



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

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

Laconia-Gilford Lions Club donates \$1,500 to The Home Possible Project

GILFORD — The Home Possible Project (HPP) is pleased to announce a generous \$1,500 donation from the Laconia-Gilford Lions Club in support of HPP's efforts to create a permanent, supportive home for adults with developmental disabilities in the Lakes Region.

Laconia-Gilford Lions Club President Matt Sousa presented the check to Lisa DiMartino, Chair of the HPP Board of Directors, at HPP's future building site on property generously provided by the First United Methodist Church of Gil-



ford-Laconia. Several HPP Board members, supporters and prospective future residents were also present for the presentation.

"This is the kind of creative and imaginative solu-

tion that we need, and our club is happy to support this effort," said Sousa. "We

hope this will inspire other organizations to follow suit and help address the lack of

housing for adults with developmental disabilities."

The Laconia-Gilford Lions Club is an official affiliate of Lions Clubs International, the world's oldest service organization. Through its fundraising and community service, the club directs its efforts toward making a positive difference in the local community.

The Home Possible Project, a local grassroots nonprofit, is developing an

eight-apartment community residence in Gilford that will provide adults with developmental disabilities with safe, private, accessible homes in a supportive community setting. The residence will include shared living and community spaces and 24/7 staff support, while emphasizing independence, dignity, meaningful relationships and participation in the broader community.

SEE **HOME POSSIBLE** PAGE **A6**

End 68 Hours seeking local families in need

REGION — End 68 Hours of Hunger in Alton, Barnstead, and Pittsfield is seeking families in need for the 2026/2027.

End 68 hours of hunger is designed to provide children

with easy to prepare beneficial

and healthy meals for the time period of the 68 hours they are not in school on weekends. Typically,

SEE **FAMILIES**, PAGE **A6**

Celebrate an Irish Christmas at the Colonial

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Irish Christmas in America on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Celebrating its 21st year, popular holiday show "Irish Christmas in America" brings a fascinating performance of music, song, dance, and stories of seasonal Irish traditions. Produced by Sligo fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada, the long-running show features top Irish music, song and dance in an engaging performance rich in humor and boundless energy.

The holiday show was first conceived in 2005 with past tours featuring such stellar guest vocalists as Niamh Farrell, Séamus & Méabh Begley, Teresa Horgan, Lumiere. Mac Diarmada enthuses about the program as a way to bring traditional and often unknown Irish customs to the States. "One of the most heart-felt themes of Irish Christmas is emigration," says Mac Diarmada. "Music was a way that people stayed close to home."

A sparkling tradition among holiday events, Irish Christmas in America is a special show to see this season. For more information, visit irishchristmas.com.

Newly hired TA brings contagious enthusiasm to New Durham

BY CATHY ALLYN
Contributing Writer

NEW DURHAM — If you walk into Paul Brans-

COURTESY PHOTO

(Right) Paul Branscombe, serving as Interim Town Administrator in New Durham since June, has just signed a three-year contract with an option for another year. Branscombe said "getting to know people" is always a goal for him, and has already achieved a reputation for being responsive to residents.



combe's office at the New Durham Town Hall — and that's easy to do, as the new Town Administrator (TA) has announced he has an open door policy — it's more than apparent he's enjoying himself.

Branscombe comes to New Durham by way of a series of different careers and even a different country. But everything about him is pulled together by a core

SEE **BRANSCOMBE**, PAGE **A6**

Media night kicks off fall sports season at Kingswood

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — Coming off a season where two different teams won state championships and a year when three squads lifted the title trophies, optimism is the name of the game for Kings-

swood fall sports.

The preseason officially kicked off last week for football, soccer, volleyball, golf, cross country and bass fishing athletes and kids and coaches were on hand for the annual fall sports media night on Thursday, Aug. 20.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kingswood fall sports athletes pose for a group photo at the annual fall sports media night last Thursday afternoon.

Athletes received their uniforms, got team pictures and senior head shots and a couple of kids from each team took a few minutes to talk about their teams.

The Knight soccer boys,

under second-year head coach Erick Bourdeau, who had a scrimmage later that evening, were first to the table with Dylan Copenhaver and Cohen McNevich representing.

SEE **MEDIA NIGHT**, PAGE **A6**

Lakes Region Art Association celebrates 86th Annual Exhibit

TILTON — Lakes Region Art Association Announces Winners of 86th Annual Member Show.

The Lakes Region Art Association is pleased to congratulate the winners of its 86th Annual Member Show. A well-attended

awards reception was held on July 31, where attendees celebrated the outstanding work of local artists.

This year's exhibition was judged by Shawne Randlett, Christine Roman, and Peter Abate. Shawne and Christine attended the



reception and shared their insights with the artists while presenting the awards.

Award Winners

Acrylic
First Place: Sheryl Shirley – Winter's First Dance
Second Place: Richard Canto – Flowers in Vase
Black & White Photography
First Place: Mike McQuade – Between the Drifts
Second Place: Gavin

MacDonald – The Open Page
Color Photography
First Place: Robert Hein-er – Studies in Ice #1
Second Place: Roumiana Adams – Venice, Italy
Honorable Mention: Sher-wood Frazier – Cloud Fingers
Mixed Media
First Place: Sarah Kahn – Feed the Greater Beast
Second Place: Gail Brunt – White Mountains from Vermont

Oil
First Place: Leigh Schoch – Ammonoosuc Ravine Waterfall
Second Place: Don Giguere – Franklin Falls Kayak Run
Honorable Mention: Don Giguere – Birch Road
Pastel
First Place: Duane Hammond – Docked for Dinner
Second Place: Karen Robinson – Homecoming

Watercolor

First Place: Sheryl Shirley – Winter Wonders
Second Place: Marguerite Bride – Winter Train in North Conway
Honorable Mention: Christine Fogg – The Hunter
Three-Dimensional Art
First Place: Phillip Gauthier – Helion
Second Place: Phillip Gauthier – Re-Percussion
Open Media
First Place: Lynn Casey – The Good Therapist
Second Place: Sarah Kahn – Oh Death
Best in Show
Duane Hammond – Biking the Boardwalk

The 86th Annual Member Show continues through August 30 and features more than 100 paintings and photographs by 39 local artists. Visitors are invited to view the exhibition and cast their votes for the People's Choice Awards.

For more information, visit www.lakesregionart-gallery.org or follow LRAA on social media.

Labor Day Weekend!

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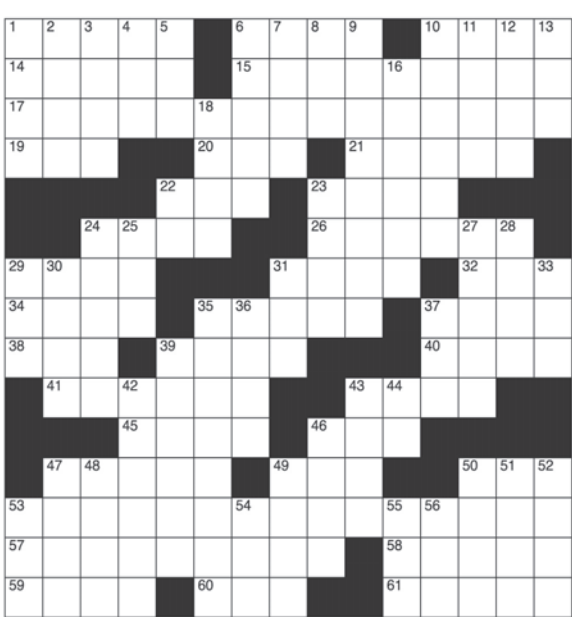
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant
6. Turkish river
10. Something to read
14. In a way, initiated
15. Popular Apple TV series
17. King Charles is part of it
19. Earlier
20. Foot (Latin)
21. Zodiac sign
22. A browning of the skin
23. Remain as is
24. Turf
26. It's used to slaughter animals
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life story
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
35. Counterparts
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. Digital audiotape
39. River in South Africa
40. Kimono sashes
41. Rooting somewhere
43. American spy Aldrich
45. A way to call for
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a union
58. Performs spoken improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee
4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghostly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral
11. At some prior time
12. American protest singer
13. Opener
16. Seldom
18. Relaxing places
22. Touchdown
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. Metal-bearing solid
27. Skin care product manufacturer
28. Thirteen
29. Angry
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Mass of fish eggs
39. Food supplies
42. Backbones
43. American real estate investment firm
44. Megabyte
46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
50. Flute
51. Dismissive sound
52. Slang term for marijuana
53. Young women's association
54. Cosmopolitan city
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
56. Pointed end of a pen



Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Alton Bay Concert — Aug. 29

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring their last concert for the 2026 summer at the Alton Bay Bandstand on Saturday, Aug. 29 from 7-9 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand. Join in the fun as we listen to great music by the band “Cool Beans” featuring 60’s and 70’s Rock. Fun for the whole family.

Pilates classes in Alton Bay — Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Pilates classes at the Alton Bay Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. with certified instructor Donna Lee. Classes are ongoing. All level adults are welcome for a full body, low impact class that will improve muscle tone, flexibility, balance and strength. \$10 per class, cash or Venmo. Bring a mat, water and hand weights. For more information/register contact Donna at breathepilates1@yahoo.com or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

Guided Meditation

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring Guided Meditation with Karen Kharitonov on Thursdays, Aug. 27 and Sept. 10 & 24 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. The program is free, donations accepted to benefit the food pantry. For more information, contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Dungeons and Dragons

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

Tinkergarten Program — Free class Sept. 11

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Tinkergarten with Miss Kim on Fridays at B&M Park from 10-11 a.m. for children ages eight and under. Try a class for free on September 11. The eight-week session runs Sept. 18-Nov. 13 (no meeting Oct. 30), \$150. Tinkergarten is an outdoor play experience that is interactive, cooperative and creative- let’s play outside and explore what nature has to offer. For more information and to register go to: <https://sites.google.com/view/learn-and-grow-with-miss-kim/home>.

Honoring Loss gathering

Alton Parks and Recreation and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring a special gathering on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Gilman Library, 100 Main St., led by facilitators Carol Wallace and Dottie Bergeron. Honoring Loss is a gentle conversation created for anyone navigating grief, change, or life’s many transitions. Together, we will honor our journeys, remember those we love, and find comfort in discussion, understanding, and hope. Whether your loss is recent or long ago, personal or shared, you are welcome here. Please RSVP to parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Travel Club Trips Cowboy Country and Taste of Italy in 2027

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring two trips with Collette Tours in 2027. The first trip is to Cowboy Country. Trip highlights include Grand Teton National

Park; Badlands National Park; Crazy Horse Memorial; Mt. Rushmore and much more. The trip includes a visit to Yellowstone National Park which is famous for its geysers, hot springs and herds of bison. Witness the impressive Old Faithful, travel over the Sylvan Pass and see Yellowstone Lake. Trip dates are June 8-15, 2027 and include airport transportation from Alton, airfare, 10 meals, hotels, and guided transportation through Cowboy Country, including walking, bus, and covered wagon tours.

Alton Parks and Recreation is also sponsoring a trip with Collette Tours to Italy in 2027. The trip highlights include Rome; Narni-Umbria Region, Chianti Region, Tuscany, and Florence. Explore an archaeological site hidden beneath the village; take a walking tour of Assisi and see views of Lake Trasimeno; visit the famous Basilica of St. Francis and admire Giotto’s frescoes; take a cooking class and visit olive groves; and much more. Trip dates are Oct. 23-Nov. 3, 2027. Includes airfare, 16 meals, hotels and transportation.

These trips are a great way to travel in a group and with a knowledgeable guide. An informational session will be held on Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. at the Gilman Library about both trips. RSVP to attend the session-603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Weight Training classes — Mondays and Wednesdays — starts Oct. 5

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Weight Training Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, with AFAA Certified Instructor Kellie Troendle, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library for adults of all ages and abilities. This program starts on Oct. 5. Try the class for free on Sept. 21 & 23. Build strong muscles and bones, increase flexibility and develop better balance. Bring light hand weights, a mat and water. For more information, contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109. \$20 per month, register on site.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

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Meet City, a handsome medium to large breed boy with a heart full of love and excitement for the important people in his life. Once City knows you’re his person, he is sure to show you with happy wiggles, a big personality, and plenty of enthusiasm. He is always ready for a walk, an adventure, or simply spending time with the people he loves.

City can be a little nervous when meeting new people, so he will need a patient adopter who is willing to



take the time to build a relationship with him. We will require a few meet-and-greets before he goes home to make sure everyone feels comfortable and that a strong bond can begin to form.

This sweet guy is looking for someone who can match his energy, understand that trust takes time, and appreciate the wonderful companion he is. With a little patience and a lot of love, City is ready to become someone’s loyal best friend and adventure buddy.



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September events at Oscar Foss Memorial Library

BARNSTEAD — Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3 p.m. (Sep. 10). Monday, Sept. 7, is Labor Day!

During the month of September, New Hampshire is running the Granite State Library Card Challenge. As you might already know, we are a small town, but luckily for us, winners are determined by percentage increase, not actual numbers. That being said, we need your help to win that trophy! If you’ve been thinking about getting a library card, September is the month to do it. Maybe you’re sharing a card with a loved one and want your own. And hey, kids aged 6 and up can get their own card! So stop by the library and get a card (or renew it if yours expired - those count), see what services we have to offer (copying, faxing, notary, access to free audiobooks and e-books via Libby, a computer to use, and more!), grab a copy of the Barnstead Banner, and most importantly, check out a book (or a movie or a telescope or a game)!

Home School Group: Run by group members, it takes place at the library meeting room on Fridays from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Involves a mix of stories, simple science/learning activities, and a creative art/craft activity that all go along with a theme for the week. The activities are geared towards kids ages 4 and up, and younger siblings are welcome to come along. There will be an event posted ahead of time on the group’s Facebook page (Barnstead NH Library Homeschool Group) for each weekly meet-up, so you’ll always know what to expect and if you need to bring anything.

Music and Movement Storytime, aka Little’s Love to Learn! Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for an interactive storytime filled with group singing, dancing, imaginative play, crafts, and stories, all designed specifically for babies and toddlers.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. is Children’s Storytime. Visit us at the library for stories, crafts, and singing. Then experience the cozy ambience in the children’s area, which has all sorts of neat

things to do. Make new friends. Set up playdates. Check out books, movies, and games, play with the trains, Legos, and puppets. Come for the learning, stay for the fun!

Start your week off with Yoga Monday! Gentle Hatha-Flow runs from 10:15-11:40 a.m., Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga is noon to 1 p.m., and Intermediate Hatha-Flow lasts from 5:30-6:50 p.m. Classes are by donation (suggested \$8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate.

Our Read the Room Book Club (ages 18 and up) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (Sep. 2), from 6-7:30 p.m. This month’s book will be “Cabin” by Patrick Hutchison. Next month’s book will be “Isola” by Allegra Goodman. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

Playing a musical instrument alone at home is fun, but it’s more fun to make music with others. Adult musicians of all ability levels are invited to join our small group. We meet in Barnstead’s library meeting room from 6 to 8 p.m. every first (Sep. 1) and third Tuesday (Sep. 15) of the month, and play acoustic (non-amplified) instruments like guitars and ukuleles. Other instruments that might round out our sound would include the harmonica, fiddle, mandolin, etc. (Unfortunately, horns and other instruments that can’t be played softly would overpower our softer sounding instruments.) We play various kinds of songs including folk, country, Irish, rock, and more. Sessions are very informal, and the goals are to meet people, share skills, and have fun. Check the calendar on the library website to confirm dates. Please join us!

NEW Calling all Mah Jongg fans - come join us at the library! Players meet the first (Sep. 3) and third (Sep. 17) Thursdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. No registration or expertise required.

A Fire Prevention Education and Safety Program is coming your way on Friday, Sep. 4, at 10:30 a.m., at the Barnstead Fire-Rescue Department (right across from the

library)! This free program, provided by the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Barnstead Fire-Rescue Department, offers fire and life safety tips for all ages. Learn steps to protect your home and family, and help enhance community safety through education.

NEW! We are starting a Chess Club! Beginning this September, join us at the library every second (Sept. 10) and fourth (Sept. 24) Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. No registration required, this is a drop-in program hosted in the adult fiction area. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own board if you have one, or use one of ours!

On Thursday, Sept. 17, at 5 p.m., join local author, Sybil Bond, for a talk on her new book “Bombs, Bullets, and Me.” This book details Sybil’s experience as the Associate Director of the China Beach USO Club during the Vietnam War. We will be holding the talk in the library meeting room. Registration is not required.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, starting at 7 p.m., discover the wonders of the night sky via “Skywatch with the NH Astronomical Society.” They will start with a presentation in the library meeting room, then we’ll move outdoors. Members of the society will bring telescopes and binoculars and guide us through an evening of stargazing, with opportunities to view planets, stars, the moon, and other celestial objects. Please dress warmly and bring your questions!

OFML is hosting a Fall Photography Contest! Calling all photography lovers: For one month (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23), we are asking you to send us your best “Fall in NH” photo! One entry per person, the photo can be digital or physical, but please include your name and contact info. If your photo is in digital form, you can email it to ofmlstaff@gmail.com. After Oct. 23, we will post all the entries on our Facebook page, and in the library for voting, and the best photo will be announced on 10/29/26. The winner will receive a prize basket and their winning photo will be

showcased in our display case during the month of November.

On Thursday, Sept. 24 (NEW NIGHT! Last Thursday of the month), from 6:30-8 p.m., join us for Books & Banter. Read what you want, then come talk about it! Books & Banter is an 18+ book club with no assigned reading. Discuss whatever

you’ve been enjoying lately, whether it’s new, old, borrowed, or rediscovered. Share what stood out, hear what others are reading, and find your next great recommendation in good company.

Our “Let’s Write a Novel!” writing group is looking for fresh faces (16+) to join our “Hero’s Journey” experience. This

structured group will help take your MG, YA, NA, or Adult story idea from concept to can-do! This class runs 6-7:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month (Sept. 25). No writing experience necessary.

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Gilford police log

GILFORD — The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 14-20.

Jok Abiel Akol, age 21, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension of license and driving after Suspension of Vehicle Registration.

Carmen D. Dresser, age 41, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Prohibited Sales of Alcohol. A juvenile, age 17, was arrested during the same incident for Unlawful Possession of Alcohol and/or Intoxication.

Jeff Gilcris, age 23, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Prohibited Sales of Alcohol. Julianna M. Osterrieder, age 20, was arrested during the same incident for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication. Both were also subsequently charged with Criminal Trespassing.

Jason Vinent Banaski, age 20, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

Dillon Roland Boucher, age 18, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

A 36-year-old female was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 14.

Jenna Maegan Lamothe, age 29, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Prohibited Sales of Alcohol. Devin Michael Lamothe, age 18, and a juvenile, age 17, were arrested during the same incident for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

Keinan M. Strong, age 29, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Criminal Trespassing.

Joseph Edward Demers, age 20, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

Gisele Faith Fandeleina, age 20, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication. A 23-year-old female was taken into protective custody for intoxication during the same incident.

Lonnie Ray Lear, Jr., age 20, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

A 35-year-old female, 24-year-old female, and 30-year-old male were taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 14.

Emily Elizabeth Dahl, age 20, was arrested on Aug. 14 for Unlawful Possession and/or Intoxication.

A 31-year-old male was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 14.

A 26-year-old female and 27-year-old male were taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 15.

A 20-year-old male was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 15.

A 37-year-old female, 28-year-old female, 29-year-old female, 29-year-old female, and 27-year-old male were taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 15.

Bart C. Cangialose, Jr., age 43, was arrested on Aug. 15 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension of license (subsequent).

A 39-year-old male was taken into protec-

tive custody for intoxication on Aug. 15.

Max Eric Ravech, age 36, was arrested on Aug. 16 for DUI-Impairment and multiple counts of Possession of a Controlled Drug.

Brittany L. Estey, age 32, was arrested on Aug. 16 for Disobeying an Officer, Possession of a Controlled Drug, Driving After Revocation or Suspension of License, and Contempt.

Brandy Starr Tuttle, age 37, was arrested on Aug. 16 for DUI-Impairment.

Matthew R. Nason, age 38, was arrested on Aug. 17 for Violation of a Protective Order.

Nevin Scott Drew, age 38, was arrested on Aug. 18 for Driving After an Administrative License Suspension and in connection with a warrant.

Amy C. Whalen, age 46, was arrested on Aug. 19 in connection with a warrant.

A 36-year-old female was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 20.

A 46-year-old female and 27-year-old female were taken into protective custody for intoxication on Aug. 20.

Anna E. Sprague, age 24, was arrested on Aug. 20 for driving after Suspension of Vehicle Registration, driving after Revocation or Suspension of License, and Transporting Alcoholic Beverages.



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A home is more than four walls

There are some community projects that deserve our attention because of what they will build. Others deserve our attention because of what they will make possible.

The Home Possible Project falls squarely into the second category.

The grassroots nonprofit is working to create an eight-apartment community residence for adults with developmental disabilities — a place designed not simply to provide a roof overhead, but to provide something far more important: a home. That distinction matters.

Across the Lakes Region, families of adults with developmental disabilities face a difficult reality. As parents and other caregivers age, appropriate housing options can be limited. Too often, adults who have spent their lives becoming more independent find themselves with few choices other than continuing to live with family. Home Possible is attempting to change that.

The proposed Gilford residence would provide private, accessible apartments along with shared community spaces and 24/7 staff support. The project emphasizes independence, dignity, meaningful relationships and participation in the broader community. Universal accessibility, smart-home technology and thoughtfully designed indoor and outdoor spaces are all part of the vision.

That is an ambitious undertaking. It is also exactly the kind of undertaking that a community should rally behind.

We were particularly encouraged to see that spirit of community support demonstrated recently when the Laconia-Gilford Lions Club presented Home Possible with a \$1,500 donation. It may be a modest amount compared with the overall cost of constructing the facility, but its significance extends well beyond the number written on the check.

As Lions Club President Matt Sousa put it, the project represents the kind of “creative and imaginative solution” needed to address the shortage of housing for adults with developmental disabilities. He is right.

And perhaps even more importantly, the Lions' contribution sends a message to other civic organizations, businesses, foundations and individuals throughout the Lakes Region: This is a community problem, and it can be addressed through community action.

The project also benefits from a particularly meaningful Gilford connection. The First United Methodist Church of Gilford-Laonia has generously provided the property for the future residence. That contribution, combined with financial support from organizations such as the Lions Club, demonstrates what can happen when a community's resources and goodwill are brought together around a common purpose.

Home Possible still has work to do. The organization is seeking the additional funding necessary to reach its construction goal and turn plans into bricks, mortar and, ultimately, homes.

That means this is a good time for the rest of us to ask a simple question: What can we do to help?

Not everyone can make a large financial contribution. But communities are built through contributions of all sizes. A business might become a sponsor. A civic organization might organize a fundraiser. An individual might make a donation or simply tell a neighbor about the project. Local leaders can help spread the word and encourage others to get involved.

The larger point is that inclusion cannot simply be something we talk about. It has to be something we build. Home Possible is literally trying to do that.

A successful community is one in which people of all abilities have a place to live, a sense of belonging and the opportunity to participate in the life of that community. Adults with developmental disabilities should not have to wonder where they will live as their parents age. Families should have confidence that their loved ones will have safe and supportive options. And those future residents deserve more than a facility — they deserve a home and the independence and dignity that come with it.

The Laconia-Gilford Lions Club deserves credit for recognizing that and stepping forward. Now it is time for others to do the same.

If the Lakes Region truly believes in being a community where people look out for one another, the Home Possible Project gives us an opportunity to put that belief into action.

Because in the end, the most important thing Home Possible is building isn't an apartment building. It is a future. And that is something worth investing in.

To learn more about the project or how to support it, visit homepossibleh.org or contact the Home Possible Project at 603-436-1900.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Appending

I don't think I've ever done this before. It has to do with not knowing if you read the original stories or not, so that I'd have to kind of fill you in on what I said before, before adding further details.

I'm a little leery of orange signs. Almost every time I look out my windows at the beautiful forest that surrounds my house, I am drawn to all the little orange No Trespassing signs my neighbor has put up. I think they are every fifty feet along his property lines. Totally ugly and totally against New Hampshire tradition. Open woodlands were always open to freely utilize as long as you treated the land with respect.

When he told me he was going to do this I asked him why? He claimed that it was because people were making paths through his land. Now that his kids have trail bikes, there are new paths all over his woods.

Well, I had told you about ordering a watch on the internet that wasn't supposed to arrive till too late, so I brought my fancy special watch to a jeweler to replace its battery. Like I suspected, it's now due to arrive tomorrow, in plenty of time. Meanwhile, my fancy watch was ready yesterday and having time, I proceeded to drive to the city to pick it up.

It being summer, they are always fixing the roads. There were a couple of big orange, One Lane Road Ahead, signs getting down into the city. That's what I usually see. When I came out from my back street, I was less than a quarter of a mile from the entrance to where my watch was. I could see the entrance on the other side of the road crew. Between us were big orange, Road Closed and Detour signs. How wonderful.

The detour took me the

long way, so I figured that I could navigate my way through the back streets. Upon trying to take one of them I was enlightened by another big orange sign, Road Closed Ahead. Good Lord, another one. Well bless my soul. By the time I made it to the jewelers, I don't think I saved anything.

I usually replace my own watch batteries. It's not hard. Batteries are around five bucks. But this fancy fine European time piece was giving me difficulty opening it up. Seeing as it was a few steps above my ordinary watch, I didn't want to make any mistakes, so I gave in to hiring a professional. I expected to get hosed.

Walking into the store, the saleswoman instantly recognized me and retrieved my watch. The cost was \$25. Double that and I could get a new peasant quality time piece, includ-

ing a new battery. I showed her my watch and asked her how much to change its battery. She said fifteen. Wealthy folks get hosed for everything they buy before even thinking of taxes.

I headed home, cognizant of all the detours I had to avoid and wished I hadn't wasted my whole afternoon driving in my car. I made it home in time to take a dip before supper. That helped.

While I'm updating things, I think I'll give a little time to my yellow jacket friends. A week after my previous interaction, I returned to apply the first coat of finish paint to the cellar window. This time, I was aware of the presents of their nest, so after ascertaining its exact location, I was able to avoid shoving my hand down into it and aggravating their sensibilities. They were flying defense patterns all around the nest entrance, but as I completely avoided getting close with my hands, or looking at them with threatening eyes, there were no problems. Nothing wants war. At least nothing sane.

After mentioning my dismay at not being able to use my hammock for the second year due to piles of boxes and stuff that had no right being there, they were miraculously moved. I was therefore able to take a nice nap on my front porch in my hammock yesterday afternoon.

I've really come to appreciate naps lately. Hammocks are nice. Now there's one at the beach and one on my porch. There's even another one in the sauna shed for late night evaporator tending now that I think of it. One can certainly take it easy around here.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Prospect Mountain High School seniors are allowed to purchase their parking spot for the year to add to their class coffers and paint it however they wish. This student and her friend completed her project with plenty of school spirit and time before the first day on Aug. 31.

Letters to the Editor

Beriont offers a big vision without the backing of big money

To the Editor:

As a Democratic voter in Alton, I will be choosing from among a large group of wonderful candidates for CD-1 (the seat currently held by Pappas) on Sept. 8. Many I know and like personally; others I have become familiar with during the many forums, social media, and online interviews.

My bottom line? I plan to vote for Carleigh Beriont, as the candidate who best matches my vision for New Hampshire and for the nation. She is pro working families, pro Medicare for All, pro affordable housing and childcare. She is a mom and a teacher, and is not taking any corporate PAC money, AIPAC money, or dark money in her campaign.

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, Beriont has been running a totally grass roots campaign, from

the ground up. Many have noted how much her campaign style has in common with the famous (and successful) campaign of Carol Shea-Porter for the same seat many years ago. No big money, just a big vision that includes all of us. One commentator referred to her “Happy Warrior” style, never attacking others but always presenting her positive message in a feisty way!

To all Democratic voters in CD-1, and all Undeclared voters who plan to take a Democratic ballot on Sept. 8, I urge you to join me in supporting Carleigh Beriont.

Please note that this letter is my own personal opinion, and not that of the Alton Democratic Committee that I chair.

Ruth Larson
Alton

I hope I can earn your vote

To the Editor:

I am Kurt Webber, and I'm running for the New Hampshire State Senate in District 2, which includes the towns of Ashland, Belmont, Campton, Center Harbor, Gilford, Holderness, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanborn-ton, and Thornton.

I am a West Point graduate, retired Army officer and have lived in Gilford for 25 years. I have dedicated my

life to service, to include over 23 years in the Army with a deployment to Iraq, as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts, a Rotarian and serving on the Gilford School Board for 9 years. I am also a co-founder of the Lakes Region Veterans Coalition and of Camp Resilience, which has run over 150 therapeutic retreats that have served over 1500 veterans, first responders, and their loved ones since 2014.

For the past 10 years, the politicians in Concord have passed legislation that has hurt families and small businesses across the state. The only way to fix the excessive partisanship, dishonesty and disrespect for our citizens in Concord is to elect principled leaders who are committed to integrity, civility, the Rule of Law, and people over politics. I pledge to do this if elected because, although it sounds corny, I truly believe in the values of Scouting, the West Point ideals of "Duty, Honor, Country" and the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," and I will live up to these ideals to serve all of the citizens of District 2 and New Hampshire.

You can learn more about me and my campaign at www.webbernham.com. I hope I can earn your vote on Nov. 3.

Kurt Webber
Gilford

Letter submission policy

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

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

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Songwriter Round-Up brings an evening of original music to Hermit Woods Aug. 27

MEREDITH — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gifford) 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. Presented on the last Thursday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside award-winning performer Katie Dobbins.

The series offers area residents and visitors an opportunity 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 Thursday, Aug. 27, featuring the Lakes Region’s own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who de-

livers heart-felt lyrics with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies; Eli Lev, an indie folk singer-songwriter and storyteller from Silver Spring, Maryland, known for heartfelt songs that explore ancestry, presence, and human connection; and Lynne Hanson, an Ottawa-based, Americana songwriter known for her high energy roots guitar driven live performances and engaging stage presence. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This is sure 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 6pm 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 onsite Chef Eric Huckins. Tickets can be purchased in advance at hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft or in-person at the Winery.

Wright Museum to host lecture and book signing by author Katie S. Sanders

WOLFEBORO — On Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Wright Museum will welcome Katie S. Sanders. This is the 15th program of the Wright Museum’s 2026 Education Series.

Peter J. Ortiz’s path to becoming the most battle-decorated member of America’s first spy agency—and one of the most decorated Marines of World War II—was unlike any other. Born in New York and raised between California and France, he would have stints as a merchant seaman, dude ranch manager, race car driver, lion tamer, circus performer, and Hollywood stuntman and actor. As a teenager, Ortiz ran away from boarding school in France to join the French Foreign Legion. He first experienced combat in North Africa against tribesmen in the Sahara. Fighting on the front lines against the Germans in 1940, he was badly wounded and captured. He repeatedly escaped, one time fleeing a hospital train after assuming the identity of a dead soldier.

stead of being deployed to the Pacific like the majority of Marines, Ortiz was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)—America’s World War II forerunner to the Central Intelligence Agency—for special operations in North Africa and Europe.

In 1944, Ortiz parachuted into France on two top-secret inter-Ally missions. Operating deep behind enemy lines, he traveled throughout Southeastern France—at times donning his Marine uniform—arming and training the Maquis, blowing up Nazi infrastructure, and aiding downed Allied airmen. Rotating his many covers—including as a fashion designer and minor Vichy government official—he infiltrated Nazi gatherings and funneled intelligence about German positions back to OSS London ahead of D-Day. By the time he escaped across the Pyrenees, he was among the Gestapo’s most wanted.

than one hundred Germans at the village of Centron, Ortiz faced a choice: fight the enemy or save the village from Nazi annihilation.

A rare Marine in the European Theater, he received two Navy Crosses. Ortiz’s story—an untold corner of World War II history—is one of extraordinary courage, resistance, and self-sacrifice.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1 at the Wright Museum’s DuQuoin Education Center, 77 Center St. in Wolfboro. Admission is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made online at <https://wrightmuseum.org/lecture-series> or by calling 603-569-1212.

The region’s leading resource for educators and learners of all ages on World War II, the Wright Museum features more than 14,000 items in its collection that are representative of both the home front and battlefield. For more information about the 2026 Lecture Series, or museum, visit wrightmuseum.org.

Two months after the Normandy landings, Ortiz jumped back into the French Alps, this time with a team of Americans he recruited for “Le Grand Parachutage,” a drop that sent more than 150 tons of supplies raining down to the Maquis to fight the Axis. When his six-man patrol was surrounded by more

Docking in the US the day after Pearl Harbor, Ortiz enlisted in the Marine Corps. As someone who could speak French like a native—and get by in Arabic, German, and Spanish—the dashing former Legionnaire immediately stood out. In-

stead of being deployed to the Pacific like the majority of Marines, Ortiz was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)—America’s World War II forerunner to the Central Intelligence Agency—for special operations in North Africa and Europe.

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Girls Inc. campers shift into gear with Lakes Region Community College

LACONIA — Girls Inc. is a national non-profit with 75 affiliates across the United States and Canada, including one in New Hampshire. Through direct service and advocacy, Girls Inc. equips girls with the knowledge and skills to become leaders who change the world.

Girls Inc. of New Hampshire’s Young Women in Leadership (YWL) program is an eight-week summer camp for rising seventh through ninth graders that builds confidence, leadership skills and career awareness through hands-on experiences with professionals across industries. The Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) automotive team proudly participated in the event again this year under the leadership of the state’s only female post-secondary automotive instructor, Kim Stevenson.

At McGovern Toyota of Concord, campers explored the sales side of the industry, participating in a mock sales meeting and a simulated vehicle sale from start to finish. This introduced them to careers in sales, marketing, management, and customer relations.

The summer wrapped up with the annual Career Fair at Saint Anselm College, where campers connected with professionals, learned about career pathways and practiced mock interviews.

From hands-on automotive experiences to mentoring and career exploration, this year’s YWL program helped girls dream bigger and lead with confidence. LRCC is proud to help girls discover their own potential — and develop the leadership skills they’ll need to reach their goals.

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HOME POSSIBLE

(continued from Page A1)

The project incorporates universal accessibility, smart-home and assistive technologies, energy-efficient systems, and thoughtfully designed indoor and outdoor community spaces. The goal is to create a sustainable, lifelong home where adults with developmental disabilities can live safely with greater independence, dignity and meaningful connection to their community

The project was created in response to a significant shortage of appropriate housing options for adults with developmental disabilities, many of whom continue to live with aging parents or other family caregivers because suitable alternatives are limited.

"This generous donation is about much more than the dollars," said HPP Board Chair Lisa DiMartino. "It is an important vote of confidence in our vision and in the future residents who will one day call this place home. We are incredibly grateful to the Laconia-Gilford Lions

Club for recognizing the need and helping us move this project forward."

HPP is currently working to secure the funding needed to bring the project to construction. Support from local businesses, civic organizations, foundations, individuals and community partners is helping turn the vision into a reality. While significant progress has been made, HPP still needs additional financial support to reach its construction funding goal and move this project forward.

The Home Possible Project extends its sincere appreciation to President Matt Sousa and the members of the Laconia-Gilford Lions Club for their generosity, leadership and commitment to the community.

To learn more about The Home Possible Project, or how you can help make this vision a reality through a donation, partnership or other form of support, please visit www.homepossiblenh.org or contact HPP at 603-436-1900, email: info@homepossiblenh.com or PO Box 7259, Laconia, NH 03247.

FAMILIES

(continued from Page A1)

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tact Lori Mahar at 603-490-5254 or email:

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If anyone knows of a child or children that need food immediately, please share this information or contact us. For more information, visit www.end68hoursofhunger.org.

BRANSCOMBE

(continued from Page A1)

tenet of loving what he's doing at the time. "I loved it!" peppers his speech when discussing his background and, more importantly, what he's doing now.

Educated at a public military school in England, Branscombe apparently had no real idea of what to do with his life upon graduation. Because of that, "my career officer told me they'd stick me at Lloyd's of London," he said. The renowned insurance market had a student acquisition arrangement with his school. If a graduate didn't have prospects somewhere else, they became an employee there. So at 17, that's where he wound up.

"Iloved it!" he exclaimed.

Around half of Lloyd's premiums are paid from North America and Branscombe worked as a Senior Insurance Broker placing insurance coverages for US clients.

Of course, Lloyd's is known for policies covering unusual items; good examples are a grain of rice engraved with Queen Elizabeth's portrait, Betty Grable's legs, and Bruce Springsteen's vocal cords.

Accordingly, Branscombe has his A-list celebrity story. "I insured Liberace's hands," he declared with a laugh.

It was the public service aspect of the job that appealed to him the most, though.

In 1978, Lloyd's asked Branscombe to open an office in Bermuda. What would seem like a dream locale, Bermuda did not suit him, a man who is always on the move and relishes varied experiences. He contracted what he calls "rock island fe-

ver," exacerbated by driving around and around the small space "on a scooter going twenty miles an hour." Not for him.

New Hampshire was his next stop. From 1986 until 2010, his consulting firm PCB Consulting, LLC handled insurance and reinsurance consulting for Lloyd's with offices in New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and the United Kingdom.

A diversion from insurance, fueled by a desire for community service, however, was about to happen.

While in Ashland, Branscombe joined the town's budget committee, which then led to a stint on the Planning Board. Following that, he got an unusual request.

"They asked me to be the TA," he said.

Game for anything, as usual, and then retired from insurance, he embarked on basically on-the-job training. "Iloved it!" he exclaimed.

Branscombe served there for five years, then moved on to a TA position in Gilmanston, where he met his wife.

"I realized then how much I enjoyed municipal government," he said, "but I preferred benefitting communities in shorter stretches."

Soon after, Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI), the leading provider of services to local governments, gave him a call and Branscombe's career as an interim administrator for small towns began.

Throughout the next few years, he would cover a town's needs through MRI from anywhere from three months to a year or so.

"I held seats until a town's new hire was able to fill the position, or to get a town through its Town Meeting," he explained.

Branscombe bounced from Wilton to Rollinsford to New Boston to Raymond to Tilton to Brookline, sometimes moving from Interim TA to TA and hanging around a community for a

longer time.

All of the positions were in small towns.

"They are easier to embrace," he said. "It's easier for people to get to know me, and me, them."

He started in New Durham on June 10 and has spent the summer rapidly getting acquainted. Branscombe's passion for his role is sincere and obvious.

"It's in my DNA," he said. "This isn't just a job if you love what you do; it isn't work. We've made the culture here a happy place."

Others respond to his attitude. A recent Facebook post from the New Durham Parks and Recreation Department extolled him for sending flowers to all Town Hall staff.

Branscombe has a specific strategy with department heads.

"When I first come in to a new place, I don't micromanage. I leave them alone, because I'm here to help them wherever I can," he said.

Working together well happens very quickly "with a good team of people," he said. "When you explain that you're here for them, things change overnight. They know I care about them."

He said he wants employees to enjoy coming to work.

The public rates just as highly with him.

"From day one, I put on the community Facebook page that I have an open door policy and people have taken advantage of that," he said.

Issues ranging from bumpy roads to septic problems to bothersome neighbors find their way into his office.

"I try to discover solutions," he said.

A Town Administrator's role is all encompassing. Branscombe said having a longer period of working for the town now that he has signed a three-year contract is important to him.

"Having more time will allow for working with a cohesive select board and getting involvement of the department heads and Town Hall staff," he explained.

In keeping with his aversion to micromanaging, he went on to say, "I don't make decisions alone. It's a joint effort and joint responsibility; that's what makes it all work."

So far, Branscombe has accomplished "two great things! We've hired a Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer through an agency which saved over fifty thousand dollars, and a finance manager."

His vision for the future includes "putting out all of the fires of the past and moving forward." The current issues concerning the local dams and possible water drawdowns will figure heavily in matters at hand.

In addition to his role as TA, he serves as the Health Officer. That's a good thing, in his opinion.

"Since I'm the Health Officer," he said, "we can make the Board of Selectmen the Board of Health and hold meetings to get a better idea of public health."

Branscombe also cites a goal of seeing the Copple Crown District being more involved.

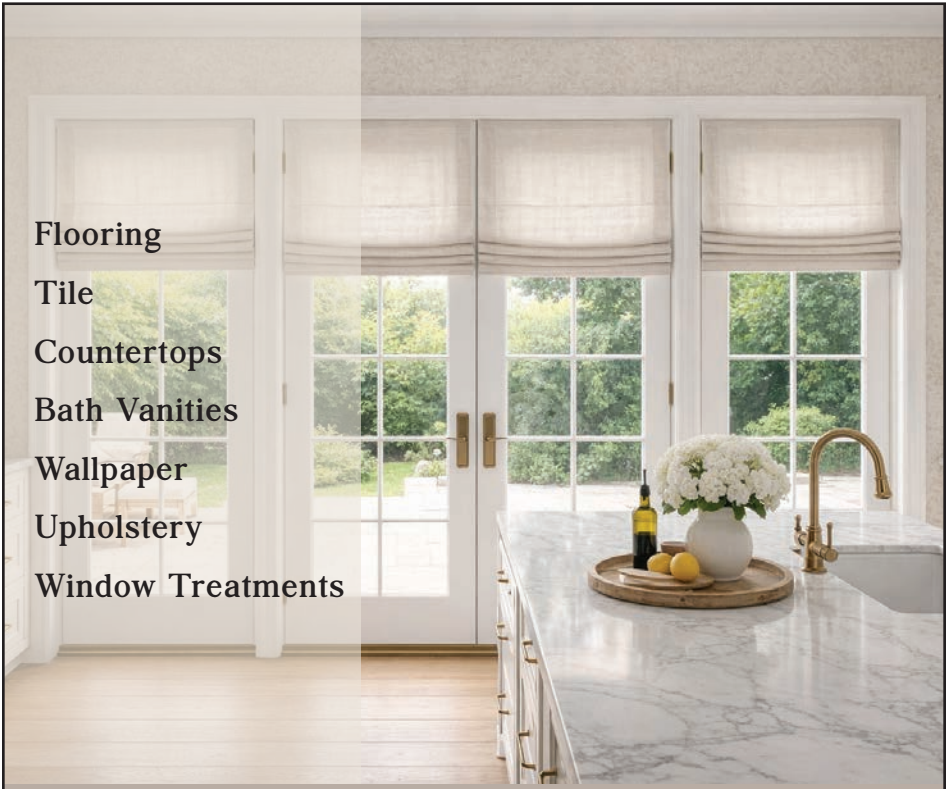
Communication is key for him.

"I'm putting information out on social media to be helpful," he noted.

Another plan is to hold informational resident forums to explain the inner workings of the town and how things come about.

"We could arrange forums that explain how the tax rate is set and things like that," he said. "The more information out there, the better for the residents."

With Branscombe's outlook and dedication to the community, the next three years may very well be a time when everyone can say, "I loved it!"



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MEDIA NIGHT

(continued from Page A1)

sending the Knights.

"We're a pretty young squad," said Copenhaver. "What we're looking for is to build the team chemistry."

"The new kids, they've been working hard," McNevich said of the young kids stepping up to the varsity squad this season. "They've got potential and they are willing to show it."

The football team was next, as coach Matt Kimball's squad was represented by Ewan Nicoll, Dean Porter and Ryan Greenwaldt. The Knights are coming off their best season in years that included a playoff berth and the Carroll County Championship.

"It's been going good, we've got a young squad, but we've blended together as a team," Nicoll said. "We're excited for the season and for the future."

"This is our third coach in our high school career, so we're used to the adversity," said Porter. "We're moving quickly and we're prepared to build, but we're not taking a step down in any way."

"I think we're taking what we had and effectively running practices," Greenwaldt said. "If we keep doing that, it's going to be great."

Coach Lynette Place's volleyball team was the next group to the podium, with Opal Grupp, Ady Arsenault and Ava Randall promoting their squad.

"it's been awesome," said Grupp of the start of the pre-season. "Everyone has been great and playing together well."

"This group is p laying together really well, we have a lot coming back that have

been there," Arsenault said. "We were prepared for the seniors to leave last year, so I think we're going to come out stronger and be a competitive team."

"It's so much fun, all my friends are playing volleyball," Randall said. "And that helps the chemistry on and off the court."

Next up was coach Shane Flood's girls' soccer team, represented by captains Norah Pelletier and Taylor Allar.

"We don't have big numbers but we have big players and we have so much talent coming up," Pelletier said. "The older players have improved so much, the off-season work has been paying off."

"The team has improved and individual players have improved too," she added.

"I feel like we can play against anyone, what we lack in numbers we make up for in strength and talent," Allar noted. "Everybody brings something different."

Veteran coach Kaitlin Reilly's field hockey team was up next with Adelle Harrington taking the podium for her squad.

"The goal is to make it far in the playoffs," Harrington noted. "I think we can do that by using our young talent and utilizing our speed."

New golf coach Kyle Sarausky sent James Ling and Colton Sargent to the table to discuss the upcoming season.

"He started well, really fast, he has a lot of talent in golf and it's going to be a good year," Ling said of the new Knight mentor. "He's got us right into the swing of things right away."

"The goal is states as a team, being a top five team in Division II," Sargent said. "That's definitely attainable with the talent we have."

"We have a lot of new talent and a lot to kids worked on their game over the summer," he added.

The final team to the podium was the cross country squad, with returning coach Amy Kiley leading the girls and new coach Charles Blanchet leading the boys. The team was represented at the table by Kaylee Pellerin, Kelsie Davis and Jacob Pinard.

"We've become a big community now and it feels great," said Pellerin, who was part of a ninth grade class two years ago that reinvigorated the program after there were no female runners the previous year. "It's great knowing we have a lot of people that are just really good."

"The people that showed up (over the summer) have really come in prepared," said Pinard. "We have a lot of new guys with a lot of time to expand, excel, get better and improve."

"The goal is for the next few years and what we're working toward," said Davis, who enters her senior season with an eye on helping the team continue to grow even after she leaves. "The goal is to get better this year and to get better for the next few years as well."

For full schedules and information on the Kingswood athletics season, visit kingswoodathletics.org.

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



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Local favorite Eric Grant Band in Cate Park Aug. 29

WOLFEBORO — The Eric Grant Band has made a pretty good name for itself over the past decade-plus and has played on stages all around the Lakes Region. This summer, the Gilford-based band will play as part of the Friends of the Wolfeboro Community Bandstand summer concert series, taking to the bandstand in Cate Park in the penultimate concert of the summer season on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The Eric Grant Band took the music scene by storm, playing in front of thousands of fans in northern New England since its inception in 2009. The band has been featured as a supporting act for national headliners such as Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Trace Adkins, Toby Keith, Eric Church, Lady Antebellum, Keith Urban, Brantley Gilbert, Lee Brice, Craig Campbell, Randy Houser, Keith Anderson, Lonestar, Sugarland, Zac Brown Band and Jo Dee Messina.

The band has also won local, state, regional and national titles and has also released two CDs and had multiple songs in rotation on the local country radio stations as well as streaming media worldwide on Radio Gold and Nashville Favorite “The Ice-man.”

Eric Grant Band has also acquired national recognition after winning the Southwest Airlines “Calling All Musicians” contest while at the same time completed production on their second CD in Nashville with some of the biggest names in the industry.

In addition to the band’s namesake, members of the Eric Grant Band include Cyndal VanSteensburg and Jes-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Eric Grant Band will be making its Friends of the Wolfeboro Community Bandstand summer concert series debut on Saturday, Aug. 29.

sica Thamm on vocals, Paul DiBiao on keyboards, Mark Phaneuf on guitar, Jeff Furlotte on bass guitar and drum-

mers Jess Jarz and Justin Beaulieu. Learn more about the Eric Grant Band by visiting the band’s web site

at ericgrantband.com.

The Eric Grant Band will take to the Wolfeboro Community Bandstand in Cate Park in downtown Wolfeboro from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29. The concert is free to the public, though a pass-the-hat offering is taken at intermission to help the Friends of the Wolfeboro Community Bandstand support the continuation of the concert series each summer.

The concerts are subject to weather conditions. If bad weather is threatening and the concert has to be postponed, there will be a sign posted at the park entrance near the town docks and will be posted online at wolfeborobandstand.org and on the group’s Facebook page.



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Eastern Propane & Oil presents 11th Annual Runaway Pumpkin 10K & 5K

LACONIA — Eastern Propane & Oil returns this year as the Presenting Sponsor of the 11th Annual Runaway Pumpkin 10K & 5K Run/Walk, a community fundraiser benefiting the WOW Trail. The event takes place Saturday, Oct. 24, at Opechee Park as part of the New Hampshire Pumpkin Festival.

The race draws approximately 700 runners and walkers, making it one of the Lakes Region’s largest road races.

“We’re excited to be part of the Runaway Pumpkin 10K & 5K,” said Stephanie



COURTESY PHOTO
(Left) Easter Propane & Oil Presents the 11th Annual Runaway Pumpkin 10K & 5K to benefit the WOW Trail. Stephanie Bernier, Operations Manager at Eastern Propane & Oil with Jennifer Beetle, Event Director and WOW Trail Board Member.

Bernier, Operations Manager at Eastern Propane & Oil. “This event brings our community together while supporting the growth of the WOW Trail. As a family-owned business, we’re proud to support opportunities that encourage connection, healthy living, and community spirit. There’s no better time in NH to get outside to enjoy the autumn weather, and my family and I look forward to walking and running with everyone on Oct. 24.”

“The team at Eastern has been a great supporter of the WOW Trail since the beginning and brings so much enthusiasm to the Runaway Pumpkin each

year,” says Jennifer Beetle, event director and WOW Trail board member. “We’re grateful to have them back as our Presenting Sponsor.”

“The Runaway Pumpkin is a great way for the whole family to enjoy a fall day together while supporting the WOW Trail,” Beetle adds. “We offer youth and kids discounts, and the Kids Fun Run, put on by the Downtown Gym, is always a big hit. We encourage all ages to come in costume – or just wear orange and join the fun.”

Participants are encouraged to register by Oct. 10 to receive a long-sleeve technical event shirt sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank.

Proceeds from the event support the continued development and maintenance of the WOW Trail.

For event details and online registration, visit wowtrail.org. For more information, email info@wowtrail.org.

MIT partners with Lakes Region Community College for pilot Math and AI education program

LACONIA — Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) launched a new pilot partnership this summer, bringing 16 high school students from towns across New Hampshire together to learn the math behind AI and how to use it to tackle real problems. LRCC is one of only two community colleges nationwide hosting the pilot course; the other is in Wyoming.

The four-week course, “Gateway to AI,” was created by MIT professors led by Arup K. Chakraborty, with input from the teachers at the New Hampshire and Wyoming sites. The aim is to close a gap Chakraborty has long observed: students in rural and small-town America often have far less access than their urban peers to advanced math and science instruction and hands-on exposure to emerging technologies like AI.

"For a long time, I’ve believed that many of our young high school students in rural America do not get the same opportunities to see and take advantage of the future possibilities, compared to people in urban areas," said Chakraborty. "We want to change that. It doesn’t matter what these young people plan to pursue in their lives — if they work in manufacturing, at a CVS, or in agriculture they will encounter AI. It will likely be present in every

aspect of their lives. Also, the need to think deeply and analytically, and ask the right questions, will become even more important than before."

The program prioritized teens from communities with limited access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) enrichment. Participants came from towns across the state, including Center Sandwich, Concord, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Nottingham and Salem.

“AI is a hot topic right now. It’s certainly important to know how to use it properly,” said Gus Glaser, a student from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in Northwood.

Students spent the first two weeks learning linear algebra — a mathematical foundation of AI systems — in the context of how it’s used in AI tools. They also learned some statistics. In the second half of the course, they applied what they’d learned to hands-on projects including:

- A farm visit, where students photographed crops and used AI to identify plant types and growth stages. The goal was to use an AI tool developed by a company called Ground Truth Analytics to predict plant types and growth stages in neighboring areas.
- A healthcare project using an AI tool developed at MIT that analyzes mammogram data to generate

breast-cancer risk scores. Students had to decide how to schedule further screenings based on these results, and other constraints.

- A financial wellness project for New Hampshire-based St. Mary's Bank, leveraging Allogoy's Capillary platform. Students created an AI chatbot designed to help members navigate real-life financial goals. This tool allows users to navigate topics such as saving for college or starting a business, and explored how changing factors like inflation could influence their financial decisions. The project demonstrates how digital tools can empower members with on-demand insights while complementing the trusted guidance available through in-person member support teams.

“I definitely didn’t expect the program to be so hands-on,” said Asa Buchakjian-Tweedy from Spaulding High School in Rochester. “I knew we would be learning about linear algebra which is the basis of AI models. I thought we’d be mostly sticking to that, but we’ve also been learning the statistics behind it and how to implement it.”

"We were proud to be part of this," said Patrick Cate, president of LRCC. "Students from across New Hampshire had the opportunity to learn about topics that are not typically covered in high school. That's a direct reflection of what LRCC and all of New

Hampshire’s community colleges exist to do: connect our communities to opportunities they might not otherwise have."

The course was taught by Inter-Lakes High School teacher Susan Foss-Finch who traveled to MIT to help shape the curriculum. MIT student Jady Grant served as an on-site teaching assistant. Later this month, MIT will fund a day-long campus visit for participants to tour research labs and meet MIT students.

“I hope students walk away with a better understanding of what AI is as well as its capabilities and limitations. AI is a great tool that will help our society move forward. It’s not something we should fear, but something we should learn to use and use well,” said Foss-Finch.

Sydney Conkling, a student at Inter-Lakes High School in Meredith, summed it up well, stating, “It’s a really good way to spend your summer and broaden your horizons.”

MIT hopes to grow this program and offer it in additional communities across the country.

About Lakes Region Community College

Lakes Region Community College (LRCC), located in Laconia, New Hampshire, provides high-quality, affordable education and training that prepares students for success in a rapidly evolving world. For more information, visit LRCC.edu.

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

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

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

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

One of the highlights of the show is the popular vote competition, where attendees determine the winning quilts. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, with winners announced following the close of balloting.

In addition to the quilt exhibition, guests can browse the Attic Corner, featuring gently used quilting supplies,

and Quilted Treasures, offering handmade gifts crafted by guild members. Multiple door prizes will also be awarded during the event.

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

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

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

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

Church Service SCHEDULE

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SPORTS

Blaney makes it back-to-back wins in Loudon

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

LOUDON — The story at the start of the day at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday was the weather.

The story at the end of the day was Ryan Blaney.

And in between, fans were treated to a great show on the track as the Dollar Tree 301 took to the Magic Mile.

Blaney, who won last year's NASCAR Cup Series race at the Loudon speedway, went with a gutsy two-tire pit stop call late in the race, battled through lap traffic and held off a great challenge from Bubba Wallace over the last 20 laps or so to take the NHMS win for the second year in a row.

"What a fun day, starting in the rain and it ended up being a beautiful day," Blaney said after climbing from his car. "Props at everyone at Team Penske who is keeping their heads down and working hard.

"It's cool winning two in a row here, I'm looking forward to getting another lobster," he added, mentioning the unique trophy given to the winner at New Hampshire Motor Speedway each year.

Rain rolling through the state early in the afternoon on Sunday caused a bit of a change, as drivers started on their wet weather tires and sat on pit road for a while at the start of the day as the rain cleared off and the track workers cleared the pavement of the standing water so the drivers

could get on the track and give the fans the show they were expecting.

The cars went their first 40 laps on the wet weather tires before NASCAR threw a competition caution to allow cars to come down pit road and remove the rain tires and put on the regular tires for the rest of the race.

Wallace finished in second and Josh Berry, who led for a good portion of the race late in the day, finished in third place, multi-time NHMS winner Christopher Bell finished in fourth place, coming back from a scary incident on pit road where a pit crew member got caught on his car as he pulled away from the pit. Kyle Larson rounded out the top five while Denny Hamlin clinched the regular season championship ahead of next week's final race before the NASCAR playoffs kick off.

Blaney praised New Hampshire Motor Speedway for putting on a good race, as traditionally happens in Loudon and is happy that next year NHMS's NASCAR race will be part of the playoffs.

"I've always thought this place was incredibly deserving of a Chase race," Blaney said. "Just because they put on a really good show, the fans up here are incredibly passionate about racing.

"Just a good atmosphere here and I think it's important to have a playoff race here in the northeast for sure," he continued. "I was sad it was out of the Chase



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Ryan Blaney talks to the media after winning the Dollar Tree 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday.

this year but I'm excited it's back in next year."

Polesitter Tyler Reddick led the field to green, but his Toyota spun on the first lap, sparking the first yellow flag and blocking the path of series points leader Denny Hamlin and Chris Buescher. John Hunter Nemechek also continued after a solo spin and wall scrape on lap 22 with his Toyota.

Ross Chastain was the race's first retiree, taking his Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet to the garage with drivetrain issues. Chastain finished last after completing just 41 laps, squashing his faint post-season hopes.

Larson sealed a stage one victory, leading 14 of the 70 laps in the Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, notching his fifth stage win of the 2026 season. Bell finished second at the stage one break, Carson Hocevar was third, with William Byron fourth and Berry completing the top five.

Blaney marched to the stage two win, leading 38 of the first 185 laps in the

Penske Ford, clinching his seventh stage victory of the 2026 campaign. Berry was second at the green-checked flag. Wallace placed third, Ryan Preece was fourth and Larson rounded out the top five at the end of the second stage.

The most significant yellow flag slowed the pace early in the stage, when Carson Hocevar's collision with Connor Zilisch sent Hocevar's Chevrolet spinning on the frontstretch on

lap 84. Joey Logano and Austin Dillon also spun in the wake of the incident, but all four cars continued.

Later in the stage, Hocevar raced Zilisch hard, banging fenders with the rookie's Chevy before rooting him out of the groove in turn one. Zilisch finished Stage 2 in 21st place, with Hocevar 31st.

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

Visiting the Olympics, relatively close to home



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Made a short trip to Lake Placid, N.Y. to check out where the Olympics took place in 1932 and 1980.

SPORTING CHANCE

By JOSHUA SPAULDING



As anyone who has read these pages over the years probably knows, I am a big Olympics guy. I've had the honor of covering six Olympic Games over the last 12 years, four Winter Games and two Summer Games. Even before I got those credentials for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, I loved watching them on television.

All those things considered, it's pretty surprising that I had never been to the Olympic venues that are physically closest to where I live. My recent trip to Los Angeles allowed me to see some of the venues being used in two years (and some that were used in 1984) and I've also seen places in Atlanta that hosted the Games in 1996.

But until last Monday, I had never been to Lake Placid, the two-time Winter Olympics host in upstate New York. I had an unusual Monday off from the bakery so Sunday night I pointed the car west and made my way across Vermont, over Lake Champlain and on to Lake Placid. Before I left I made the decision to purchase the Lake Placid Legacy Sites Passport, which got me free admission to different venues, discounts at merchandise and concession stands and discounts on certain attractions.

I started Monday by heading just outside Lake Placid to Whiteface, the host of alpine skiing during the 1980 Olympics. It was dreary and cloudy, so I was pretty sure I was not going

to have much of a view from the summit of Whiteface. However, the gondola ride was included on the passport, so I got on the earliest ride to the top at 8:30 a.m. and made my way up into the clouds. I could see the surrounding area for most of the trip up, but the summit was socked in pretty good so it wasn't a terribly long stay on the summit.

From there, I made my way back into town for a 10 a.m. tour at the US Olympic and Paralympic Training Center. After a quick trip around the facilities where many Olympic athletes train I headed downtown to the Olympic Center in the middle of town. That facility included the outdoor speedskating rink (right in front of the high school), the original 1932 ice rink and the infamous rink where the Miracle on Ice occurred during the 1980 Olympics. It also included the Olympic Museum, which had the admission covered on the passport.

From there, I headed to the other side of town and the Olympic Ski Jumping Center. The passport granted me a ride up the gondola to the base of the jump and then there was an elevator ride up the ski jump to the top. I have been to the top of the ski jumps in Albany and Plymouth and I've been to a few different Olympic ski jumps, but this was the first time I had stood at the top of an Olympic jump. It was pretty cool, if I do say myself.

My final stop of the day was at Mount Van Hoevenberg, which hosted the slid-

ing sports along with biathlon and cross-country skiing at the 1980 Olympics. The passport got me a discount on a ride on the Cliffside Coaster, which brought me up the mountain and then back down along part of the former bobsled course, which has since been redone and moved up to modern standards. Luckily the rain held off (for the most part) and I was able to finish out my day without getting soaked.

As I headed home, I started counting and realized that I had seen almost as many Olympic venues in my one day in Lake Placid as I did over the course of two-plus weeks in Italy for the Milan-Cortina Olympics. I also came away impressed that such a small community could host a big event like the Olympics. Yes, I know the Olympics were a bit smaller back then, but I've seen what is needed to host the Olympics and being able to do it in a relatively small community is pretty impressive. Would I love to see the Olympics return to Lake Placid? Sure, but I don't know if it is completely reasonable.

And now, it's on to fall sports.

Joshua Spaulding is the Sports Editor for the Granite State News, Carroll County Independent, Meredith News, Gilford Steamer, Winnisquam Echo, Plymouth Record-Enterprise, Littleton Courier, Coos County Democrat and The Baysider. He can be reached at josh@salmonpress.news at 279-4516, or PO Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Aug. 27
BELMONT
Boys' Soccer at Gilford; 5
Girls' Soccer at Gilford; 3
GILFORD
Boys' Soccer vs. Belmont; 5
Cross Country at Belmont; TBD
Field Hockey vs. Conant; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Belmont; 3
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer vs. Laco-
nia; 4
Field Hockey at Ke-
arsarge; 4
Monday, Aug. 31
BELMONT
Golf at Claremont CC; 3:30
Tuesday, Sept. 1
BELMONT
Boys' Soccer vs. Trini-
ty; 4
Girls' Soccer at Trinity; 4
GILFORD
Boys' Soccer at Winnis-
quam; 4
Field Hockey at Derry-
field; 4:30
Girls' Soccer vs. Camp-
bell; 4
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer vs. Gil-
ford; 4
Field Hockey at San-

born; 4
Wednesday, Sept. 2
BELMONT
Volleyball at Nute; 6:15
GILFORD
Golf at Pheasant Ridge; 4
WINNISQUAM
Volleyball at New-
found; 6:15
Thursday, Sept. 3
BELMONT
Volleyball at St. Thom-
as; 5:45
WINNISQUAM
Field Hockey vs. Derry-
field; 4
Volleyball at Conant; 6
All schedules
are subject to change.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Friday, Aug. 28
KENNETT
Field Hockey vs. Man-
chester Memorial; 4
KINGSWOOD
Field Hockey vs. Pem-
broke; 4
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Boys' Soccer at Berlin; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Berlin; 4
Tuesday, Sept. 1
KENNETT
Boys' Soccer at Berlin; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Berlin; 4
Golf at Nippo Lake; 3:30
KINGSWOOD
Boys' Soccer vs. Bow; 6
Girls' Soccer at Bow; 4
Golf at Crotched Moun-
tain; 3:30
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Boys' Soccer vs. Bishop
Brady; 4
Wednesday, Sept. 2
KENNETT
Field Hockey at King-
swood; 4
Volleyball vs. Sanborn; 5:45
KINGSWOOD
Field Hockey vs. Ken-
nett; 4
Golf at Atkinson Resort; 3:15
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Girls' Soccer vs. Somers-
worth; 4
Golf at Pheasant Ridge; 4

Volleyball vs. Raymond; 6:15
Thursday, Sept. 3
KENNETT
Boys' Soccer vs. Coe-
Brown; 4
Golf at North Conway
CC; 3:30
KINGSWOOD
Boys' Soccer vs. Camp-
bell; 6
Golf at Nippo Lake; 3:30
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Golf at Farmington CC; 4
Volleyball at Trinity; 6:15
All schedules are
subject to change.

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THE REAL REPORT
RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Table with 6 columns: Town, Address, Type, Price, Seller, Buyer. It lists various real estate transactions including properties in Alton, Barnstead, Gilford, Gilmanton, and New Durham.

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information.

Gilford Public Library Classes & Special Events
Aug. 27 – Sept. 3

Table with 2 columns: Date/Event and Time. It lists activities for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, including senior sculpt, fitness, French, and various games.



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Thursday, Sept. 3
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.
Storytime w/ Animals, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

GENERAL SERVICES

Equal Housing Opportunity
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to The Federal Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to make, print, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale, or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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Plenty of Saturday action at New Hampshire Motor Speedway

LOUDON — Layne Riggs put the finishing touches on a stellar NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series regular season Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS), winning the Team EJP 175 and securing the regular season championship before the series heads into The Chase.

The victory was the 11th of Riggs' NCTS career and his sixth of the 2026 season. It was also his first victory at NHMS in just his second start at "The Magic Mile" and his 11th top-10 finish of the season.

Riggs emerged from a double-overtime finish at "The Magic Mile" to take the checkered flag, capping a day that saw the championship picture change all throughout the afternoon. His victory completed a one-two finish for Front Row Motorsports, with teammate Chandler Smith following him across the Granite Stripe start/finish line.

"This is awesome," Riggs said after the victory. "Thank you to all the fans. They got a lot of people in the stands today, so thank you guys so much. Love coming up here. I'm ready for some lobster."

Connor Zilisch controlled the opening portion of the Team EJP 175, winning both stage one and stage two. When the final stage began, Riggs officially clinched the NCTS regular season championship and the number one seed for The Chase, but his afternoon was far from over.

Riggs battled a tight truck as the race went on, with Zilisch and Smith both getting by him before his Front Row Motorsports team made adjustments to help put him back in position to contend for the victory.

"I thought I was off a little bit. I thought I was in trouble," Riggs continued. "Zilisch got by me, Chandler got by me. I was just really, really tight, couldn't get it where I needed it, but my crew chief, Dylan Cappello, engineer Jonathan Coates, they made some excellent, excellent adjustments there at the end. Thank you to my teammate, Chandler, for racing me clean there at the end."

While Riggs battled for the win, the fight for the final position in The Chase produced plenty of drama deeper in the field. With three drivers separated by just one point entering the closing laps, a crash involving Gavan Boschele with six laps remaining sent the race to overtime and left Stewart Friesen, Tyler Ankrum and Jake Garcia tied around the final transfer position.

When the dust settled from a thrilling double-overtime finish, Ankrum emerged with the 10th and final spot in The Chase, despite battling rear-brake problems throughout the race.

"Extremely," Ankrum said when asked how difficult the afternoon had been. "It's very rare you get to come to a place as fast as this, and you have no rear brakes, and we can't fix the problems."

After falling as far back as 27th, Ankrum said the points situation reminded him of racing for a Championship 4 berth at Martinsville Speedway last season. Although relieved to advance, he made it clear afterward that simply making The Chase did not erase his frustration with the team's performance.

"Definitely did not want to come to New Hampshire and perform like that," Ankrum said. "Got lucky, did not perform like we belong in The Chase, so we got lucky."

At the front of the field,

Riggs made the most of the late restart and closed out the regular season with a victory, a championship and plenty of momentum heading into the seven-race Chase. Smith's runner-up finish was his 12th top-10 of the season and his second in two starts at NHMS.

"I love this place. I love this type of racetrack," Riggs said. "Let's bring on The Chase. We only got seven left. Just no mercy."

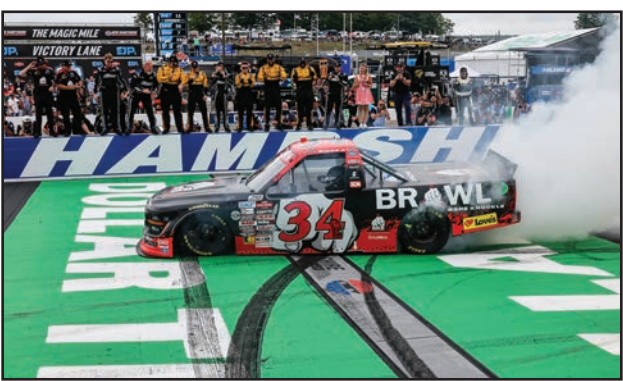
Modifieds

Jonathan McKennedy saved his best move — and just enough fuel — for the final lap Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS), taking the lead from Tommy Catalano and holding on to win the Mohegan Sun 100 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour (NWMT) race at "The Magic Mile."

McKennedy was in the middle of a thrilling battle for the lead throughout the closing laps of the 100-lap race, trading the top spot with Catalano while NASCAR Cup Series (NCS) veteran Ryan Preece lurked close behind. After Catalano led the field to the white flag, McKennedy dove to the inside entering turn one and emerged with the lead.

McKennedy held the top spot through the final two corners and raced back to the checkered flag to earn the Mohegan Sun 100 victory, but his car was already beginning to run out of fuel as he approached the finish line. Catalano crossed the Granite Stripe just 0.215 seconds behind McKennedy, while Preece finished third, only 0.308 second behind the winner.

"I actually ran out. It started to stumble before taking



HAROLD HINSON — NHMS — COURTESY PHOTO
EJP 175 race winner Layne Riggs light s up his tires after winning Saturday's NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

the checker," McKennedy said. "And when I crossed the checker, it was done, stalled, so it was a huge gamble."

The dramatic finish capped an eventful afternoon at "The Magic Mile," where drafting and changing track conditions kept the running order in constant motion.

Austin Beers and Justin Bonsignore established themselves as two of the cars to beat early, swapping the lead several times before a caution with 63 laps remaining sent the leaders to pit road. Chase Dowling inherited the lead before Beers and Bonsignore began working their way back through the field.

Rain brought out another caution with 28 laps remaining and temporarily halted the action as track-drying efforts began. Once racing resumed, the intensity picked up quickly. Beers battled McKennedy for the lead before McKennedy regained the top spot with 14 laps remaining, setting the table for a frantic run to the victory.

Catalano challenged McKennedy for the lead with 10 laps remaining as Preece joined the fight from behind. A late caution bunched the field once again and gave the

leaders one final opportunity to settle the race.

Catalano and McKennedy raced side-by-side and made contact after the restart before Preece helped push Catalano back to the lead. McKennedy stayed within striking distance, however, and made his move as the field took the white flag, completing the final-lap pass that delivered one of the biggest victories of his career.

"This is probably the big-

gest event in the Northeast," McKennedy said. "This is our Super Bowl, so to win here in New Hampshire was just huge. Tons of people here. The whole NASCAR group's here this weekend. A ton of eyes on this race. Everyone talks about this race. Everyone comes to watch this race."

Defending Mohegan Sun 100 winner Tyler Rypkema finished fourth, with Trevor Catalano rounding out the top-five. Michael Christopher Jr. finished sixth, followed by Dowling, David Sapienza, Teddy Hodgdon and Andrew Molleur.

The victory also gave McKennedy a boost in the NWMT championship standings after a pair of difficult races had dropped him from near the top of the standings.

"Anything's possible," McKennedy said. "I've been doing this a long time,

and you just gotta keep on digging until the last race. It was just a few races ago I was only, I think, 10 points out of the lead. We had two bad races, just nothing but bad luck. Here we are today, just like that, within striking distance again. Anything can happen."

The Mohegan Sun 100 once again delivered the close-quarters racing that has made the NHMT a fan-favorite at NHMS. The Tour's unique combination of drafting and high-speed, open-wheel racing has produced some of the most memorable finishes in the history of "The Magic Mile," and Saturday's last-lap battle added another chapter to that tradition.

The Mohegan Sun 100 completed the on-track portion of Doubleheader Saturday at NHMS following the Team EJP 175 NCTS race earlier in the afternoon, won by Layne Riggs.

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The Town of Tuftonboro is an equal opportunity employer, and offers a competitive compensation package, with salaries from \$67,912 to \$86,008, exclusive of overtime and detail opportunities. In addition, the Town offers health and dental insurance, longevity pay, holiday pay, NH Retirement System, take-home police vehicle and additional competitive benefits to interested parties.

Qualified candidates will be required to successfully complete a physical agility test, oral board interview, polygraph examination, medical examination, psychological examination, and an extensive background investigation. Certain hiring requirements may be waived for certified candidates. Preference will be given to applicants currently certified as police officers by Police Standards and Training Council (PSTC) or whose out-of-state certification is eligible for reciprocity through PSTC. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and be a U.S. citizen

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:

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Shaker Regional School District is seeking coaches for the 2026-2027 season for following athletic teams:

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Interested individuals should contact Cayman Belyea, Athletic Director, by phone at 603-267-6525 ext. 1362 or email at cbelyea@sau80.org. Successful completion, with satisfactory results, of a post-offer, pre-employment criminal background check, including fingerprints, is required. Shaker Regional School District serves the communities of Belmont and Canterbury, New Hampshire and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Great Waters’ 30th Anniversary season goes out with a salute to Queen

WOLFEBORO — Great Waters Summer Concerts is bringing its 30th Anniversary Season to a spectacular close with One Night of Queen with Gary Mullen & The Works on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concerts in the Clouds venue at Castle in the Clouds. The final concert of the season promises an unforgettable night of legendary music and the larger-than-life energy of Queen.

There may be no better way to close out a summer of music than with Queen. Fronted by Gary Mullen, winner of ITV’s “Stars in Their Eyes” for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury, Gary Mullen & The

Works have earned international acclaim for recreating the sound, energy, and spectacle of Queen’s legendary live performances.

The evening will feature some of Queen’s most iconic hits, from “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “We Will Rock You” to “We Are the Champions,” “Somebody to Love,” and “Crazy Little Thing Called Love.” With soaring vocals, electrifying guitar, and plenty of opportunities for the audience to sing along, this is a finale built for a crowd on its feet.

And what a setting for a final show. With Castle in the Clouds as the backdrop, audiences will gather under the

Great Waters concert tent for one last night of music, making memories, and celebrating another unforgettable summer in the Lakes Region. Food trucks: Tin Can Co., Buns on the Run, and Arlene’s Asian Kitchen will open at 5:30 along with the Castle in the Clouds Bar.

As the final performance of Great Waters’ 30th Anniversary Season, One Night of Queen marks the culmination of a summer filled with exceptional artists, unforgettable performances, and shared experiences throughout the Lakes Region. After 30 years of bringing music to New Hampshire audiences, Great Waters is closing this milestone



Gilford Rotary pancake breakfast returns Saturday



GILFORD — The best part of waking up on Gilford Old Home Day? The Gilford Rotary Club hosting their 42nd Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning, Aug. 29, from 7-10 a.m. at the Gilford Youth Center on Potter Hill Road. Cost is \$10 for adults and five dollars for kids.

Gilford Rotary’s secret recipe: all you care to eat pancakes will be served with hearty sausage, orange juice, and piping hot coffee. Blueberries will be freshly picked from Stone Brook Hill Farm. Gluten free pancakes available by request! All proceeds benefit the Cheryl Walsh Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship was started by Gilford Rotary in 1988, and Gilford Rotary initially funded the Scholarship with seed money. The earnings of the early investments plus contributions by members of the Foundation Board and Selection Committee, as well as Gilford Rotary, family

members, and friends have resulted in \$500 to \$3,000 grants to the 59 graduating seniors over the years.

A silver commemorative bowl, a citation, and the financial grant are given to recipients at Gilford High School’s Senior Awards Night in June. Since the beginning, a selection committee of board members, friends and past recipients has conducted interviews to select the recipients. The Scholarship has traditionally attracted applications from the brightest and most talented leaders and scholar/athletes of the senior class.

The long-standing Annual Old Home Day Rotary Pancake Breakfast is currently the major fund-raiser for the scholarship. The ongoing goal is to raise and conserve a substantial enough principal to give a meaningful and truly helpful grant to each year’s recipient(s). Also, tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Treasurer, Cheryl

Lynn Walsh Memorial Scholarship Foundation, c/o Gilford Rotary Club, Post Office Box 7091, Gilford, NH 03247-7091. Contributors, who cumulatively donate \$1,000 or more to the Scholarship, are named to a Foundation Fellowship to recognize their intent to help sustain the Scholarship’s goals.

The original fund goal of \$100,000 was reached in 2021. It is hoped that increasing the fund past the original goal will allow for bigger scholarships and additional recipients.

Gilford Rotary is an organization of business and professional men and women who have accepted the ideal of service as a basis for attaining fulfillment in their business, personal, and professional lives, and by serving their community. Gilford Rotary meets Fridays at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Gilford Community Church, Potter Hill Road, Gilford.

season with a band that knows a thing or two about going out on a high note.

Great Waters Summer Concerts is proud to enrich the cultural life of the Lakes Region through exceptional performances in distinctive venues. Special thanks

to our leadership sponsors—Eastern Propane and Oil, Belknap Landscaping, Maxfield Real Estate, Paul Zimmerman, Fidelity Investments, and Lake Winni Team—for their continued support.

One Night of Queen with Gary Mullen &

The Works takes the stage Saturday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Castle in the Clouds. Don’t miss the final concert of the 2026 season. Tickets are available at www.greatwaters.org, by phone at (603) 569-7710, or at the Great Waters office in Wolfeboro.

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