jesse Vienneau finished off Winnisquam’s second corner in a row to tie the game at five. Pacetti made a nice save on a Belyea chance to close out the 5-5 tie.

Newfound is scheduled to be in action on Friday, Sept. 18, at Inter-Lakes at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21, at St. Thomas at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 24, at home against Lin-Wood at 5 p.m.

Winnisquam will be in action on Friday, Sept. 18, at Stevens and Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Bishop Brady, both at 4 p.m.

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

wood

Andy and Beth are Keene residents, and have dedicated much of their lives to capturing digital wildlife images.

This passion involves local and distant opportunities to respectfully photograph nature. They have been successful at capturing a variety of wildlife images and this year marks twenty-four years of enjoying what they consider the best hobby in the world.

Andy’s favorite photo subjects are Brown or Black Bears. Beth loves to photograph foxes or any baby animals.

Andy is a former president of the Monadnock Chapter of the NH

Audubon Society and is a published freelance photographer. Beth is also a published photographer/author and a ballet choreographer.

The Loon Center is located on Lee’s Mill Road; follow the signs on Blake Road from Route 25 near the Moultonborough Central School, or from Route 109, turn on to Lee Road and turn left on Lee’s Mill Road.



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Dan Uhlman, c/o Belletetes Inc.
20 West Street, Ashland, NH 03217
or you may email to duhlman@belletetes.com

E.O.E.



NON-CDL DELIVERY DRIVER

We have an immediate opening in our Ashland location for a delivery driver. CDL license not required. Must have a valid driver's license with a clear driving record. As part of the job requirement, a DOT medical card is required (employer will assist candidate in obtaining medical card). Join a team of delivery drivers that enjoy coming into work every day!

Belletetes is a 5th generation, family-owned building materials supply company that has been in business for over 125 years. Are you looking to join a company that treats their employees like family? We believe our employees are our biggest asset!

When you join our team, you will be working in a family-friendly atmosphere where career growth is important, and we try to promote from within. We offer an industry leading benefits package that includes competitive wages, health insurance, life insurance, paid vacation, paid time-off, paid holidays, paid bereavement leave, profit sharing, 401k and store discounts.

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

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

E.O.E.



ASHLAND - Yard Customer Service

We have full-time and part-time lumberyard customer service positions open in our Ashland location. Duties include assisting customers and contractors locate and load materials, help receive incoming shipments and pick loads for delivery trucks. Prior forklift experience is helpful. Heavy lifting is required and excellent prior work history a must.

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

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

E.O.E.

- | | | | |
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