

# Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

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Nothing says summer like a lemonade stand, and the Belmont Police Department was happy to support these young entrepreneurs who set up shop on Sunset Drive last week. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

## Howland-Vlahakis, Biron top Belmont 10-Mile Road Race field

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

BELMONT — The 56th annual Belmont Old Home Day 10-Mile Road Race took place on Saturday, Aug. 9, with one second separating the first and second place finishers.

Bocelli Howland-Vlahakis of Gilmanton took top honors in the race with a time of 56:37, just one second ahead of Griffin Urnezis of Meredin. Thomas Orcutt of Eliot, Maine finished third overall in 56:56.

Sarah Biron of Baltimore, Md. was the top female finisher, finishing in a time of 1:09:15 with Gilford's Olivia Keenan in second in 1:14:59 and Kaylee Boisvert of Gilford in third in 1:15:51.

Local runners fared

well in the race, with Caelan Roberts of Northfield in a time of 1:13:25 for sixth place and Nate Sottak of Belmont in ninth place in a time of 1:20:26. Meredith's Derek Gray finished in 12th place in 1:23:04, Eleni Pappopoulos of Belmont was 13th in 1:23:56 and Alyssa Edgren of Belmont finished in 14th place in a time of 1:23:56.

Nicole Guarino of Belmont finished in a time of 1:27:34 for 17th place, Mariah Cleveland of Gilmanton placed 18th in 1:30:01, Matthew Wineriter of Canterbury crossed in a time of 1:33:04 for 20th place and Andrew Lawrence of Sanbornton was 23rd overall in a time of 1:34:02.

SEE BELMONT, PAGE A8

## Suspect pleads guilty to deaths of family members

CONCORD — Attorney General John M. Formella announces that Eric Sweeney, age 19, has pled guilty to three counts of Second Degree Murder for the shooting deaths of his sister-in-law, Kassandra Sweeney, and nephews Benjamin (age four) and Mason (age one) in their Northfield home in 2022.

Sweeney entered naked pleas to the Second Degree Murder and Falsifying Physical Evidence charges, which means there is no negotiated sentence. On the charges of Second Degree Murder, Eric Sweeney may be sentenced by the Court up to the maximum allowable sentence for each charge, which is life in prison with the possibility of parole.

A sentencing date has been set for Oct. 3 in the Merrimack County Superior Court.

## State Police investigate death on Lake Winnisquam

TILTON — The New Hampshire State Police (NHSP) is investigating the death of an adult man in Tilton.

At 11:35 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, the NHSP Marine Patrol was notified of a water rescue involving a man, later identified as Jack Bilodeau, 81, of Westford, Mass., who was believed to have been swimming after his drifting boat on Lake Winnisquam near Mohawk Island in Tilton.

Bilodeau was last seen having a possible medical event in the water and briefly submerged before being quickly pulled out of the lake by a good Samaritan. The good Samaritan continued lifesaving

efforts on Bilodeau back on shore along Route 3 in Tilton until the arrival of the first responders. Bilodeau was then transported to Concord Hospital-Laconia, where he was pronounced deceased.

Marine Patrol was assisted by members of the Tilton Police Department, Tilton/Northfield Fire Department, and

Belmont Fire Department.

Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident, and anyone with additional information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact Marine Patrol Officer Bryant Tarr at (603) 293-2037 or Bryant.A.Tarr@dos.nh.gov.

## Vaillancourt tackles Wolfeboro's Granite Man



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Belmont's Ron Vaillancourt gets on his bike after finishing the swim portion of Saturday's Granite Man Triathlon in Wolfeboro.

SPORTS EDITOR — For the 42nd time, triathletes gathered in Wolfeboro to tackle the annual Granite Man Triathlon, run in memory of the late Albert Dow III, a Tuftonboro resident who died in a search and rescue

mission in the White Mountains in the early 1980s.

The race, which features a three-quarter-mile swim at Carry Beach, a 15-mile bicycle ride along the roads of Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro and a four-plus-mile run out to the former Wolfeboro airport and finishing back at Carry Beach.

The Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation Department, which runs the annual event, offered up its special thanks to Patti and Fred Cain Jr., who allow the race to finish on their property across the street from the town beach.

Kyle Jones took the overall win, crossing the finish line in a time of 1:27:38, which was just less than a minute ahead of multi-time Granite Man winner Aaron Colman of Wolfeboro.

SEE GRANITE MAN, PAGE A8

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# A Listening Room experience at Aug. 27 songwriter show

MEREDITH — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region is set to deliver another great show at the end of this month. Held in the region's premier listening room, The Loft, located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. Held on the last Wednesday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside host performer Katie Dobbins.



The series has been steadily gaining in popularity with a growing number of area residents and visitors attending to experience the show "magic" that each new lineup creates. Winery co-founder and owner Bob Manley is thrilled to have his establishment be home to the monthly Songwriter

Round-Up Series.

Remarking on the success of the series, Manley reaffirms the valued partnership the Winery has developed with Katie Dobbins Music, expressing, "Working alongside Katie Dobbins and her Songwriter Round-Up Series has been an absolute delight. Katie brings an engaging presence

to the stage, effortlessly connecting with our audiences and showcasing incredible talent with each performance."

The next Songwriter Round-Up show takes place on Wednesday, Aug. 27, featuring the Lakes Region's own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers her artistry with beautiful vocal

tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies, New York native Patrick Sampson, a pop-folk artist incorporating Americana elements in his heart-felt songs which have moved audiences throughout the country, and singer-songwriter Colin Nevins, a New Hampshire singer-songwriter with a life-long passion for music whose

songs reflect on real life and the nature of the human experience. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This promises to be an evening of great original music and dynamic entertainment that you won't want to miss. Learn more about each of these artists on the Hermit Woods Winery website.

A complimentary wine tasting will begin at 5:30 p.m., the Loft opens at 6 p.m. for seating & dinner orders, and music starts at 7 p.m. Patrons can further enhance their evening by selecting from a menu of tasty items available from Chef Kaylon Sweet of Sweet Mercy's Kitchen. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft](http://hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft) or in-person at the Winery.

## Bank of New Hampshire's Prestige Plus members discover wonders of Woodstock, Vt.

LACONIA — Prestige Plus members recently enjoyed a two-day trip to Woodstock, VT, filled with history, artistry and natural beauty.

The group began their trip at Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, the preserved home and studio of renowned sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. A guided tour offered a fascinating insight into the artist's life and legacy, all set among peaceful gardens adorned with some

of his most celebrated works.

The Prestige Plus group also visited the studio of Andrew Pearce, where they observed the timeless art of woodturning. Then, continued on to Simon Pearce Glass, where master glass blowers skillfully shaped molten glass, set against the rustic backdrop of a historic mill.

The group spent two nights at the iconic

Woodstock Inn & Resort, known for its refined elegance and deep New England heritage. During their stay, they experienced a captivating falconry presentation—complete with an opportunity to hold a peregrine falcon—and enjoyed an elegant dinner in the Inn's Garden Terrace.

Other highlights included a visit to Farmhouse Pottery to witness the artistry of wheel-thrown pottery, and a horse-drawn carriage ride through the pastoral grounds of Billings Farm & Museum, followed by a hands-on butter-making demonstration.

As the trip drew to a close, the group made a brief stop at the breathtaking Quechee Gorge, a natural wonder carved by glacial forces more than 13,000 years ago. The final stop was a visit to King Arthur Baking Company, where everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at its café.

"As Prestige Plus returned from a two-day trip to Woodstock, hearts and minds were full, re-



A few Prestige Plus members relax on the lush grounds of the iconic Woodstock Inn & Resort during a recent two-day trip to the area.

flecting on the beauty, creativity and wonder experienced throughout our unforgettable journey," said Cindy Salta, VP - Prestige Plus Officer for Bank of New Hampshire. "The group thoroughly enjoyed each destination during our stay in the charming village of Woodstock."

Bank of New Hampshire's Prestige Plus program is an exclusive travel and lifestyle ben-

efit offered to holders of its Prestige Checking account. Members enjoy every day checking account perks, a concierge banking service and a curated travel program featuring day trips, seminars, extended vacations—both domestic and international—with handcrafted itineraries and dedicated guides. For more information, visit [www.bnh.bank](http://www.bnh.bank) or contact the Prestige Plus team at 1-833-226-5641.

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831, provides deposit, lending, and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire and southern Maine. With 21 banking offices and assets exceeding \$2.5 billion, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks in the state. Bank of New Hampshire is a mutual organization, focused on the success of its customers, communities and employees, rather than stockholders. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit [BNH.Bank](http://BNH.Bank).

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# A Listening Room experience at Aug. 27 songwriter show

Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra announces upcoming performances

LACONIA — Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra will present “North Pole Playlist” on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. and “Mixtape: Hits of the ‘60s & ‘70s” on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

“North Pole Playlist” - Saturday, Dec. 6

From the sparkling sounds of “The Nutcracker” to traditional carols and popular holiday favorites, this joyful performance blends timeless orchestral classically-flavored selections with popular vocal

songs that bring everyone together.

We’re excited to welcome back vocalist Taylor O’Donnell, who lit up the stage in last season’s ‘70s tribute. This year, she’ll perform many of your holiday favorites and share a heartwarming moment with a special narration of Tomie dePaola’s “The Legend of the Poinsettia” set to music - a touching holiday story for all ages.

It’s a merry mix of music and storytelling - classical, contemporary, and full of holiday spirit - for kids, parents, and grandparents alike.

These holiday concerts sell out every year! Don’t miss out - get your tickets early!

“Mixtape: Hits of the ‘60s & ‘70s” - Saturday,

May 9, 2026

From the lush strings of Henry Mancini’s “Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet” and disco fever of Manilow’s Copacabana, this concert journeys across styles and moods. Sing along to timeless classics by the Beach Boys, Simon & Garfunkel, Dionne Warwick, and more.

We’re thrilled to bring back vocalists Taylor O’Donnell and Adrian Sicam, who’s soulful takes on ‘70s classics brought down the house last season. This year, they return to expand the magic - bringing even more heart, harmony, and energy to this unforgettable tribute.

Feel the grooves of Marvin Gaye and the Temptations, the story-

telling of Carole King and James Taylor, and the funky rhythms of Earth, Wind & Fire and Steely Dan.

A celebration of the songs that shaped generations - relive the soundtrack of a lifetime.

Planned selections include “What’s Goin’ On,” “That’s The Way Of The World,” “I Feel The Earth Move,” “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “My Girl,” “Black Cow,” “You’ve Got A Friend” ... and so much more!

Tickets for “North Pole Playlist” on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. and “Mixtape: Hits of the ‘60s & ‘70s” on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre of Laconia are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or

by calling 1-800-657-8774.

The original owner, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial

Theatre is located at 609 Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246. www.colonial-laconia.com

Founded in 2012, Spectacle Live offers venue operations, booking, programming, marketing, and production services across New England from offices in Lexington, Mass.; Lowell, Mass.; and Laconia. The company partners with over a dozen venues to manage facilities and promote a variety of events, including concerts, comedy, theater, and family entertainment. For more information, contact Pete Lally atplally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257. www.spectaclelive.com

# “Granite Orpheus” movie premiere to benefit Colonial and Powerhouse



Bryan Halperin and Gina Carballo as Orpheus and Eurydice.

COURTESY

LACONIA — What started as an exercise in experimental filmmaking by two friends in spring 2015 has ended up as a 70 minute independent film called “Granite Orpheus,” which will have its public premiere at the Colonial Theatre on Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Starring Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative’s producer Bryan Halperin as Orpheus, the movie co-produced and directed by John Hession and Rick Broussard under the banner of Resurrection Films is inspired by John Cocteau’s 1959 take on the Orpheus and Eurydice myth and was filmed all around downtown Concord.

Says Halperin, “When

my friend Rick Broussard asked me if I’d like to try my hand at film acting for two days of shooting at Concord Market Days in June 2015, I said sure, not knowing that it would turn into a 10-year project that finally finished shooting in May 2025! I had quite an adventure running around every basement, attic and alleyway in downtown Concord at all hours of the night and got many good stories to tell.”

After a private screening was planned for the cast and crew in late August, Halperin asked the filmmakers what their subsequent plans were for the film. Other than entering it into film fes-

tivals there was no plan for an immediate public showing in New Hampshire so Halperin came up with the idea to show the film at the Colonial as a fundraiser for Powerhouse and the Colonial Theatre Advancement Fund. This is likely the first World Premiere Screening of a movie at the Colonial Theatre since return to Peyton Place in 1961!

“I figured a movie filmed entirely in New Hampshire by a bunch of people creating art for the fun of it should have an opportunity to be seen by the New Hampshire community,” Halperin said. “And considering the fact that I’m usually directing and

rarely acting, I thought there might be a curiosity factor amongst Powerhouse’s fans to see my attempt at ‘brooding film action hero.’ If I stink, at least we will raise some money for two good causes that are important to me, Powerhouse and the Colonial itself.”

Besides Halperin, the cast includes longtime NH actor Gina Carballo as Eurydice and newcomer Yarrow Farnsworth as Hades. Other faces that New Hampshire residents might recognize include Magician Andrew Pinard, artists Saad Hindal and Simon Harling, Brian Waldron and Kae Mason. And Halperin’s now grown daughters have

cameos that they filmed when they were 14 and 11! The movie features a musical score produced by Brian Coombs of Rocking Horse Studios in Pittsfield and an original song sung by New Hampshire’s own “American Idol” contestant, Alex Preston.

Tickets for the fundraising event are \$20 and can be purchased through coloniallaconia.com or powerhousenh.org. The public sale begins on Friday, Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. After the film there will be a discussion of the moviemaking experience with Broussard, Hession,

and Halperin offering the audience a chance to ask questions and learn more about the 10 year process of making “Granite Orpheus.”

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative is the resident theatre company of The Colonial Theatre in Laconia. Check out powerhousenh.org for all the latest info on Powerhouse or contact info@powerhousenh.org for more details. For more information on “Granite Orpheus,” check out https://www.resurrectionfilms.org/graniteorpheus.

## BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 4-11.

Jade-Pearl Glidden, age 45, of Franklin was arrested on Aug. 4 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension of license due to DUI and Possession of a Controlled Drug.

Russell P. Colby, age 28, of Belmont was arrested on Aug. 8 for Second Degree Assault (domestic violence related) and Domestic Violence-Simple Assault causing Bodily Injury.

Jordan C. Truett, age 18, of Belmont was arrested on Aug. 8 in connection with a warrant.

Mason Jasper Crate, age 22, of Laconia was arrested on Aug. 8 for Simple Assault resulting in Physical Contact or Bodily Injury.

Sasha Marie Eldridge, age 30, of Laconia was arrested on Aug. 9 for Possession of a Controlled Drug and in connection with multiple bench warrants.

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# Opinion

## Letter submission policy

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

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

## Seize the waning days of summer

Oh, no! Summer is coming to an end; however, we know the weather will stay warm likely through September, then it's on to what we New Englanders affectionately call "Sweatah weath-ah." But for now, let's focus on making the most of what we have left of our coveted New England summer days.

Time passes so quickly that we forget we had meant to do this, or go here and see that, or visit this old friend. The good news is that there is still time for a no regrets summer.

The most fulfilling thing we can do is to reconnect with friends. Plan a night out having appetizers, or a last-minute summer grill session. Even planning a short meet up for a walk or a hike is a great idea. Find a lake or a river with some nice rocks and just relax and catch up, taking in all that summer has to offer.

Nostalgia tells us that time spent with friends on our bikes until the lights came on were the best carefree times during the summer months. Why not take a night and watch old movies to bring you back, and escape from the go, go, go that is adulthood. Our favorite blasts from the past include "Field of Dreams," "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Crocodile Dundee," and anything with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

Spending time outdoors during late night hours is always a treat. Look up at the stars, even if it's from your own porch and enjoy a peaceful moment, listening to the crickets and the frogs have a chat.

That book sitting on your coffee table that's been staring at you all summer? Pick it up, and give yourself a goal to read at least five pages... just do it, before you know it, you'll be engrossed in it.

Get outside and go for a run, bike ride or a hike in a new place. Find places that you can revisit when the snow falls! Snowshoes and Nordic skis, heck even moon boots do the trick! But alas, let's stay focused on summer.

Take a refreshing swim in a nearby lake or river. Pop yourself onto a floaty and just bob as all of your cares float away.

Try to cook as many meals as possible outdoors on your grill. Soon it'll be too cold to wait to flip your burgers and dogs.

We love all seasons, and every time one ends, we get excited for the next. One of the benefits of living in New England is enjoying a solid four-season year. Pretty soon it will be pumpkin everything, apples and crisp fall leaves, but for now...let's stay in summer mode!



COURTESY

## Crochet Cat Plushies workshop series at Belknap Mill

The Belknap Mill Museum will host a six-week Crochet Cat Plushies Series on Saturdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 6 and continuing through Oct. 18 (no class Sept. 27). Held in the Riverside Gallery, this fun and beginner-friendly workshop will guide participants through the basics of crochet and the art of amigurumi to create their very own cat plushie. Open to adults and children, the series includes all materials and instruction. No prior experience is needed. Register at [www.belknapmill.org/classes](http://www.belknapmill.org/classes).

## What is it about money?

What is it about money? At first glance, it is nothing but paper, or digits on a screen, or the shimmer of gold, silver, or crypto code. It seems to hold no intrinsic value—and yet it governs nearly every movement of our world.

We pursue it because we must: to feed our families, to build our dreams, to secure the lives we long for. In this society, money is a necessity. And yet, it slips through our fingers like water. One can possess it in abundance, only to watch it vanish overnight. It is a teacher disguised as currency—revealing what we value, fear, and chase. A balancing act of spirit and matter. For what does it profit a person to gain all the money in the world if, in doing so, they lose their soul—their inner compass, their true Self.

How much of our lives have been shaped by money? Not only by its absence, but by the illusion that once we finally possess it, we will at last feel safe, valid, and real. Whispering to ourselves: "Once I get enough, I'll relax. Once I'm promoted, I'll be whole. Once I buy that thing, I'll finally become someone." But the finish

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line keeps moving, always just beyond reach. If we don't awaken to that trick, it pulls us deeper into its labyrinth.

And if we fall into that trap, money ceases to be a tool. We no longer use it—we worship it, potentially turning us into something not unlike a modern-day Scrooge—rich in possessions, but poor in spirit.

Carl Jung, the famous psychiatrist, taught that when money aligns with our values and purpose, it stops being just currency—it becomes a mirror, a symbol, a servant of the Self.

It can express who we truly are, fueling work that brings meaning and relationships that nourish life. But when we separate money from our purpose, or never discover one outside of accumulation, money begins to work against us.

When we chase it for the shimmer of cars, clubs, houses, and status, it's just a mask. Yet behind that mask, nothing is there.

Society tells us this chase is typical, even noble. Careers are chosen, lifestyles built, identities forged on its foundation.

But deep down, the psyche knows the truth: money without meaning is hollow. It leaves us restless, dissatisfied, still searching for something we cannot name.

And it is a double-edged sword, because money not only shows up in greed—it also hides in fear. Fear of financial instability can bind us just as tightly as the lust for wealth. It can stop us from risking, from creating, from offering the gifts of our soul. In that fear, we trade potential for safety, burying our talents in the ground. The shadow of money lies not only in hoarding gold, but also in the person who never becomes what they could be because of the fear of instability.

It seems that Jung saw money not simply as coins, paper, or digits, but as energy—a collective symbol, created by society and invested with psychic weight. To him, money's value was never inherent but symbolic, reflecting what we project onto it: security, power, or even self-worth.

At its best, it can serve as a tool for expression, growth, and care. But when money becomes the measure of meaning, when we pursue it

for its own sake, it can easily slip into darkness - confusing worth with wealth.

The endless chase for wealth and status leaves us mistaking accumulation for wholeness; we try to patch inner wounds with outer excess. In truth, Jung thought, the only wealth that endures is the journey of individuation—the slow, lifelong work of becoming who you truly are.

Money, then, should serve the soul—not the other way around. In hands guided by purpose, it expands creativity and generosity. In hands ruled by fear or greed, it magnifies insecurity and imbalance.

And so the real question is not how much you can make, but whether your relationship with money is rooted in alignment with who you are.

If you find yourself trapped in fear or endlessly chasing status, Jung would call you back inward: discover your purpose, and let money serve that higher calling.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

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USPS 024-975  
The Winnisquam Echo is published weekly by Salmon Press, P.O. Box 729, 5 Water St., Meredith, NH 03253. Periodicals postage paid at Meredith, NH 03253.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Winnisquam Echo, P.O. Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.

**THE WINNISQUAM ECHO**  
PUBLISHED BY  
SALMON PRESS

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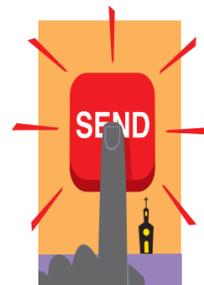
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# Hermit Woods presents an evening with Philip Hamilton



MEREDITH — Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery is proud to welcome internationally acclaimed vocal jazz/fusion artist Philip Hamilton for an unforgettable night of music on Thursday, Aug. 21. Joining Hamilton will be special guests Paul Bourgelais (guitar), Lenny Bradford (bass), and Gilberto (drums). Known for his electrifying stage presence and genre-blending style, Philip Hamilton has performed with jazz fusion greats including Spyro Gyra, Steps Ahead, the Pat Metheny Group, and Special EFX. As co-founder of the Boston-based jazz group Full Circle, signed to Sony Records, Hamilton has captivated audiences worldwide.

Post hailed him as “an unusually energetic and inventive vocalist”, and his artistry—spanning jazz, rock, swing, and world music—draws comparisons to Nat King Cole, Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, and Al Jarreau.

Event details:  
Complimentary Wine Tasting: 5:30–6 p.m.  
Doors & Dinner Service: 6 p.m. (Dinner service ends at 7 p.m.; drinks & dessert served during the show)  
Showtime: 7 p.m.

A true listening room experience The Loft at Hermit Woods offers an intimate, up-close setting where artists and audiences share the magic of live music without distraction. Guests are kindly asked to refrain

from talking during the featured performance to preserve the immersive listening experience.

After the show, guests are encouraged to meet the artists, share conversation, and explore any music or merchandise available for purchase.

Tickets: Available now at [www.hermitwoods.com/music](http://www.hermitwoods.com/music) – Seating is limited.

About The Loft at Hermit Woods Founded in 2022, The Loft has quickly become a premier listening room in New England, hosting hundreds of performances featuring world-class musicians in a warm, intimate setting. Paired with fine wine and exceptional cuisine, it's a one-of-a-kind destination for music lovers.

# Hermit Woods Winery presents Cassandre McKinley with Mark Shilansky Trio

MEREDITH — On Thursday, Sept. 4, Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery invites you to an unforgettable evening in The Loft, our intimate listening room, featuring the incomparable Cassandre McKinley alongside the acclaimed Mark Shilansky Trio.

The evening begins with a complimentary wine tasting from 5:30–6 p.m., followed by dinner service at 6 p.m. (kitchen closes at 7 p.m., before the show begins). Drinks and dessert will be available during the performance, which starts at 7 p.m.

A vocal powerhouse and fearless interpreter, Cassandre McKinley seamlessly blends soul, jazz, R&B, blues, and country into a sound all her own. With five acclaimed albums and international recognition, she's collaborated with music legends such as J. Geils, Bernard Purdie, and Duke Levine. Her 2006 release, “Til Tomorrow – Remembering Marvin Gaye,” earned praise from *JazzTimes* as “a rich, sensual salute,” solidifying her place on the global stage. In addition to performing, McKinley is an Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music, where she continues to inspire the next



generation of artists. Joining McKinley is pianist Mark Shilansky, an “inventive, modern mainstream jazz pianist” (*Boston Globe*) whose career spans six leader albums and collaborations with the New York Voices, Luciana Souza, and Sara Caswell. Shilansky is joined by guitarist Eric Byers, a versatile performer and Berklee professor; and bassist Keala Kaumeheua, a virtuoso with an impressive performance history alongside Herbie

Hancock, Wynton Marsalis, and Wayne Shorter.

The Loft at Hermit Woods is designed to bring audiences closer to the music. Guests are asked to refrain from conversation during the show, allowing every note, lyric, and nuance to be fully experienced.

Join us for an intimate night of world-class music, exceptional wine, and delicious food — an evening that promises to stir your heart and feed your soul.

# ‘12er’ Home Run Derby set for Sunday in Tilton

TILTON — The second annual ‘12er’ Home Run Derby in memory of Bryan Caruso takes place Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Winnisquam Regional Middle School baseball field.

The derby will benefit the former Winnisquam standout and Endicott College Hall of Famer’s scholarship fund, established after his passing in 2022, and the Winnisquam High School baseball program. The event was postponed in April due to rain. The derby is open to all ages and will feature four divisions in baseball and softball.

“We couldn’t think of a better way to honor Bryan’s memory than hitting some dingers with a home run der-

by,” said Bryan’s dad and Winnisquam varsity baseball coach Fred Caruso. “He launched some majestic shots during his high school career; many on this field.” Bryan, a 1998 graduate, still holds the Winnisquam career record for home runs with 22.

There will be four divisions for baseball and softball: 12-and-under, middle school, high school and adult. The 12-and-under and middle school divisions will start at 10 a.m., the high school and adult around noon. All participants are encouraged to stay, shag some fly balls and enjoy the day. Trophies will be awarded in each division. Each participant is asked for a \$20 donation and will be entered into a number of raffles including gift and Winnisquam baseball gear. An added bonus, there will be a separate raffle for a pair of Celtics tickets with prime seats in the lower bowl loge section at TD Garden. Tickets are five dollars or three for 10 dollars.

Pizza, snacks and ice cold drinks will be available.

“We had no idea when we did the first one back in April of 2024 what to expect,” Fred Caruso said. “It was terrific. We had more than 60 participants and everyone had a great time. Some of Bryan’s former high school teammates took part as did many of the players he coached in high school and through his Concord Cannons travel program. We’re hoping for another wonderful day.”

You can pre-register for the derby and purchase tickets for the Celtics ticket raffle. Venmo @cheri-caruso-1. Please indicate the age of the participant and/or how many tickets you’d like for the raffle. You can also register the day of the event starting at 9:30 a.m. Raffle tickets will also be available during the derby. Rain date is Saturday Aug. 30. For more information, contact Fred Caruso at 603-455-7950 or e-mail [caruso@metrocast.net](mailto:caruso@metrocast.net).

# Tanger Outlets invites local schools and educators to apply for TangerKids Grants Program

TILTON — Tanger Outlets Tilton announced yesterday that its annual TangerKids Grants Program will return for the 2025/26 academic year, continuing a long history of investing in the community’s educational resources and ensuring continued student success. Lakes Region educators are encouraged to apply at [grants.tanger.com](http://grants.tanger.com) between Aug. 11 and Oct. 18.

The TangerKids Grants Program annually invites teachers and education leaders across the country to identify their needs and request funding for vital local programs that better serve students and, ultimately, produce an enhanced and engaging learning environment. This year, Tanger has earmarked a signif-

icant portion of grants to support underserved schools, accessibility programs and student needs. Faculty members at public and private schools from pre-K to grade 12 are eligible to participate in the annual program.

Throughout the program’s nearly 30-year history, Tanger has contributed more than \$3.7 million directly to educational initiatives in the 38 communities it serves. In 2024, TangerKids Grants awarded nearly \$200,000 to initiatives across the U.S. and

Canada, with 60% of the funds supporting inclusive classroom environments for underserved schools.

Tanger shoppers across the country can make their voices heard and help select winners of extra funding through Shopper’s Choice voting, Dec. 2-15. Award recipients will be announced and celebrated at the center’s annual TangerKids Day on Jan. 30, 2026.



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**August Lunch and Learn: Driver Safety- We Need to Talk with AARP NH Speakers Bureau**

The AARP NH Speakers Bureau will present Golden View's free August Lunch and Learn program Driver Safety: We Need to Talk on Thursday, August 21st, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Woodland Community Room located in Golden View's Retreat building. This AARP Driver Safety program can help you plan sensitive, successful conversations concerning an elder's safe driving and then, if necessary, for steps to be taken for them to limit or retire from driving. Surveys show that more than half of older drivers whose family asked them to retire from driving followed those suggestions. Registration is required by filling out the form below. The Lunch and Learn programs are free to community residents, and lunch is provided for all registered attendees. Community residents can request email notifications of upcoming Lunch and Learn programs through the form below when registering or by emailing Becky at [rmckeown@goldenview.org](mailto:rmckeown@goldenview.org) or calling her at 603-677-4194. Email invitations will include direct links to the online registration portal.



Please call Becky at 603.677.4194 for more information.  
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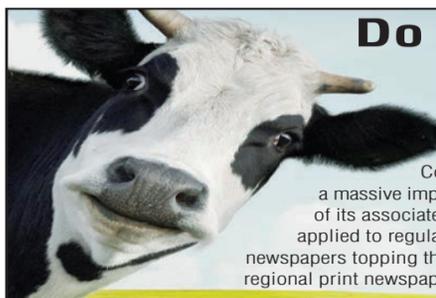
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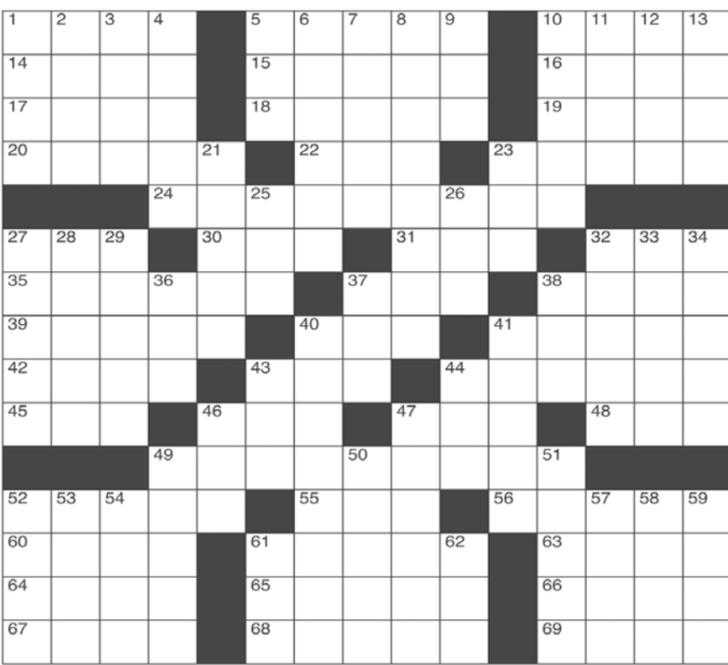
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Mongolian politician
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Covers in soft material
- 16. Walk around
- 17. Ancient region in Syria
- 18. French painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Cow part
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Secret plan
- 24. Sings to one's lover
- 27. More (Spanish)
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Hat
- 35. In agreement
- 37. A person's brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. About Sun
- 42. A place to dance
- 43. Performer \_\_\_ Lo Green
- 44. Beach accessory
- 45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Pooch
- 48. Honorific title added to family name
- 49. Salts
- 52. Lichens genus
- 55. Lowest point of a ridge
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Gold measurement
- 63. Italian seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. U. of Miami mascot
- 67. Mid-month day
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Publicly outs
- 5. Steep-sided hollow
- 6. Spoke
- 7. General law or rule
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Top exec
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Extract money via taxation
- 28. Dyes
- 29. Cloying sweetness
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Chemical compound
- 36. The bill in a restaurant
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Late comedian Newhart
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Wise individuals
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Trim
- 46. Former OSS
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Edible lily bulbs
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. A place to store lawn tools
- 54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
- 57. Hollywood pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

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**BELMONT**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Bristol's Thomas Kaempfer was 24th overall in a time of 1:35:18, Wyatt Carroll of Belmont was 25th in a time of 1:35:53, Adeline Takant-

jas of Belmont finished in 1:35:54 for 26th place and Charlotte Kaempfer of Bristol finished in 1:46:36 for 34th place.

Wyatt Banford of Belmont finished in a time of 1:56:34 for 38th place, Tilton's Cameron Rob-

erts was 40th in 2:02:47 and Randy Sherman of New Hampton finished in a time of 2:28:09 to place 42nd overall.

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

**GRANITE MAN**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

boro, who finished in 1:28:27. Nick Braz of Tuftonboro was third overall in 1:30:54, Alton's Josh Flanagan finished in fourth place in a time of 1:36:44 and Wolfeboro's Andrew Shiffler rounded out the top five with a time of 1:38:53.

For the women, Natalie Baur of Boston was the winner with a time of 1:40:28, easily outdistancing multi-time winner Jodie Conway of Tuftonboro in a time of 1:52 and Wolfeboro's Emilie Soisson in 1:52:08. Silke Hamacher, who journeyed all the way from Germany to compete, finished in 1:54:37 and Wolfeboro's Lindsay MacLellan rounded out the top five women in a time of 1:56:31.

Local athletes were all over the final results across all of the divisions in Saturday's race.

In the 18-29 age group for women, MacLellan's time was tops, followed by Carli Krebs of Freedom in 2:00:24 and King-

swood graduate Abby Dubel in 2:03:06. Wolfeboro's Lauren Micou was eighth in 2:20:26 and Molly Micou of Wolfeboro was ninth in 2:25:25.

For the men in the same age group, Braz earned the top time, with Shiffler in second place. Hunter Krebs of Freedom was fourth in 1:48:25, Anthony Borelli of Wolfeboro was fifth in 1:50:57, TJ O'Keefe of Wolfeboro was 10th in 2:02, Emerson DeNit-

to of Wolfeboro was 12th in 2:06:20, William Chretien of Wolfeboro was 13th in 2:06:22, Wolfeboro's Joshua DeBeer was 14th in 2:06:37, Glenn Leung of Wolfeboro was 15th in 2:06:46, Lucas Muther of Wolfeboro placed 17th in 2:09:58, Camden Greenwood of Wolfeboro was 19th in 2:17:11, Hunter Finn of Wolfeboro was 21st in 2:32:01 and Sebastian Alvarez Perez of Meredith was 26th in 3:18:21.

In the 30-39 age group for women, Cassandra Saikin of Littleton was second overall in 2:12:58 and Ashley MacPherson of Conway was fourth in 2:24:06.

For men in the 30-39 age group, Torin Stegemeyer of Wolfeboro was second in 1:47:11 and Sean MacPherson of Conway was third in 1:48:49.

Conway's time was tops in the 40-49 age group for women, with Soisson's time finishing second overall.

Flanagan's time won him the 40-49 age group for the men with Paul Conway of Tuftonboro in fourth in 1:50:37, Joshua Morrison of Gilford in 1:55:16, Craig Diehl of New Hampton in sixth in 1:57:25, Alexander Shyrokov of Wolfeboro was 10th in 2:46:14 and Adam Rutherford of Wolfeboro was 11th in 2:47:26.

Colman's time was tops in the 50-59 age group for men with Ryan Twomey of Plymouth in second in 1:44:45, John Krebs of Freedom in 2:09:55 for

fifth, Ron Vaillancourt of Belmont in 2:13:31 for sixth place and Andrew O'Flaherty of Wolfeboro in eighth in 2:25:15.

Kathryn Amyotte of Wolfeboro placed fourth in the 60-69 age group for women with a time of 2:26:14 while in the same age group for men, Wolfeboro's Martin Boucher was first overall in 1:52:39 and Wolfeboro's Tripp Micou was fifth in 2:52:49.

Wolfeboro's Pedro Arriagada was second in the 70 and older age group for the men with a time of 2:21:29.

**Teams**

Many racers took the opportunity to complete the race as a team of two or three, with the team of Biscan, Flanagan and Biscan of Haverhill, Mass. taking first in 1:31:53, the team of Rosenblatt, Baur and Baur of Moultonborough in second place in 1:43:09 and the team of Rosenfeld, Wentzell and Chen of Westborough, Mass. in third in 1:45.

The Barrett and Robinson team of Wolfeboro was second in the family division in 1:49:22 for sixth place overall, the team of Farr, Kiley-Hubbard and Kiley won the female division in 1:53:18 to place seventh overall, the Damish team of Alton was 20th overall and seventh in the family division in 2:09:26, the Wolfeboro team of Lovering, DiPrizio and Monroe was fourth among female teams and 29th overall in 2:21:52 and the Wolfeboro team of Menzel, Menzel and Schimming was 33rd overall and eighth in the male division in 2:34:16.

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

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# Vermont man fastest to the summit of Mount Washington

*UK cyclist finishes as the top female in Saturday race*



Ian Boswell of Barnet, Vt. won the race to the top of Mount Washington on Saturday morning.

COURTESY



Illi Gardner came all the way from England to race up Mount Washington and was the top female finisher in Saturday's race.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

**PINKHAM NOTCH**—Cyclists tackled just one hill on Saturday, but it was a big one, as they hit the highest peak in the northeast for the Mount Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb.

Ian Boswell of Barnet, Vt. was the top overall finisher, crossing in a time of 50:15 with Peter Stetina of Santa Rosa, Calif. in second place in 51:36 and Jack Kuenzle of Salt Lake City, Utah rounding out the top three in 54:16.

Illi Gardner of Cardiff, Wales, United King-

dom was the top female finisher, crossing in a time of 58:01, which placed her in sixth place overall. Lydia MacKenzie of Boulder, Colo. was the second female finisher, putting up a time of 1:14:43 and Aimee Vasse of Carlsbad, Calif. finished third in a time of 1:18:42.

Matthew Kurz of Tamworth was the top local finisher, crossing in 24th place with a time of 1:08:14. Thomas Rabon of Jefferson was 30th overall in 1:09:34 and Kevin Tilton of Moultonborough put up a time of 1:16:38 to place 54th over-

all. Simon Manners of Bethlehem recorded a time of 1:17:21 to place 57th overall.

Roger Jutz of New Durham was 121st overall in a time of 1:30:49, Jonah Fernald of Alton finished in 1:32:02 for 127th place, Robert Henney of Conway was 141st in 1:33:57, Andrew Northrop of Ossipee was 159th in 1:38:21 and Ben Halcyon of Jackson finished in a time of 1:39 for 165th place overall.

Eaton's Thomas Hicks finished in 190th place in a time of 1:43:04, David MacHer of Center Harbor was 203rd in a time

of 1:45:41, Dayle Munoz of Madison was 213th in 1:47:34, Jonah Thompson of Jackson was 245th in 1:54:37 and Geoffrey Heigh of Jackson was 260th in a time of 1:56:55.

Elizabeth Cooley of Whitefield finished in a time of 1:59:12 for 264th place overall, Doug Demars of Tamworth finished in 270th in 2:00:33,

Kris Dobbins of Easton was 277th in 2:03:21, Nick Tichich of Gilford was 292nd in 2:06:48, Heather McKendry of Eaton was 314th in 2:15:01 and Ryan Jean of Conway was 315th in 2:15:18.

David Berton of Plymouth was 342nd in 2:33:02, William Degrush of Plymouth was 344th in 2:33:15, Scott Mantie

of Bristol finished in 2:36:49 for 351st place and Elizabeth Seabury of Conway was 357th overall in 2:39:50.

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

## NH Monarch Festival moves to new location this year

**CANTERBURY**—The 13th Annual NH Monarch Festival is under new management. Petals in the Pines owners Jim and Donna Miller hosted the NH Monarch Festival since 2013 and have now entrusted the event to monarch citizen scientist, Amira Provost. This year, the Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23 at a new location: Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Rd. in Canterbury.

Amira Provost has been rearing monarchs, collecting data, and educating others since the

pandemic.

"I posted a photo of a monarch caterpillar in 2020, and a friend of mine told me that only 3-5 percent of them survive to adulthood. I was shocked and wanted to learn more. My curiosity to help these caterpillars morphed into a passion to help pollinators and educate others," she said.

Provost has collected data on, tagged, tested, and released hundreds of healthy butterflies. Some of her tagged monarchs have been recovered every year, including one that flew as far

as South Carolina!

While migrating numbers from annual early winter counts in Mexico increased between 2023 and 2024, the monarch butterfly is still in trouble. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, monarch populations have dramatically decreased over the past two decades due to habitat loss and pesticide use, prompting the agency to join Tribes, other agencies, and non-government groups "to identify threats to the monarchs and take steps to conserve monarchs throughout their range."

(Source: fws.gov) Monarchs are considered an "indicator" species, meaning that their presence—or absence—reflects the overall health of the ecosystem.

The NH Monarch Festival will continue to provide a unique educational opportunity on what adults, children, and families can do to help these butterflies and other vital pollinators, all while giving kids fun ways to celebrate this amazing insect. Visitors will be welcomed to exhibits and short presentations on topics including how

to plant milkweed, test butterflies for diseases, and help through citizen science projects. Come learn about which native plants attract monarchs, and how to tag butterflies for research. You will also receive FREE milkweed and flower seeds—and more!

This year the Festival will be a one-day event held on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Canterbury Shaker Village. Attendees will pay at the gate:

Free: Children under two years old

\$4 per Child two to 12 years old, or free if

wearing an appropriate costume

\$7 per person 13 years or older

Discounts will be provided for attendees who bundle the Monarch Festival with a tour of Canterbury Shaker Village.

If you are interested in attending the 13th Annual NH Monarch Festival, please visit the Facebook page @NHMonarchFestival or contact Amira Provost by phone at (210) 279-3463 or email at TheMonarch-Matriarch@gmail.com.



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## Midnight at the Masquerade fundraiser to benefit Partnership for Public Health

LACONIA — Step into an evening of elegance and mystery at Partnership for Public Health’s inaugural ‘Midnight at the Masquerade’ fundraiser. The murder mystery-themed event promises an unforgettable experience from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Lakeport Opera House in Laconia. MVSBS (Meredith Village Savings Bank) is proud to support the organization with a \$2,500 sponsorship.

“The Lakeport Opera House will set a dramatic stage for the mystery in store,” said Tammy Carmichael, PPH Chief

Executive Officer. “We look forward to seeing the community come together for this engaging event and we are grateful to our community partners, like MVSBS, who help make fundraising events like this possible.”

“We’re proud to support the Partnership for Public Health and their upcoming event,” said Samantha LeClair, MVSBS Business Development Officer. “Their mission to educate, empower and collaborate on health initiatives aligns with our commitment to fostering healthier communities. We’re excited to see the impact of this fun and meaningful event.”

PPH’s mission is to lead and partner in public health strategies across the Lakes Region and New Hampshire for safer and healthier communities. Go to events.pphnh.org to learn more and purchase tickets for the event.

MVSBS has been serving the essential banking needs of people, businesses, nonprofits and municipalities for more than 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, MVSBS has no stockholders but rather operates for the benefit of its customers, employees and community. Since our founding, one thing has always remained true: caring is at the heart of everything we do. By building and nurturing relationships, we believe that we can cultivate a community where we all thrive. It all starts with caring about our customers and neighbors. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in New Hampshire in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Exeter, Gilford, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, North Conway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvsvb.com.

From left, Samantha LeClair, MVSBS Business Development Officer, Tammy Carmichael, PPH Chief Executive Officer, Carissa Elphick, PPH Senior Director of Advancement, and Elizabeth Brothers, MVSBS Mortgage Loan Officer NMLS# 69282, pose together at the Partnership for Public Health headquarters in Laconia.

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(The Fair Housing Act of 1968 at 42 U.S.C. 3604(c))

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You may also call The New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights at 603-271-2767 or write The Commission at 163 Loudon Road, Concord, NH 03301

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### Feeling a little Crowded?

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TILTON — “S.A.F.E. @ Home: A Plan to Stay Independent” will be presented by Shirrel Schramm, Seniors Real Estate Specialist, at the Tilton Senior Center on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 12:15 p.m. The program will provide practical information to empower seniors to make informed decisions, fall risk assessment, guidance on modifications to enhance safety and accessibility, and many helpful takeaways.

The program is free and open to the public. The Tilton Senior Center is located at 11 Grange Rd. Please call 603-527-8291 for more information.



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