

# Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

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## American Legion Auxiliary, Jake Deware Kindness Project Make donations to Winnisquam School District



COURTESY

Pictured above are Jen Deware, founder of the Jake Deware Kindness Project; Whiteman-Davidson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 49 Treasurer Deb Converse and President Lynn Hebert, present a check to Jacqui McGettigan, WRSD Family and Student Support Liaison.

TILTON — The Winnisquam Regional School District (WRSD) is expressing its sincere gratitude for the generous donations received this holiday season to support families in need.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Jake Deware Kindness Project and the Whiteman-Davidson American Legion Unit Auxiliary Unit 49, WRSD staff were able to assemble six complete

Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys, for deserving families within the district.

Jake Deware, a beloved member of the Belmont community, tragically passed away in a dirt bike accident in November 2020 at the young age of 20. To honor his spirit of giving and random acts of kindness, his loved ones established the Jake Deware Kindness

Project. Throughout the year, fundraising events support various projects and organizations.

The Whiteman-Davidson Unit 49 Auxiliary also presented a generous check to Family and Student Support Liaison Jacqui McGettigan for the Winnisquam Cares Fund. This fund provides critical assistance for winter clothing and other essential items to students within the dis-

trict.

"This substantial donation will make a real difference in the lives of many students and families," said McGettigan. "We are incredibly grateful for the Whiteman-Davidson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 49's ongoing support."

According to Auxiliary President, Lynne Hebert, the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) or-

ganize fundraising dinners during the summer months, with the proceeds used to support their community.

"We're thrilled to be able to help our students and families in need," Ms. Hebert said.

WRSD staff will work to identify students who would benefit most from this donation and ensure the items are distributed before the holidays.

To learn more about

supporting the Jake Deware Kindness Project, please contact Jen Deware at on the Jake Deware Kindness Project Facebook page or at Jenniferlynnwb@gmail.com.

For information on how you can contribute to the Winnisquam Cares Fund, contact Jacqui McGettigan at jmcgettigan@wrdsau59.org.

## Expectations high for Belmont hoop boys

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

BELMONT — The pieces are in place for the Belmont hoop boys, now it's a matter of putting everything together. "We're feeling really good, when you return as many players as we're returning, there's a real sense of chemistry," said coach Tony Martinez. "They're focusing on basketball and building the foundation for what we want to do."

With a pair of four-year starters returning on the front line, the rest of the Division III will be on notice for the Raiders. Keegan Martinez, who enters the season clos-

ing in on the 1,000-point mark for his career, and Anakin Underhill have seen a lot in the last couple of years and as veteran multi-sport athletes, they've become strong leaders as well.

"The veteran leadership has shown guidance for the younger players and done all the stuff that coaches with any program want to see," Martinez said. "It's nice to be in this position in year three."

With Martinez and Underhill leading the way, the Raiders also have a host of returning players to help round out a talented roster. Mi-

chael Collette and Brady Thurber are multi-sport athletes who found a good rhythm on the court last year. Wyatt Carroll has been work-

ing hard in the preseason. Sophomore Brody Ennis has also taken steps forward in the offseason after playing minutes as a freshman.

"Any of these guys could start on any team in any division," Martinez said. "It's a good group of core guys with great leadership quali-

ties." The Raiders will be boosted by the return of guard Treshawn Ray,

SEE BOYS, PAGE A5

## Winnisquam Regional Middle School students participate in recycling program



COURTESY

Pictured above are Environmental Club members Jacory Winslow, Edward Mahoney, Madelyn Rankins, Elijah Coleman, Caleb Patten and Aubree Miller. Also pictured are staff members Colby Chickering and Sandy Licata.

TILTON — Winnisquam Regional Middle School proudly celebrated America Recycles Day in November. This annual event highlights the importance of recycling and encourages individuals and communities to take action to protect our planet. The National Recy-

cling Coalition created America Recycles Day and was first celebrated in 1997. Each year, the President declares the day, encouraging Americans to commit to recycling. Since 2009, this day has been a program of Keep America Beautiful. Organizations host thousands of

events across the United States to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and offer personal pledges that you can sign, committing to recycling and buying products made from recycled materials.

Winnisquam Regional Middle School students actively partic-

ipate in recycling projects each week. The Environmental Club, led by staff member Sandy Licata, collects and recycles materials on a regular basis. They make a very positive difference within their school community.

**Holidays bring early deadlines**

Along with merriment and good cheer, the holiday season brings with it an accelerated press schedule for our next few editions. The submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in our Dec. 19 edition will be Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.

For the Dec. 26 edition, the deadline will be Monday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.

For the Jan. 2 edition, the deadline will be Thursday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m.

Please note that our offices will be closed Dec. 23-25 in observance of Christmas and Dec. 30-Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's.

# Around and About Tilton

BY GREGG DEVOLDER

Hello, and welcome back.

I don't know about you, but this year's holiday season seems a bit different. There's always the holiday crush before Christmas that we go through. Running from store to store searching for the perfect gift, Christmas carols on the radio, decorating the home and tree. It's all there, but for me, it just doesn't feel the same. I'm not sure what it is. Perhaps it's the late Thanksgiving putting me in a rush, the global uncertainty we're living in, or my favorite, receiving our tax bill just before the holidays. And let's not forget the "Black Friday Sales" in the middle of summer or the Holiday displays in September. There's a numbing of my senses to the things I hold so dear. Perhaps this is happening to you. I have to ask myself, is this going to turn into a bah, humbug Christmas? Not if I can help it!

Much like Thanksgiving, this is a Holiday that runs deeper for me. You don't have to be a religious person to appreciate the words that have been repeated over and over for so many years. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." And of course, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Perhaps there is no God in your life, that's ok, it's your business, but I think we can all appreciate the words. On earth peace, good will toward men (and Women) and good tidings of joy, which shall be to all people. The first time I heard and understood those words was when I was a very young lad watching "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and listened to Linus tell us the meaning of Christmas. I imagine that may bring back a memory or two for you older readers as well. Fortunately for me, the grandkids are coming this weekend, and I think we might just be watching a little Charlie Brown. And as I write this, I've popped in my old Tony Bennett's Christmas Classics CD in the player and I have to say, I'm feeling better already! Cookies and milk anyone?

Let's not forget, there's nothing to put you into the holiday spirit like a long Selectmen's meeting. For a meeting with no agenda items, we somehow managed to go for two and a half hours. There were a few interesting things to mention, starting with a thank you to our public works team for their great job with the holiday lights at River Front Park. For those that haven't been by, it really is a display worth viewing. Well done!

As mentioned before, many of the businesses downtown are staying open till 7 p.m. on Fridays to help with your holiday shopping. As I walked both sides of Main Street last week, I couldn't help but notice, there really is something for everyone. From antiques, books and crystals to clothes and jewelry. Food for the soul and a multitude of friendly faces and helping hands. If you need a new hairdo or a quick trim, you're covered, heck you can even get insurance! It's all there and all these folks trying to keep our downtown vibrant and alive would greatly appreciate your business.

It was mentioned by one of our Selectmen that there's been some issues recently with homeless folks in the woods along the river near Salamon Run starting fires, presumably to stay warm. Both the police and fire departments have been called out. This is a concern with it being so dry and windy and the potential dangers an open fire might present to the community and private property owners nearby.

Unfortunately, the Selectmen have been under siege with folks struggling with their tax bills. Those in mobile homes and manufactured homes have been hit the hardest with the new valuations. For some, they've seen the value of their home more than triple. Many residents are elderly and on fixed incomes and have seen their tax bills go up by hundreds of dollars. It should never come down to food or taxes, but it is for some. As a reminder, the town does have an elderly tax credit, but it hasn't been updated in years and the Selectmen missed the opportunity to change it for 2024. This has kept some folks from being able to qualify. For 2025, the updated figures will come before the town as a warrant article and hopefully give some relief to those that need it. Please call town hall if you have any questions or issues. They are there to help you.

Finally, we'll likely be seeing permits and fees going up in January as the board reviews and updates the numbers. As compared to other communities in NH, we

are below many and on par with few. These adjustments will help cover the costs of inspections and other expenses that we, the taxpayers, have been covering. So, it's hard to argue against increasing the numbers.

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

Have a great week!



# New Lakes Region Sea Scouts group kicks off



COURTESY

Sea Scouts Lakes Region welcomed 10 new Scouts Tuesday meeting at its first organizational meeting. The Sea Scout "Ship" will meet, train and do cold weather activities such as ice boating throughout the winter.

LACONIA — Sea Scouts Lakes Region welcomed 10 new Scouts last Tuesday night, as the new co-ed group kicked off with an informational meeting at the Laconia Public Library.

"I'm very pleased at the turnout and the enthusiasm of the youth and their families," said Brian Beihl, a Unit Commissioner for Daniel Webster Council's Abnaki District and organizer of the new unit.

"We had families from as far away as Goffstown and Sunapee, because Sea Scout Ships are fairly rare in New

Hampshire," he said.

Over the winter, the Scouts will be taking their NH Boating Education course, learning critical safety requirements, and electing the Ship's officers. Sea Scouts is run primarily by the Scouts, and their interests, planning and training will drive which on-water activities the group pursues. Ice boating may be possible later in the winter, along with cold water rescue and first aid training.

The young adults joining range from age 14-18, with some existing Scouts BSA Scouts, and

others new to Scouting. More interested youth were not ready to commit, or expected to join after their 14th birthday.

The Ship is still looking for twice monthly, no-cost meeting space, but is hoping to find a church or other community space in Laconia, Lakeport or Gilford, all central to the population centers around Lake Winnepesaukee.

For information about getting your youth involved in Sea Scouts, contact SeaScoutsLakesRegion@gmail.com.

## SANBORNTON POLICE LOG

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Police Department responded to 45 calls for service and reported one arrest during the weeks ending Nov. 23 and Nov. 30.

Joshua O. Preston, age 40, of Manchester was arrested on Nov. 23 for Driving While Intoxicated (second offense).

The remaining calls included one animal complaint, one burglar alarm activation, one report of restricted camping, two charity deliveries, one report of criminal mischief, two reports of criminal trespassing, two DWI's, one request for assistance from another department, one report of disorderly conduct, one domestic violence incident, four fire/medical calls, two house checks, one missing person, four motor vehicle accidents, three motor vehicle summonses, one motor vehicle warning, three requests for police information, seven pistol permits, one received statement, one road hazard, one service of a court summons, one report of suspicious activity, one unwanted person complaint, one unofficial inspection, and one V.I.N. verification.

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# Second Annual Loft Christmas Show to benefit Lakes Region Children's Auction

MEREDITH — Embrace the joy of the Christmas season in the Loft at the Hermit Woods Winery in Meredith as three local musician favorites join together as a trio to celebrate the season through a mix of holiday classics and original compositions. Come and share what promises to be a wonderful evening of music wrapped around the theme of Christmas presented by artists Katie Dobbins, David Lockwood, and Andriana Gnap. This year's show marks the second annual presentation of a Christmas celebration in song by these musicians. For this year's one-night-only show at the Loft, they're back on stage together with additional musical support from the talents of New Hampshire artist Mike Moran on bass and percussion. Come and experience a special evening of Christmas magic.

In the spirit of the season of giving, 50 percent of show proceeds from ticket sales and tips will be given to the Lakes Region Children's Auction in support of local area children and related charities. So purchase a ticket with family members or friends and come with a joyful and generous heart knowing that you'll be supporting a great local business,



three talented local musicians, and the good works of the Children's Auction. In the midst of the Christmas season, come and enjoy some of the music and songs that remind us all of its meaning and purpose.

This special show will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 18, starting with a complimentary wine tasting at 5:30 p.m., Loft seating at 6 p.m., and musical performance from 7-8:30 p.m. A menu offering delicious foods and wines is available once the Loft has opened for seating. Food orders are taken prior to the

musical performance while wine is available throughout the entire evening event. The Loft provides an intimate setting and is a listening room during show times.

Tickets for the show are \$10-\$15 and available for purchase online at hermitwoods.com or at the Hermit Woods Winery located at 72 Main St. in Meredith. Seating is limited so be sure to purchase your tickets early.

About the Artists: Katie Dobbins' music captivates with its authentic voice, seamlessly weaving through various styles and genres. Her

wholesome and sultry vocals create a comforting connection, making you feel truly understood in the tapestry of life and love. Awarded Best Solo Act (Gold) at the 2024 Best of Lakes Region Awards, and nominated Female Performer of the Year at the 2023 New England Music Awards, Katie leaves a lasting impression with her honest lyrics and natural ease on stage. Her intentionality is evident in everything she does - from the music she creates to the details of each live show, making her performances a unique and beautiful experience.

Her most recent Holiday single, a creative acoustic rendition of "Silent Night," is available everywhere now, along with several other tunes released this year. David Lockwood has giggered around New England for more than 40 years as a member of Straight No Chaser and Little Davey & The Aberrations, in freelance trios and duos, and as a soloist. His mobile piano adventures as Little Davey & The Rolling 88s has been featured several

times on New Hampshire Chronicle. His most recent album of original songs is "The Rest Is History" (2021). Two albums of solo piano music, "No More A Stranger: Hymns & Songs" (2020) and "Comfort & Joy: Christmas Hymns + Carols" (2022), have enjoyed wide success, gaining listeners from New Hampshire to New Zealand. Learn more at: davidlockwood-music.com.

Andriana Gnap is an American born singer/songwriter with a strong connection to her Ukrainian heritage. Her uplifting original songs (in English and Ukrainian) have been featured on international radio programs. She has appeared as a vocalist, violinist, and dancer in theater and music festivals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Andriana also enjoys performing in local venues, such as Club Sandwich, operated by Broadway and film actor John Davidson. You may have heard one of Andriana's heartfelt ballads at New Hampshire's Cold River Radio show, opening for Jonathan Edwards along with her Family Trio Heavenstar. Recently, she published her first novel, "Two Worlds of Christmas." Learn more at: www.Andriana.org.

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## Winnisquam School District welcomes storyteller Simon Brooks during Books and Breakfast events



Pictured above are Riona Corr and Simon Brooks; Sanbornton Central School staff member Elizabeth Scism with Mavis Kayiales enjoy selecting books; Sanbornton Central School students from Mrs. Auger and Mrs. Willis' classes excitedly show off their book choices; Simon Brooks, along with Reading Interventionist Deb Turgeon and several students, participate in one of his stories.

REGION — The Winnisquam Regional School District has partnered with NH Hunger Solutions to participate in the School Breakfast Challenge, aiming to increase daily breakfast participation among students. Throughout the year, special events will be held at each school to support this initiative.

Recently, the district, in collaboration with the Children's Literacy Foundation, hosted Breakfast and Books events at Sanbornton Central School and Southwick School. Storyteller Simon Brooks entertained students with witty and comi-

cal tales. Thanks to the foundation's generosity, each student received a book to take home and enjoyed Simon's performance.

Riona Coor, Deputy Director of Hunger Solutions, emphasized the importance of breakfast and its nutritional value. Hannaford Supermarkets, also an event sponsor, donated snack plates featuring the four food groups for students to enjoy at home, along with some health snacks.

Informational brochures highlighting the benefits of school breakfast and providing links to the School Meals application and the SNAP

program were distributed to parents and guardians.

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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.



COURTESY

The New Horizons Band of the Lakes Region is proud to present their 2024 Holiday Concert Series. Come out and enjoy holiday music! The band be playing music traditional holiday tunes as well as a twist on those familiar tunes and some new holiday music. You'll even have an opportunity to sing those carols with a full band accompaniment. Conductor Debbi Gibson is excited to lead the musicians in this opportunity to bring holiday cheer to you. Our Gilford performance will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Gilford Community Church. Admission by donation. Join us, won't you? Start your holiday with musical cheer! Information on the organization or to join the band can be found at [newhorizons-lakesregion.org](http://newhorizons-lakesregion.org) or follow us on Facebook.

## Artificial intelligence: Humanity's smartest frenemy

Artificial intelligence (AI) is like that new kid in town who knows everything from helping you find the best Thai food at midnight to crafting the perfect apology text to your partner (“No, you’re right. I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to eat the last doughnut”). It’s efficient, helpful, and eerily insightful. But as with all new friendships, there’s a fine line between awe and mild existential terror. Let’s start with the good stuff. AI is a whiz at handling the mundane. Tedious tasks like sorting emails, balancing budgets, and even diagnosing diseases are no match for the lightning-fast algorithms working behind the scenes. For writers (and would-be procrastinators), AI is like having an over-achieving friend proofread your work and suggest snappier titles. It’s also a democratizing force: AI in education, for example, can help students in remote corners of the globe access the same quality resources as those in urban centers. Impressive, right? But there’s a catch. AI is a mimic. It learns by absorbing patterns from mountains of data—which means it’s less like a wise sage and more like a parrot with a doctorate. While this mimicry has its perks (who wouldn’t want a bot to whip up a dinner recipe based on the random five ingredients left in your fridge?), it also poses a risk. The more we rely on AI, the more human creativity and originality could start to wilt. Picture this: a world where everyone writes in the same witty, polished, AI-generated tone. Every wedding toast, blog post, and Tinder bio starts to sound suspiciously familiar. Instead of unique voices, we might end up with a global chorus of AI-crafted “perfect” responses. The quirks and idiosyncrasies that make us human—like mixing metaphors or inventing words like “hangry”—could fade into uniformity. Then there’s the “Big Brother” side of AI. While it’s not (yet) plotting to take over the world, AI does have a penchant for gobbling up data. Every time you scroll through social media, ask your smart speaker for the weather, or upload that cat video, you’re feeding the algorithm. AI knows more about you than your best friend does—possibly even more than you know about yourself. Creepy? Just a smidge. But before we panic and unplug our devices, it’s worth noting that AI isn’t inherently good or bad. Like fire or a karaoke machine, it all depends on how we use it. Harnessed wisely, AI can do wonders. But if we lean on it too heavily, we risk trading our humanity for convenience. So, what’s the solution? Balance. Use AI as a tool, not a crutch. Write your own jokes, even if they’re cheesy. Read a physical book and scribble in the margins. Embrace the imperfections that make you, you. And if AI starts getting too clever for its circuits, remind it who’s boss by pulling out a rotary phone. In the end, the future of AI is like a choose-your-own-adventure book: thrilling, unpredictable, and potentially disastrous if we stop paying attention. Let’s just make sure we’re the ones writing the story, not the machines.

For over two thousand years, the Star of Bethlehem has captivated imaginations and sparked debates among scholars, astronomers, and theologians.

Mentioned in the Book of Matthew, this star guided the Three Kings—wise men from the East—to the birthplace of Jesus. But what was this mysterious star? Was it a supernatural event, a naturally occurring astronomical alignment, or something else entirely? To this day, the Star of Bethlehem remains a radiant enigma in the story of Christmas.

The Magi, often depicted in nativity scenes as three kings, were likely not kings at all but astrologers or priests from regions such as Persia, Babylon, or possibly even as far as China.

They were united by their study of the heavens, seeking divine messages in celestial movements. Guided by the mysterious star, they may have traveled along ancient trade routes, such as parts of the Silk Road, on a journey that could have spanned thousands of miles to their ultimate destination, Bethlehem.

They saw the star as a sign of someone destined for greatness. Their gifts—gold for a king, frankincense, incense used in worship, and myrrh, an embalming spice foreshadowing death—reflected what they believed the star was telling them about this person.

But what exactly was this star that inspired

such a journey? Some believe the star was a miraculous sign, a divine light placed in the sky by God to announce the birth of Jesus. This interpretation aligns with the biblical account but leaves no room for scientific explanation. To those with faith, the star’s miraculous nature may be the ultimate answer—a symbol of heaven’s intervention in earthly affairs.

Others suggest the star could have been a comet, viewed as an omen in ancient times. A comet’s bright and fleeting nature would have made it a striking and memorable sign in the night sky.

Could the Star of Bethlehem have been an exploding star—a supernova? A supernova creates a sudden, brilliant light in the sky that can last for weeks or months. While ancient Chinese and Babylonian astronomers meticulously documented celestial events, there are no surviving records of a supernova occurring during the timeframe of Jesus’ birth.

One of the most widely accepted theories is that the Star of Bethlehem was a rare alignment of planets. In 7 BC, Jupiter and Saturn came together in three conjunctions within Pisces’s constellation. This phenomenon would have created a strikingly bright light in the sky.

Jupiter, often associated with kingship, and Saturn, symbolizing protection, aligned in Pisces—a constellation some ancient astrologers connected to sig-

nificant events for the Jewish people. Possibly interpreted as heralding the birth of an extraordinary leader or figure of great importance.

The “Great Conjunction” of Jupiter and Saturn occurs every 20 years, but the rare triple conjunction in Pisces around 7 BC has not happened in the same way since. To ancient astronomers, such alignments were seen as divine messages. This unique conjunction in Pisces might have been linked to significant astrological meaning.

While these theories offer intriguing possibilities, none fully explain the Star of Bethlehem.

If the star was a natural phenomenon, why didn’t other cultures widely record it? And how did it appear to “stop” over Bethlehem? These unanswered questions continue to shroud the star in mystery.

The Magi’s connection between the star and the birth of a king raises intriguing questions. Did they draw conclusions from ancient Hebrew texts, astrolog-

ical insights alone, or a combination?

Their reliance on astrology raises the question: could their journey suggest hidden truths found within the ancient study of Astrology and their influence on earthly events? Their interpretation suggests a deep understanding of celestial symbolism and its potential to foretell significant events.

Whatever its true nature, the Star of Bethlehem remains a symbol of hope and mystery, reflecting humanity’s timeless quest for meaning in the cosmos.

Whether a miraculous light or celestial alignment, it represents the pursuit of truth and the willingness to follow where it leads.

As we look to the winter sky this Christmas, we can imagine the Magi doing the same over 2,000 years ago, marveling at the unknown. The Star of Bethlehem, still inspiring awe, invites us to journey—not across deserts, but toward our sense of wonder.

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# Upgrades made to Tavern Inn Apartments create lasting impacts for residents, preserve historic building

LACONIA — Laconia Housing is pleased to announce significant updates to the historic Tavern Inn Apartments, located on Church Street in downtown Laconia.

Originally a hotel and a one-time campaign stop for President Dwight D. Eisenhower, this iconic building has offered affordable housing apartments for residents aged 62 and older since Laconia Housing's acquisition of it in 1997 through financing from TD Bank. Recent renovations underscore Laconia Housing's commitment to preserving local architectural history while providing essential housing and support services to its 50 residents. Tavern Inn Apartments provides eight efficiency apartments and 42 one-bedroom units.

Upgrade highlights  
Tavern Inn Apartments received a \$9,000 grant to complete crucial exterior updates. This grant was made possible from The 1772 Foundation in cooperation with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. These updates included repainting and repairing parts of the building's original trim and stucco to maintain its historic character



and freshen up its curb appeal.

"Today, more than ever, it is vitally important to preserve our historic buildings as they are quickly disappearing from the American landscape," comments Cathy Bowler, Executive Director of Laconia Housing. "On June 23, 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower stayed at the Laconia Tavern Hotel during his visit to Laconia. Our building stands as a symbol of housing transformation, innovation, and cultural heritage, embodying a

significant period in our city's development. This funding helped assure that downtown Laconia maintains its New England charm."

Additionally, energy efficiency upgrades made possible through NH Saves, include new LED lighting, window and door replacements, and updated air conditioning units installed in all 50 units to enhance resident comfort while reducing energy costs. Solar panels installed in

previous years continue to contribute to the building's sustainability goals.

The Church Street entrance also received an upgrade when replacing the stairs became necessary after a car accident had damaged them. Bowler states, "now they look even better than before!"

A commitment to affordable living Laconia Housing recently transitioned the Tavern Inn Apartments to

a Project-Based Voucher (PBV) model through HUD's Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) funds, ensuring long-term support for the building and its residents. The PBV model guarantees sustainable funding and helps se-

cure affordable living arrangements for seniors who call the Tavern home.

In addition to comfortable, secure housing, qualifying residents also benefit from a comprehensive suite of services designed to support their independence, including nurse visits, prescription delivery, homemaker services, and various social and educational activities.

Laconia Housing remains dedicated to enhancing quality of life and fostering a strong community environment for all residents. They are firm in their commitment to ensure Tavern Inn Apartments and the support services they provide continue to keep residents living independently in their homes and are available for those they serve for the long term.

For more on Laconia Housing, visit [LaconiaHousing.org](http://LaconiaHousing.org).

## BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

who played on the team as a freshman and after a year away, returns to run the offense from the point guard position. Additionally, Jack Binder, who stepped in late last year to help the team out and Owen Viar, who brings a tough pedigree, will also be key pieces for the Raiders.

"The biggest thing is to build the depth, there's a lot of guys that are going to be working hard to find their roles," Martinez said. "In Division III, you never know when someone's going to pick up two quick fouls and you have to have guys to step up.

"We have a lot of high expectations, with size and speed and what it takes to be a championship team," the Raider coach said. "The biggest goal for us is to handle expectations and bring

the lunch pair every day.

"We're going to work one day at a time and see how good we can get when we just focus on us," Martinez said. "We want to handle expectations and then exceed them."

The Raiders play a schedule that includes two games each with Berlin, Gilford, Winnisquam, Campbell and Inter-Lakes and single games with Derryfield, Somersworth, St. Thomas, White Mountains, Prospect Mountain, Newfound, Raymond and Conant.

The season kicks off on Friday, Dec. 13, at home against Berlin and Wednesday, Dec. 18, at home against Gilford, both at 6 p.m.

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

## Patrick's Pub Mania returns Dec. 12

GILFORD — The self-proclaimed 'World's Greatest Barstool Challenge' is returning for its 13th Pub Mania event on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Patrick's in Gilford. Thirty teams, comprised of local businesses, organizations and friends and family, will celebrate their year-round fundraising efforts on behalf of the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

"These teams continue to inspire us with their fundraising creativity and their commitment to the kids of the greater Lakes Region," said Allan Beetle, co-owner of Patrick's. "It's always a very special day."

Since 2009, Pub Mania teams have collectively raised over \$2.5 million for the Children's Auction, supporting children and families in the Greater Lakes Region.

The public is invited to visit Patrick's for lunch or dinner between noon and 8 p.m. to cheer on participants and enjoy the festivities. Organizers have arranged games and events throughout the day beginning with Opening Ceremonies at 11 a.m., with live music running from 4 – 11 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.patrickspub.com/pubmania](http://www.patrickspub.com/pubmania) and for the Children's Auction, visit [www.childrensauction.org](http://www.childrensauction.org).

## Franklin VNA & Hospice holds free advanced care planning walk-in session

FRANKLIN — On Friday, Jan. 17 from 1-3 p.m., Franklin VNA & Hospice is hosting a free Walk-In Advanced Care Planning session for the public at their office located at 75 Chestnut St, Franklin. A Franklin VNA & Hospice Social Worker/Notary Public will be available to discuss end-of-life wishes, review Advanced Directives to make sure they reflect your decisions, assist with filling out Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare and/or Living Will, and discuss how to have the important conversations with your loved ones regarding your final wishes. Advanced Directive booklets will be available to complete or take with you.

For more information, call (603) 934-3454 or email [info@franklinvna.org](mailto:info@franklinvna.org).



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Meet Baby!

Baby is a lovely lady who would do best in a home where she can get some adventures. She loves to lay in the sun and hang out with her people, but she won't say no to a romp in the woods either! She'd do best in a home where she's the only animal - she deserves to be the star of the show! Come meet Baby and fall for her smile today!

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# Belknap Mill Museum hosts LRCC art student exhibit

LACONIA — This December, the Belknap Mill's Riverside Gallery features The Third Annual "LRCC Student Work," an exhibit by art students at Lakes Region Community College. An artist reception was held last Friday evening.

Each artwork is an original piece, created either with traditional media (such as graphite and charcoal), or digital media (in programs like Photoshop, Illustrator, and Procreate). Within this exhibit you'll find observational drawings and paintings, photography, ceramics and sculptural work, as well as various design prints created from reference and imagination.



Photo of 2023's Second Annual "LRCC Student Work" an exhibit by art students at Lakes Region Community College.

COURTESY

"We at LRCC are grateful to the Belknap Mill for the opportunity to acknowledge as a community the creative ambition and dedication of our Intro to Drawing, Design, Intro to Digital Photography, Branding and Identity, and Design Software Essentials students," says Carolyn Arcabascio, Instructor and Program Coordinator for Graphics and Fine Arts at Lakes Region Community College.

## HO-HO-HOLIDAY Gift Guide

### The benefits of shopping local during the holiday season



Millions of people enjoy shopping for gifts and loved ones each holiday season. The spirit of giving is alive and well each December, and that can extend to giving back to one's own community. In addition to supporting local charities when making donations during the holiday season, shoppers can patronize small local businesses over big box retailers and national chains. The decision to do so can benefit communities in myriad ways.

- Small businesses inspire young entrepreneurs. The United States Department of Commerce reports that nearly half of all small business owners in the U.S. in 2018 were 54 or younger. Six percent of those owners were 34 and under. Young entrepreneurs at the helm of thriving local businesses provide inspiration to the next generation of innovators.

- Thriving small business owners can send a positive message to traditionally underrepresented groups. The National Women's Business Council Annual Report for 2022 indicated women-owned employer firms increased by nearly 17 percent between 2012 and 2019. Similarly, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 Annual Business Survey found that there were more Hispanic-owned and minority-owned businesses in various sectors than a decade earlier. The success of women- and minority-owned businesses sends a positive message to young entrepreneurs and locals who are part of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in business. That can help to create a more diverse and inclusive Main Street, the success of which depends heavily on locals' willingness to patronize locally-owned businesses.

- Shopping local supports many small business owners. Family meals and social gatherings with friends and coworkers are a big part of the holiday season, and it's not uncommon to break bread and share a few drinks during a night on the town. Choosing to gather at a locally owned restaurant or tavern instead of a chain restaurant can have a ripple effect on an assortment of local businesses. Local restaurants often source their ingredients from local farms. A family meal at such a restaurant benefits both the restaurant owner and the hardworking local suppliers of the food that ends up on the plate. Local restaurants also are more likely to list locally produced wines and craft beers on their menus than national chains. That adds to the ripple effect of celebrating the holidays at a locally owned restaurant.

A thriving small business sector is vital to a strong local economy. Shoppers can keep that in mind and patronize local businesses during the holiday season.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

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**EGIFT CARDS**  
Delivered to their inbox or yours! For every \$25 in Common Man EGift Card purchases from **November 29 - December 31**, you receive a \$5 EGift Bonus Card\*. That's 20% back for you! Available online at [theCman.com](http://theCman.com).

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Packed with \$400 worth of deals that last all year long! A portion of proceeds benefits NH Food Bank. \*\*\*Available at C-MAN family locations and online at [shop.theCman.com](http://shop.theCman.com)

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[www.belletetes.com](http://www.belletetes.com)



## Breakfast with Santa brings holiday magic to Mill Falls at the Lake

MEREDITH — Celebrate the joy of the holiday season at Breakfast with Santa, a new event at Mill Falls at the Lake. Families are invited to join us on Dec. 14 for a festive morning filled with delicious food, cheerful activities, and a magical visit from Santa Claus himself.

Held in the heart of Meredith's winter wonderland, the event promises to capture the magic of Christmas with a holiday breakfast buffet, ornament-making, cookie decorating, and the

chance for children to share their Christmas wishes with Santa. Families can take memorable photos in a beautifully decorated setting, creating treasured holiday moments that will last a lifetime.

"Breakfast with Santa event is a highlight of any holiday season," said Barbara Beckwith, General Manager at Mill Falls at the Lake. "It's a wonderful way for families to gather, celebrate traditions, and enjoy the magic of Christmas together."

Tickets for Breakfast with Santa are \$25 per adult (13 and older), \$15 per child (3-12), and \$5 for infants and toddlers two and under. Reservations are highly recommended as seating is limited. For more information or to book your spot, please visit [www.millfalls.com](http://www.millfalls.com) or contact the EKAL Activity Center at 603-677-8646.

Experience the wonder of the holidays at Mill Falls at the Lake, where the spirit of Christmas comes to life.

## "A Christmas Carol" returns to the Colonial Theatre!

LACONIA — Seventy-two performers aged seven to 70 will bring some holiday spirit and theatre magic to the Lakes Region this year when they perform "A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story" for four performances only. Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, the resident theatre company of the Colonial Theatre, brings Ebenezer Scrooge back to the stage Dec. 13-15 in this annual holiday production, Powerhouse's most popular show!

This original musical adaptation of the Dickens classic is penned by Joel Mercier, and will once again be directed by Powerhouse's Bryan Halperin with choreography by Jenna Romprey. Vocal direction is by Lorraine Barrows, and the caroling choir will once more be performing "preshow" as audiences arrive!



Returning to the role of Ebenezer Scrooge is Jim Gocha, a member of Powerhouse's 10 show club, for his third crack at the challenging character.

Gocha says, "Scrooge is my all-time favorite literary character. Being able to play him onstage is such a privilege. It's something I look forward to sharing with the audience each year."

ward to sharing with the audience each year."

Says Halperin, "Jim gets better in the role every year, and our complete ensemble this year is our strongest yet, filled with faces that have had starring roles throughout our last few seasons. Each year we have one goal - make the show better than last

year - and we are well on our way to achieving that with our 2024 production."

"A Christmas Carol" is sponsored by Franklin Savings Bank, The Common Man, and Loring Volvo and is part of the 2024 Colonial Series sponsored by Grappone Mazda and BNH. Powerhouse's 2024 season is

sponsored by Lavalley/Middleton Building Supply, The Platinum Group, and Meredith Village Savings Bank.

Tickets and all the de-

tails can be found at [powerhouse.org](http://powerhouse.org) or [coloniallaconia.com](http://coloniallaconia.com). Please only use ticket links from these two websites as Google searches will turn up third-party sites that charge a premium for tickets. Prices range from \$18-\$24 so if you see higher prices please find the correct websites.

There are evening performances on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Make Powerhouse's "A Christmas Carol" a part of your annual holiday traditions!

Contact [info@powerhouse.org](mailto:info@powerhouse.org) for more details and other opportunities to get involved or become a 2025 sponsor.

## "Matilda" hits the Playhouse stage this weekend



COURTESY  
Charlotte Van Ledtje plays the title role in "Matilda the Musical" at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse.

members of the local community onstage and over a dozen working backstage, bringing the community together for a truly sensational theatrical event. Charlotte Van Ledtje makes her Playhouse debut in the title role. She is joined by long-time Playhouse performer Rick Morten as the hated headmistress, Agatha Trunchbull. The production is helmed by

Playhouse Artistic Director Timothy L'Ecuyer with choreography by Rebecca Gregoire and music direction by Emily King.

Tickets are selling quickly, especially for matinee performances, and early reservations are recommended. The show will be performed on Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at

2 p.m.

This production is generously sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank, Laura and Gary Stephan, the Taylor Community, and NH Broadband. Tickets are available at [www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org](http://www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org) or (603) 279-0333.

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MEREDITH — The Winnepesaukee Playhouse Education Department and the Winni Players Community Theatre, two branches of the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, will be presenting the acclaimed Broadway hit "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical" from Dec. 11-15.

In 2010, Dahl's beloved children's book leapt to the stage bringing his characters to life with dynamic songs and innovative staging, winning 16 Best Musical awards! It's the inspiring story of an extraordinary girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that, despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to.

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## Food FACT:



These cookies are made from a stiff dough that is rolled out and cut into shapes.

Answer: Rolled cookies

### Creative Coloring

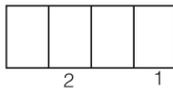
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



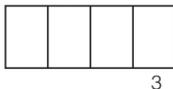
### Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

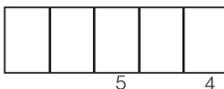
KEAB



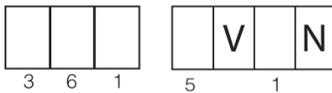
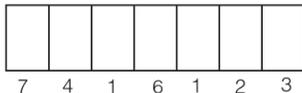
ISTF



RLUFO



HCSPI



Answer: Preheat the oven

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1768:** The first edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica is published.

**1901:** The first Nobel Prize ceremony is held in Stockholm on the fifth anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

**2021:** Deadly tornadoes affect the United States.

## NEW WORD

### FOLD

gently mix one ingredient into a batter

### How they say that in...

**English:** Flour  
**Spanish:** Harina  
**Italian:** Farina  
**French:** Farine  
**German:** Mehl

### Did You Know?



Food historians trace gingerbread back to the ancient Egyptians, who used it for ceremonial purposes. The ancient Greeks came up with the first gingerbread recipe.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Jelly thumbprint cookie

## CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to games and puzzles. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = A)

**A. 16 5 25 22 16 13**  
Clue: Possibility

**B. 21 24 23 6 6**  
Clue: Prowess

**C. 11 13 22 1 25 6**  
Clue: Using the mind

**D. 25 16 4 23 1 10**  
Clue: Keeness of thought, vision or hearing

Answers: A. chance B. skill C. mental D. acuity

## SUDOKU

		5		9		4	1	
	7			4	1	5		3
		4	3		2	8	6	7
			2	6		3	7	8
					7	6		
7	4		9					1
9	6				8	7		
		3					2	
2			6	3				

Level: Beginner

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	5	7	6	3	9	1	8	4
4	8	3	1	7	5	9	2	6
9	6	1	4	2	8	7	3	5
7	4	6	9	8	3	2	5	1
3	2	8	5	1	7	6	4	9
5	1	9	2	6	4	3	7	8
1	9	4	3	5	2	8	6	7
6	7	2	8	4	1	5	9	3
8	3	5	7	9	6	4	1	2

ANSWER:

# Carroll takes helm for Belmont hoop girls

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

BELMONT — Before the season even started, new Belmont girls' basketball coach Roger Carroll had reached one of his team goals for the season.

"One of our goals has already been accomplished and that was to grow the numbers in the

program," Carroll said, noting that the numbers grew from 11 players at the high school level last year to 20 this year.

"Our players want to compete and I believe we will," he continued. "More importantly, the girls believe that too."

The Raiders do have a number of solid returning players they can lean

on as they get ready for the new season.

Senior guard Madelyn Besegai is a three-year starter and a great lead-by-example player who can shoot, get to the rim, distribute and be disruptive on defense while senior guard Maddie Carrier is a superb athlete who can shoot, finish, pass and defend.

Sophomore guard Bailey Perkins started as a freshman and brings a great feel for the game and an outstanding skill package while sophomore Lyla McSheffrey is a terrific athlete and competitor who will be filling a starting spot.

Senior forward Molly Reposa is the team's tallest player at 5'11" and is being asked to take on a larger role. Carroll notes that she is smart and understands what the team is trying to do at both ends of the floor. Senior guard Megan Divers is another smart player who has gained confidence and will be a significant role player off of the bench while junior forward Sami O'Connor had a solid summer and will be key in the rotation down low and can be a rebounding machine. Senior guard Madison Smith battles every day in practice and will com-

pete for minutes on the perimeter.

For newcomers, ninth grader Mia Ellis is as fast as they come and can be a terror on defense and classmate Jenna Laramie is a rangy player with good skills, a nose for the ball and a tendency to be a disruptor on defense.

"After making the tournament last season as the final seed, it's clear that we want more this season and are willing to work for it," Carroll noted. "Our basketball IQ is pretty high and we have a nice mix of players who can fill a variety of roles.

"We need to take care of the ball, stay organized on defense and rebound," he continued. "If we do those things, we have a chance to compete on a nightly basis."

And as for the motivation, the first-year head coach is pretty sure the

girls are definitely motivated.

"Some of the players thanked me for making them run, so I'd say they're pretty motivated," he said.

The Raiders will play a schedule that includes two games each with Berlin, Somersworth, Gilford, Winnisquam, Campbell and Inter-Lakes and single games against St. Thomas, Prospect Mountain, White Mountains, Newfound, Raymond and Conant.

The season kicks off on Friday, Dec. 13, on the road in Berlin at 6:30 p.m. and continues on Monday, Dec. 16, at Somersworth at 6 p.m. and at Gilford on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m.

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

## After historic run, young Bears gearing up for new season

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam girls' basketball team had a season to remember last year, advancing to the Final Four, but the Bears also lost a lot of talent to graduation and will be looking for some new players to step up and fill the roles.

"This is a great group of kids that understand it will take some time for everyone to figure out their new roles," said fifth-year head coach Mark Dawalga. "I truly believe in this group and understanding patience early on will be a key to this group getting used to playing together.

"Our goal is to get better every day in practices and games," the Bear coach added.

The Bears will be relying a lot this year on

the lone returning starter from last year, junior Caidyn Carter.

"What I really like about Caidyn is that she is extremely knowledgeable about the game and understands what it takes every day in practice to get where we want to get to," Dawalga said. "Her leadership on the court will be extremely helpful this year."

Junior Jaelynn Tremer and senior Leah Morrison are also back to bring a little more varsity game experience to a relatively young group of Bears.

Ninth graders Avriell LaBranche and Kylie Degrace, sophomore Natalie Wolfe, junior Bella Soucy and senior Sophia Labranche are all new to the team this year and will be counted on to work down low while ninth graders Kaylynn

Reagan and Abby Meunier and sophomore Teagan Labrie are expected to help out in the backcourt.

The Bears will play a schedule that includes two games each with Raymond, Belmont, Prospect Mountain and Gilford along with single games against St. Thomas, Inter-Lakes, Masoma, White Mountains, Newfound, Somersworth, Stevens and Fall Mountain.

The Bears are slated to kick off the new season on Friday, Dec. 13, at home against St. Thomas and continues on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at home against Inter-Lakes, both at 7 p.m. and at Raymond on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m.

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

## HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

### Friday, Dec. 13

BELMONT  
Boys' Hoops vs. Berlin; 6  
Girls' Hoops at Berlin; 6:30

### GILFORD

Boys' Hoops vs. White Mountains; 6  
Girls' Hoops at White Mountains; 6

### WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops at St. Thomas; 6:30  
Girls' Hoops vs. St. Thomas; 7

### Saturday, Dec. 14

BELMONT  
Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

### BELMONT-GILFORD

Boys' Hockey at Kennett; 2

### GILFORD

Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

### Monday, Dec. 16

BELMONT  
Girls' Hoops at Somersworth; 6

### Swimming at Hanover; 6

### BELMONT-GILFORD

Hockey at L-W-I; 4

### GILFORD

Swimming at Hanover; 6

### WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hockey vs. Belmont-Gilford; 4

### Tuesday, Dec. 17

### WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6

Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 7

### Wednesday, Dec. 18

### BELMONT

Boys' Hoops vs. Gilford; 6

Girls' Hoops at Gilford; 6:30

### GILFORD

Boys' Hoops at Belmont; 6

Girls' Hoops vs. Belmont; 6:30

### WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hockey vs. Berlin-Gorham; 5

Girls' Hoops at Raymond; 6:30

Thursday, Dec. 19

### BELMONT

Alpine Skiing at Bretton Woods; 10

All schedules are subject to change.

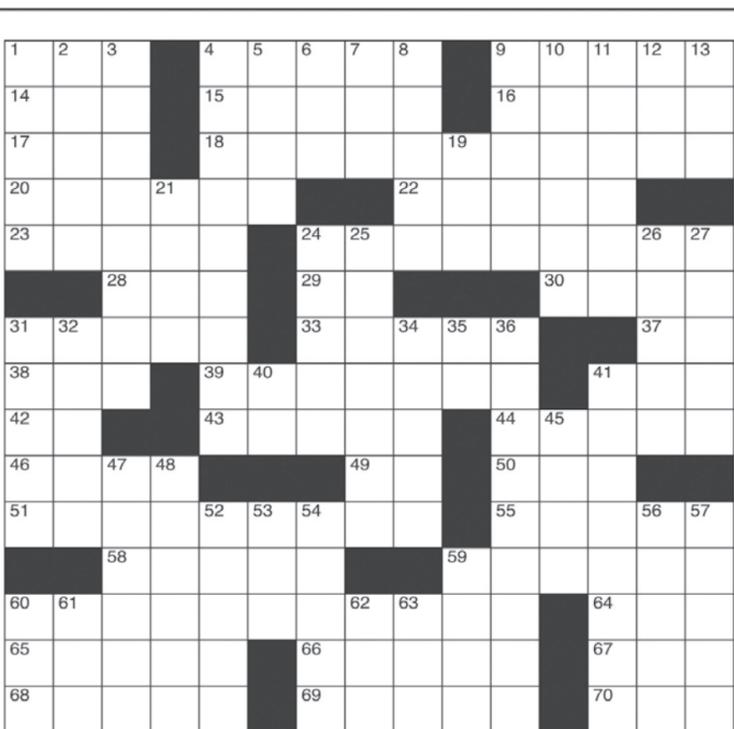
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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Miller beer variety
- 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- 9. Stomach
- 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing
- 18. "Amor Horror Story" actress
- 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house
- 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings
- 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are two
- 37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- 38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet letter
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 44. Back parts
- 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 49. Touchdown
- 50. One point north of due east
- 51. Refurbishes
- 55. Silver and Dogg are two
- 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 65. Past (archaic)
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 67. Old English letter
- 68. Young domestic sheep
- 69. Football players need to gain them
- 70. Witness

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs
- 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection
- 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition
- 11. A small quantity of anything
- 12. Mountain Time
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element meaning ear
- 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails
- 25. Newborn child
- 26. Sword
- 27. Groups of people
- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 32. Become less intense
- 34. Polishes
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one's beloved
- 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician
- 47. Pre-digital
- 48. Roaming
- 52. Ambience
- 53. Brew
- 54. Late
- 56. Make ecstatically happy
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 59. Blend
- 60. Dash
- 61. Self
- 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 63. Hill or rocky peak

## PUZZLE SOLUTION





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# Winnisquam Regional High School students learn about careers in the trades



TILTON — Twenty WRHS students attended the Bringing Back the Trades & Tradeapalooza Fair, where they saw Mike Rowe, host of “Dirty Jobs” and CEO of the Mike Rowe Works Foundation, interviewed by Governor-Elect Kelly Ayotte. Held at NHTI, the event aimed to educate students about career opportunities in the trades in New Hampshire.

The fair provided students with the chance to directly interact with companies from various trades, including construction, automotive, manufacturing, and more. The goal was to inspire a passion for skilled trades and contribute to the growth of New Hampshire’s skilled trade workforce.

This event was designed to benefit students, parents, and job seekers by providing information about career paths in the trades. The Tradeapalooza career fair offered attendees the opportunity to speak with companies, learn about available internships and apprenticeships, and ask questions to industry professionals.

COURTESY Pictured above are Mike Rowe, Governor-elect Kelly Ayotte, and Amanda Grappone-Osmer, a WRHS parent and fourth-generation owner of Grappone Automotive Group, discussing ways to increase high school students’ interest in the trades.

# Winnisquam Regional Middle School students excel at bridge building competition

CONCORD — Congratulations to the 18 Winnisquam Regional Middle School students who competed in the Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

WRMS teams brought seven bridges to NHTI to compete against schools from around the state. WRMS was the only middle school in attendance. The performance rating is based on the ratio of the bridge’s weight to

its strength. Congratulations to the WRMS teams on their outstanding accomplishments.

WRMS 1st Place: Kylie Hebert and partner (performance rating of 94.01)

WRMS 2nd Place: Nick Parsons, MacKai-leb Decato, and Kevin Burke (performance rating of 77.04)

WRMS 3rd Place: Isaiah Glover, Colton Flynn, and Tyler Robb (performance rating of 75.37)



# HELP WANTED

**Winnisquam Regional School District**

The WRSD School Board has a vacancy it seeks to fill from the town of Tilton until the March, 2025 annual meeting of the School District. Registered voters from the town of Tilton who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter stating their intentions by December 20th to:

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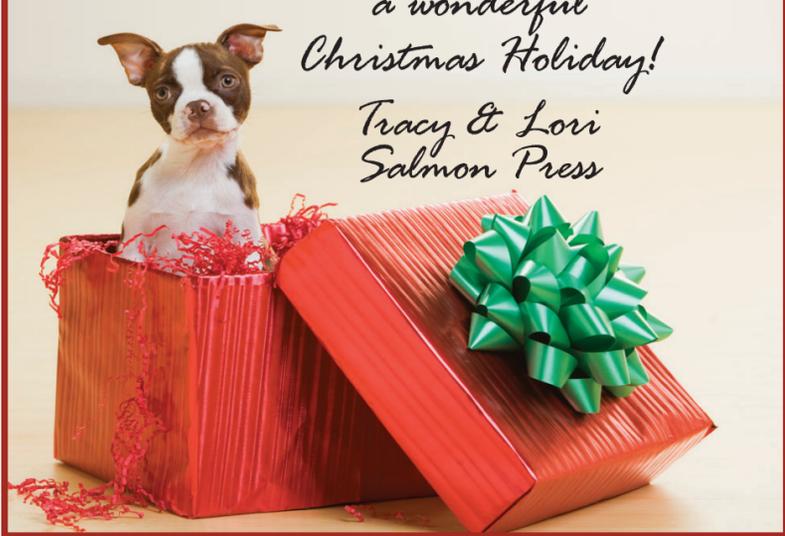
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