

# Winnisquam Echo

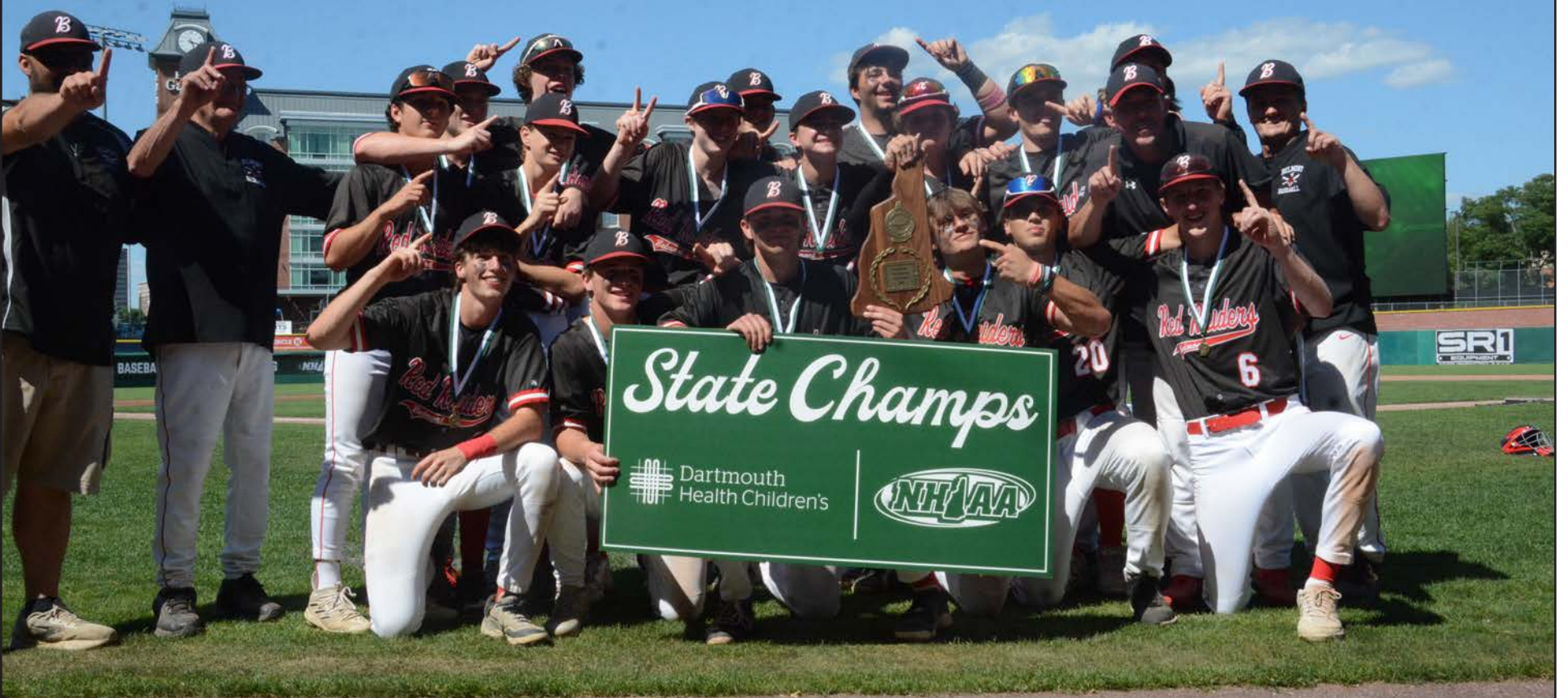
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## Raiders win it for Jim

*Belmont baseball team brings home program's first title since 1988*



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Belmont baseball team poses for a photo with the Division III championship plaque after beating Derryfield on Saturday in Manchester.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

MANCHESTER — a few minutes while the team was warming up, during a practice after

April break, Belmont coach Matt LeBlanc took

walking out to the players on the field with a bit of a suggestion.

"I said to them, 'how about we win one for Jim,'" LeBlanc said, referencing longtime assistant coach Jim LaClair. "They all nodded, 'you're right, let's try to do that.'"

And did that they did. The Belmont boys finished out the regular season playing some of their best baseball of the season, rolled to the Division III

championship game and then destroyed Derryfield in Saturday's championship game, getting a 10-2 win to hoist the program's first state championship trophy since 1988.

And they did it for LaClair, who is retiring after nearly 50 years in baseball.

"He's my mentor, my sounding board, I bounce a lot of things off of him," LeBlanc said. "He puts everything in perspective really well, he calms you

right down, he knows the right things to say.

"He has so much experience, he's been there, done that, the moment never gets ahead of him," LeBlanc continued. "He's great for the guys and great for the program."

As for the game itself, LaClair's grandson, Wyatt Divers, was once again at the center of everything. The senior continued his stellar playoff run on the mound, recording every

out of every playoff game and handling the Cougar offense with aplomb in picking up the title game win.

"He's just a baseball kid through and through and he's the best all-around player in Division III," LeBlanc said. "BT (Brayden Townsend) had the numbers to warrant his selection as Player of the Year, no question asked, but Wyatt was the best all-

SEE RAIDERS, PAGE A6

## Sanbornton Public Library kicks off summer reading program June 30

SANBORNTON — Readers of all ages are invited to participate in our "Plant a Seed, Read" summer reading program with a host of fun events and an engaging reading incentive program to encourage the fun of reading!

Join us for our special summer programs: start the summer off with Silver Circus variety show on Tuesday, June 30 at 10 a.m. Aim High Canines will show off dog agility on Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 10 a.m., and visit with real animals on Farm Day with BARKS family farm on Friday, Aug. 7 at 10:30 a.m. The library will also have fun events on Old Home Day on Saturday, July 11 with story time at 10 a.m., big chess on the lawn from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and a book sale.

We have Terrific Tuesdays programs at 10 a.m. from June 30 through Aug. 4. These events include Moulton Band's concert in celebration of the 250th on July 7, make fairy houses on July 14, nature journals on July 21, and a visit from Dr. Mirka to explore worms and soil on July 28. Storytime is on Friday at 10:30 a.m. for stories, songs and activities. Sign up to read to Memphis, a certified therapy dog on Wednesday, July 8. Ms. Tess will also host a four-week introduction to Dungeons and Dragons on Thursdays July 9 through July 30 from 3-5 p.m. (sign-up in advance). Wednesday Adventures include a Felt a Ladybug workshop with Shawna Sample-Garcia on July 8 (must sign-up in advance), a craft/maker night on July 15, walk a real labyrinth with Ruth Martz on July 22, bike night on July 29 in the SCS parking lot, and play Magic the Gathering on Aug. 5. Finally, the library will host its annual stuffy sleeper and S'mores night on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m.

Everyone can sign up for our summer reading incentive program by stopping by the library! Kids can earn prizes for reading and being read to, and kids and adults can enter a raffle every time they check out a book.

There is so much to explore at the public library! Make sure to stop by the library at 27 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., call 603-286-8288, email splnhc@ gmail.com or visit splnh.com. All programs are free of charge. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

## Belmont High School benefits from Gilford Community Church Outreach funds

BELMONT — In their continuing effort to give back to the community, the Gilford Community Church distributed a total of \$13,700 in Outreach funds for the second quarter, and the impact of one donation was felt immediately by students at Belmont High School.

"As we approach the

end of another remarkable academic year, I am writing to share a profound act of generosity that has deeply impacted our graduating class. Recently, our school district received a transformative monetary donation specifically designated to clear the outstanding school debts of our graduating seniors. In some

cases, these accrued fees, if left unpaid, may have unfortunately precluded some students from participating in our upcoming Senior Week activities," said Belmont High School Principal, Matthew Finch.

"I am incredibly touched to report that these funds have already come in handy. For some families

navigating difficult financial times, this unexpected gift has provided immediate relief. Without this intervention, some of our students would have faced an impossible financial burden, potentially missing out on the milestone celebrations and the recogni-

SEE FUNDS, PAGE A8

## Winnisquam Regional High School salutes top 10 graduates

BY DONNA RHODES  
Contributing writer

WINNISQUAM — On Friday, June 12, Winnisquam Regional High School saluted 70 members of the Class of 2026 who are now heading off into the world with the knowledge and memories they gathered over their years together. Meet the Top 10 young men and women of the class and their interests and achievements, as well as their goals for the future.

1. GEORGIA SHARTAR-HOWE  
Georgia Shartar-Howe

is from Sanbornton and was the Valedictorian of the Class of 2026. She was inducted into the National

Honor Society, the National English Society, National Science Society and the National Society Art Soci-

ety. Her love for music, art and drama led her to participation in the Audition

SEE TOP 10, PAGE A8



DONNA RHODES

The Top 10 graduates of Winnisquam Regional High school posed together one last time before graduation last week

# Franklin Opera House to hold Annual Membership Meeting, free performance!

FRANKLIN — The Franklin Opera House is pleased to announce a special free performance of “Galileo: The Starry Messenger” on Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin Public Library. This event featuring Michael Francis is offered with the assistance of NH Humanities To-Go, bringing high-quality cultural programming directly to the community. This community evening of engagement is FREE and open to the public. The Annual Membership Meeting at 6 p.m. is open to all members and

interested residents. Hear a review of the past season’s programs and accomplishments, along with updates on the ongoing capital campaign, financial standing and operational updates. Learn about opportunities for community input and volunteer involvement. 2026/2027 season programming will be announced. New members of the Franklin Opera House Board of Directors will also be elected. However, only the membership of Franklin Opera House

Inc. can vote. For more information about the meeting, membership, or upcoming events, please contact the Franklin Opera House at [info@franklinoperahouse.org](mailto:info@franklinoperahouse.org) or visit [www.FOHNH.org](http://www.FOHNH.org).

## Before You Build: What New Hampshire Property Owners Should Know

BY DONALD CHAPMAN

President & Co-Founder, Strong Tree Engineering

Across New Hampshire, property owners are continuing to invest in their land - building new homes, adding garages and additions, upgrading septic systems, improving driveways, subdividing family property, and planning future development projects.

But many people quickly discover that building or improving property today involves much more than simply hiring a contractor and starting construction.

Questions about property boundaries, wetlands, drainage, stormwater, septic capacity, zoning setbacks, and local permitting requirements can significantly impact both cost and feasibility. In some cases, these issues are identified too late in the process - after valuable time and money have already been spent.

That’s why proper planning up-front matters.

At Strong Tree Engineering, we work with homeowners, contractors, developers, landowners and town authorities throughout New Hampshire to help move projects from concept to construction. Our goal is to identify challenges early, simplify the process where possible, and help clients move projects forward efficiently and responsibly.

Many projects begin with a land

survey.

Accurate survey information is often the foundation for everything that follows - from locating property boundaries and existing features to determining setbacks, easements, topography, and buildable area. Whether someone is planning a new home, subdivision, addition, driveway, or commercial project, understanding the property itself is the critical first step. From there, civil engineering and site planning often come into play.

In New Hampshire, drainage and stormwater management are increasingly important components of development projects. Poor drainage can create long-term issues for both property owners and neighboring properties, especially with the heavier rain events we’ve seen in recent years. Proper grading, drainage design, and stormwater management help protect investments and improve long-term property performance.

Wastewater and septic planning are also major considerations throughout rural communities where municipal sewer infrastructure may not exist. Aging septic systems, limited soils, and changing property use can all create challenges that require careful engineering and permitting support.

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## Milee Perrino named to University of Hartford Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that Milee Perrino of Sanbornton has been named to the University of Hartford’s Dean’s List for the spring 2026 semester.

The Dean’s List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President’s List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President’s List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

In all, 2,332 students were named to the lists for the spring semester. We congratulate all our students on their hard work and academic achievements!

The University of Hartford blends raw passion with emerging talent, offering intentional preparation across six career-focused schools and colleges so every student can thrive. Located on a 350-acre campus neighboring Connecticut’s capital city and positioned midway between New York City and Boston the University is home to approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 42 states and 53 countries. Here, students are guided to discover their place, their people, and their purpose.

## Nicholas Pucci of Belmont named to Dean’s List at North Shore Community College

DANVERS, Mass. — North Shore Community College is proud to announce that Nicholas Pucci of Belmont has been named to the spring 2026 Dean’s List.

The College supports academic achievement and is pleased to recognize and reward undergraduate students like Pucci whose performance merits special attention. Dean’s List Honors are awarded to students who have earned six or more semester hours of academic credit with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.30 or higher.

Celebrating 60 years of learning, service, and impact, North Shore Community College (NSCC) proudly serves 26 cities and towns across Massachusetts’ North Shore with campuses in Lynn and Danvers. Founded in 1965, NSCC delivers high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to more than 7,000 students in more than 40 unique degree programs each year, along with thousands of noncredit learners. The College also supports lifelong learning for more than 640,000 residents through workforce training, professional development, cultural enrichment, and community partnerships-demonstrating the enduring value of community college in transforming lives and strengthening the regional economy.

## Hannah Leclair graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Hannah Leclair of Belmont received a Master of Science from Elms College following the conclusion of the Spring 2026 semester.


Leclair was among 279 students who received their degrees in May.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

## Lilyana Auger of Sanbornton named to Lasell University Dean’s List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lilyana Auger, a Lasell University student from Sanbornton, was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the Spring 2026 semester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.



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# Canterbury Shaker Village invites guests to "ReDiscover Canterbury Shaker Village"



CANTERBURY — Canterbury Shaker Village is excited to invite our local and regional visitors to "ReDiscover Canterbury Shaker Village" for the 2026 season, offering new programming, active preservation projects, and fresh experiences for people to ReDiscover what's special about this incredible National Historic Landmark.

Canterbury Shaker Village has long celebrated the innovative legacy of the Shakers who lived here for 200 years, their outsized impact on local and national history, and the intentional community they created. With the Shakers and Shakerism receiving a general increase in cultural exposure this winter with the release of Golden Globe-nominated film "The Testament of Ann Lee," starring Amanda Seyfried, and new Shaker exhibitions at museums across the country, it was a great opportunity to open our doors for new people to discover this history for the first time, invite past guests and locals to rediscover their connection to this place, and provide new events and experiences to deepen everyone's engagement with the Village.

"For first time visitors, Canterbury offers a portal of discovery into an intriguing, historic world, exploring how nearly 300 Shakers lived and worked together in community," said Manger of Communi-

cations and Engagement Garrett Bethmann. "Additionally, there are

many people who have deep, emotional ties to the Village, whether it be memories of the last generation of Sisters who lived here until 1992, or the sense of sanctuary that came with enjoying the serenity here. We hope we can inspire them rediscover why they initially were energized by the Village and connect them with who we are today as a museum and community."

For all visitors, the season introduces new events and experiences designed to deepen their engagement with the Village:

- An updated tour model provides a great introduction to the Canterbury Shakers,

while giving guests the opportunity to follow their curiosity to different open

spaces and buildings.

- The Movers and Shakers Trail Club is a monthly recreation group that enjoys active

(walk/run/exercise) and creative (photography/painting/reading) recreation on the

trails, on the last Saturday of every month.

- A new Bee House exhibition arriving this summer will highlight the agricultural

history of the land and how the Shakers provided for themselves. • A pilot partnership with Sanborn Mills Farm activates the vegetable gardens and greenhouses with locally grown produce, with opportunities to view traditional farming techniques, like using livestock for tilling.

In addition to these programmatic additions, Canterbury Shaker Village is in

an exciting season of multiple preservation projects unfolding at once. Both the Meeting House (1792) and East House (1810) are undergoing significant preservation and restoration efforts, offering a rare opportunity for people to view this work in-person and understand the craft and dedication it takes to keep these historic buildings fresh and thriving.


Canterbury Shaker Village remains what it has long been, a place of fasci-

nating history, innovation, and community. Whether the Village has been sitting on someone's "to-do" list for years, or it's been years since a guest last visited, everyone is invited to ReDiscover Canterbury Shaker Village in 2026.

Canterbury Shaker Village: <https://www.shakers.org/>

Canterbury Shaker Village, Inc., is an internationally-known non-profit museum founded in 1969 to preserve the heritage of


the Canterbury Shakers. Designated as a National Historic Landmark for its architectural integrity and significance, the Village has 25 restored original Shaker buildings, four reconstructed Shaker buildings, and 694 acres of forests, fields, gardens, nature trails, and mill ponds under permanent conservation easement. Tours, programs, exhibits, and events help visitors chart their own journey of simplicity, caring, and community.

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**PETS OF THE WEEK**

**Meet Twitch!**



Twitch is a rare and radiant orange girl with a personality that's impossible to ignore. She's wonderfully talkative — the kind of cat who believes every moment deserves commentary, especially if snacks might be involved. Whether she's chirping, meowing, or softly narrating her day, Twitch always has

something to say and she fully expects you to listen. This bright little girl is equal parts sweet and opinionated, with a charming knack for showing up exactly when treats are being considered. She loves food, loves attention, and loves making sure you never forget she exists (as if you could). Her expressive nature makes her feel more like a tiny, furry roommate who keeps the conversation going all day long. Twitch is looking for a home that appreciates a social, snack-motivated companion with a big heart and even bigger personality. Life with her will never be quiet — but it will definitely be fun.

**Meet Dooz!**



Dooz is a tiny puppy with a giant personality packed into one ridiculously cute little body. This sweet boy is full of happy energy, curious adventures, and gentle affection. He bounces through life with the confidence of a much larger

dog, even if his little legs occasionally cannot keep up with his enthusiasm. Dooz loves people, loves attention, and is always ready to turn an ordinary moment into a puppy party. He would happily accept a full-time position as your shadow, cuddle buddy, and household entertainment coordinator. If you are looking for a puppy who will keep you smiling daily while also melting into your lap for naps, Dooz is very prepared to apply for the role.

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# Opinion

## Letter submission policy

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

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

## A championship built on character

or many communities, a state championship is measured in trophies, banners, and final scores. Those accomplishments matter, of course. They become part of a school's history and provide memories that last a lifetime. But the most meaningful championships often leave behind something far more valuable than a plaque in a display case.

Belmont's Division III baseball title is one of those championships.

The Raiders' 10-2 victory over Derryfield secured the program's first state title since 1988. It completed a remarkable postseason run by a talented team that finished 14-2 in the regular season and played its best baseball when the stakes were highest. The players earned every bit of that success.

Yet what makes this championship especially memorable is the story behind it.

Before the team returned from April break, Coach Matt LeBlanc offered a simple challenge to his players: win one for longtime assistant coach Jim LaClair.

LaClair is retiring after nearly half a century in baseball. Generations of players have benefited from his knowledge, patience, and steady presence. Coaches often receive attention for wins and losses, but the greatest educators in athletics leave a different kind of legacy. They teach perspective. They teach resilience. They teach young people how to carry themselves when things go well and when they do not.

LeBlanc's description of LaClair speaks volumes. He called him a mentor, a sounding board, and someone who always knows the right thing to say. In an era that often celebrates loud personalities and quick reactions, there is something refreshing about recognizing the value of calm leadership and quiet wisdom.

The players clearly understood what was at stake. Championship teams require talent, but talent alone rarely wins titles. They also require trust, sacrifice, and a willingness to play for something larger than individual recognition. Belmont's seniors helped create that environment. Wyatt Divers delivered a dominant postseason performance on the mound. Brayden Townsend, Brady Fysh, Eddie Rochenski, and their teammates each embraced their roles. Every player contributed to a team-first culture that carried the Raiders through the tournament.

There is another layer to this story as well. The team carried the jersey of Paul Sottak, coach of Belmont's 1988 championship team, throughout its play-off run. In doing so, the players honored the generations who built the program before them. They recognized that today's successes are often rooted in the efforts of those who came before.

That connection between past and present is one of the great strengths of small-town athletics. High school sports are not merely games. They become part of a community's shared story. Former players become coaches. Coaches become mentors. Young athletes learn lessons they will carry into careers, families, and civic life.

The scoreboard from Saturday's championship game will eventually fade into history. The statistics will be replaced by new seasons and new players. But the lessons from this team should endure.

Belmont's championship was not simply about baseball. It was about honoring a mentor. It was about seniors setting an example. It was about teammates accepting their roles and trusting one another. It was about respecting the past while building something new.

Those qualities are what make a championship truly meaningful.

The Raiders earned a trophy. More importantly, they reminded us what high school sports can be at their very best.



Nemo makes everyone smile when he visits the Tilton Senior Center! Photo courtesy of the center's Facebook page.

COURTESY

## The things we learn too late

Father's Day always sneaks up on me. Not because I forget it's coming. The calendars remind us. The stores remind us. Every display of neckties, grilling tools and coffee mugs seems determined to make sure nobody misses it. What catches me off guard is something else entirely. It is how differently I think about fathers now than I did when I was younger.

When you're a child, your father seems larger than life. He knows how to fix things, where to go, and what to do when something breaks. If the power goes out, Dad has a flashlight ready. If the dog escapes the yard, Dad somehow knows exactly where to look. As children, we often assume our fathers have all the answers. Then, somewhere around the teenage years, a remarkable transformation occurs. Suddenly the man who seemed to know everything appears to know very little at all. It is a phenomenon that has played out in households across generations. One day Dad is an expert. The next day he is hopelessly out of touch.

Eventually, if life is kind, something changes again. You grow older. You get a job, buy a home, raise children, pay bills and take on responsibilities of your own. The things that once looked simple begin to reveal their complexity. You discover that keeping a household running is not as easy as it appeared when you were 16 years old. Then one day you hear yourself saying something

your father used to say. It might be advice about money, a reminder about punctuality, or a warning that shortcuts usually create more work in the end. The words leave your mouth and you stop for a moment, realizing that perhaps the old man knew a thing or two after all.

My father and I did not always see eye to eye. Looking back, I suspect many fathers and sons could tell a similar story. He belonged to a generation that did not spend much time talking about feelings. They were not raised to express affection through long conversations or emotional speeches. Instead, they showed love through work. Responsibility was how they demonstrated commitment. They provided for their families, showed up every day, and did what needed to be done. As a younger man, I did not always understand that. Like many people, I focused more on what was not said than on what was being demonstrated every single day.

The older I get, however, the more I appreciate the things that once seemed ordinary. I think about the early mornings and the long workdays. I think about the sacrifices that were made quietly, without complaint or expectation of recognition. I think about the worries carried privately and the responsibilities shouldered without fanfare. Most fa-

### KIND FOLKS, COLD WINTERS

By CHIPPY

thers never receive awards for those efforts. There are no parades for paying the mortgage on time, fixing a leaky faucet, coaching Little League, or driving a tired teenager to an early morning practice. Yet those small acts of reliability and commitment become the foundation upon which families are built.

Here in New Hampshire, we have always respected people who work hard without making a spectacle of themselves. Many of the fathers I grew up around fit that description perfectly. They were mechanics, teachers, truck drivers, carpenters, business owners, farmers, veterans and factory workers. They came from different backgrounds and had different personalities, but they shared a common belief that showing up mattered. Most of them were not perfect, and none would have claimed to be. They made mistakes, lost their tempers from time to time, and occasionally got things wrong. But they kept trying. In the end, that may be one of the most important lessons they passed along. Not perfection, but effort. Not always succeeding, but continuing to move forward.

This Father's Day, many families will gather around backyard grills, restaurant tables and living room couches. Phone calls will be made. Cards will be exchanged. Children and grandchildren will

spend time with the men who helped shape their lives. Others, however, will spend the day remembering fathers who are no longer here. For them, Father's Day can feel a little quieter and a little more reflective. Yet memories have a way of lingering. A familiar phrase, an old photograph, a favorite tool hanging in the garage, or a habit you did not realize you inherited can suddenly bring someone back into focus. A father who has been gone for years can feel surprisingly close in those moments.

As for me, Father's Day has become less about gifts and more about gratitude. Gratitude for lessons that took years to understand. Gratitude for examples that only became clear with age. Gratitude for the realization that many of the things we question when we are young begin to make sense as we grow older. We spend much of our lives trying to become our own people, carving out our own identities and making our own decisions. Then one day we discover that pieces of the people who raised us have quietly traveled alongside us all along.

Perhaps that is the real meaning of Father's Day. It is not a celebration of perfect fathers, because no such thing exists. Instead, it is a chance to honor the imperfect men who did their best, taught us what they could, and left us carrying a little piece of them wherever life takes us.

## Winnisquam Echo

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER  
FRANK C. CHILINSKI  
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
(603) 677-9082  
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
(508) 764-4325

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER  
JIM HINCKLEY  
(603) 279-4516

MANAGING EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(603) 677-9081  
brendan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
(603) 677-9092  
julie@salmonpress.news

# Castle in the Clouds celebrates milestone season on NH Heritage Museum Trail

MOULTONBOROUGH — Castle Preservation Society, a member of the NH Heritage Museum Trail, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, building on the momentum of the Lucknow Estate's 2025 designation as a National Historic Landmark.

To mark the occasion, the Castle in the Clouds has unveiled a new exhibition exploring the estate's history after Thomas and Olive Plant, inviting visitors to discover the lesser-known chapters of Lucknow's story. The mansion itself remains the centerpiece of the visitor experience, with daily tours and a newly repaved historic driveway that sets the stage from the moment guests arrive.

Beyond the mansion, the property comes alive each June with more than 200 public programs scheduled across the 2026 season. Families can follow the newly installed Story Walk, which officially debuts June 13 with a grand opening celebra-



tion at the Picnic Pavilion in partnership with Altrusa. Mondays feature story time and crafts led by the Moultonborough Public Library.

Stargazers and sun-watchers alike can also find their place at Castle

in the Clouds, with Sunday solar gazing sessions with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society and an evening of constellation viewing on Thursday, June 18.

"From our mountaintop vantage point, the skies

above Lucknow have inspired wonder for more than a century," noted Executive Director Charles Clark. "Programs like these connect visitors to the same sense of awe that drew Thomas and Olive Plant here in the first

place." The estate's natural beauty takes center stage through guided and volunteer-led hikes, garden tours of the historic Lucknow Gardens, and a Garden Photography Workshop presented with ArtWorks.

For those drawn to hands-on experiences, June offers everything from beekeeping sessions with Bewitched Acres to a watercolor workshop, the annual Community Arts Festival on June 27, and weekly yoga on the lawns beginning June 29. For a full schedule of programs and to register, visit [castleintheclouds.org](http://castleintheclouds.org)

"Our 20th anniversary is a moment to celebrate not just what we've preserved, but what we've built—a place where history, nature, and community come together," added Clark. It's also part of something bigger. As members across the NH Heritage Museum Trail are telling the story of New Hampshire in ways that invite everyone to be part of it."

To learn more about the NH Heritage Museum Trail, featuring nearly two-dozen members in the Seacoast, Lakes Region, White Mountains, Dartmouth-Sunapee Region, and Merrimack Valley, visit [nhmuseumtrail.org](http://nhmuseumtrail.org).

## Comfort Keepers celebrates Eighth Annual National Day of Joy

BY EMILY CUMMINGS  
Outreach Coordinator  
Comfort Keepers

As an advocate of positive, joyful living, Comfort Keepers, a leading provider of uplifting in-home care for seniors and adults

who need assistance, is celebrating its eighth annual National Day of Joy. Celebrated annually on the last Wednesday in June (June 24, 2026), National Day of Joy was created to recognize the importance of joy, connection,

and emotional well-being. Through its approach to Interactive Caregiving, Comfort Keepers helps seniors remain engaged, independent, and connected to the people and activities they love most while supporting family caregivers.

This year's National Day of Joy theme, Joy Between Generations, celebrates the meaningful moments shared between aging parents, grandparents, adult children, caregivers, and communities. To mark the occasion, Comfort Keepers will host a Day of Joy Pop-Up Table at the New London Inn Commons on Wednesday, June 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. Community members are invited to stop by and join in the celebration with giveaways, treats, yard games, and plenty of opportunities to connect and share moments of joy.

In addition to the community event, Comfort Keepers caregivers will participate in a week-long Joy Challenge, taking time

each day to recognize and celebrate the moments, connections, and acts of kindness that bring joy to their clients, teammates, families, and themselves. The challenge reflects Comfort Keepers' commitment to elevating the human spirit through meaningful relationships and everyday acts of care.

Our Day of Joy celebration is about recognizing the moments that matter most—the connections we build, the kindness we share, and the joy we create together. Joy has a ripple effect. One act of kindness, one moment of connection, or one shared smile can brighten not only someone's day, but an entire community. As I often say, 'Be the light-

house, spread your light.' When we choose to share our light with others, we inspire hope, create connection, and help build a more joyful community for everyone.

Across the country, Comfort Keepers offices will celebrate National Day of Joy through local events, community activities, and social media engagement designed to encourage families and caregivers to create and embrace joyful moments together. To learn more about National Day of Joy, Comfort Keepers services, or career opportunities with Comfort Keepers, visit [www.NHComfortKeepers.com](http://www.NHComfortKeepers.com) and follow the conversation on social media using #NationalDayofJoy.

### HCPAC to hold public meeting on Concord Hospital's acquisition of Franklin Hospital, LRGH

TILTON — Attorney General John M. Formella announces that the Healthcare Consumer Protection Advisory Commission (HCPAC) will hold a public meeting at the Winnisquam Regional High School, 433 W Main St., Tilton, in the Cafetorium, on June 24 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend in person, or virtually, to share with the Commission their healthcare experience since the acquisition of Franklin Hospital and Lakes Region General Hospital (LRGH) by Concord Hospital. Particularly, members of the public may consider the following questions:

How has Concord Hospital's acquisition of Franklin Hospital and LRGH impacted your healthcare, specifically on areas such as cost, access, quality, and transparency?

How is primary care access in your community? Has anything changed?

How could the Commission address consumers' healthcare concerns?

The Commission was established to consult with and advise the Attorney General relative to the proper administration and management of the Healthcare Consumer Protection Trust Fund which is designated solely for the purpose of benefiting healthcare consumers.

The meeting will begin with opening statements by the Attorney General and Commission Members and then will be open to public comment.

The Healthcare Consumer Protection Advisory Commission website has more information here: <https://www.doj.nh.gov/health-care-consumer-protection-advisory-commission>.

To attend the meeting virtually, please find meeting information here. Joining virtually does not guarantee that you will be able to comment during the meeting.

The public is strongly encouraged to submit written questions or comments as this will benefit the Commission. Please email any written comments to [HCPAC@doj.nh.gov](mailto:HCPAC@doj.nh.gov). All comments are public record.

Please see NH RSA 7:6-g and RSA 7:6-h regarding the Commission and Trust Fund.



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**RAIDERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

around player, he's a complete player."

Derryfield got on the board first at Delta Dental Stadium on Saturday, using a two-out walk, stolen base and base hit to plate the first run of the game, but the Raiders answered right back.

Townsend led off the game with a base hit and stole second and Divers followed with a base hit and stole second. Wyatt Bamford followed with an infield hit to plate Townsend and then Max Ryder worked a walk to load the bases. A Jack Crockford groundout drove in the second run and a Sam Binder ground-

out plated another run and Belmont led 3-1 after one inning.

Divers set the side down in order in the top of the second and the Cougars worked around an Alex Rowley walk in the bottom of the inning. Divers set the side in order in the top of the third inning as well and the Raiders added to their lead in the bottom of the frame.

Bamford led off with a base hit, Ryder was hit by a pitch and Crockford worked a walk to load the bases. Binder then worked a walk to force home a run and Eddie Rochenski reached on an error for the 6-1 lead. A Brady Fysh base hit drove in another run and a wild pitch pushed another run across. Rowley

followed with a base hit and Townsend grounded out to drive in the ninth run of the game. A Divers groundout drove in another run and Belmont was up 10-1 after three innings.

Divers worked around a pair of hits to start the top of the fourth and the Cougars worked around a walk to Binder and a base hit from Rochenski in the bottom of the inning. Divers pitched around a walk in the top of the fifth and the Raiders went in order in the bottom of the inning. Binder made a great catch in left field to open the top of the sixth and then an error and a base hit allowed the Cougars to plate another run, but Divers retired the next batter to end the inning.

Crockford had a one-out base hit in the bottom of the sixth but he was stranded and the Cougars were able to get a pair of base hits in the top of the seventh before Divers struck out the final batter, setting off a celebration for the Raiders.

The win was Belmont's first state championship since 1988 and the team had the jersey of the coach of that team, Paul Sottak, with them in the dugout throughout their playoff run.

"Any chance you get to play on the last day is good, being able to walk away with a W is even better," LeBlanc said. "We're a complete team, every guy accepts his role and they do it to the best of their poten-

tial. "You need a complete team to win a championship," he continued. "A couple of times we thought we had had it in the past, but we didn't. This time we did."

The Raider coach praised his seniors, Divers, Townsend, Fysh and Rochenski, for setting the tone.

"The four of them have my heart," he said, holding back tears. "Coaching baseball means the world to me and I couldn't hope for a better group of seniors to take it home."

He noted that Rochenski stood tall at the plate during the playoffs in addition to his stellar defense all year, Fysh as the most improved player on the

team over the course of the year and earned his spot to play before heading off to the military at the beginning of July and Townsend and Divers earned First Team All-State honors before heading off to play baseball in college in the fall.

"We've all been blessed to have those kids around us," LeBlanc said.

The Raiders finished the regular season 14-2 to earn the third seed in the tournament and defeated Winnisquam, Fall Mountain and Bishop Brady to advance to the championship game for the second time in three years.

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



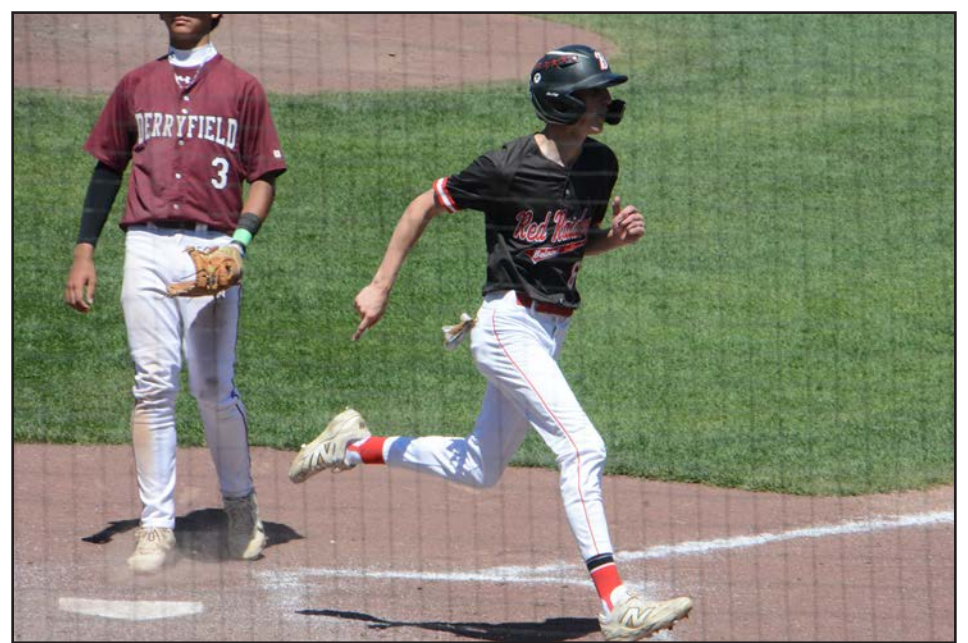
Brayden Townsend holds the Division III trophy aloft for the Belmont fans to see after the Raiders won the state championship on Saturday afternoon.



Retiring assistant coach Jim LaClair and his grandson, senior Wyatt Divers, show off their championship medals after Saturday's Division III championship game. There were four generations of the family in attendance at the title game.



Wyatt Divers lifts his arms in celebration after striking out the final batter of the Division III title game on Saturday in Manchester.



Eddie Rochenski crosses home plate with a run during action in the Division III championship game on Saturday.



Alex Rowley takes a lead off first base during the Division III championship game in Manchester on Saturday afternoon.



Brayden Townsend turns to put the tag on a Derryfield runner during action in the Division III championship game on Saturday.



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The Belmont baseball team poses with the jersey of former coach Paul Sottak in the dugout at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester after winning the school's first title since Sottak led the team to the title in 1988.

# No quit: Belmont baseball boys battle back to beat Bishop Brady

*Raiders overcome four-run deficit to win Division III semifinal tilt*



JOSHUA SPAULDING

With coach Matt LeBlanc urging him on, Brayden Townsend barrels toward the plate in action in the Division III semifinals last Tuesday in Laconia.



Coach Matt LeBlanc talks to his team prior to the start of last Tuesday's Division III semifinal game in Laconia.



Wyatt Bamford delivered the game-tying double in the top of the seventh inning to help Belmont beat Bishop Brady in the Division III semifinals.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

LACONIA — Down 5-1 after two innings in the Division III semifinals on Tuesday, June 9, the Belmont baseball boys showed the poise and resilience that has gotten them through the regular season.

The Raiders scored one run in the third, another in the fifth and another in the sixth to cut the lead to one and then tied the game with a run in the top of the seventh. Belmont then plated a run in the top of the eighth and held off Bishop Brady in the bottom of the inning to advance to the Division III finals.

"These guys just don't know how to quit," said veteran coach Matt LeBlanc, who is leading his team back to the Division III championship game for the second time in three years.

Brayden Townsend led

off the game with a walk and Wyatt Divers followed with a double. LeBlanc waved Townsend around third but the Giants were able to cut him down at the plate for the first out of the game. One out later, Max Ryder singled home Divers for the 1-0 lead.

The Giants got to Divers right away with a base hit, three doubles and a walk leading to four runs before an out was recorded in the bottom of the first and the Giants had a 4-1 lead after one inning of play.

Brady Fysh was hit by a pitch with two outs in the top of the second, but he was stranded on the bases and the Giants used two hits and an error to plate another run in the bottom of the second for the 5-1 lead. And that was the last run the Giants would score on the season.

Townsend led off the top of the third with a

double and two outs later scored on a wild pitch after a Ryder walk to cut the lead to 5-2. Divers worked around a leadoff hit in the bottom of the third and Jack Crockford led off the top of the fourth with a base hit and was stranded. The Raiders turned a double play to help Divers out of the bottom of the fourth inning.

Divers then singled with two outs in the top of the fifth inning and stole second. Wyatt Bamford then doubled him home, cutting the lead to 5-3. Divers then retired the side in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Crockford was hit by a pitch to start the top of the sixth inning and two outs later, Fysh singled and Crockford scored on an error to cut the lead to 5-4. The Giants leadoff hitter reached on an error in the bottom of the sixth, but Divers retired the next

three in a row to send the game to the seventh with the Giants up by one.

Alex Rowley walked to start the inning but he was erased when Townsend grounded back to the mound. The Giants got a fly ball to center for the second out of the inning and were one out away from heading to the title game. Bamford quickly put those hopes to rest with a double to left, driving home Townsend with the tying run.

Divers gave up a pair of one-out singles in the bottom of the seventh inning, but the Eddie Rochenski snared a line drive to center and doubled the Brady runner off second to end the inning and send the game to extra frames.

Sam Biner reached on an error to open the top of the eighth inning and two outs later, Rowley, batting in the ninth spot in the order, doubled to left. Binder came all the way around to score and Belmont had the 6-5 lead in the middle of the eighth.

Divers went to work in

the bottom of the eighth, retiring three in a row before he reached the pitch limit, sending the Raiders on to the Division III finals.

Divers threw 110 pitches and struck out eight batters across eight innings of work to earn the win for

the Raiders.

Belmont faced off with Derryfield in the Division III finals in Manchester on Saturday.

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

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EOE

## Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD/PORTLAND, Maine — Savannah Perkins of Belmont; Marena Beale of Gilmanton; Emma Griffin and Henry Osmer of Sanbornton; and Liv Arvidson of Tilton have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2026. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

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FUNDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

tion they have so rightfully earned through years of hard work, dedication, and academic perseverance here at BHS," Finch said.

"High school graduation is a monumental rite of passage. Because of this immense kindness, our senior class can stand together, unburdened by financial stress, to celebrate their

achievements. This gift is a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the deep care that surrounds our students," he added.

Donations were also made to Got Literacy Laconia to purchase new books, the Belmont, Gilford and Laconia Got Lunch programs to help kick off their summer program providing breakfast and lunch to local children, Church of

Another Chance towards their YouTube channel setup and the Laconia Congregational Church for their "Love Our Earth" Day event with a focus on protecting our precious environment.

Located in Gilford at 19 Potter Hill Rd., the Gilford Community Church (GCC) is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and

old. Viewable live on Facebook and available on YouTube, Sunday service at

GCC takes place at 10 a.m. To learn more, or virtually attend service, visit [www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org](http://www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org).

TOP TEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Choir, the Art Club where she enjoyed painting murals, as well as the performing arts. Georgia was also part of the WRHS Granite State Challenge team along with other Quiz Bowls throughout the region. In the fall she will be heading off to Wheaton College in Massachusetts. There she will major in Environmental Science and in the future hopes to be involved with work in biomes and spreading awareness of their changing conditions.

2. PHOEBE TIMMONS

Phoebe Timmons was this year's Salutatorian, but was unavailable for an interview. We wish her the very best in her future plans.

3. CAIDYN CARTER

Caidyn Carter hails from Northfield and displayed a lot of strength in leadership during high school. She was named Class President, was a member of Student Council, played softball and was captain of the girl's basketball and volleyball teams. While on the basketball team she was excited to end her four years by scoring 1,000 points. Her love for competition also led her to participating in the school's F-1 Class where they built and competed in racing miniature Formula One race cars. Her favorite memory is of the trip they took to North Carolina where they took part in a large competition with students from several states. Besides her athletic successes, Caidyn was inducted into the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Society), and National English Society. Soon, she will travel to The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, to participate in the Army ROTC program. Her focus will be on Military Intelligence and Security Studies. Upon graduation from there, Carter said her goal is to work in counter-intelligence for the FBI.

4. ARIANNA HYSON

A resident of Sanborn-ton, Arianna Hyson has a love for music and theater and participated in the school choir along with Drama Club at the school until that was discontinued. She was however happy to have traveled with the choir to Six Flags New England where they took part in the annual high school music competition. Hyson has her sights set on Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., where she will major in graphic design. A self-proclaimed "theater kid at heart," she has already been invited to join the college choir as well as their Theater Group.

5. CARLY DREW

Carly Drew was born and raised in Tilton, and had an interesting start to high school. During her freshman and sophomore years, she and her horse Penny were competing in horse shows around the country, bringing home many trophies. Because of that, she was only physically in school part time,

doing online studies whenever she was away. By the time her junior year rolled around, Drew stopped competing and returned her focus to her studies.

She joined Student Council, was voted Vice President of her class and did pole vaulting with the track team. Like Carter, Drew was also part of the F-1 class and became a manager for the wrestling team. She was inducted into the National Honor Society, the National Social Studies Honor Society (Rho Kappa), and the National English Society.

This fall, she will be attending Colby-Sawyer College to work toward earning a BSA in Nursing. Fortunately, the school also has a club team for horseback riding, which she looks forward to joining.

6. ABIGAIL OSMER

Hailing from Sanborn-ton, Abigail Osmer enjoyed being a member of the cross country team for two years along with the track team where she competed in the triple jump events and ran short sprints. This year Winnisquam Regional School District opened their new Winnisquam Career Center (Wi-CC) and she was pleased to have been able to enroll in a Cosmetology class, learning the baselines of the field. It was one class, she said, that she was excited to attend each day of her senior year. Next up, she will be studying abroad in Italy through New Haven College in Connecticut, studying English and Italian while there and beginning her pursuit for a degree in business. She chose Italy because her family, while Italian, also hosted a number of exchange students at their home over the years, a few of whom she looks forward to seeing once again. Since her family owns a large car dealership, her eventual goal is to join the business after graduation, but her parents encourage her to perhaps try some options before she makes up her mind.

7. ANNA DRINKWINE

Anna Drinkwine is from Northfield, and enjoyed athletics in high school, participating in volleyball and track and field where she threw shot put and ran in long-distance races. She was the first girl to join the boys' varsity wrestling team, while also competing on the girls' team. Drinkwine said enjoyed it so much that she hopes to wrestle at the college level, too. Music is another interest of hers and she sang in the chorus and played trombone in the band. She was also a member of the Student Council, and was inducted in the National Honor Society, the National Science Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Connecticut will be her destination at the end of summer where she will be attending the University of Bridgeport to major in Sports Management. Upon graduation, she plans to work toward a career as an Athletic Director.

8. AVERY PHELPS

A resident of Tilton, Avery Phelps chose to fo-

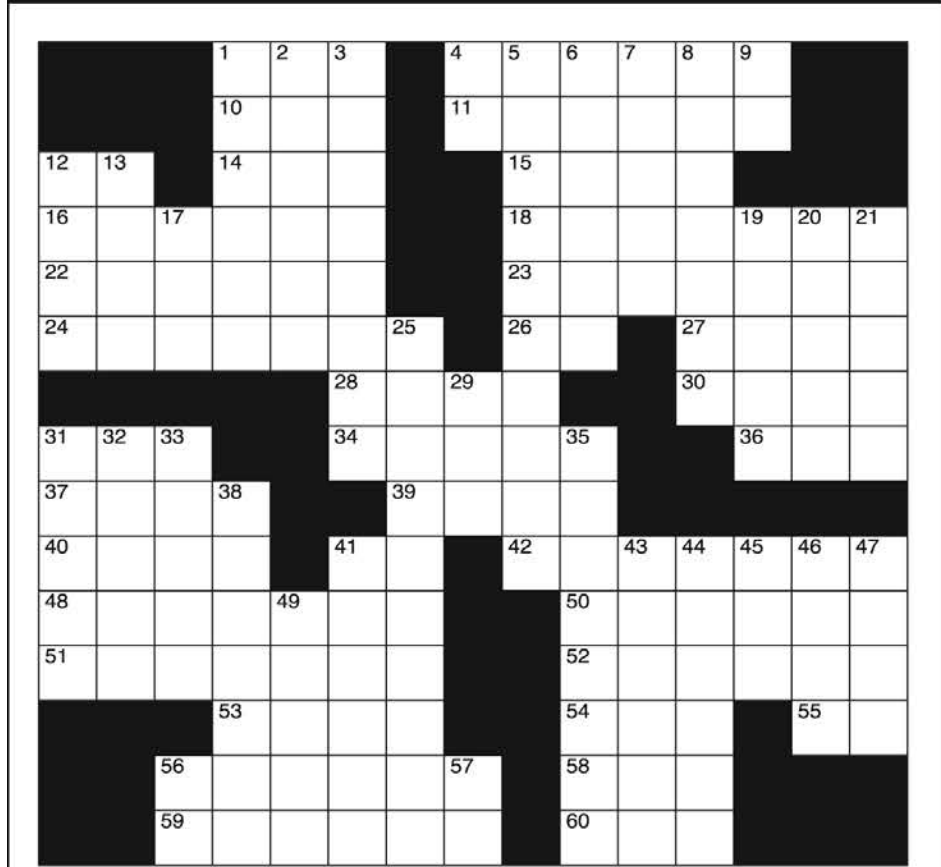
cus her time on her studies during her four years at WRHS. This year she really enjoyed the selection of classes in the new Winnisquam Career Center, especially the candle and soap making course she took. She explained that students can now learn a lot about business enterprise and entrepreneurship through this new studies program and she liked having that opportunity. In the fall, Phelps will attend classes at nearby Lakes Region Community College, and while she has an interest in Studio Arts, she will enter the school as "undecided" then see where it leads her into the future.

9. SEBASTIAN STOGNIEW

Sebastian Stogniew is from Sanborn-ton, but first attended the Laconia Christian School before transferring to WRHS in his sophomore year. Through the high school, he was able to enter a two-year Law Enforcement program at the Huot Career and Technical Program in Laconia, something he said he very much enjoyed. Sebastian also did an internship with the Tilton Police Department. Not only did he wind up earning his high school diploma, finishing ninth in his class; he also got a jump start on his career. Sebastian said he learned a lot at the Huot, receiving certification in things such as CPR, learning what to expect in his future. Now that he has graduated, Stogniew hopes to find employment at one of the area's correctional facilities until he turns 21 and can then work toward becoming either a police or corrections officer through one of their 10-week academies in Concord.

10. CARL EDWARDSON

Carl Edwardson also comes from Sanborn-ton, and was involved in sports throughout his time in high school. He played all four years on the WRHS soccer team as a center defender, was on the wrestling team and also spent his freshman year on the track team where he ran both sprints and long distance, competed in the triple jump, and threw javelin. A highlight in his athletic career was a match where WRHS beat the always competitive Plymouth Regional High School team. When not on the playing fields or in the gym, Edwardson also praised the Wi-CC program where he learned about tool making. He said the career center has a well-equipped shop where he learned to design, create and fabricate tools to their specifications. Among the things he learned to create were hammers, screwdrivers, levels and even a pen or some occasional metal sculptures. One thing he enjoyed about tool making is that he likes taking on a tough job where he would need to study prints and do problem solving when something in the plan doesn't work out quite right. After graduation, he was set to go out and find a job in his chosen field so he can begin saving for his future.

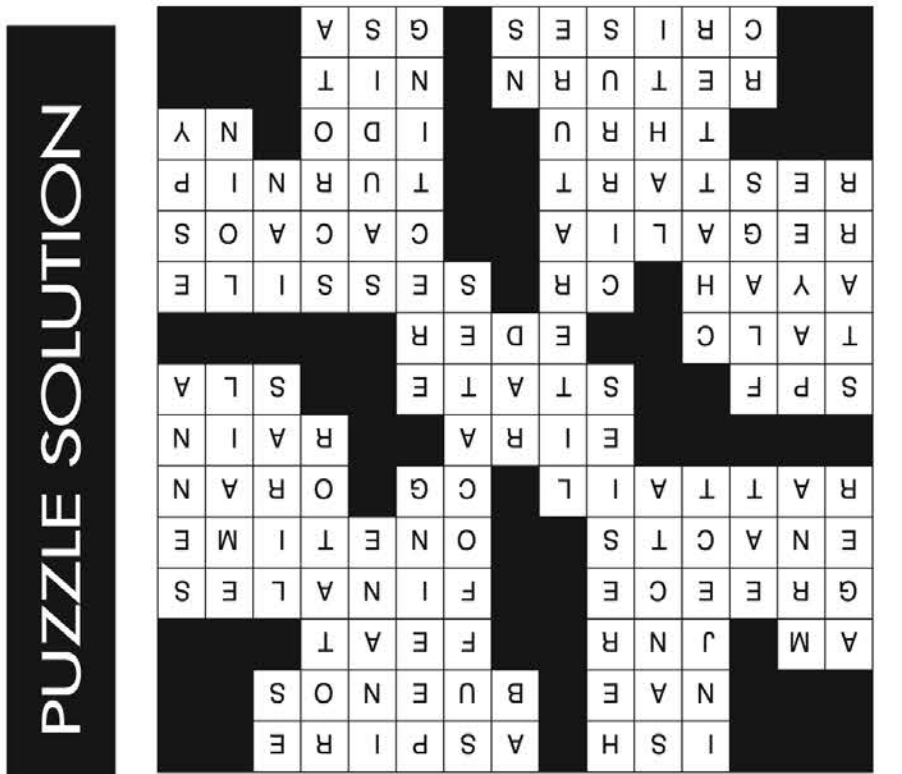


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Similar
- 4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- 10. No (Scottish)
- 11. \_\_\_ Aires, city
- 12. Morning
- 14. Senior's son (abbr.)
- 15. A notable achievement
- 16. European nation
- 18. Endings
- 22. Puts into place
- 23. Former
- 24. Grenadier
- 26. Sea patrol
- 27. Algerian port
- 28. Norwegian river
- 30. Precipitation
- 31. Screenshot rating
- 34. New York is one
- 36. Patti Hearst's captors
- 37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
- 39. Retired Brazilian footballer
- 40. An Indian nursemaid
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Immobile
- 48. Insignia of royalty
- 50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Round root
- 53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- 54. What newlyweds just said
- 55. Empire State
- 56. Give back
- 58. College hoops tournament
- 59. Unstable situations
- 60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Administer a drug
- 2. Holy places
- 3. Contrary opinions
- 4. Blood type
- 5. Gags
- 6. Micturating
- 7. Silly
- 8. A type of "cuff"
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Austrian river
- 13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 17. Consume food
- 19. California supermarket
- 20. Electronic communication
- 21. Cassia tree
- 25. Written works
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- 32. One who was compensated
- 33. National symbols
- 35. Raising
- 38. A type of talk
- 41. Cloud
- 43. Middle Eastern peoples
- 44. Pouches
- 45. 007's creator
- 46. A cut of meat
- 47. Sports entertainment award
- 49. Christine \_\_\_, actress
- 56. Relief organization (abbr.)
- 57. Canadian province (abbr.)



# Concord Hospital - Laconia staff cultivate healing and community in rooftop garden



COURTESY

From left, Delia Shepard, RN, Josh Brown, LNA, Heather Pearl, LNA/HUC, and Christine Bastille, HUC, pose for a photo in Concord Hospital - Laconia's rooftop garden. This group is a small representation of the volunteers who built, improved on, and continue to maintain the garden to provide a restful space for staff, patients, and visiting family members.

For the second consecutive year, members of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) team have volunteered their personal time to beautify and expand the rooftop garden on the hospital's third-floor patio. Led by ICU Licensed Nursing Assistant Joshua Brown, the project reflects a shared vision of creating a therapeutic environment where

people can find a moment of peace away from the clinical setting.

"Our goal is to make this a space where patients, families, and staff can take a break, enjoy some fresh air, and focus on something positive," said Brown. "Hospitals can be stressful places. We wanted to create a garden that offers comfort, relaxation, and a

sense of connection."

Over the past several months, Brown and fellow staff members have dedicated countless volunteer hours to restoring and enhancing the space. Together, they scrubbed the patio flooring and metal walls, removed accumulated moss, painted existing raised garden beds, added new flowerpots, and con-

structed an additional cedar raised garden bed.

The team also partnered with Osbornes Farm & Garden Center through Coast of Maine's Growing Good Program. In addition, a staff member's husband built custom trellises for climbing vegetables, helping bring the team's vision to life.

Today, the garden includes four raised beds and multiple planters growing a variety of plants, including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers, carrots, butternut squash, pumpkins, and sunflowers. Staff plans to add colorful annual flowers to the patio planters in the coming weeks, and harvestable produce is available for anyone to pick.

While the garden is maintained entirely by staff volunteers during breaks and outside of work hours, patients are also encouraged to participate. Last year, one long-term patient became an enthusiastic partner in the project, helping water the plants throughout the growing season.

"That patient really took ownership of helping care for the garden," Brown said. "She watered the plants regularly and took great pride in watching everything grow. We like to joke that she was responsible for our bumper crop of pumpkins. We're hoping we can create that same opportunity for patients again this year."

The project recently received another boost when Concord Hospital's Chief Advancement Officer, Veronica Rosa, worked with hospital leadership to secure funding for replacement patio umbrellas, helping make the space more comfortable and accessible during the warmer months.

"I'm incredibly proud of the initiative Joshua and his colleagues have shown," Rosa said. "Their dedication demonstrates how much our staff cares about creating a healing environment, not just through clinical care, but through thoughtful touches that improve the experience for everyone who

comes through our doors."

Hospital leadership also praised the team's efforts and the project's broader impact.

"We want to recognize the work staff have volunteered to do to make this space a refuge for all to enjoy," said Tim Paris, director of facility operations for Concord Hospital. "Their commitment has transformed the rooftop garden into something truly special, and we are happy to support a vision that benefits patients, families, and staff alike."

For Brown and his fellow volunteers, the garden is about more than flowers and vegetables. It represents community, healing, and the power of small acts of kindness.

"Whether someone spends five minutes here or an hour, we hope the garden helps them feel better," Brown said. "If it gives a patient, family member, or coworker a chance to step away from stress and enjoy a peaceful moment, then all the work is worth it."

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# Tenacious Loon Cam pair incubating fourth egg

MOULTONBOROUGH — After losing three eggs to a remarkable series of setbacks (including a group of playful otters, swarms of black flies, and mink predation—the Lakes Region loon pair featured on the Loon Preservation Committee’s Live Loon Cam is once again incubating an egg in an attempt to produce a chick this season.

“Nesting loons face many challenges,” said Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist and Executive Director of the Loon Preservation Committee. “The Live Loon Cam offers viewers a rare glimpse into the trials and tribulations that New Hampshire’s loons endure as they work to hatch their chicks.”

The female of the Loon Cam pair laid her first egg of the season on May 22. Loons typically lay two eggs per clutch, and they will not incubate the first egg consistently until the

second has been laid. In the early morning hours of May 24, before the second egg was laid, a group of six otters climbed onto the unattended nest raft. Although the otters did not eat the egg, they climbed onto the cover of the nest raft, and their combined weight collapsed the cover and smashed the egg sitting below.

Later that same day, the pair laid a second egg. However, in the days that followed, heavy swarms of black flies appeared to prevent the loons from sitting on the nest for more than a few seconds at a time, and the pair eventually abandoned the egg.

Because the failure occurred early in the nesting season, the loons had time to try again. Loons often re-nest after an early nesting failure, typically beginning a new attempt 8-18 days later.

Just after midnight on June 10, the female laid

the first egg of their second nesting attempt. Unfortunately, just 90 minutes later, a mink swam to the nest raft and ate this third egg.

Undeterred, the female of the pair laid another egg, the second of the second clutch and fourth overall, on June 12. Because this egg was the second egg of the clutch, the loons immediately began to incubate it consistently. If successful, the egg is expected to hatch between July 8th and July 10th.

Throughout their incubation period, loon nests face a variety of threats. In addition to natural challenges such as predation and black flies, loon nests may fail because of human disturbance, flooding or stranding caused by changing water levels, or swamping from boat wakes.

Those planning to boat, fish, or hike around New Hampshire’s lakes during the nesting season are urged to be mindful of

nesting loons. If a loon nest is seen, it should be given plenty of space—at least 150 feet, and further if the nesting loon shows signs of distress such as lowering its head over the nest. Anyone who accidentally flushes a loon from its nest should leave the area immediately so the bird can feel comfortable enough to return and resume incubation. Boaters are also encouraged to follow New Hampshire’s no-wake laws in order to help prevent nests from being swamped.

The Loon Preservation Committee monitors loons throughout the state as part of its mission to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons in New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

# Granite VNA offers “A Matter of Balance” program in Laconia

LACONIA — Granite VNA is offering “A Matter of Balance,” an eight-week fall prevention program at Granite VNA – Laconia, 780 North Street on Tuesdays beginning July 7 from 1-3 p.m.

Participants learn to view falls and the fear of falling as controllable, change the environment to reduce fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

To register, call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85664 or visit [www.granitevna.org](http://www.granitevna.org). Registration is required and space is limited. This program is offered at no charge.

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls/Volunteer Lay Leader Model © 2006. This program is based on “Fear of Falling: A Matter of Balance” Copyright © 1995 Trustees of Boston University. All rights reserved. Used and adapted by permission of Boston University.

About Granite VNA

Granite VNA is a not-for-profit licensed and certified home health and hospice care provider. The agency serves people of all ages in 72 communities across the Greater Capital Region and Central New Hampshire by providing home care, hospice care, pediatric and maternal child health services, and wellness programming. The agency has offices in Concord, Laconia and Wolfeboro. Formed through the merger of Concord Regional VNA and Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice, Granite VNA has served New Hampshire since 1899. For more information about Granite VNA, visit [www.granitevna.org](http://www.granitevna.org).

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**Public Hearing Notice**

The Wolfeboro Board of Library Trustees will conduct three public hearings on Monday, July 13, 2026 beginning at 3:30PM in the Bradley Room of the Wolfeboro Public Library 259 South Main Street, Wolfeboro NH 03894 in accordance with RSA 202-A:4-c for unanticipated moneys in the amount of \$5,000 or more. The hearings are as follows:

1. To consider a grant in the amount of \$19,857.53 from the Wolfeboro Public Library Foundation to sponsor a community survey administered by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.
2. To consider a grant from the Wolfeboro Public Library Foundation in the amount of \$5000 to expand the large print collection for 2026;
3. To consider a grant from the Wolfeboro Public Library Foundation in the amount of \$5080.83 for landscaping expenses.

If there is anyone with a disability needing any modification and/or auxiliary aid to access the meeting, please notify Alison Rutley, Library Director at 569-2428 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting date.

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*Help Wanted*

# NH Boat Museum to host Junior Skippers Lake Discovery Day

MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, June 25, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., the New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will host Junior Skippers Lake Discovery Day. A free program designed for kids in kindergarten through the fifth grade, “Does it Float?” is the theme of June’s session.

“Kids will have a great time participating in hands-on educational activities and games,” said NHBM Executive Director Devon Kurtz. “They will also leave with a better understanding of how boats stay afloat and how to be safe on the water.”

Junior Skippers Lake Discovery Days take place on Thursday, June 25, Wednesday, July 15, and Thursday, Aug. 20.

In addition to Junior Skipper’s Lake Discovery Days this summer, NHBM programs and activities of



interest for kids (and families) include Boat Building, Boat Cruises in the Millie B, and Story Hour with Moultonborough Public Library. On Saturday, July 25 NHBM will host a book signing with children’s book authors Karel Hayes and Andy Opel, which will include crafts, a treasure hunt, and snacks.

Founded in 1992, NHBM is dedicated to preserving and sharing the state’s rich freshwater boating heritage. Through dynamic exhibits, youth programs like Junior Skippers, and on-the-water experiences, NHBM brings New Hampshire’s boating story to life for visitors from across the world.

To learn more about Junior Skippers Lake Discovery Day or other child and family-themed programming, visit [nhbm.org](http://nhbm.org).

## New nonprofit music school launches in Lakes Region and White Mountains



REGION — A new nonprofit organization, Squam Ridge School of Music, is bringing expanded opportunities for music education and community music-making to the Lakes Region and White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Founded by performing artists and educators Shelby Trevor and Noelle Beaudin, the school aims to provide accessible, high-quality music education through private lessons, collaborative ensembles, group classes, and community-centered musical experiences for students of all ages and backgrounds.

Summer offerings currently include private violin, viola, cello, piano, and voice lessons, as well as ensemble and group classes held in Sandwich and Laconia. A beginner string day-camp will take place in the last week of July. The organization plans to continue expanding its educational offerings to include music theory classes, chamber music coaching, workshops, interdisciplinary arts programming, and larger ensemble experiences.

Long-term goals for the school include developing a community orchestra and children’s choir focused on experiential learning, mentorship, artistic collaboration, and educational performance opportunities for both emerging and experienced musicians.

According to the organization’s mission statement, Squam Ridge School of Music is “dedicated to enriching the Lakes Region and White Mountains communities of New Hampshire through accessible, high-quality music education, meaningful performance opportunities, collaborative ensembles, and cultural education that fosters creativity, connection, and lifelong engagement with the arts.”

“Our vision is not only to provide excellent private instruction,” said Trevor, “but to build a lasting musical community where students and performers can grow together through collaboration, creativity, and shared artistic experiences.”

Beaudin and Trevor both have extensive background in successfully developing music education institutions and programs.

Noelle Beaudin previously served as executive director of the Upper Valley Music Center in Lebanon. During her tenure, she helped grow the organization into a thriving community music school. She was also the founder and former director of the nonprofit New Hampshire Independent School of Music. Their mission was to provide an extensive overnight summer music camp for young musicians ages 10–18. The camp became

the most successful overnight music camp in the region, serving more than 100 students each week. Many alumni have gone on to become professional musicians and educators themselves. The program ran successfully for 17 years until the pandemic, at which point Beaudin made the difficult decision to close the nonprofit and the camp. Noelle has been an active piano, vocal, and composition instructor, as well as a professional performer and recording artist in Sandwich for the last 15 years and also wears the hat of Music Director at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia.

Shelby Trevor brings experience from his role as founder and former director of the Amelia Island Com-

munity String Orchestra. According to Trevor, the success of the group could be attributed to the structure of experiential education, mentorship, and fostering a supportive environment which encouraged musical achievement. The orchestra consisted of community members, local music teachers, and professionals alike, performing several concerts per year until the pandemic in 2020. The orchestra grew out of a merging of the Amelia Island String Ensemble and the Amelia Chamber Youth Orchestra, both established by Trevor. Shelby has also worked as program developer for several other nonprofit organizations, such as the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival’s String Education program and Arts Alive Nassau, which both programs provided free after school string music education to students. Currently, Shelby is an active violinist, composer, and educator whose work spans classical, folk, and improvisation-driven music.

The school is currently accepting inquiries for summer lessons, ensemble participation, and summer string camp.

For more information, email, call, or text at [shelbytrevor@gmail.com](mailto:shelbytrevor@gmail.com), 603-800-3690. Visit [squamridgeschoolofmusic.org](http://squamridgeschoolofmusic.org).

## Lakes Region Repeaters Association invites public to Amateur Radio Field Day at Castle in the Clouds

MOULTONBOROUGH — The Lakes Region Repeaters Association (LRRRA) will participate in the annual Amateur Radio Field Day from 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, through 2 p.m. Sunday, June 28 at Castle in the Clouds, 455 Old Mountain Rd., Moultonborough.

Field Day is the largest amateur radio event in North America, bringing together thousands of amateur radio operators, also known as “ham radio” enthusiasts, to demonstrate their ability to establish emergency communications under challenging conditions. Sponsored annually by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Field Day serves as both a public demonstration and an emergency preparedness exercise.

Throughout the weekend, members of the Lakes Region Repeaters Association will set up temporary radio stations powered independently from the electrical grid and communicate with amateur radio operators across the United States and around the world. Participants will demonstrate voice, digital, and Morse code communications while showcasing the versatility and importance of amateur radio.

The event is open to the public, and visitors are encouraged to stop by to learn more about amateur radio, emergency communications, and the role that amateur radio operators play during natural disasters and other emergencies when conventional communications systems may be unavailable.

Experienced operators will be on hand throughout the event to answer questions, demonstrate equipment, and explain how amateur radio works. Visitors of all ages are welcome and will have the opportunity to participate in the popular Get On The Air (GOTA) station, where licensed operators will help newcomers make their first amateur radio contacts.

“Field Day is a great opportunity for the community to see amateur radio in action,” said Mary Schillereff, Amateur Radio Emergency Services Mt. Washington Valley Coordinator. “Whether you’re interested in technology, emergency preparedness, public service, or simply curious about how radio communications work, we invite everyone to join us.”

The Lakes Region Repeater Association is dedicated to promoting amateur radio, supporting emergency communications, and providing educational opportunities for radio enthusiasts throughout New Hampshire’s Lakes Region.

For more information about the Lakes Region Repeater Association, event schedules, or amateur radio licensing, please contact:

Amateur radio is a licensed radio service that combines public service, emergency communications, technology, experimentation, and international friendship. Amateur radio operators provide valuable communications support during emergencies and community events while advancing technical skills and public service throughout their communities.

## GENERAL SERVICES

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### PUBLIC NOTICE TO NORTHFIELD VOTERS

The Supervisors of the Checklist of Northfield will be in session: New Hampshire law requires that the Supervisors of the Checklist verify the checklist every five years. Any person on the checklist who has not voted in the past five years must re-register to remain on the checklist. The Supervisors are sending a notice letter to these voters at the address the voter provided when registering. The Supervisors of the Checklist for the Town of Northfield will hold three sessions for re-registering voters who have not voted since April 1, 2021; accepting applications for new voter registration; accepting requests for the correction of the checklist on: Monday, July 13, 2026 from 6 pm to 6:30 pm Thursday, August 13, 2026 from 6 pm to 6:30 pm Tuesday, August 26, 2026 from 6 pm to 6:30 pm Location: Town Hall 21 Summer Street, Northfield NH 03276 Applicants for registration who possess proof of identity and domicile should bring that proof when they come to register. Qualified applicants who do not possess proof or who do not bring in proof with them may still register if they sign an affidavit attesting to their qualifications for citizenship. To hold session for re-registration to the checklist per RSA 654:39. No additions or corrections shall be made after these aforementioned sessions until Election Day (September 8, 2026). Voters who register subsequent to this date may declare a party when they register per RSA 654:15, except as provided in RSA 659:12 RSA 654:8,11

# Songwriter Round-Up lineup set for June 25



**MEREDITH** — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region is set to deliver another great show at the end of this month. Held in the region's premier listening room, The Loft located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. Presented on the last Thursday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside host 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, June 25, featuring the Lakes Region's own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers heart-felt lyrics with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies; Michael Suddes, an indie folk singer-songwriter raised

in Connecticut known for heartfelt honest songs delivered through a unique musical voicing; and Shannon Davis, a singer-songwriter based in Portland, Maine with thoughtful lyrics and haunting vocals. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This will 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](http://hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft) or in-person at the Winery.

# Foxx Run Farm brings petting zoo to Castle in the Clouds July 18 & 19

**MOULTONBOROUGH** — Castle in the Clouds will be partnering with Foxx Run Farm in Ossipee, NH, to host an exciting Petting Zoo Weekend. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 18 and 19, visitors of all ages will be able to meet, interact with, and learn about the variety of animals brought onsite by Foxx Run Farm.

A returning activity from the Castle's past, the Petting Zoo Weekend kicks off the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Castle Preservation Society (CPS). CPS was founded in 2006 to provide ongoing care and restoration of the Lucknow Mansion and Estate as a public attraction and museum. To commemorate this anniversary season, Castle in the Clouds plans to feature several nostalgic highlights from throughout the Estate's history, including the Petting Zoo Weekend. Castle in the Clouds previously featured a petting zoo on its grounds when the Lucknow Estate was first opened to the public by Richard Robie in 1959.

The Petting Zoo will be located in the Meadows by Shannon Pond at Castle in the Clouds and can be accessed via the Ossipee Park Road entrance. Thanks to the generous support of sponsor Renewal by Anderson, the Petting Zoo Weekend event is a free program. Registration is encouraged but not required. Further details and registration information can be found at [castleintheclouds.org](http://castleintheclouds.org).

Foxx Run Farm was established in 2007 as a small hobby farm in Ossipee, NH. Operations have since grown into a working farm dedicated to developing sustainable farming practices, biodiversity and regenerative agriculture with a second location in Hiram, ME. Foxx Run Farm offers lessons, camp days and farm stays to allow visitors to experience a working farm and learn about sustainable farming practices. Find more information about their operations and mission at [foxxrunfarm.com](http://foxxrunfarm.com).

About Castle in the Clouds  
As the premier historical museum in the beautiful Lakes Region of New Hamp-



shire, Castle in the Clouds provides each visitor with a look into the past while providing contemporary comforts to make every visit memorable. Originally called Lucknow, this breathtaking 6,300-acre property was developed in 1913 by Thomas G. Plant, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, to create a luxurious lifestyle with state-of-the-art amenities, beautiful hand-made furnishings, and a large staff to run the estate. These days, visitors come from all around the world to tour the mansion and exhibit gallery, dine in the Carriage House Restaurant or Café in the Clouds, hike miles of hiking and walking trails maintained by partner organization the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, or enjoy one of our many programs and events. Operated by the Castle Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Castle in the Clouds is revered as a cultural and educational resource, with the Lucknow Estate listed on the National Register of Historic Places with national significance in 2018 and designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark in 2024. Castle in the Clouds is also available as a fairytale wedding venue and versatile private event rental. For more information about Castle in the Clouds, visit [www.castleintheclouds.org](http://www.castleintheclouds.org).



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