



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

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

Bridge to Recovery Walk raises more than \$56,000 for mental health, substance use disorder programs

FRANKLIN — Community members came together at Concord Hospital – Franklin for the annual Bridge to Recovery Walk, raising more than \$56,000 to support mental health and substance use disorder programs and services at Concord Hospital – Franklin and Concord Hospital – Laconia.

The family-friendly event brought walkers, supporters, staff, and volunteers together to raise awareness, remember loved ones, and demonstrate support for individuals and families affected by mental health and sub-



COURTESY PHOTO

stance use disorders. “The Bridge to Recovery Walk is special because you can see the community support in every part of the day,” said Concord Hospital Trust Philanthropy Officer and Bridge to Recovery Event Coordinator Heidi Smith. “Raising more than \$56,000 is an incredible result, but just as meaningful is seeing people come together to remind those navigating mental health and substance use challenges

feel even more inclusive and connected. It was a wonderful example of how our community partners can help make an already meaningful event even more impactful.”

Funds raised through the Bridge to Recovery Walk support year-round efforts to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery services for people affected by mental health and substance use disorders. The event also provides an opportunity to reduce stigma by bringing these issues into the open and celebrating the individuals, families and professionals involved in recovery.

The event's success was made possible by the generosity of its walkers, donors, volunteers, and community sponsors. To view a full list of sponsors, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Sponsors/NH/Franklin/Bridge-toRecoveryWalk>.

“The generosity surrounding this event continues to inspire us,” Smith added. “Every contribution helps strengthen resources for people in our communities, and every person who participates helps reinforce the message that recovery deserves to be supported and celebrated.”

Experience an evening where the past and the paranormal meet at Lane Tavern

SANBORNTON — This spooky season, step through the doors of history and into an evening where the past and the paranormal meet.

On Friday, Oct. 16, Breakthrough Medium Brandie Wells invites guests to the historic Lane Tavern at 520 Sanborn Rd. in Sanbornton for a unique Spirit Gallery & 1800s Spiritualism Experience. Built in 1801, the beautifully preserved tavern provides an atmospheric setting for an evening inspired by the fascinating Spiritualist movement of the 19th century.

The evening begins with an open-forum Spirit Gallery, where Brandie Wells will connect with angels, spirit guides, and loved ones in spirit, sharing messages of hope, healing, and validation with audience members.

Following a brief intermission featuring light autumn appetizers, guests will travel

back in time to explore some of the traditional practices associated with 1800s Spiritualism. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own talking board and learn about pendulums and dowsing rods as historical tools used in attempts to communicate with the unseen.

Together, guests will explore the history and atmosphere of the Lane Tavern while experiencing these time-honored spiritual practices in a unique hands-on setting.

The event takes place Friday, Oct. 16, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Historic Lane Tavern, 520 Sanborn Rd., Sanbornton.

Guests are asked to arrive having eaten dinner. Light autumn appetizers will be served during intermission. This is a sober event.

Tickets are available at: Brandiewells.com.

Whether you are fascinated by the history

SEE MEDIUM, PAGE A11

stance use disorders.

that there is a community behind them. We are tremendously grateful to everyone who walked, volunteered, donated, or sponsored this year's event.”

In addition to supporting programs and services through fundraising, the event gave participants an opportunity to connect with one another, community resources, and support organizations.

This year, that supportive spirit also extended

throughout Concord Hospital – Franklin. Boomer's Barbecue served approximately 400 people, providing food not only to walk participants, staff and volunteers, but also to employees, patients and visitors inside the hospital.

“Boomer's generosity helped us extend the sense of community beyond the walk itself,” Smith said. “Being able to include patients, visitors and our hospital staff made the day

another community project, also promoting literacy. UUCF members and friends will be installing a Halloween Storybook Walk on their Meetinghouse front lawn that will be displayed from Friday, Oct. 23 to Saturday, Oct. 31 during daylight hours. We invite you to come for a walk and read the storybook, “The Spooky Wheels on the Bus,” written by J. Elizabeth Mills.

On Saturday, Oct. 24,

UUCF congregation invites community to Halloween Storybook Walk

FRANKLIN — In September of 2025, members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin (UUCF) knew they wanted to complete a community project that would benefit others.

Congregation member and Franklin High School English teacher, Charlie Chapple, suggested installing a Little Free Library on the UUCF Meetinghouse front lawn. This idea was well received by UUCF's

members and friends; monetary donations were collected to purchase the Little Free Library and gently used books were gathered. For the past year, weekly rotated books at the Little Free Library at 206 Central St. have been finding new homes. And people have kindly donated books by leaving them in the Little Free Library for others to take.

This September, UUCF members decided to do

from 9 a.m. to noon, any child who goes through the Storybook Walk may pick out a gently used book to take home with them (while book supplies last). The rain date for this event will be Saturday, Oct. 31. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin is located at 206 Central St. For more information, please call 603-934-2141 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

SEE MEDIUM, PAGE A11

Leaf Peeper's Craft Show

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BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

BELMONT — The Belmont golf team kicked off the final week of the regular season with another solid performance, this time finishing second at Amherst Country Club in the rain on Monday, Sept. 28.

Coach John Mattes noted that the team pushed on through the win and a constant rain and despite the adverse conditions, had five golfers score 20 or more points for the first time ever.

Belmont finished with 86 points on the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Max Ryder tees off on the fourth hole at Canterbury Woods last Wednesday afternoon.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Ben Girard putts on the third green during action last Wednesday afternoon at Canterbury Woods.

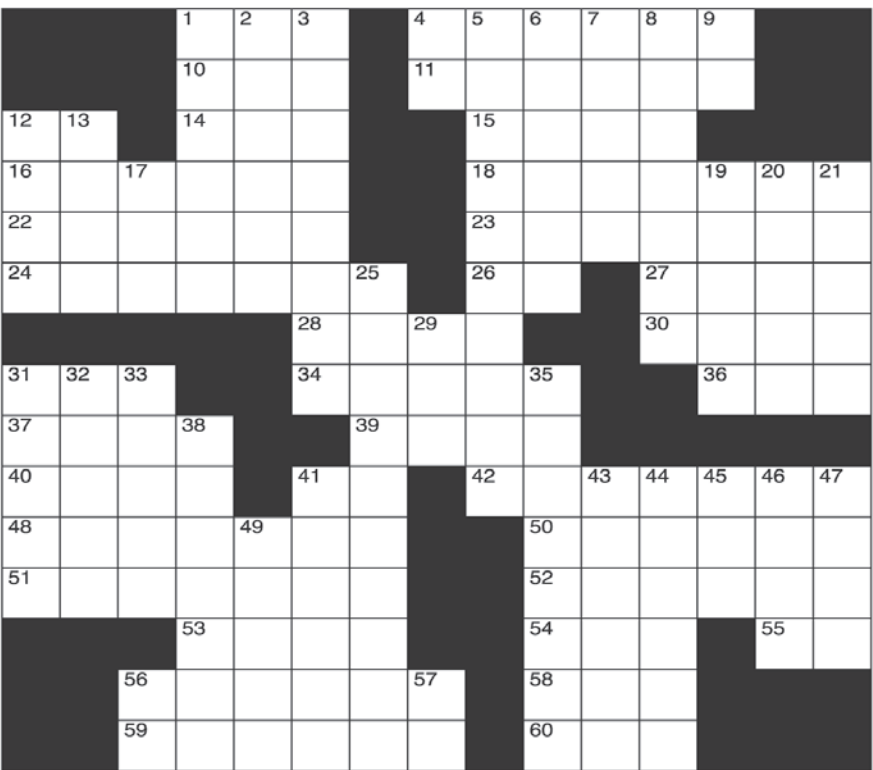


JOSHUA SPAULDING

Jordan DeFrancesco putts for Belmont on the third green at Canterbury Woods last Wednesday.

with 76 points and host

SEE GOLF, PAGE A11



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Province in Northern Ireland

10. A major division of geological time

11. Broadway actor Lane

12. Canadian province (abbr.)

14. Human gene

15. Two

16. A notable one was “blue”

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Ring-shaped objects

23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Commercial

27. Near

28. Tools you may need

30. A pledge

31. They start the alphabet

34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Longtime mayor of Rio

39. Hot meal

40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84

42. \$10 bill

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

55. European government entity (abbr.)

56. Bike parts

58. Friend to “Barbie”

59. Stretched to see or hear

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for

2. Baltimore ballplayer

3. Wages

4. International organization of countries

5. Engravers of gems

6. Declared as fact

7. One who steals

8. Jewelry

9. Hospital worker

12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee

17. Value

19. Alternative identity

20. Sheep in their second year

21. Town in Surrey, England

25. Appropriate to a time of year

29. Creative work

31. Recesses

32. Largely forested municipality in Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color

44. Member of British nobility

45. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman

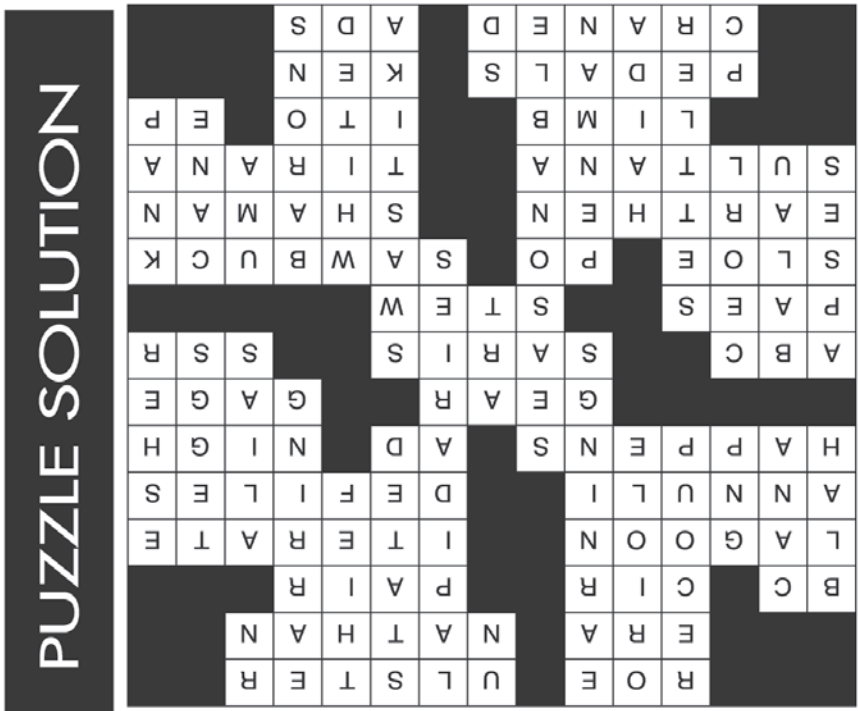
46. Helps people walk

47. Crest of a hill

49. People of southeastern Alaska

56. One’s own device

57. The Mount Rushmore State



Plymouth State announces ice hockey admission information

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth State University Department of Athletics has released admission information for the 2026-27 ice hockey season.

The men’s team opens the season with home games against Curry College (Oct. 30) and Plattsburgh State (Oct. 31), while the women will spend the first two weekends on the road before hosting Norwich University (Nov. 13) and Vermont State University Castleton (Nov. 14) in their home openers.

Doors open one hour prior to game time. Game admission or season passes are required for all spectators, including visiting team fans, families of student-athletes, and Plymouth State faculty and staff. Current Plymouth State students with a valid PSU ID do not need to purchase admission but must present their ID for entry. Admission is not guaranteed if the facility is at capacity. There is no reentry for spectators who leave and wish to return. All cancellations will be posted on the Athletics website or social media channels (@PSUPanthers). Bags are permitted but subject to search. No alcohol is allowed. Pets and emotional support animals are not permitted. Service animals are allowed in accordance with university policy.

Single game admission is available at the East Entrance beginning one hour prior to game time, \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Admission is required for all spectators, including faculty/staff and visiting fans/families. Admission is first-come, first-served. Doors will close once capacity is reached. No reentry. General admission entry is through the East Entrance (skate rental shop/ice arena parking lot), using the left line only. Cash sales only. Seating is limited. Admission guarantees entry but not a seat. Ample standing room is available.

Current Plymouth State students with a valid ID are admitted free to all regular-season and LEC playoff games. Students must purchase admission for NCAA Tournament games (per NCAA policy). Student seating is general admission – West Side. Admission is first-come, first-served beginning one hour before game time. Doors will close once capacity is reached. No reentry. Seating is limited, but standing room is available. Students must enter through the West Entrance (nearest Avery Street).

Season passes are \$140 per pass. Includes admission to all men’s and women’s regular-season home games, plus all LEC home play-off games. Passes do not cover NCAA Tournament games. Season passes are designated as General Admission – East Side, Section 4, but holders may sit or stand elsewhere if space permits. Passes are fully transferable but admit only one person per game. Additional guests require single-game admission. Purchase online at athletics.plymouth.edu/SeasonPass or contact Director of Hockey Operations Rob Wright (rjwright@plymouth.edu or 603-535-2516).

Belmont resident named to Clark University's Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Abbi C. Gilbert, of Belmont, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2026 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 44 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Sanbornton Historical Society invites community to Annual Meeting

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Historical Society welcomes members and would-be members to our Annual Meeting Thursday, Oct. 8, starting at 10:30 a.m.

We'll start with brunch, provided by our board members. 11 a.m. will be the Annual Meeting, including elections for the 2027 year. The "work" part over, we'll enjoy Attic Treasures brought, hopefully, by everyone! In the past — an 1800s tiny-envelope (made it through the mail back then) from a would-be Tilton suitor to an Abbott family young lady. A document found under an attic floorboard in one of our very old Sanbornton houses caught attention. Hmm, what else? Sometimes it's a "what's it?" because it's something we no longer need / use. An Andover Historical Society visitor brought his collection of Native American finds, and an amazing, unbroken oil lamp pulled out of a lake!

We welcome all to Lane Tavern, 520 Sanborn Rd., Route 132, Sanbornton. Our historical society's aim is to promote interest in and understanding of the history and development of the Town of Sanbornton, established in 1770. Web site: www.LaneTavern.org. Membership is possible through the Website or in person at Annual Meeting.

New to town? Please come and join us! Call Lynn at 603-934-6486 with any questions.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Honey!



Miss Honey is looking for a home that can help her build her confidence one yummy tube treat at a time! She has an adorable meow and loves to be pet by visitors who take a moment to say hello.

This little lady has had a journey of many transitions and stressors, and would love a quiet home with a cat-savvy family who can give her the love and patience

she needs to blossom. She is very food motivated and warms up with a little encouragement, patience, and a snack.

She is looking for a home where she can be the queen of your castle, as the only cat and no canine friends. A home with cat-savvy teenagers would be okay, but she would like a calmer home without young kiddos.

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Cross country Bears run in Moonlight Madness

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

SWANZEY — The Winnisquam cross country team took part in the Moonlight Madness race at the Cheshire Fairgrounds in Swanzev on Friday evening.

For the boys in the varsity race, Cullen Desrochers took 28th place overall in 17:20 with Lazar Arbutina in 78th place in 18:38 and Ryan Courtney in 101st

in 19:18. Lucas Durphey was 123rd in 19:57 and Owen Bakis finished out the scoring in a time of 20:04 for 128th place.

Carter Lloyd was 129th in the same time of 20:04 with Alexander Paquette in 137th place in 20:19, Tristan Honeman in 148th place in 20:57 and Kyren Whitmore in 164th in 21:59.

For the girls in the varsity race, Eloise Abbott led the way with a 43rd place

finish in 21:54 and Katherine Allen finished in 81st in 23:52. Anna Guerra was 120th in 26:59, Penelope McSweeney was 128th in 28:15 and Natalie Wolfe finished the scoring in 129th place in 29:19. Ariana Maxwell was 130th in 30:23 and Salina Brown finished in 135th place in 38:50 to finish out the field of Bear girls.

In the JV race for the boys, Kellan Hilliker was 59th overall in

21:53, Tyler Robb was 63rd in 22:14, Kamdyn Reagan placed 89th in 23:14, Luke Larabee was 102nd in 23:43, Alexander Mauch finished in 104th place in 23:45, Grayson McSweeney was 114th in 24:25, Samuel Button finished in 121st place in 24:47, Andrew Paquette was 129th in 25:30 and Christopher Collins finished out the field of Bears in 146th place in

27:16.

The Bears are slated to race in Hopkinton on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Hopkinton Fairgrounds.

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

Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection in Belmont

BELMONT — Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Tilly Market Café at the Belknap Marketplace at 96 Daniel Webster Highway.

Join us and connect with other family caregivers, while enjoying an opportunity to unwind and have discussions rich in empathy and resources.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call (603) 224-4093 or (800) 924-8620, ext. 85664 or visit www.granitevna.org. This program is offered at no charge.

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, pediatric 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.

The Colonial welcomes Jimmy Dunn's Comedy All-Stars Nov. 7

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Jimmy Dunn's Comedy All-Stars on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Jimmy Dunn

Jimmy Dunn is a stand-up comedian and actor from Boston, who currently plays "Moose" on the reboot of the legendary sitcom FRASIER.

He got his start in "show business" telling jokes in a bar in Gloucester, Mass., where he was paid in beer and fried clams. Since then, he's gone on to perform at some of the world's most prestigious comedy events, including the Late Show with David Letterman, "Conan," Montreal's International Just For Laughs Comedy Festival, and Denis Leary's Comic's Come Home in Boston.

Dunn's first major television role was as Sean McCarthy on the critically acclaimed CBS sitcom, "The McCarthys." He's also written on several television projects, including two episodes of "Loudermilk" that he co-wrote with Academy Award winner Peter Farrelly.

Will Noonan

Will was named "Boston's Best Comedian" by The Improper Bostonian magazine, is sometimes known as "The Honda Guy" for his years-long

job as a spokesman in Honda commercials on TV and radio all over New England, as well as for his fan-favorite role in the Netflix movie The Sleepover.

He is well known for his internet presence. His social media accounts include notable followers like Barack Obama, Shane Gillis, Chris Fleming, Mark Normand, Gary Gulman, Joe Rogan, Jim Gaffigan, and Bert Kreischer.

Noonan has been the opening act for Bill Burr, Dave Attell, Andrew Schulz, Jack Whitehall, Colin Jost, Michael Che, Ari Shaffir, and many more. He has appeared on The Oddball Comedy Festival with Amy Schumer, Hannibal Buress, and Sarah Silverman, told a story on NPR's "This American Life," and was named Comedy Ambassador and Moment Maker by Microsoft.

He has appeared on MTV's "Ridiculousness," "Laughs" on FOX, "Gotham Comedy Live" on HULU, and his comedy is played often on Sirius XM.

Maya Manion

Maya Manion is a respected New England comedian, joke writer, and podcast guest known for her sharp wit and engaging performances. Manion grew up in Vermont and later moved to Rhode Island to pursue a career in comedy. She has been performing stand-up since 2006 and has become a staple in the New England

comedy scene. Manion has been featured on Nick at Night's Funniest Mom in America and was a runner-up in Mohegan Sun's Funniest Comic in New England. She is recognized for her clever, witty humor, often drawing on personal experiences and family dynamics.

Emily Ruskowski

Emily Ruskowski is a one-woman charm offensive. With a style that's totally approachable and instantly impressive, Emily is equally comfortable diving into personal insecurities or workplace nonsense. With an irrepressibly cheerful demeanor, she commands attention and delivers stories loaded with punchline after punchline. Her comedy combines a quick mind, an infectious energy, and a totally unique eye for observation. She brings a genuine sense of fun to material that ranges from a career in social work to a passion for boy bands. Ruskowski has been featured in the Washington Post and Boston Globe, and has appeared on the popular 2 Dope Queens Podcast and Laughs TV on Fox.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, 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

partnership 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

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 Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, presenting a diverse range of events from concerts and comedy to theater and family entertainment. For more information, visit www.spectaclelive.com or contact Pete Lally at plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257.

www.spectaclelive.com

AI: Curious, confused, or a little nervous?

LACONIA — AI seems to be everywhere. It's writing books, answering questions, creating pictures, changing jobs, and occasionally getting things spectacularly wrong. So what can it actually do for you?

Join Bill Gassman at the UU of Laconia for a lively, interactive introduction to AI for beginners and casual users. We'll cut through some of the hype and worry and explore practical ways to use AI for planning, learning, writing, research, travel, everyday problem-solving, and more. You'll see what AI does well, where it can fool

you, and why your own judgment still matters.

Expect demonstrations, real-world examples, questions, and probably a few surprises.

No technical background needed. Bring your curiosity, your skepticism, and something you'd like to ask AI.

The presentation will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, located at 172 Pleasant St. We will have a potluck at 5:30 and then he will do his presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome at either the potluck

or just the presentation.

Bill Gassman is retired after a 40-year career in information technology, with experience as an industry analyst, network operations manager, software engineer, and marketing specialist. He remains active in local technology and conservation efforts, serving on the Moultonborough Conservation Commission and the Carroll County Communications District.

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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.

Recovery grows stronger when a community shows up

There are some community events whose importance cannot be measured entirely by the dollars they raise.

The annual Bridge to Recovery Walk at Concord Hospital – Franklin certainly produced an impressive financial result this year, bringing in more than \$56,000 for mental health and substance use disorder programs at Concord Hospital – Franklin and Concord Hospital – Laconia. But perhaps the more important number was the number of people willing to show up.

They walked alongside people in recovery. They remembered loved ones. They volunteered, donated and offered encouragement. They gathered publicly around subjects that, not very long ago, were often discussed quietly or not discussed at all.

That matters.

Mental health struggles and substance use disorders have touched families throughout the Lakes Region and central New Hampshire. They cross economic lines, age groups and town boundaries. Yet stigma can still prevent people from talking openly about what they are experiencing or seeking help when they need it. Community events such as the Bridge to Recovery Walk help chip away at that stigma.

There is something powerful about gathering in public and saying that recovery is worthy of support rather than judgment. There is value in reminding someone struggling with addiction or mental illness that seeking treatment is not something to hide. There is equal value in reminding families that they do not have to navigate those challenges in isolation.

The money raised is important because the need does not disappear when the walk ends. The more than \$56,000 raised this year will support prevention, treatment and recovery services throughout the year. Those programs require trained professionals, facilities, outreach and resources. Community generosity helps make that work possible.

Yet the walk also demonstrated something that cannot be entered neatly into a fundraising total. It created connection.

Participants had opportunities to meet support organizations and learn about community resources. Boomer's Barbecue served approximately 400 people, extending its hospitality beyond walkers and volunteers to hospital employees, patients and visitors. A fundraiser became something broader: a community gathering centered on compassion. That spirit is worth preserving.

Recovery is rarely a straight path. Neither are struggles with anxiety, depression, trauma or other mental health conditions. Progress can come slowly, with setbacks along the way. Families can become exhausted. Friends may not always know what to say. Professionals working in behavioral health and recovery services can carry tremendous responsibilities of their own.

No single walk can solve those problems. But a community can decide what kind of environment people facing them will encounter. It can choose silence, distance and judgment, or it can choose understanding, resources and support.

More than \$56,000 says something important about the choice made by hundreds of people who supported this year's event. So does every person who walked. So does every volunteer who gave up part of a day, every business that sponsored the event and every person who made a donation because someone else's recovery mattered to them. The challenge now is to carry that same spirit beyond one successful event.

Supporting recovery means making treatment accessible. It means learning where local resources can be found. It means recognizing warning signs and taking them seriously. Sometimes it means having a difficult conversation with a friend or family member. Often, it begins with something much simpler: listening without judgment.

The Bridge to Recovery Walk has finished for another year, but the work represented by it continues every day.

The lasting measure of its success will not only be the \$56,000 raised. It will be found in the people who receive help because those resources exist, and in a community increasingly willing to say openly that recovery is possible, help is worth seeking and nobody should have to make that journey alone.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tilton-Northfield Fire District conducted extrication training at Park Street Station last week. Photo courtesy of the district's Facebook page.

The driveway wave is alive and well

KIND HEARTS, COLD WINTERS

By CHIPPY

There is a particular form of communication practiced in New Hampshire that requires no words, very little effort and, as far as I can tell, no formal instruction.

It is the wave.

Not the enthusiastic wave you give somebody at an airport. Not the frantic wave meant to stop a person from backing into your car. I mean the little wave.

You know the one. You're driving down a back road and another vehicle comes toward you. Maybe you know the driver. Maybe you've seen the truck before. Maybe you haven't the slightest idea who is behind the wheel. Doesn't matter. One hand stays on the steering wheel. Two or three fingers lift briefly. Hello. That's it. The entire exchange lasts approximately half a second.

I started thinking about this recently after realizing how many variations of the wave exist around here. There's the steering-wheel wave. There's the full-hand wave when you're walking and somebody drives past. There's the nod, which is technically not a wave but is accepted currency in the same

economy.

Then there is my favorite, the driveway wave.

You see somebody outside while you're driving by, perhaps getting the mail, moving a trash barrel or standing there for no obvious reason whatsoever, and you wave. They wave back. You may not know each other's names. You may have been waving to each other for 12 years. This seems perfectly normal to me.

My wife once asked me who somebody was after I waved to him.

"I don't know," I said.

She looked at me.

"Then why did you wave?"

"Because he waved."

This explanation apparently did not satisfy her. But what was I supposed to do? Ignore the man? There are rules.

I've also noticed that the farther you get from a busy road, the more reliable the wave becomes.

On a road with steady traffic, nobody expects you to acknowledge every passing vehicle. You'd look like you were campaigning for something.

Get onto a quiet country road, though, and expectations change. If two vehicles are the only signs of civilization for the last three miles, a greeting seems appropriate.

Sometimes, the wave means more than hello. If somebody has pulled over to let you pass on a narrow road, the wave means thank you. If somebody stops to let you turn, the wave means much appreciated. If somebody slows down because you're walking along the shoulder, the wave means thanks for not flattening me. It is an efficient system. Maybe that's why I like it.

We spend a lot of time these days talking about how people don't know their neighbors anymore.

There is probably some truth to that. Life is busy. People come home, pull into the garage, close the door and disappear until morning. But I'm not convinced we've completely lost the old habits.

Sometimes, community isn't a big event. Sometimes, it's somebody holding a door. Sometimes, it's a neighbor dragging your empty trash barrel away from the road because the wind knocked it over. And sometimes, it's two people passing each other at 35 miles per hour, each lifting a couple of fingers from the steering wheel.

No introductions. No conversation. No obligation. Just an acknowledgment. I see you. We're both here. Hope you're doing all right. That's quite a lot to say with two fingers. So I'll keep doing it, even when I don't know the person coming the other way. Especially then.

And if somebody doesn't wave back? Well, I'm old enough not to take it personally. Usually.

I'll probably give them another chance next week.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's elect Kurt Webber to NH Senate District 2

To the Editor:

Moderate candidate for Senate District 2, Kurt Webber, challenges current Senator Tim Lang. His background: Eagle Scout and 25 years a scout leader; Lakes Region Community College and NHTI professor (West Point Grad background); Gunstock Ski Patrol from 2001 - 2021; served on Gilford School Board. 23 years military service -- Airborne, Ranger, Green Beret -- Iraq time done. His Patriotic Resilient Leader Institute hosts therapeutic retreats for military, First Responders and their loved ones. Kurt Webber is both leader and humanitarian.

Citizens Count Web site (www.citizenscount.org) informs of Webber's positions. Standing out -- Tim Lang supports the Education Freedom Accounts that take public school dollars in school-damaging amounts and gives them to sometimes well-off families for private school or home schooling. Kurt Webber questions this give-away that raises local property taxes (replacing the diverted funds) minus educational accountability. Solar energy and net-metering -- yes. Supports exploring the new, smaller

nuke plants, a Kelly Ayotte position too, possibly shows Webber's openness to dialogue across the aisle. Better than Tim Lang, voting Republican, often with Free Staters.

For housing, Webber wants incentives for municipalities to relax zoning that interferes with new construction. Lang's position on housing availability -- nothing new. On this, Democratic governor candidate, Cinde Warmington, believes the Executive Council, considering appointees to the NH Housing Finance Authority, should seek commitment to affordable housing. Smart idea. Our Governor's Council, District 1, candidate Luz Bay, as a NH House member, supported the New Hampshire Housing Champion designation, "promoting workforce housing." Another smart idea.

Use Citizens Count -- check on candidates before Nov. 3 voting. Let's elect these problem-solvers.

Sincerely,

Mary Ahlgen
Lynn R. Chong
Andy Sanborn
Sanbornton

Castle in the Clouds announces annual Christmas at the Castle event

MOULTONBOROUGH — Castle in the Clouds is pleased to announce the return of their popular annual holiday tradition, Christmas at the Castle. Christmas at the Castle is a series of events held at the National Historic Landmark Lucknow Estate across three weekends at the start of the holiday season. This year, the season’s theme is “Old-Fashioned New England Christmas,” offering visitors a holiday experience perfectly tailored to the backdrop of the historic home.

This year, Castle in the Clouds is offering visitors three different ways to experience the magic of Christmas at the Castle.

The holiday festivities begin with the Christmas Preview Party on the evening of Friday, Nov. 20, at 4 p.m. During the preview, guests can visit Lucknow Mansion and experience the holiday festivities before the general public. The Preview party will include cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, carolers, and first access to the Artisan Fair held in the Carriage House. Tickets for this exclusive fundraising event are limited, with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit mission of Castle Preservation Society.

The public Christmas at the Castle events and activities begin the next day. Every Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 21 through Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can spend the day exploring the Castle, admiring the holiday décor provided by local businesses, and participating in holiday activities. In addition to the seasonal decorations, Christmas at the Castle promises holiday spirit and family fun. Visitors can shop with local vendors at the Artisan Fair, take a photo with Santa, create holiday crafts, and enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and cookies. The Carriage House Restaurant will be open, offering the addition of a holiday lunch to the Christmas at the Castle experience.

After a successful introduction last year, Castle in the Clouds is also hosting Christmas at the Castle Twilight Tours. On Christmas at the Castle dates at 3 p.m., visitors can enjoy a special dusk tour of Lucknow Mansion illuminated by holiday lights. Tickets for Twilight Tours are limited to allow a more intimate experience.

“Christmas at the Castle is a beloved tradition at Castle in the Clouds, and we are delighted to host this time-honored event again this year,” said Charles Clark, Executive Director of Castle in the Clouds. “Our theme this year is a



perfect fit for the historic estate and aligns with our current museum exhibit about the history of the property. With exclusive opportunities for viewing like the Preview Party and Twilight Tours, we are excited to offer unique ways for new and returning visitors to experience Christmas at the Castle.”

For more information or to purchase tickets for Christmas at the Castle, visit castleintheclouds.org/christmas-at-the-castle.

About Castle in the Clouds

As the premier historical museum in the beautiful Lakes Region of New Hampshire, Castle in the Clouds provides each visitor with a look into the past while providing contemporary comforts to make every visit memorable. Originally called Lucknow, this breathtaking 6,300-acre property was developed in 1913 by Thomas G. Plant, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, to create a luxurious lifestyle with state-of-the-art amenities, beautiful hand-

made furnishings, and a large staff to run the estate. These days, visitors come

from all around the world to tour the mansion and exhibit gallery, dine in the

Carriage House Restaurant or Café in the Clouds, hike miles of hiking and walking

trails maintained by partner organization the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, or enjoy one of our many programs and events. Operated by the Castle Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, Castle in the Clouds is revered as a cultural and educational resource and listed on the National Register of Historic Places with national significance. Castle in the Clouds is also available as a fairytale wedding venue and versatile private event rental. For more information about Castle in the Clouds, visit castleintheclouds.org.

Magical Mystery Doors brings music of three legendary bands to The Colonial Theatre

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Magical Mystery Doors – A Beatles, Zeppelin, Doors Tribute on Friday, April 16, 2027 at 8 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Magical Mystery Doors takes classic rock beyond the standard tribute. With two distinct productions, the band celebrates legendary music while reshaping it for today’s audiences.

In this flagship show, Magical Mystery Doors brings together three of rock’s most influential bands in a way no one else does. Hits from The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and The Doors are reimaged through mashups and medleys that connect songs across catalogs. Imagine the melody of “Hello, I Love You” set against

“Misty Mountain Hop,” or a seamless journey from The Rain Song into Riders On The Storm and Here Comes The Sun. Backed by stunning visuals and lights, the result is a performance that feels both familiar and completely new.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, 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 partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly

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Six score aces, Kelly crowned new Champion Putter of the Year

TILTON — No fewer than six Belmont golfers scored aces on the demanding Original Course at Pirate’s Cove in Winnisquam Friday. But junior Tyler Kelly led wire-to-wire and scored two aces, including one on the final hole, to win the second annual Red Raider Miniature Golf Championship and the coveted title of Champion Putter of the Year by one stroke over senior Jacob Akerstrom and by two over senior captain Jordan DeFrancesco in front of three-deep galleries.

It was a roller-coaster round from the outset with tension befitting a major championship. Kelly was part of a three-way tie for first place after four holes with junior Alex Rowley and senior Ethan Girard.

Then the fireworks began.

Kelly aced the fifth hole. Then freshman Logan Barrett followed



COURTESY PHOTO
Senior Ben Girard (left) handed over the trophy to junior Tyler Kelly as the new Champion Putter of the Year for the Belmont golf team.

with his own. Then sophomore Ace McCant followed Barrett and defending Champion Putter senior Ben Girard aced it, too, before junior Mia Ellis became the fifth Red Raider to ace the same hole. Then two holes later sopho-

more Jack Mitchell aced the seventh hole.

After eight holes, Kelly held a one-stroke lead over McCant and Ethan Girard. Six others were one stroke farther back.

At the end of 12, Akerstrom and Ben Girard had tied Kelly, but four were just one back in a competition unlike any other: Ethan Girard, Ellis, DeFrancesco and Rowley.

With only two holes left, Kelly held a one-

stroke lead over Rowley with Akerstrom and DeFrancesco tied one more back.

But then came Kelly’s second ace on the final hole. Both Akerstrom and DeFrancesco arrived at the 18th needing an ace to tie Kelly. And both missed after coming agonizingly close.

For his efforts, Kelly gets his name engraved on the trophy that will be featured in the school’s trophy case.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Oct. 8 BELMONT Volleyball at Mascoma; 6:15	mond; 4 Girls’ Soccer vs. Raymond; 4
GILFORD Volleyball at Milford; 6	GILFORD Boys’ Soccer vs. Berlin; 3:30
WINNISQUAM Volleyball at St. Thomas; 5:45	Field Hockey vs. Berlin; 3:30
Friday, Oct. 9 BELMONT Boys’ Soccer vs. White Mountains; 4	Girls’ Soccer at Berlin; 4
Girls’ Soccer at White Mountains; 4	WINNISQUAM Field Hockey vs. Mascoma; 4
GILFORD Field Hockey at Laco- nia; 6:15	Volleyball at Inter-Lakes; 5:15
WINNISQUAM Boys’ Soccer vs. Raymond; 4	Wednesday, Oct. 14 GILFORD Volleyball vs. Oyster River; 5:45
Saturday, Oct. 10 GILFORD Cross Country at Hopkinton; 10	WINNISQUAM Cross Country at Mascoma; 4
Football vs. Monadnock; 12	Volleyball at Hillsboro-Deering; 6:15
WINNISQUAM Cross Country at Hopkinton; 10	Thursday, Oct. 15 GILFORD Cross Country at Merrimack Valley; 4
Tuesday, Oct. 13 BELMONT Boys’ Soccer at Ray-	WINNISQUAM Cross Country at Merrimack Valley; 4
	All schedules are subject to change.

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Henry finishes third in Homecoming race



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Violet Smith heads down the hill toward the track in action last Thursday afternoon.



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Brodie Henry led the way for the Belmont boys during last week’s home race.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BELMONT — The Belmont cross country kids got the chance to run on their home course on Thursday, Oct. 1, as part of the school’s Homecoming celebration. The Raider girls finished fourth overall and the boys finished in fifth.

Jenna Laramie led the way for the Belmont

girls in a time of 27:23 for 15th place overall while Lyla McSheffrey was 18th in 27:41. Zoe Perlet was 26th overall in a time of 28:48, Violet Smith took 28th place in a time of 30:02 and Allieanna Steele finished out the scoring in a time of 31:23 for 33rd place overall.

Neala Murphy finished in 34th place in 31:52 and Sara Milo-



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Allieanna Steele climbs the final hill in the Belmont home course last Thursday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sean Andrews takes a corner in last week’s home meet.

toxic finished in 35:14 for 38th place to round out the field of Raider runners.

Brodie Henry led the way for the Belmont boys, finishing in 19:16 for third place overall while Sean Andrews was sixth in a time of 20:17 and Daniel Tripp rounded out the field

of Raiders in 29:11 for 25th place.

The Raiders are slated to run at Merrimack Valley High School on Thursday, Oct. 15.

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

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Raider girls come up short in Homecoming battle with Gilford



Gilford's Makenna Howard looks to boot the ball away from a charging Belmont's Ella Walsh during action on Saturday morning.



Belmont's Avery Thurber and Gilford's Mia Macaione go after the ball in action on Saturday morning in Belmont.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BELMONT — The Belmont soccer girls welcomed rival Gilford to town for Homecoming on Saturday morning. The Golden Eagles were able to get a goal in the first half and added two in the second half for the 3-0 win over the host Raiders.

Penny Flanders sent a shot high for Gilford early and then Belmont's Ella Walsh had a solid run that was turned back by Makenna Howards. Nora Martinez Bermejo and Mia Macaione teamed up for a chance for Gilford, with Belmont's Avery Thurber and Josephine Shoemaker making solid defensive stops. Macaione headed a shot on net that goalie Jamie Walker stopped and at the other end, Gilford goalie Josie Bassett stopped a bid from Ella Stevens.

Walker handled a chance from Martinez Bermejo and another from Macaione while Stevens had another bid denied by Bassett. Macaione made another run that was turned back by Shoemaker and Belmont's Falyn Sicard cleared a Gilford corner kick chance. Penny Lewis sent a shot wide for Gilford and Shoemaker made a solid defensive stop on Macaione.

With 22:12 to go in the first half, Lewis buried a shot from the top of the box for the 1-0 lead for the Golden Eagles. Sarah Cribbie and Thurber made solid defensive stops and Devyn VonKadich had a good clear and Walker stopped a bid from Emma Sylvestre. Bassett stopped a chance from Gillian Varnum and Thurber cleared a shot from Macaione at the other end. Gilford had a corner kick and Macaione sent a ball in just ahead of Leah Scudder and Sylvestre while Aubrey Vliet made a nice cross

in front that Shoemaker cleared out. Macaione had a chance on a corner kick that Walker stopped and Varnum and Walsh teamed up on a bid for Belmont that Howard turned back. Belmont had chances from Fae-llyn Archer and Von Kadich but the half ended with Gilford up 1-0.

Scudder made a bid early in the second half and Shoemaker made a solid defensive stop. Gilford got good clears from Maya Criscone and Howard and a chance that went wide from Scudder. Shoemaker had another solid defensive stop on Macaione and Scudder had a bid denied by Walker and another go over the top of the net.

With 28:15 to go in the game, Macaione made a good run around the defense and fired the ball into the net for the 2-0 lead. Howard had another defensive stop on a run from Varnum and Caroline McClare cleared a Belmont corner kick chance. Von Kadich made a nice defensive stop on a run from Martinez Bermejo and the Golden Eagles sent a cross off the crossbar.

Sylvestre finished out the scoring for Gilford with about six minutes to play, fighting through the defense and burying the shot for the 3-0 final score.

The Gilford boys closed out the day in Belmont with a 1-0 win over the Raiders.

Belmont is slated to be in action on Friday, Oct. 9, at White Mountains Regional at 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 13, at home against Raymond at 4 p.m.

Gilford is slated to be in action on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Berlin at 4 p.m.

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

LRAA names 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.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Back: Jim Cryan, Elizabeth Cryan, Rachel Charette, Sherwood Frazier. Front: Martha Aucoin, Gail Burnt, Nancy Kingston.

The Winning Artists' artwork will be on display in locations in the Lakes Region through the third week of October 2026.

Congratulations to Martha Aucoin, our September standout! Normally, the Artist of the Month winner showcases their work at An-

nies' Cafe & Catering in Laconia. This month, Martha gave this multiple art venue to Rachel Charette, a relatively new member of the association. Because of this generous trade, Rachel now has the special privilege of showcasing multiple pieces of her captivating work at the charming Annie's Cafe & Catering in Laconia. Swing by for their

mouthwatering homemade soups, creative sandwiches, fresh salads, and coffee—then linger a little longer to soak in Martha's art over a delicious meal. It's the perfect spot to treat yourself and discover something beautiful!

Honorable Mention Artists — on display now! Come explore these standout pieces at the following communi-

ty locations through the third week of October:

- Sherwood Frazier - Camden Bank, Tilton
- Gail Brunt - Franklin Savings Bank, Gilford
- Jim Cryan - Laconia Library
- Elizabeth Cryan - Franklin Savings Bank, Franklin
- Nancy Kingston - Gilford Library
- Martha Aucoin - Camden Bank, Meredith

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Everyone is Welcome!

The Machine brings the music of Pink Floyd to The Colonial Theatre

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present The Machine Performs Pink Floyd on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show are on now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

The Machine has forged a nearly 40-year reputation of extending the musical legacy of Pink Floyd. The New York-based quartet performs a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive 15-album repertoire, complete with faithful renditions of popular hits as well as obscure gems.

With stellar musicianship and passionate delivery, The Machine explores collective improvisation rivaling that of an early 1970's Pink Floyd, while their use of expanded theatrical elements and elaborate stage displays and light-



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

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 Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, presenting a diverse range of events from concerts and comedy to theater and family entertainment. For more information, visit www.spectaclelive.com or contact Pete Lally at plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257.

Audubon announces Cuba program



MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Loon Center in Moultonborough, the Lakes Region Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will present a program called "Birding Cuba" by Charlie Nims.

Experience an adventure in birding during a time of turmoil in a country close to our shores, but a world apart. This presentation features not only colorful and endemic birds, but also insight into daily life in Cuba. Please join us in exploring the country's birds, pleasant scenery, and resilient people.

Charlie Nims is an experienced birder who moved to the Mt. Washington Valley 14 years ago. He was previously actively involved with Massachusetts Audubon and the South Shore Bird Club, and now volunteers with NH Audubon. Charlie also enjoys skiing and hiking, including completing the 48 New Hampshire 4,000 footers.

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.

ing continue The Floyd spirit of the 1980's. The band is also known for recreating entire albums as a part of their show, accepting requests from fans, and for taking an A-Z approach in which one song is played for every letter of the alphabet.

The Machine has sold out theaters, premier showcase rooms and casinos across North America, Europe and Asia, performed at renowned music festivals such as Bonnaroo, Riverbend, and Gathering of the Vibes, and shared the stage with full symphony orchestras, including the Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Charlotte and San Diego Symphonies, as well as the Buffalo Philharmonic.

The band features founding member Tahrah Cohen (drums), longtime bandmates Scott Chasolen (keys, vocals) and Ryan Ball (guitar, vocals), and newest member Chris DeAngelis (bass, lead vocals). The band continues on to celebrate the music of Pink Floyd and to honor the life of Joe Pascarella, who co-founded the band with Tahrah in 1988.

"They duplicate the sound and hits of Pink Floyd with chilling accuracy, and they play for a hell of a long time," raves Matt Diehl of Rolling Stone.

"These guys are great!" said Bob Ezrin, Co-Producer of Pink Floyd's "The Wall."

"The Machine look

nothing like Pink Floyd, but that doesn't matter—they sound exactly like Pink Floyd, and that's what counts," added Matthew Webber of Spin Magazine.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, 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 partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating ca-

Comedic illusionists featured on "AGT" to perform at The Colonial Theatre

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Young & Strange on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2027, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Direct from London's West End and fresh from their appearances in the Live Finals of "America's Got Talent" 2026, England's most famous comedy illusionists Young & Strange present "DELUSIONISTS" — a spectacular new magic show packed with breathtaking illusions and hilarious comedy.

Suitable for the entire family this fast-paced, high-energy interactive show brings some of the biggest and most astonishing illusions in magic to the stage, combined with the unmistakable comedy that has made Young & Strange an au-

dience favourite around the world.

"DELUSIONISTS" is an unforgettable experience that will leave you laughing, gasping and asking one very simple question: How did they do that?!

"Young & Strange are stand-out stars," raves The London Evening Standard.

"Young & Strange triumph," wrote The London Times.

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Gilford’s Katie Dobbins nominated as Performer of the Year by New England Music Awards

Daily voting open through Oct. 9

GILFORD — Gilford native and Lakes Region singer-songwriter Katie Dobbins has been nominated for Performer of the Year by the 2026 New England Music Awards Committee.

For Dobbins, the recognition comes after a lifetime of playing music in various capacities and over a decade building a music career as a singer-songwriter — performing across New England while continuing to invest in the local Lakes Region community that raised her.

Over the years, Dobbins has grown from playing local stages to performing at venues and events throughout the region, while her hometown has remained at the heart of her career. She has been named Best Music Act – Solo in Best of the Lakes Region for three consecutive years and has performed at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion’s Hazy Little Stage in Gilford, a particularly meaningful



milestone for an artist who grew up just down the road.

Dobbins is also the creator and host of the monthly Songwriter RoundUp at Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery in Meredith. Now in its fourth year, the listening-room series brings local and regional songwriters to-

gether for an intimate Nashville-style “in the round” performance, giving Lakes Region audiences an opportunity to hear original music and the stories behind the songs.

While much of Dobbins’ career takes her throughout New England, she contin-

ues to be deeply involved in her local community, leading worship at Alpine Church, a year-round outdoor church at Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, ministering through music regularly at Isaiah 61 Café in Laconia, and donating her talents to The Greater

Lakes Region Children’s Auction for various fundraising events. Dobbins values her local community immensely, and her deep roots inspire much of her songwriting.

A singer-songwriter known for heartfelt folk-pop and acoustic storytelling,

Dobbins has released two albums and several singles over the course of her career. Her music centers on hope, faith, resilience and the experiences that bring people together.

The New England Music Awards recognize artists and music industry professionals from throughout the six New England states. Dobbins’ Performer of the Year recognition marks her seventh nomination in various categories from the organization.

Voting is open to the public, and supporters can vote once every day through Oct. 9.

To vote for Katie Dobbins for Performer of the Year, visit nemusicawards.com/vote and select her name in the Performer of the Year category.

For more information about Katie Dobbins, her music and upcoming performances, visit her website and follow her on social media.

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Guest vocalist Catherine Martinez joins LRSO for holiday Pops concert

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra Presents Holiday Pops! with Guest Artist Catherine Martinez on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Put on your favorite Christmas sweater, gather your loved ones, and come experience the wonder and joy of the season with Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra and special guest vocalist Catherine Martinez.

Located in beautiful Meredith New Hampshire, the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides the best classical music performances for central New Hampshire during the fall, winter, and spring. Under the baton of Conductor and Music Director Benjamin Greene, LRSO performs a variety of music ranging from the classics of Beethoven and Mozart to popular music including the sounds of Broadway, movies, and orchestral Pops classics. The Colonial Theatre of Laconia



COURTESY PHOTO

Catherine Martinez

The original owner, 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 partnership 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 Street, Laconia, NH 03246. www.coloniallaconia.com

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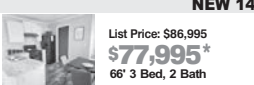
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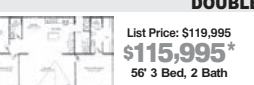


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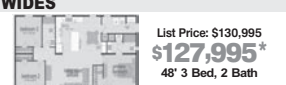


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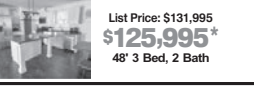


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Squirrel Nut Zippers keep 30th anniversary celebration going with festive Christmas Caravan Tour

LACONIA — Following a triumphant year celebrating the 30th anniversary of their platinum-certified breakthrough album *Hot*, the Squirrel Nut Zippers have announced that they are bringing the party into the holiday season with the return of their acclaimed Christmas Caravan Tour, a joyous musical celebration that has become one of America's most cherished and distinctive holiday traditions.

Tickets for Squirrel Nut Zippers Christmas Caravan Tour at the Colonial Theatre of Laconia on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Blending the warmth of Christmas classics with the infectious energy of New Orleans



mas Caravan promises an evening of musical storytelling and festive celebration. Whether performing a swinging rendition of a Christmas classic, a New Orleans-inspired holiday romp, or one of their signature hits, the Squirrel Nut Zippers create a concert experience that feels equally at home beneath twinkling Christmas lights and inside a lively Prohibition-era speakeasy.

The tour follows the band's highly successful 30th anniversary celebration of *Hot*, the landmark album that helped spark the swing revival of the 1990s and remains one of the era's most influential recordings with. Certified platinum and featuring the hit single "Hell," *Hot* introduced millions of listeners to the band's inventive fusion of jazz, swing, blues, folk, and Southern roots music and continues to resonate with new audiences with the single recently featured in hit TV series like *Wednesday* (2025) and *Lucifer* (2021).

As the band commemorates three decades of *Hot*, the Christmas Caravan serves as both a holiday celebration and a testament to the enduring appeal of one of America's most original musical groups.

This year's Christ-

MEDIUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

of Spiritualism, curious about mediumship, intrigued by paranormal traditions, or simply searching for an unforgettable autumn evening, the Historic Lane Tavern offers a setting where history and mystery come together.

Brandie Wells, known as The Breakthrough Medium, is a certified Angelic Healer, Hypnotist, and Psychic Medium who has dedicated her career to connecting people with messages of love, healing, and inspiration. Through spirit

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GOLF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Milford only had three golfers so did not register a team score.

Jordan DeFrancesco, playing out of the top spot in the lineup for the Raiders, finished with 23 points while Max Ryder at number two, Jacob Akerstrom at number three, Alex Rowley at number five and Tyler Kelly (all-time best score) at number seven all finished with 21 points on the day. Three of those scores counted toward the team score. Jasper Sottak tied his all-time best with 19 points out of the fourth spot and Ben Girard finished with 15 points from the sixth spot in the lineup.

The Raiders headed to Salem on Tuesday, Sept. 29, and finished second in a match at Campbell's Scottish Highlands.

Campbell finished with 84 points to lead the way with the Raiders scoring 83 points for second place, host Pelham in third at 67 points and Gilford rounding out the scoring with 62 points.

Rowley recorded his best ever round in competition, finishing with 23 points out of the fifth spot in the lineup to lead the Raiders and finish second overall on the day.

DeFrancesco out of the top spot in the lineup finished with 21 points while Ryder had 20 points from the second spot and Sottak had 19 points from the fourth

spot to round out the scoring for Belmont. Akerstrom finished with 18 points in the third spot, Girard had 16 points from the sixth spot and Kelly rounded out the field of Raiders with 13 points in the seventh spot in the lineup.

Belmont finished out the regular season at home at Canterbury Woods on Wednesday, Sept. 30, finishing with 82 points behind another solid effort from Bishop Brady at 96 points with Laconia rounding out the scoring in third place.

Out of the fifth spot in the lineup, Ryder led the way for the Raiders with a score of 23 while Ben Girard finished with 21 points from the sixth spot. DeFrancesco in the top spot and Rowley in the second spot both finished with 19 points to round out the scoring for the Raiders.

Akerstrom finished with 18 points in the third spot, Sottak had 16 points from the fourth spot and Ethan Girard scored eight points from the seventh spot.

The Raiders finished the regular season with an all-time best record of 21-8.

The Raiders will be looking forward to the Division III State Meet, which takes place on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Indian Mound Golf Club in Ossipee.

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

jazz, vintage swing, folk traditions, blues, and Americana, the Christmas Caravan transforms venues into festive wonderlands where audiences are transported to a bygone era filled with revelry, nostalgia, and holiday cheer.

For more than two decades, the Christmas Caravan Tour has captivated audiences nationwide with its unique mix of seasonal favorites, fan-loved originals from their hit album *Christmas Caravan*, which has sold more than 250,000

copies and reached #12 on the Billboard Holiday Albums chart, and the band's signature blend of musical styles. Equal parts holiday concert, vaudeville revue, and vintage variety show, the performance delivers an unforgettable evening filled with dazzling musicianship, spirited sing-alongs, heartwarming moments, and plenty of surprises.

"The Christmas Caravan Tour has always been about creating a sense of wonder and community," said Jimbo

Mathus, frontman and co-founder of the Squirrel Nut Zippers. "The holidays are one of the few times when people slow down long enough to gather and share music. We wanted to create something that feels timeless—a celebration of old-world Christmas traditions, American roots music, and the joy of bringing people together. Every year the audience becomes part of the show, and that's what makes it so special."

This year's Christ-

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Volleyball Bears bounce back with win in Belmont

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam volleyball team bounced back from a tough loss to Trinity to spoil Homecoming for the Belmont Raiders on Friday night.

The Bears welcomed Trinity to town on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and dropped a 25-16 decision to the Pioneers in the first set. Sophie Fair got the first point for the Bears and after the Pioneers went up by a 4-1 score, Fair had another point and Eila Petty followed with a service ace. Danica Weymouth came through with a hit and Fair went on a service run that included three aces and a nice play at the net along with Kinzie Nelson to give the Bears the 11-5 lead.

Weymouth added ad nice tip at the net, Alissa Jean had a service ace and Abigail Meunier came through with two more aces to push the lead to 16-8. Trinity battled back and cut the lead to 16-15 before Weymouth had a service ace and Petty and Fair had hits to stretch the lead to 21-16. A good diving play from Weymouth helped the Bears get to 24-16 before the Pioneers charged back and cut the lead to 24-23. However, Jean got a big hit to close out the 25-23 win to pull the Bears even.

The Pioneers jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the second set before Claire Hart had a service ace, Fair had a hit and Fair



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Alissa Jean bumps the ball up for a teammate during her team's game with Trinity last week.

and Autumn Sarette came up with a block to pull the Bears even at five. Winnisquam kept pushing and took the lead to 15-6 behind three service aces from Fair. Weymouth had a nice tip at the net and Jean added a service ace to push the lead to 17-10.

Hart had a hit and a block and then Sarette added a block at the net

for the 20-13 lead. The Bears continued to open the lead out to 24-17 before Fair had a nice tip to close out the 25-17 win and give Winnisquam the 2-1 lead.

Trinity bounced back by getting the first four points of the fourth set and Petty had a block and a service ace and Fair



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Abigail Meunier sets the ball during her team's game against Trinity last Wednesday evening.

had a hit to tie the score at six. Weymouth had a tip at the net but the Pioneers managed to keep the lead, opening it up to 14-10 and 17-12 before Petty had a key hit for the Bears and Fair added a hit, helping to cut the lead to 19-15. Weymouth added another hit but the Bears finished out the

25-18 win to force a fifth and deciding set.

Trinity got the first five points of the fifth set before Petty and Alana Cruz had hits for the

Bears. Petty added a tip at the net and Addison Bernier had a service ace but the Pioneers finished out the 15-6 win to get the 3-2 win.

On Friday night in Belmont, the Raiders came out and got a 25-19 win in the first set and a 25-16 win in the second set. Winnisquam bounced back by winning the second set 25-16 and then won the fourth set 25-18 to force a fifth and deciding set. The Bears won that set 15-4 to take the 3-2 win.

"It really took us some time to find our energy tonight," said Bear coach Mark Dawalga. "Give Belmont credit, they are a very good and well-coached team.

"I was really proud of the way our team responded after going down the first two sets on the road and coming back for the win with everyone contributing," he added.

The Bears are slated to be in action today, Oct. 8, at St. Thomas at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Inter-Lakes at 5:15 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Hillsboro-Deering at 6:15 p.m.

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

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