



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

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FREE

A banner day (and season) for Gilford football

Butler's three touchdowns lead Golden Eagles to Division III title

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — As a gym teacher at Gilford High School, Brandt O'Hara walks into the school's gymnasium and sees the plethora of banners hanging on the walls. But what he hasn't seen is a banner honoring a football championship.

He won't have to go through that anymore.

Everything changed for O'Hara on Saturday, Nov. 22, as his Golden Eagles used a huge performance from junior Liam Butler and knocked off rival and



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Gilford football team poses with the Division III championship plaque after beating Laconia on Nov. 22 in Exeter. neighbor Laconia by a 20-6 score at Exeter High School's Bill Ball Stadium, giving Gilford the first championship in the football program's history

and a new banner for the coach to look at when he

comes to work every day. "They (Laconia) have

had our number in the past, but in a way that

can be used as fuel for the fire," O'Hara said. "These kids, they go to school with each other, they play sports with each other, so to come out on top over them on the biggest stage, the kids deserve it."

"So many people that have come before us got us in this position," he continued. "That was foundation of what we've built here."

It wasn't an auspicious
SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE A6

Shop locally at the Barnstead Historical Society Christmas Sale

BARNSTEAD — Support your neighbors by shopping the Barnstead Historical Society Christmas Sale on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Parade Fire Station.

Start your morning with a cup of coffee and a breakfast sandwich from the Tiede Farm Smokehouse. Browse through the items offered by local craftspeople, including wildlife photo cards,

watercolors, wood crafts, or embroidery, as well as baked treats. Wrap it all up with a beautiful bow! If you worked up an appetite, we've got you covered. Have a cup of soup, chowder or mac n' cheese. Take a chance on our raffle items and be sure to pick up at least one of the Historical Society's books. Ho-ho-ho and Merry Christmas from the Barnstead Historical Society!

GHS graduates pursuing military careers return for hometown visit

BY CATHY ALLYN
Contributing Writer

GILFORD — Two young men, graduates of Gilford High School, have just had the pleasure of sharing their experiences at the country's most prestigious higher education institutions.

Bradley McIntire, a cadet at the US Military Academy at West Point, and Patrick Gandini, a midshipman at the US Naval Academy, both participated in their respective schools' Hometown Visits program during the week before Thanksgiving.

"It's not recruiting,"

McIntire explained, "but telling people what the institutions are about and what we are doing there."

What are a couple of kids from a small town in a small state doing there?

"They are outstanding young men," Kurt Webber, a retired LTC in the Army who now serves as the state coordinator of USMA admissions, stated. "Outstanding athletes and leaders."

He should know, as he was their Scoutmaster when they were youngsters in the Boy Scouts and is acknowledged by



COURTESY

Gilford High School graduates, Patrick Gandini (2023), a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, and West Point Cadet Bradley McIntire (2022) were recently back in the area for Hometown Visits to talk to local high school students about their experiences at their respective military institutions. Gandini, left, and McIntire, right, are pictured here at the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia last December.

both as a "mentor."

Although they have wound up in different branches of the military, McIntire and Gandini have shared many of the same steps along their separate paths.

McIntire said his parents had a "big impact" on his life choices. "Both are in law enforcement, so serving your community was a big aspect of my growing up." His father serves in the New Hampshire National Guard, as well.

"I grew up hearing stories that piqued my interest," he commented.

He also cites his boss at his landscaping job in middle and high school and good coaches of his tennis and hockey teams for teaching him a great work ethic and inspiring him.

SEE HOMETOWN, PAGE A8

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests adds 370 acres to Morse Preserve in Alton

ALTON — The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has purchased 370 acres of land in Alton, New Hampshire, adding to the Forest Society's 680-acre Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr. Preserve (Morse Preserve). The addition of this property to Morse Preserve has brought its total to 1,050 acres, further enlarging the protected network of conservation land in the Belknap Range.

The landowner, Marlene Meinelt, reached out to the Forest Society seeking to conserve her family's woodlot. Her father, Curtis Meinelt, purchased the land in 1939 and Marlene has honored her father's wishes for the land to be conserved. Curtis Meinelt started working with Moreno Forestry in 1980 with a keen eye on sustaining healthy forests and wildlife habitat.

The project was supported with grant funds from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the New Hampshire Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund Source Water Protection program, the NH State Conservation Committee Moose



Plate Grant Program, and the Town of Alton conservation commission.

The property includes the ridgeline from Pine Mountain to Rocky Mountain and is visible from lower elevations, including from Alton Bay. The ridgeline provides exceptional habitat and serves as an important higher elevation wildlife corridor. A beaver pond along the property's northern boundary hosts a great blue heron rookery and active signs of beaver are present. Ninety acres of the property is within a wellhead protection area for Alton Water Works.

Frohock Brook originates on the property and continues to Sunset Lake, a conservation priority for the Town of Alton.

"This addition to the Morse Preserve in Alton continues the Forest Society's commitment to protecting connected forestland in the southern Belknaps," states Jack Savage, president of the Forest Society. "We are immensely grateful to Marlene Meinelt for trusting the Forest Society to protect and care for this land into the future. Our ability to purchase this land thanks to grants from state conser-

vation programs is a good reminder of the impact these programs have across New Hampshire."

About the Forest Society

Established in 1901, the Forest Society is a private, nonprofit land trust and forestry organization that owns more than 200 forest conservation properties—nearly 67,000 acres in 105 New Hampshire communities—and holds conservation easements that permanently protect an additional 140,000 acres statewide. Forest Society properties are open to the public and draw more than 500,000 visitors annually. To learn more or

become a member, please visit forestsociety.org.

About the New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) is an independent state authority providing matching grants to New Hampshire's municipalities and non-profits, helping to preserve the state's most important natural, cultural, and historic resources and ensure their contribution to the economy, environment, and quality of life in New Hampshire. LCHIP grants are funded by a \$25 fee assessed when deeds, mortgages, and plans are recorded at the state's ten registries of deeds. Since 2001, LCHIP has awarded 615 grants, totaling nearly \$65 million. As of July, 2025, the program's investment has helped to conserve 247,000 acres of land and rehabilitate 192 historic structures across 206 NH communities. Learn more about how LCHIP is helping to preserve and protect New Hampshire's heritage at LCHIP.org, by following LCHIP_NH on Instagram, or Facebook.

Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

**Light Up Alton —
Dec. 6**

The Town of Alton is celebrating “Light Up Alton” on Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Alton Village on Main Street. Free events include: 5 p.m.- Tree Lighting at Town Hall sponsored by the Alton Business Association;

Musical performance by the PMHS Choir; 5:15-6:15 p.m.- Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus inside the Gilman Library, and make a free craft at the Gilman Library (use rear parking lot entrance); 5-6:30 p.m.- Holiday Hayride loading up at Monument

Square- sponsored by Alton Home and Lumber; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.-Festival of Trees at the Gilman Museum sponsored by the ABA; plus more to see and do. Light Up Alton events are free and are open to the public. For more information contact the Alton

Parks and Recreation Department at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Let’s Play Basketball
Free Basketball Program for Grades K-3

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a free basketball program for grades K-3 led by Erick Bourdeau, PMHS alumni and Kingswood Boys Varsity soccer coach, and a group of awesome volunteers. The free Basketball Program, with an emphasis on learning the fundamentals and having fun, will be held on Sundays at the Alton Central School Gym from Jan. 11-Feb. 22, 9-10 a.m. Please carry in your playing sneakers. Free shirts will be provided to participants that register by Dec. 19. Register in person at the Parks and Recreation office or online at www.alton.nh.gov. Contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov for more information.

**Weight Training
classes — Mondays
and Wednesdays**

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 is ongoing. 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. Try a class for free. \$20 per month/session or \$5 drop in. Classes are not held Dec. 1 & 3.

**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 Thurs-

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

**Hit the trail!
Hiking programs
offered
for all levels**

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

Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109. Bring water, comfortable walking/hiking shoes, and a snack. A new trail location will be announced each week to the group. Program is free.

Prospect Mountain High School announces honor roll

ALTON — Prospect Mountain High School has released its honor roll for the first term of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Grade 12: Layla Baker, Sohie Bellemare, Wyatt Bubar, Porscha Dasaro, Keela Forsythe, Shaelin Forstyle, Jared Gentile, Lily Georgius, Avery Giunta, Isabella Gonzalez, Paige Harding, Jenna Hodgman, Natalia Khartionov, Cameron Morrill, Knytte Neathery, Gabrielle Petelle, Alyssa Pica, Zoe-Jane Ransom, Jenna Sykes, Aidan Taylor, Lyndsey Tiede, Delaney Troendle

Grade 11: Finnegan Brown, Jude Dumond, Duncan Glaude, Dillon Jalbert, Brock Libby, Dawson Meehan, Alexa Mountain, Blake Pappaceno, Abigail Philbrick, Jaylyn Wilks

Grade 10: Olivia Aulis, Juliana Beaton, Bailey Beck, Meredith Currier, Evan Fuller, MacKenzie Glaude, Cole Hikel, Thomas Joy, Kaelyn Lemire, Kora MacKenzie, Stockton McKnight, Violet Page, Ravyn Paris, Leah Pica, Alexander Ransom,

Charlie Yeaton

Grade 9: Lorilei Black, Mason Card, Logan DeWitt, Leah Gard, Amelia Gentile, Erin Goyette, Evelyn Holmes, Hayden Holmes, Leah Howard, Aidyn McGranaghan, Brendan McLaughlin, Nolan O’Brien, Dylan Pelletier, Stephen Rawnsley, Ashlynn Roberts, Isaac Taylor, Delilah Tiede, Olivia Trask, Kaiden Vachon, Danica Washburn

Honor Roll

Grade 12: Rebecca Adkins, Ava Biarelli, Cameron Biron, Elizabeth Bishop, Genevieve Charity, Joshua Clark, Rylan Clifford, Madison Daly, Annabell Daniels, Kytalin Dowling, Patricia Engelhardt, Grant Ferraro, Taylor Greenwood, Jack Griffin, Nina Hann, Laney Henry, Emma Holden, Owen Joubert, Kiley Bryce, Kylan Krull, Lena Lamotte, Myah Lavoie, Declan McCausland, Madison Miller, Rosemarie Morrill, Angel Pia, Krysten Richardson, Kaiden Schultz, Kenadi St.Germain, Cody Stockman, Jayden Tusi, Braelynn Woods

Grade 11: Xavier Arsenault, Madelyn Briggs, Jacob Delgado, Gavin DeWitt, Makenna Dow, Delaney Drollet, Ava Foster, Emma Foster, Michael Franklin, Paityn Glidden, Sydney Grasso, Jaxon Gregg, Benjamin Hardison, Magdalena Hart, Ryley Hatch, Madelyn Howlett, Kaitlyn Jones, Kourtney Kaplan, Oliver Kingsbury, Andrew Koralski, Owen Libby-Sprague, Braelyn Lounsbury, Bryce Lounsbury, Harlie Maguire, Cody Manley,

Chance Montplaisir, Aiden Parent, Luciano Pecorino, Daniel Pirozzi, Keira Saalfrank, Brayden Silberdick, Blake Snell, Benito Sorrentino, Rylee Stanley, Jaxon Stephens, Brody Stevens, Austin Therrien, Vincent Tilton, Felicity Upton, Ariana Vachon, Sky Lynn Vorce, Caiden Wainwright, Kathryn Watson, Emmalynn Weller, Lindy White, Riley Williams

Grade 10: Victoria Allen, Lennon Anderson, Lily Attarian, Michael Boles, Charles Bravar, Thaddeus Bruss, Zakery Chesley, Hailey Clark, Cody Cole, Dylan Conway, Natalie Cowser, Sophie Daniels, Amarah Ferland, Sabrina Gagnon, Alexandra Goonan, Cole Graves, Kylee Guptill, Peyton Irving, Levan Kennerison, Lily Lake, Chase Lank, Braylon Lucas, Leighanna Mason, Peyton McAneney, Ayden Porter, Kathleen Smith, Rebekah Thomas, Charlie Warren, Matthew Whelan, Colby Whitehouse

Grade 9: Lacey Abell, Brendan Anganos, Campbell Arsenault, Camden Batchelder, Nora Brooks, Emma Burris, Gabriel Cole, Avery Coran, Cameron Deane, Johanna Foley, Leah Gauthier-Cameron, Jasper Georgius, Skye Greenwood, Bradford Heath, Kendall Higgs, Hailey Hyslop, Grace Krukowski, James Lawler, Starlett McCarthy, Emmet Minot, Madison Morris, Orion Neathery, Owen Peterson, Eylan Roberge, Grace St. Germain, Leiyla Wilson, Hunter Witham

Community Calendar December 4–11

Dec. 4, Wednesday

Bundle up warm in the frost and the chill,
Join storytime fun at the Gilman.
At 10 a.m. sharp the pages unfold,
With songs for the young and cheer for the old.

Dec. 5, Thursday

At Prospect Mountain the wrestlers train,
A 5:30 meet in the cold and the rain.
Fans fill the gym with thunderous roar,
Cheering the Timber Wolves on for more.

Dec. 6, Friday

Barnstead Library’s crafts begin,
At 3:30 the yarn and pins spin.
Families gather to glue and create,
Snowflakes forming at a merry rate.

Dec. 7, Saturday

Alton’s Bay glows with early light,
The Farmers Market returns despite
December’s nip that bites the air,

From 9 to noon you’ll find them there.

Dec. 8, Sunday

Gilford Church rehearses bright,
Choir voices lifting night.
At 6 p.m. the rehearsals ring,
Preparing songs the season brings.

Dec. 9, Monday

New Durham walkers lace their shoes,
At 9 a.m. they share the news
Along the trail at Merrymeeting,
Cold but steady in their greeting.

Dec. 10, Tuesday

Gilmanton’s readers gather tight,
Book group meets at 5 tonight.
Warm tea, bright talk, a cozy nook,
Sharing pages from the month’s new book.

Dec. 11, Wednesday

Alton’s seniors stretch and sway,
At 10 a.m. they start their day.
A friendly class that keeps folks spry,
As winter winds go whipping by.

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603-875-7102
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Spring musical auditions at Village Players Dec. 14 and 16

WOLFEBORO — The Village Players invite community members to audition for their spring musical, “The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree,” a swashbuckling comedy with book by Martin A. Follose and music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur. Expect silly songs, sea shanties, spirited hijinks, and maybe even a bit of romance along the way.

Performances will be March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29. Auditions are Sunday, Dec. 14, 1-5 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6-9 p.m. at the Village Players Theater, 51 Glendon St., Wolfeboro. Director Debbi Finkelshtein encourages actors age 13 and up to audition.

Here’s the story:

When Captain Jennings’ ship is overtaken by the fearsome Captain Bree and her crew of lady pirates, he struggles to find a way to protect his remaining crew and the wealthy, high-society passengers onboard. Finding that the passengers are the closest thing to a treasure on the ship, Captain Bree and her crew decide to ransom them, but are unaware of the meddling passengers in their midst. Hijinks ensue as one passenger tries to become a pirate, another disguises himself as a girl, hoping to avoid being thrown overboard, and others undermine both captains at every turn.

Roles available:
PIRATES

Old Pirate – weather beaten
Captain Bree – captain of the lady pirates; tough and hard on the outside, yet soft on the inside
Jane – second in command and close to Captain Bree
Molly – new recruit; still doesn’t think like a pirate and wants everyone to get along
Josephine – can never remember the rules of pirating
Gabiella – only one who can understand the cook; very talkative
Shawna – man crazy; especially for Samuel
Patty – Irish, helps to save fellow countryman Fergus
Maggie – mean and tough
Georgia – feels men

are nothing but trouble
Ensemble Pirates

CAPTIVES
Captain Jennings – British, captain of the ship transporting the Prescotts
Fergus – Irish, sailor who can’t swim
Madam Prescott – British, wife of a British ambassador; snooty upper-crust
Samuel Prescott – British, nephew of Madam Prescott, “Auntie’s boy”, teenager/early 20s
Julia Prescott – British, niece of Madam Prescott and sister to Samuel; longs for adventure, teenager/early 20s
Professor Bidwell – pompous old man and famous writer

Thomas – cabin boy, about 10 years old
Cook – Swedish, his accent is heavier than his meatballs
John – prisoner; more brawn than brains
Jack – same
George – same
Ensemble Captives

ROYAL NAVY
Admiral Moore – British, admiral of the British fleet and by the

book
Officers – British, under Admiral Moore’s command
Please go to village-players.com, for all the audition details, audition dance videos, and for the sign-up form
“The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree” is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colo.

Gilford Community Church holds annual Christmas Fair & Raffle

GILFORD — The Gilford Community Church will be holding their Annual Christmas Fair on Friday, Dec. 5, 4 – 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This year’s theme is “Faith, Family, Food, and Fun.”

You can expect our fan favorites with lots of Christmas Items, Fresh Wreaths and Greens, our renowned Jewelry Room, delicious Baked Goods and the White Elephant Sale.

New this year, we will be holding a Christmas Raffle with eight fantastic prizes – pertaining to our theme. The drawing will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the fair. You do not need to be present to win.

We have also added food choices of pizza and a drink on Friday, and breakfast sandwiches, muffins and drinks on Saturday.

If parking is an issue on Saturday, you can head over to the Town Hall and hop on the free shuttle to enjoy all of the events in Gilford Village.

“Our Fairs are very important to the Church,” said Joyce Collins, Christmas Fair Chairman, “as they help fund all the Charities, Programs, and Organizations the Gilford Community Church supports.”

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 gilfordcommunitychurch.org.

Gilford Rotary hosting drive-through senior dinner Dec. 11

GILFORD — The 40th annual Ray Wixson Memorial Holiday Dinner for Gilford Seniors will take place on Thursday, Dec. 11 at Gilford Community Church, 19 Potter Hill Road, Gilford. This event is put on every year by the members of the Gilford Rotary Club to thank the seniors of Gilford for their many contributions to Gilford over the years.

This year’s dinner will again be a drive thru/curbside pickup affair with meals available from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Simply place your RSVP and then arrive at the entrance of Gilford Community Church where Gilford Rotarians will come to your car with your ready-to-go meal. These will be traditional turkey dinners with stuffing and all the “fixings” in a

carry home tray so you can enjoy at home.

Gilford residents aged 62 and older are welcome to sign up for this delicious and free holiday meal, so please make sure to register today. To ensure a meal is waiting for you please call or text 603-393-7547 to reserve your meal. You must RSVP by Dec. 4.

Gilford Rotary is an organization of busi-

ness 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. at the Gilford Community Church Fellowship Hall, Potter Hill Road, Gilford.

Alton Community Services thanks community for support

ALTON — Alton Community Services extends a deep and heartfelt thank you to everyone who has aided the Food Pantry with food donations to assist with the food insecurities of our citizens.

As we enter the win-

ter months, the demand for food and financial assistance for heat and utilities will grow. It is the organization’s fervent hope that the community’s support will continue, and for this, they are grateful.

Temperatures are

dropping, and Christmas greenery has already appeared at Hannaford. This can only mean one thing! Mrs. Santa will soon be making her annual visit to Alton. Contact Chris Racine at altoncs32@gmail.com for more information on

how you can help make Christmas memories for children up to the age of 17.

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Finding light in the early evenings

In early December, the daylight slips away faster than many of us would like. By late afternoon, the shadows stretch long over the lake, and porch lights glow in windows from Alton Bay to Gilmanton Iron Works. For people who grew up in New Hampshire, the early evenings are familiar. Yet each year they bring a small adjustment that affects everything from our routines to our mood.

There is value in acknowledging that shift instead of simply moving through it. Short days change the way our communities operate. Road crews begin their work well before dawn. Local shops see their busiest hours shift earlier. Families adjust commutes, errands, and gatherings to make the most of the limited light. Even outdoor recreation takes on a different rhythm, with headlamps replacing ball caps on the trails.

The early dark also reminds us of how much light we rely on from one another. Across our towns, households string lights along porches and barns. Main Street windows begin to glow with small holiday scenes. Town libraries, senior centers, and recreation departments increase their evening programs not only to offer activity, but to offer company. These gestures, simple as they are, matter deeply in rural communities where distance can separate neighbors and the cold months can feel long.

This season has a way of asking us to look for brightness wherever it appears. The glow of a lamp in a farmhouse window. A plow's strobe light making its way down a quiet back road. The beam of flashlights bouncing as children race into a school gym for winter concerts. These are everyday sights, but they carry meaning. They are reminders that even in the year's dimmest stretch, the region is still alive with motion, with work, with care.

The early darkness encourages a slower pace, but not a diminished one. It creates room for reflection as another year draws to a close. It invites households to gather earlier in the evening, to share meals, to check on neighbors who may need a hand with winter chores. It also nudges us to remain attentive on the roadways, to drive a little more carefully, to give extra space to pedestrians and crews working in low visibility.

Light, in all its forms, is something our communities generate together. Whether it comes from the glow of a shopfront in downtown Alton or the warm windows of a Gilmanton farmhouse, it signals connection. It says someone is home, someone is working, someone is keeping watch.

As December settles in, let's pay attention to those small beacons. They remind us that even when sunlight is scarce, the character of our towns shines steadily on.

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.



COURTESY

Members of the New Durham Elementary School's Crafting Club were on hand at the recent Holiday Craft Fair, sponsored by the New Durham Parks and Recreation Department. All proceeds from items sold, most made by members of the club and others donated by friends of the enterprise, supported the sixth grade field trip to Ecology School.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

New life

I was looking out into the woods behind my house the other night and saw a light. I've been dreading this moment for years. It's always been my darkness refuge after the world in front of my house got purchased and plastered with so called security lighting. I consider it "let the criminals see what they're doing" lighting.

After a couple of years, the new folks must have had an epiphany, and realized that they were the only house in the neighborhood so lit up. Coming from a city, they held dear their security lighting, till one night, their lights went dark. That was a wonderful moment, looking out my bedroom window to see the night.

It was a fleeting feeling though. Soon came the Christmas lights which stayed on from October till April. Now they're on all the time. The other neighbors house always had subdued illumination. Last week I came home from practice to find that they had replaced their good old lights with some new super bright LED lighting. Standing by my campfire pit I was illumi-

nated through the trees. Star gazing will soon be a thing of the past. At least behind the house was still totally uninfected by light pollution. That was, "was."

So, like most other things, I was getting low on shampoo. Now, in the past, I've used about any soap I could come across. Even Ivory. They all work. But I've been coerced into thinking that there's something special about shampoo, so I've taken to using it.

I had bought some that seemed to work well, so I went the store I got it from and there wasn't any. No biggie, I hadn't run out yet, so I tried a couple other stores, and still no shampoo, only conditioner under this brand. Strange. So I went to one of those big ultimately extreme selection super stores to hopefully find it. They didn't have it either. It shouldn't be this hard.

When I was growing up, we had White Rain in a glass bottle with a screw on cap. Plastic hadn't come around yet. We used that for all my growing up years. There was much less selection back then.

I'll admit to not wanting to waste tons of time reading shampoo bottles, but what's a guy to do? They all claim something special to get you to grab that one. I mean, I don't really care if my hair smells like fruit, or is gloriously silky smooth. I just don't want greasy hair or for my head to itch.

They've gone through all kinds of transformations in dispensing shampoo. The latest seems to be pumps. They all have them. I'm a simple guy and am perfectly capable opening a top. Wanting to get out of there, I grabbed one that didn't look too flamboyant and threw it in my cart. When I got it home, I realized that it was combination shampoo/conditioner. Lord knows, I didn't want to go back to the store.

The first time I used it, I was my frugal self and didn't use a giant glob of the stuff and wasn't terribly pleased. Using more, it at least 'sudsed' up some. I remember trying conditioner once and thinking that the reason I washed my hair was to get my hair not to be like that.

As I was wiping out the

shower, I knocked the new bottle of shampoo over and the pump broke off. Oh swell. I tried fixing it, but it would no longer stay together or pump. What a blessing. I got rid of that without really trying. Now I could go back to just unscrewing the cap. A few days later, I was down the cellar and checked the basket of recyclable bottles and what do you think I found? One of the old snap top shampoo bottles. Heck, I think I'll reuse that one.

I usually park far away in parking lots to get more exercise and less door dents. When I came out from the store, in emptying my cart, I found that I missed a tube of toothpaste that was hidden under the bring your own bag bags. In my former klepto days, I would have just smiled at my good fortune, thrown it in the car and headed off. Instead, I brought the cart and the tooth past back and paid for it with the same cashier.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com

Notes from Windy Hollow

I've come a long way

BY VIVIAN LEE DION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With Thanksgiving dinner around the corner and families arriving for large meals with plenty of sides I would like to describe the tenseness that clutched my stomach as I set the tables that day. The turkey baking in the oven produced an in-

vitig welcoming aroma. As family and guests entered the house they commented on the pleasant serenity of a good home cooked meal. I basted the turkey several times and the main course became an appetizing golden brown. Finally, I removed the turkey from the oven and the juicy drippings

helped me make the perfect gravy for my mashed potatoes. That's when I realized that I had not peeled enough of them to feed several tables of family and guests. As viewed on the internet it explained, "Every now and again something breaks through and sticks. It encourages us when we are down. It pushes us to think differently. It grounds us in what is true – even when everything else is spinning around us." So, I did the most practical thing. I

took a package of instant mashed from the food closet and boiled some water, measured milk and added butter. Then I combined the new mixture with the peeled potatoes and I was satisfied that I had enough to feed everyone. My homemade turkey gravy gave the fluffy potatoes the right texture and flavor for all to enjoy. My butternut squash was flavorful and the green bean casserole was cooked to perfection. The cranberry sauce added a New

England flavor to the meal and I thought of the cultivating bogs in Massachusetts. The saucy cranberry added depth to the meal.

It's always been known that this dinner occurs because at Plymouth there was a harvest celebration over three days which honored the cooperation between the Wampanoags and the colonists. However less understood is that there was also an alliance led by Chief Massasoit which lasted many years.

I've learned to slow down and take my time and enjoy myself. Most of all, I forgave the oversight because things happen. Happy holidays to everyone. May the new year bring you wonder and joy. Most of all, I'm grateful for family and friends especially during this season even with a few mistakes along the way!

Vivian Lee Dion of New Durham is a writer and speaker.

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Letters to the Editor

Help us carry the sleigh for Samantha

To the Editor:

We're the BLC Merry Misfits — an original Pub Mania team with a whole lot of heart and just the right amount of chaos. The team was created back in 2009 by Samantha & Brian, who gathered an eclectic bunch of teachers, lawyers, accountants, waiters and shop owners... basically a cast of lovable misfit toys determined to do good in our community.

Samantha loved "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (the 1964 classic, obviously), and felt her team was just like the Island of Misfit Toys-different, quirky, and full of magic. Through the years, the spirit kept growing. When Samantha passed the torch, Ruth McLaughlin and the BLC crew kept the legacy alive, helping raise donations for families who need extra support during the holiday season. And now? It's our turn to carry the sleigh.

How you can help (a.k.a. how to be amazing):

1. Donate to the Teams Fundraiser on patrickspub.com under Pub Mania tab look for Belknap Landscape-Mer-

ry Misfits. Every dollar helps our Misfits make holiday magic happen.

Buy a paper ornament at 25 country club Rd., Unit 101 office (Gilford) or Handyman Hardware, 12 Six Flags Rd., Campton, NH 03223.

2. Bring non-perishable items (Now through Dec. 5) Drop items into the donation boxes at: Arbortech office-312 Hounsell Ave, Gilford, NH 03249 Belknap Landscape Office- 25 Country Club Rd., Unit 101, Gilford, NH 03249

BLC Campton Office-7 Six Flags Rd., Campton, NH 03223

3. Donate auction items.

Have gift cards, handmade items or services Call Sarah 603-455-6997

Sarah Cook
Merry Misfits
Belknap Landscape LLC

Gilford Public Library Classes & Special Events

Dec. 4 – Dec. 11

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Thursday, Dec. 4 Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m. Living With Grief, 10-11 a.m. Dried Orange Ornaments, 3-4 p.m. | Make your own hanging decoration out of dried orange slices, they are perfect for hanging from a tree or over a cozy fire for a pop of winter color! | French Club, 4-5 p.m. | 10-11 a.m. Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hand & Foot, noon to 2:30 p.m. Happy Crafters, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Advanced Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Lower Intermediate Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m. | Card Games, 10 a.m.-noon Check out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon Gingerbread Houses, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hot Chocolate Stand, 1-3 p.m. Paint Group, 1-3 p.m. Gingerbread Houses, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Reiki Circle, 4-5:30 p.m. Enjoy a peaceful pause this holiday season and receive a 10-to-15-minute Chair Reiki session with Lani Voivod, Carol Wallace, and fellow Reiki practitioners. | Experience deep relaxation, release stress, restore balance, and leave feeling lighter, calmer, and renewed. Donations gratefully support the Friends of the Gilford Public Library. |
| Friday, Dec. 5 Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m. Gather & Glow: A Holiday Chair Yoga Journey, | | | Saturday, Dec. 6 Beginner Line Dancing, 10:30-11:30 a.m. | | |
| | | | Monday, Dec. 8 Fun and Fitness With Joyce, 9-10 a.m. Baby Storytime, 10-11 a.m. Mahjong, noon to 3 p.m. | | |
| | | | Tuesday, Dec. 9 Feel Good Fitness with Dottie, 9-10 a.m. Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon Gingerbread Houses, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Homeschool Group, noon to 1:30 p.m. Gingerbread Houses, 3:30-4:30 p.m. | | |
| | | | Wednesday, Dec. 10 Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m. Senior Stretch Yogaah!, 10-11 a.m. | | |
| | | | | Thursday, Dec. 11 Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m. Book Discussion: Christmas at Eagle Pond, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This month's book is "Christmas At Eagle Pond" by Donald Hall. Led by Rhetta; books are available at the front desk. | |

Gilford police log

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| GILFORD — The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 17-30. Donna Marie Bennett, age 65, was arrested on Nov. 17 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension of License due to DUI. Kathleen E. Cherok, age 64, was arrested on Nov. 18 for DUI-Impairment. Christopher B. Beverley, age 48, was arrested on Nov. 20 for Domestic Violence-Second Degree Assault resulting in Bodily Injury and Domestic Violence-Criminal Threatening Against a Person with a Deadly Weapon. Kyler Scott Bayles, age 40, was arrested on Nov. 21 for Criminal Trespassing. | Noah L. Potter, age 22, was arrested on Nov. 21 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in Bodily Injury or Physical Contact and multiple counts of Criminal Mischief. A 36-year-old male was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Nov. 23. Antonio Roberto Tejada, age 34, was arrested on Nov. 24 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension of license, driving after Suspension of Vehicle Registration, and driving at a rate of speed 11-15 mph over a posted limit of 55 mph or less. Jessica M. Cyrus, age 46, was arrested on Nov. 27 for Contempt. Spencer Austin Spoon- | er, age 24, was arrested on Nov. 27 for DUI-Impairment. A 22-year-old female was taken into protective custody for intoxication during the same incident. Joseph E. Lagarde, age 45, was arrested on Nov. 27 in connection with a warrant. Jayne E. Parsons, age 66, was arrested on Nov. 28 for DUI-Impairment, Speed-Basic Rule, and Prohibited Stopping, Standing or Parking. Andrea R. Rowell, age 46, was arrested on Nov. 29 for Criminal Trespassing and in connection with a warrant. Heidi Mary Rowell, age 54, was arrested during the same incident for Theft By Unauthorized Taking. | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|

Kristine Adams earns Young Alumni Achievement Award at Saint Anselm

MANCHESTER — Saint Anselm College alumna Kristine Adams from Alexandria, Va., class of 2016, a graduate of Prospect Mountain High School, has earned the 2025 Young Alumni Achievement Award.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award was established to highlight and celebrate an alumnus/a of the college who has graduated in the last decade, and who is involved in meaningful work within their discipline. This award proudly celebrates and showcases the successes of Saint Anselm's young alumni who are already shaping the future.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

Alton Dance Academy announces winter show

ALTON — The Alton Dance Academy will proudly present a Winter Show and Student Showcase on Dec. 12. The show is held at Prospect Mountain High School, starting at 6:30 p.m. The dancers, students and staff have worked hard to present a performance that combines classic Christmas songs to self picked student musical selections. Join us! Ticket information found at www.altondanceacademy.com.

Gilford Public Library Top Ten requests (plus two)

1. "The Black Wolf" by Louise Penny
2. "The Widow" by John Grisham
3. "Secret of Secrets" by Dan Brown
4. "The King's Ransom" by Janet Evanovich
5. "Exit Strategy" by Lee Child
6. "Nobody's Girl" by Virginia Robert Giuffre
7. "The Picasso Heist" by James Patterson
8. "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans
9. "Nash Falls" by David Baldacci
10. "The Proving Ground" by Michael Connelly
11. "Playground" by Richard Powers
12. "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman

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Gilford captains (l to r) Declan Voivod, Timmy Macaione, Mark Uicker and Emmett Hughes hold the Division III championship trophy aloft after beating Laconia on Nov. 22.



Liam Butler (9) celebrates his third touchdown of the day in the Division III championship game with teammate Declan Voivod in Exeter on Nov. 22.



The Gilford senior class celebrates the Division III championship after beating Laconia in Exeter on Nov. 22.

FOOTBALL

(continued from Page A1)

start for the Golden Eagles in the title game, as they appeared to recover a Laconia fumble on the opening kickoff, but an inadvertent whistle brought the ball back for another kick and the Sachems got the first crack on offense. Gilford's defense did a nice job limiting them to just one first down, with Kennan Wilcox, Timmy Macaione and Emmett Hughes all making solid defensive stops and the Sachems turned the ball over on downs.

The Golden Eagles took over and went to work right away. After



Gilford fans made themselves heard at the Division III championship game at Bill Ball Stadium in Exeter on Nov. 22.

runs from Lukas Diaz and Butler, quarterback Mark Uicker connected with Lucas Raleigh on a pair of passes for first downs and Diaz converted a fourth and three to get the ball to the five. From there, But-

ler barreled in for the first score of the game with 3:15 to go in the first quarter. Bryce Carroll booted the extra point and Gilford had the 7-0 lead.

Macaione, Liam Sullivan and Butler stuffed the



Coach Brandt O'Hara gets soaked by his team after Gilford defeated Laconia in the Division III championship game.



The Gilford coaching staff poses with the championship trophy after the Golden Eagles defeated Laconia in the title game.



Lukas Diaz looks for running room during the Division III championship game in Exeter just prior to Thanksgiving.



Lucas Raleigh makes a spectacular one-handed catch along the sideline in action Nov. 22 in Exeter

Sachem running game on the next drive and Bryce Cook broke up a third down pass, forcing a Laconia punt. Raleigh then made a hell of a catch for a first down and caught another as the first quarter ended with the Golden Eagles up 7-0.

However, the drive petered out to start the second quarter, with Gilford going for it on third and goal and fourth and goal, with passes falling incomplete both times to turn the ball over to the Sachems. Laconia ate up most of the rest of the second quarter clock with their next drive, but good defense from Diaz, Sullivan and Hughes eventually forced a punt to end the first half and the Golden Eagles took the 7-0 lead to halftime.

Gilford was unable to move the ball on the first drive of the second half and couldn't convert a fake punt, giving the Sachems the ball near midfield. They were able to run for a first down but eventually had to punt away and Gilford then went to work.

The Golden Eagles' next drive ate up the rest of the third quarter clock, with Butler and Diaz carrying the ball and eating the clock. A Laconia sack

put Gilford in a tough spot to end the third at third and long and the Golden Eagles punted to start the final quarter.

Two plays into the Sachems' first drive of the fourth quarter, Butler stepped in front of a Laconia pass and carried it 35 yards the other way into the end zone to give Gilford the 13-0 lead with 10:46 to go in the championship game.

Laconia picked up a first down on their first play of the ensuing drive, but Cook made a big stop in the backfield on third down and Butler broke up a pass attempt on fourth down to give Gilford the ball back.

The Golden Eagles took advantage of a pair of pass interference calls to move the ball inside the 10, but Laconia's defense pushed back and the Golden Eagles were eventually forced to try a field goal attempt, which came up short.

The Sachems then used a bit of trickery to catch Gilford off guard. The quarterback took the snap and threw the ball backwards into the ground at the foot of a receiver. The receiver then picked the ball up and fired it downfield, catching the defense a bit off to get the ball in-

side the 25 and two plays later, the Sachems were in the end zone for their first score of the game. Macaione then got his hand on the extra point to keep it 13-6 with 4:07 to go in the game.

Gilford answered right away, taking advantage of a Laconia penalty and three runs from Diaz to get the ball inside the 20 and the Butler eventually carried in from 12 yards out with two minutes to go in the game and Carroll's extra point made it 20-6.

The Sachems tried a bit more trickery on the next drive and this time Coen Albert dived on a loose football after a Laconia fumble and from there, the Golden Eagles ran out the clock and celebrated the program's first championship.

"Our defense has been good all season," O'Hara said. "We knew they wanted to run the ball and we felt our guys matched up well with them."

The Golden Eagle coach also praised the work of Butler, who scored all three Gilford touchdowns on the afternoon.

"Liam is a workhorse for us," O'Hara said. "He's a phenomenal player and he does it on both sides of the ball."

And now, O'Hara will have something new to look at when he gets to work every day.

"I see those banners every single day," he said. "Now I can't wait to see this one hanging up there for the rest of my life."

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

Holiday Gift & Shopping Guide

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UMC Gilford welcomes Carter Mountain Band for Christmas concert

GILFORD — Carter Mountain Brass Band is pleased to announce a performance at the First United Methodist Church of Gilford on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. The program, titled

“Christmas Sketches,” features a variety of timeless holiday classics that will surely fill your heart and soul with joyful memories. Nothing seems to capture the warm nostalgia of the



season quite like the sound of a brass band.

But that's not all! A Carter Mountain Christmas concert would not be complete without the perennial

sing-along or the delightful visuals, poems, and stories that help to elevate the whole experience to a truly magical yuletide celebration. Following the concert,

you are all invited to enjoy complimentary dessert with the band in Fellowship Hall.

A \$10 donation (students – free) is appreciated with proceeds to be split

between the Church and the Band. First United Methodist Church is located at 18 Wesley Way (off Route 11-A, near the 3/11 bypass); phone 603-524-3289.



COURTESY

Community holiday concert at Congregational Church of North Barnstead Dec. 6

Start your holiday season with peace and joy and in community. The Congregational Church of North Barnstead, UCC (504 North Barnstead Rd.) is hosting its third annual holiday concert at with renown Maine musicians Joyce Andersen & Harvey Reid. This will mark the 25th consecutive year that they have presented their unique Christmas show. They will play music rooted in folk, country, bluegrass, blues, Celtic and even some classical music. This is truly a don't miss event! Bring your kids, your neighbors, and invite friends as we create community and start traditions in a magical space with shared live music. See you Saturday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. Tickets, by donation, available at the door (or call 603-776-1820). Suggested donation is \$20 per person or \$35 for the family.

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

| Town | Address | Type | Price | Seller | Buyer |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| Alton | 229 Frank C. Gilman Highway | Single-Family Residence | \$526,000 | J&J Azzara Trust | Tara L. and Jake D. Griffin |
| Alton | 230 Rattlesnake Island | Single-Family Residence | \$565,000 | Christopher A. Granger | Randall Balducci |
| Gilford | Route 11 | N/A | \$500,000 | Ann E. Drew | Christine Mendez and John Horan |
| Gilford | Runaway 3517 Condo Unit 4B | Condominium | \$185,000 | Runway 3517 LLC | Michael C. Brown LT |
| Gilmanton | 46 Dow Rd. | Single-Family Residence | \$318,800 | Donald E. and Linda A. Womack | Jonathan and Allison Howe |
| New Durham | Quaker Road | N/A | \$28,800 | Durham New | Granite State RE Dev. LLC and Nicholas Millikin |

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or

locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column

“Type”: land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www.thewarrengroup.com

HOMETOWN

(continued from Page A1)

Gandini, too, is aware of the positive influence of those adults around him growing up.

“My parents were supportive of whatever I wanted to pursue. They pushed me to be the best every day and my coaches also pushed me to excellency and to get the most out of life,” Gandini said.

Webber, a West Point graduate, can probably take some credit for setting the stage for the young men making the decisions they have made.

“For my first outing in Boy Scouts, Mr. Webber took us to West Point,” McIntire said. “I got to interact with the cadets, who seemed larger than life.”

That was it for him; he knew he wanted a career in the military.

“Growing up and hearing about the military, I knew that’s what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go. It was always Army for me,” McIntire recalled.

He laughed when he said, “I wouldn’t recommend it, but West Point was the only college I applied to. I was set on going there and serving my country.”

Not only is the admission process complicated, it’s a gamble, as 14,000 apply and only 1,000 are accepted.

An unpleasant surprise was waiting for McIntire.

“I didn’t get in the first time I applied and it rocked my world,” he said.

McIntire ended up

going to prep school for a year on campus.

“If you make it through, you’re guaranteed a spot,” he said.

Attending there prepared him not only academically, but also on how to navigate the military environment.

“My classmates struggled with that,” he said. “Balancing academic and military life is hard. Because of my preparation, I was already comfortable with that.”

With a strong interest in history, McIntire now, as a junior, has chosen a major in international relations.

He studies such things as national security, and how states protect themselves and perceive threats from other countries. Instructors are active duty.

“You get a different perspective and it’s more than learning from a book. My instructor is a special forces major so he can apply his experience to what he teaches,” McIntire said.

Gandini also went on the West Point trip as a boy. He knew from the beginning that it was “not for me” but that trip was definitely influential.

“West Point is such a unique blend of tradition and history, it planted a seed of military service in my head,” he said.

But Gandini had grandfathers who were Marines.

“The Navy was where I wanted to be. Incredible people went to the Naval Academy and then went on to be-

come presidents, war heroes, astronauts, and senators,” Gandini explained.

Another draw to the Naval Academy for Gandini, a cross-country runner, was the athletics.

“I could race collegiately and have a guaranteed career,” he said.

Gandini also took the prep school route, attending the Navy’s program in Rhode Island.

“It’s typical for a lot of athletes to go there because it helps you to be more academically adept. I loved it,” he said.

His first impression when he stepped onto the Naval Academy campus as a freshman?

“It’s demanding and takes a lot out of you to keep up with the military stuff, school, and athletics, but I knew what I was getting into,” he said.

Gandini reported that it is easier now for him as a sophomore.

“I have better time management skills; it takes a certain type of person to handle it,” he said.

The difficulties have proven worth it for both young men.

McIntire’s favorite part of West Point is the people.

“It’s neat to experience all different people from all walks of life and have these amazing opportunities from them,” he said.

Gandini has noted his personal growth, commenting, “It’s tough for high performing individuals not to be the

best in the room, but I learned that in prep school. The institution helps you figure out what you’re best at and then you can find someone to help you with the things you need help with so you can succeed. The school makes it hard so you can rise to the level they expect and you are capable of.”

He said he has “definitely” been challenged at the Naval Academy. “It’s preparing me to be an excellent leader with good life skills. It’s better to have setbacks now, rather than when my career is on the line,” Gandini said.

He recounted the devastation of his track team failing by one point to qualify for nationals.

“How are you going to rebound? And achieve your goal? Leadership and ethics courses teach you to understand these things and become a well-rounded person. Your experiences shape you and if I wasn’t here, I doubt I would be the same as I am now,” he said.

In his opinion, there are more positives than negatives.

“If you can take advantage of the program and take the good things from it, you can turn yourself into a pretty incredible person,” he added.

The Hometown Vis-it program gives the young men a chance to share these kinds of experiences.

McIntire actually started earlier. With the memories of his first

visit to West Point still prominent, he volunteered to participate in Cadet Scout Days.

“I’ve come full circle,” he observed. “The Scouts are little versions of me, and getting to make that good impression on them has been so positive for me.”

Scheduled to meet with high school students at Laconia, Interlakes, and Gilford, McIntire said some of the students they talked with were unaware of what West Point was.

“Some thought I’d done something wrong to be sent there.”

But others had connections to it already and McIntire reported that one girl had done research and “knew some things I didn’t.”

Gandini appreciated the opportunity to be home and interact with people. He also spoke with students who were unaware of the Naval Academy.

“But they wanted to hear about it and saw it as an opportunity for their future. It was cool to expand their horizons by sharing my story and what my future could look like,” he said.

Is the program successful, then, at heightening awareness?

“Absolutely,” McIntire said. “I didn’t know what to expect because I’d never worn my uniform at home. Going out in the community and mixing those two worlds has been neat. That’s the goal, to just tell the community your story so they know their opportunities and know what they are supporting. The military serves the citizens.”

Although McIntire and Gandini are thriving in the military world now, both are keeping an open mind about the

future.

McIntire will commission next year and is thinking about army aviation or the infantry.

Service is important to Gandini, who once considered going to medical school because he wanted to help people who lacked the capacity to help themselves.

“I’ll take it as it comes,” he said. “Serving your country is demanding, but there are valuable opportunities. Not everyone can help others, so I asked myself, why don’t I do that?”

He sees himself possibly in Marine Corps Intelligence.

Right now, the young men are just happy to have had time at home.

“Gilford is such a tight knit community,” Gandini said, “and all through school, everyone is pulling for you. Now we are getting a world-class education and the opportunity to serve afterward. It’s rewarding to come back and teach kids what Bradley and I are doing and that what we do will impact the country.”

“I told them it’s not out of reach for the average student to apply,” McIntire said. “I wasn’t top of my class, but I knew what I wanted and didn’t stop even when they said to try to get in the next year. I encourage people to go out and pursue their interests.”

Speaking about their visit to a history class at their former high school, Gandini said, “It was amazing to see faculty and staff who helped me along and show them I’m making it somewhere. It’s cool that people can go through their facility and go on to do good things.”

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Sawyer leads local contingent earning All-State honors



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford's Macy Sawyer earned First Team All-State honors for Division III.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — Girls' soccer players from around the region were honored when the New Hampshire Soccer Coaches Association announced its All-State teams for the recently concluded season.

In Division III, First Team honors went to Gilford forward Macy Sawyer while Second Team was presented to Gilford defender Abby Watson. Honorable Mention went to defenders Caroline McClare of Gilford, Eliza Homan of White Mountains, Jenna Sykes of Prospect Mountain and Sarah Cribbie of Belmont, midfielders Ava Wilson of Gilford, Brooklyn Gagne of Berlin, Olivia Lorenz of White Mountains and Kiera Saalfrank of Prospect Mountain and forward Maddy Howlett of Prospect Mountain.

Joining Sawyer in First Team honors were goalie Audrina Pelton of Stevens, defenders Maddy Chambers of Stevens, Sophia Huynh of Raymond, Lili Wilson of Campbell and Paige Boudette of Hopkinton, midfielders Addison Derosier and Faith Norton of Stevens, Dinkenesh Levesque of Raymond and Charlotte De Tolla of St. Thomas and forwards Payton Ferland of Stevens and Mallory Baker of St. Thom-

as.

Also earning Second Team honors were goalie Avery Loew of Hopkinton, defenders Ansley Ball of St. Thomas, Chloe Larson of Derryfield and Paige Prisco-Nelson of Hopkinton, midfielders Claire Michalak of Raymond, Sadie Serzans of Hopkinton, Zoey Friesen of Stevens and Madelyn Leighton of Campbell and forwards Gianna Gott and Eleanor Brewitt of Raymond and Amelia LaPlante of Campbell.

Honorable Mention also went to goalies Violet Colburn of Fall Mountain, Violet Bennett of Conant, Molly Gray of Mascoma and Alexis Laporte of Hillsboro-Deering, defenders Kiki Herrington of Bishop Brady, Riley Vitello of Conant, Maddy Hawkins of Fall Mountain, Occee Ilg of Kearsarge, Callie Dixon of Newport, Madden Huff of Kearsarge, Maddy Paolino of Derryfield and Josie Sepala of Conant, midfielders Kaylie Geiger and Madeline Cuvellier of Campbell, Abby Steward and Emma Sloper of Derryfield, Alidia Urista of Newport, Aubrey Thomas of Fall Mountain and Ava Rollins of Conant and forwards Annie Morrall of Hopkinton, Teagan Peabody of Derryfield, Maia Scanlon of St. Thomas, Chloe Hasey of Kearsarge, Ashlynn Guay of Campbell,



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Caroline McClare of Gilford earned All-State Honorable Mention for the fall season.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Jenna Sykes of Prospect Mountain earned Honorable Mention All-State for her senior season.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kiera Saalfrank of Prospect Mountain earned All-State Honorable Mention for Division III.

Lizzy Bristol of Sanborn, Brooklyn Ranney of Newport and Amely Collado of Trinity.

In Division IV, First Team honors went to defenders Ani Griffiths of Profile and Hadassah Corey of Lin-Wood, midfielders Makayla Walker of Woodsville and Brianna Blood of Lin-Wood and forwards Natalie Brantley of Profile and Caroline Hiltz of Lin-Wood. Earning Second Team honors were defenders Adaline Proulx of Profile and Madison Nelson of Littleton, midfielders Lily Hodgdon, Ella Horsch of Littleton and Makalyn Kenison of Groveton and forward Leah Poulton of Littleton. Honorable Mention went to goalkeeper Ava Markey of Moultonborough, defenders Kendall Adams of Littleton and Morgan Crocker of Woodsville, midfielders Juju Bromley of Littleton and Greta Krill of Lin-Wood and forwards Katie Houston of Woodsville, Katy McPhaul and Addison Koehler of Profile and Delaney Whiting of Groveton.

Krill, Corey, Hodgdon,

Koehler, Avery Weir of Profile and Tessa Grabowski and Rylee Hampson of Littleton all earned Division IV All-Tournament Team honors.

Also earning First Team honors were goalie Lila Perry of Colebrook, defenders Sophia Workman and Sophie Anderson of Portsmouth Christian, midfielders Jaela Stockbower of Portsmouth and Makayla Baglio of Concord Christian and forward Sylvie Wamberg of Portsmouth Christian.

Second Team honors also went to goalie Eliza Arwood of Portsmouth Christian, defenders Lyla Edgerly and Emma Crumb of Newmarket, midfielders Olive Jennings of Sunapee and Lexi Santamaria of Colebrook and forwards AJ Mulligan of Newmarket and Emma Smith of Concord Christian.

Also earning Honorable Mention were goalies Kaya Dobberstein of Newmarket, Kate Smith of Concord Christian, Sienna Grondin of Pittsburg-Canaan, Cambri Hubbard of Hinsdale



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Ava Wilson of Gilford was named Honorable Mention All-State for Division III.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Prospect Mountain's Maddy Howlett was honored with All-State Honorable Mention for the fall season.

and Sma Malo of Somersworth, defenders Samantha Samson of Colebrook, Addison Reed of Sunapee, Lily Moore of Mount Royal, Addison Waters of Epping and Annie McGee of Holy Family, midfielders Mairead Moore and Avery Szelog of Newmarket, Ayva Cunningham of Pittsburg-Canaan and Lucy Treece and Isabelle Nadeau of Mount Royal and Haley Rossitto of Colebrook and forwards Kaitlyn Andersen of Sunapee, Tilly Arico of Portsmouth Christian, Jubilee Tremblay of Mount Royal and Ella Gilbert of Pittsburg-Canaan.

In Division II, Second Team honors went to Kingswood defender Norah Pelletier while Honorable Mention went to defenders Kendal Oliver of Kingswood and Sylvie Elliott of Plymouth, midfielder Taylor Allar of Kingswood, Lydia Wiggan of Kennett and Johanna Wakefield of Plymouth and forward Hadley Nance of Kingswood.

First Team honors for Division II went to goalie Laila Al Shawafi of Pembroke, defenders Cassidy Engle of Hollis-Brookline, Charlotte Laroche of Bow, Jada Lucas of Merrimack Valley and Peyton Rutherford of Lebanon, midfielders Lexy Brodeur of Pelham, Marleigh Kreich and Molly Reardon of Hollis-Brookline and Alyska Alcocer of Oyster River and forwards Lucy Battaglia of Keene,

Madison Lamothe of John Stark and Bella Lapierre of Coe-Brown.

Joining Pelletier in earning Second Team honors were goalie Maezie Angles of Lebanon, defenders Julia McGee of Lebanon, Zoey Lupien of Bow and Malaya Brisson of Oyster River, midfielders Zofia Ros-enfield of Souhegan, Kai Stewart of Hollis-Brookline, Lily Royer of Pembroke and Sophie Elsemore of Oyster River and forwards Rosalie DeSantis and Livie Ward of Hollis-Brookline and Cara Van Dyke of Bow.

Honorable Mention was also presented to goalies Hailey Davis of Pelham, Delaney Barber of Milford and Sadie Scuton of Coe-Brown, defenders Giuliana Davis of Pembroke, Bridget Hawley of Oyster River, Ella Mercer of Merrimack Valley, Alexia Purrington of John Stark, Maya Remella of Milford, Rowan McClusky of ConVal and Jaydn Spearin of Coe-Brown, midfielders Kinsley Matsis of Milford, Haley Mathewson of ConVal, Eleanor Escabi of Coe-Brown, Marissa Reyes and Brylie Gelinass of Bow, Brenna Crean of John Stark, Shea Hansen of Milford and Avery Pellerin of John Stark and forwards Grace Riley of Pelham, Ava Alberico of Pembroke and Ashley Wallen of Bow.

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

Timber Wolf wrestling program continues to grow

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

ALTON — Growth has been a key component of the Prospect Mountain wrestling team since it joined the ranks of varsity programs three years ago.

And coach Derek Pappaceno is excited to see what this large group of Timber Wolves is ready to accomplish this season, both on the mat and off.

"This team has grown from three individuals to 30 over the course of three years," Pappaceno said. "Our goals are to increase the size of this wrestling family, to share the sport of wrestling in the community, to be competitive with the teams we face, grow our middle school numbers and continue to improve ourselves as individuals."

"Aside from conditioning and learning techniques on the mat and in the gym, we pride ourselves on the values of family, academics and discipline," the Timber Wolf coach continued. "Athletes focus on bettering themselves on and off the mat."

The Timber Wolves will welcome back three juniors who were part of the first high school team that Pappaceno fielded when they were freshmen. Skylar Perry, Jaxon Stephens and Logan Andrews will look to continue their success and leadership throughout the season.

Senior Robert Prescott finished third in Division III last year at 215 pounds and is moving up to heavyweight for his final season while Drew Koralski had a solid first season at 132 pounds and Pappaceno notes he has worked hard all summer he

is expecting good things in Koralski's junior year. Logan Moore played a small role on last year's team at 171 but has bulked up in the off-season and will be wrestling at 190 pounds this winter.

Among newcomers, freshman Colt Trombly entered the season with no wrestling experience but will likely fill the 120 weight slot while classmate Owen Peterson will wrestle at 138 pounds after a solid middle school wrestling experience. "Many of the wrestlers have attended wrestling camps to improve their technique," Pappaceno said. "Some of them have hit the weight room to bulk up and increase strength."

"I am impressed with the number of wrestlers and their work ethic in the gym," the Timber Wolf coach added.

He noted the team is also welcoming alum Owen Smith to the coaching staff as an assistant this year and his leadership has been appreciated by everyone.

The Timber Wolves will have four home matches this year, opening at Prospect Mountain on Dec. 10 and wrestling at Alton Central School on Jan. 14, Jan. 21 and Jan. 24.

Also on the schedule will be meets at Winnisquam, Lebanon, White Mountains Regional, Mascoma, Plymouth an Mascenic.

The season officially kicks off with a 5 p.m. match on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Prospect Mountain High School.

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Simi!

Simi is the total package — handsome, loyal, and full of energy! This athletic boy loves to run, jump, and show off his playful spirit, so a home that can give him plenty of exercise and adventure is a must.



proudly picks up his favorite toy to show it off — and yes, he insists his harness goes around both him and his toy. Simi would prefer to be the only dog in the home without other pets—he loves to chase and hunt smaller animals for fun.

Whether it's a long walk, a backyard sprint, or a good game of fetch, Simi is always ready to move.

Once his zoomies are out of the way, though, he's all about snuggles.

True to his velcro-dog nature, Simi loves nothing more than being right by your side, soaking up all the love he can get. When he gets excited, he

A man knows what he wants, after all!

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Noodle is the definition of a snuggle pro. He's happiest when he's cozied up in a soft blanket, rocking one of his favorite sweaters, or trotting over for some gentle back scratches — bonus points if you give him a good rump rub! (He'll happily "noodle" his way right into position for those.) With colder weather on the way, this southern sweetheart is eager to experience his very first snow — wrapped up, of course, in something cozy and cute. While Noodle may have a cloudy spot in one eye, he doesn't let it slow him

down. He sees the world with his heart, and that heart is full of love, loyalty, and endless affection. He's a gentle soul who moves through life at a calm, easy pace — the perfect companion for quiet evenings, soft blankets, and warm cuddles.

Noodle's personality is all about joy in the little things: a good nap, a scratch behind the ears, or simply being close to his people. He's got a dash of goofiness, a sprinkle of sass, and a whole lot of heart — the kind of dog who reminds you that life's best moments are the cozy ones.

This Pawlday season, Noodle's wish is simple: a forever family who'll love him just the way he is — gentle, snuggly, and full of wiggles. He's ready to curl up by your side, fill your home with warmth, and "pasta" his love your way for the rest of his days.

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Locals lace up for Wolfeboro's Turkey Trot

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — In the annual pre-Thanksgiving Wolfeboro tradition that is the Gift of Warmth Turkey Trot returned to the streets on Saturday morning, as runners and walkers took off from the railroad station to test their mettle.

The Turkey Trot, co-sponsored by the Wolfeboro Department of Parks and Recreation and the Wolfeboro Lions Club, features the traditional 5K for both runners and walkers and also a shorter kids' fun run.

This year, the winner of the 5K was Kingswood graduate Jacob Craigue of Tuftonboro, finishing in a time of 18:25, more than 30 seconds ahead of his closest competition. Ryker Andersen of Madbury was second in 18:59, Kurt Richardson of Wolfeboro was third in 19:13, Benjamin Wright of Wolfeboro was fourth among males and fifth overall in 20:07.01 and Jason Inglis of Wolfeboro was the fifth male to cross in a time of 20:07.8.

Maggie delAlmeida of Wolfeboro was the top female finisher overall, crossing in a time of 20:00, which placed her fourth overall.

Gilmanton's Millie Caldon joins Hartwick College women's soccer

ONEONTA, N.Y. — The Hartwick women's soccer program placed five Hawks on the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team, recognizing their excellence in the classroom and their impact throughout a standout 2025 campaign. To qualify for CSC Academic All-District, student-athletes must hold at least a 3.5 GPA and appear in 90 percent of their team's matches or



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Barnstead's Kris Howlett dressed the part during Wolfeboro's Turkey Trot on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Jennifer Hillier of Portsmouth, R.I. was the second woman in 22:02, Ellie Fuller of Wolfeboro was third in 23:06, Lucia Roth of Alton was fourth in 23:37 and Kate McCarthy of Wolfeboro was the fifth female in a time of 24:20.

Local runners

Across the age brackets, local residents were well-represented. Fuller's time was tops in the 17 and under age group for females with McCarthy in second. Sophia Nichols of Wolfe-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Alan Pemberton rounds the final corner of the Turkey Trot in Wolfeboro on Nov. 22.

boro was third in 27:19, Lauren Reitler of Wolfeboro was fourth in 29:31, Aislyn Bergeron of Wolfeboro was fifth in 30:48, Stella Friesen of Wolfeboro was sixth in 30:49, Abigail Ackerly of Wolfeboro was seventh in 31:03, Vaega Johnson of Wolfeboro was eighth in 31:46, Emily Dubuc of Wolfeboro was ninth in 34:26, Ella Parent of Wolfeboro was 10th in 35:01, Vera Keating of Wakefield was 11th in 38:42, Alexandria Zikking of Wolfeboro was 12th in 40:21, Everly Keating of Wakefield was 13th in 44:24, Charlotte Fenton of Wakefield was 14th in 48:44, Juniper Keating was 15th in 49:08, Evalyn Fenton of Wakefield was 16th in 49:20, Norah Kapsimalis of Middleton was 17th in 53:06 and Sofia Green of Wakefield was 18th in 55:33.

In the same age group for males, Wright's time was second overall in 20:07, Felix Roberts of Wolfeboro was third in 20:49, Zach Dubuc of Wolfeboro was fourth in 21:17, Nate Demain of Wolfeboro was fifth in 22:29, Emmett Hayford of Ossipee was sixth in 27:12, Colin Downey of Wolfeboro was seventh in 31:20 and Vincent Viscariello of Wolfeboro was eighth in 38:25.

For the 18-29 age group for the women, Hannah Peterson of Brookfield was first in 26:51, Molly Bal-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Alton's Lucia Roth runs in the Turkey Trot in downtown Wolfeboro the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

entine of Wolfeboro was second in 28:58, Savannah Bowling of Wolfeboro was third in 31:20, Colleen Linko of Wolfeboro was fourth in 31:41, Paige Moore of Tuftonboro was sixth in 38:02 and Dayna Thompson of Wolfeboro was seventh in 38:25.

For the men in the same age class, Patrick Scanlon of Moultonborough was first in 20:26, Mack Carpenter of Ossipee was second in 21:22, Bryce Howard of Wolfeboro was third in 22:52, Kevin Linko of Wolfeboro was fifth in 23:45, Josh Canfield of Sandwich was sixth in 25:50 and Adam Dwyer of Wolfeboro was seventh in 31:42.

Hillier and Roth had the top two times for women in the 30-39 age group with Jamie Lyons of Wolfeboro in third in 25:59. Emily MacDuff of Wolfeboro was fourth in 31:42, Norma DiRocco of Wolfeboro was fifth in 32:34, Molli Flynn of Wolfeboro was seventh in 32:35, Marie Deane of Wolfeboro was eighth in 32:47, Kristina King of Wakefield was ninth in 34:35, Tricia Keating of Sanbornville was 10th in 48:48 and Danielle Perkins of Middleton was 11th in 53:05.

Richarson and Inglis had the top two times for men in the 30-39 age group with Colton Piper in third



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Prospect Mountain graduate George Stevens rounds the final corner of the Turkey Trot in Wolfeboro on Nov. 22.

in 20:11, George Stevens of Wolfeboro in fourth in 21:11, Terry Stackhouse in fifth in 22:26 and Kevin Dubia of Ashland in sixth in 22:40. Wolfeboro's Ahmed Abdelsamad was seventh in 23:15, Effingham's Jacob Saucier was ninth in 26:27, Taylor DiRocco of Wolfeboro was 10th in 27:27, Eric Flynn of Wolfeboro was 12th in 30:56, Patrick Deane of Wolfeboro was 13th in 33:05 and Jason Evans of Wolfeboro was 14th in 38:29.

Jessica Strauch of Ossipee led the 40-49 age group for women in 24:21, Amanda Knuth of Wolfeboro was second in 26:02, Amy Canfield of Sandwich was third in 27:47, Lindsey Kline of Wolfeboro was fourth in 27:52 and Alison Hayford of Ossipee was fifth in 29:18. Wolfeboro's Sarah McCarthy was sixth in 31:10, Amie Edmunds of Wolfeboro was seventh in 31:39, Christina Fuller of Wolfeboro was eighth in 31:45, Colleen Goetz of Tuftonboro placed ninth in 37:47, Andrea Ackerly of Wolfeboro was 10th in 42:38 and Sarah Fenton of Wakefield was 11th in 49:17.

Christian Urutia of Moultonborough led the men in the 40-49 age group in a time of 20:28, Chris Wyles of Wolfeboro was second in 25:44, Benjamin Fitch of Wolfeboro was third in

25:59, Shawn Martin was fourth in 29:26, Grigory Petrov of Wolfeboro was fifth in 33:21 and Bo Keating of Wakefield was sixth in 38:40. Lindsey Roth of Alton was seventh in 41:26, Paul Dubuc of Wolfeboro was eighth in 42:26 and Michael Fenton of Wakefield was ninth in 49:09.

In the 50-59 age group for the women, Lynda Gagne of Wolfeboro was first in 24:44, Amy Kiley of Wolfeboro was second in 25:03, Kristina Howlett of Barnstead was third in 26:55. Jenny Hill of Wolfeboro was fourth in 27:23, Jane Deshaies of Wolfeboro was fifth in 29:06, Shannon Donovan of Ossipee was sixth in 34:31, Kim Cutler of Freedom was seventh in 35:47, Heidi Balentine of Wolfeboro was eighth in 37:25 and Lauren Varney of Brookfield was ninth in 55:34.

Ken delAlmeida of Wolfeboro led the men in the same age group in 20:58, Tom Linko of Wolfeboro was third in 30:49 and Liam Martin of Wakefield was fourth in 49:24.

Judi Lemaire of Wolfeboro won the 60 and over age group for women in 28:15 and Melody Pitman of Wolfeboro was third in 38:51.

Alton's Alan Pemberton won the 60 and over age group for men in 21:57, Anthony Belisle of Tuftonboro was second in 22:19, Jamie Meyers of Wolfeboro was third in 22:34, Michael Scanlon of Moultonborough was fourth in 23:38, Peter Franke of New Durham was fifth in 23:57 and Peter Balentine of Wolfeboro was sixth in 24:42. JR Stockwell of Gilmanton was seventh in 26:29, John Williamson of Wolfeboro was eighth in 26:58, Bryan Stanley of Wolfeboro was ninth in 30:47 and Tom Keegan of Moultonborough was 10th in 32:46.

Full results are available at the Parks and Recreation web site at wolfeboronh.us.

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

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Lakes Region Curling wraps up first instructional league

Winter league starts in January at Pop Whalen

WOLFEBORO — Which of us has never toyed with the idea of trying a seemingly daunting sport or activity and eventually backed away, intimidated by the perceived difficulty or exotic skills required? And which of us hasn't later wished that we'd stepped up and taken a shot at a missed opportunity?

Organizers for Lakes Region Curling in Wolfeboro had just those folks in mind in early Fall when they put out the word that the club would offer an instructional league — shorter and less expensive than a full 10-match season but offering an opportunity to step beyond the basics offered in a typical two-hour learn-to-curl clinic.

And this middle way would offer all the fun of a competitive league without the time and expense of a full-season commitment.

And so the word went out about the instructional league — and, to organizers' gratification, the curious and the determined came to learn about this ancient sport spawned on the marshes of Scotland in the 1500s.

While the club's learn-to-curl events offer participants a dip into curling basics, the recently completed instructional league, held as a series of two-hour sessions at Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Arena, provided a deeper dive into rules and practice of the ancient winter sport. Over the course of four Sunday afternoons, experienced LRCA instructors coached and encouraged participants in building their skills through an abbreviated round-robin of competitive play.

Instructor Dave Alessandrone summed up the association's newest program, "It's a terrific idea... because a learn-



Staff from Huggins Hospital recently participated in the Lakes Region Curling Association's Instructional League. Left to right, Leigh Alexander, Monika O'Clair, Lee Stockman, Amilia Theberge

to-curl teaches the basics in one day, but there's so much more to it in terms of playing a game. This four-week instructional league gives everybody the opportunity to see what it's like in a real match. ...There's almost always noticeable progress in how much people improve, and that's been the case here."

This type of expanded instructional programming was an opportunity for which several of the instructional league participants had been waiting.

Bryan Westover, whose participation in the program gave him the confidence to become an alternate in the current Fall league, shared, "I've always been interested in curling. Two years ago, I took the learn-to-curl course, and they didn't have the instructional league. I didn't want to join someone's team and

be a burden on them... and then [the LRCA] offered this instructional league, and I'm like, 'perfect. This is exactly what I wanted.'"

For other curlers, joining in the month-long league was a natural progression following participation in the most recent learn-to-curl event held in September.

As part of Huggins Hospital's efforts to provide team-building opportunities for leadership members, a group of employees had been participating in summer pickleball at Pop Whalen when they learned about the curling program. While a larger group had participated in the one-day program, three Huggins' staff members continued their curling adventure by joining the instructional league.

"I'm a big curling watcher," said Kimberly Alexander, "but there

were a lot of the things that, until you're doing it, I don't think you really realized all that's involved."

"People always say it's chess on ice," continued Amelia Theberge. "[Having it in town], I had no excuse not to try it."

Monika O'Clair added, "I didn't know anything about it, but the few times I saw it on TV, I thought it just looks like they're having a lot of fun. ... [The learn-to-curl] was enough time to learn some techniques but not enough time to practice, so this instructional league was perfect."

Several participants shared their delight in having the opportunity to try this unique sport so close to home, especially

as the next Winter Olympics are set to take place in February. While some curlers noted how "easy" the sport seemed when watching professionals on television, William French shared his surprise at the competitiveness, "even at an amateur level."

He noted approvingly, though, that, at the end of every curling match, "We do always shake hands."

Taking a step back mid-game from coaching a group of participants, Mike Pepin noted, "This group we have here is phenomenal -- excited about learning. It is so much fun having people who are so enthused and taking an interest in the sport."

The sentiments were repeated throughout the

program's last day by instructors and fledgling curlers alike

For those who have been curious about trying an LRCA program but have held back, instructional league participant Mikko McDonald shared, "I was hoping it would be fun, and it absolutely is. I love it. I hope I can do this more."

The LRCA is currently looking ahead to its Winter 2026 programming, which includes a 10-match league starting in January as well as a public learn-to-curl clinic on Feb. 25, part of Wolfeboro's Winter Carnival.

Additional information about curling in general and Lakes Region Curling in particular can be found at lakescurling-nh.org.

CALDON
(continued from Page A10)

energy off the bench. Groff scored twice on the season, including the game-winner against SUNY Poly at Elmore Field.

Sara Moore '28 of East Granby, Conn., became an immediate factor and helped drive Hartwick's attack. Moore totaled two goals and one assist while proving to be a steady two-way presence.

Mikayla Piersa '28 of Huntington, N.Y., anchored the defense in goal, emerging as one of the conference's top keepers. Piersa appeared in 18 matches, leading the Empire 8 with 10 clean sheets while posting an 86% save percentage and 72 total saves.

Nelle Slavitsky '27 of Conklin, N.Y., capped the list with a strong junior campaign, commanding the midfield in all 19 starts. Slavitsky's defensive presence and ability to flip momentum were constants, netting the game-winner against Utica in a key conference matchup.

These five honorees were instrumental in one of Hartwick's most successful seasons in recent years, helping secure the program's first Mayor's Cup title since 2018, along with a regional ranking and its first Empire 8 postseason

victory since 2019.

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LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

JMA- SAU 301

ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Prospect Mountain Joint Budget Committee will hold a Public Hearing regarding the proposed FY27 Prospect Mountain High School Budget

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Prospect Mountain High School Library

Purpose: To hear from the public any concerns that relate to the proposed FY27 Prospect Mountain High School budget.



COURTESY

Alton Garden Club gathered on Nov. 18 at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center dining hall for a celebration of yet another successful Garden Club season. During this final meeting of 2025 we socialized, elected 2026 officers, finalized our annual collection for Alton Food Pantry and the Mrs. Santa Fund and enjoyed a fine meal prepared by chef Edward Cantin. During winter months we will complete program scheduling for 2026. This process is already well underway, and presentations for 2026 are certain to be of high interest to all with a love of gardening. We wish all of our neighbors a winter of health, comfort and renewal.



COURTESY

While taking a break from shopping for presents at the New Durham Park and Recreation's Holiday Craft Fair, everyone joined in on the fun at the craft and coloring table. The annual pre-Thanksgiving event is always a well-attended kick-off to the holiday season.



COURTESY

Chair of the New Durham Water Quality Committee Maureen Knepp, left, answers a question at the recent presentation of the results of the 2025 water testing. Bob Craycraft, right, resident and Lakes Monitor Program Coordinator at the University of New Hampshire, explained the water quality reports with a slide show. Water bodies tested in New Durham included: Merrymeeting Lake, March's Pond, Chalk Pond, Marsh Pond, Jones Pond, Downing Pond and Shaw's Pond. All had excellent results, except for March's Pond, which had a higher than average bacterial count. Craycraft called the result "an anomaly."

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Boston Ballet Spring Experience ~ May 16
Buffalo-Niagara Region ~ May 17-21
Scenic Iceland Signature Tour ~ June 8-19
Alaska Land & Small Ship Cruise Signature Tour ~ July 8-23
Tanglewood & the Berkshires ~ July 12-13
Saratoga Springs ~ July 21-23
Quebec's "Lakes & Lavender" ~ July 26-27
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