



Sanbornton Central School students serve community, honor veterans



Pictured left Sanbornton Central School students Candice Dix, Chloe Dix, Kori Dix, Emma Howe, Evelyn Howe and Nolin Hibbard along with some younger siblings honor our veterans;

SANBORNTON — Students and staff at Sanbornton Central School (SCS) demonstrated their strong commitment to community service and gratitude this past month through a suc-

cessful food drive and a touching tribute to local veterans. The annual Harvest Hustle, a tradition at SCS for more than 20 years, successfully encouraged students to col-

lect non-perishable food items throughout October. The school community rallied together to collect more than 700 pounds of food. Students diligently processed and transported the donations to the Sanbornton Library, where they were warmly received by volunteers from the First Fruits Food Pantry, helping to support fam-



Pictured right Grayson Robinson and Gage Maxwell add their bags to the food collection bins.

ilies in need within the community. On Monday, Nov. 10, SCS students, families, and staff gathered to recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans. They visited the NH Veterans' Home and participated in a flag planting ceremony. Thanks to a generous donation from the SCS PTO, flags were planted in front of the building

to honor and thank every veteran for their service. Principal Jason Javalgi commented on the event, stating, "This is a wonderful chance for our students to actively participate in showing gratitude and respect to those who have served our country. We are proud of our students for embracing these opportunities to give back to the community."

Christmas Parade returns to Tilton Saturday

TILTON — Santa Claus is coming to town ... actually, to the town of Tilton on Saturday, Dec. 6, right after a Christmas parade that starts at 4:15 p.m. The parade begins at Compass Classical Academy and travels over the Cannon Bridge, down Main Street, and ends up at Riverfront Park.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available at the park (after the parade) to greet youngsters. Hot chocolate provided by the Tilton School, cookies from the Hampton Inn & Suites, and coffee from Onions Pub will be available.

Fireworks will begin around 6 pm from the Northfield side of the Winnepesaukee River across from Riverfront Park so there are many ways to view the light show.

Make it an afternoon adventure by coming early to have lunch at one of the many restaurants in Tilton and then visit the quirky downtown shops to do a little early Christmas shopping.

The event is sponsored by the Tilton Parks Commission, and is a delightful way to begin the holiday season.

Cribbie named Division III All-State Honorable Mention

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 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 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, midfield-

SEE ALL-STATE PAGE A8

Author and illustrator Ashley Wolff visits Southwick School



Top row: author and illustrator Ashley Wolff shares her passion for drawing while answering questions from students; bottom row: Ashley Wolff and Chelsea Bennett take a moment before the presentation begins.

NORTHFIELD — Thanks to a Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) grant secured by Chelsea Bennett of the Hall Memorial Library, students at Southwick School enjoyed a visit from author and illustrator Ashley Wolff. Ms. Wolff grew up in Middlebury, Vt., and holds a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design. She is

the author and/or illustrator of more than 60 children's picture books, including "Where, Oh, Where is Baby Bear?" "Baby Beluga" by Raffi, "Stella and Roy Go Camping," and "Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?" The students and staff were amazed as she demonstrated how her illustration skills progressed from the age of five though

today. She explained, "I like to begin at the beginning by introducing artwork from my own first storytelling attempts. Family, friends, and pets inspired me then, as they do now. As I turn to published picture books, students learn how a story becomes 'real' — from first research to those last little details. At each step, the importance of passion, per-

severance, and practice to become better at anything is emphasized." CLiF arranges for more than 65 professional authors, illustrators, poets, graphic novelists, and storytellers to give inspiring presentations for children. These memorable events help kids get excited about books, stories, reading, and writing. CLiF holds nearly 1,000 events each year.

Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction to host Family Night

LACONIA — The Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction will host a family night on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and all are welcome to attend free.

Have your picture taken with Santa, meet the Grinch, build a toy in Santa’s workshop, decorate a holiday cookie, have your face painted, sing Christmas songs with the Snow family and hear holiday stories read aloud.

The Kiwanis Club will take part in the event and give away free books to children who attend.

The site for the 2025 Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction is at the Belknap Marketplace, where CVS was formerly located, and the event will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come experience the magic in person.

The auction will be streamed live at [ChildrensAuction.org](https://childrensauction.org), [LaconiaDailySun.com](https://laconiadaily.com) and [Facebook.com/ChildrensAuction](https://facebook.com/ChildrensAuction). Watch live on Lakes Region Public Access TV Channel 25, or listen on Lakes FM 101.5.

Viewers can bid online at ChildrensAuction.org, starting on Black Friday, Nov. 28. Bidders who create an account at ChildrensAuction.org, can bid early on high-value items. New this year, any bidder can also put a maximum bid on any items that will close during the week of the auction.

Donations for the auction are being accepted at more than 30 business locations from Nov. 1 through Dec. 5. Click here for a complete list of collection sites or visit childrensauction.org.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Belknap Marketplace from Nov. 28-30 and Dec. 6-8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Have extra time and want to volunteer to help prepare the auction site? Check out these opportunities here.

If you’d like to become a sponsor, view options at childrensauction.org/ sponsorship, email Jenn@ChildrensAuction.org or call 603-527-0999.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction

Numerous fundraising

events in the Lakes Region throughout the year support the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, including our four-day signature event every December. In the past four decades we

have distributed more than \$9.2 million to more than 80 nonprofits that serve low-income families and children in the Lakes Region, all through volunteer efforts, community

donations and corporate sponsorship. The Auction falls under the umbrella of the Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps local

community organizations that serve children and families in need. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit ChildrensAuction.org.

Powerhouse teams with businesses for downtown cheer!

LACONIA — Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, the resident theatre company of the Colonial Theatre, and local Laconia businesses are offering a new version of Powerhouse Downtown Perks for the start of the holiday season. Powerhouse Downtown Cheer is designed to encourage people to visit downtown businesses as they do their holiday shopping for chances to win Powerhouse tickets or discounts and perks at participating businesses.

In conjunction with Powerhouse’s exciting annual production of “A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story” at the Colonial stage Dec. 11-14, 19 local businesses will offer either some sort of discount/perk to their customers or a chance to enter a drawing for two tickets to opening night of “A Christmas Carol” on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Drawing of the tickets at each business will be held on Dec. 6 so the winners have time to make plans to attend the performance! Patrons can enter at more than one business to increase their chances to win. Many businesses are offering both a perk and a drawing.

Businesses participating in this cycle of Powerhouse Downtown Perks include NH Vintage Vinyl, Wild Woman Studio, Commune-a-tea, Blade and Broom, Innisfree Bookshop, Laconia Village Bakery, New Leaf, Shield, MC Cycle and Sport, The Studio. Fresh Downtown, The Candy Bar, Koung Sushi, Daub’s Cobbler Shop, Piedmont Print and Frame, Trillium Farm to

Table, Che Bella, Bayside Service, and The Italian Market.

To find out whether the above businesses are offering a perk, drawing, or both and to find out the specific perk from each business check out <https://www.powerhousesnh.org/powerhouse-perks>. While on the Powerhouse website don’t forget to get your tickets to A Christmas Carol as most businesses will want to see your ticket or ticket confirmation to qualify for the perk!

Powerhouse Downtown Cheer will run Nov. 29 through the end of the “A Christmas Carol” production on Dec. 14, but some business perks will run on their own schedule so check the Web site.

Says Powerhouse Producer Bryan Halperin, “Local businesses help promote Powerhouse all year long by displaying our posters and spreading the word about our productions. This is a way we can show our appreciation by spreading the word to our patrons about our Laconia business friends. So head to the Laconia box office to get your tickets and while you’re downtown go check out our great local businesses!”

Tickets and all the details on the production can be found at powerhousesnh.org or coloniallaconia.com. Please only use ticket links from these two websites as searches will turn up third-party sites that charge a premium for tickets. Prices range from \$18-\$24 (before fees) so if you see higher prices please find the correct websites.

Contact info@powerhousesnh.org with questions about Powerhouse Downtown Cheer or any other Powerhouse related programming or to become a 2026 sponsor.

Santa Lucia event to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin



FRANKLIN — Every December, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin hosts a distinctive holiday event, the Santa Lucia Tea, with lights, candles, festive decorations, “Santa Lucia,” “Star Boys and Star Girls,” cookies, tea, entertainment, and singing of holiday carols.

The festival celebrating Santa Lucia originated in Sweden, where Santa Lucia was the saint of light, who brought the return of longer days to the long Swedish winters.

Before the calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian form in the 1300s, Santa Lucia’s feast fell on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. After the calendar reform, it changed to Dec. 13.

This year the Santa Lucia Tea will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House located at 206 Central St., Franklin. All are welcome to attend this free family holiday event. If you have questions, please call 603-934-2141 and leave a message.

Belknap County Democrats to host District 1 Candidates Forum Dec. 4

MEREDITH — The Belknap County Democrats today announced that it will host Democratic candidates running for election in the New Hampshire Congressional District 1 for a fun and fast-paced Candidate Speed Dating forum being held this evening.

The event will take place on Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Meredith Community Center located at 1 Circle Drive in Meredith from 6- 8 p.m. Each of the current seven Democratic candidates, including Carleigh Beriont, Sarah Chadzynski, Bill Conlin, Heath Howard, Stefany Shaheen, Maura Sullivan, and Christian Urrutia, have accepted an invitation to participate in this public forum. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with light refreshments and snacks being served.

“This fast-paced forum allows for a more rigorous and intimate discussion with the voters,” explained Johnna Davis, chairperson of the Belknap Country Democrats. “The process allows for voters to gather around tables and ask their questions. Each candidate is provided 10 minutes at each table to respond to questions before moving to the next table for further questions and answers. The candidates are instructed to keep their answers short to allow for several questions. There will be no podium presentations and no long speeches. We expect this to be the first of several events being hosted by Belknap Country Democrats to help inform voters leading up to the Democratic primary next September.”

Space is limited to attend this event. Please RSVP to https://www.mobilize.us/nhdp_events/event/8711176/ or email contact@belknap-countydemocrats.org.

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BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Nov. 17-24.

Mario Z. Talamas, age 43, of Franklin was arrested on Nov. 19 for Simple Assault resulting in Physical Contact or Bodily Injury.

A 33-year-old female from Belmont was taken into protective custody on Nov. 20 for Resisting Arrest or Detention and multiple counts of DUI-Impairment.

Jordan C. Miller, age 30, of Rochester was arrested on Nov. 20 for providing False Information to obtain Hand Guns.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Saturday, Dec. 6
GILFORD
Swimming at Nashua; 10:15
Wednesday, Dec. 10
WINNISQUAM
Wrestling vs. Kearsarge; 6

All schedules are subject to change.



Mutual Aid members travel to APCO conference

LACONIA — Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid provides 24x7 Fire/EMS Emergency Communications Dispatch services, mutual aid coordination and Hazardous Materials Response to 35 communities in the Lakes Region of NH and Dispatched almost 30,000 calls for emergency services in 2024.

Last week, four members of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid team proudly represented LRMFA at the Atlantic Chapter of APCO in Mystic, Conn.

Attendees included Chief Jon Goldman (Atlantic Chapter Executive Council Representative), Deputy Chief Erin Hannafin (Atlantic Chapter Training Committee Chair), Lt. Matt LaDuke, and Dispatcher Josh Hanson. The conference served as a reminder of why professional development is essential for our staff. It offered opportunities to connect, find and grow as professionals, and refocus on why we do what we do every day.

The week began with

a keynote from Amanda “AK” Dozanti, whose message was simple. Rather than letting challenges define the narrative, take a moment to acknowledge what went right. Treat yourself with the same compassion you extend to the callers who rely on you. she emphasized that turnout doesn’t always shout, sometimes it whispers. Yet every time a dispatcher answers the phone, they have the potential to change lives. That impact is powerful, meaningful, and worth protecting. Celebrate the wins—big or small—and remember that you matter to the people you serve.

The week concluded with recognition that made us incredibly proud. During Tuesday night’s Annual Awards Banquet, Lt. Matt LaDuke and Dispatcher Josh Hanson were honored with the 2025 Atlantic Chapter of APCO “Team of the Year” Award. Their outstanding work during a water rescue in Laconia earned them this prestigious recognition.



During the incident, in April a cold and exhausted man was drifting down the Winnepesaukee River toward the dam, facing imminent danger. Laconia Deputy Fire Chief Jay Ellingson praised LRMFA at the time, noting that “the real-time information provided by LRMFA while simultaneously relaying it to the companies in the field was critical... and contributed to the successful outcome of the incident.”

The accolades con-

tinued during the conference’s closing luncheon, where Atlantic Chapter President Anne Camaro presented the “President’s Award” to Deputy Chief Erin Hannafin. This award, given at the sole discretion of the President, recognizes an individual who made exceptional contributions throughout the year. President Camaro commended Deputy Chief Hannafin for her “unwavering commitment and selfless acts of service to the Atlantic

Chapter of APCO and this year’s Conference Committee.”

Chief Jon Goldman reflected on the week with pride, commenting, “We have an amazing team of talented professionals at LRMFA, and when empowered to always do the right thing, they do. It is remarkable to watch each of them grow in their own ways and be recognized for such.”

Sweet Mercy Kitchen at Hermit Woods launches “Free Soup Mondays” to support community starting Dec. 1



MEREDITH — As the holiday season approaches and many families are feeling the weight of rising costs and seasonal pressures, Hermit Woods Winery and Sweet Mercy Kitchen are stepping forward with a simple, heartfelt gesture: Free Soup Mondays, beginning Dec. 1.

Every Monday, anyone in the community is welcome to stop by Sweet Mercy Kitchen at 72 Main St. in Meredith and pick up a free cup of freshly made soup to go. No purchase necessary, no questions asked—just warm nourishment offered with kindness. Each guest is welcome to one cup of soup per Monday while supplies last.

“We know these are tough times for a lot of folks,” said the team at Sweet Mercy Kitchen and Hermit Woods Winery. “Meredith is a town defined by generosity and neighborliness. Free Soup Mondays are our small way of giving back and helping to lighten the load this season. If a warm cup of soup can make someone’s day a little easier, then it’s worth every minute.”

The program will continue as long as there is a need and as long as the soup lasts each Monday. Offerings may vary weekly, highlighting the comforting flavors the kitchen is known for.

Sweet Mercy Kitchen and Hermit Woods Winery extend their gratitude to the community for its ongoing support and hope this initiative helps spread a little warmth—both culinary and emotional—during the holiday season.

For more information, please contact Hermit Woods Winery at 603-253-7968 or visit hermitwoods.com.

Liberty Academy receives official charter to open new public charter school in Moultonborough

MOULTONBOROUGH — Liberty Academy Chartered Public School is proud to announce that it has officially received its charter to open a new public charter school in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. This marks a significant milestone in expanding high-quality educational opportunities for families throughout the Lakes Region and beyond.

Liberty Academy will be affiliated with the Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI), a nationally recognized network dedicated to restoring excellence in American public education. The school will offer an American Classical Curriculum rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, designed to cultivate not only strong academic achievement but also virtuous citizenship.

“At Liberty Academy, we believe education should do more than prepare students for college or careers—it should prepare them to live well and to share their unique gift with the world,” said Jon Greenawalt, founding board member.

Liberty Academy will be open to all New Hampshire students through a public enrollment lottery. There is no tuition, and there are no entrance exams. The school is accepting registrations for the 2026-2027 school year

from any family with students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade. The school has plans to expand by adding at least one grade each year.

The founders of Liberty Academy expressed deep gratitude to the New Hampshire State Board of Education, the Barney Charter School Initiative, and the many supporters

who worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality.

“We are excited to offer a school where the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness is central,” said Jim Miller, prospective executive director. “Our mission is to form knowledgeable, thoughtful young people who can think critically, speak eloquently, and act with integrity. This is the

kind of education every child deserves.”

The school will now move into the next phase of development, including student enrollment, staff hiring, and facility planning. Anyone interested in learning more and staying informed about upcoming events can visit libertyacademynh.org and/or find us on Facebook.

Bear girls a young group for new winter season

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam girls’ basketball team will be a pretty young group this year, with five ninth graders and two sophomores joining two seniors in comprising the roster for this year’s squad of Bears.

“We are really going to be young,” said veteran coach Mark Dawalga. “We will really lean on our two returning players as we try to get everyone in their new roles.”

Those two returning players are senior captain Caidyn Carter and classmate Bella Soucy, both of whom have played solid varsity minutes and will be counted on to help acclimate everyone else to the varsity game.

The sophomores on the roster are Kaylynn Reagan and Abby Meunier and the ninth graders are Alissa Jean, Claire Hart, Jaylianna Brown, Mia Wolfe and Ella Cohen.

“Patience will be key early on,” Dawalga said. “We are extremely excited to see what this young group can do and so far we are really pleased.

“One thing I know for sure is this group wants to learn and we work hard every day to get better as a group,” he added.

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

The season is set to kick off next Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Thomas at 6:30 p.m.

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

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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.

Why local libraries still matter

In an era when information moves faster than most people can keep up with, it might be easy to assume that libraries have slipped quietly into the background. But in towns like Tilton, Northfield, Sanbornton, and Belmont, local libraries remain among the most dependable and practical institutions residents rely on every week.

What makes them essential is not nostalgia. It is relevance.

A library is one of the few public spaces where access does not depend on cost, membership, or age. It is a rare environment where people can step out of the noise of daily life and into a place shaped around curiosity and learning. Whether it is a student finishing homework at Hall Memorial Library, a family choosing picture books at Belmont Public Library, or a resident researching local history at the Sanbornton Public Library, the space itself encourages focus and exploration.

Libraries also provide something that online information cannot replicate: context. When someone walks through the door with a question—about local records, about technology, about a topic they are trying to understand—they are met not with an algorithm, but with a librarian who knows the community and its needs. That guidance is one of the reasons libraries remain effective despite the abundance of digital tools available today.

Another value often overlooked is stability. In communities where services, businesses, and public programs evolve from year to year, the library remains a reliable constant. Its doors open at predictable hours. Its shelves reflect choices made intentionally for the people who live here, not for a national audience. Its programs tend to be built around local interest rather than trend or novelty.

There is also a practical aspect that deserves attention. Not every household has fast internet. Not every student has a quiet place to work. Not every adult has access to subscription-based information or digital media platforms. Local libraries fill those gaps without fanfare. They provide computers, databases, newspapers, and study spaces that support daily life in ways that often go unnoticed.

Even in their quieter role, libraries help preserve a sense of place. The local history collections at our area libraries—directories, maps, family genealogies, early town records—create a bridge between past and present. They hold stories that might otherwise fade: the early days of the Tilton mills, the shifting borders of Sanbornton, the development of Belmont Village. These materials don’t simply sit on shelves; they anchor the community’s memory.

In recent years, many libraries across the state have adapted to changing expectations by expanding digital offerings, improving building accessibility, and updating collections. But their fundamental purpose has not changed. They remain places where learning can happen without pressure, where exploration is encouraged, and where a person can walk in with nothing more than a question and walk out with a clearer sense of direction.

The value of local libraries has never depended on trend or popularity. It has always depended on the simple idea that every resident deserves access to knowledge, space to think, and a connection to the world beyond their immediate surroundings. In the Winnisquam region, our libraries continue to provide those things every day.



COURTESY

SANBORNTON CENTRAL CELEBRATES NEW SCHOOL SIGN

Special thanks to Bell & the Whistle for designing, fabricating and installing the new Sanbornton Central School outdoor sign! The school was fortunate to have Mike Cater, parent volunteer, who helped with the previous sign removal and new sign installation process! The old sign has moved inside, as a keepsake and reminder of our school’s journey. Pictured above are SCS students Evelyn Howe, Alden Fioravante, Bodhi Shoemaker, Emma Howe, Jayce Campbell, Wesley Ahlgren, Lucas McCollum, Lydia Bell, Audrey Hutchins, Jubilee Bell and Liliana McCollum.

The story of Sanbornton’s early meeting centers

Long before Sanbornton’s quiet roads, farms, and lakefront neighborhoods took their present shape, the town’s identity was anchored—quite literally—around its meetinghouses. These buildings, simple by today’s standards, served as the center of civic life, religious life, and community decision-making for generations of residents. Understanding their history offers a window into how Sanbornton grew from a frontier settlement into a structured New Hampshire town.

The first Meetinghouse: Tower Hill (1773–1834) Sanbornton’s first meetinghouse stood on Tower Hill, not far from where Hale Road meets the old center of settlement. When the town was incorporated in 1777, residents had already begun gathering in the rudimentary structure they had constructed in 1773—four years before incorporation and two years before the Revolutionary War’s first battles.

Early town records describe it as an unfinished but functional building: unheated, without plaster, and fitted with simple benches. Like many first-generation New England meetinghouses, its primary purpose was civic rather than religious. Town meetings, militia musters, elections, and debates were held there. Ministers preached, but the building belonged to the whole town, not to

any congregation.

The structure was improved in stages as the population grew. By the 1790s, Sanbornton had become one of the more substantial settlements between the Merrimack Valley and the Lakes Region, and Tower Hill remained its geographic and political heart.

Why the center moved By the early 19th century, population patterns began shifting toward what is now Sanbornton Square and the lower village. Farms and mills were developing farther south and west, and Tower Hill—situated on higher ground—proved inconvenient for a growing and increasingly dispersed population.

Town meeting records from the 1820s and early 1830s reflect a long debate over whether the town’s center should move. Votes were taken and retaken. Committees surveyed possible building sites. At one point the town even considered rotating the building or relocating it in sections, a strategy some neighboring towns used with their early meetinghouses.

By 1834, after considerable disagreement, residents voted to construct a new meetinghouse in the Square.

The second Meetinghouse (1834–1882) The 1834 meetinghouse, built at what is now Sanbornton Square, marked a new era for the town. Designed in the austere Fed-

eral style with emerging Greek Revival influences, it served as a more formal and finished structure compared to the original Tower Hill building.

It became the home of the town’s Congregational parish as well, reflecting a widespread trend in New England: the intertwining—but still separate—functions of church and town. Religious services and civic meetings occurred within the same walls, but each institution operated under its own authority.

The building quickly became the social hub of the community. It hosted lecture series, town-wide votes, and gatherings tied to seasonal agricultural cycles. The Square, with the meetinghouse, academy building, and parsonage, took on its now-familiar identity as Sanbornton’s civic center.

The current Meetinghouse (1882–present) Although widely referred to today as the “Sanbornton Congregational Church,” the current building—constructed in 1882 after a major remodeling of the 1834 structure—still embodies the long tradition of meetinghouse architecture. The redesign added Gothic Revival elements that remain distinctive today: tall pointed-arch windows, detailed woodwork, and a refined tower.

While the building no longer hosts town meetings—the Town Hall

now serves that role—the meetinghouse continues to anchor the historic district, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Its placement beside Town Hall, the Woodman Sanbornton Academy building (1826), and the surrounding historic homes reflects nearly 250 years of continuity in civic geography.

What the Meetinghouses tell us Sanbornton’s meetinghouses reveal a progression familiar across New England:

- 1773: A frontier gathering place, rough but functional.
- 1834: A maturing town relocating its civic center to suit settlement patterns.
- 1882: A community refining its architectural presence while preserving its heritage.

The buildings chart not only architectural change but the evolution of local governance, religious life, and community cohesion. They also explain why Sanbornton Square remains the symbolic center of town, even though modern commercial life has spread outward.

Today, the meetinghouse stands as one of Sanbornton’s strongest links to its 18th- and 19th-century roots. It represents endurance in a landscape that has seen agricultural booms, demographic shifts, and the slow transition from a rural hill town to a residential community connected to the wider Lakes Region.



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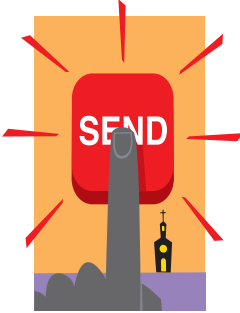
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Comfort Keepers

Seniors and grief: Coping with loss during the holidays

BY MARTHA SWATS
Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

If you or someone you know is facing the first holiday season without a loved one such as a spouse or lifelong friend, it may be a challenge to handle reminders of the holidays, including family traditions, shopping, events or decorating. Some may feel depressed and wish the holidays would pass by as quickly as possible. The important thing to realize is that no matter how long you've been grieving for a loved one—a short time or many years—for most people, the holidays typically bring grief back to the surface. And with grief questions surface:

*Should I act like everything is okay so the rest of the family can enjoy the holidays?

*Is it all right for me to skip traditions if they seem too hard to handle?

*Should I make major changes to my typical holiday rituals?

There are no easy, clear-cut answers to any of these questions – it depends on the factors surrounding each situation. What is a coping mechanism for one person will be ineffective for another.

Grief can be overwhelming. It's easy to get paralyzed and stuck in it. But reaching out and learning how to find the strength and support can help a person take charge of the grief, and that will go a long way toward making the holidays after the loss of a loved one a bit more bearable. Here are a few ways to begin:

Accept that your pain will be triggered

From music to decorations, to shoppers crowding stores to holiday advertisements, the holidays are all around us. Some people find that simply accepting the fact that the holiday season will be hard and painful provides more strength to cope. If someone close died recently, it's okay to lower expectations of the holiday season. One cannot expect to feel the way he or she once did, and should not feel guilty because of it.

Prepare and plan ahead

Thinking ahead and anticipating activities allow people the opportunity to structure time in such a way that mitigates the temptation to overdo things, or get caught up in others' expectations and regret it later. If it's too painful to participate in certain holiday activities, make that known ahead of time. Consider doing something altogether different when it comes to dinners, church services or other activities. Planning a daily calendar a week in advance might help a person feel less lost without a loved one, and will help prevent getting 'stuck' in grief. Lighten the load if plans become too much.

Ask for support and help

Getting enough support during the holidays means reaching out to others who may be experiencing or have experienced the same thing, as well as asking for assistance with holiday preparations. Research support groups in your area. Most people find grief lessens when they realize others feel the exact same way. For others counseling sessions work well. Even online support groups are places you can find ideas on how to cope. Though it is important to set aside time to grieve, don't become isolated, especially during the holidays.

What about holiday traditions?

Knowing what to do about family traditions is one of the hardest things people face after the death of a loved one. Don't be afraid to tell family members that certain traditions will be too hard. Plan to do only what is special and meaningful to you. Most people experiencing grief during the holidays do find creating some new tradition to honor a loved one helps.

Ask visitors and other family members to write a journal about the memories of a loved one. Establish a special place in your home that conjures happy memories, such as hanging a stocking for a departed loved one, and asking others to fill it with notes of fond memories and good wishes.

Try not to compare a holiday experience with

others. It's easy to stand back and think everyone is feeling happy. The holidays are stressful for everyone and are never as magical as we sometimes perceive. The goal is to do whatever feels best. Experts also say it's normal for it to take several years to identify those traditions to keep and those that are no longer a part of your life, so focus on just this holiday season for now.

Here are some new traditions you can start in memory of your loved one:

*Donate to a cause he or she was passionate about.

*Find a local organization that needs help and donate time, food or toys.

*Plant a tree in memory of your loved one.

What if I feel numb or even apathetic during the holiday?

Experts on grief typically stress that everyone grieves in his/her own way, and it's okay to accept and respect whatever feelings an individual may have. Many people feel numb and even disoriented when they are grieving, but it's all right and not unusual. Rely on a support system of close and important people.

Here are some additional ways to help ease grief during the holiday season:

*Plan healthy meals, time for exercise and drink plenty of water.

*Do not stifle emotions. Set aside time to experience sadness and anger. Journaling thoughts and feelings can help ease grief. Be truthful about your feelings when asked.

*Be informed before events. Ask who will be attending and what activities

are planned.

About Comfort Keepers
Comfort Keepers is a leader in providing in-home care consisting of such services as companionship, transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, medication reminder, bathing, mobility assistance, and a host of additional items all meant to keep seniors living independently worry free in the comfort of their homes. Comfort Keepers have been serving New Hampshire residents since 2005. Let us help you stay independent. Please call 603-536-6060 or visit our website at NHComfortKeepers.com for more information.

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New Horizons Band of the Lakes Region announces 2025 Holiday Concert Series



REGION — The New Horizons Band of the Lakes Region is thrilled to invite the community to their 2025 Holiday Concert Series, featuring a delightful mix of traditional holiday tunes, familiar tunes with an twist, and fresh holiday music. Under the direction of Conductor Debbi Gibson, the band promises to bring festive cheer with both familiar tunes and new compositions, including a sing-along, offering audiences the chance to sing along with full band accompaniment.

The concert series in-

cludes two performances:

- First Concert: Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Gilford Community Church
- Second Concert: Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Laconia Colonial Theatre

Both concerts are free to attend. However, tickets are required for the Laconia Colonial Theatre performance and can be purchased at the box office or online at www.coloniallaconia.com/tickets.

Join us in celebrating the holiday season with musical joy and community spirit. For more information about the band or to inquire about joining, please visit newhorizons-lakes-region.org or follow us on Facebook.

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Cash and Cans is back, now through Dec. 12

Annual Funspot fundraiser is Dec. 7

REGION — Mix 94.1 FM presents its 39th annual Cash-and-Cans money and food drive for the holidays now through Dec. 12. The fundraiser, started by Mix 94.1 FM's Fred Caruso in 1987, raises food and money for a number of central New Hampshire charitable organizations, from food pantries to soup kitchens to toys-for-tots programs.

Sunday, Dec. 7, it's the annual Funspot Token Gift Card Fundraiser at Funspot, Weirs Beach from noon to 3 p.m.

"This event has raised thousands of dollars the past few year for Cash and Cans and we're very excited to have Funspot and the Lawton family involved once again with year's Cash and Cans campaign.



Mix 94.1 FM's Fred Caruso hold Funspot token gift cards, part of the fundraiser for the annual Cash and Cans campaign. They are always there to support so many community events," Caruso said. Caruso will have \$10 and \$20 Funspot token cards for purchase with the money raised from each sale donated to Cash and Cans. Purchase as many as

able food donations with 100 percent of the proceeds remaining in the central New Hampshire community.

"We live in a wonderful area, neighbors helping neighbors, friends helping friends, people helping people they've never even met. That's what Cash and Cans is all about," said Caruso.

A complete Cash and Cans broadcast schedule is available at www.mix-941fm.com. Donations can also be made through the mail. Please make checks payable to Mix Cash and Cans and mail to Mix 94.1fm, PO Box 99, Franklin, NH 03235 or Venmo, @Mixcashandcans. For more information about the Cash and Cans program, e-mail Caruso at fred@mix941fm.com. Mix Cash and Cans is a public service of Mix 94.1 FM, a locally owned and operated Northeast Communications radio station.



Come enjoy a delicious breakfast with Santa at the Tilton Senior Center, located at 11 Grange Rd. in Tilton on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ten and younger. Tickets will be sold at the door. You can also have your picture taken with Santa for free. Pictured is Marie Bonnett with Santa at last year's Breakfast with Santa. If you have questions, please call the center at 603-527-8291.

Community Calendar December 4-11)

- Thursday, Dec. 4
When daylight fades and stars take flight, Belmont's library glows tonight. At Belmont Public Library, 5-6 p.m., Kids craft ornaments—take home a gem.
- Friday, Dec. 5
A bustle of cheer at Tilton Town Hall, Holiday wreaths for one and all. From 4-7 p.m., families meet—Hot cocoa, music, and evergreen sweet.
- Saturday, Dec. 6
Northfield neighbors gather near, A festive fair brings local cheer. At Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry, 9-1, Find handmade goods before they're gone. Across the way in Sanbornton Square, The Historical Society hosts folks there. At 2 p.m., enjoy stories old—Winter tales from days of cold.
- Sunday, Dec. 7
A choir sings soft in a warm little nook, At First Baptist Church of Belmont, come take a look. Service begins at 10 a.m. clear—A calm, gentle pause as holidays near.
- Monday, Dec. 8
At Hall Memorial Library in Northfield town, Kids gather at 3:30 to wind stories down. A winter read-aloud, quiet and bright—Perfect for short December daylight.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9
Tilton shoppers, step inside—The Senior Center hosts a craft sale pride. From 11 to 2, find treasures small, Made by hands that welcome all.
- Wednesday, Dec. 10
Belmont Recreation lights the scene—A kids' skate night on the Village Green. From 5-7, bring skates and cheer, Winter fun returns this year.
- Thursday, Dec. 11
A closing note as the week winds down—Warm cookies baked in Sanbornton town. At the Lane Tavern, 6 p.m. delight—Carols and cocoa to welcome the night.

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Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia to host Celtic Christmas concert Dec. 21

LACONIA — Shelby Trevor and Noelle Beaudin present A Celtic Christmas—a vibrant, foot-stomping celebration of high-energy fiddle and piano music from Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Scotland, Ireland, Galicia, and Wales. The concert takes place on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. The church is located at 172 Pleasant St., Laconia. Light refreshments will be served, and guests can also enjoy a festive Cookie Walk, filling a box from a tempting selection of homemade holiday treats. Tickets may be reserved by emailing uusl@myfairpoint.net or calling 603-848-2469. This concert often sells out, so reserve your tickets early.

Shelby Trevor is a performing artist, composer,

and educator whose work explores sound and musical ideas beyond the limits of any single genre. He is a founding member of Cosmic Collection Service, an ensemble pushing into new sonic territories with original albums available on Spotify and YouTube. Trevor's past projects reflect a wide-ranging and dynamic career. He is the founder and former director of the Amelia Island Community String Orchestra, a founding member of both the Subtropical String Trio and the Spiral Song concert series, conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra, staff musician for the Berklee College of Music, and a founding member of the Granite String Band. As a violin soloist, he has appeared with the Suzuki School of Newton Faculty Orchestra, the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra, and First Coast Opera. His work as an orchestral and studio musician

includes collaborations with the Cape Ann Symphony, First Coast Opera, WGBH Studio Orchestra, the Beantown Swing Orchestra, and many others.

In addition to performance, Trevor has held teaching and leadership roles as faculty and concertmaster of the Great Woods Chamber Orchestra at Wheaton College, faculty member at the Suzuki School of Newton, and program developer and educator with both the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and Arts Alive Nassau.

Noelle Beaudin (piano & hurdy-gurdy) studied piano performance and composition at the Boston Conservatory and was an active performer throughout the Boston area before continuing her musical career in France and the United Kingdom. Now based in New Hampshire's Lakes Region,



she maintains a thriving teaching studio and music summer camp, while performing widely across New England as both a soloist and accompanist.

Beaudin is also recognized as one of the leading

hurdy-gurdy performers and educators in the United States. As co-founder of GurdyWorld.com, her dynamic online presence has attracted a rapidly growing international following. She has released two genre-bending albums—

Savage and Wisp—which showcase her innovative approach to the piano, organ and hurdy-gurdy. She is also featured in a forthcoming film set to premiere in 2026.

Hermit Woods Winery launches holiday food drive to support Meredith Food Pantry & Restoration Acres



MEREDITH — Hermit Woods Winery & Sweet Mercy's Kitchen is ushering in the season of generosity with a community-wide food drive running from December 1 through December 24 at their 72 Main Street location. All donations will directly benefit the Meredith Food Pantry and Restoration Acres, two local organizations providing essential support to families in need.

Guests are encouraged to bring canned and non-perishable food items, which Hermit Woods will match one-for-one, doubling the impact of every contribution.

To thank participants for giving back, the win-

ery is offering two special perks:

20 percent off a Wine Tasting Experience, including "Club Member for the Day" benefits

A half-priced appetizer at Sweet Mercy's Kitchen

"Food is a human right, and something as simple as a can of soup can truly help someone," says the team at Hermit Woods. "Our community supports us all year long—this is our chance to support them right back."

Taste wine, do good

Those who join a tasting will enjoy an educational exploration of Hermit Woods' handcrafted wines. With Club Member for the Day pricing, guests can take home their favorite

bottles at exclusive savings—all while knowing their visit made a difference.

A special offer for Songwriter Roundup guests

Guests attending the Songwriter Roundup this Wednesday, Nov. 26, can support the food drive in an extra-special way: half of every ticket sold will be donated to the Meredith Food Pantry, and each food item brought will count as an entry into a raffle that night for a free ticket to a future show. It's a fun and meaningful way to enjoy live music while giving back.

How to participate

When: Dec. 1 – Dec. 24

Where: Hermit Woods

Winery & Sweet Mercy's Kitchen, 72 Main St., Meredith

What to Bring: Any non-perishable food item

Your Perks:

- 20 percent off a Wine Tasting Experience
- Club Member for the Day benefits

- Half-priced appetizer coupon for a future visit

Community Impact: Hermit Woods will match every item donated and deliver all contributions to the Meredith Food Pantry and Restoration Acres.

"Wine brings people together," says the team.

"Generosity does too. Let's fill some shelves, warm some hearts, and make this holiday season a little brighter for our neighbors."

For more information, call 603-2530-6971 or stop by the tasting room during regular business hours.



COURTESY

On Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., stop in at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin, located at 206 Central St. for their Annual Cookie Walk and Craft Fair. A wide variety of holiday cookies will be available for purchase as well as many hand-crafted gifts made by local crafts people.

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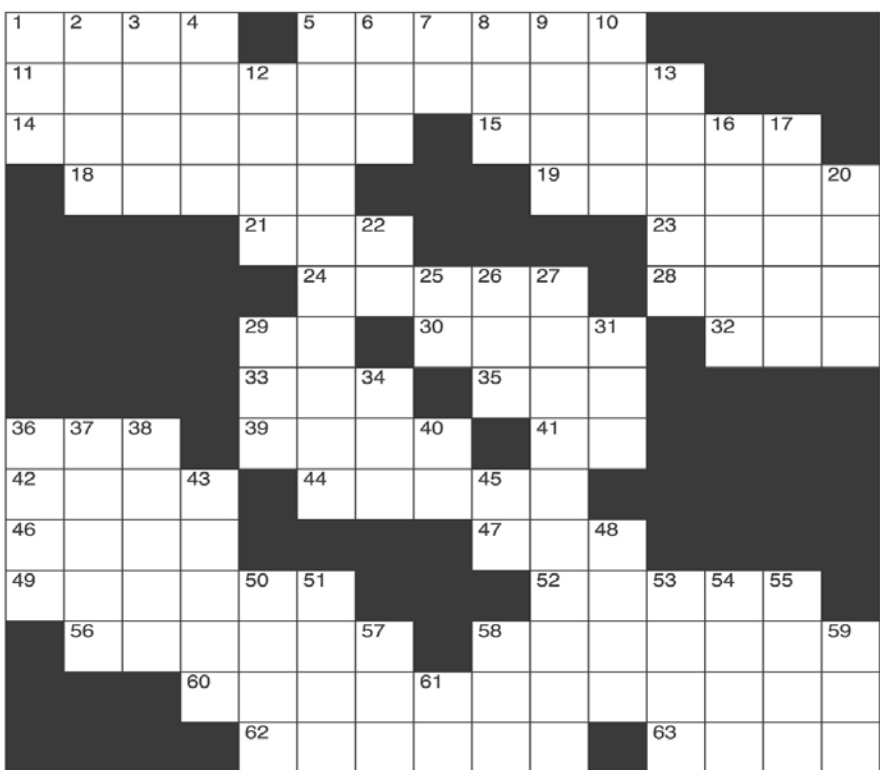
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour

5. Rise

11. Gratitude

14. A low wall

15. Kidnap

18. A cup golfers want to win

19. Outgoing

21. “Partner” to flow

23. Former Michigan coach Brady

24. Proverb

28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

29. Helps a body recover

30. Baseball Cy Young winner

32. Very fast airplane

33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water

36. Record of one’s heartbeat

39. Signs a contract

41. Atomic #24

42. Bind securely

44. French Jesuit theologian

46. Fragrant brown balsam

47. Post office box

49. Sells tickets at inflated prices

52. Places to hang coats

56. Jewish salutation

58. Yellow fruits

60. Poorly educated

62. Microorganism

63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan

2. Three-banded armadillo

3. Mobile

4. Romanian city

5. Making sour

6. Take a seat

7. “The Golden State”

8. When you hope to arrive

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. Extinct flightless bird

12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword

13. Nape of neck

16. Problems (Spanish slang)

17. Narrow carpet

20. To avoid the risk of

22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)

25. Equally

26. Traditional cars still need it

27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part

34. Referee-declared outcome

36. Means to moving money

37. Popular footwear brand

38. Cockatoo

40. NFL’s big game

43. Botswana currencies

45. News-reporting organization

48. Batman villain

50. Urgent request

51. Not all

53. Hallmark’s specialty

54. Knot in a tree

55. Satisfy

57. Notable space station

58. Baby’s dining accessory

59. Stitch clothing

61. ___ and behold

ALL-STATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ers 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 Wiggin 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 Larochelle 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 Malayla Brisson of Oyster River, midfielders Zofia Rosenfield 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 Gelinas 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.

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, Dinkenes

Levesque of Raymond and Charlotte De Tolla of St. Thomas and forwards Payton Ferland of Stevens and Mallory Baker of St. Thomas.

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, Ociee Ilg of Kearsarge, Callie Dixon of Newport, Madden Huff of Kearsarge, Maddy Paolino of Derryfield and Josie Seppala 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, Lizzy Bristol of Sanborn, Brooklyn Ranney of Newport and Amely Collado of Trinity.

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

Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection in Belmont

BELMONT — Granite VNA offers Caregiver Connection on Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Tilly Market Café at the Belknap Marketplace at 96 Daniel Webster Highway.

Join us and connect with other family caregivers, while enjoying an opportunity to unwind and have discussions rich in empathy and resources.

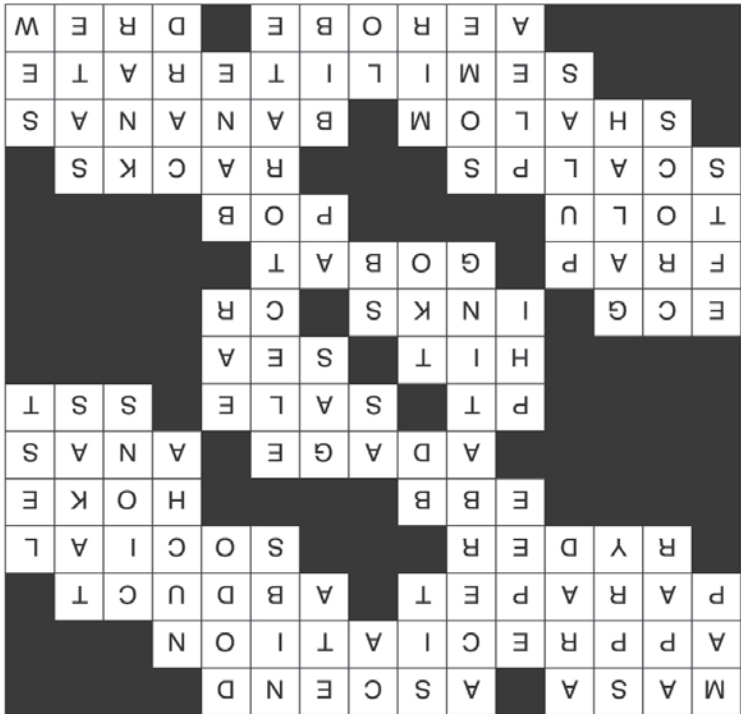
Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call (603) 224-4093 or (800) 924-8620, ext. 85664 or visit www.granitevna.org. This program is offered at no charge.

Sanbornton Wish Tree back by popular demand!

SANBORNTON — Back by popular demand, the Wish Tree has returned to the Town Office lobby! Beginning Nov. 25, stop by during regular business hours to grab a gift tag and fulfill a wish list item for someone in the community.

For more information, contact Barb Vaughn at bvaughn@sanborntonnh.org.

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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. 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



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.

A man knows what he wants, after all! Simi always looks dashing in his signature bandana and is ready to steal hearts (and maybe a few squeaky toys) wherever he goes. If you’re looking for a loyal best friend with energy, style, and endless affection, Simi is your guy.



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Meet Noodle!

Meet Noodle — The Cozy Little Lovebug with a Heart Full of Wiggles!

Say hello to Noodle, a 10-year-old Chihuahua who’s as soft, sweet, and comforting as a bowl of your favorite comfort food. This charming little gentleman came all the way from Tennessee, and he’s ready to bring a big helping of warmth, love, and tail wags to his forever home!

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 Pawliday 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.

Adopt Noodle — because life’s just better when it’s full of love, laughter, and a little extra wiggle.

Climb to the Clouds returns in 2026

PINKHAM NOTCH — 2026 is an exciting year ahead for the Mt. Washington Auto Road. In addition to the milestone of celebrating 120 years of being family-owned and operated, the return of a crowd-favorite signature event - Climb to the Clouds - newly dubbed “The Paul Gibling Memorial Climb to the Clouds Hillclimb” is slated for Aug. 7–9.

Paul “Gib” Gibling arrived at the 1990 Mt. Washington Hill Climb planning only to crew for two friends, Dave Patten and Drew Young. But when a key member of the organizing team couldn’t make it, Gib stepped forward without hesitation. In that moment, something clicked for him, and he never looked back. What began as a simple act of helping out turned into a lifelong commitment, launching a career of dedicating himself to every Climb To The Clouds event from that year until his passing in 2022.

Gib was a true motorsports enthusiast, and this event was one of his greatest passions. His background as Marketing Director for both Mount Washington Auto Road and Vermont Sports Car, combined with his status as a lifetime member of Sports Car Club of NH gave him a unique blend

of experience and insight. But it was his unwavering drive—his insistence on making this event the very best hillclimb in the country—that elevated his contributions from skillful to extraordinary.

He did whatever it took to bring this event to life. In many ways, he was a one-man band, guiding and shaping every detail from beginning to end. Only now, as the team prepares for the upcoming event without him, is the full measure of his work becoming truly clear. The time, the effort, the meticulous care—Gib poured his heart into it all.

Naming this event after him isn’t just appropriate; it is deeply deserved. It stands as a testament to the countless hours, the hard work, and the love he invested to ensure this hillclimb was a world-class experience.

Beyond motorsports, Gib was the embodiment of what it means to be a friend, a brother, a Veteran and a genuinely good human being. He was unfailingly positive, endlessly helpful, and completely selfless. To know Gib was to know someone you could always count on—no matter the need, no matter the hour. His passing left a void not just in this event, but in the lives of everyone fortunate enough

to call him family or friend.

The world lost a truly remarkable person when Gib left us, but his spirit, his passion, and his kindness continue to guide the event he loved so dearly.

What to expect for 2026
The Paul Gibling Memorial Climb to the Clouds Hillclimb, co-organized by Sports Car Club of New Hampshire and the Mt. Washington Auto Road, promises plenty of excitement from start to finish during this multi-day motorsports festival. Spectators of this car race will enjoy thrilling action and views on the steep, curvy, and picturesque Mt. Washington Auto Road. For over a century, Climb to the Clouds has embodied automotive adventure and performance. Predating Pikes Peak and the Indy 500, this historic event captivates racers and enthusiasts alike. From a daring ascent up a rugged dirt road to a tradition attracting top-tier drivers, Climb to the Clouds boasts a rich history in progressing automotive technology, and triumphing against the elements.

The first timed ascent of Mt. Washington was done in 1899 in a Stanley Steamer by F.O. Stanley. Over the next century, gasoline cars set record after record as automotive technology progressed. In 2014, the first pair of electric vehicles entered competition, one driven by 1990 record holder Tim O’Neil. Subsequent events have had increasing numbers of electric entries, and we expect the trend to continue.

Unlike most forms of motorsport, Hill Climb racing offers a unique format that benefits electric cars. The short duration, and need for instantaneous torque not only level the playing field, but gives EVs the edge in competition. As of 2025, the current record at Pikes Peak is currently held by an all-electric Volkswagen I.D set in 2018. We expect the next Mt. Washington record to fall to an electric vehicle. The current Climb to the Clouds record is an astonishing 5 minutes and 28.67 seconds set in 2020 by Travis Pastrana in a 2020 Subaru WRX STI. 2026 marks the first year the Auto Road will be fully

paved for this event—conditions that favor a new record time.

With past champions like Tim O’Neil, Carrol Shelby, and Travis Pastrana, the event will bring in talent from all racing disciplines. Held over the course of an adrenaline-fueled weekend, the event will attract thousands of spectators, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and 80+ talented drivers, each competing for glory on the challenging course. Save the date for Aug. 7, 8, and 9.

Tickets will be available in early 2026. For more information on volunteering, spectating, and lodging: mt-washington.com/hillclimb

Event sponsorship opportunities are still available. Reach out to events@mt-washington.com

About the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire

Established in 1955 by a group of longtime sports car enthusiasts from throughout New Hampshire, the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire (SCCNH) is a 501(c)7 non-profit organization open to anyone

interested in automobiles or automobile-related activities – whether they are a New Hampshire resident or not. Today the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire is proud to host a membership of more than 225 active motorsports enthusiasts from across New England with a variety of vehicles and varied interests in the sport. For more information, visit www.sccnh.org.

About the Mt. Washington Auto Road

First opened in 1861, the 7.6-mile Mt. Washington Auto Road winds its way from the Great Glen base area to the summit of Mount Washington at 6,288 feet, gaining 4,650 feet in elevation, and passing through four unique ecological zones. The mountain holds both the distinction of being the highest peak in the Northeast, as well as the home of the world’s worst weather. On clear days, visitors are treated to a spectacular view spanning up to 130 miles, reaching east to the Atlantic Ocean, and west as far as New York.

Tilton tax rate set at \$13.33

TILTON — The 2025 tax rate was set on Nov. 25, due to the Tilton-Northfield Water District’s delay in providing statutory financial information to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA).

Once DRA reviewed and approved their reporting, the Board of Selectmen were able to set the rate at a special meeting on Nov. 25. The board used \$200,000 of fund balance to help offset the rate, which reduced it to \$13.33 per \$1,000 of property valuation. This rate represents a 3.65 percent increase over the previous rate of \$12.86 per \$1,000.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE INTER-LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Public Hearing will be held for public input regarding the acceptance of donations for the Charles G. Burrows Memorial Athletic Field, to support the installation of field lights. This hearing is being conducted in accordance with School Board Policy KCD - Public Gifts and Donations.

The Public Hearing will be held:

December 9, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
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Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

2	10	9
8	0	6
3	4	9

Solution

Get Scrambled

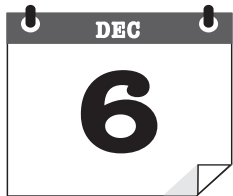
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

Answer: Perfect vision

Answer: Snellen scale

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world’s first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

NEW WORD

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Health FACT:



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Jersey Tenors deliver “magical Night,” raising more than \$24,000 for Meredith Altrusa Club



Meredith Altrusa members Mary Anne Skawinski and Judi LaCount are presented a check of \$25,000, the net proceeds from the October Jersey Tenors We Care concert, from Barbara Katz of Temple B’nai Israel.

MEREDITH — The Inter-Lakes High School Community Auditorium was the scene of a magnificent evening on Oct. 25 as The Jersey Tenors brought their captivating blend of music to a packed auditorium for the final “We Care” concert of 2025. The event achieved a phenomenal success, raising more than

\$24,000 for the Meredith Altrusa Club. The Tenors didn’t just perform - they hosted a 1970s revival, thrilling the audience with show-stopping performances and sparking energetic sing-alongs to classics from a diverse selection of iconic artists like John Denver, Queen, Elton John, and

even Frank Sinatra. Their unique approach took the music into the crowd, with the singers engaging attendees directly and bringing fans onstage for unforgettable, shared moments. The Meredith Altrusa Club is dedicated to making local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. All proceeds from the We Care concert will be used to fund the club’s various charitable endeavors in the Lakes Region. “This We Care concert was truly extraordinary, both in the quality of the performance and the incredible outpouring of community support,” said Stu Needleman, We Care Committee Chair. “The Jersey Tenors didn’t just put on a show; they created a shared, joyful experience that directly translated into funding. We are profoundly grateful to the Tenors, the Inter-Lakes High School, and every single person

who attended, making this a rewarding night for the Meredith Altrusa Club.” We Care thanks its generous sponsors: Audi Nashua, Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms Landscaping, and The Platinum Group of RE/MAX Bayside Realty and advertisers in the TBI Lakes Region Business Directory. We Care is already planning another spectacular year, kicking off with the highly anticipated Elton John tribute band, Yellow Brick Road, on Saturday, May 23, 2026. This exciting event will directly benefit the Laconia Police Relief Association. We Care is proud to announce that Laconia High School is supporting this community effort by offering the use of their auditorium, ensuring a spectacular setting for this crucial fundraising opportunity. Tickets are on sale now at <https://tbinh.org/we-care-concerts/>.

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REGION — MVSB (Meredith Village Savings Bank) welcomes community members to take part in their annual Mitten Tree Drive. The Bank will be collecting donations of new, handmade or store-bought cold-weather accessories at all MVSB offices now through New Year's Eve. A full list of locations and hours is available at mvsb.com/locations.

All items donated will be distributed to local schools and nonprofits to help keep neighbors warm this winter. In addition, for every item donated, the Bank will contribute \$2 to local organizations working to combat childhood food insecurity.

"For more than four decades, the Mitten Tree Drive has brought our communities together in the spirit of giving," said Stacy Trites, Senior Vice President, Senior Retail Banking Officer. "Each year, we're inspired by the generosity of those who help us bring warmth and nourishment to so many lo-

cal children and families." The Bank's matching donation will benefit End 68 Hours of Hunger programs serving Alton, Exeter, North Conway, Portsmouth, Rochester and Wolfeboro, as well as local Got Lunch! programs serving Gilford, Ashland & Holderness, Inter-Lakes, Laconia and Plymouth.

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MVSB branch office locations are collecting donations of new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for their annual Mitten Tree drive through New Year's Eve.

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