

Gilford Steamer

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

GILFORD, N.H.

COVERING ALTON, BARNSTEAD, & NEW DURHAM - WWW.SALMONPRESS.COM

FREE

Congratulations to the Gilford High School Four-Way Speech Contest winners!

GILFORD — A huge round of applause to the talented students who participated in Gilford Rotary Club's 2026 High School Four-Way Speech Contest! Your speeches were inspiring, thought-provoking, and a testament to the values of The Rotary Four-

Way Test.

Special congratulations to our winners—your dedication and hard work truly shined!

First Place – Emily Jacques' topic was "Distractions-use of hobbies for preventing burnout and supporting better mental

Jones Dam, Alton Power Dam drawdowns postponed

NEW DURHAM — Due to concerns raised by stakeholders in the communities of New Durham and Alton, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has consulted with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG), and will be postponing the previously planned spring 2026 drawdowns of Jones Dam and Alton Power Dam. The revised schedule now anticipates initiating the drawdowns in September 2026.

This postponement will provide additional time during the spring and summer months to collect additional information within the impoundments and downstream reaches of the Merrymeeting River. NHDES and their engineering consultant will be performing data gathering activities throughout the summer season. Residents should expect to see personnel in and around the river system as this work proceeds.

Although NHDES does not anticipate manipulating stoplogs or opening gates this spring or summer, it is important to note that significant storm events may still require operational adjustments. As in the past, if necessary to properly pass flows and maintain safe conditions, NHDES may temporarily remove stoplogs or open gates at either dam until water levels return to normal operating ranges.

NHDES will work with the local selectboards to attend meetings in New Durham and Alton during the summer of 2026 to discuss the findings of ongoing sampling and monitoring efforts. These meetings will also include a review of the procedures for implementing the controlled drawdowns in September.

Consistent with prior plans, once the impoundments are drawn down in September 2026, they will remain in a lowered condition, approximately 2.5 feet at Alton Power Dam and approximately four and a half feet at Jones Dam relative to their current elevations. These lowered conditions will remain in place until the dams are either rehabilitated or removed, as determined through ongoing engineering and environmental evaluations. However, NHDES may temporarily lower the impoundments below these elevations in September, if needed, by operating the low level gates to support additional data collection.

NHDES will continue coordinating closely with NHFG, local officials, and community stakeholders and will provide additional updates as new information becomes available.



COURTESY

Gilford Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest winners (left to right) Kylie Kelly, Sarah Khan, & Emily Jacques.

health."

Second Place – Sarah Khan's topic was "The

Plaque of Generative AI."

Kylie Kelly took Third Place with her topic, "The

Importance of Adoption."

The Club would also like to recognize our other

outstanding contestants: Tristan Schofield and Jiya Patel, who did a wonderful job representing their ideas and perspectives.

Sarah Khan will be attending the District Semi-Finals on Sunday April 12 in Henniker.

The contest challenges students to apply Rotary's Four-Way Test to ethical decision-making: Is it the TRUTH?; Is it FAIR to all concerned?; Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?; and will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Thank you to everyone who supported and encouraged these incredible young speakers. We're proud to be part of a community that fosters leadership, integrity, and excellence!

Four-Way Speech Contest judges were Clara Jude, Bill Roderick, and Christine Holmes. Jen Nunez was the registrar and greeter, Gail Tebbetts was scorer. Jim Sherman was timekeeper. Sandy McGonagle was the moderator. Corey Nazer was the high school adviser.

Softball Timber Wolves aim for another trip to title game

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

ALTON — There are few teams in the Lakes Region that have had as much success as the Prospect Mountain softball girls.

After winning three Division III titles in a row, the Timber Wolves finished as the runners-up last year and will be looking to get back to the top of the division in the new season as well.

"We had a great turnout for softball this season and will have a full JV team for the first time in a few years, which is great to see," said coach James Christie. "Lots of new faces, especially a big group of freshmen."

Seniors Paige Harding and Taylor Greenwood have been key pieces of the success over the last few years and will play a critical role as the team kicks off a new season while classmate Chloe Peterson is also back and should be a key contributor.

Junior Paityn Glidden will be a top of the lineup bat for the Timber Wolves and coaches are expecting her to have a solid offensive season and provide veteran leadership in the infield. Sophomore Kora MacKenzie will move from the outfield to the infield and will also be at the top of the lineup.

Sophia Bowman will get the ball in the circle for the Timber Wolves this season and Christie notes they are excited to see how she grows into the role over the course of the season while Kylee Guptill will move from first base to catcher and brings a big arm as an asset behind the dish. Junior Lelia Hillsgrove and sophomore Bailey Beck will also get opportunities to be contributors this season.

Junior Kourtney Kaplan, who transferred in from Franklin and helped the Timber Wolf hoop girls to the Final Four, is playing softball for the first time

after playing baseball and Christie expects she will be a key contributor while ninth grader Ashlynn Roberts is a great addition and should contribute on both sides of the ball.

"(The goals are) same as always, play good, clean fundamentally sound softball and compete in every game," Christie said. "Coming off a loss in the state title game last year, the team is focused and determined to get back there again this year."

"We have the players to do it, it will all come down to players stepping into big roles left from our graduating seniors last year," the Timber Wolf coach continued. "We are confident that they will and are excited for a great season."

The Timber Wolves will play a schedule that includes two games each with Berlin, Somersworth, Raymond and Trinity and single games with Belmont, St. Thomas, Kearsarge, Newfound, Gilford, Conant, Hillsboro-Deering and Newport.

The season kicks off on Monday, April 13, at Belmont and continues on Wednesday, April 15, at home against Kearsarge, both with 4 p.m. starts.

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

Kingswood athletes ready to kick off spring season

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — After a week and a half of preseason work, Kingswood spring sports athletes took a bit of a breather on Thursday, April 2, to take part in the annual spring sports media night. The evening included team photos as well as interviews with numerous athletes.

The track team was first up for the evening, with new head coaches Mike Baker and Amy Kiley leading a team with more than 60 athletes.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kingswood spring sports athletes pose for a photo during the annual spring sports media night last Thursday evening.

Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Celebrate Earth Day — April 22

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating Earth Day with a community park clean up on Wednesday, April 22 from 10 a.m.-noon at Liberty Tree Park located on Rte. 140. Help beautify the Town park by picking up litter, sticks, sweeping debris off playing courts and more. One person can make a big difference. All are welcome. Bring gloves and water to drink. For more information, contact

603-875-0109 or parks-rec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Start your own edible garden seedlings — Warm season seedlings

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a gardening class with Lisa Hynes, Gardenary Certified Consultant and Kitchen Garden Coach on Saturday, April 18 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center, \$35 per person, plus \$20 materials fee. Lisa will give a lesson on Seed Starting 101,

with instructions on setting up a seedling tray. Plant a 10-by-20-inch tray of warm season seeds- tomatoes, basil, kale, Swiss Chard, calendula, etc. Receive instructions on how to get the baby seedlings off to a good start and growing well indoors for the next four to six weeks, as well as hardening the seedlings to plant outdoors at the right time. Register at the Parks and Recreation Department by April 13. For more information and to register, contact parks-

rec-asst@alton.nh.gov or call 603-875-0109.

Hit the Trail! Hiking programs offered for all levels

Join hiker, Bonnie Dodge, for beginner focused hikes on Fridays starting April 10 or progressive hikes on Wednesdays starting April 15. Hikes start at 10 a.m. at the trail head in Alton and surrounding Towns.

Beginner Friday hikes are a great opportunity for hesitant folks to discover the wonderful world of hiking and learn about the best trails in the area- the program is focused on hikes for beginners. Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 the Wednesday before the hike day.

Progressive Wednesday hikes are for those that are looking for a hiking challenge. The hikes will gradually increase in difficulty each week- making this a great way to be outside and exercise. Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 the Monday before the hike day.

Bucket Drumming — Jam Session

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a free Bucket Drumming Jam Session with Sam Twining on Monday, April 27 at the Gilman Library from 1-2 p.m. All ages and abilities are welcome. Bring your own bucket and enter the Library using the lower-level rear entrance door. Drumming sticks will be provided. Stop by and join in the fun during school vacation week and learn a little bit about drumming and music. RSVP by April 22 at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Alton Town Wide Yard Sale

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring its Annual Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 6, rain or shine from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. If you would like to participate by having a Yard

Sale at your house contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov before May 18 with your Yard Sale address location. When signing up please include your name, phone number and complete physical address. Free Yard Sale maps will be available after May 27.

Alton tennis courts are open for season

The Town Tennis Courts at Liberty Tree Park are now open for the season. Courts are located behind 65 Frank C. Gilman Highway. Parking is across the street next to Mill Pond and by the Water Department. Courts are reserved for organized Pickleball on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 8-11 a.m. and pick up Pickleball on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-noon. If you are interested in playing Pickleball, join the group on Tuesdays and Thursdays-at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FA8AF2CA5F85-54716680-pickup/#/>; beginners are welcome, bring your own equipment.

USTA Spring Tennis Lessons — Adults

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Tennis in the Parks for adults on Wednesdays at the Liberty Tree Park Tennis Courts from May 6-June 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. Registration is \$75, includes instruction with a USTA New England certified instructor. Basic tennis skills will be taught: forehand, backhand, serve, overhead and volley. Register by April 17, class size is limited to seven. Registration forms are available at www.alton.nh.gov or stop by the Parks and Recreation Kiosk at 328 Main St. to sign up. Contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 for more information.

Pilates Classes in Alton Bay — Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department

is sponsoring Pilates classes at the Alton Bay Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. with certified instructor Donna Lee. All level adults are welcome for a full body, low impact class that will improve muscle tone, flexibility, balance and strength. Pre-registration is \$10 per class or \$15 drop in. Bring a mat and water. For more information/register contact Donna at breathepilates1@yahoo.com or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

Guided Meditation

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring Guided Meditation with Karen Kharitonov on Thursdays April 16, May 7 and May 21 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. Meditation is helpful for reducing stress and slowing our bodies down to breathe. The program is free, donations accepted to benefit the food pantry. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Dungeons and Dragons

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a weekly Dungeons and Dragons adventure on Wednesdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 6-8 p.m. The program is free for ages 18 and up. Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 to secure your game slot. Join in the fun with friends or plan on meeting new people.

Alton Parks and Recreation Department Podcasts

For people that want a quick summary of the programs, events and activities going on at the Parks and Recreation Department, check out the Alton Parks and Recreation Department "Community Connection" podcasts which are available on the Town of Alton Web site: www.alton.nh.gov under Parks and Recreation.

Gilford Public Library Classes & Special Events April 9 - April 16

Thursday, April 9
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.

French, 3-4 p.m.
Decluttering and Organizing Seminar, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join Bank of NH: Prestige Plus for a practical and uplifting seminar designed especially for individuals who are ready to simplify their spaces and create more ease in their daily life. Learn helpful tips for downsizing, organizing cherished belongings, and making your home feel lighter. Whether you're preparing for a move, looking to reduce clutter, or simply want your home to feel more organized, this session will provide strategies, inspiration, and confidence to help you take the next step.

Friday, April 10
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.
Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon
Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Hand & Foot, noon to 2:30 p.m.
Happy Crafters, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Advanced Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 11
Beginner Line Dancing, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Monday, April 13
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 9-10 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10:15-11 a.m.
Mahjong, noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14
Feel Good Fitness with

Dottie, 9-10 a.m.
Senior Sculpt, 10-11 a.m.

Homeschool Group, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.
History of the Islands of Southern Lake Winni, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Local author and islander Stephanie Erickson shares the history of the islands and how they have shaped the culture of the islanders today.

Wednesday, April 15
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.
Senior Stretch Yogaah!, 10-11 a.m.
Card Games, 10 a.m.-noon
Check out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon
Paint Group, 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, April 16
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.
Gilford's Golden Guardians, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Learn all about Gilford's Golden Guardians and what these service dogs can do!

French, 3-4 p.m.
Egg Carton Pong, 3-4 p.m.
Compete with your friends at this festive game! Special Historical Storytime, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Join us for a special historical storytime including a history themed craft and snack that's presented by a Gilford high school student!

Book Discussion: North Woods, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This month's book is "North Woods" by Daniel Mason. Led by Rhett; books are available at the front desk.

Gilford Public Library Top Ten Requests (Plus Two)

1. "Judge Stone" by Viola Davis
2. "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi
3. "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans
4. "The Crossroads" by C.J Box
5. "More Than Enough" by Anna Quindlen
6. "Cross and Sampson" by James Patterson
7. "Life: A Love Story" by Elizabeth Berg
8. "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon
9. "The Irish Goodbye" by Heather Aimee O'Neill
10. "Mule Boy" by Andrew Krivak
11. "Bloodlust" by Sandra Brown
12. "Heir of Whitestone" by Catherine Coulter

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Gilford police log

GILFORD — The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests from March 30 to April 2.

Eli A. Auger, age 45,

was arrested on April 1 in connection with a warrant.

Donna Marie Bennett, age 65, was arrested on April 2 for driving after

Suspension of Vehicle Registration, driving after revocation or suspension of license (DUI related), and in connection with a warrant.

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Community dinner to support Old Home Day fireworks

GILFORD — Residents are invited to enjoy an Italian-style community dinner later this month while helping support one of Gilford's most anticipated summer traditions.

The Gilford Old Home Day Committee is hosting a fundraising Italian feast on Saturday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs hall at Gilford Community

Church, 19 Potter Hill Rd. Proceeds from the event will support the fireworks display planned for this year's Gilford Old Home Day celebration.

The dinner will feature baked jumbo stuffed shells, Italian meatballs and sweet sausage, tossed salad, rolls, and a chef's choice dessert. The meal will be prepared by Chef Dan Barnhart of

The Plate Lunch. Attendees are welcome to bring their own beverages.

Tickets are available for a \$20 donation per person, and advance reservations are required by Friday, April 10. Reservations may be made by bringing cash or a check payable to Gilford Old Home Day to the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department, located

next to the town clerk's office at Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Rd.

Organizers said the fundraiser will help en-

sure the continuation of the community's annual fireworks display, a longstanding highlight of Old Home Day festivities.

For more information, contact the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department at 603-527-4722.

Restaurant Week returns April 17 to April 25!

WOLFEBORO — Wolfeboro Area Restaurant Week begins April 17 offering residents and visitors a variety of delicious dining experiences all around the community. Creative menus will showcase the local flavor.

"We are thrilled to announce the 2026 Presenting Sponsor is Amoskeag Beverages, proudly supporting local businesses," expresses Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Mary DeVries.

Amoskeag is a leading beer and alcohol distributor.

"The key to making this culinary event happen is of course participation by local area restaurants and specialty food shops. If your business has not already joined the event, there is still time to be a part of the celebration," invites DeVries.

Sponsorships are also available and vendors who work with local businesses are en-

couraged to consider a partnership during the event.

Restaurant Week is a Community Event organized by the Chamber of Commerce to celebrate and showcase local businesses, highlighting restaurants and specialty shops.

For more information, please reach out to DeVries via mary@wolfeborochamber.com or telephone the Chamber of Commerce at 569-2200.

Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection in Wolfeboro

WOLFEBORO — Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection on Monday, April 13 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Harmony Coffee House, 21 Central Ave. in Wolfeboro.

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.

Alton Central School to hold Kindergarten screenings April 23 & 24

ALTON — Alton Central School will conduct Kindergarten screenings for the 2026-27 school year on April 23 and April 24.

Families with children who will turn five years old by Sept. 30, 2026 are encouraged to contact the school to schedule a screening appointment.

Parents and guardians

can arrange a date and time by contacting Traci Cameron at tcameron@sau72.org.

School officials note that families whose children are not currently enrolled in the Alton Central School pre-Kindergarten program will need to provide several documents at the time of registration. Required paperwork includes a copy of

the child's birth certificate, immunization record, most recent physical examination record, and proof of residency.

Kindergarten screening appointments help school staff prepare for the upcoming academic year and ensure incoming students are ready for the transition into the classroom.

Village Players summer auditions Sunday and Monday

WOLFEBORO — If you're looking for a little comedy this summer, the Village Players have just the answer.

Directors Russ Ellis and Jay Sydow invite anyone interested in showing off how funny they can be to come out and audition for the Village Players Theater's summer show, "The Play That Goes Wrong."

"The Play That Goes Wrong" focuses on Cornley University Drama Society's newest production, "The Murder at Haversham Manor," where things are quickly going from

bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences/Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon that's guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter.

The cast includes numerous men and women and comic timing will be a key part of making the play a success. Roles are available for numerous ages and those interested should show up prepared to read from the script Auditions for "The Play That Goes Wrong" will take place on April 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and the show will be on the Village Players stage on July 24, 25 and 31 and Aug. 1 and 2.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" is generously sponsored by Dr. Richard J. Neal, DMD.

Alton Central School announces honor roll

ALTON — Alton Central School has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Honors

Grade 5: Cadence Adler, Averie Bolduc, Piper Fortier, Alexa Gavill, McKenzie Hawthorne, Xavier LaPointe, Morgan Maynard, Emma Nealon, Benjamin Neveu, Dallas Simmonds, Vivienne Verrecchia, Maia Warren, and Asher Williams

Grade 6: Halley Andres, Oliver Bravar, Kinley Brown, McKinley Coran, Giuliana Dewey, Ella Dickinson, River Ellis, Hannah Hawthorne, Sawyer Levasseur, Dylan O'Rourke, Joseph Vachon, Jacob Vernal, and William Yelle

Grade 6: Halley Andres, Oliver Bravar, Kinley Brown, McKinley Coran, Giuliana Dewey, Ella Dickinson, River Ellis, Hannah Hawthorne, Sawyer Levasseur, Dylan O'Rourke, Joseph Vachon, Jacob Vernal, and William Yelle

Grade 6: Halley Andres, Oliver Bravar, Kinley Brown, McKinley Coran, Giuliana Dewey, Ella Dickinson, River Ellis, Hannah Hawthorne, Sawyer Levasseur, Dylan O'Rourke, Joseph Vachon, Jacob Vernal, and William Yelle

Grade 7: Arianna Bi-

ron, Evan Collins, Abel Dominick, Austin Douglas, Sophia Goncalves, Brooklyn Gorton, James Goyette, Annabel Jacques, Bentley Lapiere, James Marcotte, Kennedy McKnight, Kirah Mulcahy, Zaya Parker, and Kadence Stratton

Grade 8: John Chase, Jocelyn Cogswell, Ayden Doherty, Miles Durkee, Augustine Gauvreau, Miah Gonzalez, Embry Hilton, Gavin Labrie, Raddek Lebs, McKenzie Nealon, Gabrielle Neveu, Tilba Nielsen, Kaylin, O'Connell, Harrison Parker, Kaleb Ransom, Everett Shea, Brynn Slayton, and Devan Stanley

High Honors

Grade 5: Roselyn Bozek, Brandon Douglas, Ryan Ferruccio, Layla Folger, Phillip Hunter, Jaylin Jordan,

Alexis Kenerson, Madelyn McGilvray, Dagny Nielsen, Willow Ouhrabka, Liam Rose, Gwendolyn Senter, and Olivia Sleeper

Grade 6: Elizabeth Beaton, Jude Benedetto, Isabelle Fencer, Charlotte Heald, and Hudson Kellar

Grade 7: Julia Boulay, Cody Brock, Parker Cully, Adam Fuller, Emma Holloway, Rowan Kimball, Emma Letendre, Tristan Levasseur, Kendall Osmer, and Skylar Pauley

Grade 8: Cameron Casale, Tanner Chinyanga, Chase Couture, Logan Daniels, Evan Ferruccio, Ewan Gauvreau, Amelia Grasson, Lyla Griffin, Adam Hann, Winston Kellar, Jacen Sanborn, Jonah White, Treyson Whitehouse, and Jacob Wood

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Opinion

SECTION A, PAGE 4

SALMON PRESS, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

Listening to the next generation

There is something quietly encouraging about watching young people stand up in front of their neighbors and speak about ethics, responsibility, and the choices that shape a community. The recent Gilford Rotary Club Four-Way Speech Contest offered exactly that kind of moment.

Public speaking contests are not new, and neither are student competitions. What makes this one stand out is its purpose. Rotary's Four-Way Test asks four simple questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Those questions may sound straightforward, but they are not easy to answer in a complicated world. Asking students to think about them carefully is a powerful exercise in civic maturity.

The topics chosen by this year's contestants showed how seriously they took that challenge.

First-place winner Emily Jacques explored how hobbies can prevent burnout and support mental health. That is a timely subject for students balancing academics, activities, expectations, and uncertainty about the future. Her message reflected an understanding that success is not only about achievement, but about resilience and balance.

Second-place finisher Sarah Khan addressed the influence of generative artificial intelligence. Few issues feel more current or more uncertain than the role AI will play in education and daily life. It takes courage to take on a topic still being debated by adults across the country. Her selection shows that local students are already thinking carefully about the ethical implications of emerging technology.

Third-place winner Kylie Kelly spoke about adoption, reminding listeners that questions of belonging, identity, and family continue to shape people's lives in meaningful ways. It was a topic rooted in empathy and perspective, and it demonstrated the kind of awareness communities benefit from hearing more often.

Additional participants Tristan Schofield and Jiya Patel also contributed thoughtful ideas and strong presentations, helping make the evening a true showcase of student leadership.

Events like this do more than reward individual achievement. They strengthen the connection between students and the wider community. When organizations such as the Gilford Rotary Club invest time and energy into mentoring young speakers, they are helping build habits of reflection, respect, and responsibility that last well beyond a single competition.

It is also worth recognizing the volunteers who made the contest possible. Judges, moderators, advisers, and coordinators play a quiet but essential role in encouraging young people to step forward and be heard. Their support sends a clear message that thoughtful voices matter here.

Perhaps most encouraging of all is what happens when students engage seriously with the Four-Way Test itself. Those four questions are not limited to speeches. They apply to classrooms, workplaces, town meetings, and everyday conversations between neighbors. They offer a framework for making decisions that strengthen trust rather than weaken it.

Communities often say they want young people to stay engaged and take ownership of the future. Programs like this show how that engagement begins. It starts with giving students a microphone, an audience, and the confidence that their ideas are worth sharing.

Gilford can take pride in the students who stepped forward this year, and in the organizations that helped make their voices part of the public conversation. When young people are encouraged to think clearly, speak honestly, and lead with integrity, the entire community benefits.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

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The following Kingswood Regional Middle School students received the After School Allstars Award for the month of March. In the first picture is Jaedyn Dean for her dedication to Skills USA. In the second picture is Mason Ouellet for his dedication to National History Day Club. Congratulations!

COURTESY

Letters to the Editor

It has been an honor to serve — and be a part of — the Governor Wentworth community

To the Editor:

Soon after my husband and I bought our home in New Durham in 2020, through the bleary eyed exhaustion that is unique to young parents of a newborn and a six year old, I distinctly remember him saying to me, "Now, finally, we can plant roots." He didn't mean just the garden.

Maybe it was the lockdown — it did breed a strange kind of loneliness. We weren't lonely, exactly; we had each other, and the kids, a cat, and suddenly a puppy — but in that general whirl of chaos and noise, we were lonely, in a particular way. We longed for community. We wanted to be known to our neighbors, to be regulars at the general store. We wanted to be known in the library — complete with recommendations! Community seemed like an assumed benefit of owning a home in a neighborhood, in a school district, and we were hungry for it. So as the mists and masks of Covid lifted, as the baby grew older and less fragile, and Zoom Kindergarten thankfully vanished into a bad memory, we threw ourselves into serving the community with gusto. School volunteering, PTO, Cub Scouts, Zoning Board. And then suddenly, I was the rep for New Durham on the School Board for the Governor Wentworth Regional School District, and suddenly again, I was the Vice Chair in my second year.

I can say, with a certain level of relief, that it's been a great pleasure to serve with the incumbent members of the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board for the past year. The board has grown in collegiality and a specific kind of like-mindedness — the kind where people have their own opinions, but in which we adamantly share and strive for the same goals. That like-mindedness is fertile ground for the growth of respect, which we have successfully cultivated by listening to one another. The board does not agree on everything, by any stretch of the imagination, but they can disagree with civility, and maintain collegiality because of that respectfulness. Serving the board in 2025-2026 was a very different experience for me than my first year, in 2024-2025, wherein I watched a group storm and clash like a thunderhead on a rampage, so loud and furious that you could hear nothing at all. At the end of that year, I considered leaving, to be honest — it was so dysfunctional. Things have changed remarkably since then, for the better, mostly as a result of changes in individuals, and the styles of engagement they have each brought to the board. I am particularly glad that I am no longer the only parent serving; we have had many parents serve now, and I think it has been exceptionally healthy. Parents serving on the school board bring a necessary, authentic voice to the work, and their direct knowledge of the schools brings a helpful perspective to others on the Board who do not have children attending in the district. Special thanks to GWRSD parent Kayla Hewitt, who also served the board for the past year and has now resigned, and to GWRSD parent Stephanie King of New Durham, who preceded me and set the trend.

It has been an honor for me to serve as the rep for New Durham. I am so proud of our little New Durham School, which has been such a wonderful place for my two kids. Like the other members of the board, I have given the district my time, my energy, and I have served as its shield and its sword, as different moments have asked of me. I did that work because of my own children, but I did it for yours too, and my neighbors, your neighbors, and the future of our towns. There is less lead in the water, there are more ways for students to challenge themselves in mathematics, there is fair compensation for our teachers, and there are stronger, common sense protections for this district, in part because I was here. I hope that the work I have done will, even in a small way, help forge a better pathway for the children of this community and those that choose Kingswood as their academic home until graduation.

But I must tell you that as of the end of this school year, the children that benefit from the work I have done here will not include my own. I have been offered, and I have accepted, a position at the University of Maryland. Effective as of April 10, I hereby resign my position on the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board. I cannot be a rep in a place where I no longer live, and very soon, my family and I will not be residents here.

I thank you all, sincerely, for the opportunity. In another life, I would have proudly offered to serve on the board until I counted the time in decades. Instead, I am heeding a different call, in another place.

So with that, in closing, I will offer the community some parting gifts.

To my fellow New Durham residents, and to members of the board, if Ms. Stefanie King offers her time and energy as a rep for New Durham again, I suggest you accept the offer, and proclaim a resounding, unequivocal "yes." She is dazzlingly overqualified, and would be an absolute blessing. If she does not offer it, I might suggest begging, or perhaps proffering baked goods to persuade her.

To Superintendent Arakelian, thank you for your partnership over the past two years; I know the depth of your care for the children in our schools, and after working together, I extend my deep respect to you.

To the community, please keep holding the board to the standard of the potential you see in your kids. They will rise to meet it, however they can — and if the winds bring storm clouds here again, know that change can be painful, but is sometimes necessary in the building of something valuable.

I wish each of you happiness, hope, and strength. The long road through the dark night is made bearable when you keep good company. I am glad to have known you for part of the way. We were happy to be your neighbors, for a time. Be well, and be kind to one another. Safe journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler
New Durham

WOW Trail enhancement project underway in Lakeport

LACONIA — Just as people across the region are starting to think about getting outside for a walk or bike ride, developer Scott Everett has launched a project that will make the Lakeport end of the WOW Trail and the emerging Opechee Loop safer and more appealing for all users.

The effort is one of the early phases in the development of the Opechee Loop, an extension of the WOW Trail that will take cyclists, runners and walkers safely around Lake Opechee on a course that will add close to six additional miles of recreation and transportation options for residents and visitors.

To support and enhance the project, Everett is collaborating with the WOW Trail and the city of Laconia.

Nate Guerette, director of the Laconia Department of Public Works and a member of the WOW Trail board, was instrumental in getting city approvals for the project, and Michelle DuPont, owner of Lake Opechee Inn and Spa, made the space available to make this phase of the expansion of the Lakeport section of the trail happen.

“The WOW Trail has been a fabulous addition to the city, and our customers have really appreciated having this amenity so close to our inn,” said Dupont. “We’re excited with the plans for the Opechee Loop and happy to help make this promenade section happen.”

Everett said, “The city really got behind this one. I was very pleased with that.”

Work began in early March to backfill the slope on the parking lot side of the sidewalk across from 51 Elm St. to make it level with the street.

Instead of widening the existing sidewalk for the Opechee Loop between Doris Ray Court and the WOW Trail terminus, as originally planned, trail users heading to or from the neighborhoods of Lakeport will be able to exit or enter the trail at Doris Ray Court and travel along a new 10-foot paved path that will connect directly to the WOW Trail.

“The trail will be a lot safer this way,” Everett said, noting that cyclists won’t have to ride by the post at the end of the trail and negotiate the curb and narrow sidewalk alongside heavy traffic.

He added that there will be a new pedestrian crossing near the entrance to Doris Ray Court, where the sidewalk was widened last fall, for a safe crossing to businesses across Elm Street.

“The focus is the continued beautification of Lakeport,” Everett said. “Clearly, this is another huge step towards that goal. I’m on a mission to make Lakeport great.”

The enhancement Everett is creating will be known as the promenade, and it will feature sitting benches to relax and enjoy the view of Lake Opechee, with ample space to gather, and a gazebo-like structure that will offer protection from the sun and rain may also be added.

“We want to make it a beautiful and functional space,” Everett added.

The WOW Trail has committed up to \$100,000 towards the promenade.

“We believe the promenade section will be a beautiful upgrade to our original plans of widening the sidewalk at this section,” said Allan Beetle, president of the WOW Trail. “We are also planning to sell person-



alized, engraved bricks and benches once the hardscape and landscape improvements are finalized to help fund this exciting project. It will be a great opportunity for the community to join in support of it.”

Everett is also planning a fundraiser at the Opera House to help defray the cost of construction.

Lakeport and downtown Laconia are currently linked by the WOW Trail, providing non-motorized options for residents and visitors to safely travel between these two growing business and cultural centers of Laconia.

The proposed Opechee Loop will include a mix of on-street enhancements, bike lanes and improved/widened sidewalks, Beetle said.

“We are currently working with the city, the state and the Laconia Village developers of the former state school property for the best route to connect through the development and into Ahern Park,” he added. “The Opechee Loop is designed to enhance safe pedestrian and bicycle connections from our residential neighborhoods to our business and arts districts, schools, beaches and parks.”

While the current WOW Trail/Winnisquam Scenic Trail in Laconia/Belmont is 4.25 miles, the Opechee Loop would expand the combined trails to nearly 10-miles of recreation for residents and visitors alike, including walkers, runners, bicyclists and inline skaters.

Yesterday, I was asked to cover for the gym teacher for last period, so I took my stuff down there a little early, found myself a chair and took to reading my book. Soon, the kids started showing up. They knew me as the sub and soon, all got balls of some sort and started throwing, kicking, or punching them around.

A girl showed up late who was obviously studying pretty. As she crossed in front of me, I could detect the cosmic energy between her and one of the boys as mutual smiles of acknowledgment transpired. Ah, young love.

Time passed as most of the boys were playing basketball down on the left end of the court. The girls were playing with soccer and volley balls on the other end. A couple kids sat on the floor wanting not to be involved.

The lone jock in the group took to kicking rocket kicks everywhere. One finally hit the pretty girl with the earrings on the head. She went to see the nurse. Hey, orange hair, you already hurt one of your classmates. Cool it with the kicks.

Big transition today; I'm the ski guy again up at the mountain. As I drove in, I

noticed that they had even groomed last night. That's unbelievable it being the end of March. The snow is usually too thin by now. Or more like it, nonexistent.

My supervisor brought in his big bull mastiff today and went out skijoring this morning. When he got back, he told me to go for a ski before it got too mushy. It's supposed to get up near sixty today. Big massive dogie tracks were evident in all the soft snow covering the trails.

Last week's snowstorm that didn't help much at my house really made a difference up here. The trails that I wouldn't subject my skis to on last week were all white and nice. Not groom-able, but still skiable. There were lots of tracks from other skiers like myself that take advantage of such situations. Who cares if the trails aren't open? I made it all the way up to the high country. First time this year.

When I made it back to the shack I checked the time, 55 minutes. Thank you, Lord; no more half hour till exhaustion. I'm improving!

It's so nice to feel the sun on my face. The other day I noted that my tan line was still evident. It won't

The entire Opechee Loop project is expected to exceed \$1 million dollars, and the city and the WOW Trail Committee will continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs where possible by combining construction of sidewalk improvements with other necessary roadway repairs, similar to the recent Elm Street bridge maintenance project, which widened a section of sidewalk along Elm Street.

The city currently has been approved for a federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant, off-setting

the cost of street repairs and sidewalk improvement from Franklin Street to the Elm Street School, work which is planned for 2028 or 2029.

Future sections of the Opechee Loop expansion will be planned by the city, with the WOW Trail collaborating with engineering planning and funding, including spearheading various grant sources and community fundraising.

For more information, including a proposed map of the Opechee Loop, visit wowtrail.org.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Stone

and sand. I don't know if I have enough stone, but I do now have a tractor that can spread it.

In addition to that, there's a rock that's been pushing up every winter that really needs to be extracted. My tractor does have a backhoe, so I do have the capability, but you never know how large a rock is till you start excavating it. My tractor is a small one, and the rock is right in the middle of the turnaround area. Ain't it always the way?

I'll just have to see where my motivations lie. A big rock could take all my stone, or more. The last one was huge. They just keep growing.

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Makers Mill offers week of creative April vacation workshops for youth

WOLFEBORO — Families looking for creative activities during April school vacation will find a full week of hands-on arts

Makers Mill Art Open Studio highlights community restoration project



COURTESY

Artist Phyllis MacDonald sits with a historic Windsor chair in the Fine Arts space at Makers Mill prior to its restoration, accompanied by her service animal, Millie. The chair, repaired by Makers Mill volunteers, will be refinished during a live demonstration at the free Art Adventures Open Studio on April 12.

WOLFEBORO — Makers Mill's monthly Art Adventures: Fine Arts Open Studio returns on Sunday, April 12 from 1 to 3:30 p.m., featuring a special live demonstration that brings out its character and history in a whole new way.

Once completed, the restored chair will be sold or auctioned, with proceeds supporting the Makers Mill shop circles that contributed to the project.

The Art Adventures Open Studio, held on the second Sunday of each month, is a welcoming, drop-in space for artists of all levels to explore materials, share ideas, and connect with others in the creative community.

MacDonald also leads the popular Joyful Art Techniques Series, a five-week class that encourages participants to explore a variety of artistic mediums in a relaxed, supportive environment. The next session begins Friday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Art Adventures Open Studio takes place in the second-floor Fine Arts space at Makers Mill, accessible by stairs or elevator. To learn more about Open Studio or register for upcoming classes, visit makersmill.org/events or call 603-569-1500.

Makers Mill is a nonprofit community makerspace located at 23 Bay Street in Wolfeboro. Free tours are offered every Friday and the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Woodshop volunteer Gardiner Hall crafted a new wooden arm to match the original design, while volunteer Jim Perkins repaired and reinforced the chair's base. Built entirely with wooden pegs, the chair represents both traditional craftsmanship and the value of restoration.

During the Open Studio, local artist and instructor Phyllis MacDonald will offer a free live demonstration as she begins refinishing the chair. She will share her process for layering paint and applying a darkened wax finish to achieve a vintage patina.

"It's about giving something old a new life," said MacDonald. "With the right techniques, you can



COURTESY

Beckett shows off his colorful mixed-media artwork created during a recent youth art class at Makers Mill. Similar hands-on projects will be part of the April Vacation Arts & Crafts Camp for youth ages eight to 13, running April 27 through May 1.

programming at Makers Mill. The nonprofit makerspace will host five youth workshops for ages eight to 13 from Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 1, giving young makers the chance to explore painting, mixed media, printmaking, leatherworking, and more.

Each workshop runs 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes a lunch break. Students may attend a single class or sign up for multiple days. Class sizes are intentionally small, limited to six students, to provide plenty of individual attention and hands-on learning.

The week begins Monday, April 27 with Fine Arts & Mixed Media, where students experiment with paint on canvas and add layered textures and materials to create dimensional artwork.

On Tuesday, April 28, the Decoupage Creations workshop introduces the art of layering paper cutouts, paint effects, and decorative elements such as gold leaf to create imaginative scenes sealed with Mod Podge.

The Wednesday, April 29 class, Printmaking Fun, teaches students how to carve their own design into a block and transform it into a re-

usable stamp, printing their artwork onto different surfaces.

On Thursday, April 30, Leatherworking Adventures invites students to craft a small leather pouch and create a decorative backpack charm using dyes and stamping tools.

The week concludes on Friday, May 1 with Paint Your Pet, where students bring a photo of a favorite animal and learn how to recreate it on glass with their own creative flair.

All workshops are taught by Jennifer MacLean, a Makers Mill instructor known for her engaging and inclusive teaching style. MacLean leads the Leather Circle at Makers Mill and teaches a variety of youth art programs. Her background as an occupational therapist and speech-language pathologist informs her thoughtful, adaptive approach to working with young learners.

Each workshop costs \$40, plus a \$5 materials fee. Students should bring a lunch, snack, and drink in a sealable container. Makers Mill also participates in the ClassWallet program for K-12 students. If you plan to register using ClassWallet please call Makers Mill directly to register as the process is different.

To learn more and register, visit makersmill.org/aprilkids or call 603-569-1500. Makers Mill is a nonprofit community makerspace located at 23 Bay St. in Wolfeboro. Free tours are offered every Friday and the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Alton Rotary hosts first successful Speaker Series installment on diabetes



ALTON — A big Thank You to our community for coming out to support the Alton Centennial Rotary's first Speaker's Series installment on "The Diabetes Challenge: Facts, Risks, Real Solutions."

Jane Hackett, a Certified Diabetes Care and

Education Specialist from Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro, gave an informative, easy to understand presentation on one of New Hampshire's major chronic disease priorities.

Several attendees commented, "I got some good information tonight for my friend with diabetes."

Another shared, "Great topic. The diabetes educator was wonderful." More programs are being planned that will help you live well with or help prevent health issues to improve your

quality of life.

If you are looking for a richly rewarding experience to make positive changes doing good for others, join or volunteer with the Alton Centennial Rotary Team. Contact us at altoncentrotary@gmail.com or call Duane at 603-569-3745.

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Wolfeboro area nonprofits unite to strengthen support for local families



WOLFEBORO — A new collaborative effort among nonprofit organizations in the Wolfeboro area is helping local agencies connect, share resources, and address community needs more effectively.

The Community Forum with Nonprofit Agencies in the Wolfeboro Area began meeting in November 2025, during the temporary government shutdown, when the threat of families losing their SNAP benefits emerged. Community leaders recognized the importance of acting quickly and coordinating support for families who might be experiencing financial hardship and/or food insecurity. Jan Brooks, a key coordinator for the Wolfeboro Area Chapter of End 68 Hours of Hunger, initiated the first gathering and the group now meets monthly via Zoom to share updates, discuss emerging needs, and identify ways to further collaborate to meet the needs of families.

The forum's participants represent several mission oriented organizations that all support families and children, including local churches All Saints Episcopal Church and The First Congregational Church Wolfeboro, UCC; food assistance programs including Life Ministries Food Pantry and End 68 Hours of Hunger; GWRSD school for Knights Against Hunger and Kingswood Youth Group; and Wolfeboro's local early childhood education and childcare provider, The Children's Center. Together, the forum works to strengthen communication between agencies and develop collaborative solutions that help ensure families have access to essential services and community resources.

According to Brooks, the group's shared intent was to "come together and discuss what we offer families who may be in

need of some support — be it food, clothing, shelter... to then determine what's missing and what we could do to expand our reach so that ultimately more constituents have access to our services. Our aim is not only to support but to coordinate our services." Since its formation, the forum has already implemented several initiatives aimed at improving food and family resource access throughout the community.

Among the accomplishments:

"The Little Food Pantry" — Located in front of All Saints Episcopal Church and across from the local public library, this pantry offers easily accessible food items, with a focus on supporting middle and high school students who may need quick, convenient meals or snacks. (see picture)

Mini Food Pantry at The Children's Center — From November through February, a mini food pantry was also set up in the lobby of The Children's Center. Enrolled families were able to access food items and collect a bro-

chure listing local food pantries and community resources available.

Satellite Diaper Depot — A new satellite diaper depot has been established at The First Congregational Church in Wolfeboro, UCC to provide diapers and infant supplies for families in need.

"When nonprofit agencies in Wolfeboro come together through the Community Forum, we create

a space to address today's issues, share resources, and inspire the ideas and services our community needs for tomorrow," said Meghan Berry, Social Worker at The Children's Center in Wolfeboro. "By communicating regularly and sharing resources, we are able to identify gaps, respond more quickly to emerging needs, and ensure that families know where to turn for support."

In addition to these projects, the forum continues to meet and is committed to exploring ways to improve commu-

nication about available services, develop shared resource guides for the community, and identify gaps where additional support may be needed.

Community members or organizations interested in learning more about this ad hoc group or its work are encouraged to contact Jan Brooks at Oss-TuftWolf@end68hoursofhunger.org for additional information.

About the Community Forum with Nonprofit Agencies in the Wolfeboro Area

The Community Forum with Nonprofit Agencies in the Wolfeboro Area is a collaborative group of local nonprofit organizations, churches, and community partners working together to address the needs of families in the region. Formed in November 2025, the forum meets regularly to share resources, identify gaps in services, and coordinate initiatives that support food security, family well-being, and access to community resources.



The following Kingswood Regional Middle School students received the March Super Knights Award for "Cooperation." In the first row are Gabe Giessler and Ava Madore. In the second row are McKayla Campbell and Aubrey Noyes. In the third row are Larry Ramsey and Carter Wilber. In the fourth row are Lillianna Tufts and Jules Bennet. In the fifth row are Lincoln Bilodeau and Owen Hart. Congratulations!

COURTESY

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SPORTS

Gunstock gearing up for Snowmobile Mountain Madness

GILFORD — While many parts of the country are experiencing record-shattering heat and humidity, northern New England is still hanging on to winter. The calendar may say it's Spring, but Mother Nature has had other ideas as April looms just around the corner.

Thanks to a sizable snowfall last Sunday that dumped 6-8 inches of powder across much of the White Mountains and surrounding areas, conditions are looking ideal for X Racing's upcoming Snowmobile Mountain Madness event at Gunstock Mountain Resort on Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12.

Admission is \$25 per

day for adults, or \$40 for a weekend pass. Children age 10 and under will be admitted free with a paying adult. Spectator gates open at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, with Hillcross racing getting under way at 11 a.m. On Sunday, gates open at 10:30 with Snowcross racing starting at 11 a.m.

"It's encouraging to see it still snowing like that in New Hampshire," X Racing's Joe Duncan said. "The team at Gunstock had an ample stockpile of snow for us anyway, but this natural snow is just icing on the cake. We'll have plenty of it to create great tracks for Hillcross, Snowcross and Sunday Funday.

"Holding onto a large

amount of snow for a race like this can be a challenge, but it sure helps when the temperatures stay cool and natural snow continues to fall. I'm excited to see all of the racers out there come enjoy what we're planning at Gunstock. It'll be a great way to close out their winter season."

Vintage Snow Ovals have been added to Sunday's schedule, with racing from 1 to 4 p.m. Racers will compete on a flat, snow-filled track, with semi-banked corners. Preregistration is mandatory, and any class with less than three racers

will be eliminated from the program. As always, they can add any class that brings in five or more riders.

Plans are also well under way for another exciting season of sanctioned sled racing in New England for 2027 and beyond. X Racing is looking at long-term deals with quality venues; evidenced by the fact that both Gunstock and Wheeler Spring MX in Maine are wanting multi-year plans for race dates.

"To do it right in any part of the country, you need a high-quality site and a three-year period at least to build

the event to see if it has long-term potential," Duncan added. "You can't really judge it from the results of one year alone. It takes time and effort to build it up and get an event established."

Gunstock is a four-season mountain resort that offers year-round fun and adventure, with skiing and snowboarding on 227 skiable acres and 49 trails. The Gunstock initiative started in 1935 when members of the Winnepesaukee Ski Club cut some cross-country trails through the Belknap Mountains.

X Racing is a sanction-

ing body for snowmobile racing based in Elk River, Minn. X Racing strives to maintain regional race circuits in the upper Midwest and Northeast to keep the sport thriving. It operates on a philosophy of affordable racing, keeping costs to a minimum for families who love sleds.

For more information about historic Gunstock Mountain Resort, go to www.gunstock.com. To learn more about X Racing, please go to www.SundayFundayX.com.

PSU soccer programs announce summer camps

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth State University men's and women's soccer programs have released the details of their summer Panther Soccer ID camps.

The programs will host their sixth annual Panther Soccer ID Camps in mid-July. The full-day sessions run from 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers will run technical and tactical training sessions, compete in

games, participate in a collegiate soccer presentation, and tour the campus with lunch in Prospect Dining Hall also included. Campers will receive a PSU soccer t-shirt and post-camp access to video footage to create their own highlight videos. The boys' ID camp is set for Thursday, July 16, with the girls' ID camps on Friday, July 17. Camp fees are \$145, with discounted

rates for siblings.

The Panther Soccer ID Camps offer high school players aged 16 and up the opportunity to train and play games in the Plymouth State environment while gaining insight into the college recruitment process. Participants will also learn what it takes to succeed physically, emotionally, technically, and tactically at the collegiate

level. Both events are run by head coaches Rob Wright and Sammy Blizzard Bogardus and their coaching staffs and are limited to 28 participants.

Registration links, waiver forms, detailed information, and camp brochures can be found on the department website at athletics.plymouth.edu/camps.

Ducks Unlimited annual dinner set for April 11

FRANKLIN — The Daniel Webster Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its 37th annual dinner banquet auction on Saturday, April 11, at 4:30 p.m. at The Franklin Lodge of Elks on 125 South Main St. in Franklin. James Cropsey is Area Chairman this year. Nearly 6,200 local Ducks Unlimited fundraising events throughout the country contribute towards Ducks Unlimited's national fundraising effort achieving 88 percent efficiency, resulting in 88 cents of each dollar raised being spent on wetland acquisition or improvement.

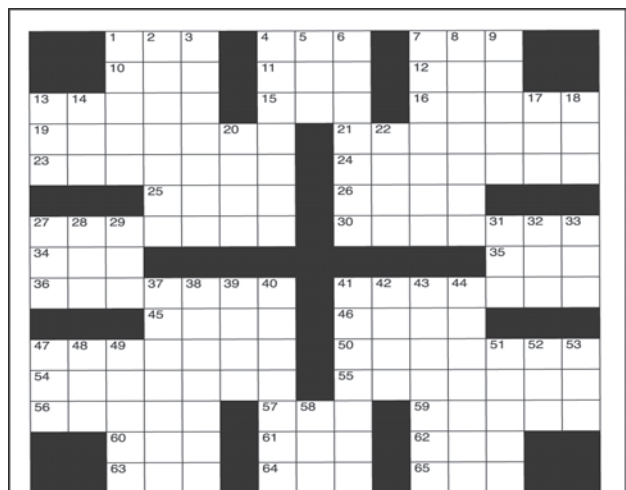
Each year the United States loses some 140,000 acres of wetland habitat. Since its inception, Ducks Unlimited has raised more than one billion dollars and enhanced and restored nearly 15 million habitat acres, encompassing more than 15,000 wetland projects, in an effort to reverse this destructive trend. Prime wetlands sequester more carbon than any other habitat with .39 metric tons on average per acre each year. DU's projects provide habitat for more than 600 wildlife species, including ducks, geese, and endangered or threatened species

like the whooping crane and bald eagle.

While Ducks Unlimited has accomplished a great deal since its founding in 1937, the rapid draining of our wetlands demands that the organization continue to accelerate its work. Efforts like those of the Daniel Webster Chapter are a vital part of Ducks Unlimited's efforts.

Order your tickets for cash or check today. Dinner tickets cost \$100 for an individual and \$120 for a couple while youths under 18 years of age are \$65. All attending youths win prizes. Sponsor tickets

are \$325 for an individual ticket. Sponsors will have a one in eight chance of winning a gun of their choice from a vast selection. Sponsors need not be present to win. Buy a table of eight for \$900 and receive the choice of a Traditions scoped muzzle loading rifle or a Traditions 1851 Colt Navy Revolver Reproduction. To purchase tickets or for information on how you can support Ducks Unlimited's program of wetlands conservation, contact Steve Saulten at 603-289-2109 or Jim Cropsey at 603-286-9633. You may also order online at www.ducks.org.

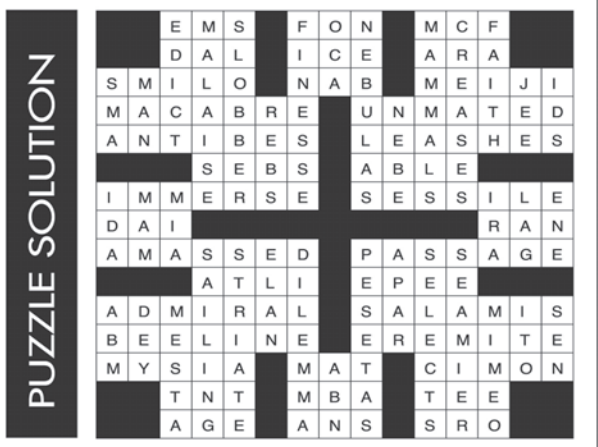


CLUES ACROSS

1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involve oneself deeply
30. Immobile
34. ___ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
35. Move quickly on foot
36. Gathered
41. A way through
45. Another name for Thor
46. Sharp dueling sword
47. The supreme commander of a fleet
50. Seasoned sausages
54. Path
55. Christian hermit
56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
57. Where wrestlers go to work
59. Roman statesman
60. Explosive
61. Licensed for Wall Street
62. Where golfers start
63. Grow old
64. Autonomic nervous system
65. No seats available

CLUES DOWN

1. A legally binding command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding
9. Strong belief
13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. One's mother (British)
29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)



Church Service SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT HARVEST FAMILY CHURCH
Pastor Ryan Blackard
Sunday School for children up to age 12, service 10:30 a.m. Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main St., Union.
Pastors Daniel and Sherie Williams, 473-8914. For more information, please visit abundantharvestnh.org or e-mail ahfc@faith.com.

ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER
Sundays throughout the summer 10am & 7pm 875-6161.

BEFREE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ALTON
Alton 9:30a.m. Sun. Meeting at Prospect Mountain High School. Pastor Ben Ruhl, www.befreechurch.net.

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship Service 10:00am
Bible Study 11:15am
Rte 126 next to Town Hall
Call or Text (603) 269-8831
centerbarnsteadcc.org

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF PRAISE C.C.O.P. PRAISE GATHERING
Every Saturday @ 5:30pm at the Iron Works church, 1802 NH Route 140, Gilmanton Ironworks, NH
ccopraisegathering@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALTON
Pastor Jared Cassidy
10am Worship service Sunday
20 Church St. Alton
(603) 875-5561
www.ccoalton.com

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BARNSTEAD, UCC
Sunday School and Worship Services
Rev. Kate Kennedy
603-776-1820
Our services are in person at 504 North Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, NH and live-streamed on Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m.
ccnorthbarnstead.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FARMINGTON
Worship Services: 10:00 AM
400 Main Street
Farmington, NH 03835
www.farmingtonnhucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW DURHAM NH
Sun. School 9:30am; Church 10:30am; Evening Service 6pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting 7pm, Depot St., New Durham;

JOY CHURCH
55 Barnstead Road
Pittsfield, NH 03263
Sunday Celebration 9:30 am
Prayer Night- 1st Wed of every month 6:30 pm
Pastors Mike & Kathy Mavity
joychurchnh.com

PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BARNSTEAD, N.H.
on the Parade in Barnstead
Sunday Morning Worship Service callages begin at 9:00am.
Prayer Meeting- April through November at 7:00pm on Wednesday Evenings.
Pastor Sandy Pierson - 483-2846

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Father Robert F. Cole, Pastor.
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Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am;
Daily Mass Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:00am.

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Rev. Miriam Acevedo with Rev. Stephen Ekerberg
www.ststephenspittsfield.com

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- Thursday, April 9
GILFORD
Boys' Tennis vs. Kearsarge; 4
Friday, April 10
BELMONT
Track Home Meet; 4
GILFORD
Boys' Tennis at St. Thomas; 4
Girls' Tennis vs. St. Thomas; 4
Track at Belmont; 4
WINNISQUAM
Track at Belmont; 4
Monday, April 13
BELMONT
Baseball vs. Prospect Mountain; 4
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Derbyfield; 4
Softball vs. Prospect Mountain; 4
GILFORD
Boys' Lacrosse at Plymouth; 4
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Inter-Lakes; 4
WINNISQUAM
Baseball vs. Somersworth; 4
Softball vs. Somersworth; 4
Tuesday, April 14
GILFORD
Boys' Tennis at Kearsarge; 4
Girls' Tennis vs. Kearsarge; 4
WINNISQUAM
Track at Monadnock; 4
Wednesday, April 15
BELMONT
Baseball at Bishop Brady; 4
Girls' Lacrosse at Gilford; 4
Softball at Bishop Brady; 4:30
GILFORD
Baseball at Mascoma; 4
Boys' Lacrosse at Ken- nnett; 4
Boys' Tennis vs. Pros- pect Mountain; 4
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Bel- mont; 4
Softball at Mascoma; 4
WINNISQUAM
Baseball at Berlin; 4
Softball at Berlin; 4
All schedules are subject to change.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

- Thursday, April 9
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Girls' Tennis at White Mountains; 4
Friday, April 10
KENNETT
Boys' Tennis at Plym- outh; 4
Girls' Tennis vs. Plym- outh; 4
Track at Belmont; 4
KINGSWOOD
Girls' Tennis vs. Ports- mouth; 4
Saturday, April 11
KINGSWOOD
Track at Pelham; 10
Monday, April 13
KENNETT
Baseball vs. Laconia; 4
Boys' Tennis vs. Alvime; 4
Girls' Lacrosse vs. King- swood; 4
Softball vs. Laconia; 4
KINGSWOOD
Girls' Lacrosse at Ken- nett; 4
Girls' Tennis at Bow; 4
Track at Manchester West; 4
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Baseball at Belmont; 4
Boys' Tennis vs. White Mountains; 4
Softball at Belmont; 4
Tuesday, April 14
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Girls' Tennis vs. St. Thomas; 4
Wednesday, April 15
KENNETT
Baseball vs. Hol- lis-Brookline; 4
Boys' Lacrosse vs. Gil- ford; 4
Boys' Tennis vs. Ports- mouth; 4
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Keene; 4
Girls' Tennis at Ports- mouth; 4
KINGSWOOD
Baseball at Plymouth; 4
Boys' Lacrosse at Tim- berlane; 4
Girls' Lacrosse at Tim- berlane; 4
Girls' Tennis at Pem- broke; 4
Softball at Plymouth; 4
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Baseball vs. Kearsarge; 4
Boys' Tennis at Gilford; 4
Softball vs. Kearsarge; 4
Thursday, April 16
KENNETT
Boys' Lacrosse vs. Trin- ity; 4
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Track at Berlin; 4
All schedules are subject to change.

SPORTS

Golden Eagle track girls have eyes on Division III title

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Gilford track and field team is pretty small this year, but first-year head coaches Ryan LaFrance and Sara Godek expect that the Golden Eagles will be highly competitive in the new season.

“Our girls’ team will challenge for the Division

III state championship title,” said LaFrance. “They are seemingly in a good position coming off a third place finish at the indoor Division II championship.”

The girls will be led by Macy Sawyer, who won individual indoor titles in the 55 meters and 300 meters and also qualified for the New Balance Indoor Nationals in the 200 and the

400 meters.

Maria Tilley is also back for the Golden Eagles and will be looking to improve on her third place finish in the 3,200 meters at last year’s Division III State Meet and a sixth place finish at the Meet of Champions. She also won two individual Nordic skiing championships this winter as well.

Emily Aguiar and Grace

Southworth return as the team’s hurdlers and are coming off great indoor seasons with Aguiar fourth in last year’s Division III State Meet 300 meters and Southworth is improved as the two continually challenge each other.

Ninth grader Pearl Marvel had incredible improvement during the indoor season with a season best of 17

feet, 8.75 inches in the long jump, which is nearly a foot further than last year’s outdoor Division III champion.

“Let’s just say several school records are likely to go down,” LaFrance stated, noting the 4X400-meter team of Aguiar, Southworth, Marvel and Sawyer won the Division II indoor championships and ran a season best at New Englands.

Amongst the boys, senior Gunnar Marvel will be working in the throws and the sprints and sophomore John LaValley will be a key in the throwing events. Senior Landon Akerstrom returns in the hurdles and sophomore William Reinhardt will be a top competitor in the distance events.

“Preseason practices

have focused on building a strong fitness base with athletes embracing the transition into the new season,”

LaFrance said. “The team has also benefited from the addition of coach Sara Godek, who’s experience as a multi-event athlete has already made a positive impact, particularly in helping athletes develop strength in the weight room.”

The Golden Eagles will host one meet on May 19 and will also compete at Belmont, Sanborn, Coe-Brown, Newfound, Belmont and Inter-Lakes.

The season kicks off on Friday, April 10, at Belmont.

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

Bourdeau takes helm for Kingswood baseball

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — The Kingswood baseball team made it all the way to the Final Four last year, but a lot of graduation losses have the Knights looking to plug a few gaps if they want to get back to that spot.

The Knights will also be led by a new coach, as Erick Bourdeau steps into the varsity job. He served as the boys’ soccer coach last fall and is also the former varsity baseball coach at Prospect Mountain, where he was an All-State catcher for coaching legend Bubba Noyes.

“For a team that made the Final Four last year, but graduated a lot of seniors, there’s a lot of unknowns for this team,” Bourdeau noted. “Hosting a first-round game is always the first goal on the board.”

Kingswood will be led



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kolby Brown and Nate Cloos will be leading the way for the Kingswood baseball team this spring.

by returning All-State players Nate Cloos and Kolby Brown. Cloos will be the team’s starting shortstop and will also see time on the mound while Brown will be the team’s number one starting option on the hill and will also play first base and both bring solid bats to the

top and middle of the lineup. Cloos is closing in on his 100th career hit, a significant accomplishment given the number of games on the schedule each year.

Bourdeau also has a number of players coming back to the diamond who will be playing expanded

roles in the new season, with Tavin Herget, Brendan MacPhee, Brady Moulton and Nolan Chominski all expected to play larger roles as they take the field this spring.

The roster is rounded out by Colby Hewitt, Aaren Swain-Derosier, Bryan Purington, Zach Speigner and Mason Beaulieu.

The Knights will play a schedule that includes two games each with rivals Plymouth, Kennett and Laconia and single games with Pelham, John Stark, Souhegan, Oyster River, Merrimack Valley, Sanborn, Coe-Brown, St. Thomas and Bow.

The season officially kicks off on Wednesday, April 15, at Plymouth at 4 p.m.

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

Timber Wolf tennis girls have eyes on playoff berth

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

ALTON — With a team full of focused and effort, coach Tom Hayward is excited to see where the Prospect Mountain girls’ tennis team can go in the new season.

“The kids have been outstanding, their effort and focus have been wonderful and we have seen a lot of improvement,” Hayward said. “The play of the freshmen and sophomores have been a little surprising in a positive way. They are way ahead of where I thought they would be at this point.”

Returning to the lineup for the Timber Wolves this spring are senior Laney Henry in the second spot, sophomore Peyton McAneny in the third spot, junior Katie Jones in the fifth spot and sophomore Kaelyn Lemire in the eighth spot.

The team is also bolstered by the addition of a few newcomers, including Belgian foreign exchange student Lena Lemotte, who will start the season at the top of the lineup. Junior Maddy Howlett and ninth

grader Amelia Gentile are expected to start the season in the top six while senior Maddie Miller, ninth grader Skye Greenwood, sophomore Tegan Pelham, sophomore Rebekah Thomas and ninth grader Evelyn Holmes round out the roster and will be competing for playing time.

“Our number one goal is to make the tournament this year,” Hayward said. “I have no idea if we will, but we definitely have the ability to do so.”

The Timber Wolves will play a schedule that includes two games each with Berlin, White Mountains, Lebanon and St. Thomas and single games with Gilford, Moultonborough, Inter-Lakes, Profile, Sanborn and Trinity.

The season kicked off after deadline Monday, April 6, against Gilford and Wednesday, April 8, at Lebanon and continues today, April 9, at White Mountains and Tuesday, April 14, at home against St. Thomas, both at 4 p.m.

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

Knight lacrosse girls dedicated and motivated

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — While the numbers are a little down this year, the dedication and motivation is there for the Kingswood girls’ lacrosse team as coach Ali Cushing returns to the sidelines for another season.

“I see great things for this team,” Cushing said. “We have some very dedicated players who are in it to win it.”

“The players look hungry and motivated,” she continued. “Skills were not as rusty as in years past because players had the opportunity to play in a sixes league this winter.”

The good news for Cushing is that she has a solid stable of returning athletes she can lean on as the season gets under way.

For seniors Issy Fournier will lead in the midfield with great field vision and versatility while classmate Addy Ingham is fast and furious on the field and will be looked at for her speed to help put the ball in the net. Kylee King is a selfless player who can play anywhere from goal to offense.

For juniors, Ady Arsenault will be leading the defense from the net on the back of the defense while Lainey Clarke will be a leader on offense with a good shooting sense. Avery Gilpatrick will be a key piece of the defense, making connections to transitions out of the zone with great field visions and Ava Waldron can play anywhere and makes great drives to the goal and is hungry for the net.

Amongst sophomores, Hadley Aucoin is a young leader on defense



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kylee King and Ava Waldron will be key pieces to the puzzle for the Kingswood girls’ lacrosse team this spring.

with good field vision, Camella Cushing has great shot selection, is versatile with good field vision, Riley Lamparter helps everywhere on the field with her speed and versatility and Ella Parent transitions well in the midfield and is a solid shooter.

The Knights have a couple of newcomers, with Jordyn Martineau looking to help out in goal after leading the field hockey team in net in the fall season while ninth graders Maya Beaulieu and Stella Friesen should chip in right away with their aggressiveness, versatility and speed.

“Our team goal is to have a better record than last season, meaning that we are looking for a better spot in the bracket come tournament time,” Cushing said. “As a team, we have set a goal of going non-dominant more often, reading the opponents’ offense and utilizing everyone as a team member on the field.”

The Knights will be playing a schedule that includes two games with rival Kennett and single games with Keene, Alvirne, Winnacunnet,

Oyster River, Timberlane, Spaulding, Merrimack, Merrimack Valley, Manchester Memorial, Hollis-Brookline, Hanover and Goffstown.

The season kicks off on Monday, April 13, at Kennett and continues on Wednesday, April 15, at home against Timberlane, both at 4 p.m.

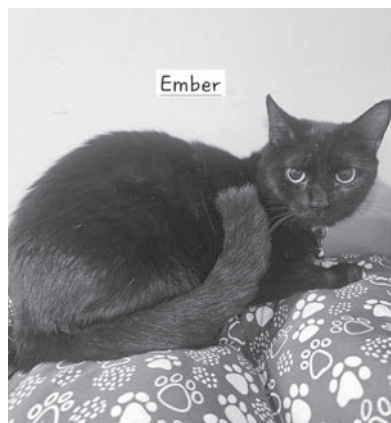
Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Ember!

Ember is a sleek all-black beauty with glowing orange eyes that seem to shine in the dark She carries herself with a quiet, calm presence and prefers to observe the world before jumping in.

Of the two sisters, Ember is the more chilled-out one She moves at her own pace, taking everything in with steady confidence. You’ll often find her in cozy, dimly lit spots, keeping watch and minding her very important business



We’re still getting to know Ember, as she tends to keep a little mystery about her — but that just makes earning her trust all the more special. She would thrive in a patient home that appreciates a calm, shadowy companion with mesmerizing eyes and a gentle spirit

If you’re drawn to quiet elegance and midnight magic, Ember may just be your perfect girl.



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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	102 Loon Cove Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$3,289,533	Breda Fiscal Trust and David A. Breda	Idlewild 2 0 LLC
Barnstead	N/A	N/A	\$280,000	Diana Tate-Arrington Estate and Peter Minkow	James S. Tate
Gilford	164 Edgewater Dr.	Single-Family Residence	\$6,650,000	Angel T. and Amanda Mahoney	Vmisata Trust and Vlad Y. Barbalat
Gilford	2393 Lake Shore Rd.	Condominium	\$410,000	Mariyn K. Marchant Trust and Jean Marchant	Lloyd Edwin and Deborah Ellen Walker
Gilford	Stark Street	N/A	\$200,000	M.G. Wilcox Supplemental Need and Jennifer Douzanis	Christopher Konikowski
Gilford	N/A	N/A	\$70,000	David W. Keough Estate and Timothy Keough	Dawn Anne Bell
Gilmanton	56 North Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$440,000	Joshua J., Sr. and Trisha A. Ellis	Robert and Melody Pritchard
Gilmanton	N/A	N/A	\$425,000	Joseph F. III and Alex Michael Mealey	Brianna Beaumont and Ryan Jacobson
New Durham	152 Kings Highway	Single-Family Residence	\$350,000	Patti Liamos	David and Lisa Keslar

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www.thewarrengroup.com

MEDIA NIGHT

(continued from Page A1)

letes. The athletes noted that the previous Monday was the first time they had gotten outside on the track.

"It's going good, we haven't really taken a break since indoor track," said junior Lexi Baker. "We kind of just kept going."

"We (boys' team) want to send as many to Division II championships as we can and then some top performers on to the Meet of Champions," said senior Evan Thurston. "We've got a

great chance to send a few people to New Englands."

"It's going to be tricky (to reach the goals) with so many people, but we have a great coaching staff that's working to focus on individualized training, which is helping," said senior Grady Steele.

"We want to work on pushing ourselves to do our best, each day getting better and pushing forward as a group," said junior Saige Griffin. "A few to New Englands is a great goal for us too."

Next up, was the

girls' tennis team, with senior captain Anya Polini taking the podium for coach Jillian Lawlor's squad. She noted the team has been working at the Gilford Hills indoor courts, working on drills and conditioning and getting the younger players situated in hopes of getting out on the courts ahead of the start of the season.

"We want to make sure the younger girls have the same drive to improve and come together as a team," Polini noted.

Coach Ali Cushing's

girls' lacrosse team was up next, with senior Kylee King and junior Ava Waldron taking the podium

"Being positive is a bit thing for us and pushing through to the end," King said. "Definitely playoffs, that's the goal and at least the second round again."

"Putting all our efforts in at practice and coming together as a team," Waldron said about the way she felt the team could reach the goals that her teammate put out there.

The Division II de-

fending champion Kingswood softball team was up next with captains Anna Johnson, Caelynn Blattenberger, Makenzie Boisvert and Lily Scott along with senior Zoe Scripture and senior manager Joy Peterson taking the podium.

"Just doing more team bonding and growing as a team," Johnson said about the way she thinks the team can get back to the championship for the third time in four years.

"I think as a team if we work together we can be where we were

last year and maybe even better," Blattenberger added.

"There's always room for improvement," Boisvert noted. "We're going to set goals and make sure we reaching those goals by working hard and no off days."

"It's been going pretty well," Scott said. "We have a lot of potential, we push each other and we're all super supportive of each other."

"We're really strong and our friendship really backs that up," Scripture said, while Peterson noted that her friendships amongst her teammates was her favorite thing about the group as a whole.

The Kingswood baseball team was up next for coach Erick Bourdeau, with seniors Kolby Brown and Nate Cloos coming to the podium.

"We had a bit of a shakeup (Bourdeau took over right before the official start of preseason), but Erick has been awesome and we've been putting in the work," Brown stated. "He's pushing us hard and is doing good things for us."

"We're going to work hard from the start and see what the outcome is," said Cloos. "We have a lot of seniors and it's a good chance for us to come together one last time, it's going to be a fun season."

Ryker Booth, the senior captain for coach Mike Manning's boys' lacrosse team, was unable to make media night, but took time to answer questions by e-mail about his squad's goals moving into the season.


"Looking back to last season, we didn't accomplish enough to get to where we believed we could go. We felt like we were a strong, competitive team that could sneak into playoffs and compete with any given team, and we still feel like that this year," Booth said. "We return with a great core, only graduating three big names last year and we have the depth to fill those roles in seamlessly."

"We're looking to make it back to the playoffs, taking each game one at a time, and that starts with our preseason and jamborees," he continued. "Don't be surprised when we're in at the end of the season, we're coming."

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



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MLS# 5076230

Laconia: Located in the sought-after gated community of Long Bay on Lake Winnepesaukee, this 4-bedroom home features a bright main living area with new quartz countertops and a gas fireplace.

\$949,000



MLS# 5065376

Moultonborough: This well-maintained 3-bedroom home in a low-tax area offers deeded access to over 300 feet of shared sandy beach on Lake Winnepesaukee. The open floor plan includes a walk-out lower level.

\$1,900,000



MLS# 5081295

Meredith: Situated in a prestigious gated community, this expansive 7-bedroom home offers breathtaking panoramic views of Winnepesaukee and the mountains. Residents enjoy access to a private beach, clubhouse & more!

\$675,000



MLS# 5081483

New Durham: This well-cared-for seasonal home features 113.74' of prime shoreline on crystal clear Merymeeting Lake. The 3-bedroom, fully furnished residence includes an updated kitchen, wood floors, and a gorgeous sunroom with mountain views.

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When it comes to the New Hampshire market, experience is the difference. Roche Realty Group has closed over 11,000 transactions and \$3.4 Billion in sales earning the title of "#1 BEST Real Estate Company in NH's Lakes Region" six years in a row

* Statistics obtained from PrimeMLS since 1997 for all real estate firms reporting sales in the entire state of NH during that time.

Town of Alton answers frequently asked revaluation questions

ALTON — In an effort to address questions regarding a townwide property revaluation currently underway, the Assessing office for the town of Alton has issued a Revaluation FAQ fact sheet.

What is a revaluation?

A Revaluation is the comprehensive process of aligning property values in a municipality with market value as of a given date. A revaluation utilizes appraisal techniques to analyze data from existing real estate sales to arrive at standardized land and building base rates that, when applied properly, determine a reasonable prediction of the most likely sale price for properties as of the appraisal date. In New Hampshire, that date is April 1 of the revaluation year by law.

Why is a revaluation performed?

The New Hampshire Constitution and laws mandate that all municipalities bring their assessments to market value at most every five years. It is important to remember that the real estate market is rarely stable, or unchanging, and that changes in the real estate market over time have compounding consequences to the collective "fair share." Because all properties do not appreciate or depreciate at the same rate, it becomes very important to adjust assessments for each segment of the market. This can be

visualized as leveling a see-saw: ideally all properties will be assessed at their fair market value (a level see saw) and all property will be contributing its fair share of taxes. Alton last revalued in 2021.

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How do I make sense of my new assessment?

Your assessment is only meaningful in how it relates to other assessments. By itself, your assessment is just a number. It is often shocking to property owners when they see their new assessments. If you were not following the real estate market or buying/selling property, you may be unaware of changes in the value of your property. Please do not apply the previous year's tax rate to your new assessment! While we cannot say exactly what the new tax rate will be, there are many variables, we can say that the new tax rate will not be the same as the previous year. Some math is necessary to explain this: the tax rate is determined by calculating the dollars to be raised by taxes (Town+County+School budgets) and dividing that by the sum of all taxable assessments. As a result, if the budget remains unchanged and the value of the town increases, the resulting rate will be lower.

What are the components of an assessment?

Assessments are a value appraisal of land and improvements on a given property. For a residentially developed property, the property record card will include a value for the home, a value for any given features (garages, pools, docks, sheds, etc.) and a value for the land. Building and feature values are determined by base rates (generally dollars per

square foot or unit price per item). Land is valued as a site value (minimum lot size in the zoning district) plus residual (any acreage above the minimum site size).

The reason for valuing land this way is that the Alton Zoning Ordinance prescribes that any single property may only have one dwelling. So regardless of the amount of land you own, you may only build one house. Therefore, any land in excess of the amount necessary to create a building lot is far less valuable, and adds less to the assessment. 5. 6. 7.

How do I know if my new assessment is accurate?

An assessment is determined using appraisal techniques (Mass Appraisal). It is not a direct appraisal of your property. The very best way to know your property's value at any given time is to have it professionally appraised. A comparative analysis of similar properties is a good approach: look at your neighbors' assessments, and compare them with your own. A list of assessments is provided on the town Web site at www.alton.nh.gov.

Do I need to have an informal hearing?

If you have questions about your assessment, or feel that you can provide information to the assessor as to why your assessment is not accurate, you should make an appointment to have an informal hearing.

The assessing office wishes to ensure the equity and uniformity of all assessments, and wishes to work together with you to ensure that your assessment is fair. Please be prepared for your appointment, whether in person or by phone, with any information you have to demonstrate your property value. Please note that the office staff assigned to assist you are not able to answer questions about assessments, and are trying to help you. They understand that you may be frustrated or confused, but please try to maintain civility with the person trying to assist you, as they will with you. Please do not call other town departments if it is difficult to reach the assessing office during the scheduling process. We will have many calls coming to our office, and can only work with one at a time. If you do not get a direct answer to your call, please leave a message, we will return your call as promptly as possible, and we thank you in advance for your patience.

What do I do if I still disagree with my assessment?

Any property owner who disagrees with their assessment has the right to apply for an abatement on or before March 1 following the final tax bill. While we strive to make corrections to property values where there is evidence that we need to, we do not always agree that a reduction needs to be made. Please understand that the

assessing office has the obligation to maintain fair and proportional assessments, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Once we have determined the base land and building rates, they apply equally to all properties. We cannot change individual property values without a reason. If your

property has a problem that we are not aware of, or has a miscalculation or error, we will fix it. If you simply feel that the property value is "too high", without evidence of why, we cannot change it if the same methodology applies to similar properties. Again, if you feel that the assessment is disproportionately high,

and your issue was not addressed through the informal hearing process, you should file for abatement with the assessing office by March 1.

As always, the assessing office is open Monday – Thursday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. We understand that there will be more interest in assessment procedure and process during a revaluation, however we remain present to work with you any time of the year. Our goal is to maintain fair and proportional assessments, and wish to work with you to help you understand the process and resulting assessment in a friendly and courteous manner, and politely ask for the same respect in return.

Alton Garden Club meets April 21

ALTON — Alton Garden Club is pleased to welcome spring with our first meeting of the season. On Tuesday, April 21, member Lisa Hynes will present "Lean Into Edible Gardening: Baby Steps Into Growing Your Own Food."

Hynes is a certified Kitchen Garden Coach who has been gardening for more than 25 years, both personally and professionally. She now focuses on edible gardening, helping others grow productive and nourishing kitchen gardens

with raised beds and containers. She specializes in kitchen and herb gardens, native pollinator gardens, seasonal growing and intensive planting using Gardenary methods.

The April meeting will be held at Gilman Library with the presentation starting at 1:30 p.m. If you are a non-member interested in this topic, we welcome you to join us as a guest. Call Peggy McKinney at 603-776-6032 if you have questions.

HELP WANTED



Full-Time Installers Apprentice

Energysavers Inc, a 50 year old hearth & spa product retailer in the Lakes Region, is looking for a motivated individual that wants to learn the trade of installing hearth products. You must be comfortable working on roofs when necessary and able to work with an installer to move heavy items. Energysavers pays for all educational costs to get and maintain NFI wood, gas and pellet certifications as well as a NH gas fitters license for gas hearth installations and service. Starting pay, \$18-\$20 hour based on experience.

LEARN WHILE YOU EARN!

No prior experience required. Must have a valid driver's license and pass the pre-employment drug screening.

Stop in to fill out an application:

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HR & Finance Assistant

Carroll County has an immediate opening for an HR & Finance Assistant. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: preparing and processing paperwork associated with benefit enrollments, changes, and termination, maintaining employee records, processing pre-employment background checks, coordinating onboarding, assisting with resolution of benefit issues, communicating benefit information to employees, answering general benefit questions, acting as payroll backup, serving as point of contact for Right-To-Know requests, assisting in the preparation of meeting packets, agendas, correspondence, and mailings, and filing.

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Expectations:

Lead and organize daily practices and game preparation
Create a positive, inclusive, and educational team environment
Collaborate closely with assistant coaches and the athletic department
Uphold school, district, and NHIAA standards while shaping a strong program culture
Set the foundation for a football program that will impact generations of athletes

What we are looking for:

Passionate about coaching and student-athlete development
Motivated to build something new and meaningful
Experienced in playing/coaching football and building a program
Committed to fostering growth, teamwork, and pride in every athlete

This is more than a coaching position; it's a chance to make history at Prospect Mountain. Lead the first team, create traditions, and leave your mark.

Please submit your application, cover letter, resume, and three current letters of recommendation
<https://www.pmsau.org/o/pmsau/page/employment-district-wide>

NOTICE TO ALTON RESIDENTS

ALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK VACANCY

Alton residents who would like to be considered to fill a vacancy as the Alton School District Clerk until the next election in March, 2027 should submit a letter of interest no later than Friday, April 24, 2026, to the School Board Chair, Alton School District, SAU 72, 252 Suncook Valley Road, Alton, NH 03809. Mark the outside of the envelope "School District Clerk". The School Board will address the vacancy at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

FCC Wolfeboro contributes to Harriman Hill III



COURTESY

Members of the First Congregational Church UCC of Wolfeboro on a visit to the Harriman Hill Phase III site. Faith in Action (FIA) committee member Joyce Chandler Smith, Carmen Lorentz of LRCD, FIA member Bruce McCracken; Pastor Dawn Adams; and FIA member Elissa Paquette.

WOLFEBORO — Members of the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wolfeboro, 115 S. Main St., voted recently to share a portion of pledged benevolence funds to Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD) to help toward the purchase of appliances for new apartments in the Harriman Hill Phase III workforce housing development currently under

construction on Beck Drive in Wolfeboro. “It is a privilege and an honor to pass along our commitments and gifts to LRCD to help finish Harriman Hill III,” said Pastor Dawn Adams. “We are happy to welcome new neighbors to the community in this way, and we pray that other people in the area will join us in helping to create new homes for people who need them.”

LRCD and Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition (ELRHC) are working together to raise \$57,000 by June 30 to purchase all the appliances for the thirty upcoming apartments at Harriman Hill Phase III in Wolfeboro. To date, \$35,980 has been raised. Members of the community who wish to support the project may do so in a variety of ways, including con-

tacting Carmen Lorentz at (603) 524-0747, ext. 110 to arrange a matching challenge for LRCD’s upcoming NH Gives fundraiser June 9 & 10; making a contribution online at LRCommunityDevelopers.org; or mailing a contribution to Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition, PO Box 2113, Wolfeboro NH 03894.

LRCD and ELRHC launched the \$57,000 campaign in December, offering a variety of giving levels. A donation of \$1,900 will purchase all the appliances needed for one apartment; \$800 will buy a range and range hood; \$600 will purchase a refrigerator; \$500 will buy a through-the-wall air conditioner; and any donation under \$500 will be applied to the overall campaign.



COURTESY

On Wednesday, March 18, the Wolfeboro Lions Operation Kid Sight team traveled to Barnstead Elementary school where they screened 333 children for vision health. Pictured from left are Lion Eloise Adams, OKS coordinator John Adams, Lion Sharon Waid and school nurse Martha Rasbridge. Next screening will be at Kingswood Middle School on April 17.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, this 5K benefits Lakes Region Mental Health Center.

2nd Annual

nucar

Lakes Region 5K for Mental Health

May 31st, 2026
Race: 8:30am
Kids Fun Run: 8:00am

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www.lrmhc.org to register or sponsor

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Our attorneys at Schwartzberg Law also may be able to assist in protecting your assets or the inherited or gifted assets you provide for your children from creditors or divorce. Also, sophisticated estate planning can limit your exposure to government taxation and help protect your children.

I have been practicing law since 1985, after graduating from Vermont Law School. Before starting my legal career, I earned a Master's Degree in counseling from SUNY, Plattsburgh, and completed my undergraduate studies in education at Temple University in Philadelphia. Before entering the legal field, I worked as an inner-city high school teacher and ran a cactus business, selling plants as a street vendor in downtown Philadelphia. My legal career began in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, New York, where I practiced law until 2002. In that year, I passed the New Hampshire Bar and relocated to New Hampshire to continue my practice. I am an active member of the New Hampshire Bar Association. Over the years, I have served as President of the Grafton County Bar Association and as Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. I also served on the New Hampshire Bar Association Board of Governors for 2 terms. Currently, I am a member of the New Hampshire Bar Legislative Committee and a Fellow of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation.

I also hosted a weekly radio show called "Family Law Talk Radio," which featured professionals with expertise in various related subjects. In recent years, I have focused my practice on Estate Planning and administration. This includes drafting wills and trusts, as well as probate and trust administration.

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