

"Christmas will always be. As long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand." - Dr Seuss



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Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

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FREE

Bulldogs come up short in first game of season



JOSHUA SPAULDING

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



JOSHUA SPAULDING

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

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

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

However, the Knights took that momentum back in the second period, scoring a pair of

goals and then added an empty-net goal in the

third period to take the 3-1 win at Merrill Fay

Arena.

Michael House had the first shot of the game for the Knights, with B-G's Carson McGreevy

SEE HOCKEY, PAGE A7

Spaulding Academy & Family Services announces new VP of Human Resources

NORTHFIELD — Spaulding Academy & Family Services recently announced the hiring of Bethany Earls, SHRM-

SCP into the role of Vice President of Human Resources.

Earls brings more than two decades of comprehensive experience in non-profit and for-profit organizations with a heartfelt desire to serve her community. Earls comes to Spaulding after serving for 15 years at Moore Center Services Inc., in Manchester, initially as Director of HR and, more recently, as Vice President of Services. She is a proven leader with a strong background in both operational oversight and human resources, including direct experience in



(Right) Bethany Earls

benefits, compensation, recruitment, performance management, employee relations, and project management. Prior to moving to New Hampshire, Earls began her HR career in Boston, Mass., working in the biotechnology industry, where she supported the Human Genome Project, and later gained experience as an HR Business Partner for a global financial corporation.

In her role as VP of Human Resources, Earls oversees the human resources department and is responsible for ensuring Spaulding Academy & Family Services utilizes a strategic approach

SEE SPAULDING, PAGE A7

Holiday season brings early deadlines

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

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

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

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

Winnisquam Regional School District hosts annual Community Dinner

TILTON — Community members, families, students and friends gathered at the Winnisquam Regional High School for the annual Holiday Community Dinner. Those who attended were treated to a traditional turkey dinner, salad, rolls, deserts and beverages. This dinner is held each year to thank the community for supporting the children of the Winnisquam Regional School District.

As the guests arrived, they were greeted by members of the Winnisquam Agriculture Program. These students have been creating lovely holiday floral arrangements, which were available for sale throughout the night.

Members of the district administrative team, faculty staff, and students were on hand to decorate the cafeteria, serve the meal, mingle with guests and clear tables as meals were finished.

Representatives of SEE DINNER, PAGE A7



Bears can't keep up with defending champs in opener

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

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

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

"There's a lot of anticipation with any season, but this season in particular, it felt like it's time to get things going," said Gilford coach Rick Acquillano. "We have a long way to go, there's still things to clean up, but I'm happy with our effort."

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

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

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

Perkins put back a rebound to start the second quarter and then Carter Gelo hit a hoop and Baldi drained a three-pointer. Two free throws from Perkins gave Gilford a 21-5 lead before Caleb Robdau sunk a three-pointer for the Bears to get them on the board with what would end up being their only points of the quarter.

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

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

That would be it in the frame for the Bears, as Gilford closed the quarter on a 14-0 run to put things away. Perkins started the run with a bucket and Sleeper followed with a three-pointer. Perkins



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



JOSHUA SPAULDING
Caleb Robdau fires off a shot in action against Gilford on Dec. 8.

added a free throw and Sleeper added another three before Grant drained two from the line. Sleeper

added a free throw and a putback to close out the

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE A8

Fast start propels Bears past Gilford in opener

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Winnisquam girls' basketball team picked up a solid opening night win on Friday, Dec. 8, holding Gilford to just two points in the first quarter on the way to a 42-32 win over the Golden Eagles.

"Our defense was outstanding tonight and really carried us in the second half of the game," said coach Mark Dawalga. "When we stay connected on defense, it really helps us get out and run."

Winnisquam led 15-2 after one quarter and 23-10 at halftime. Gilford closed the gap to 30-21 after three quarters before the Bears finished out the 10-point win.

"Gilford is a very good team and really made us work for everything in the second half," Dawalga

noted. "It was a nice team win on the road to open the season."

Lauren MacDonald had 20 points and five steals, Victoria Kelly had 11 points and 10 rebounds and Caidyn Carter had eight points, two steals and four assists. Trinity Carter had 10 rebounds, Bella Sargent had four rebounds and four steals, Sophia Braun had a pair of rebounds and Vanessa Power had three points, two rebounds and three steals and all earned their coach's praise for strong defensive games.

"I tell our team all the time there are many, many ways to impact a game and tonight they did that," Dawalga said.

Winnisquam continued the season after early holiday deadlines Dec. 12 against Prospect Mountain

SEE BEARS, PAGE A7

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Small group of Bears ready for indoor track season

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — While it's a small group of Winnisquam athletes who will be hitting the indoor track circuit this winter, coach Patti Malone notes that she's excited to see how the girls all progress as the season goes along.

Victoria Kelly, who is eyeing her senior year

of outdoor track in the hurdles, will be joining the indoor track team this winter, in addition to playing basketball.

"Victoria is as driven as she ever is and I'm feeling pretty good about her potential this winter," said Malone. "The distances will be unfamiliar to her, as she

hasn't raced indoors yet, but she's quick off the

blocks and I think the 55-meter distance will suit her for hurdles."

Sophomores Kaiden Robb and Zariah Moore are back and will be looked at to lead the 4X200-meter relay and also have aspirations to qualify for the state meet in their respective individual races as well.

"I'm definitely feeling optimistic about

Kaiden's chances in the 300-meter races," Malone said. "She's determined and is working hard after a strong outdoor season as a freshman."

"The same goes for Zariah, but in the 55 meters," the Bear coach continued. "She had a good season playing field hockey this fall and is eager to keep her training going this winter."

Sophomore Devin Timmons will be throwing shot put with an eye toward the spring season and classmate Denessa Williams will be running the short sprints as well. Sophomore Emily Tripple and senior Alexis Searles are bouncing back from injuries and will be ready in the coming weeks.

Winnisquam is scheduled to compete in four meets at Plymouth State University and a couple of meets at the University of New Hampshire

The Bears were scheduled to open the season after early holiday deadlines Dec. 16 and continue on Saturday, Dec. 23, at Plymouth State at 10 a.m.

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

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Raiders can't overcome fast start by Spartans in first game

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BELMONT — A strong start was enough to propel the White Mountains Regional girls' hoop team past Belmont in the season opener for both teams on Friday, Dec. 8. The Spartans outscored the Raiders by an 8-2 score in the

opening quarter and then by a 16-6 margin in the second half to take a 24-8 lead to the halftime break. White Mountains won the third quarter 15-7 to take the 39-15 lead to the final frame and Belmont won the fourth quarter 11-10 for the 49-26 final score.

Ainsley Savage led

the way for the Spartan girls with 15 points on the night while also hauling in 13 rebounds. Freshman Olivia Lorenz finished with 14 points and added 13 rebounds as well and Emma Simpson added 10 points to the cause.

Madelyn Besegai was the leading scorer for the Raiders, put-

ting in 10 points, while Darci Stone chipped in with eight.

Belmont was in action after early holiday deadlines on Dec. 12 at Inter-Lakes, Dec. 14 against Mascoma and Dec. 18 at Berlin before finishing out the 2023 portion of the regular season at home against Raymond on Thursday,

Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.

The Raiders will also be taking part in the Mike Lee Holiday Basketball Bash in Farmington. They open on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 4:30 p.m. against defending Division II champion Kennett and will play again at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28.

White Mountains was also in action after early holiday deadlines at Littleton on Dec. 12, Kearsarge on Dec. 15 and Colebrook on Dec. 18. They take on Stevens on Wednesday, Dec. 20, and host Newfound on Friday, Dec. 22, both with 6:30 p.m. scheduled start times to wrap up the regular season for the year.

The Spartans will be taking part in Groveton's holiday tournament, taking on Colebrook in the first game of the tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

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

Winniquam hoop boys bring back solid group of starters

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam hoop boys will likely have to play bigger than their height in order to find some success in the new season.

"We are one of the smallest teams in the division, so we are going to have to play bigger than our height," said veteran coach Kevin Dame, who enters his 13th year at the helm of

the Bears. "Our goals are to improve every day and compete with every team that we play."

The good news for Dame is that the Bears will be returning four starting seniors with plenty of experience. Alex Nichols, Frankie McComiskey, Caleb Robdau and Chris Biancardi will be counted on a lot in the new season.

"They work well to-

gether and should take care of the ball and defend well," Dame stated.

Zach St. Onge will bring some speed to the guard position and will make a nice contribution to the team. Juniors Justin Tardiff and Jacob Twombly are both juniors who will be looking to contribute at both ends of the floor.

The Bears also welcome sophomore Ethan

Poole to the team and Dame expects that he will be in the mix and will be a help on the boards.

"The guys have been working hard, we just need to play solid consistent team basketball," Dame stated.

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

The season began against Gilford and continued after early holiday deadlines on Dec. 12 at Prospect Moun-

tain and Dec. 19 against St. Thomas. The Bears wrap up the 2023 portion of the regular season at Mascoma today, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Winnisquam will be taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford, starting on Wednesday, Dec. 27, with a 1 p.m. game against Newfound. The tournament continues on Thursday, Dec. 28, also at 1 p.m. against either Laconia or Prospect Mountain.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PSU soccer programs announce upcoming clinics

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

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

The full-day camps are set for Thursday, July 18 (boys) and Friday, July 19 (girls). The full-day camps will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include lunch and an admissions tour.

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

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

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

BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 4-11.

Lawrence C. Spaulding, Jr., age 20, of Belmont was arrested on Dec. 6 for Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products By a Minor.

Angolina Klink, age 36, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 7 for Criminal Trespassing.

Lee E. Piper, age 34, of Belmont was arrested on Dec. 7 for Knowing Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registration requirements.

Ryan S. Collins, age 39, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 10 in connection with a warrant.

Julie Jo Ellis, age 55, of Laconia was arrested on Dec. 10 in connection with a warrant.

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter submission policy

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

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



COURTESY

Command performance

The New Horizons Band of the Lakes Region brought some musical holiday cheer to residents of the New Hampshire Veterans Home on Dec. 5.

Positively speaking!

Toby Moore

Age is truly just a number

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

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

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

While da Vinci's story is awe-inspiring and fascinating, I recognize that such a universal genius is an anomaly in human history. I assume he also had hidden talents that he never discovered, but comparing ourselves to him might not be the most realistic benchmark. His polymathic brilliance spans an incredibly rare spectrum.

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

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

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

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

She was known for her cheerful and optimistic disposition. I suspect her willingness to embrace painting later in life stemmed from her open and thankful attitude. Staying receptive, upbeat, and grateful can be crucial in discovering hidden talents, regardless of age.

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

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

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

that he began writing in earnest as a way to cope with his loss.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Tourism Award winner Karen Bassett.

COURTESY



Kathy Fairman is presented with the Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award.

COURTESY



Dan Faust receives the Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship.

JOSHUA SPAULDING

Lakes Region Tourism Association announces awards & scholarship at Annual Meeting

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

After a time of networking and refreshment, Executive Director Amy Landers welcomed members, sponsors and guests. She

shared the association's marketing report, highlighting the marketing results for in-state; out of state and international visitors; groups and second home owners. Following her presentation, two Tourism Awards and scholarships to area students were awarded.

The Association's Tourism Award is pre-

sented each year to an individual or business that has made a difference in the past year to bring visitors into the Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire. The 2023 Tourism Award was presented to Karen Bassett, who established the New England Coffee Festival, a two-day event to bring together coffee enthusiasts, industry

professionals and local communities in a joyous and immersive event. She created a unique and inclusive platform where attendees can indulge in the art, science, and flavors of coffee, fostering a deeper appreciation for the craft and its impact on the region.

The evening wrapped up with the presenta-

Granite VNA awarded tax credits to support renovation of Laconia office

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

"We are pleased to begin the planning stages of our renovation and look to start construction in 2024," said Beth Slepian, MBA, PT, President and CEO of Granite VNA. "The updated space will serve as a new multi-use meeting area to be used for preventative wellness programs and bereavement support groups. We greatly appreciate the community support we have received and look forward to sharing progress updates in the future."

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

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

CDFA tax credits al-



COURTESY

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

low businesses to fund qualifying economic or community development projects in exchange for a tax credit that can be applied against state business tax payments. The tax credits are administered by the New Hampshire CDFA. Any business with operations in New Hampshire that contributes to a CDFA tax credit project receives a New Hampshire state tax credit worth 75 percent of their contribution. The credit can be used over a period of five years to reduce the business' state tax liability (business profits, business enterprise, or insurance premium taxes). The tax credit program allows New Hampshire businesses to use their state tax dollars to support local projects that they care about. CDFA reviews many project

applications each year, and awards tax credits to those they determine are feasible and will make the biggest impact on economic development in the state. Visit nhcdfa.org for more information.

org for more information.

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



COURTESY

Kelsey Garnett receives the Mel Borrin Scholarship.

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

This year, the 2023 Lifetime Tourism Achievement Award was presented to Kathy Fairman, a true Lakes Region historian and supporter of the community. Fairman established The Laker more than 40 years ago a successful events and entertainment publication

distributed throughout New Hampshire. In 1987, she started Molly the Trolley. The Trolley has been introducing visitors to Wolfeboro with narrated tours and special excursions in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Most recently, Jolly the Trolley was added to the fleet. She also created new Haunted Trolley Tours that have been very successful during the fall months. She offers dinner tours and along with trips to concerts and to local theatres.

The Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship was named in honor of Mildred Beach, who was the director of the Lakes SEE **TOURISM**, PAGE A13

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Edward Jones: Financial Focus

Avoid tapping into retirement savings early

Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?

One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than 59½. But even if you don't leave your job and take away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your money compounds, you'll want to minimize disruptions.

Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.

Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.

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

BY ERIN PLUMMER
ernews@salmopress.news

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This year, they gave people the ability to bid early on certain items, especially the ability to make the maximum bid on items costing more than \$300. Morrisette said this might have enticed more people to donate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We know that the people here who are donating their time, donated items, who bid everyday, those of you at home, those of you on the radio, those of you streaming you care where this money goes," she said. "We take it very, very seriously."

Some of the money goes to many different needs such as food, shel-



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

COURTESY PHOTOS



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

COURTESY PHOTOS



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

COURTESY PHOTOS

ter clothing, and holiday gifts for kids. It also goes to educational programs and different kinds of camps including athletic and theater camps.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

half of work that they are responsible for and take care of their dental health.

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

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

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

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

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

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SPAULDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

to human resources and fosters a supportive, creative, and positive work culture for employees. She also acts as a strategic partner to the CEO and executive leadership team to identify innovative, forward-thinking

solutions to evolving challenges and helps ensure that the needs of the children served are integrated into all human resource operational decisions.

“Bethany’s exceptionally strong HR background coupled with her experience in human

services is exactly what Spaulding Academy & Family Services needs to foster a culture that fully supports staff, children, and families,” said Todd Emmons, CEO & President, Spaulding Academy & Family Services. “The Board of Directors and our leadership team share my enthusiasm in

welcoming Bethany to our team to help us shape the future of Spaulding Academy & Family Services.”

Earning her Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification in 2010, Earls is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Stonehill College. She also serves on the Ethics and Mission Board Committee at Catholic Medical Center.

About Spaulding Academy & Family Services

Spaulding Academy & Family Services is a

leading provider of educational, residential, therapeutic, and community-based programs and services for families, and children and youth with neurological, emotional, behavioral, learning, or developmental challenges, including Autism Spectrum Disorder and those who have experienced significant trauma, abuse, or neglect. Established in 1871 as the New Hampshire Orphans Home and School for Industry, Spaulding Academy & Family Services is the oldest childcare organization in operation in the United States. It is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was formerly known as Spaulding

Youth Center since 1958. Its scenic hilltop campus is located on more than 500 acres in Northfield, and welcomes boys and girls from ages four through 21 from around the state of New Hampshire and beyond. In addition to programs provided on the Northfield campus, Spaulding’s community-based programs include foster family licensing, Individual Service Option (ISO) foster care, ISO in-home services, child health support services, and more for children ages 0 to 20 and their families. For information about Spaulding Academy & Family Services, visit www.SpauldingServices.org.

HOCKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

making the save. Belmont-Gilford also got an early power play chance less than a minute into the game. Dylan Cash had a good clear for the Knights and Jaxson Embree had a shot deflected for the Bulldogs. After Kingswood’s Evan Harrington had a good steal and run into the zone, the hosts came back with a good chance in close, with Colton Byars finding Embree for a chance in close that Kingswood keeper Jake Dubuc was able to stop.

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

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

Embree continued to attack for the Bulldogs that Dubuc handled before the Bulldogs got on the board with 2:22 to go in the first period, with Guerin finishing off a scrum in front of the net. Adam Ribeiro and Embree picked up the helpers on the first goal of the season for the defending champions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

With 3:39 to go in the second period, Rogers got the Knights the lead after Libby got a turnover in the zone and made a perfect feed in front and Rogers buried the puck into the open net for the 2-1 lead. Guerin had a bid go wide at the other end and B-G had another power play chance with 1:23 to go and Cloos had a clear before Ribeiro and Guerin had bids that were stopped and the period came to a close with Kingswood up 2-1.

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

Kingswood was in action after early holiday deadline against Pembroke-Campbell on Dec. 13, at Kearsarge-Plymouth on Dec. 16 at Berlin-Gorham on Dec. 20. The Knights are taking part in the Peter Hall Holiday Tournament at Ham Arena in Conway, opening on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 4 p.m. against Berlin-Gorham and continuing on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 9:30 a.m. against Dover.

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

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can

DINNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

the Raven Gael Blaisdell Foundation were available to meet with families. Each student was encouraged to choose from a wide variety of free books.

Adding to the evening’s festivities, artwork from Southwick School, Sanbornton Central School, Winnisquam Middle School and Winnisquam High School was on display for all to enjoy.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Shannon Bartlett said, “We are always so happy to have community members at

our community events. It was a great opportunity to speak with people one on one to thank them for their support of the district. I was thrilled to see so many people enjoying their special holiday meal.”

She also acknowledged the hard work on the part of Food Service Director Robb Cohen and his staff which contributed to the evening’s success.

This evening has been made possible by generous donations from Surowiec Farm, M. Saunders Produce, Performance Food Group, Coca-Cola, and Fantini Bakery.

BEARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1 and Dec. 18 at St. Thomas. The 2023 portion of the regular season wraps up today, Dec. 21, at home against Mascoma at 7 p.m.

The Bears will be taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford, starting on Wednesday, Dec. 27, with an 11:30 a.m. game against Newfound. The tournament continues on Thursday,

Dec. 28, also at 11:30 a.m. against either Laconia or Prospect Mountain.

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




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PETS OF THE WEEK

Ralph

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

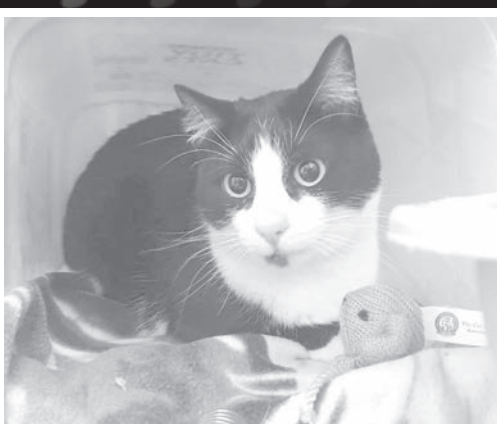


down time, between eating treats and playing fetch, Ralph loves to cuddle up for nap time and would be a great addition to a home looking for a little extra love.

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

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BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A2

quarter and Gilford led 48-16 heading to the final eight minutes.

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

Biancardi and Robdau went back-to-back from downtown be-

fore Gilford's Emmett Hughes put back a rebound. McComiskey got another hoop for Winnisquam but Jackson Gelo hit a three-point-er and a field goal and Hughes added another basket as Gilford closed out the 62-28 win.

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

"We're still trying to determine who we are, but we learned a little

about ourselves today and there's more to learn," he continued.

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

"This was a terrible and a good game to start because you know where you are at the end," the Bear coach continued. "We've got work to do, but whether we lost by five or by 50, it's still just one loss."

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

Winnisquam was also in action after the early holiday deadlines at Prospect Mountain on Dec. 12 and at home against St. Thomas on Dec. 19. They will finish 2023's regular season at

Mascoma today, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Both teams are taking part in the Lakes Region Holiday Hoop Tournament in Gilford. Winnisquam opens against Newfound at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Gilford opens against Plymouth at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Both teams play the next day at the same times against opponents to be determined.

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

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

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

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



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BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops at Raymond; 6:30
 Girls' Hoops vs. Raymond; 6
WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hoops at Mascoma; 6:30
 Girls' Hoops vs. Mascoma; 7
Friday, Dec. 22
GILFORD
 Boys' Hoops at Stevens; 7
 Girls' Hoops vs. Stevens; 6:30
Saturday, Dec. 23
BELMONT
 Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10

GILFORD
 Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10
WINNISQUAM
 Indoor Track at Plymouth State; 10
Tuesday, Dec. 26
BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops vs. Coe-Brown (Farmington Tourney); 3:15
 Girls' Hoops vs. Kennett (Farmington Tourney); 4:30
BELMONT-GILFORD
 Hockey vs. Bishop Brady (Holiday Tourney); 1:15

WINNISQUAM
 Hockey vs. Pembroke-Campbell (Holiday Tourney); 3:15
Wednesday, Dec. 27
BELMONT-GILFORD
 Hockey vs. John Stark-Hopkinton (Holiday Tourney); 11
GILFORD
 Boys' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 4
 Girls' Hoops vs. Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 2:30
WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Tourney); 1

Girls' Hoops vs. Newfound (Gilford Tourney); 11:30
 Hockey vs. Kearsarge-Plymouth (Holiday Tourney); 5
 Wrestling at Hubie Wagner Tourney; TBD
Thursday, Dec. 28
BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Farmington Tourney); 5:45
 Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Farmington Tourney); 4:30
BELMONT-GILFORD
 Hockey at Holiday Tourney; TBD

GILFORD
 Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Holiday Tourney); 4
 Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Holiday Tourney); 2:30
WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 1
 Girls' Hoops vs. TBD (Gilford Tourney); 11:30
 Hockey at Holiday Tourney; TBD
 Wrestling at Hubie Wagner Tourney; TBD
All schedules are subject to change.

TOURISM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5 Region Tourism Association for almost 50 years. She was involved in State Legislature and was very active in the tourism industry for the entire State. Dan Faust was presented with the Mildred Beach Hospitality Scholarship. Faust is a second-year student at Lakes Region Community College majoring in Culinary Arts. Raised in Salem, his passion for culinary arts blossomed during his time at Salem High School where he participated in the CTE culinary program. Gaining valuable experience from his first job as a line cook at Tuscan Market restaurant, heD hopes to further his culinary career by delving more into the food truck industry after graduation next year.

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

years and was a Past President and Board of Director of our Association. Named in honor of Mel, the 2023 Mel Borrin Scholarship was awarded to Lakes Region Community College student, Kelsey Garnett. She has extensive career in the restaurant industry gaining experience from HUOT Tech (which in high school at Winnisquam High School), Shalimar Resort, UNOs, Common Man, Breeze, and Greenside Restaurant. Garnett plans to graduate in the fall of 2024 and continue on to the Pastry Arts degree program.

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

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 Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital
 181 Corliss Lane, Colebrook, NH 03576
 Phone: (603) 388-4236
Ucvh-hr@ucvh.org
 EOE

Town of Plymouth
Job Opening
Plymouth Recycling Center
 The Town Plymouth is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Transfer Station Attendant.
 This position is a full-time and year-round position.
 Duties include but not limited to:
 1. Maintaining the recycling area and insuring the proper disposal and classification of all recycled materials.
 2. Assisting residents and commercial users in the appropriate placement of refuse and recyclables.
 3. Assist the Recycling Manager in all matters related to the operation of a solid waste/recycling facility.
 Additional requirements are a good working ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Applicant must be able to obtain a NH Solid Waste Operators License within one year of hire and applicant must have a valid driver's license.
 Interested candidates should complete an application and submit to: Plymouth Recycling Manager, James Conn, 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264 or email at recyclingmanager@plymouth-nh.org.
 An application may be found at www.plymouth-nh.org or at the Town Office 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264.
 The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 For additional information related to the position contact James Conn at 603-348-5247 directly.
 Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Energysavers
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.
Stop in to fill out an application:
Energysavers Inc,
163 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith NH

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK WANTED
 The Shaker Regional School Board is accepting letters of interest for the position of School District Clerk.
 The duties of the School District Clerk are similar to those of a town clerk as they relate to the transcribing minutes for the annual Deliberative Session, overseeing and facilitating the ballot/election process, assisting the District Moderator as needed and certifying election results. Registered voters from the towns of Belmont and Canterbury who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter of interest, with qualification, experience and other pertinent information to:
 Shaker Regional School Board
 58 School Street
 Belmont, NH 03220
 Letters of interest shall be accepted until such time as the position is filled.

SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE WORKER
 Shaker Regional School District's Food Service Department has an immediate opening for a Food Service Worker at Belmont High School, 5-1/2 hours/day. Pay is \$13.71 per hour. Duties include, but are not limited to, prep work, serving, cleaning, washing dishes and pots/pans, and other tasks directed by the Kitchen Manager. Ability to lift up to 40 pounds. Prior experience in the food service industry is preferred, but not necessary. The successful candidate must be able to work in a fast paced, ever changing environment and perform as a team player.
 Applications may be found on the Shaker Regional School District website or can be picked up at the SAU Office at 58 School Street; Belmont, NH 03220. Successful completion, with satisfactory results, of a criminal background check, including fingerprints, is required. Please contact Nancy Cate, Director of Food Service at 603-267-6525 ext. 1352, if you have any questions.

Brian Bozak to become President & CEO of Franklin Bancorp, MHC and Franklin Savings Bank

FRANKLIN — At the Annual Meeting of Franklin Bancorp, MHC, parent company of Franklin Savings Bank, it was announced that Brian Bozak will become President and CEO of both entities as of Jan. 1, 2024. He will assume the role currently held by Ronald Magoon. This leadership transition is in keeping with the CEO succession plan implemented in 2021 by the Board of Directors.

Bozak joined FSB in March of 2016 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He grew up in Western Massachusetts and attended college in Florida where he began his 20-year banking career as a teller at a community bank. He remained there for 12 years working for various institutions before



Brian Bozak

rising to the position of CFO and moving to New Hampshire to accept his role at FSB in 2016.

“I love living in NH and being a part of FSB. We have an incredible staff and I know that together we can continue to make FSB a vital and relevant part of our communities. This is such an exciting opportunity!” Bozak says

Magoon has been with Franklin Savings Bank for more than 35 years, and has served as President and CEO since 2016. He will remain with FSB in an advisory capacity until his full retirement in September of 2024.

Magoon says, “I’m excited the succession planning has worked so effectively, and I have great confidence in Brian’s ability to lead this organization into the future.”

Speaking to his own personal feelings having been with FSB for so long, he added, “It’s bittersweet in so many ways to be at this point in my career. I am proud of what we have accomplished in my time with FSB, and I will miss being in the office every day working with such a great group of dedicated and caring people.”

Established in 1869, Franklin Savings Bank

is an independent, mutually-owned community bank, offering a full array of commercial lending, personal banking and investment services throughout the Central Lakes Region and Southern New Hampshire. Headquartered in Franklin, the Bank has offices in Bristol, Bos-

cawen, Tilton, Gilford, Merrimack and Goffstown. The Bank also offers investment, insurance and financial planning services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Independence Financial Advisors. As a recognized leader in

providing the latest in financial services technology, Franklin Savings Bank remains committed to serving the needs of businesses, families and the communities it serves, through a dedicated team of employees, a diverse line of

financial products and services, and continued investment in emerging technology.

Visit www.fsbnh.bank to learn more or follow the bank on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

Downtown Crepes wins Best Overall in Downtown Window Decorating Contest

FRANKLIN — The Franklin Falls Business Group is pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Downtown Window Decorating Contest.

The theme this year is Winter Wonderland and Downtown business windows were filled with snowmen, sleds, beautiful lights and even an electric train. Franklin’s Hidden Treasures won the Best Use of Small Space, AW Frost

won the Most Festive category and Downtown Crepes won first place with Best Overall. Honorable Mention went to Hair & Company, The Franklin Cafe and Thrift Clothes Closet. Please stop in Downtown Franklin, while out during the holiday season and congratulate our winners, enjoy our restaurants, shops and visit our unique downtown parks festive with beautifully lit Christmas trees.

GENERAL SERVICES

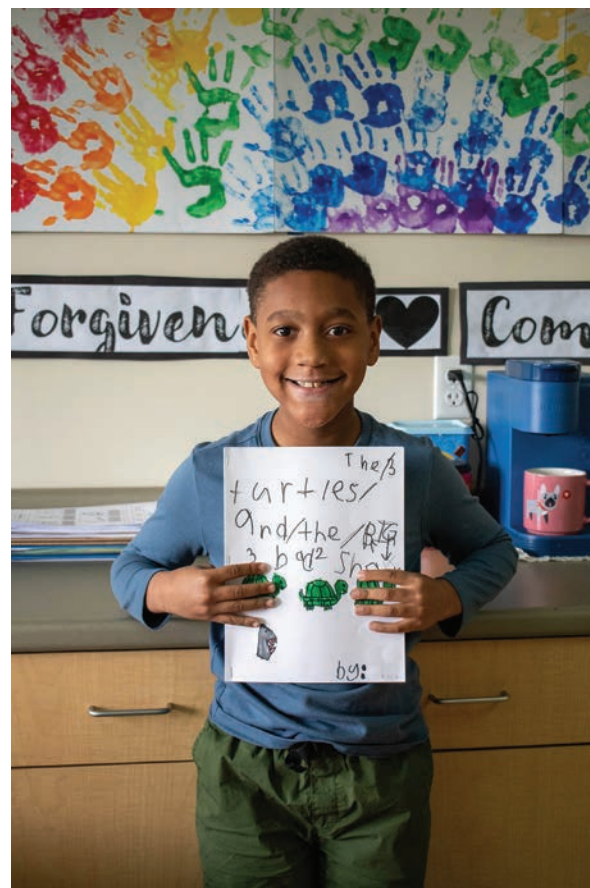
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Aspiring authors

Spaulding Academy & Family Services recently hosted its annual Authors Tea, a culmination of students writing, editing, illustrating, and publishing their unique work to share with guests and visitors. To learn more about Spaulding Academy & Family Services, please visit SpauldingServices.org.



COURTESY

HELP WANTED

Town of Plymouth Job Opening Highway Department

The town of Plymouth Highway Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Highway worker. If you are hardworking, team player, with a positive attitude and willingness to learn, you may be the person we are looking for. Candidates need no previous experience; however, candidates need a valid driver's license with CDL-B endorsement. This position performs duties in all areas of construction and other assigned projects to include summer and winter maintenance of roadways. Duties include but are not limited to, operating heavy machinery necessary for road maintenance, maintaining municipal equipment and plowing roadways for winter operations, and other road maintenance tasks. Successful candidate will be required to be on-call for a week at a time on a rotating schedule.

If you are looking for a drug free, appreciative working environment that offers a competitive wage and benefit package including: Vacation, Sick Leave, Personnel Days, Educational Training, Health Insurance (Employee pays 15% of premium), Dental Insurance (Employee pays 100% of premium), Group Disability and Life Insurance, and retirement through NH Retirement System, you may be the person we are looking for. The Town of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer.

Applications are available at the Plymouth Town Hall (603-536-1731), the Towns Website www.plymouth-nh.org or at the Plymouth Highway Department (603-536-1623) from 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is appointed.

Call our toll-free number 1-877-766-6891 and have your help wanted ad in 11 papers next week!

Town of Plymouth Highway Department Immediate Opening Seasonal Sidewalk Tractor Operator

The Town of Plymouth is seeking a qualified applicant, to work 32 hours per week as a sidewalk tractor operator. This is a supervised position, where you will also be required to do hand shoveling on sidewalks, walkways, and building entrances. This position requires you to work varied and sometimes long hours during adverse weather conditions, especially during snowstorms.

This position is seasonal and runs from approximately October thru mid - April.

Applications are available on the Town of Plymouth's website, www.plymouthnh.org Email application to highway@plymouthnh.gov or mail application to Plymouth Highway Dept., 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth NH 03264, or upon request, 603-536-1623, at the Plymouth Highway Garage.

The Town of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer.



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

ERIN PLUMMER



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

ERIN PLUMMER

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

BY ERIN PLUMMER
mnews@salmonpress.news

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

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

The original Pub Mania was a 24-hour barstool challenge inspired by the 24-hour spinning marathon at the former Laconia Athletic and Swim Club. This year the event switched to a 12-hour challenge that Patrick's co-owner Alan Beetle said was inspired by the event the Elks Club used to have to benefit the Children's Auction.

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

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

This year's Community Challenge has 360 participants who raise money throughout the year.

The new Pub Ma-

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

ERIN PLUMMER

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

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

Bailey was a special guest at the opening ceremonies. He said when he started the event 42 years ago he examined the question of how many paychecks can a family afford to miss. He said there are many people in the community who can't afford to miss one.

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

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

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

"There's a lot of hate in the world, well come to Patrick's and Pub Mania this year

and you're going to see nothing but love," Bailey said.

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

After the opening ceremonies Bailey

said he was amazed by the announcement.

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

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

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

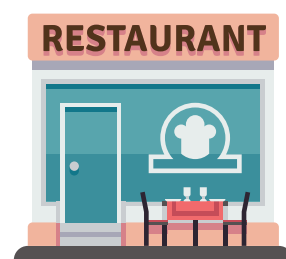
Some team leaders also talked about the importance of the event.

Lisa Cornish, team captain for Crossfit Juggernaut, talked about how the money from the Children's Auction benefitted her family. She said she was in a position of being a mom and not knowing how she would get her child a

SEE PUB MANIA, PAGE A12



ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ SalmonPress.com





Members of the Community Challenge unveil a check for \$356,456 for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction.

COURTESY PHOTO

PUB MANIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5
 jacket. Her family received support from local organizations and now she and her family are giving back to the community.

“We were that family in need and thus auction is so near and dear to my heart,” Cornish said.
 Her daughter Anna Terry is now captain of her own team.

The Community Challenge wrapped around 11 p.m. on Thursday.
 The next day, teams from The Community Challenge presented a check for the mon-

ey raised through the year to the auction.
 Community Challenge chair Jen Beetle thanked all those involved with the Challenge and Pub Mania. “We are just so in-

spired by what Warren created, what the board is carrying on, how the volunteers make all of this happen, the bidders too they're rly important,” she said.

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



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