



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

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FREE

Pub Mania returns, Community Challenge raises more than \$350,000

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

GILFORD — After a three-year hiatus, Pub Mania made its big return in a new 12-hour format, helping to raise more than \$350,000 for the Community Challenge while also honoring the Children's Auction's founder.

The teams were back around the barstools on Dec. 7 as Pub Mania returned to Patrick's Pub and Eatery in Gilford. The event kicked off at 11 a.m. with opening ceremonies and ran until 11 p.m. with 12 hours of games, entertainment, and fun. On Dec. 8, team members unveiled a check for \$356,456 for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

The original Pub Mania was a 24-hour barstool challenge inspired by the 24-hour spinning



PHOTOS BY ERIN PLUMMER

Pub Mania opens with Patrick's Pub and Eatery co-owner Alan Beetle (left) honoring Children's Auction founder Warren Bailey (right).

marathon at the former Laconia Athletic and Swim Club. This year the event switched to a 12-hour challenge that Patrick's co-owner Alan Beetle said was inspired by the event the Elks Club used to have to benefit the Children's Auction.

Beetle said when the pandemic set in the event pivoted from Pub Mania to the Community Challenge, a fundraising effort where teams raise money all year long. Pub Mania is now an event that supports The Community Challenge.

"The mission of Pub Mania remains the same: it's about making a difference in our community for children and families," Beetle said.

This year's Community Challenge will be a

SEE MANIA, PAGE A8

Alton FD reports increase call volume in 2023

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

ALTON — The town's fire department pulled in its fire boat for the sea-

son and is looking back at a year of increased call volume and some recent help from its fire-

fighter's association.

On Dec. 11, the Alton Fire Department announced the end of the season for its boat in a Facebook post. The department uses the boat to respond to incidents on the 19.3 square miles of area on Lake Winnepesaukee, nine inhabited islands, and more than 280 homes only accessible by water.

The department takes in the boat for the season when temperatures start dropping.

"In the fall, fire departments closely monitor weather conditions to ensure our boats re-

SEE ALTON, PAGE A8



PHOTO COURTESY — ALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Alton's Fire Boat is now out of the water for the season after a year when the department has seen a significant increase in call volume.

New Durham might to set tax rate by end of year

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

NEW DURHAM — The town is aiming to receive its tax 2023 rate before the end of the year, pending the completion of a village district's annual meeting.

New Durham is still awaiting its tax rate for 2023 from the Department of Revenue Administration. The town posted an announcement on its website on Dec. 11 updating residents on the tax rate's status.

As of Dec. 11, the town was waiting for the Cople Crown Village District to hold its annual meeting, which has been scheduled for Dec. 21. After the district's annual meeting process is complete the town can set its tax rate.

"The town will move as quickly as possible to set the tax rate and produce the tax bills with a goal of an end of December mailing," read the post.

Taxes will be due 30 days after being posted.

Residents do have the option of making an estimated tax payment. Residents who want to pay their tax bill before the end of the year can make an estimated payment based on their first payment amount in 2023.

Taxpayers can look up their previous tax bill on the town website under Online Payments and then visiting Property Tax Review/Pay Online and look up their property by name, address, or tax map number.

The town is also advising residents that all tax bills will be sent through the United States Postal Service and they will never receive them by email.

New Durham's tax rate for 2022 was \$17.92 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. This included \$5.22 for the municipal tax, \$2.39 for its portion to Strafford County, \$9.08 in local education, and \$1.23 in state education, all per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. Residents of the Cople Crown Village District also paid \$4.94 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation for the Village District tax of a total tax rate of \$22.86 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

Holiday season brings early deadlines

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it an accelerated press schedule for your local weekly newspaper.

The deadline for our first edition of 2024, Jan. 4, will be Friday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.

As always, submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@salmonpress.news.

The Baysider thanks our readers for their cooperation with our accelerated schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

Champs win big in hoop season opener



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Cooper Perkins of Gilford puts up the defensive pressure against Winnisquam's Chris Biancardi in action on Dec. 8.



Henry Sleeper goes hard to the hoop in action against Winnisquam on Dec. 8.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The four-time defending Gilford boys' basketball team has a different look this year. However, the rest of the division might not want to overlook the Golden Eagles.

Gilford came out strong on opening night, getting out to a 32-8 lead at halftime on the way to a 62-28 win over Lakes Region rival Winnisquam in Tilton on Friday, Dec. 8.

"There's a lot of anticipation with any season, but this season in particular, it felt like

it's time to get things going," said Gilford coach Rick Acquilano. "We have a long way to go, there's still things to clean up, but I'm happy with our effort."

"They (Gilford) get after it defensively, they're going to force you to shoot quickly and if you don't hit them, it will get ugly fast," said Winnisquam coach Kevin Dame. "We have to find a way to get easier shots than what we were taking."

The Golden Eagles scored the first eight

SEE CHAMPS, PAGE A9

Lakes Region Tourism Association announces awards & scholarship at Annual Meeting

MEREDITH — The Lakes Region Tourism Association recently held its annual meeting and celebration at Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith.

After a time of networking and refreshment, Executive Director Amy Landers welcomed members, sponsors and guests. She shared the association's marketing report, highlighting the marketing results for in-state; out of state and international visitors;

groups and second home owners. Following her presentation, two Tourism Awards and scholarships to area students were awarded.

The Association's Tourism Award is presented each year to an individual or business that has made a difference in the past year to bring visitors into the Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire. The 2023 Tourism Award was presented to Karen Bassett, who established

the New England Coffee Festival, a two-day event to bring together coffee enthusiasts, industry professionals and local communities in a joyous and immersive event. She created a unique and inclusive platform where attendees can indulge in the art, science, and flavors of coffee, fostering a deeper appreciation for the craft and its impact on the region.

The evening wrapped up with the presentation of the Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award. This Association award is given to an individual who has made a long-standing dedication, commitment, and permanent contribution to the visitor industry, displaying leadership, and providing inspiration to others for many years.

This year, the 2023 Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award was presented to Kathy Fairman, a true Lakes Region historian and supporter of the community. Fairman established The Laker more than 40 years ago a successful events and entertainment publication distributed throughout New Hampshire. In 1987, she started Molly the Trolley. The Trolley has been introducing visitors to Wolfeboro with narrated tours and special excursions in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Most recently, Jol-

ly the Trolley was added to the fleet. She also created new Haunted Trolley Tours that have been very successful during the fall months. She offers dinner tours and along with trips to concerts and to local theatres.

The Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship was named in honor of Mildred Beach, who was the director of the Lakes Region Tourism Association for almost 50 years. She was involved in State Legislature and was very active in the tourism industry for the entire State. Dan Faust was presented with the Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship. Faust is a second-year student at Lakes Region Community College majoring in Culinary Arts. Raised in Salem, his passion for culinary arts blossomed during his time at Salem High School where he participated in the CTE culinary program. Gaining valuable experience from his first job as a line cook at Tuscan Market restaurant, he hopes to further his culinary career by delving more into the food truck industry after graduation next year.

Mel Borrin was the owner of Preferred Vacation Rentals and active in tourism organizations for many years. He served on various Boards for more than 30 years and was a Past

President and Board of Director of our Association. Named in honor of Mel, the 2023 Mel Borrin Scholarship was awarded to Lakes Region Community College student, Kelsey Garnett. She has extensive career in the restaurant industry gaining experience from HUOT Tech (which in high school at Winnisquam High School), Shalimar Resort, UNOs, Common Man, Breeze, and Greenside Restau-

rant. Garnett plans to graduate in the fall of 2024 and continue on to the Pastry Arts degree program.

The Lakes Region Tourism Association is a non-profit marketing organization representing more than 450 businesses that promotes the Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire year-round to bring more visitors that will have a positive economic impact on businesses.

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Tourism Award winner Karen Bassett.



Kathy Fairman is presented with the Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award.



Dan Faust receives the Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship.



Kelsey Garnett receives the Mel Borrin Scholarship.



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Children's Auction raises more than \$700,000



COURTESY PHOTOS

The 42nd annual Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction concludes, revealing this year's final total of \$711,493.

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

BELMONT—Bidders and donors came out in force to help children and families in the Lakes Region by supporting the 42nd annual Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, which raised over \$711,000 that will go to local organizations to help those in need.

The annual auction opened on Tuesday, Dec. 5, broadcasting live from the Belknap Marketplace (formerly the Belknap Mall) in Belmont with a rotating slate of hosts. The auction was broadcast on local public access channels, radio, and streaming online.

The auction continued until Friday, Dec. 8, when the final tally was announced at \$711,493, a new record.

"That's absolutely

incredible we were able to get over that \$700,000 mark," said Children's Auction board Chair Doug Morrisette said. "We couldn't have done it without all the amazing volunteers we have and the support from the community."

He said the volunteers all put in a lot of work to make things happen.

"To be able to rely on a team is very nice," Morrisette said.

Morrisette said the auction went smoothly overall. While in previous years they were asking for more items leading into the event, this year Morrisette said they started strong with around 1,400 items before the auction got underway.

This year, they gave people the ability to bid early on certain items,

especially the ability to make the maximum bid on items costing more than \$300. Morrisette said this might have enticed more people to donate.

Morrisette said they found ways to work more efficiently. Morrisette worked the back of the house and different department heads were handling things in different areas and coordinating volunteers.

The auction contained a number of Super Board items. The item with the most value was a yearlong membership to Laconia Country Club valued at \$5,855, which currently has a waiting list of over 100 people. During the show the top bidder offered \$30,000 for the membership, though it was later announced there was a technical



Members of the Inter-Lakes Middle High School's Interact Club help at the phone bank.



The Gilford Police Department were among the groups that helped on the phone bank.

issue that kept more callers from bidding. Morrisette said the issue was resolved and the membership went to the original highest bidder for \$30,000.

The auction also received a check of \$356,456 from The Community Challenge, a year round fundraising effort by teams. He said it was amazing that the Community Challenge has grown like it has and spread the word of the Children's Auction all year long.

One of the events that benefited The Community Challenge included the return of Pub Mania at Patrick's Pub and Eatery in Gilford.

Morrisette said it was amazing to see Pub Mania return this year. He was at the event in its 12th hour and he saw all the goings on.

"It brought back memories of when I was sitting for a Pub Mania team in 2019," Morrisette said. "I think everyone was very excited."

This year, the auction raised around \$30,000 more than the previous year.

"I thought it was absolutely amazing. I couldn't have done it without our amazing volunteers," Morrisette said.

Morrisette also commented on people's generosity that led to these

big numbers.

"Our community is willing to see the demand, and they're always there to support and give back with their generosity," Morrisette said.

All the proceeds will be distributed to non-profit organizations across the Lakes Region that help children and families.

During the auction, Cindy Hemeon-Plessner of the Grant Distribution Committee described the committee's work in distributing the funds to different organizations. So far this year they have received applications for 65 grants totaling around \$800,000.

"We know that the people here who are donating their time, donated items, who bid everyday, those of you at home, those of you on the radio,

those of you streaming you care where this money goes," she said. "We take it very, very, very seriously."

Some of the money goes to many different needs such as food, shelter clothing, and holiday gifts for kids. It also goes to educational programs and different kinds of camps including athletic and theater camps.

"I strongly, strongly encourage you to see where that money goes," Hemeon-Plessner said. "Everyone who bids, everyone who volunteers their time and there are literally thousands of you and you're making a difference to these kids not just in the holiday season but year-round."

For more information on the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, visit www.childrensauction.org.

Local author DJ Geribo publishes seventh book



main character, Bitsy, believes that finding her soulmate when she gets her first job seems too good to be true. Experiencing real love and a passion she never could have imagined, she begins to grow from a naïve teen into a young woman while meeting many different people on her path to adulthood. The A-to-Z Mart has brought Bitsy and Lewis together, but can they survive everything that threatens to keep them apart?

Bitsy's journey is revealed in an unforgettable telling in this novel and seven stories that explore the personalities and often complicated relationships among the characters in this new, and sometimes scary, world that Bitsy's immersed in at the A-to-Z Mart.

"The Mart" is available directly from the publisher at BBDPublishing.com as well as on Amazon.

ALTON — Alton author DJ Geribo has just released "The Mart," her seventh book.

Her previous books include a collection of memories of her parents during her childhood in the 1950s and 1960s ("Me & Them"), a non-fiction book about her Pomeranian that was diagnosed with a se-

rious illness ("The Miracle Dog"), a collection of literary stories ("Seven Storied Houses"), a middle-grade chapter book ("The House at the Top of the Trees"), and two children's books ("Eddie Easel and the Case of the Missing Green" and "Mouse Bound") that she also illustrated.

In "The Mart," the

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& Best Wishes for the New Year!

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How Jan. 1 came to be New Year's Day

The celebration of Jan. 1 as New Year's Day is a tradition that has stood the test of time, spanning cultures and centuries. Its origins can be traced back to ancient Roman customs, where it found a meaningful connection with Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. The symbolism of Janus, with one face looking backward into the past and the other forward into the future, encapsulates the essence of the new year, a time for reflection and embracing new opportunities.

In 45 BCE, Roman dictator Julius Caesar initiated a significant calendar reform, moving the start of the year from the spring equinox to Jan. 1. This change was not just symbolic; it was driven by practical considerations. Aligning the calendar more closely with the solar year made sense for agriculture and administration. Moreover, choosing Jan. 1 as the beginning of the year reinforced the idea of new beginnings, a concept that resonates universally with all people.

The tradition of celebrating Jan. 1 as New Year's Day continued to evolve as the centuries passed. Its enduring appeal led to its adoption by cultures around the world. A significant moment in this journey was the introduction of the Gregorian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. This calendar adjustment aimed to bring the date of the vernal equinox closer to March 21. As a result, Jan. 1 solidified its place as the starting point of the new year across much of the Western world.

While the core idea of Jan. 1 as New Year's Day remains constant, the customs and traditions associated with its celebration have diversified across cultures and regions. From the striking of midnight bells to colorful fireworks displays, from heartfelt midnight toasts to the tradition of first footing, these customs encapsulate the spirit of renewal and hope that defines the new year.

It's a day when people come together to take stock of the past year, set new goals and resolutions, and welcome the fresh start that each new year represents.

Garden Club volunteers keep holiday spirit alive in Alton

COURTESY

Alton Garden Club would like to say thank you to our volunteers who help to keep the spirit of the town alive through decorating the gazebo in the village and the fencing along Riverside Cemetery. From season to season dedicated Garden Club members, and sometimes spouses, change the gazebo themes in keeping with the seasons for the benefit of our community. For some reason, it always seems to be one of the coldest days when winter decorations are hung. Nevertheless, you'll find volunteers enthusiastic and bold, hanging onto the structure and stretching to make the decor reach from place to place. Our gazebo is now ready for winter, draped in garlands, wreaths and bows and encircled with a new blanket of snow. If you are interested in learning more about our organization, see Altongardenclub.com. We wish all of our friends and neighbors a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Peace on Earth, good will towards men.



LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Dawning December

I'm looking at the weather forecast for the next week, and it's looking to me that once this year's weekly weather cycle settles in, that we may be having our storms around the weekends again. I hope they shift earlier, so most storms happen on Thursdays, or before. That will make school kids and snow sporters elated. If they stay as they have been lately, there will be less cause for joy.

I kind of prefer storms during the week. That way, I get a snow day to clean up the mess, leaving the weekend for things more fun. When I worked to real job, I may not have felt the same, but taking weekend time to do snow cleanup is a real drag.

The other day, I started up the lawn mower and whacked down some long patches of grass in the front yard and went over all the paths where I'd soon be scooping. Then I ran the gas out of the carburetor, folded up the handle and put it away under the porch for the winter. Certainly won't be needing it for the next few months.

Today, there were snow showers. Not much

snow, but sloppy roads and walkways. Not the best time to be wearing sneakers.

When I woke up the next morning, there was almost four inches of heavy wet snow man snow on the ground. I checked the internet for a possible school closing as I was scheduled to sub today. Not even a delayed start. That's OK; my first two periods were prep periods, so I could trim my start time and tend to a quick scooping before heading out.

If the snow doesn't melt, it's nice to have my paths set and my run outs in place. The snow being so wet, it will freeze solid tonight making it less likely to melt with the shorter cooler days and nights being below freezing. It's December now, and we could get blasted any day. This week looks safe, but who knows. The January thaw usually devastates all that accumulated in December to provide those legendary white Christmases.

I remember when I was little, trudging through a good six inches of snow down to my aunt's house for Christmas Eve dinner. I

went early so that I could play with my cousin's toys while everyone else were occupied with the evenings preparations.

The rest of my family drove down later as the snow depth deepened. Driving home was exciting as the rear wheel drive car fishtailed up the unplowed hill back home through the deep fluff. The side streets were always last to get plowed, and even later to get sanded. Something that made sliding down the hilly streets of the city so great on our runner sleds.

Back then, most families only had one car which went to work all day and traffic during a canceled school day was minimal. The kids owned the streets and the roads got slicker and faster till the sand truck arrived late in the afternoon.

This morning, as I headed off to school, my back road had already been scraped clean of it's less than four inches of slop. They never used to start plowing till it was more than four inches. Four inches was deemed navigable. Now they salt it to death, much to the detriment of local water systems and every vehicle that travels the roads.

Who practices driving in the snow anymore? It's the road crew's responsibility. We can just rely upon our wonderful all wheel drive marvels with their traction control to take care of everything. That's what the driver of the big SUV thought as he passed me on a slick snow covered highway. I later saw his buggy sitting off the road mired in a great pile of snow. So much for technology.

As I scooped this morning, I looked over at the spruce tree that's been growing too near my house for the last few years. I was going to chop it last year, but I never did. So it's even bigger this year. It's time for it to go into the Christmas tree stand. But right now, it's all covered with this crystallized water stuff. I should have chopped it the other day. Right now, it'll be a mess. Maybe I'll just get another Charlie Brown tree from the forest. It'll be pretty snowless by the time I drag it home. Merry Christmas.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com

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.

Age is truly just a number

We all possess many talents and gifts that vary from one person to another. While some gifts blossom early and visibly, others lie dormant, often awakening unexpectedly later in life. It's a sad truth that many of us may pass through life without fully uncovering the breadth of our abilities.

What keeps us from discovering these hidden talents? Sometimes, we need a life-changing event to discover what we are capable of, and if that doesn't happen, hidden talents won't emerge. Sometimes, fear and self-doubt obscure the path to finding our hidden abilities.

In rare and extraordinary instances, some individuals reach a level of self-actualization that seems almost superhuman. Leonardo da Vinci is an example of this rarity. A polymath whose mastery spanned art, science, and invention, his unquenchable curiosity and range of talents led to monumental creations like the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper while significantly contributing to anatomy, astronomy, and engineering.

While da Vinci's story is awe-inspiring and fascinating, I recognize that such a universal genius is an anomaly in human

history. I assume he also had hidden talents that he never discovered, but comparing ourselves to him might not be the most realistic benchmark. His polymathic brilliance spans an incredibly rare spectrum.

While Leonardo da Vinci's story may feel distant and extraordinary, the journey of Grandma Moses indeed shows that any of us, at any point in our lives, can uncover hidden talents, just as she did.

Grandma Moses began her painting career at age 78! While many her age are ready to be done with life, she was just getting started!

When embroidery became too challenging due to her arthritis, Grandma Moses discovered that holding a paintbrush was far gentler on her hands. This shift from demanding embroidery needlework to the softer painting strokes opened a new chapter in her life.

Her artwork, characterized by its simplicity and vivid colors, eventually gained immense popularity, influencing the world of American folk art. She created a successful career in art at 78 years of age! How amazing is that!

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She was known for her cheerful and optimistic disposition. I suspect her willingness to embrace painting later in life stemmed from her open and thankful attitude.

Staying receptive, upbeat, and grateful can be crucial in discovering hidden talents, regardless of age.

She once said, "People should take time to be happy!"

Another striking example of discovering a talent later in life is that of Harry Bernstein. Bernstein found his calling as a writer in his 90s.

For most of his life, he worked in various unremarkable jobs, with writing being nothing more than a private passion, largely unfulfilled due to the demands of everyday life. It wasn't until he was 93, after the passing of his wife, that he began writing in earnest as a way to cope with his loss.

This led to the publication of his first book, "The Invisible Wall," at the age of 96, a memoir that received critical acclaim and brought him a late-in-life fame he had never anticipated. Bernstein's journey into writing later in life demonstrates the incredible

potential that lies within us, sometimes waiting for the right moment to be unleashed.

His story, much like Grandma Moses's, shows us the possibilities. It's never too late to discover a new talent and achieve success.

I've heard people in their 30s say, "If it hasn't happened by now, then it's never going to happen!"

I never knew Grandma Moses or Harry Bernstein, but their stories impart a crucial lesson: to realize a talent later in life, one must first be open to the possibility. How many latent talents go unrecognized, and how many dreams remain unfulfilled simply because we shut ourselves off from the prospect of their pursuit?

"It's too late for me! I'm far too old!" is what most say, but it's simply not true. As long as we're still alive, we have a chance.

We often dismiss our aspirations as "too late" or merely "pipe dreams," especially if they have yet to be explored in our younger years. Yet, these remarkable stories remind us that age is just a number, and inexperience is not a barrier, but a fresh start.

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The Wallflowers return to the Colonial April 13

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre - Laconia will present The Wallflowers on Saturday, April 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

A big part of the mid-'90's revival of roots-rock, The Wallflowers ruled the airwaves with hits including "One Headlight," "Sixth Avenue Heartache," and "The Difference."

Rock 'n' roll is often hard to define, or even to find, in these fractured musical times. But to paraphrase an old saying, you know it when you hear it. And you always hear it with the Wallflowers. For the past 30 years, the Jakob Dylan-led act has stood as one of rock's most dynamic and purposeful bands –

a unit dedicated to and continually honing a sound that meshes timeless songwriting and storytelling with a hard-hitting and decidedly modern musical attack. That signature style has been present through the decades, baked into the grooves of smash hits like 1996's "Bringing Down the Horse" as well as more recent and exploratory fare like 2012's "Glad All Over."

But while it's been nine long years since we've heard from the group with whom he first made his mark, the Wallflowers are silent no more. And Dylan always knew they'd return.

"The Wallflowers is much of my life's work," he says simply. Good band name aside,



Jakob Dylan of The Wallflowers

that life's work continues with "Exit Wounds," the brand-new Wallflowers studio offering. The collection marks the first new Wallflowers material since "Glad All Over." And while the wait has been long, the much-anticipated record finds the band's signature sound – lean, potent, and eminently entrancing – intact, even as Dylan surrounds himself with a fresh cast of musicians.

First opened in 1914, the Colonial Theatre was

designed by George I. Griffin. Original owner Benjamin Piscopo was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. The theatre hosted a variety of stage productions and photoplays. By the early 1930s the Colonial had pivoted to show motion pictures. In 1983, the theatre was divided up into five separate movie screens. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation.

On June 15, 2015,

the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and re-open the Colonial. 609 Main Street LLC was created to conduct the capital campaign for the renovation. The restoration of the Colonial began in March of 2016 and concluded in early 2021.

The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to a wide range of performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. The Colonial Theatre is managed by Spectacle Management and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. www.coloniallaconia.com

Spectacle Live was founded in 2012 to provide performing arts venues throughout New England with expert services in venue oper-

ations, booking and programming, venue and event marketing, venue programming and operational management, consulting, and event production. Since its founding, Spectacle Live has worked with more than a dozen New England venues on facility management, and in promoting, marketing, and producing hundreds of concerts, comedy, civic, educational, theatrical, and family entertainment events. Spectacle Live has also been a valuable consulting partner to municipalities and non-profit venue owners, developers, programmers, and operators. Spectacle Live has offices in Lexington and Lowell, Mass. and Laconia. For more information, please contact Pete Lally, plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257. www.spectaclelive.com

Lakes Region Community Developers awarded Dental Assistance Grant from Northeast Delta Dental Foundation

LACONIA — Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD) is proud to announce they were recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation in support of LRCD's Dental Program.

LRCD's Dental Program helps LRCD realize its vision of a Lakes Region where everyone lives in a home that supports good physical, mental, and financial health and is empowered to reach their full potential.

As efforts continue to build a network of providers that meets the need for adults on Medicaid that are now eligible for dental care, LRCD's cost-share program helps LRCD tenants pay for dental services. The program provides matching payments up to \$1,000 per person per calendar year to help adult tenants pay for the dental care they need.

Since the program's inception, LRCD has provided more than \$24,000 in financial assistance to help 37 of their tenants afford the dental care they need. In nine of those cases, the tenants needed significant restorative work, as the state of their teeth was a barrier to them pursuing their goals either due to pain, or a lack of confidence. Grants to residents have been for fillings, crowns, root canals, extractions, dentures, x-rays, cleanings, and more. The program has motivated some participants to save for the other half of work that they are responsible for and take care of their dental health.

"We are so grateful for the support of the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation," says LRCD Executive Director, Carmen Lorentz. "Accessing and affording dental care can be a challenge, but it's so important to overall health. We are thankful for the support of Northeast Delta Dental and other funders in helping us continue our work in making dental care more accessible to our residents."

Jennifer McGrath, Manager, Foundation & Marketing Initiatives at Northeast Delta Dental, comments, "It is our mission to increase access to oral health care in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. We are pleased to support Lakes Region Community Developers and the work they do in the community."

About Lakes Region Community Developers
Lakes Region Community Developers' mission is to create opportunities for the Lakes Region to thrive by developing healthy homes, creating vibrant community assets, and engaging residents.

About Northeast Delta Dental Foundation
Since 1995, the philanthropic arm of Northeast Delta Dental, the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation has supported organizations and initiatives in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that provide oral health education and dental care to uninsured and underserved people. The mission of the Foundation is to advance the importance of good oral health and its role in overall wellness, underscoring the belief that everyone deserves a healthy smile. In 2023, the Foundation donated more than \$1.3 million for oral health programs throughout the tri-state area.

In addition, the company supports numerous organizations, events and initiatives important to the communities through a corporate grant application process. Visit NEDelta.com for more information.

Lakes Region Tourism Association announces awards & scholarship at Annual Meeting

MEREDITH — The Lakes Region Tourism Association recently held its annual meeting and celebration at Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith.

After a time of networking and refreshment, Executive Director Amy Landers welcomed members, sponsors and guests. She shared the association's marketing report, highlighting the marketing results for in-state; out of state and international visitors; groups and second home owners. Following her presentation, two Tourism Awards and scholarships to area students were awarded.

The Association's Tourism Award is presented each year to an individual or business that has made a difference in the past year to bring visitors into the Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire. The 2023 Tourism Award was presented to Karen Bassett. Karen established the New England Coffee Festival, a two-day event to bring together coffee enthusiasts, industry professionals and local communities in a joyous and immersive event. She created a unique

and inclusive platform where attendees can indulge in the art, science, and flavors of coffee, fostering a deeper appreciation for the craft and its impact on the region.

The evening wrapped up with the presentation of the Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award. This Association award is given to an individual who has made a long-standing dedication, commitment, and permanent contribution to the visitor industry, displaying leadership, and providing inspiration to others for many years.

This year, the 2023 Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award was presented to Kathy Fairman, a true Lakes Region historian and supporter of the community. Fairman established The Laker more than 40 years ago a successful events and entertainment publication distributed throughout New Hampshire. In 1987, she started Molly the Trolley. The Trolley has been introducing visitors to Wolfboro with narrated tours and special excursions in the Spring, Summer, and

Fall. Most recently, Jolly the Trolley was added to the fleet. She also created new Haunted Trolley Tours that have been very successful during the fall months. She offers dinner tours and along with trips to concerts and to local theatres.

The Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship was named in honor of Mildred Beach, who was the director of the Lakes Region Tourism Association for almost 50 years. She was involved in State Legislature and was very active in the tourism industry for the entire State. Dan Faust was presented with the Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship. Dan is a second-year student at Lakes Region Community College majoring in Culinary Arts. Raised in Salem, his passion for culinary arts blossomed during his time at Salem High School where he participated in the CTE culinary program. Gaining valuable experience from his first job as a line cook at Tuscan Market restaurant, Dan hopes to further his culinary career by delving more into the food truck industry after gradua-

tion next year.

Mel Borrin was the owner of Preferred Vacation Rentals and active in tourism organizations for many years. He served on various Boards for more than 30 years and was a Past President and Board of Director of our Association. Named in honor of Mel, the 2023 Mel Borrin Scholarship was awarded to Lakes Region Community College student, Kelsey Garnett. She has extensive career in the restaurant industry gaining experience from HUOT Tech (which in high school at Winisquam High School), Shalimar Resort, UNOs, Common Man, Breeze, and Greenside Restaurant. Garnett plans to graduate in the fall of 2024 and continue on to the Pastry Arts degree program.

The Lakes Region Tourism Association is a non-profit marketing organization representing more than 450 businesses that promotes the Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire year-round to bring more visitors that will have a positive economic impact on businesses.

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<p>If you want to make a big purchase, such as a new car or a piece of property, or you were faced with a large, unexpected expense, such as a major home or auto repair, would you have the funds readily available? If not, you might look at what may be your biggest pool of money — your 401(k) or IRA. But should you tap into these accounts well before you retire?</p> <p>Maybe not — and here's why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less money in retirement — The more money you invest in your retirement accounts, and the longer you keep it invested, the more you'll probably have when you need it most — when you're retired. Consequently, taking out sizable amounts from these accounts before you retire could be costly, as it would disrupt the benefits of compounding that can be achieved by holding investments for the long term. • Possible bump into higher tax 	<p>Avoid tapping into retirement savings early</p> <p>— The money you take out from your traditional IRA and 401(k) is taxable in the year of withdrawal. So, if you withdraw a significant amount of money at once from your traditional IRA or 401(k), you could be pushed into a higher tax bracket, at least for one year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax penalties — If you take money out of a 401(k) or traditional IRA before you turn 59½, you could face a 10% tax penalty, although some exceptions exist. Penalty-free withdrawals can be made for several reasons, including for education and medical expenses, first-time purchase of a home (up to \$10,000), after the birth or adoption of a child (up to \$5,000) and more (see irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557). With a Roth IRA, which is funded with after-tax dollars, you can withdraw contributions — but not earnings — at any time, for any purpose, without incurring penalties. 	<p>Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?</p> <p>One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than 59½. But even if you don't leave your job and you do repay the loan, you'll still have taken away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your</p>	<p>money compounds, you'll want to minimize disruptions.</p> <p>Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.</p> <p>Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.</p>	<p>Jacqueline Taylor Financial Advisor 3 Mill Street PO Box 176 Meredith NH 03253 603-279-3161 Fax 866-532-8685 jackqueline.taylor@edwardjones.com</p>
<p><small>This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation. Before investing in bonds, you should understand the risks involved, including credit risk and market risk. Bond investments are also subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, and the investor can lose principal value if the investment is sold prior to maturity.</small></p>				

Bulldogs come up short in first game of season



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kingswood's Keller Peacock attempts to knock the puck away from Belmont-Gilford's Brayden Mercier in action Dec. 11.



Evan Guerin scored the lone goal for the defending champion Bulldogs in the season opener on Dec. 11.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

LACONIA — A late goal in the first period seemed to give the defending Division III champion Belmont-Gilford Bulldogs a little momentum against Kingswood on Monday, Dec. 11.

However, the Knights took that momentum back in the second period, scoring a pair of goals and then added an empty-net goal in the third period to take the 3-1 win at Merrill Fay Arena.

Michael House had the first shot of the game for the Knights, with B-G's Carson McGreevy making the save. Belmont-Gilford also got an early power play chance less than a minute into the game. Dylan Cash had a good clear for the Knights and Jaxson Embree had a shot deflected for the Bulldogs. After Kingswood's Evan Harrington had a good steal and run into the zone, the hosts came back with a good chance in close, with Colton Byars finding Embree for a chance

in close that Kingswood keeper Jake Dubuc was able to stop.

Ben Libby had a shot for the Knights that was stopped by McGreevy and Harrington made a nice run into the zone, with Evan Guerin and Embree coming up with solid defensive stops. Nathan Gerbig had a shot go wide for B-G and then Ethan Girard and Cameron McClary each had chances for the champs that Dubuc stopped.

Aiden Stafford had a good centering pass chance that Kingswood's Kempes Corbally took the other way. Nate Cloos just missed connecting with Grayson Gilpatrick on a chance and Guerin and Embree connected on a chance that Dubuc stopped. Harrington and David Lehmann got in close for chances for the Knights and Guerin had a shot denied by Dubuc.

Embree continued to attack for the Bulldogs that Dubuc handled before the Bulldogs got on the board with 2:22 to go in the first period, with Guerin finishing off a scrum in front of the

net. Adam Ribeiro and Embree picked up the helpers on the first goal of the season for the defending champions.

Gilpatrick and McClary exchanged chances at opposite ends of the ice and Austin Emerson had a good defensive stop on Ribeiro, who also had another shot stopped by Dubuc. Belmont-Gilford got a power play chance with seven seconds to go and Gerbig had a late shot that Dubuc stopped and the game went to the first break with Belmont-Gilford up 1-0.

Belmont-Gilford had the power play to start the second quarter, but Harrington had a short-handed bid that McGreevy stopped. Gerbig came back with a bid that went wide for B-G and Cloos and Emerson connected for a short-handed bid to help kill off the penalty.

Ben Girard had a chance from the side of the net that Dubuc stopped and Gilpatrick came back with a bid through the crease for Kingswood. Cloos also sent a shot wide and

Corbally and Libby combined to get in close for a chance that McGreevy handled. Dubuc also stopped a close-in bid from Guerin and Embree.

The Bulldogs went on the power play with 10:19 to go in the second period but it was the Knights who got on the board, with Devin McEvoy breaking in alone on net to pot the tying goal with 9:02 to go. Cloos and Jackson O'Keefe picked up the assists on the goal. Cloos had a good clear to help kill off the rest of the B-G power play.

Emerson and Harrington connected on a bid that McGreevy stopped and Cloos and Ryder Shannon combined on another chance that McGreevy also stopped. McGreevy stopped another bid from Ethan Mosher and Keller Peacock sent a shot wide of the net. Byars had a good defensive clear on a Cloos centering pass.

With 3:39 to go in the second period, Rogers got the Knights the lead after Libby got a turn-

over in the zone and made a perfect feed in front and Rogers buried the puck into the open net for the 2-1 lead. Guerin had a bid go wide at the other end and B-G had another power play chance with 1:23 to go and Cloos had a clear before Ribeiro and Guerin had bids that were stopped and the period came to a close with Kingswood up 2-1.

The lone goal of the third period came from Emerson, who buried an empty-net goal in the final minutes of the game to seal the 3-1 win for the Knights.

Kingswood was in action after early holiday deadline against Pembroke-Campbell on Dec. 13, at Kearsarge-Plymouth on Dec. 16 at Berlin-Gorham on Dec. 20. The Knights are taking part in the Peter Hall

Holiday Tournament at Ham Arena in Conway, opening on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 4 p.m. against Berlin-Gorham and continuing on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 9:30 a.m. against Dover.

Belmont-Gilford was in action after the early holiday deadlines on Dec. 13 against Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes and Dec. 20 at Kennett. The Bulldogs are again hosting the Brady Sullivan Christmas Tournament at Merrill Fay Arena. They play Bishop Brady on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 1:15 p.m. and John Stark-Hopkinton on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 11 a.m.

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

Howland-Vlahakis earns XC All-Star honors

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

REGION — Local athletes were among those honored by being chosen for the New Hampshire Cross Country All-State Teams. The top 10 boys and girls from each division earn the honors.

In Division III for girls, Newfound's Emerald Briggs and Moultonborough's Adah Chapman were amongst the winners, while Newfound's Colin Foster and Gilford's Bocelli Howland-Vlahakis were honored on the boys' side. Howland-Vlahakis was also named to the All-State team, which is the top 10 across all divisions. He was the only freshman boy named to the team.

In Division II, Plymouth's Elli Englund was named to the girls' team.

Other honorees for Division III girls were Molly Ellison of Kearsarge, Jenna Fillion of Fall Mountain, Alanna Hagen of Newmarket, Madeleine Lane and Shaylee Murdough of Hopkinton, Bella Nero of Conant and Erin and Kaitlin O'Shea of Mascenic.

For the Division III boys, other honorees included Elijah Bodanza of Hillsboro-Deering, Matt Clarner and Ben Daniels of Hopkinton, Gunner Currier of Mascoma, Peyton Joslyn and Carlton Lampinen of Monadnock, Jonas Teeter of Portsmouth Christian and Ben Tetu of Fall Mountain.

Division II girls' honorees also included Haley Bezanson, Mackenzie and Madelyn Cook, Haley Kavanaugh and Neely Roy, all of Oyster River, Megan Faris, Lila Muirhead and Lea Perreard of Hanover and Samantha Swanbon of Souhegan.

Division II boys' winners were Taloosh Anderson and Owen Stine of Souhegan, Ryan Faris, Lucian Gleiser, Ben Groves and Andrew Valentino of Hanover, Jamie Lano and Sanjith Nomula of Coe-Brown, Jake Pitre of Sanborn and William Simard of Con-Val.

Hanover's Perreard and Bishop Guertin's Matthew Giardina were named the New Hampshire Runners of the Year, while the Oyster River girls and the Nashua South and Hanover boys were named Teams of the Year. Oyster River's Patrick O'Brien and Nashua South's Ryan Haggerty were named Coaches of the Year.

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

Timber Wolves get win for Peperissa in her coaching debut

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

RAYMOND — The Prospect Mountain girls' basketball team took to the road for the first game of the new season and got coach Cherie Peperissa her first win in her debut on the sidelines.

"I am so proud of them," Peperissa said. "They played their hearts out, played really hard and they played tough."

The Timber Wolves spotted the Rams the first four points of the game and didn't score

for almost the first three minutes before a Sophia Capsalis layup got the Timber Wolves on the board. They finished the quarter up by an 11-8 score and then led 30-17 at the halftime break. Prospect led 44-32 heading to the fourth and then closed out the 56-38 win.

Capsalis led the way for the Timber Wolves with 18 points, including a pair of three-pointers and also added eight steals. Senior Ella Smith finished with 13 points, including three three-pointers and also

led the team with five blocks. Freshman Ava Foster finished with 14 points in her varsity debut. Senior Aijah Thoroughgood and sophomore Maddie Miller each finished with 10 rebounds and five steals.

Peperissa and assistant coach Mark Anthony noted that the team got some strong contributions from the freshmen in their first game.

Prospect was in action after the early holiday deadlines on Dec. 12 at Winnisquam, Dec. 15 against Berlin and Dec. 18 at Newfound. The reg-

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Alpine Knights eager to hit the snow

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — Despite not seeing snow in the early part of the pre-season, the Kingswood alpine ski team hit the ground running as the new season kicked off.

“They’re working out hard,” said coach Kris Niiler of her squad. “It’s always hard to tell what you have until they’ve been on snow.”

The good news for Niiler is that she has a good portion of her team back from last year. The girls’ team has hopes of finishing in the top few teams of Division II, while the young boys’ team will be looking to make a little noise as well.

“For the girls, we have a lot of seniors back,” Niiler said. “And we have some kids that will step up.”

“The boys’ team is young, we were almost all freshmen last year



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Charlotte Ling and Bella Pickle are the team captains for the Kingswood alpine ski team this winter.

and this year we’re all freshmen and sophomores,” Niiler continued. “I’ll be happy if they find themselves in the top half of the division at the end of the year.”

“There’s talent there and kids who want to work hard,” the veteran

coach added.

On the girls’ side of things, the team is welcoming back Marina Roy, who was one of the top skiers two years ago before missing last year with an injury. Last year’s top skier, Addy Ingham, is also back for her sophomore cam-

paign.

Charlotte Ling and Bella Pickle are the team captains and they are joined in returning to the fold by Izzy Fournier and Sierra Rose.

“They all scored last year and any one of them can be a factor,” Niiler said.

The boys will have five freshmen and two sophomores on the roster. Thomas Bronson and Nate Demain both scored in meets last year as freshmen and will be counted on to help lead the way for the Knights.

Amongst the newcomers, freshman Kain

Benedict is a strong skier that Niiler knows from her time coaching at King Pine and she is interested to see how his talent moves to the high school level.

“It will be interesting to see what freshmen will be factors,” the Knight coach said. “We have some decent skiers.”

The Knights will ski in a pair of meets at King Pine, three at Cranmore and two at Gunstock before the state championships, which take place at Crotched Mountain and Cranmore.

The season kicked off after deadline Wednesday, Dec. 20, at King Pine. The next meet is scheduled for Jan. 5 at Cranmore.

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

Crane, Moulton to captain Kingswood boys’ hoop team

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — Coach Joe Faragher is excited to welcome back seven players from last year’s Kingswood boys’ hoop team and he is hoping their experience will help to bring along the younger kids in the new season.

“We have guys who have a lot of experience and that’s a good thing,” Faragher said. “That helps set the tone early on and it helps bring along the newer guys we kept on varsity.”

The Knights will have a larger varsity team, with 15 kids on the top team, led by senior Will Crane and sophomore Brady Moulton, who have been chosen as the captains.

“Will brings a little bit of everything, he was our leading scorer and rebounder down the stretch,” Faragher said. “He’s a tough kid who does the right thing for the team, he’s confident scoring off the drive or creating our scoring plays.”

“With Brady, we forget sometimes that he’s a sophomore because he does so much,” Faragher stated. “He’s arguably our best scorer and the ball is in his hands a lot.”

The Knights will also be welcoming back seniors Emerson DeNitto, Brady Clarke and Curtis Cloos along with sophomores Thomas Benker and Kolby Brown, while juniors Caden Laing, Noah Leighton and Hayden Eastman were strong at the JV level last year and will be asked to step into larger roles



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Brady Moulton and Will Crane are the captains for the Kingswood boys’ basketball team this winter.

on the varsity team this year.

“We’ve got a lot of mouths to feed, but we can only play five guys,”

the large group in practice will benefit us in the long term while still creating opportunities in the short term for the

program.”

The Knights will be playing two games each with Kennett, Manchester West and Coe-

Brown and single games against Oyster River, Hollis-Brookline, Bow, Lebanon, Plymouth, Bishop Brady, Laconia,

Milford, John Stark, Con-Val, Hanover and Merrimack Valley.

The season kicked off against Kennett on Dec. 12, and continued after early holiday deadlines on Friday, Dec. 15, against Oyster River and Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Hollis-Brookline. The 2023 portion of the regular season closes out on Friday, Dec. 22, at home against Manchester West at 6:30 p.m.

The Knights will be taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford, starting on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 4 p.m. against defending Division IV champion Woodsville. The Knights play again on Thursday, Dec. 28, also at 4 p.m. against either Gilford or Plymouth.

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

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Faragher stated. “But



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OBITUARY

Constance J. Williams, 85



Constance J. (Trombly) Williams, age 85, passed peacefully at Granite VNA, passed peacefully at Granite VNA Hospice House in Concord, New Hampshire on Thursday, December 7, 2023. She was born in Manchester, New Hampshire on March 8, 1938. She was the daughter of the late Frank H. and Mary E. (Shea) Trombly.

She was a student at Mt. St. Mary Seminary and after graduation went on to nursing school at Sacred Heart School of Nursing. After several years of service at Manchester's Eliot Hospital, she then went on to continue her career in Human Resources. Connie was an HR professional initially for Digital Equipment Corp (DEC) and 17 years later retiring from Hewlett Packard (HP).

Connie married the late Cecil A. Williams in the Spring of 1981. That took her from Nashua to Litchfield and ultimately New Durham, NH.

She leaves behind a daughter, Catherine Mary (Sullivan) Schofield and her husband Kirkland Schofield now of New Durham, NH. Her son, John S. Sullivan Jr. and his wife Carrie Sullivan of Nashua as well as Step-Daughters Cristen Ann (Williams) Santa and her husband Alan Santa of Olathe, KS and Cherie Williams also of Olathe, KS.

The joy of her life was her 10 grandchildren. Including: Sheala C. DeCiccio, Samuel R. Schofield and his wife Paige (Fleming) Schofield, John Alexander Schofield, Aidan J. Sullivan, John S. Sullivan III, Caroline J. Sullivan, Jacob C. Sloan, Hannah R. Sloan, Avery M. Sloan and EmmaLynn R. Williams.

She was also blessed to have three great-grandchildren including: Lacey and Finley Schofield and Audryana DeCiceo.

Connie was dedicated to her community. She was an active parishioner as a Eucharistic Minister at both St. Francis Assisi Parish in Litchfield, NH and St. Katherine Drexel Parish in Alton, NH. While a parishioner at St. John's in Hudson, NH she started a holiday tradition known as COOKIE DAY for the mentally handicapped (later known as Rainbow Seekers).

As a proud NH native she enjoyed all this state has to offer. She water-skied and snow skied. She enjoyed Merrymeeting Lake, Baxter Lake and Lake Winnepesaukee. Going out to eat in Wolfeboro after church on a Saturday was one of her favorite things to do. She loved a good boat ride looking and listening for loons all while watching her grandchildren learn to waterski, just like her.

The entire family would like to thank the staff at Granite VNA Hospice House, Catholic Medical Center and Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro, NH. The dedicated staff helped Connie through these past several months.

Calling hours at Lambert Funeral Home & Crematory, 1799 Elm St, corner of North St, Manchester, will be Tuesday, December 19th from 4 to 7 pm. An additional hour of visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 20th from 10 to 11 am at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 40 Hidden Springs Road, Alton, NH followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Katherine Drexel Religious Education Program, 40 Hidden Spring Drive, Alton, NH 03809. Donations can also be made to Granite VNA Hospice House, 240 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301.

To send an online message of condolence, please go to www.lambertfuneralhome.com.

MANIA

(continued from Page A1)

nity Challenge has 360 participants who raise money throughout the year.

The new Pub Mania also marked a change in how some operations were handled. Beetle said Pub Mania used to handle all the event's cash management, now team captains bring the funds they raised to any Meredith Village Savings Bank branch to have them handled.

The event had a large slate of entertainers including bands and comedian Juston McKinney.

"Today is going to be probably the most entertainment we've probably had in our 30 years at Patrick's Pub," Beetle said.

Former Laconia mayor Mike Seymour, the "Mayor of Pub Mania" read a " 'Twas the Night Before Pub Mania" based on the words of "The Night Before Christmas."

Seymour talked about the Children's Auction's staying power, which he said is something a lot of events don't have.

Opening ceremonies also honored Children's Auction founder Warren Bailey, who started the auction in a van in downtown Laconia while working as a DJ at WLNH.

Seymour credited Bailey with the vision and dedication to keep this going.

"One thing remained constant and that was one person everyone looked up to," Seymour said.

Bailey was a special guest at the opening ceremonies. He said when

he started the event 42 years ago he examined the question of how many paychecks can a family afford to miss. He said there are many people in the community who can't afford to miss one.

While doing the auction during the 1980's, a man came up to him during those early years and wanted to donate \$10, but looked like he was in need of it more. Bailey offered to give it back but was refused.

"He said, 'No, there's somebody that needs this \$10 more than me,'" Bailey said.

Bailey said an event like this shows how much love there is in the world.

"There's a lot of hate in the world, well come to Patrick's and Pub Mania this year and you're going to see nothing but love," Bailey said.

Beetle announced that a scholarship was founded in Bailey's name. The Warren Bailey Community Service Scholarship will present \$5,000 each year to a graduating high school senior with a record of community service.

After the opening ceremonies Bailey said he was amazed by the announcement.

"That's just amazing; it takes my breath away," he said.

Bailey said there was a lot of love in that room from so many people supporting the community.

Money from the Children's Auction goes to several organizations around the Lakes Region. Representatives from Lakes Region Mental Health and Lakes Region Child Advocacy Services spoke about the work of their organizations and how it has benefitted children and families.

Local athletes earn LEC All-Academic honors at Plymouth State

PLYMOUTH — The Little East Conference (LEC) announced 68 Plymouth State University student-athletes competing in the league's fall championship sports have been named to the 2023 LEC Fall All-Academic Team.

To earn LEC All-Academic Team honors a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore in the classroom, have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher through the completion of the previous semester and have been at their current institution for at least one full academic year.

A total of 417 student-athletes league-wide were recognized in the sports of men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's golf, men's and women's soccer, women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

Plymouth State's 68 honorees were the most in the conference. VTSU Castleton (65) and Southern Maine (62) rounded out the top three, while Eastern Connecticut had 51.

The conference's winter and spring sport All-Academic Teams will be announced following the conclusion of their respective championship seasons.

Local athletes on the list include Plymouth's Michael Kulig (cross country), Alton's Amber Fernald (cross country), Campton's Taylor Healey (field hockey), Whitefield's Brayden White (soccer), Gilford's Alyssa Craigie (tennis), Meredith's Amelia Brown (tennis), Gilford's Riley McDonough (volleyball) and Gilford's Lindsey Sanderson (volleyball).



The teams were back around the barstools at Patrick's for the return of Pub Mania.



Mike Seymour, the Mayor of Pub Mania, speaks at opening ceremonies.

Some team leaders also talked about the importance of the event.

Lisa Cornish, team captain for Crossfit Juggernaut, talked about how the money from the Children's Auction benefitted her family. She said she was in a position of being a mom and not knowing how she would get her child a jacket. Her family received support from local organizations and now she and her family are giving back to the community.

"We were that family in need and thus auction is so near and dear to my heart," Cornish said.

Her daughter Anna Terry is now captain of her own team.

The Community Chal-

lenge wrapped around 11 p.m. on Thursday.

The next day, teams from The Community Challenge presented a check for the money raised through the year to the auction.

Community Challenge chair Jen Beetle thanked all those involved with the Challenge and Pub Mania.

"We are just so inspired by what Warren created, what the board is carrying on, how the volunteers make all of this happen, the bidders too they're rly important," she said.

The team then unveiled a check for \$356,456, a record amount of money raised.

ALTON

(continued from Page A1)

main in the water as long as safely possible to provide emergency services," read the post. "The trigger for us is night time temps consistently below freezing with daytime temps consistently at or under 40. These conditions will start to promote ice buildup in the areas of the boat launches."

If any incidents occur on the water the department still has its small inflatable boat available for response. Alton FD also has an air boat to use when ice develops on the lake.

The department also reported on Facebook that 2023 saw an increase in call volume, which has been increasing steadily over the past three years.

As of Dec. 11, the department responded to 1,100 incidents thus far in 2023, exceeding last year's call volume even with three weeks left in the year. The department has had a 10 percent increase in call volume each year since 2020, with an average of three calls a day. The department is responding

to these calls while also continuing its education, training and maintaining equipment.

"Ensuring these incidents are handled is a combined effort of full time and part time staff who are passionate and dedicated to the profession and community!" read the department's post. "We appreciate all of your continued support as we work to meet the needs of our growing community!"

The department also continues to receive support from its association.

The Alton Fire Department also posted that it has received two new Cascade rescue litters over the past six months from the Alton Fireman's Association with a value of more than \$10,000. The department recently received its second litter, which will be used to carry people out of wooded areas including Mount Major as well as technical rescues. The first one was put on the fireboat.

The department posted that these litters are much lighter which results in less strain for responders.

Church Service SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT HARVEST FAMILY CHURCH
Sunday School for children up to age 12, service 10:30 a.m. Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main St., Union.
Pastors Daniel and Sherrin Williams, 473-8914.
For more information, please visit abundant Harvest.org or e-mail ahbf@faith.com.

ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER
Sundays throughout the summer 10am & 7pm, 875-6161.

BEFREE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ALTON
Alton-9:30 a.m. Sun. Meeting at Prospect Mountain High School. Pastor Ben Ruhl, www.befreechurch.net.

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship Service 10:00am
Bible Study 11:15am
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centerbarnstead.org

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The Gilmanton Community Church
1863 NH Route 140, Gilmanton Ironworks, NH
ccopraisegathering@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALTON
Pastor Jared Cassidy
10am Worship service Sunday
20 Church St Alton
(603) 875-5561
www.ccoaalon.com

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ccnorthbarnstead.com

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CHAMPS

(continued from Page A1)

points of the game, with Cooper Perkins netting the first pair of baskets of the season and Brendan Baldi and Logan Grant followed with hoops for the 8-0 lead.

Chris Biancardi got Winnisquam on the board with a three-pointer and Frankie McComiskey drained a hoop to cut the lead to 8-5. However, Grant and Henry Sleeper closed out the quarter with hoops for the visitors and Gilford led 12-5 at the end of one quarter of play.

Perkins put back a rebound to start the second quarter and then Carter Gelo hit a hoop and Baldi drained a three-pointer. Two free throws from Perkins gave Gilford a 21-5 lead before Caleb Robdau

sunk a three-pointer for the Bears to get them on the board with what would end up being their only points of the quarter.

Baldi answered with a three and after Perkins hit another basket, Baldi drained another three and Mark Uicker got in on the action with a three-pointer to send the Golden Eagles to the halftime break with a 32-8 lead.

B a c k - t o - b a c k three-pointers by Zach St. Onge and Biancardi got the Bears out to the quick start in the third quarter. Perkins hit a pair of free throws at the other end of the court before St. Onge finished off a nice feed from Biancardi for two more points for the Bears, closing the gap to 34-16.

That would be it in the frame for the Bears,

as Gilford closed the quarter on a 14-0 run to put things away. Perkins started the run with a bucket and Sleeper followed with a three-pointer. Perkins added a free throw and Sleeper added another three before Grant drained two from the line. Sleeper added a free throw and a putback to close out the quarter and Gilford led 48-16 heading to the final eight minutes.

Ethan Poole got the first basket of the fourth quarter for Winnisquam before Sleeper answered for Gilford. McComiskey drained another basket for the Bears but Sleeper came back with a hoop and a foul shot for the 53-20 lead.

Biancardi and Robdau went back-to-back from downtown before Gilford's Emmett Hughes put back a re-

bound. McComiskey got another hoop for Winnisquam but Jackson Gelo hit a three-pointer and a field goal and Hughes added another basket as Gilford closed out the 62-28 win.

"We got some good competition in the scrimmages and we got better every day," Acquilano said. "We'll just keep doing that."

"We're still trying to determine who we are, but we learned a little about ourselves today and there's more to learn," he continued.

"We got a little better ball movement and some nice passes in the second half," said Dame. "You have to have that earlier so you can feel good about yourself."

"This was a terrible and a good game to start because you know where you are at the end," the

Bear coach continued. "We've got work to do, but whether we lost by five or by 50, it's still just one loss."

Gilford was in action after the early holiday deadline at Somersworth on Dec. 12, against Newfoundland on Dec. 15 and against Inter-Lakes on Dec. 19. The Golden Eagles wrap up 2023's regular season at Stevens on Friday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

Winnisquam was also in action after the early holiday deadlines at Prospect Mountain on Dec. 12 and at home against St. Thomas on Dec. 19. They will finish 2023's regular season at Mascoma today, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Both teams are taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford. Winnisquam opens against Newfoundland at 1 p.m. on

Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Gilford opens against Plymouth at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Both teams play the next day at the same times against opponents to be determined.

GHS 12-20-16-14-62
WRHS 5-3-8-12-28

Gilford 62

Baldi 4-0-11, Sleeper 6-2-16, Perkins 5-5-15, Grant 2-2-6, J. Gelo 1-1-5, Uicker 1-0-3, C. Gelo 1-0-2, Hughes 2-0-4, Totals 23-9-62

Winnisquam 28

Biancardi 3-0-8, St. Onge 2-0-5, McComiskey 3-0-7, Robdau 2-0-6, Poole 1-0-2, Totals 11-0-28

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

Kingswood athletes set goals for the winter season

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — The month of December kicked off at Kingswood with the annual media night on Thursday, Dec. 7.

The annual event features the chance for winter sports athletes to get their team photos, senior head shots and more. It also gave members of each team the chance to talk about their teams.

The first team to the table was the alpine ski team, represented by captains Charlotte Ling and Bella Pickle.

"We've been working hard to get everyone into shape," Ling said of the preseason dryland training. "We want to build more muscle to get us ready for the season."

"The goal is to practice hard and show up and give 110 percent," Pickle pointed out.

Boys' hockey was next, represented by captains Grayson Gilpatrick, Austin Emerson and David Lehmann.

"The ultimate goal is winning the championship," said Gilpatrick, who went on to explain how the Knights hoped to accomplish that. "Dedication, hard work, putting in the time and not falling behind if something doesn't go your way."

"We've been working hard in the weight room, pushing ourselves to the limit," Emerson said. "We're taking time out of the day to get better and we're pushing each other."

"I've definitely seen how much we're pushing each other to be better every practice," Lehmann said. "And you could definitely see us all coming together."

Four members of the girls' hockey team took the podium next. The Knights will be joined by athletes from Prospect Mountain High School



Kingswood athletes pose for a photo at the winter sports media night on Dec. 7.

JOSHUA SPAULDING

as a cooperative team for the first time this winter.

"It's been going really well, we're getting to know each other well and working together as a team really well," said junior Jenny Baldwin. "We're not divided at all."

"We're working really well together," said sophomore Brynn Demers. "We've come together as a family."

"The goal is to have Prospect Mountain and Kingswood be as one," said freshman Adelle Harrington. "And to go to the playoffs."

"It's awesome that Kingswood opened up and gave us a chance to try a new sport," said Prospect Mountain junior Juliette West. "We've all come together and it's nice getting to know the Kingswood girls."

"It is very exciting to see," said senior Addison Blattenberger, who has been on the team for four years. "It's been nice seeing how we've come together. We click

really well together."

Four juniors came to the table for the Kingswood cheerleading team, which has seen some large numbers this winter.

"We have a really big team and everything has been good so far," said Norah Brown. "Everybody is willing to do what they're asked and we're going to have a real good season."

"The numbers help with stunt groups, we can get more flyers in the air," said Morgan Sprince. "Our routines will look bigger and we can be louder in the stands."

"We want to do sharp and strong routines and make sure we've got it down," said Kaitlyn Beaulieu. "We want to be confident in the routine and we want to get a pyramid up."

"It allows for more creativity and more ideas with the large group," said Macyn Letoile. "It will be a better season with so many more people."

will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include lunch and an admissions tour.

The Panther Soccer ID Clinics and Camps offer high school players the opportunity to train and play in the Plymouth State environment while gaining insight into the college recruitment process. Participants will also learn what it takes to succeed physically, emotionally, technically, and tactically at the collegiate level. Additionally, attendees will receive a PSU soccer shirt and post-clinic access to video footage from the two technical/tactical training sessions.

The clinics are run by head coaches Rob Wright and Peter Simonini and their coaching staffs and are limited to 28 participants.

Registration links, detailed information and camp brochure can be found on the department website at athletics.plymouth.edu/camps.

Captains Maura Davy and Madison Eaton represented the girls' basketball team.

"Everybody has been working hard, putting in all the effort," said Davy. "It's nice to see all my teammates and the skills that they have."

"We have a really strong team, we have a lot of good players back and that helps," said Eaton, who missed last season after suffering an injury in the season opener. "We have good upper classmen mentoring with the younger girls, everyone has the drive and the commitment is the key."

The boys' basketball team was represented by captains Brady Moulton and Will Crane.

"It feels pretty good," said Moulton. "We've still got some work to do, it's a process, but it's a long season."

"Longevity and always getting better every game," said Crane of the team's goals. "Getting those Ws in the book and getting over the top in

games we could've won last year and didn't."

For the indoor track team, seniors Jacob Krantz and Emily Matos took to the table.

"I've been running outside a lot to get ready," said Krantz, noting that the distance runners have been trying to get outside while other groups work indoors.

"A great goal for us is for everyone to improve from where they started," said Matos.

The final team up was the wrestling team, represented by captains Stephen Lawrence, Corey Chapman and Joel Ingle.

"We've been working hard in the preseason and had the first match with Kearsarge and Mascenic and beat Mascenic," Lawrence said. "With the kids who've been sticking with it the

last few years, it looks like we're going to have a successful team this year."

"In the case of numbers, last year we had five to seven kids and we're up to 15, more than double the amount, that's good for us," Chapman said. "That allows us to be more competitive in matches and get more wins with no forfeits."

"The goal is to start winning more matches, hopefully getting a few state championships and making states as a team," Ingle said. "We want to get more young guys going and get a good foundation."

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

PSU soccer programs announce upcoming clinics

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth State University men's and women's soccer programs have released the details of the 2024 Panther Soccer ID Clinic and Camps, geared toward high school players aged 16-and-up with an interest in playing at the collegiate level.

Half-day clinics are set for Sunday, March 24. The boys' clinic will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., with the girls' clinic running from 2:15 to 5:30 p.m. An optional, joint admissions tour for both groups is scheduled from 1 to 2 p.m.

The full-day camps are set for Thursday, July 18 (boys) and Friday, July 19 (girls). The full-day camps

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TOWN OF NEW DURHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at New Durham Town Hall

7:00 PM Revise Zoning Ordinance Article VI

7:30 PM Revise Zoning Ordinance Article XIV

You are hereby notified that a hybrid Public Hearing will be held in person and over Zoom by the New Durham Planning Board on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The hearing is to Revise Article VI relative to septic tank setbacks and Article XIV of the Zoning Ordinance relative to non-conforming structures within the 75-foot Waterfront Setback in New Durham. The full revision of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review during normal business hours at the New Durham Town Offices. If you have any questions on the Zoom meeting, please contact the Land Use Assistant at ndlanduse@newdurhamnh.us or the Planning Board.

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

7:00 PM @ NEW DURHAM TOWN HALL

You are hereby notified that a hybrid Public Hearing will be held in person and over Zoom by the New Durham Planning Board on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The hearing is regarding a Conditional Use Permit within the Residential, Agricultural, Recreational Zoning District and the Shore Front Conservation Area and Steep Slopes Conservation District submitted by Stephanie L. Richard of Changing Seasons Engineering, PLLC, on behalf of William F. and Stacey A. Shanahan for Map 114, Lot 069, at 345 South Shore Road, New Durham, NH. The full application is on file at the New Durham Town Offices for review during normal business hours. If you have any questions on Zoom meeting, please contact the Land Use Assistant at ndlanduse@newdurhamnh.us or the Planning Board.

Upcoming events at First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro

WOLFEBORO — The First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro has announced its schedule of events and services for the month of December. The worship services on Sundays will explore the Christian theme of redemption through “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens.

Interim Pastor Donna Muise introduced her sermon series on Dec. 3, which was followed by a High Tea and reading of an abridged version of “A Christmas Carol” on Dec. 6. Future services will continue to discuss the transformation of Scrooge from a life of self centered indifference to a God-centered compassion for those who are less fortunate. All Sunday worship services will include traditional Advent and Christmas music provided by the voice and bell choirs under the direction of Andy Campbell.

A “longest night of the year” worship service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Cate Park, in downtown Wolfeboro. Come for a quiet introspective communal experience of the longest night of the year. Come and tenderly worship, with special remembrances of our griefs and losses. Attendees are asked to bring a donation of winter hats, gloves, or mittens. Everyone is invited to attend. Dress warmly and comfortably, and perhaps bring a hot beverage. If the weather is nasty, the service may be moved to the church sanctuary.

Christmas Eve services will begin with a celebration of the fourth Sunday of Advent at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a candlelight service at 7 p.m. The evening service will be full of favorite carols and a special time for the children. Worship will be lessons and carols with

beautiful musical accompaniment of the choirs. The evening will conclude with a candlelight ritual while singing both “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.”

On New Year’s Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, the 10 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary will consist of an intergenerational hymn sing. FCCW will be hosting several entertainment events later in the day as part of Wolfeboro’s Last Night Celebration.

All are invited to attend these events. The Sunday services begin at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is available for children. The church is located at 115 South Main St., Wolfeboro, across from the Carpenter School. FCCW is an open and affirming community. The motto is no matter who you are or where you are on your life’s journey, you are welcomed here. The building is handicapped accessible. For further information about FCCW or these events, please consult wolfeboroucc.org, or call the church office at 569-1555.

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	12 Alton Mountain Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$330,000	Rand Hill Realty LLC	Danita and James D. Blood
Alton	157 Alton Mountain Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$440,000	Mary E. Longabaugh RET	Peter M. and Shelley A. Diruso
Alton	28 Church St.	Multi-Family Residence	\$556,000	Robert Flannery	Mcdall LLC
Alton	Lily Pond Road	N/A	\$186,000	Aka Property Buyers LLC	Julie C. and Kelley J. Schevis
Alton	90 Rattlesnake Island	Single-Family Residence	\$410,000	Richard L. and Donna L. Dolan	Christopher M. Leger
Barnstead	15 Emerson Dr.	Single-Family Residence	\$360,000	Rosemary and Steven Costanzo	Lynn and Christopher Beatrice
Barnstead	Locke Lake Colony Lot 285 N/A		\$383,000	JC Custom Homes LLC	Kneisley Fiscal Trust and Frederick D. Kneisley
Barnstead	Locke Lake Colony Lot 135 N/A		\$330,000	Ambyr Adjutant	Joseph L. Duran
Barnstead	Route 28	N/A	\$235,000	Louis E. Eckhardt	Theresa Hill and Kevin Catania
Barnstead	Varney Road	Residential Open Land	\$30,000	Rose M. Marujo and Philip M. Carey	Patrick and Kirstin Fleming
Gilford	152 Old Lake Shore Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$394,000	Robert, Jr. and Charielle Hallowell	Julie C. Schevis and Colin O'Connor
Gilmanton	Gale Road	N/A	\$407,000	Sandra Grant	Nathaniel and Sara Vanorden
Gilmanton	31 Mallard Ave.	Single-Family Residence	\$280,000	Raymond J. Tourville and Joanne M. Hoyle	Michael A. Hitchcock and Stephen R. McGee
Gilmanton	103 Potter Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$400,000	Energized Line Construction LLC	Carl and Julia Potter
Gilmanton	Sargent Road	N/A	\$75,000	Kristine M. Faulkingham	Kenneth S. and Melissa K. Brace

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 Ad-

ministration 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

Gilford Community Church serves more than holiday cheer

GILFORD — While Gilford Community Church (GCC) celebrates the holiday season with various family-friendly activities and events, "giving back" is of central importance.

"Our entire congregation gets involved in various initiatives that address community needs," said GCC Pastor Michael Graham.

One of these initiatives is GCC's annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Bag drive, which provides local community members with nonperishables and grocery store gift cards. GCC also participates in The Christmas Angel Program in which members can grant wishes from local families. In the past few years, the program has focused on the homeless, supporting local shelters with fresh sheets, towels, and comforters.

"The list of families comes from the Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul, or from within our church community," explained Judy Cook, GCC outreach committee member. "We also do the PJ project from St Vincent DePaul where we put out a request to the GCC community to purchase pajamas of a particular size for families in need."

For Graham, the holidays represent an opportunity for all GCC members to personally embody the true spirit of the holiday season.

"We must give of ourselves, especially during the holidays, which mark the beginning of the toughest time of year for our most vulnerable community members," he said.

GCC is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. To learn more about GCC, or virtually attend service, visit gilfordcommunitychurch.org.

HELP WANTED

For Advertising Information
Call 603-279-4516
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Do you love snow? Do you have a can-do attitude? Are you reliable and punctual? Join our team of per diem snow plow drivers to clear parking lots, roadways, and travel paths on the Carroll County complex. Successful candidates will have a valid driver's license and insurable driving record and the ability to be flexible. After all, snow knows no schedule.

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www.carrollcountynh.net.

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Ucvh-hr@ucvh.org
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SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK WANTED

The Shaker Regional School Board is accepting letters of interest for the position of School District Clerk.

The duties of the School District Clerk are similar to those of a town clerk as they relate to the transcribing minutes for the annual Deliberative Session, overseeing and facilitating the ballot/election process, assisting the District Moderator as needed and certifying election results.

Registered voters from the towns of Belmont and Canterbury who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter of interest, with qualification, experience and other pertinent information to:

Shaker Regional School Board
 58 School Street
 Belmont, NH 03220

Letters of interest shall be accepted until such time as the position is filled.

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE WORKER

Shaker Regional School District's Food Service Department has an immediate opening for a Food Service Worker at Belmont High School, 5-1/2 hours/day. Pay is \$13.71 per hour. Duties include, but are not limited to, prep work, serving, cleaning, washing dishes and pots/pans, and other tasks directed by the Kitchen Manager. Ability to lift up to 40 pounds. Prior experience in the food service industry is preferred, but not necessary. The successful candidate must be able to work in a fast paced, ever changing environment and perform as a team player.

Applications may be found on the Shaker Regional School District website or can be picked up at the SAU Office at 58 School Street; Belmont, NH 03220. Successful completion, with satisfactory results, of a criminal background check, including fingerprints, is required. Please contact Nancy Cate, Director of Food Service at 603-267-6525 ext. 1352, if you have any questions.



Full-Time Installers Apprentice

Energysavers Inc, a 48 year old hearth & spa product retailer in the Lakes Region, is looking for a motivated individual that wants to learn the trade of installing hearth products. You must be comfortable working on roofs when necessary and able to work with an installer to move heavy items. Energysavers pays for all educational costs to get and maintain NFI wood, gas and pellet certifications as well as a NH gas fitters license for gas hearth installations and service. Starting pay, \$18-\$20 hour based on experience.

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No prior experience required.
 Must have a valid driver's license and pass the pre-employment drug screening.

Stop in to fill out an application:

Energysavers Inc,
163 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith NH

Gilford swimmers kick off the season at UNH



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Gilford swim team competed in the first meet of the season on Dec. 10 in Durham.

DURHAM — The Gilford swim team's season is under way and the team attended its first swim meet Sunday, Dec. 10, at the University of New Hampshire.

The season starts with eight swimmers on the team; freshmen Audrey Bondaz, Bailey Juurlink-Gagne and Elise Graton, sophomore Alyssa McK-

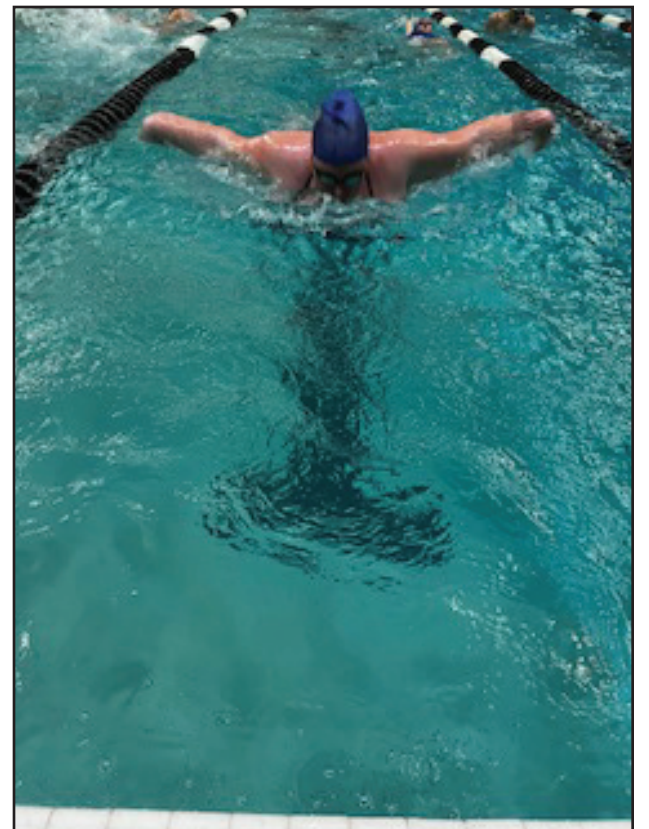
enna, juniors Megan Legro and Natalie Clay, and seniors Elise Bartley and Bridget Wilcox.

The first meet was held at UNH with 15 teams competing. Graton, McKenna, Bartley and Juurlink-Gagne started off the meet with event one, the 200-medley relay, posting a time of 2:53.17. Wilcox swam



the 200 free with a time of 2:46.29, a personal best with an almost six-second improvement. Seven swimmers competed in the sprint 50-yard freestyle. Graton finished in

30.11, Bartley in 31.16, Legro in 32.72, McKenna in 39.27, Bondaz in 39.86, Juurlink-Gagne in 41.20, and Clay in 42.84. This marked an improved time for Bartley and



McKenna.

McKenna then made an almost four-second improvement in her 100-yard backstroke swim. Also swimming backstroke were Bartley, Juurlink-Gagne and Bondaz. Four swimmers competed in the 100 free, including Graton (1:02.24), Wilcox (1:16.70), Legro (1:19.80) and Clay

1:41.81). All eight swimmers raced in the second re-

lay, the 200-yard freestyle relay. The team of Graton, McKenna, Wilcox and Bartley came in 10th place overall. Clay, Juurlink-Gagne, Legro and Bondaz placed 17th overall to round out the meet.

Coach Dave Gingrich noted that the team did well for their first meet, especially since it was the first meet ever for three swimmers.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Dec. 21

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops at Raymond; 6:30

Girls' Hoops vs. Raymond; 6

WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops at Mascoma; 6:30

Girls' Hoops vs. Mascoma; 7

Friday, Dec. 22

GILFORD

Boys' Hoops at Stevens; 7

Girls' Hoops vs. Stevens; 6:30

Saturday, Dec. 23

BELMONT

Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

GILFORD

Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

WINNISQUAM

Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

Tuesday, Dec. 26

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops vs. Coe-Brown (Farmington Tourney); 3:15

Girls' Hoops vs. Kennett (Farmington Tourney); 4:30

BELMONT-GILFORD

Hockey vs. Bishop Brady (Holiday Tourney); 1:15

WINNISQUAM

Hockey vs. Pembroke-Campbell (Holiday Tourney); 3:15

Wednesday, Dec. 27

BELMONT-GILFORD

Hockey vs. John Stark-Hopkinton (Holiday Tourney); 11

GILFORD

Boys' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 4

Girls' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 2:30

WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Tourney); 1

Girls' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Tourney); 11:30

Hockey vs. Kearsarge-Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 5

Wrestling at Hubie Wagner Tourney; TBD

Thursday, Dec. 28

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Farmington Tourney); 5:45

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Farmington Tourney); 4:30

BELMONT-GILFORD

Hockey at Holiday Tourney; TBD

GILFORD

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Holiday Tourney); 4

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Holiday Tourney); 2:30

WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 1

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 11:30

Hockey at Holiday Tourney; TBD

Wrestling at Hubie Wagner Tourney; TBD

All schedules are subject to change.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Dec. 21

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6

Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 6

Friday, Dec. 22

KENNETT

Boys' Hoops at Merrimack Valley; 6:30

Girls' Hoops vs. Merrimack Valley; 6

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hoops vs. Manchester West; 6:30

Girls' Hoops at Concord Christian; 6

Saturday, Dec. 23

KENNETT

Indoor Track at UNH; 10

KINGSWOOD

Indoor Track at UNH; 10

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

Tuesday, Dec. 26

KENNETT

Boys' Hockey vs. Somersworth-Coe-Brown (Peter Hall Tourney); 6

Boys' Hoops vs. Portsmouth Christian (Farmington Tourney); 5:45

Girls' Hoops vs. Belmont (Farmington Tourney); 4:30

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hockey vs. Berlin-Gorham (Peter Hall Tourney); 4

Wednesday, Dec. 27

KENNETT

Boys' Hockey vs. Western Maine (Peter Hall Tourney); 5:50

Boys' Hoops vs. Derryfield (Farmington Tourney); 11

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hockey vs. Dover (Peter Hall Tourney); 9:30

Boys' Hoops vs. Woodsville (Gilford Tourney); 4

Girls' Hoops vs. Woodsville (Gilford Tourney); 2:30

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Boys' Hoops vs. Laconia (Gilford Tourney); 1

Girls' Hoops vs. Laconia (Gilford Tourney); 11:30

Thursday, Dec. 28

KENNETT

Boys' Hockey at Peter Hall Tourney; TBD

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Farmington Tourney); 3:15

KINGSWOOD

Boys' Hockey at Peter Hall Tourney; TBD

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 4

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 2:30

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN

Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 1

Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 11:30

All schedules are subject to change.

ALTON POLICE LOG

ALTON — The Alton Police Department responded to 173 calls for service during the week of Dec. 3-9, including two arrests.

-1 Male Subject was arrested for Felon in Possession of Dangerous Weapon and Receiving Stolen Property.

-1 Male Subject was arrested on a Warrant and for Possession of Controlled Drug.

There were 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents.

There were 5 Suspicious Person/Activity Reports on (2) Muchado Hill Road, Main Street, Suncook Valley Road and DOT 3 Street.

Police made 63 Motor Vehicle Stops and handled 9 Motor Vehicle Complaint-Incidents.

There were 92 other calls for services that consisted of the following: 5 Assist Fire Department, 4 Employment Fingerprinting, 2 Assist Other Agency, 3 Animal Complaints, 1 Missing/Runaway Juvenile, 6 General Assistance, 1 Wanted Person/Fugitive, 3 Alarm Activations, 3 Lost/Found Properties, 2 Highway/Roadway Hazards, 1 Business/Property Check, 3 Wellness Checks, 3 Disabled Motor Vehicles, 12 Directed Patrols, 2 Follow-Up Reporting, 1 K-9 Call/Response, 2 Motor Vehicle Lockouts, 5 Medical Assists, 32 Property Checks and 1 Paperwork Service.

GILFORD POLICE LOG

GILFORD — The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 4-12.

Christopher M. Lopes, age 30, of Farmington was arrested on Dec. 4 for Suspension of Vehicle Registration.

Christopher John Aiken, age 45, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 5 for Driving After Revocation or Suspension.

Steven Kilcollins, age 59, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 5 for DUI-Impairment.

Christopher James Snyder, age 34, of Gilford was arrested on Dec. 8 for Driving After an Administrative Suspension of License.

Dustan Louis Lizotte, age 39, of Belmont was arrested on Dec. 9 in connection with multiple bench warrants.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Ralph

Meet Ralph! This goofball is such a sweetheart and brings so much joy to the staff and volunteers here at the facility. He loves meeting new people and is always curious of other doggos. Ralph does have an autoimmune disease that requires treatment by daily medication and will require routine veterinary check ups (Check with your vet! You will find the monthly cost is not high!). During his



down time, between eating treats and playing fetch, Ralph loves to cuddle up for nap time and would be a great addition to a home looking for a little extra love.

Recently, members of our Volunteer Program, have been able to give Ralph some extra time out of the shelter! Through these outings we have learned - Ralph loves water and hiking. He enjoys getting to spend time outdoors and making new friends along the way.

Sprout

Meet Sprout! A man of exquisite taste, Sprout is eager to find his forever home. He is looking to be his forever families one and only feline friend.



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Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Basketball Club- 3&4 Grade 0595.

Join the new Basketball Club for skills and drills and learn the fundamentals of Basketball. 3 & 4 grade girls and 3 & 4 grade boys will meet on Fridays, Jan. 5-Feb. 23, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Alton Central School Gym. \$10 per person. Please bring a size 28.5 basketball and extra pair of shoes for the gym. Submit registration form and fee to Alton Parks and Recreation by December 22, 2023. For more information contact 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov. *Volunteer leader needed for third and fourth grade boys.

Light It Up! – Alton Tri-Town House Decorating Contest

Towns of Alton, New Durham and Farmington will be providing maps of decorated houses for people to drive by and see. Houses will be illuminated for the season now through Dec. 26. Winners of all Towns will be announced this week. Maps of the three Towns with all of the decorations to see can be found at www.alton.nh.gov. Check out one Town per week or visit all of the decorated houses in one weekend. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

New Yoga Programs with Pamela Mott, 200 YTT
Coming in January 2024

Restorative Yoga Self Care
Could you use a little restoration after the holiday season? Restorative Yoga relaxes, revitalizes and rejuvenates, all while tapping in to a little inner peace. Saturdays, Jan. 13, 20, 27, 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center. Pre-registration is required. \$100 package includes yoga mat, blocks, bolster, blanket, three classes and Introduction to Yoga and Meditation series beginning 9:00a.m. (optional); \$45 without props included. Text instructor Pamela Mott with any questions and to register at 603-393-

Introduction to Yoga and Meditation

This introduction to Yoga and Meditation Series is an all-level opportunity to engage in a process of basic movement, breath and meditation. Saturdays, Jan. 13, 20, and 27, 9-10 a.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center, \$35 for the three classes or \$15 per class.

Drop ins encouraged. Text Pamela Mott for more information at 603-393-0595.

Alton Trails- All Star

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a get outside and hike program now through Feb. 29. Hike six local trails, and receive an Alton Trails All Star sticker. All you have to do is take a photo on each trail, and send the photos to parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov. Trails include: Mike Burke Trail; Knight's Pond; Trask Swamp and Fort Point Woods Conservation Area; Gilman Pond; Pine Mountain and Cotton-Hurd Brook.

Guided Meditation with Instructor Karen Kharitonov

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring a new Guided Meditation Class on

Thursdays through Dec. 28 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. Guided Meditation will teach skills to train the body to relax when stressed, find clarity, and gain wisdom in daily life activities and challenges. Stop in and try a class, and experience the positive state of meditation. Chairs will be available; bring a pillow/cushion/mat if desired. The program is free, donations are greatly appreciated to support local charities. Drop by anytime. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Slow Flow Yoga with Pamela Mott, 200 YTT Certified

Start your day with a morning Yoga practice with certified instructor Pamela Mott. Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center or choose the online option and practice from home. All levels are welcome and encouraged. Class focus is Sun Salutation A and B; Hatha Yoga and the 8 Limbs. Pre-registration is preferred, text 603-393-0595. Cash and Venmo accepted. Pre-registration and virtual attendance is \$10; Drop in \$15. Classes are ongoing. For more in-

formation, contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov. Class will not be held Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Weight Training Classes- Mondays and Wednesdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Weight Training Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library for adults of all ages and abilities. Learn new exercises and 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. Class will not be held Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Bank of New Hampshire ranked among NH's top private companies

LACONIA — Bank of New Hampshire has been ranked 30th overall in Business NH Magazine's Top 100 Private Companies in New Hampshire, as well as 64th in the growth ranking. Of the two banks making the top 100 list, Bank of New Hampshire ranked first. Businesses are ranked by 2022 gross revenue and average annual growth between 2020 and 2022.

"Being featured on this esteemed list among New Hampshire's top private companies is a source of immense pride for us at Bank of New Hampshire," stated Chris Logan, President, and CEO. "Our consistent organic growth is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional customer service. We strive to foster a culture and team dedicated to cultivating enduring relationships, resulting in a loyal BNH community. Our growth is a direct outcome of these concerted efforts. Receiving this recognition fills us with gratitude, and we are enthusiastic about carrying this momentum forward into 2024."

Bank of New Hampshire is honored to receive this recognition as we aspire to remain an independent mutual financial institution, delivering innovative solutions and exceptional service, while assisting our employees, customers and communities to build brighter futures.

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831 provides deposit, lending and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire and southern Maine. With 21 banking offices and assets exceeding \$2 billion, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks in the state. Bank of New Hampshire is a mutual organization, focused on the success of the bank's customers, communities and employees, rather than stockholders. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit BNH.Bank.



ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ SalmonPress.com



Granite VNA awarded tax credits to support renovation of Laconia office



COURTESY
From left, Beth Slepian, Granite VNA President/CEO, stands at the Granite VNA office in Laconia with Jessica Ruel, MVS Bank Branch & Business Development Manager, Denise Hubbard, MVS Bank Vice President & Mortgage Loan Program Officer, and Joe Collie, MVS Bank Business Development Officer.

LACONIA — MVS Bank (Meredith Village Savings Bank) is proud to purchase \$5,000 in tax credits through the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to support Granite VNA in its upcoming efforts to renovate its Laconia office at 780 North Main Street.

“We are pleased to begin the planning stages of our renovation and look to start construction in 2024,” said Beth Slepian, MBA, PT, Pres-

ident and CEO of Granite VNA. “The updated space will serve as a new multi-use meeting area to be used for preventative wellness programs and bereavement support groups. We greatly appreciate the community support we have received and look forward to sharing progress updates in the future.”

“Quality home care and services are so essential to supporting individuals and families in the times that they need it most,” said Jessica Ruel, Branch & Business Development Manager. “We are so proud to lend our support to this project that will help Granite VNA grow their offerings to assist our Lakes Region communities.”

As the largest home health and hospice provider in New Hampshire, Granite VNA offers people of all ages a wide range of personalized services and programs including home care, hospice, palliative, pediatric and maternal child health services, and wellness programming. Go to granitevna.org to learn more.

CDFAs tax credits allow businesses to fund qualifying economic or community development projects in exchange for a tax credit that can be applied against state business tax payments. The tax credits are administered by the New Hampshire CDFAs. Any business with operations in New Hampshire that contributes to a CDFAs tax credit project receives a New Hampshire state tax credit worth 75 percent

of their contribution. The credit can be used over a period of five years to reduce the business’ state tax liability (business profits, business enterprise, or insurance premium taxes). The tax credit program allows New Hampshire businesses to use their state tax dollars to support local projects that they care about. CDFAs reviews many project applications each year, and awards tax credits to those they determine are feasible and will make the biggest impact on economic development in the state. Visit nhcdfa.org for more information.

MVS Bank has been serving the essential banking needs of people, businesses, nonprofits and municipalities for more than 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, MVS Bank has no stockholders but rather operates for the benefit of its customers, employees and community. Since our founding, one thing has always remained true: caring is at the heart of everything we do. By building and nurturing relationships, we believe that we can cultivate a community where we all thrive. It all starts with caring about our customers and neighbors. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in New Hampshire in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvsb.com.



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 - 4:00 Family Christmas Mass
 - 6:30 Christmas Choir Concert
 - 7:00 Christmas Mass
- Christmas Morning:**
- 10:30 Christmas Mass

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