

Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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Belmont PD bids farewell to K9 Vito



BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department is deeply saddened to announce the passing of retired K-9 Vito after a quick battle with lymphoma, on Sept. 6 in the arms of his loving and forever grateful family. K-9 Vito dutifully served the residents of Belmont for eight years with his partner, Lt. Evan Boulanger.

K-9 Vito arrived in the United States from Slovakia in July of 2014. A week later, Chief Mark Lewandoski and then Officer Boulanger, selected Vito after testing numerous dogs as the Belmont Police Department's newest member. Boulanger and Vito spent the next four weeks in Mechanicsburg, Pa., learning the basics of becoming a patrol team, before returning home to start their ongoing training with the New Hampshire Working Dog Foundation under the supervision of John Usher and Jay Palmer.

During Vito's career, he searched for murder

SEE VITO PAGE A12

Sanbornton Historical Society presents "VOTE" with Brad Wolf

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Historical Society will host the program "VOTE" on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Lane Tavern, 520 Sanborn Rd. (Route 132), in Sanbornton.

"VOTE" will trace the evolution of voting in the United States, including New England's Town Meeting system, the implementation of national elections, the Electoral College system for presidential elections, and the changing technology of casting ballots. The recent decision by President Biden to abandon his campaign for a second term and the resurgence of elections internationally in 2024 will also be discussed.

Brad Wolf is a retired social studies teacher, adjunct professor, and interested observer of America's history. He has been recognized for his innovation in his classroom and is a former New Hampshire Department of Education Teacher of the Year. He has participated in numerous workshops and seminars and is especially interested in using primary documents in his presentations. He has a special passion for exploring the continuing experiment in American democracy.

The program is being presented with no charge to the public. Lane Tavern is handicapped accessible with parking directly across the street. Please plan to join us for light refreshments following the program. For more information, call 603 286-4526.

Spaulding Academy & Family Services hosts first 50K Ultra Marathon



Left-to-right: In the men's division, Betram Johnson finished in third place, Ari Silverfine finished in first place and Michael Obara in second place in the Spaulding Woods 50K. (Photo courtesy of Spaulding Academy).

NORTHFIELD — Spaulding Academy & Family Services in Northfield partnered with Race Away Events to host both organizations' first ultra marathon. The race, named the Spaulding Woods 50K, featured a loop style course that 37 runners took to in hopes of completing this technically challenging race on a single-track trail consisting of six 5.6-mile loops with a 4,200-foot elevation gain through Spaulding Woods in Northwood.

Ari Silverfine, of Somerville, Mass., won the men's division with a time of 6:02:17 and Eunice Foss, of Fruitland, Idaho, won the women's division with a time of 9:24:16. Silverfine is a

long-time runner who successfully took his first attempt at an ultra-marathon and Foss is actively working towards completing her goal of running 50 races in 50 states. Of the 37 participants, 18 runners passed the finish line, with at least three of them completing their first ultra marathon.

Funds raised through race registration fees were donated to Spaulding Academy to support the students after the Race Away Events founder, Aaron Sylvain, was inspired to organize the event in an effort to support the school's mission. It took Sylvain nearly a year to plan and organize the race.

"As ultrarunners, we have the choice to wake

up every day and grind through our training, we choose to go on to 100-mile runs," said Sylvain when asked what inspired him to host the event at Spaulding. "The children at Spaulding Academy don't have that choice, they must wake up every day grinding to make the best of their unique situation. The toughness that those kids have resembles the toughness of an ultrarunner, that's what inspires me the most about the Spaulding Woods 50K."

The parallel between both Sylvain's values and Spaulding's allowed for the perfect race day partnership, that not only provided an ideal setting for runners, but

SEE MARATHON PAGE A11

Martinez, Allard, Embree lead Raiders to opening win



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Belmont's Brady Thurber tries to move the ball around Newfound's Brady Harker in opening action in Belmont.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BELMONT — In the opening game of the season for both teams, it was the goalies who led the charge, as Belmont's Jaxson Embree and Newfound's Ty Belyea made solid saves in net before the host Raiders came away with a 2-1 win over the Bears on Friday, Aug. 30.

"It's a start, it's a work in progress," said Belmont coach Mike Foley. "It was a little hairy at the end, but we had a lot of opportunities in the second half that just went wide or just over."

"I thought they pushed forward and gave it their best effort

in the second half late," said Newfound coach Jason Hill. "We had some opportunities and just missed the goal."

The game started early on with Brady Thurber sending a shot across the crease for the Raiders while Nicolas Loeper had a shot that was blocked by Brayden Jenkins of Newfound. The Raiders had the game's first corner, with Wyatt Bamford sending the shot on net that Belyea was able to stop. Zach North got in on a chance that was turned away by the defense and Jenkins made a couple more solid defensive stops.

Landon Sargent sent a ball in just ahead of

Tegan Drake for the Bears and Calvin Colby sent a shot high as Newfound continued to pressure. Belmont came back with a chance from Keegan Martinez that was stopped by Belyea and Jayden Belyea went in the other way with a chance that Embree was able to scoop up. Ryder Sargent and Jayden Belyea teamed up on a chance for the Bears that Embree was also able to grab.

With 30:25 to go, Belmont was able to get the game's first goal, as the ball bounced around in front of the goal and Martinez was able to fire the ball to the net for the

SEE BELMONT PAGE A13

Around and About Tilton

BY GREGG DEVOLDER

Hello, and welcome. I have to say, the “Candidates Night” brought me back to why our small town living in New Hampshire is such a pleasant experience and where traditions live on. It was great to see four of our own care enough about our town to put themselves forward, how encouraging. Jane Manning, Ken Norton, John Hanson and Eric Adams sat at the Selectmen’s table and answered several questions from our new town Administrator, Scott Hilliard and our Selectmen. I think many would find this process intimidating, but the questions were asked in a friendly manner, and to a person, the candidates did a great job with their responses. All were well composed and extraordinarily strong candidates. Unfortunately, in the end, only one could be chosen, and that was Eric Adams. Congratulations to Eric, and we look forward to seeing you in action. As for Jane, Ken, and John, I hope we continue to see your interest and perhaps even your signs in the future. Thank you for caring and well done!

I’m happy to report that the Senior Center has purchased a bus. It’s a 2021 Ford with only 28,000 miles on it and should last for a good long while. I’d also like to mention the generosity of our town folks in stepping up with many donations, one of which was for \$2,000. Thank you. I was reading the recent Belknap County Senior Center Newsletter and found a couple of interesting statistics to share with you. On average, seniors spend three days and just over three hours each day at their centers. Seventy-five percent of the visitors are women and fifty percent of them live alone. Senior Centers are a wonderful way to socialize and meet new friends.

The Island bridge was mentioned as well. The engineering firm is speaking with an outfit in Maine that does work with wrought iron structures and developing a plan that may include working on the bridge in sections. Transportation costs would be reduced in keeping it somewhat local and we’ll hear more in the coming weeks.

The recycling center is coming on line September 18th and will be taking clean broken-down cardboard and aluminum cans for the baler. No need to take labels or tape off the cardboard.

The Academy Street discussion continued as quotes were reviewed and concern for the road and retaining wall remained strong. It appears the road will stay a dead-end for the foreseeable future. The board is requesting more information from the bidders.

Budget season is upon us and the Budget Committee is still a few members short. Should you have a desire to get involved in a very important service to our town, please contact the folks at town hall. I have no doubt they’d love to hear from you.

We had some disappointing news on the crosswalk signs for downtown. It seems they do not meet NH DOT specifications that can go on their roads. They’re fine for our local streets but not theirs. So, it looks like some of the signs may be used for crosswalks near schools and or return for a refund if that’s possible. It was also noted by the State that if we do put crosswalks signs downtown, no parking spaces could be in front or behind the signs, so we’d lose around eight spaces for two sign locations. Given parking is such a premium, that may put parking in front of safety as we move forward. It was also suggested that improved lighting downtown would be beneficial for drivers and pedestrians so that may be another alternative.

It seems that cutting your grass on land you have in Current-Use may get you a higher tax bill. One of our citizens is asking for a tax abatement for their property. They are being asked to pay for land considered out of Current Use by our assessor, which also brings a ten percent penalty of the perceived value. I don’t have all the details on this yet, as the Selectmen are asking our Assessor to respond with more information. So, I’ll bite my tongue and try not to be cynical until I hear the reasoning behind this, but I believe this might not be the only property out there.

Changing gears a bit, our Parks Commission has plenty of great events coming up for us. Following the fun and excitement had by everyone who attended this summer, we have another “Wildlife Encounters” at the River Front Park at the Pavilion on Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to noon. We also have our last “Movies in the Park” coming up on Friday night, Sept. 27. And finally, a “Scarecrow Decorating Contest” coming up in October for all to enjoy! I promise to have more information as we get closer to all these great events.

Well, that’s all I have for now. Thank you for reading and all your comments! As always, you can email me at: aroundandabouttiltonnh@gmail.com. I can’t promise I’ll respond to everyone, but I will read them all.

Have a great week!



LRAA announces Artists of the Month for August

TILTON — Lakes Region Art Association members have the opportunity to enter a piece of artwork into the Artist of the Month Program at each monthly Member Meeting. Winners are able to display and sell a single work for a month in various public venues throughout the Lakes Region in participating Banks and Libraries or Local Businesses.

The Artists of the Month for August include Sherwood Frazier, Pat Anderson, Martha AuCoin, Jim Cryan, and Sally Hibberd.

These winning artists’ artwork will be on display in locations in the Lakes Region until Sept. 16.

Jim Cryan, this month’s First Place winner, has the distinct honor of displaying several pieces of her artwork at Annie’s Cafe & Catering in Laconia. Warm up with some scrumptious homemade soup and sandwiches and enjoy the art while you eat!

The art pieces for the Honorable Mention artist will be on display through the third week of August in the following locations:

- Sherwood Frazier- Northway, Meredith
- Martha AuCoin - Franklin Savings Bank, Gilford
- Sally Hibberd - Gilford Public Library
- Pat Anderson - Northway, Tilton
- Gail Brunt - Laconia Library

Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra’s 2024-25 season: A musical journey from the Romantic era to the electrifying ‘70’s



Guest artists Ian Jang, Rachel & Alex Hunton, Sally Wituszynski, Taylor O’Donnell, and Adrian Sicam grace the stage at LRSO’s new 2024-2025 season.

REGION — The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra (LRSO) is back with a thrilling new season that takes you on an unforgettable musical journey. Whether you’re a classical music lover, a fan of holiday favorites, or ready to groove to the hits of the ‘70s, there’s something for everyone in our 2024-2025 lineup. Mark your calendars and get ready for an amazing experience!

“Romantic Revelations” – Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Hanaway Theatre, Plymouth State University
We kick off the season with “Romantic Revelations,” an evening packed with powerful emotion and beautiful melodies. Our special guest, talented cellist Ian Jang - winner of the LRSO’s 2024 Student Concerto Competition - will blow you away with his performance of Dvorak’s “Cello Concerto in B minor.” You’ll also get to enjoy Mendelssohn’s thrilling “Hebrides Overture” and the stunningly beautiful “Symphony No. 2” by Vasily Kalinnikov.

“Take A Bough!” – Dec. 7, 7 p.m. & Dec. 8, 3 p.m. Colonial Theatre, Laconia | Inter-Lakes Auditorium, Meredith
It’s time to get festive with our annual holiday concert “Take A Bough!” We feature the dynamic duo Rachel and Alex Hunton – extraordinary vocal and theatre performers from Laconia’s Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. They’ll bring a fresh twist to your favorite holiday tunes, from “Ave Maria” and “The Prayer,” to “Baby It’s Cold Outside” and “White Christmas,” with everything in between. If you’re looking for a concert that’ll fill you with holiday cheer, this is it! But hurry - these performances always sell out, so grab your tickets soon!

“Vienna to Berlin: A Germanic Journey” - March 22, 7 p.m. Inter-Lakes Auditorium, Meredith
Embark on a musical journey through the heart of Austria and Germany with “Vienna to Berlin: A Germanic Journey.” LRSO Principal Violist Sally Wituszynski takes center stage to perform the enchanting Romanze by Max Bruch. The concert also explores the lively “Die Fledermaus Overture” by Strauss, Brahms’ spirited “Hungarian Dances #5 and #6,” and Schumann’s deeply expressive “Symphony No. 2,” which reflects the composer’s personal and artistic triumphs.

“Vintage Grooves - Hits of the ‘70’s” - May 10, 7 p.m. & May 11, 3 p.m. Colonial Theatre, Laconia | Inter-Lakes Auditorium, Meredith
The season finale “Vintage Grooves - Hits of the ‘70’s” transports you back to the vibrant era of disco, soul, and classic rock. Featuring the amazing vocal talents of Taylor O’Donnell and Adrian Sicam, whose diverse musical roots span jazz, R&B, classical, and rock, this concert brings to life the timeless hits of Earth Wind & Fire, Chicago, Doobie Brothers, Carole King, Bee Gees, Billy Joel, Joni Mitchell, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, ABBA and more. Groove along to classics like “New York State of Mind,” “What A Fool Believes,” and “Dancing Queen,” and the energy of “Rocky,” “Journey,” and “Jesus Christ Superstar.” This is a concert experience you won’t want to miss!

Tickets are on sale now at www.LRSO.org. Take advantage of Discount Ticket Packages for Inter-Lakes performances in Meredith – save money and reserve the same great seats for Inter-Lakes performances. Visit www.LRSO.org for details. Join us for a season of magnificent music, good vibes, and unforgettable memories!



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Community Challenge establishes Warren Bailey Community Service Scholarship



Warren Bailey

\$1,000 awarded to five Lakes Region seniors

GILFORD—The Community Challenge has established the Warren Bailey Community Service Scholarship, and has awarded five Lakes Region graduating seniors each with \$1,000 to support their college journey.

The Community Challenge is composed of over 30 teams made up of local businesses, organizations, families and friends who creatively and collectively fundraise for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction—a non-profit focused on serving children and families in need.

This scholarship will be an annual award through the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, in the name of Warren Bailey—the founder of the Children's Auction. The award will be presented to one or more Lakes Region graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to community service.

“Warren Bailey has impacted our community in such a profound way,” said Patrick’s Co-owner Allan Beetle. “Offering this scholarship is a tribute to Warren and how one person’s actions can be the catalyst for something great. We want to encourage and acknowledge our Lakes Region students who are finding their own ways to help others.”

Bailey witnessed firsthand the growing poverty afflicting the community and founded

the Children's Auction to help families through their struggles.

He used his platform as a morning disc jockey for WLNH to spread the word about the Children's Auction and broadcast the first event from an unheated van, in the chill of December, in 1982. He auctioned off two truckloads of donated items and raised \$2,100 for the community.

The Children's Auction has since grown to an organization supported by over 700 volunteers, is managed by a board of directors and has raised over \$8.6 million to fund local nonprofits.

This year's community minded recipients were Makenzie LaFlamme, Alexia Bassett, Deanna Bourque, Allison Kenyon and Renee Bergeron.

LaFlamme has volunteered as a referee for the Laconia Youth Soccer League, manned the camera at the Children's Auction and assisted at Laconia DCYF foster care events. She plans to attend Lees McRae College.

Bassett assisted at the Special Olympics for four years, volunteered her time with the Hidden Battles Foundation and at the Peak to Peak race. She will be attending Plymouth State University.

Bourque was involved with both the Urban Food Project and Emmanuel College's Community Outreach for three consecutive years. She was a contributing member to many clubs at school and will begin her collegiate journey at Emmanuel College.

Kenyon utilized her soccer skills as a volunteer coach for the Gilford Youth Center's peewee soccer team. She played for the Seacoast United Soccer Club throughout her time in high school and is bringing her talents to Keene State College.

Bergeron was awarded this scholarship because of her consistent community involvement and stellar display of character.

The Community Challenge was created in 2020 when Patrick's Pub Mania bar stool challenge was thwarted due to the pandemic. The Challenge teams continue to fundraise, and Pub Mania has returned as one of three events created to assist all teams in their fundraising efforts. The Shuffle is held in the spring and fall at Patrick's, and the Sweepstakes Social is held in September—Sept. 13 this year—on the M/S Mount Washington.

One collective check from all of these efforts is presented to the Children's Auction in December and accounts for half of the monies raised by the Children's Auction. All funds are then distributed to local nonprofits serving children and families.

For more information about the 2024 Challenge, the Sweepstakes Social and the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, visit childrensauction.org.

For more information about Pub Mania or the Shuffle, visit patrickspub.com.

Join in a day of fun at Prescott Farm's annual Harvest Festival

LACONIA — Prescott Farm invites you to celebrate the heart of autumn at our highly anticipated Annual Harvest Festival on Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., held at 928 White Oaks Rd., Laconia, and promises a memorable day for visitors of all ages.

Admission is free, making it the perfect family outing!

The Harvest Festival is the highlight of our annual events, drawing over 500 attendees to experience a vibrant mix of activities and entertainment on our picturesque 160-acre property. Highlights of this year's festival include:

Horse- and Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides: Enjoy a leisurely tour of the farm with our charming wagon rides.

Animal Encounters: Meet our friendly farm animals and learn about their roles in our agricultural community.

Outdoor Family Yoga: Stretch and breathe in the fresh autumn air with guided family yoga

sessions.

Field Games & Hay Jump: Engage in classic field games and bounce to your heart's content on our hay jump.

Natural Crafts & Nature-Based Stories: Let creativity flourish with hands-on crafts and enjoy engaging nature stories.

Live Music: Dance to the tunes of the Puckerbrush Band and the O'Brien Clan.

Colonial Trades Fair: Explore historical trades and crafts at our colonial fair.

Delicious Food: Savor tasty treats from Beans and Greens Farm and The Gravy Train.

Alice in Wonderland Characters: Be enchanted by the whimsical characters brought to life by Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative.

In addition to the festival activities, visitors are welcome to explore Prescott Farm's 3 miles of hiking trails, our natural PlayScape, and our heirloom gardens at their leisure. Don't miss

our inaugural Artists of Prescott Farm art exhibit, showcasing the creativity and talent within our community and curated by Larry Frates.

“We're thrilled to welcome everyone to our Annual Harvest Festival,” said Executive Director, Jude Hamel, “It's a fantastic opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy all that Prescott Farm has to offer.”

For more information about the Harvest Festival or to learn about volunteering opportunities, please visit www.prescottfarm.org or contact us at (603) 366-5695.

About Prescott Farm
Prescott Farm is a community-focused organization dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship, education, and outdoor experiences. Our 160-acre property offers a range of activities and programs that connect people with nature and encouraging a love for the natural world.

Raiders third at Country Club of New Hampshire

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor


BELMONT — The Belmont golf team headed to the Country Club of New Hampshire on Thursday, Sept. 5, for a match hosted by Hopkinton.

The Raiders finished third on the day, scoring 43 points to finish behind Mascenic with 89 points and Fall Mountain with 56 points and besting host Hopkinton's 41 points.

Leading the way for the Raiders was Jordan Defrancesco out of the second spot, as he picked up 15 points, while Max Ryder finished with 14 points in the top spot to finish second for the Raiders. Alex Rowley was the third scorer, finishing with 10 points in the third spot and Tyler Mull finished with four points in the fifth spot to round out the scoring for Belmont. Jasper Sottak finished with three points in the fourth spot and Brayden Pucci finished with one point from the sixth spot in the lineup.

Belmont is scheduled to be in action on Monday, Sept. 16, and Tuesday, Sept. 17, both at Canterbury Woods, before visiting Birch Hill in Moultonborough on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

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SANBORNTON POLICE LOG

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Police Department responded to 25 calls for service, for the week ending Aug. 31. The breakdown was as follows: One abandoned 911 call, three incidents involving animals, one report of conduct after an accident, one report of criminal threatening, one domestic incident, one fingerprinting, one fire/medical call, one report of fraud, one house check, one request to assist a motorist, one motor vehicle accident, one service of paperwork, two requests for police assistance, one report of reckless operation, one road hazard, two services of a court summons, and one report of a suspicious vehicle or activity.

BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 26 to Sept. 2.

Ronald E. Jolin III, age 26, of Belmont was arrested on Aug. 27 in connection with a warrant.

Nicholas R. Scerra, age 31, was arrested on Aug. 29 in connection with a warrant.



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Opinion

Letter submission policy

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

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

Raising the bar for decency and leadership

There was a time when being American meant standing for something bigger than ourselves—when looking out for one another, showing respect, and upholding certain standards was simply the way things were. But somewhere along the way, we've lost our way a bit. The tone of our politics has shifted from a place of professionalism and decorum to something more like a never-ending reality show.

The truth is, politics was never meant to be a joke. It's about the serious business of leading a country—of shaping policies that affect all of us, from the farmers in the heartland to the teachers in our towns. Yet lately, it feels like decency and respect have taken a backseat to personal attacks, name-calling, and divisiveness. It's not just embarrassing—it's harmful. We deserve better, and it's time we demand better.

As Americans, we need to band together and make kindness a priority once again. Not just in our daily lives, but in the way we engage with politics. Our leaders should be held to higher standards. They should represent us with dignity and professionalism, not petty squabbles and cheap shots. Politics should be about problem-solving, not point-scoring.

Imagine what we could accomplish if we focused on bringing people together instead of tearing each other down. Kindness doesn't mean we all have to agree on everything, but it does mean treating each other with respect—even when we disagree. The strength of America has always been in our diversity of thought and background. But diversity only works when there's a foundation of decency and empathy.

We have to stop lowering the bar and start raising our expectations. Our political leaders should exemplify the best of us—people who are informed, compassionate, and ready to fight for what's right, without losing their humanity in the process. Let's return to a time when class, integrity, and decorum mattered in public life. When we disagreed with one another civilly, knowing that, at the end of the day, we're all on the same team.

America is at its best when we care about our neighbors, when we stand up for those who can't, and when we hold our leaders accountable to a higher standard. Together, we can make America kind again. Not just in the way we treat one another, but in how we demand professionalism, decency, and class from our leaders.

The future of this country depends on all of us—not just the people we elect, but the expectations we set. Let's set them high.



COURTESY

Sept. 21 & 22, enjoy the Lakes Region Fall Craft Fair at Tanger Outlets, 120 Laconia Rd., Tilton, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss this fabulous arts & crafts fair with more than 80 amazing artisans! Some of the exhibits will include handsome soy candles, beautiful leather belts & totes, amazing baked goods including blueberry scones & whoopie pies, home & garden products, amazing chainsaw wood carvings & demos with Elise, amazing log furniture including log beds/chairs/blue river bar tables, primitive dolls and primitive wood, local honey & homegrown spices & herbs, beautiful leather jewelry, sublimated items, New Hampshire maple syrup products, folk art, handpoured soaps/personal care products, charcuterie boards, cribbage boards, pet products, lavender essential oils, & lots more! Friendly, leashed dogs welcome! Rain or shine under canopies! Always Free Adm - Take Exit 20 off I-93 & bear left & only a quarter mile from the exit! For more information, call Joyce at 603-387-1510 or email joycescraftshows.com.

Peace Pilgrim

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

It's easy to feel like everything is falling apart these days. The economy is uncertain, with prices climbing and jobs becoming more unstable. We hear endless news about war and global unrest, and as elections approach, the sense of instability only grows. Many of us lie awake at night, wondering how we'll make it through these difficult times.

Wouldn't it be nice to let go and trust that everything will be OK?

That's precisely how Peace Pilgrim lived her life. In 1953, she set out on a mysterious journey that would last nearly 30 years, walking over 25,000 miles zig zagging across the United States.

She gave up her name, her possessions, and her home, choosing to live with nothing but the clothes on her back, a comb, a pen, and a few small pieces of paper. She had no money, no food, and no specific destination, yet she walked without fear, relying on the kindness of others for food and shelter.

Her mission was to spread a message of peace, and through her unwavering faith, she trusted that everything

she needed would be provided.

Peace Pilgrim lived in simplicity.

"Unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens. If you have them, you have to take care of them!" she would often say.

Her life was proof that there is great freedom in simplicity.

She believed that "those who have enough but not too much are the happiest." With nothing but her faith and her message, she showed that peace and contentment come from within, not from material things.

Throughout her journey, she encountered challenges that would have caused most people to lose hope, but her trust never wavered. She believed that "a pilgrim is a wanderer with a purpose." Her purpose was to spread peace, and she trusted that life would support her in that mission. And time after time, the help she needed arrived—often in mysterious ways.

Once, while walking through the Rocky Mountains, she was caught in a fierce snowstorm with no shelter in

sight. It seemed impossible that she could make it through the night. But instead of panicking, she kept walking, trusting that something would come. Sure enough, just as the storm became unbearable, a stranger appeared, offering her a warm coat and a place to stay. The stranger had no reason to be there but had felt an inexplicable urge to drive down that road.

Another time, while walking through the Mojave Desert, she went days without food. Hunger gnawed at her, but she remained calm. She knew that help would arrive when she needed it. And sure enough, a man driving down that empty road stopped to offer her food and water. He had felt a nudge to take a detour, not knowing why, but was surprised to find her there.

She once said, "for light, I go directly to the Source of light, not to any of the reflections." She trusted not in the material world but in a deeper, spiritual source. She showed that peace comes from within, which can produce a knowing that everything will be taken care of.

The true mystery of Peace Pilgrim wasn't just how she survived physically, but how she

radiated such calm and positivity in every situation.

"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others," she said.

And indeed, wherever she went, people felt drawn to her message of peace. Her calm, centered presence inspired thousands of people.

Though her identity remained unknown for many years, it wasn't until after her death in 1981 that people learned she had been born Mildred Lisette Norman. She had lived a normal life before experiencing a spiritual awakening that led her to dedicate her life to peace.

Despite her hardships, she always remained positive, saying, "Keep your feet on the ground and your thoughts at lofty heights."

The secret may be found in trusting the journey and believing in the goodness of others and the world. By following the example of Peace Pilgrim, we can learn to embrace uncertainty, knowing that even in the most trying times, life provides exactly what we need.



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PETS OF THE WEEK



Josie

Meet Josie!

Josie is a curious girl who enjoys being around people. While she's had success with dog companions in the past, we recommend she starts as the only four-legged pet in her next home.

Considering her energetic nature and active lifestyle, Josie would flourish in a home with older kids or adults only. And while she's a fantastic companion for humans, she may do best in a household without cats.



Baby

Meet Baby!

Baby is a lovely lady who would do best in a home where she can get some adventures. She loves to lay in the sun and hang out with her people, but she won't say no to a romp in the woods either! She'd do best in a home where she's the only animal - she deserves to be the star of the show! Come meet Baby and fall for her smile today!

“The Immigrant” follows up Powerhouse’s “Fiddler on the Roof”



COURTESY

The cast of “The Immigrant” rehearses at the Congregational Church of Laconia to prepare for their weekend performances.

LACONIA — Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative follows up its well-received production of “Fiddler on the Roof” with a staged reading of “The Immigrant” by Mark Harelik. Based on the true story of his grandfather’s arrival to America through the port of Galveston, Texas in the early part of the 20th century, this play is a perfect companion to Powerhouse’s Fiddler and its emphasis on the immigrant’s journey.

The Immigrant will be performed Saturday, Sept. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Laconia Public Library following Laconia’s Multicultural Festival and Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Laconia. Each reading will be followed by a talkback with a special guest and the cast and director. The emphasis of the Saturday discussion will be on modern immigration to complement the Multicultural Festival and the guest will Clement Kigugu, a Rwandan immigrant who is the Executive Director of Overcomers Refugee Services in Concord. The Sunday discussion will be joined by Barbara Katz of Tem-

ple B’Nai Israel and the focus will be more on Jewish immigration in the early part of the 20th century as reflected by both Tevye’s fate in Fiddler on the Roof as well as the incidents in The Immigrant.

Powerhouse has put together a powerhouse cast for this reading, led by Joel Iwaskiewicz, who starred in “Fiddler” as Tevye, as the title immigrant. He will be joined by award-winning actors Laura Iwaskiewicz, Peter Josephson, and Alex Picard, making her Powerhouse debut. Dana Gardner will read the stage directions. The production is directed by Bryan Halperin, the recent director of “Fiddler.”

“All along, our intent was to follow up our immigrant focused interpretation of Fiddler with this play so our audiences could see what a Jewish immigrant might have faced coming to America at the time of Fiddler on the Roof with no money, not speaking English and the trauma of being displaced from one’s homeland. We hope those who enjoyed Fiddler will be inspired

to attend the reading and see how the two plays overlap regarding the immigrant experience,” says Halperin.

Thanks to show sponsors Temple B’Nai Israel and the Laconia Public Library, Spark series sponsors Taylor Community, Laconia Daily Sun and Home Beautiful, and season sponsors Lavalley Middleton Building Supply, Meredith Village Savings Bank, and the Platinum Group, the readings are free to attend. Reservations are recommended, especially at the library due to limited seating, and can be made at <https://www.powerhousenh.org/theimmigrant>.

If you have any questions, email info@powerhousenh.org to find out more. Powerhouse’s 2024 season continues with an exciting theatre adventure at Prescott Farm called “Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland” on Sept. 15, 21, and 22 that is appropriate for all ages. For all the ticket information, go to powerhousenh.org.

Playoffs return to NHMS next fall

LOUDON — NASCAR roars back to Loudon in a big way in 2025 with New England’s only NASCAR weekend moving to the Playoffs Sept. 19-21, and the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series (NCTS) joining the NASCAR Cup Series (NCS) at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS). The NCS will kick off the round of 12 while the NCTS drivers will battle it out to remain above the cut line for the round of eight.

“The two questions fans ask me the most are, ‘When are we getting a September race back?’ and ‘When are we getting the trucks back?’ and now we have both,” said New Hampshire Motor Speedway Executive Vice President and General Manager David McGrath. “We are so thankful to our loyal fans who have supported us during NASCAR’s annual summer stop in New Hampshire, but they wanted this, they deserve this, and we are ecstatic to not only be returning to the NASCAR Playoffs, but we are thrilled to host the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series as well.

“We’re excited to bring our race fans a high-energy weekend with intense action from the sport’s top names who will all be fighting to secure their spot in the next round of the playoffs during arguably the most beautiful time of year in New England.”

The 2025 NHMS NCS race will be on Sunday, Sept. 21, while the NCTS race will join the Mohegan Sun 100 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour (NWMT) race on Doubleheader Saturday, Sept. 20.

The NCTS most recently raced at NHMS in September 2017. NCS regular Christopher Bell marked his first trip to victory lane at “The Magic Mile” during that race, and he’s since earned a total of seven wins at NHMS after 11 starts across all three series that includes one NCTS win (2017), four NASCAR Xfinity Series wins (2018, 2019, 2021, 2024) and two NCS wins

(2022, 2024). His most recent NHMS win came earlier this year after a history-making NCS race in which wet-weather tires specifically designed for racing on damp surfaces were used for the first time in the middle of a NCS race on an oval track.

The 2025 NASCAR weekend will be the only visit by America’s most popular form of motorsport to the six-state New England region. TV/radio broadcast start times, network affiliations and entertainment will be announced at a later date.

Tickets for kids ages 12 and under are just \$10 for Sunday’s NCS race and free for Doubleheader Saturday, featuring the NCTS race and the Mohegan Sun 100 NWMT race. Adult tickets start

at just \$54 for Sunday and \$39 for Doubleheader Saturday. Tickets for Sig Sauer Academy Dirt Duels start at just \$30 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. For individual tickets, weekend packages and camping, fans should visit NHMS.com or call 833-4LOUDON. Ticketholders for this past year and campers can lock in their favorite tickets and camping spots for the 2025 NASCAR Playoffs weekend at NHMS.com through Friday, Oct. 4.

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Remembering the cartoons of the ‘50s and ‘60s

BELMONT — Relive your childhood Saturday mornings! Whether you are a “Baby Boomer” or a “Generation X’er,” you will enjoy seeing clips of some of your favorite cartoon characters from the late ‘50’s, as well as the ‘60’s and ‘70’s. In addition, you will also learn about how cartoons came to be a staple of after school and Saturday morning routines for children as well as “big business” for the industry. If this sounds interesting to you, or just a pleasant way to reminisce with your friends, please join the Belmont Historical Society on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., on the fourth floor of the Belmont Mill, Belmont (use parking lot rear door). Funding for the program is provided by NH Humanities and the Belmont Sargent Fund.

The program will be presented by Margo Burns, a lifelong fan of cartoons, who cut her teeth on Popeye and Yogi Bear. She formally studied animation for two years in the Rhode Island School of Design’s continuing education program and has led computer animation projects with middle and high school students as part of UNH’s Tech Camp in Durham, where each crew makes a complete film in a week. She recently retired from St Paul’s School in Concord where she advised their International Lunchtime Animation Festival student club. The program is free and open to the public and is handicapped accessible. For additional information or directions, call 617-835-4736.

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New staff members gather in front of the Winnisquam Regional High School; School Board members John Cormier, Jennifer Tupeck and Sean Goodwin serve ice cream to celebrate New Teacher Orientation.

COURTESY

Winnisquam Regional School District welcomes new staff

TILTON — Although national reports continue to indicate the increasing teacher shortage, the Winnisquam Regional School District is pleased to welcome our new teaching staff for the 2024-2024 school year. Throughout the three day New Teacher Orientation, new staff were introduced to members of the district wide Administrative Team, professional mentors and other staff members who will help with their transition to the district.

The orientation culminated with an ice cream social hosted by the Winnisquam Regional School District School Board members. Superintendent Dr. Shannon Bartlett described the event as “a wonderful opportunity for our new staff members and School Board members to meet. The ice cream social was the perfect way to end our New Teacher Orientation.”

Member Nick DaBica believes “future looks bright” for Boat Museum



Nick DaBica (left) and canoe expert Benson Gray (right).

MOULTONBOROUGH — Nick DaBica has been involved with New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) for almost thirty years, and as a current member and part of the Collections Committee, he believes “the future looks bright” for the museum. Most

recently, he has played a role in NHBM’s move to their new campus in Moultonborough.

“It’s a dream come true so to speak,” DaBica said of NHBM’s new 24,000-square-foot building and “spacious” outdoor area.

“I have nothing but praise for the museum,” he said. “I’ve watched it grow.”

DaBica has volunteered countless hours at NHBM—and at 80 years old, he still comes in once a week to offer assistance. He has also loaned NHBM two historic canoes, a Native American-made birch-bark canoe and an 1895 Rushton sailing canoe, which are currently on display.

“Nick has been an extraordinary asset to our museum,” said NHBM Executive Director Martha Cummings. “He is extremely passionate, and we are so grateful for his continued commitment to creating a thoughtful and well-curated collection.”

DaBica has been interested in boats since his childhood, as he grew up in Connecticut and “enjoyed watching boats” pass by from the bank of the Connecticut River. His love of boats is what later drew him to New Hampshire’s Lakes Region.

His late wife Linda, an early director of NHBM, and DaBica also spent time as members of the

Board of Directors. In looking to the future, DaBica said his current focus for the Collections Committee is to define “where their collection is going and what they need to acquire to get there.”

“These boats are works of art,” he said. “The Boat Museum is basically preserving a whole era of craftsmanship that will never be produced again.”

NHBM’s Moultonborough Campus is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., through September. Admission is free.

Founded in 1992 by antique and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM offers dynamic exhibits and engaging programs and events tailored to the diverse boating lifestyles and values of people of all ages. NHBM is sponsored in part by Goodhue Boat Company, Eastern Propane and Oil, Stark Creative, KW Lakes and Mountains, Taylor Community, Belletetes, and North Water Marine.

To learn more about NHBM, visit nhbm.org.

Ann Marie Shpeley featured as NHBM Artist of the Month



MOULTONBOROUGH — Photographer Ann Marie Shpeley’s work will be featured through September at New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM), part of its longstanding commitment to support local art.

“We are thrilled to show her work in our beautiful new Moultonborough Campus,” said NHBM Executive Director Martha Cummings. “Her work complements the themes of our exhibits, too, which reveal glimpses into all aspects of boating culture and life.”

An award-winning landscape and portrait photographer, Shpeley is a member of the New Hampshire Professional Photographers Association, Professional Photographers of America, and she has been awarded an Associates Designation at Wedding Portrait Professional International.

“As a photographer, the Lakes Region offers such incredible opportunities to photograph its beauty in all seasons, especially sunrise and sunset,” she said.

Her favorite time is a few weeks before summer into fall when the fog rolls across the landscape in layers.

“In these captured moments, I want viewers to see what I see – clarity through the fog so to speak,” she added.

Shpeley also owns and operates Harbor Lane Studio & Gallery in Gilford. She has been published locally as well as internationally, while her work has appeared on the covers of multiple books.

“At the Boat Museum, guests will see some of my fog work as well as framed pieces from around Lake Winnepesaukee,” she said.

“We are honored to feature Ann Marie as our last artist of the summer,” added Executive Director Martha Cummings. “She is well known in the Lakes Region and beyond for her exceptional work, and we hope guests take the opportunity to view her art in Moultonborough this month.”

NHBM’s Moultonborough Campus is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., through September. Admission is free.

Founded in 1992 by vintage and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM offers dynamic exhibits and engaging programs and events tailored to the diverse boating lifestyles and values of people of all ages. NHBM is sponsored in part by Belletetes, Eastern Propane & Oil, Epoxy Floor New England, Goodhue Boat Company, Kingswood Press and Design Studio, KW Coastal, Lake and Mountains, North Water Marine, and Taylor Community.

To learn more about NHBM, visit nhbm.org.

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Shaker Regional School District is seeking community members to serve on the Advisory Budget Committee. The board will select 3 members from Belmont and 3 members from Canterbury to serve on this committee at its September 24, 2024 board meeting. All members must be registered voters for the town in which they are serving. Please visit www.sau80.org to review the charge of this committee. Please submit a letter of interest to Debbie Thompson, Business Administrator at dthompson@sau80.org or Shaker Regional School District, 58 School Street, Belmont, NH 03220 no later than September 19, 2024. Please contact Ms. Thompson at 267-9223 ext. 5303 with any questions.



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Fall HOME & GARDEN



Warning signs a bathroom needs work



Homeowners know that the work involved to maintain a home is never done. The end of one project has a tendency to roll into the planning of another, and so it goes for years on end. Fortunate are the homeowners who get to choose when to begin a renovation project, but

it's far more common that homeowners spot an issue and then realize it's time to renovate. When it comes to bathrooms, which can be among the more expensive spaces to renovate in a home, homeowners can keep an eye out for various signs suggesting the room needs a remodel.

• **Mold and mildew:** Mold and mildew is perhaps the most glaring sign a bathroom needs to be renovated or remodeled. Mold and mildew pose a notable threat to human health, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that molds can cause allergic reac-

tions. Individuals sensitive to mold may develop symptoms that mimic reactions to outdoor allergens like pollen, including sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and dermatitis (skin rash). Mold also can trigger asthma attacks in people allergic to mold who have the condition. Mold can grow in poorly ventilated bathrooms, such as those without a fan or ones in which fans are not working properly. Mold and mildew will return if it's merely scrubbed away, so the underlying cause of mold must be addressed to prevent its return.

• **Small signs of fading:** Stains, peeling paint, cracked paint, and gaps in grout are small signs of fading that indicate a bathroom is in need of renovation if not a complete remodel. These issues also can serve as warning signs of larger issues, such as water issues and structural prob-

lems, so they should not be merely written off as minor problems or eye-sores.

• **Rising water bills:** Some signs a bathroom could use a little TLC are not necessarily confined to the room itself. If water bills are rising significantly and do not align with price increases or an uptick in water consumption, homeowners may have leaking pipes. Such pipes might be beneath a bathroom sink or behind tiled walls. Discoloration on the walls, peeling paint or wallpaper and/or a musty odor may indicate leaks inside a bathroom wall. If coupled with rising water bills, these signs could be indicative of a significant issue that requires immediate attention.

• **Issues with tiles:** Cracked or damaged tiles in the shower and bathtub or even on the floor are unsightly and

also pose a safety hazard. Cracked floor tiles can lead to slips and falls, which can be especially harmful to older residents. And cracked tiles within the shower and tub area can indicate water problems behind the walls or general disrepair. Such issues should be addressed before they escalate into something larger.

• **A dated vibe:** Of course, some issues affecting a bathroom are not necessarily health or safety hazards but more an affront to homeowners' grasp of current styles and trends. If walking into a bathroom unintentionally feels like stepping backward into a bygone era, then it's probably time to consider a renovation or remodeling job.

Various signs can indicate to homeowners it's time to consider a bathroom renovation.

Small renovations that make a big difference

Home renovation projects were high on homeowners' priority lists during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout much of 2020, people across the globe were forced to spend much of their time at home as leaders and governments across the globe sought to prevent the spread of COVID-19. More time at home compelled millions of homeowners to invest more in their properties, thus sparking a renovation boom.

By early 2023, the renovation boom that marked the initial days of the pandemic appeared to have burst. In May 2023, the popular home improvement retailer Home Depot reported its sales had fallen by 4.5 percent in the first quarter of the year and that its income had fallen by more than 6 percent from the same period a year earlier. That marked the end of what Home Depot CEO Ted Decker characterized as "a three-year period of unprecedented growth" in the home improvement sector.

Home Depot's decline in sales was attributed to a number of factors, including a pivot among homeowners from large projects to smaller renovations. Inflation and the looming threat of a recession have led many homeowners to emphasize smaller projects. With that in mind, the following are some small renovations that can have a big impact.

• **Storage addition:** Regardless of where storage is added, be it the kitchen or a home office or a laundry room, extra space to keep items out of view can dramatically alter the look of a home.

Unused kitchen walls can be transformed with some inexpensive, easily hanged shelves, while some laundry pedestals with storage drawers can help keep washrooms clear of clutter.

• **Polish floors:** Elbow grease might be the biggest expenditure when cleaning hardwood floors. The wood flooring experts at Bona® advise homeowners to polish their floors once every two to four months depending on how much foot traffic the floors get. A fresh polishing can make floors look brand new and ensures dirt and dust are not hang-

ing around as unwanted houseguests.

• **Paint:** Painting is another inexpensive option for budget-conscious homeowners who want to update their homes. There's no shortage of places in a home, both inside and out, where a fresh coat of paint can make a statement without breaking the bank. Fading paint on bedroom walls and kitchen cabinets can be painted over with a fresh coat of the same color or even something more vibrant. Outside, apply a fresh coat to a wooden deck or paint over brick siding to create a whole

new look.

• **Molding:** Crown molding can add a touch of elegance to any room. Rooms can be transformed in a single weekend with the installation of new or replacement crown molding. A simple molding installation is a task many do-it-yourselfers can handle on their own, while homeowners with less DIY experience may benefit from hiring a contractor to create a layered molding look.



Homeowners are pivoting away from costly renovations to more budget-conscious projects. Various less expensive

undertakings can transform spaces at a fraction of the cost of more extensive renovations.

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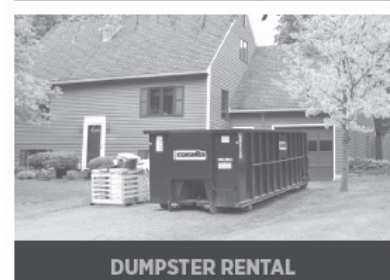


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The next initial 6-week training begins on Monday, September 16 from 4:30 - 7 p.m. at the Hospice House in Concord.

If you are interested in becoming a bereavement group facilitator please contact Lisa Challender at lisa.challender@granitevna.org or call 603-224-4093, ext. 82826.

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Fall HOME&GARDEN



Signs a roof must be repaired or replaced

The exterior components of a home, such as the siding and the roof, help to protect its occupants from the elements. While many roofing materials can last for decades, at some point in time homeowners will likely have to repair or replace the roof on their home.

Roof wear and tear may not always be so evident, particularly because most homeowners do not make it a point to get on their roofs very often. The first sign of roof damage typically is a leak that is noticeable from the indoors. It may include a browned spot on the ceiling or even pooling water in the attic. Leak from storm damage or something minor like a water intrusion through a nail hole or from a lost shingle typically can be repaired easily enough. However, additional indicators may necessitate a complete roof overhaul. Here are some signs a roof is in need of repairs or replacement.

- **Sagging roof:** If the roof is sagging, it could be due to excess loads, such as water-damaged shingles or even weakened roof structure. A professional will need to restore the integrity of the roof.

- **Cracking and buckling:** It is likely that shingles will have to be replaced if there is cracking or if shingles are buckling and warping.

- **Exposed nails:** Exposed nails may rust and contribute to a leaky roof, says Family Handyman. How long the nails were exposed could indicate if the roof can be repaired or if everything should be redone.

- **Lost granules:** Asphalt roofing shingles have small granules on the surface. Over time these granules will slowly degrade and fall off. If there are many granules in gutters or if one can see that portions of the shingles are bare, it is likely time for a new roof.

- **Visible light:** Homeowners who can see light streams coming into the home need roof repair. This is indicative of holes, cracks or spaces in the roof.

- **Growth on the roof:** Mold and mildew on the roof is a sign that the roof needs to be repaired or replaced. Such growths contribute to rot that jeopardizes the integrity of the roof.

A durable roof protects a home from the elements. Various symptoms signal that it is time to repair or replace a roof.

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Girls fifth, boys 10th as cross country Raiders kick off season



Brayden Townsend led the way for the Belmont boys at the Early Bird Invitational last week.



Adeline Takantjas was the first Belmont girl across the finish line last week at Gunstock Mountain Resort.



Wyatt Divers crests the top of the first hill during last week's Early Bird Invitational in Gilford.



Rebekah Edgren rounds a corner in the Early Bird Invitational last Thursday at Gunstock.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Belmont cross country team kicked off the season at the Gilford Early Bird Invitational, held on Thursday, Sept. 5, at Gunstock Mountain Resort, with the girls coming home fifth overall and the boys finishing in 10th. Hanover took the win in both races.

For the Raider girls, Adeline Takantjas led the way with a 26th place finish in a time of 26:48, with Lyla

McSheffrey next in with a time of 26:55 for 29th place. Rebekah Edgren was the third scorer, finishing in 31st place in 27:01 and Jenna Laramie finished in 29:10 for 44th place. Riley Degange was Belmont's final scorer, placing in 50th place with a time of 29:55.

Clemence Lhermitte was 53rd in 30:05, Hailey Clairmont placed 58th in 30:33, Violet Smith was 64th in 31:15 and Charlotte Ekberg finished in 72nd in 32:38 to round out the field of Raider

girls.

Belmont's top boy was Brayden Townsend, who crossed in a time of 21:39, which placed him in 38th place overall. Wyatt Divers was next, finishing in 43rd place with a time of 22:07 and Jack Crockford finished in 63rd place in a time of 24:21. David Tripp was 83rd overall in a time of 26:02 and Sean Andrews finished out the scoring for the Raiders with a time of 27:21 for 94th place.

Henry Ashworth was 100th in 27:56, Daniel Tripp was 108th in 29:21 and Adrian Wilkinson crossed in 109th place with a time of 30:00.

The Raiders are slated to host a meet today, Sept. 12, and again next Thursday, Sept. 19, both with 4 p.m. scheduled starts.

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

Swain leads Bears in opening meet of the season



David Swain was the top runner for the Winnisquam cross country team at Gunstock last week.



Natalie Wolfe runs for Winnisquam during the Early Bird Invitational at Gunstock last Thursday.



Kyren Whitmore runs in the Early Bird Invitational last Thursday afternoon at Gunstock Mountain Resort.



Bella Dalzell emerges from the woods portion of the Early Bird Invitational course last Thursday afternoon.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Winnisquam cross country team opened the new season with a trip to Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford for the annual Early Bird Invitational. The Bear boys finished 11th on the day, with Hanover taking the wins for both the boys and the girls.

David Swain was first for the Bear boys, finishing in 42nd place with a time of 21:59, with Lazar Arbutina

finishing in 49th place overall with a time of 22:51. Cullen Desrochers was 66th overall in 24:41, Owen Bakis finished in 24:51 for 69th place and Kyren Whitmore rounded out the scoring for Winnisquam with a 92nd place finish in 27:15.

Joseph Curtin was 93rd overall in a time of 27:21, Luke Larrabee was 101st in 28:09 and Lucas Durphey finished in 111th place with a time of 33:23.

The Winnisquam girls were led by a

73rd place finish from Bella Dalzell in a time of 32:39, with Natalie Wolfe not far behind in 75th place in 33:20. Elise Langevin was 84th in 38:20 and Ariana Maxwell finished out the field of Bears with an 87th place finish in a time of 45:25.

The Bears are scheduled to compete again today, Sept. 12, at Belmont at 4 p.m.

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

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Sept. 12

BELMONT
Cross Country Home Meet; 4
GILFORD
Cross Country at Belmont; 4
WINNISQUAM
Cross Country at Belmont; 4

Friday, Sept. 13

BELMONT
Boys' Soccer at Hopkinton; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Hopkinton; 4
Volleyball at Moultonborough; 6:15
GILFORD
Boys' Soccer at Newfound; 4
Girls' Soccer vs. Derryfield; 4
Field Hockey at Berlin; 4
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer vs. Raymond; 4
Field Hockey vs. Sanborn; 4
Volleyball vs. Souhegan; 6

Saturday, Sept. 14

GILFORD
Football vs. Laconia; 2
WINNISQUAM
Football vs. Hillsboro-Deering; 2

Monday, Sept. 16

BELMONT
Girls' Soccer at Berlin; 4
Golf Home Match; 4
GILFORD

Volleyball at Campbell; 6
WINNISQUAM
Volleyball at Somersworth; 6
Tuesday, Sept. 17

BELMONT
Boys' Soccer vs. Berlin; 4
Golf Home Match; 4
GILFORD
Boys' Soccer vs. Sanborn; 4
Girls' Soccer at Sanborn; 4
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Soccer vs. Fall Mountain; 4
Field Hockey vs. St. Thomas; 4

Wednesday, Sept. 18

BELMONT
Golf at Moultonborough; 4
Volleyball vs. Kearsarge; 6:15
GILFORD
Golf at Kearsarge; 4
Volleyball at Winnisquam; 6
WINNISQUAM
Field Hockey at Franklin; 4
Volleyball vs. Gilford; 6

Thursday, Sept. 19

BELMONT
Cross Country Home Meet; 4
GILFORD
Field Hockey vs. Bishop Brady; 4:30

All schedules are subject to change.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam volleyball team battled neighboring Laconia in the opening game of the season, eventually dropping a 3-2 decision to the Sachems. "I thought today we saw two evenly matched teams," said Winnisquam coach Mark Dawalga. "It was a game of runs and Laconia was able to get the last run in the fifth set."

Junior Caidyn Carter had 12 kills and 11 aces, seniors Bella Dill had 21 assists and seven aces, junior Ali Max had four aces and two kills, sophomore Danica Weymouth had five aces and ninth grader Sophie Fair had seven kills for the offense. On the defensive

side of things, senior Gianna Ball had eight digs, senior Shayla Jordan had 11 digs, senior Anaya Mondesir had eight digs and senior Peyton Collins chipped in with solid defensive play.

"I really thought we had many kids really step up," Dawalga said. "With so many players getting new roles this year, I was very pleased with our team tonight."

"I was glad with our play overall," the Bear coach continued. "Still lots to work on but today was a big step forward."

The Bears put up a fight against one of the top teams in Division II when they took on Oyster River on Friday, Sept. 6, dropping a 3-1 decision.

"Playing one of the best teams in Division II on the road, I thought tonight's team effort was outstanding," Dawalga said.

Fair had seven kills and two blocks and Weymouth had five kills and two blocks, earning their coach's praise for taking a big step forward. Mondesir, Jordan, Ball, Max and Collins all played well on defense and Dill had 22 assists and Carter had 12 kills to lead the offense.

The Bears are scheduled to host Souhegan on Friday, Sept. 13, then visit Somersworth on Monday, Sept. 16, before hosting Gilford on Wednesday, Sept. 18, all with 6 p.m. scheduled start times.

Lakes Region Community Developers, Mental Health Center seek support to furnish new Bay Street apartments

LACONIA — Lakes Region Community Developers (LRDC) and Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) are launching a joint fundraising campaign to raise \$45,000 by the end of this year to furnish Bay Street Apartments in Laconia. Contributions can be made online at LRcommunitydevelopers.org.

Currently under construction, Bay Street Apartments will offer 12 units of supportive housing for people of very low income who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. All 12 units will be small efficiency apartments. The project is a collaboration between LRDC and LRMHC, with expected completion in Spring, 2025.

LRDC is a non-profit developer that has built affordable housing in the Lakes Region for more than 30 years. LRMHC has provided community mental health services for more than 60 years. Together, the organizations will provide supportive housing to help people build skills required for independent living. To set the tenants up for success, LRDC and LRMHC need basic furnishings for each unit.

To fully furnish the building, LRDC and LRMHC aim to raise \$45,000 and are seeking business sponsors and community supporters to help achieve that goal. By supporting this project, the community can help change lives.

The Bay Street Apartments project presents a fantastic opportunity for businesses to gain marketing exposure provided by both LRDC and LRMHC. By becoming a sponsor, businesses can demonstrate their commitment to community wellness, while also promoting their business.

A variety of sponsorship levels are available to suit any budget and preferred level of participation. Please join LRDC and LRMHC in the effort.

If interested in supporting this important cause, please visit LRcommunitydevelopers.org or contact LRDC Executive Director, Carmen Lorentz, at 603-524-0747, ext. 110.

About Lakes Region Community Developers

Lakes Region Community Developers is a non-profit developer of affordable housing and a mission-driven landlord.

Founded in 1988 as the Laconia Area Community Land Trust, they have developed high-quality, affordable rental housing throughout the Lakes Region for more than 30 years. LRDC currently owns and operates a more than \$60 million real estate portfolio comprising 365 affordable apartments in Ashland, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Tilton, and Wolfeboro. LRDC's properties offer high-quality, affordable housing for 750 peo-

ple each year. Their resident services program works to improve the health and well-being of LRDC's tenants so they can enjoy housing stability and build their own pathways to economic security. For more information, visit LRcommunitydevelopers.org.

About Lakes Region Mental Health Center

Lakes Region Mental Health Center is the NH-designated community mental health center serving 24 towns in Belknap and Southern Grafton Counties. A non-profit, private corporation founded in 1966, LRMHC provides integrated care to children, adults, elders and

their families who are living with- and recovering from mental illness and/or emotional distress. LRMHC professionals provide the highest quality of care. By working in partnership with other health care providers, hospitals, law enforcement, corrections, courts, school districts, social workers and public health officials, LRMHC is able to provide a continuum of care for patients and improve the quality of life in the Lakes Region. In Fiscal Year 2023, LRMHC's nearly 200 employees served more than 3,600 children, adults, and families. For more information, visit lrmhc.org or call 603-524-1100.

Audio Video Intelligence opens third location in Laconia



LACONIA—Audio Video Intelligence, a 27-year-old firm headquartered in Easton, Massachusetts, with a location on Cape Cod, has begun offering services in the Lakes Region and will open a showroom in the fall on Union Avenue.

Audio Video Intelligence offers complete design, installation and service of audio, video, lighting, outdoor entertainment, motorized shades, home theaters and home automation. Equipped with a team of electricians, technicians and designers, the firm specializes in meeting luxury standards.

"Imagine you walk into your kitchen, hit a button

that says, 'Good Morning,' and the lights turn on to the perfect brightness, the music goes to your preferred channel, and the shades open," said Scott Smith, sales and design manager. "It's almost as if you're waking up your home with a single touch of a button, and your home is also waking up you."

The Audio Video Intelligence team is currently providing services in the region, and their showroom at 899 Union Ave. will open in the fall by appointment only for builders, designers, architects and clients. The location is a home that has been developed with entertain-

ment, security and surveillance systems to immerse clients in the experience of how their technology would feel in a home or business.

Audio Video Intelligence will also collaborate with the Lakes Region Design Group to offer a show home during the Lakes Region Builders & Remodelers Association's Parade of Homes on Oct. 12 and 13, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at 23 Sundown Circle in Gilford.

Audio Video Intelligence is currently hiring technicians and installers. To apply or for more information, contact Scott Smith at atscotts@av-intel.com or 603-965-6327.

MARATHON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

also worked to assist Spaulding's mission to support exceptional children and families toward a successful future. Plans are already in the works for the 2025 Spaulding Woods 50K, after the success of both organization's first ultra marathon venture.

Sylvain credited much of the race's success to the phenomenal staff at Spaulding Academy and the selfless volunteers who helped with pre-race trail maintenance and day of event execution. However, anyone who attended the event and had the chance of meeting the Race Away Event's founder immediately knew that a great amount of the

event's success was due to Sylvain's dedicated and passionate vision behind the event.

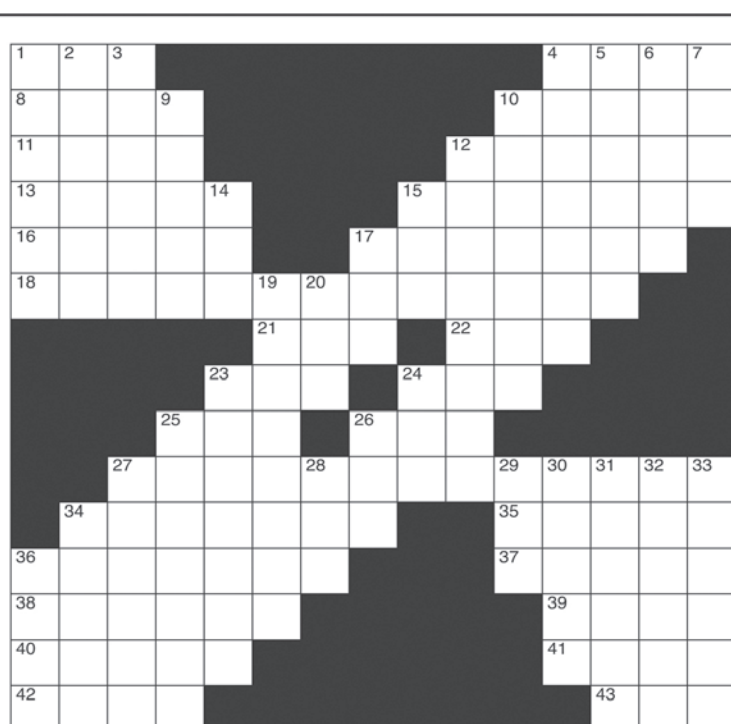
For more information, visit <https://raceawayevents.com>.

Spaulding Academy & Family Services was established in 1871 in Northfield. Formerly known as Spaulding Youth Center, today the organization serves youth from ages four through 21 at its 500-acre Northfield campus and offers services such as foster family licensing, Individual Service Option (ISO) foster care, ISO in-home services, child health support services, and more. For more information, visit www.spaulding-services.org.

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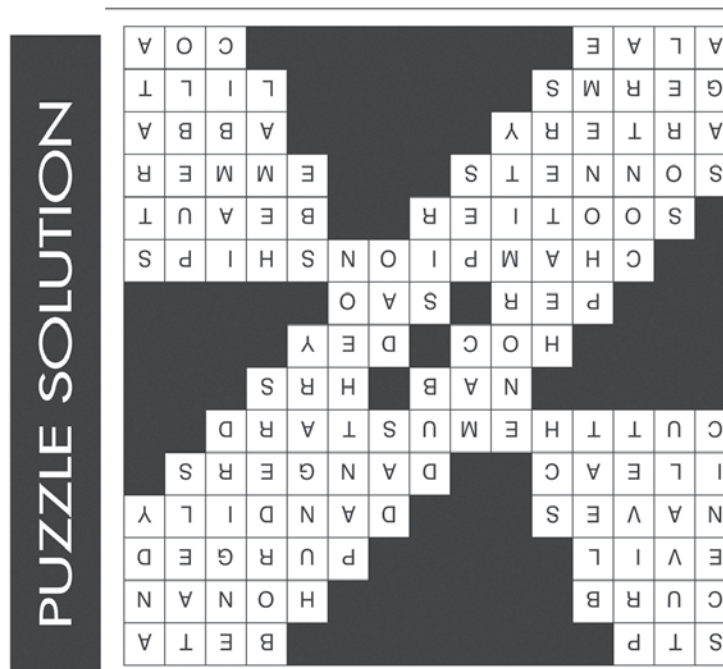


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. A type of test
- 8. Curtail
- 10. Irish surname
- 11. The opposite of good
- 12. Got rid of
- 13. Central parts of a church building
- 15. Stylistically
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Negative potential outcomes
- 18. Lived up to a standard
- 21. Snag
- 22. Time units (abbr.)
- 23. Ad __
- 24. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 25. For each
- 26. __ Paulo, city
- 27. League titles
- 34. More intensely black
- 35. Slang for lovely
- 36. Petrarch is known for them
- 37. Old Eurasian wheat
- 38. Body part
- 39. Swedish rock group
- 40. They're worth avoiding
- 41. Rising and falling of the voice
- 42. Wings
- 43. Enzyme import for respiration

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Idyllic
- 2. South Pacific island nations
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Boundaries
- 5. Encircle
- 6. Weights
- 7. Samberg is one
- 9. Sheep sound
- 10. European country
- 12. Respected group of people
- 14. Trigraph
- 15. Prosecutors
- 17. Assign a nickname
- 19. Huge size
- 20. Partner to cheese
- 23. Fastballs
- 24. Principle underlying the universe
- 25. Distinct units of sound
- 26. Title of respect
- 27. Against
- 28. Foot (Latin)
- 29. One point east of due south
- 30. Concerning the blood
- 31. Type of pentameter
- 32. North American peoples
- 33. Layers of rock
- 34. Georges __, French philosopher
- 36. Lengthy tale



Franklin Opera House welcomes back Dueling Pianos

FRANKLIN — Franklin Opera House is pleased to present Dueling Pianos on Sept. 21, at the Franklin Elks Lodge.

Always a popular event, they're back again for another rollicking good time! Dueling Pianos of New Hampshire brings fast-paced, request-driven fun in a non-stop, high-energy show where you pick the set list! No musical style or genre is off limits, and no two shows are the same. Be a part of it!

The fun starts at

7:30 p.m. Franklin Elks will be hosting a cash bar. They're back again for another rollicking good time! Dueling Pianos of New Hampshire brings the fast-paced, request-driven fun of Dueling Pianos to the Granite State.

Snacks will be sold to benefit renovation of Franklin Opera House.

The concept of Dueling Pianos can be traced back to the late 19th century, with its roots in classical music competitions. This captivating

performance style has evolved dramatically. In the late 20th century the concept boomed into the dynamic fusion of melody, joy, and engaging audience participation we celebrate today.

Join your friends on Sept. 21 at Franklin Elks Lodge #1218 for a smashing good time!

Tickets are on sale now at www.FOHNH.org or www.FranklinOperaHouse.org. This event is general seating.



An Evening of Broadway raises nearly \$8,000 for Children's Auction

LACONIA — The Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction raised nearly \$8,000 through its third An Evening of Broadway performance at the Colonial Theatre Laconia in mid-August. The energy for the family-friendly event was incredible with more than 400 people attending.

"The goals of our Broadway fundraiser are threefold," said Jennifer Kelley, executive director of the Children's Auction. "We raise money for the nonprofits that support local children and their families in need. We highlight the extraordinary talent in this community, and we create an event that gives children who might not otherwise have the opportunity a chance to experience the arts."

Nearly 200 children from local nonprofits attended the show at no cost, thanks to donations from the community. Children and families that attended for free included members



from the Boys and Girls Club, Central NH Foster & Adoptive Parent Support Group, Gilford Got Lunch!, Hands Across the Table, Kingswood Youth Center, Lakes Region Mental Health, Pittsfield Youth Workshop, Step Up Parents, Waypoint Family Resource Center, Laconia, and 603 United.

The show offered Broadway musical performances from local

community theater and dance groups, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Broadway North Dance Studio, Franklin Footlight Theatre, Gilford Performing Arts, Interlakes Children's Theatre, Miss NH, Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, NYC Ladies, Stages Dance Academy, The Power Chords, and The Winniesaukee Playhouse.

Lynn Dadian from

the of the Goal Tenders group rewrote lyrics from ABBA's "Money, Money, Money" and performed to encourage people to donate to the auction.

The event was made possible through the Presenting Sponsor, Franklin Savings Bank. Media partners were The Laconia Daily Sun and Lakes 101.5 FM.

"An Evening of

Broadway was such a fun night filled with exceptional talent and a great sense of community," said Jennifer Prince, marketing and community engagement officer. "It was heartwarming to see so many people come together to support local children and families in need."

Kelley also thanked the show's production team: directors Matt Demko, Heidi Bourgeois, Jen-

nifer Prince and Paige Thompson; Christy Dunn, who coordinated all the music with Johanna Halperin as backstage manager; and Sean Carroll running audiovisual.

"Everything that we do as an organization is geared toward engaging the community to financially support children and families in need," Kelley said. "Thank you to all for making this event a success."

The evening's emcee was local radio personality Pat Kelly, a loyal supporter of Lakes Region events and organizations, and, in particular, the arts.

Learn more about getting involved in the auction at childrensauction.org/getinvolved or learn more about sponsorship opportunities at childrensauction.org/sponsorship-opportunities.

Artisan Market returns to Canterbury Shaker Village

CANTERBURY — On Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Can-

terbury Shaker Village will host their annual Artisan Market, featur-

ing handcrafted goods and the opportunity to explore the Village

grounds.

In total, the Artisan Market will feature ap-

proximately 20 vendors selling a wide range of items, including fine art, textiles, photography, woodworking, ceramics, jewelry, and metal work. Admission is free.

"This year, the Artisan Market will play a part in our 'Commemorating 250 Years: Shakerism in America' celebration," said Visitor Services Manager Charlie Decker. "We are so excited to invite local artists to share their work and offer guests the opportunity to experience the Village when so much is going on here."

At the Artisan Market, attendees will be welcome to visit the special exhibit, Keeping Faith, where rare, early Shaker artifacts are on display in honor of the 250th commemoration. Some of these items include fragments of founding leader Ann Lee's dress, leader Lucy Wright's dressing pins, and second leader James Whittaker's bible.

"These are some of the most significant objects in our collection,

connected to the earliest days of the Shaker community and leadership," explained Education Manager Kyle Sandler. "This is a rare opportunity to experience early Shaker history."

According to Decker, the Artisan Market honors this history in its celebration of community and the Shaker legacy of craft. "This year, we are especially trying to honor those values," they said.

Established in 1792, Canterbury Shaker Village represents one of the oldest, most typical, and most completely preserved of the Shaker Villages. To learn more about the Artisan Market or Village, visit shakers.org.

Canterbury Shaker Village is a member of the NH Heritage Museum Trail, which connects the public with culturally rich heritage institutions in New Hampshire. For more information, visit nhmuseumtrail.org.



VITO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

suspects to missing children and everything in between. Vito had many successful tracks, apprehensions, and finds that earned him numerous accolades, including four United States Police Canine Association's Case of the Quarter awards and a feature in a nationally printed magazine.

In addition to his patrol duties, K-9 Vito was also assigned to the

Belknap Regional Special Operations Group and assisted the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force on several occasions.

Beyond police work, K-9 Vito could be seen performing demonstrations at local schools and community events around the Lakes Region, where he bridged gaps between law enforcement and the people they serve.

In 2022, after retirement, K-9 Vito found another job he enjoyed,

even more than being a police dog, being a caretaker to Boulanger, his wife Sara, and their two children. Vito relished in hikes with his family, catching tennis balls hit off a tee and chasing sleds down the driveway.

Evan and Sara want to extend their deepest heartfelt thanks to Dr. Brian Tierney and his wonderful staff (especially Laurie and Beth) of Noreast Veterinary who offered endless care, love, and treats until his passing.

Evan would also like to thank the Belmont Community who adopted Vito as their own and supported him through his years of service.

"Farewell my friend, when you walk in front of me, I shall always have your back. When you walk behind me, I shall always be willing to lay my life down for you. And so long as you walk beside me, I shall always call you, my partner," he said.

BELMONT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

1-0 lead. Thurber came back with a crossing pass and the Raiders had another corner chance that Martinez headed high. Brody Ennis also had a shot for Belmont that was stopped by Ty Belyea.

The Bears were able to tie the game with 27:40 to go in the first half, as Jayden Belyea buried a shot to the back of the net. Drake had another good run into the zone that was turned back and the Raiders had a corner kick that was turned away. Calvin Colby had a good clear and Owen Waldron fired a shot wide of the net for Belmont. Brady Harker made a good run up the sideline for the Bears and Landon Sargent and Drake teamed up on a chance that Wyatt Carroll was able to turn away for the Raiders.

Waldron had a shot denied by Ty Belyea and Jenkins had another clear. Belmont came back with a pair of corners, with Ryder Sargent getting a good clear on the second of those chances. Martinez also had a shot go over the top of the net.

With 13:19 to go in the first half, Belmont was able to take the 2-1 lead, as Nate Allard placed a shot to the far post past a charging Ty Belyea. The Bears came back with some good chances, as Ryder Sargent got a chance that Embree snared and Drake had a chance that Enes Sagirili was able to help turn away. Jayden Belyea had a header that was saved by Embree and at the other end, Loeper sent a shot on net that was cleared by Colby. Colby also had a direct kick going the other way that just missed connecting with Ryder Sargent in front.

Loeper made a good run into the zone, with Ty Belyea making a nice save charging out and Waldron had a bid that went high. Jenkins and Ricardo Rivera-Soto turned in a couple of solid defensive stops as the first half drew to a close with the Raiders up 2-1.

The second half started with Loeper's first bid being denied by Ty Belyea and his second going over the top of the net. Waldron just missed connecting with Ennis and then had a long shot that was snared by Ty Belyea.

Newfound had the half's first corner but could not convert and Jayden Belyea and Drake connected for a chance that Embree saved. Waldron came back the other way with a shot that went wide and Colby had a direct kick for the Bears that went wide of the net. Charlie Alan and Jayden Belyea teamed up for a bid that Embree grabbed and Alan sent another shot wide of the net.

Belmont got a good clear from Thurber and another from Bamford as the Bears had some good chances, led by Drake, who had a couple of bids denied by Embree. Drake and Ryder Sargent teamed up for a chance that went wide and the Bears continued to battle for the tying

goal.

Jayden Belyea had another chance in the zone that was turned back by Thurber and Brady Fysh and Loeper came back with another chance at the other end that Ty Belyea stopped. Jenkins made a good defensive stop on another Loeper chance as well. Landon Sargent had a direct kick cleared out by the defense of Bamford and Thurber and Harker had a chance go wide for the Bears.

Jayden Belyea's cross missed the mark in front and he sent another shot over the top of the net. After Martinez sent one high at the other end, Jayden Belyea made another run that was cleared by Sagirili and Embree made a good save on one final Jayden Belyea chance as the Raiders held on for the 2-1 win.

"Kudos to their goalkeeper, he played outstanding," said Foley. "He was really active in the goal and prevented a lot of opportunities for us.

"For us, that second goal was obviously huge, Nate was in the right place at the right time, took his time with it and had perfect placement," the Belmont coach continued. "And Keegan's, it was a scrum in front, that's how he's going to

do a lot of damage this year.

"Jaxson did some outstanding work too," Foley added. "He was always in the right spot at the right time and has those sure hands."

"The Belmont goalkeeper did a nice job, he was super-aggressive," Hill noted. "It was nice to see the boys battle a good team.

"But Belmont made one more play than we did," he continued. "It's a weird feeling. The kids want to win, they work to win, but I couldn't ask anything else of them.

"It's a good place to start from," Hill added. "There's a lot to build on,

we made some adjustments after the first half and that made things better."

Belmont is scheduled to be in action on Friday, Sept. 13, at Hopkinton and Tuesday, Sept. 17, at home against Berlin, both with 4 p.m. scheduled starts.

Jaxson Embree leaps to snare a shot during his team's win over Newfound in the season opener.



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<p>\$289,900</p> <p>MLS# 5007342</p> <p>Alton: 0.45+/- ac. waterfront lot on Merrymeeting River with access to Lake Winnepesaukee under a footbridge. Featuring a wharf, 4-bedroom septic design, and cement slab. Seller is a licensed Realtor in NH.</p>	<p>\$385,000</p> <p>MLS# 5011978</p> <p>Laconia: Two unit multi-family in excellent condition perfect for investors or affordable living with a tenant above. Each unit features 2 bedrooms, updated kitchens, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops.</p>	<p>\$439,000</p> <p>MLS# 5009664</p> <p>Laconia: 1BR/1BA waterfront condo with covered boat slips in a pet friendly association with low fees. Featuring a private balcony with westerly views. Enjoy stunning sunsets and the Weirs Beach fireworks.</p>	<p>\$699,900</p> <p>MLS# 5002969</p> <p>Concord: 3BR/2BA, 3,518 sf. custom built ranch in a peaceful neighborhood known for its community spirit. Enjoy hosting gatherings with a well appointed kitchen, double wall ovens, breakfast nook, large living room, gas fire place, and landscaped yard with brick patio.</p>
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Playhouse holding auditions for local youth and adult performers

MEREDITH — The Winnepesaukee Playhouse Education Department and the Winni Players Community Theatre, two branches of the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, are holding auditions for their joint production of “Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical” on Sept. 22 and 23.

In 2010, Dahl’s beloved children’s book leapt to the stage bringing his

characters to life with dynamic songs and innovative staging, winning 16 Best Musical awards! It’s the inspiring story of an extraordinary girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that, despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to.

Auditions are open to local adults and students ages eight and above. Those registered to audition are asked to prepare

a short monologue and song. Audition instructions and information about the production, including the rehearsal schedule, can be found on the Playhouse’s Web site, www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org.

The production will be directed by the Playhouse’s Artistic Director, Timothy L’Ecuyer. Rehearsals begin Monday, Sept. 30, and performances are Dec. 12-15.

Newcomers are encouraged to register for an audition appointment. No previous experience is necessary! Questions can be sent to info@winniplayhouse.org.

This production is generously sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank, Laura and Gary Stephan, the Taylor Community, and NH Broadband.



COURTESY

The Winni Players Community Theatre and the Education Department teamed up last year to produce “Fiddler on the Roof,” featuring local adults and students.

Christmas Tree Farm Manager, Forest Society North at The Rocks

Reports to: Managing Forester
40 hours/week
This position is Full-time, Exempt, Salary
Salary range begins at \$55,000, depending on experience.

Position Summary:

The Christmas Tree Farm Manager is responsible for running the Forest Society’s 20,000-tree Christmas tree farm operation at The Rocks in Bethlehem, NH. Since 1989, this has been a successful retail and wholesale Christmas tree farm. The Rocks is an iconic part of the community serving as the Forest Society’s north country hub for community engagement through recreation, educational programming, and tourism centered around this scenic Christmas tree farm and historic estate.

The Christmas Tree Farm Manager will ensure successful planting, cultivation, sales, and operations of the 45-acre tree farm. The Christmas Tree Farm Manager’s focus is to ensure all aspects of the Christmas tree operation and business are implemented. This position is primarily responsible for the day-to-day farm operations with other duties helping with property, trails, and grounds at The Rocks. This person will also hire, train, and supervise seasonal farm staff, contractors, and suppliers.

The Christmas Tree Farm Manager is part of a larger team who support the activities, programs, and maintenance at the 1,500-acre Rocks property which hosts several miles of recreational trails and the buildings that serve as the hub of the Forest Society’s north country operations. The Christmas Tree Farm Manager is also responsible for ensuring the farm and north country center are clear of snow in winter months and may work with other lands team staff as time allows to accomplish stewardship goals at The Rocks and other nearby north country properties.

This individual will represent the Forest Society on Christmas tree and farm organizations such as the Christmas Tree Growers Association and attend regional conferences. Effective communication skills, and the ability to interact with people positively are vital. The position is full time, year-round with more hours needed during peak events such as tree planting, tree harvesting, and Christmas season sales. The Forest Society promotes a balanced approach understanding that tree farming has busy and slow seasons.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct operations for the Christmas tree farm, including planting, spraying (requires pesticide applicators license), tree shearing, de-coning, tree inventory, fertilizing, tree grading and tagging, tree harvesting, mowing, and Christmas tree stump cutting.
- Manage farm finances, equipment, stock, and supplies.
- Manage tree seedling, wreath, and other tree farm supply ordering.
- Responsible for all wholesale and retail Christmas tree and wreath sales.
- Responsible for recruiting, hiring, training, and managing seasonal farm staff.
- Ability to plan and implement detailed seasonal schedules of required tree farm maintenance and organize tasks and personnel to get this work done.
- Hire and oversee farm-related contractors when necessary.
- Responsible for the preparation and management of the Christmas tree farm budget and planning.
- Manage tree farm business relationships with local inns including billing and accounts receivable.
- Coordinate Christmas season retail operation at The Rocks in collaboration with other north country staff.
- Responsible for the timely deposits of all cash receipts related to sales at the Christmas tree farm.
- Represent the Forest Society’s membership in National Christmas Tree Association, and the NH/VT Christmas Tree Association, including attendance of local meetings.
- Repair and maintain grounds equipment: tractors, mowers, ATV, utility trailers, saws, & trimmers.
- Provide back-up and support for north country campus maintenance, lawns, driveway, parking lot and roads.
- Ensure north country campus roads, walkways, and parking are kept clear of snow in winter.
- Coordinate with program and education staff to help facilitate educational programming which may entail tasks like driving the tractor and trailer during maple tours and other programming needs.
- Wild apple tree pruning in early spring at The Rocks and other north country forest reservations.
- Maintain, repair, and replace property signage as needed.
- Attend staff and lands team meetings, keeping the larger staff informed of program activities for the Christmas tree operation.
- Collaborate with the Forest Society lands team to help with forest and recreation management at The Rocks and other north country properties.

Contributions/Outcomes:

This position is primarily responsible for managing the Christmas Tree Farm operation as a core Forest Society program. This includes the hiring and supervision of farm staff and volunteers and providing a safe and productive workplace environment. Additionally, this position plays a key role in working with other north country staff to ensure a positive experience for visitors to The Rocks and to maintain relationships as community ambassadors to the north country. The successful candidate will foster a profitable and sustainable tree farm business while working as part of a team to accomplish the larger goals of the organization.

Qualifications and Skills required:

The Christmas Tree Farm Manager should have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience with hiring, training, and supervising others. Candidates shall have 3-5 years of experience working in an agricultural setting and/or Christmas tree farm and be competent in running tractors, chainsaws, and equipment. An education of a two-year associates degree or equivalent is preferred. A degree with a program focus in arboriculture, agriculture, or horticulture is preferred.

Demonstrable Competencies and Requirements:

- Excellent people skills and the ability to effectively communicate well both verbally and in writing.
- Good organizational skills both in the field and office (with strong attention to detail).
- Ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel and Quickbooks (for basic invoicing).
- Ability to work independently without supervision and manage crew members.
- Ability to hire, supervise and manage seasonal crews.
- Ability to operate and perform basic maintenance of farm equipment including one-ton truck and trailer, tractor, ATV, and chainsaw.

Experience, Education, and Licensure:

- Farming or agricultural experience, with preference for experience in cultivating Christmas trees.
- Knowledge and skill at safely operating farm equipment, including chainsaw and tractor operation.
- Driver’s license and capacity to drive a one-ton truck with a 20-ft trailer; maintain the required Medical Examiners Certificate (acquired at expense of Forest Society).
- Possession of or willingness to acquire a private spray license from the Division of Pesticide Control, specifically for Christmas trees (acquired at expense of Forest Society).

Additional Beneficial Skills and Qualities:

- Self-starter with a proven ability to run and foster a successful business.
- Experience in forestry and forest management.
- Experience with marketing, tourism, and/or public relations.
- Experience in providing public educational workshops and developing outreach materials.
- Experience in horticulture, arboriculture, nursery work, or forestry.

Working Conditions: The Christmas Tree Farm Manager must be prepared to work year-round indoors and outdoors, conducting physically strenuous work in a wide variety of weather conditions. Schedule will include some evenings, weekends, and occasional holidays during parts of the year. Seasonally, this job may involve as much as 90% outdoors work.

Physical Requirements: Fieldwork in this position can be physically demanding. The individual should be able to walk long distances over variable terrain in fields as well as in the woods, sometimes carrying equipment. Must be prepared to work mostly outdoors, tolerating a range of weather conditions. Must be able to stand for extended periods of time in the cold or the heat, run handheld power equipment, climb stairs, and be able to lift approximately 80 lbs.

Direct Reports:

Seasonal staff and volunteers.

Equity, Inclusion & Collaboration: The Forest Society is an equity-based employer. We value a diverse staff and an inclusive culture. We value staff that work for the good of the whole; that can effectively collaborate to achieve shared goals of their department, as well as the organization. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, veteran status, or any other protected status as required by applicable law.

Questions regarding this position should be directed to:

Wendy Weisiger, Managing Forester

wweisiger@forestsociety.org or 603-224-9945 X340

Resumes should be sent to:

Stephanie Milender, Human Resources Director at smilender@forestsociety.org

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JOB OPENING

Highway Department Equipment Operator/Laborer/Truck Driver

The Town of Holderness, NH is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Equipment Operator/Laborer/Truck Driver. Works under the general supervision of the Holderness Road Agent. Successful candidates should possess considerable knowledge of methods, materials and equipment used in the construction and maintenance of roadways and municipal infrastructure systems. Working knowledge of safety precautions common to construction equipment and construction projects is preferred. Minimum qualifications for the position include high school diploma or equivalent, possession of a valid Class B CDL or the ability to obtain one within the first six months of employment, ability to operate all types of construction equipment. Three to five years of experience is preferred, but we are willing to train the right candidate. Pre-employment physical and background check are required as conditions of employment.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. A full job description and employment application may be obtained at 1089 US Route 3 in Holderness or on the Town Website at www.holderness-nh.gov. Completed applications should be emailed to administrator@holderness-nh.gov or mailed to Town of Holderness, PO Box 203, Holderness, NH 03245 Attn: Kevin Coburn.

The Town of Holderness is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Town of Plymouth Highway Department Highway Worker/Mechanic

The town of Plymouth, NH, qualifications will determine pay rate, attractive benefit package, for an individual who has a knowledge of small engine repair, diesel engine repair, hydraulic systems operation and repair and general knowledge of light and heavy-duty trucks. Be part of winter operational services. Must have CDL-B with air brake endorsement, NH Inspection license or capable of obtaining one upon hire. It is required to pass a physical, including a drug and alcohol screening, and will be subject to a criminal background check as well as a driving records check.

Applications are available at www.plymouthnh.gov Mail application to Plymouth Highway Dept., 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth NH 03264, or upon request, 603-536-1623, at the Plymouth Highway Garage.

Once an Outlaw rides into Lakes Region for two big shows



REGION — Once an Outlaw featuring Chris Anderson with special guest Harvey Dalton Arnold of the legendary southern rock band the Outlaws returns to the Barn at the Inn on Main Wolfboro on Saturday, Sept. 21 for their annual barn burner. Then catch the two for the road show on Sunday, Sept. 22 at High Octane in Laconia.

The story of Once an Outlaw started in the dark days of Covid, when all tours came to a screeching halt. With empty calendars, calls were made and in August of 2020, the origi-

nal line up met in New Hampshire to see if this might be a good fit. They came from Tennessee, Georgia, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In that first rehearsal, Once an Outlaw was born.

The original line up included Chris Anderson of the Outlaws and Lucinda Williams, Chris Hicks of Outlaws/Marshall Tucker Band, Jeff Howell of Outlaws and Foghat, Chuck Farrell of James Montgomery and Jon Butcher Blues Project, and AJ Vallee of Night of Queen and the Peacheaters.

Following the death of Jeff Howell in March of 2022, he was replaced by David Goldfleece of the Allman Brothers Band, along with Mike Katch of the Dickey Betts Band on keys/voc. Goldfleece was later replaced by Tim Archibald of Barry Goudreau's (Boston) Engine Room/Peter Wolfe (J Giles).

The core of the group

has remained Anderson, Farrell, Vallee and Archibald but is constantly being added to as tour schedules allow. Former members of Marshall Tucker, Outlaws and Dickey Betts Band are all card carrying members of Once an Outlaw and often join the band

Special guests have included Blues icon James Montgomery, Harvey Dalton Arnold of the Outlaws, Jon Butcher, Barry Goudreau (Boston), and Bruce Marshall (Toy Caldwell Band).

Chris Anderson's "Old Friend" release received five stars from Rolling Stone, and featured a guest appearance by guitar great Warren Haynes.

Years ago in an interview, when asked who his favorite guitar player was, Dickey Betts replied "Chris Anderson."

Once an Outlaw is a must see for any fan or the southern rock or guitar driven blues genre.

Harvey Dalton Arnold first gained the music world's attention in a huge, arena-sized way: He was a member of the Outlaws ('76-'80), one of the giant wave of 1970s Southern rock bands that came in the wake of the Allman Brothers and wound up charting big hits and filling giant venues all over the nation.

Arnold's rise to stadium gigs happened quickly. As a teenager, he was playing bass for a band in Florida when he got an offer to audition for The Outlaws on a Saturday night. By the following Saturday, he played his first stadium gig when The Outlaws opened for Johnny Winter and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Tickets for the Wolfboro show are available on ticketleap.com or locally at Blacks in Wolfboro. Text outlaw to 7800.

Tickets for High Octane can be found at Eventbrite.com.

Join in a day of fun at Prescott Farm's annual Harvest Festival

LACONIA — Prescott Farm invites you to celebrate the heart of autumn at our highly anticipated Annual Harvest Festival on Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., held at 928 White Oaks Rd., Laconia, and promises a memorable day for visitors of all ages.

Admission is free, making it the perfect family outing!

The Harvest Festival is the highlight of our annual events, drawing over 500 attendees to experience a vibrant mix of activities and entertainment on our picturesque 160-acre property. Highlights of this year's festival include:

Horse- and Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides: Enjoy a leisurely tour of the farm with our charming wagon rides.

Animal Encounters: Meet our friendly farm animals and learn about their roles in our agricultural community.

Outdoor Family Yoga: Stretch and breathe in the fresh autumn air with guided family yoga sessions.

Field Games & Hay Jump: Engage in classic field games and bounce to your heart's content on our hay jump.

Natural Crafts & Nature-Based Stories: Let creativity flourish with hands-on crafts and enjoy engaging nature stories.

Live Music: Dance to the tunes of the Puckerbrush Band and the O'Brien Clan.

Colonial Trades Fair: Explore historical trades and crafts at our colonial fair.

Delicious Food: Savor tasty treats from Beans and Greens Farm and The Gravy Train.

Alice in Wonderland Characters: Be enchanted by the whimsical characters brought to life by Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative.

In addition to the festival activities, visitors are welcome to explore Prescott Farm's 3 miles of hiking trails, our natural PlayScape, and our heirloom gardens at their leisure. Don't miss our inaugural Artists of Prescott Farm art exhibit, showcasing the creativity and talent within our community and curated by Larry Frates.

"We're thrilled to welcome everyone to our Annual Harvest Festival," said Executive Director, Jude Hamel, "It's a fantastic opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy all that Prescott Farm has to offer."

For more information about the Harvest Festival or to learn about volunteering opportunities, please visit www.prescottfarm.org or contact us at (603) 366-5695.

About Prescott Farm

Prescott Farm is a community-focused organization dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship, education, and outdoor experiences. Our 160-acre

property offers a range of activities and programs that connect people with nature and encouraging a love for the natural world.

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or email scott@scottburnslandscaping.com

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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.

LEARN WHILE YOU EARN!

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

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ENERGYSAVERS INC.

163 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith NH



Lumber Materials Handler

Belletetes has an immediate opening in our Ashland location for a full-time Lumber Materials Handler. The successful candidate is responsible for assisting customers and contractors locate materials and load vehicles, receive incoming shipments and select loads for delivery trucks. Computer skills and prior lumber and building material experience is beneficial. Heavy lifting is required. Saturday hours on a rotating basis.

Belletetes is a 5th generation, family-owned building materials supply company that has been in business for over 125 years. Are you looking to join a company that treats their employees like family? We believe our employees are our biggest asset!

When you join our team, you will be working in a family-friendly atmosphere where career growth is important, and we try to promote from within. We offer an industry leading benefits package that includes competitive wages, health insurance, life insurance, paid vacation, paid time-off, paid holidays, paid bereavement leave, profit sharing, 401k and store discounts.

You may apply in person or download an application from our website. All applications should be submitted to:

Dan Uhlman, c/o Belletetes Inc.
20 West Street, Ashland, NH 03217
or you may email to duhlman@belletetes.com

E.O.E.



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Full-Time Position Warehouse/Service

Energysavers Inc is looking for a self-motivated individual to add to its staff. The position would include, but is not limited to, organizing and pulling parts for jobs as well as receiving deliveries. We are a highly recommended 49 yr old Lakes Region retailer of well-known hearth & spa products. You can earn while you learn! Potential to move into a service or installation position is a possibility. No prior experience required. Must have a valid driver's license & be able to lift/carry an 80lb min.

Stop in to fill out an application:

Energysavers Inc,
163 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith NH



NON-CDL DELIVERY DRIVER

We have an immediate opening in our Ashland location for a delivery driver. CDL license not required. Must have a valid driver's license with a clear driving record. As part of the job requirement, a DOT medical card is required (employer will assist candidate in obtaining medical card). Join a team of delivery drivers that enjoy coming into work every day!

Belletetes is a 5th generation, family-owned building materials supply company that has been in business for over 125 years. Are you looking to join a company that treats their employees like family? We believe our employees are our biggest asset!

When you join our team, you will be working in a family-friendly atmosphere where career growth is important, and we try to promote from within. We offer an industry leading benefits package that includes competitive wages, health insurance, life insurance, paid vacation, paid time-off, paid holidays, paid bereavement leave, profit sharing, 401k and store discounts.

You may apply in person or download a driver application from our website. All applications should be submitted to:

Dan Uhlman, Manager
20 West Street, Ashland, NH 03217
or you may email to duhlman@belletetes.com

E.O.E.

Audubon announces program on owls

MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Loon Center in Moultonborough, the Lakes Re-

gion Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will present a program on the "Mystery of Owls," presented by Joe Callanan.

Join Callanan, a natural history educator and wildlife photographer, for a one hour talk to learn all about the owls that live in our New England woods. See exciting images of owls in the wild captured by photography.

Callanan will share

the intimate details of their lives as we learn about the natural history that makes each species so successful living right here in our midst under the cover of darkness.

Many owls are reclusive and shy by nature, and owing to the nocturnal lives they lead are seldom seen. Joe has spent years seeking them out including Screech Owls, Barred Owls, and Great Horned Owls.



Callanan will also touch on rare visitors to New England such as Snowy Owls, Long Eared Owls, and Great Gray Owls.

Prepare to be amazed — this will be a hoot!

Callanan will also raffle an 11 by 14 inch canvas Barred Owl print entitled "Mom At The Nest."

Tickets will be \$10 each, and the proceeds will benefit the Loon Preservation Committee.

The Loon Center is located on Lee's Mill Road; follow the signs on Blake Road from Route 25 near the Moultonborough Central School, or from Route 109, turn on to Lee Road and turn left on Lee's Mill Road.



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Series is held Tuesdays and Fridays, starting on September 24 through October 25.
10:30 am - Noon

Sanbornton Public Library, 27 Meeting House Hill Road

Join us for this engaging series with a variety of guest speakers, topics, and relevant discussions all about creating a personal pathway for healthy aging.

The Aging Mastery Program® classes focus on:

- Sleep • Healthy Eating & Hydration
- Financial Fitness • Falls Prevention & More!

Registration is required by Sept 16.

This program is offered at no charge.



For more information or to register, call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85664 or visit www.granitevna.org/calendar.

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