



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

FREE

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Williams leads three Bears in earning field hockey All-State honors



Gilford's Riley Coutts and Winnisquam's Zariah Moore and Camilla Cote. Also earning First Team honors were Ryan Barrett and Autumn Meier of Hopkinton, Iris Traffie and Kiahna Farrey of Mascenic, Makenna Houston and Ellie McGrody of Mascoma, Jillie Ouellette and Elizabeth Benware of Stevens and Riley Thomas and SEE **ALL-STATE**, PAGE A9

Belmont tax rate set at \$17.39

BELMONT — The Town of Belmont Tax Rate was set on Friday, Nov. 7.

The tax rate was set at \$17.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This is a \$1.65 increase (10.48 percent) from the 2024 rate of \$15.74. This rate is similar to 2023.

The Local and State Education tax combined is 63.71 percent, the Municipal portion is 30.99 percent and the County portion is 5.29 percent.

It was anticipated that tax bills would be sent by mail no later than Nov. 14, with a due date projected to be around Dec. 16.

Once tax bills are ready, and will be immediately available on the town Web site at belmontnh.gov > Departments > Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Tanger Outlets announces Black Friday savings, extended hours

TILTON — Holiday shopping starts early this year at Tanger Outlets Tilton! Shoppers can unwrap incredible Black Friday savings all month long, then take advantage of extended weekend hours beginning Friday, Nov. 28 at 6 a.m. to score the best deals on this season's hottest brands and gift trends. From stylish footwear and designer handbags to beauty and tech gifts, inspired home décor and winter must-haves, guests can find something for everyone on their list at Banana Republic Factory, Bath & Body Works, Coach, Columbia, Kate Spade, Old Navy, Under Armour and more.

Savvy shoppers can stretch their budgets even further by joining TangerClub for exclusive perks and extra savings. Guests can also download the Tanger App to unlock doorbusters and plan their ultimate Black Friday shopping adventure.

In addition to unbeatable savings, Tanger Tilton is spreading holiday cheer through two community giving events over the Black Friday weekend. On Thursday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., the Tilton Northfield Fire Department will host its annual Boot Drive benefiting the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction. The giving continues Friday, Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with the First Student Stuff A Bus event, collecting donations to support local school children in need.

Black Friday doorbusters and extended weekend hours

Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27)	CLOSED
Friday, Nov. 28:	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 29:	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 30:	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

****Some store hours may vary early morning on Black Friday. Please check with individual stores to confirm opening hours.**

To learn more about holiday plans at Tanger Tilton, visit tanger.com/tilton – and connect on Facebook and Instagram.

Denessa Williams of Winnisquam was named to the Division III All-State Second Team.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The state's field hockey coaches announced the All-State honorees at the conclusion of this fall's season and there were numerous locals on the lists.

In Division III, First Team honors went to Berlin's Emma Rancloes, Olivia Richard and McKenna Kelley and Gilford's Catherine Fay and Grace Southworth. Second Team honors went to Kennah Scott and Emily Smith of Berlin and Denessa Williams of Winnisquam and Honorable Mention was given to Berlin's Cloey Vien,

Franklin Savings Bank announces promotions



Mike Duval

FRANKLIN — Franklin Savings Bank recently announced the promotions of Mike Duval to SVP, Commercial Loan Officer; Mark Wilson to SVP, Chief Credit Officer; Lori-Ann Bolduc to Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager, Tilton location; and James Yates to Assistant Branch Manager, Goffstown location.

"Our employees are not only outstanding professionals, but also community champions, and we love seeing them excel in their careers here at FSB," states Brian Bozak, President & CEO. "The promotion of Mike, Mark, Lori and James are a reflection of their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing exceptional customer service every single day. They are excellent representatives of FSB within the community, and we have no doubt that



Mark Wilson

they will excel in their new roles."

Mike Duval – SVP, Commercial Loan Officer

Duval joined FSB as VP, Commercial Loan Officer in 2019 and has more than 30 years of experience in Commercial Lending. He is committed to building relationships and utilizing his extensive experience in the banking industry to serve the needs of businesses in our communities.

Mark Wilson – SVP, Chief Credit Officer

Wilson joined FSB as VP, Credit Manager in 2022. He has more than 10 years of experience in credit analysis, and more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry. He has an Associate's degree in business management, and has served on several boards and committees over the course of



Lori-Ann Bolduc

his career.

Lori-Ann Bolduc – AVP, Branch Manager - Tilton

Bolduc joined FSB in January 2014 as a part-time Personal Banker at our upper Central Street location. She later transitioned to full-time and was promoted to Retail Trainer in February 2019, and then Branch Manager in 2020.

James Yates – Assistant Branch Manager - Goffstown

Yates joined the FSB team in 2023 as Personal Banker II. His eagerness to learn and grow in his career is clear in his willingness to jump in and help whenever possible. James completed the ABA Branch Manager Certification and recently attended Northern New England School of Banking in Portsmouth.



James Yates

Established in 1869, Franklin Savings Bank is an independent, mutually-owned community bank, offering an array of commercial lending, personal banking and investment services. The Bank also offers investment and financial planning services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Independence Financial Advisors. 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, Instagram, and YouTube.

New Hampshire Community Loan Fund expands affordable housing opportunities with support from MVSB



From left, Katie McQuaid, NH Community Loan Fund SVP of Philanthropy & Community Engagement, stands at the MVSB Main Office with Tina Simpson, MVSB VP Commercial Loan Officer, Stacy Trites, MVSB SVP Senior Retail Banking Officer, and Charlie Dowd, MVSB VP Residential Mortgage Sales NMLS# 737415.

League of NH Craftsmen Gallery showcases 3D woodworking by Duane Martin

MEREDITH — The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, Meredith Fine Craft Gallery is proud to highlight the intricate wood artistry of juried-in artist Duane Martin, a master of Intarsia, which is a 3D woodworking technique that combines different types, colors, and grains of thick woods, without stain, to create richly detailed, dimensional images. Each piece is meticulously hand-cut, shaped, and assembled like a wooden mosaic, bringing the natural beauty and textures of the wood to life.

Martin’s wood art celebrates both craftsmanship and connection to the natural world, blending

fine woodworking with artistic expression. One of Duane’s most striking works is a tribute to one of New Hampshire’s most beloved symbols, the Old Man of the Mountain. This piece captures the enduring spirit of the Granite State’s famous rock profile, carefully rendered through layers of natural wood tones that echo the rugged landscape of Franconia Notch.

Equally captivating is Martin’s woodpecker, a creative depiction of the forest’s rhythm and energy. The piece highlights Martin’s keen eye for detail in the woodpecker’s striking coloring against the tree’s texture, and the interplay of light and shadow all

skillfully crafted from wood alone, without the use of paint or stains.

The Meredith Fine Craft Gallery invites you to come see these skillfully crafted pieces where the timeless beauty of New

is located at 279 DW Highway, Meredith.

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit organization that encourages and promotes the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and



Hampshire’s landscape and wildlife is preserved in wood. For more information, please call the Gallery at 603-279-7920 or visit our website meredith.nhcrafts.org. The League of NH Craftsmen Gallery

traditional hand crafts. The League represents the signature of excellence in fine craft, through the work of its juried members and its rigorous standards for self-expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.

cord of finding innovative ways to meet real needs in our state,” said Marcus Weeks, MVSB President. “Their work to expand access to quality manufactured housing is a smart, forward-looking solution, and we’re glad to play a small part in helping more families put down roots and build stability.”

The Community Loan Fund provides support for manufactured-home purchases and improvements, resident-owned communities, small business and nonprofit growth, affordable housing development, energy efficiency projects, and local municipalities managing grants. Go to communityloanfund.org to learn more.

CDFA tax credits allow businesses to fund qualifying economic or community development projects in exchange for a tax credit that can be applied against state business tax payments. The tax credits are administered by the New Hampshire 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 in-

surance 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.

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, Exeter, Gilford, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, North Conway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visitmvsb.com.

Community Calendar November 20–27

- Thursday, Nov. 20
The nights grow cold, the skies turn gray, But Tilton’s seniors meet today.
At 10 a.m., the chatter’s warm
Inside the Rec Hall safe from storm.
- Friday, Nov. 21
Belmont Library hosts a craft,
A cheerful, glue-and-glitter draft.
At 3 p.m., young hands create
Small treasures friends appreciate.
- Saturday, Nov. 22
Northfield’s potluck fills the hall,
At 5, they welcome one and all.
Bring soup or bread or pie to share,
Good company provides the flair.
- Sunday, Nov. 23
Sanbornton’s trails invite a stroll,
A gentle hike to soothe the soul.
Meet noon at Lane Road’s sunny bend,
Where woods and quiet paths befriend.
- Monday, Nov. 24
Laconia’s choir begins its run,
Rehearsing songs for winter fun.
At 6 p.m., the voices rise
Inside the church beneath calm skies.
- Tuesday, Nov. 25
Tilton Farmers’ Market’s near its close,
But still at 3:30, baskets rose

- With jams and greens and breads to buy
Before the harvest days pass by.
- Wednesday, Nov. 26
Belmont’s readers gather tight
At 5 p.m. for Book Club Night.
Warm drinks, warm words, a cozy blend
To share good stories with a friend.
- Thursday, Nov. 27 —
Thanksgiving Day
The tables fill, the kitchens hum,
And quiet gratitude will come.
May all our towns, both lake and hill,
Find peace within the season’s still.



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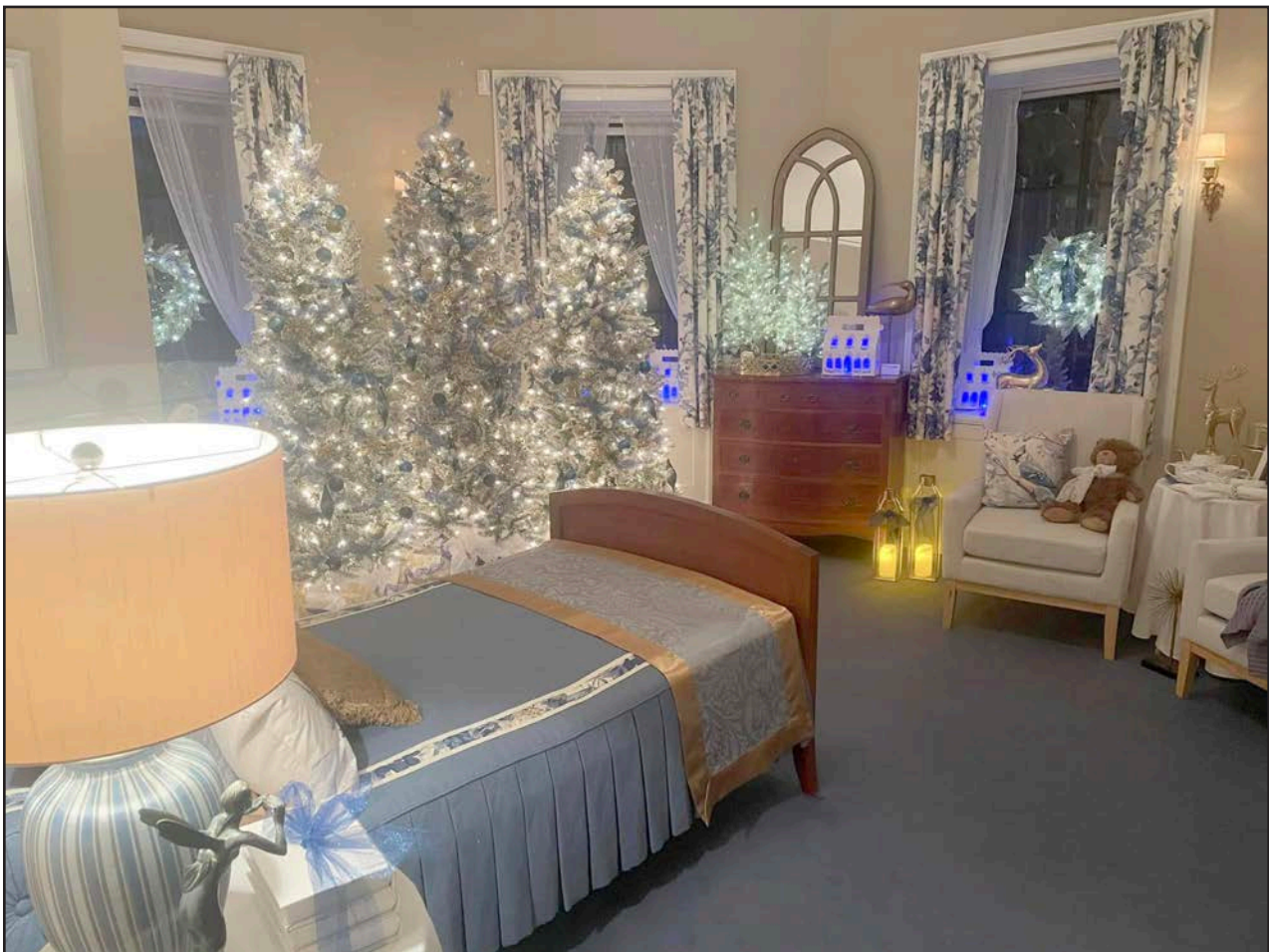
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2025 Christmas at the Castle tickets available

MOULTONBOROUGH — Castle in the Clouds is hosting its annual Christmas at the Castle event with the 2025 theme, “Season’s Greetings.” Christmas at the Castle tickets can be redeemed on any event date, Saturdays and Sundays: Nov. 22 & 23, Nov. 29 & 30, and Dec. 6 & 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

An exclusive Preview Party will be held on Friday, Nov. 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. This experience provides participants with a first look at the Lucknow Mansion decorated by local businesses and organizations the night before Christmas at the Castle opens to the public. The evening includes a self-guided tour, live music, complimentary hors d’oeuvres and drinks, and early access to the Artisan Fair.

In addition to tours of Lucknow Mansion and Artisan Fair admission, each Christmas at the Castle, Season’s Greetings weekend event will offer holiday crafts, photos with Santa, complimentary hot cocoa



and cookies and lunch service at the Carriage House Restaurant.

“Christmas at the Castle is a beloved tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the wonders of the holiday season,” said Charles

Clark, Executive Director of Castle in the Clouds. “Our team looks forward to welcoming guests to New Hampshire’s newest National Historic Landmark with plenty of fun for the whole family.”

Event tickets are now

on sale. To learn more, visit <https://www.castlein-theclouds.org/christmas-at-the-castle/>.

About Castle in the Clouds

As the premier historical museum in the beautiful

Lakes Region of New Hampshire, Castle in the Clouds provides each visitor with a look into the past while providing contemporary comforts to make every visit memorable. Originally called Lucknow, this breathtaking 6,300-acre

property was developed in 1913 by Thomas G. Plant, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, to create a luxurious lifestyle with state-of-the-art amenities, beautiful hand-made furnishings, and a large staff to run the estate. These days, visitors come from all around the world to tour the mansion and exhibit gallery, dine in the Carriage House Restaurant or Café in the Clouds, hike miles of hiking and walking trails maintained by partner organization the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, or enjoy one of our many programs and events. Operated by the Castle Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Castle in the Clouds is revered as a cultural and educational resource and listed on the National Register of Historic Places with national significance. Castle in the Clouds is also available as a fairytale wedding venue and versatile private event rental. For more information about Castle in the Clouds, visit www.castleintheclouds.org.

Franklin Savings Bank welcomes Chris Dickinson as Senior VP, Commercial Loan Officer

FRANKLIN — Franklin Savings Bank is pleased to welcome Chris Dickinson to the role of SVP, Commercial Loan Officer within its commercial lending group. Chris will be based out of FSB’s Main Office in Franklin.

Dickinson comes to FSB with a Master of Business Administration,

a BA in Financial Studies, and a career in banking that spans more than 25 years. Most recently, Dickinson held the position of SVP, Chief Commercial Banking Officer at Northway Bank in Laconia. In his role, Chris oversaw the bank’s Commercial Banking, Small Business Banking, and Loan Ad-

ministration teams, while providing strategic direction and year-over-year sales growth.

Dickinson will focus on developing relationships with businesses throughout New Hampshire.

“Chris’ extensive experience in commercial lending, treasury management and sales growth strate-

gies, is an excellent complement to FSB’s lending department,” explains Jon Jones, SVP, Senior Loan Officer. “His expertise, combined with his commitment to community involvement and dedication to excellence, makes him a great addition to our team. We are looking forward to working with him.”

Chris is dedicated to community development and volunteerism. He actively sits on local non-profit boards that focus on affordable housing, economic development and civic engagement.



Chris Dickinson

Craig Jaster Trio returns to The Loft at Hermit Woods



Craig Jaster

MEREDITH — Pianist, vocalist, and composer Craig Jaster returns to The Loft at Hermit Woods Winery for an evening of jazz, wit, and soulful musicianship, joined by two of New England’s finest — Tim Gilmore on drums and John Hunter on bass.

A long-time local favorite, Jaster’s music is steeped in jazz, blues, swing, and soul. Known for his sharp lyricism and outside-the-box interpretations of the American Songbook, he brings both humor and heart to every performance. Though he now spends much of his year performing in Italy, Jaster is returning to New

Hampshire just in time for this special evening at The Loft.

Tim Gilmore has shared the stage with greats such as Lester Bowie, Marian McPartland, Sheila Jordan, and Tower of Power, while John Hunter’s storied career includes collaborations with Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, and Joe Williams. Together, this trio delivers an extraordinary, intimate musical experience.

Guests are invited to begin the evening with a complimentary wine tasting from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by dinner service starting at 6 p.m. The show begins at 7 p.m., with

drinks and dessert available during the performance.

About The Loft Listening Room

The Loft at Hermit Woods offers a true listening room experience — a warm, intimate space designed for audiences who appreciate live music without distraction. Guests are asked to refrain from talking during performances, allowing both artists and listeners to fully immerse themselves in the moment.

After the show, guests are encouraged to meet the musicians and browse any available music or merchandise.

“I chose FSB because of its strong reputation as a locally owned, independent community bank headquartered in the heart of New Hampshire’s Lakes Region,” explains Chris Dickinson, SVP, Commercial Loan Officer. “From my very first interaction with the team, it was clear they genuinely care about the financial well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and the communities they serve. From day one, I felt truly welcomed—like part of the family.”

Outside of work, Dickinson is a Lakes Region native. He grew up in Gilford and now lives in Meredith with his son and yellow lab. He enjoys spending time with family and friends,

golfing, boating, hiking the White Mountains, skiing and snowboarding.

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products and services, and continued investment in emerging technology. Visit www.fsbnh.bank to learn more or follow the bank on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

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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.

Finding common ground in a season of small generosity

Late November in the Winnisquam region always carries a different sort of energy. The lake settles into its cold stillness, the last leaves cling to the edges of country roads, and communities begin their seasonal shift toward reflection and preparation. As Thanksgiving approaches, the calendar tends to fill quickly with food drives, community meals, winter coat collections and quiet acts of neighborliness that rarely make headlines but define life in towns like Tilton, Northfield, Belmont, Sanbornston and Laconia.

This is a time of year when people often talk about gratitude in grand terms. Yet the most meaningful expressions of generosity tend to happen in the margins: a bag of groceries dropped off at a pantry, a volunteer night at the school, a neighbor who plows someone else’s driveway without being asked. These gestures don’t require committees, budgets or speeches. They simply require someone deciding that the community is stronger when people look out for one another.

Local organizations are already at work on that front. Food pantries in Laconia and Tilton have urged families to donate shelf-stable items as holiday demand increases. Churches across the region are finalizing plans for their Thanksgiving meals. School groups are organizing winter gear drives, and service clubs are lining up volunteers for December events. None of these tasks is glamorous. All are essential.

The value of these efforts goes beyond meeting immediate needs. They remind us that community is not a passive condition. It is something built every day through small choices that accumulate into a shared sense of responsibility. When people show up for one another, even in modest ways, it strengthens the foundation that holds our towns together in more difficult times.

This year, the calls for assistance are especially notable. Rising costs continue to strain many households, including those who have not historically needed help. Local service providers have reported an uptick in first-time visitors. That reality underscores the importance of supporting the organizations that serve as safety nets and gathering points. A donation of time, funds, or goods is never wasted. It is an investment directly into the region’s stability and wellbeing.

There is another piece worth considering. Acts of community service offer something in return for the giver: connection. It is easy in busy seasons to retreat into routines, to hurry between obligations and let the days slip past. But shared work — stacking boxes at a food drive, sorting winter clothing, preparing a meal for others — invites conversation, understanding and perspective. It reminds people that even in small towns, we often know far less about one another than we assume.

As winter settles in, these small efforts matter even more. Cold weather brings its own challenges, from heating expenses to transportation difficulties to simple isolation. A kind gesture offered now can ripple far beyond the moment.

The Lakes Region has long been defined by the quiet steadiness of its residents. People here tend not to draw attention to their generosity; they simply do what needs to be done. That unassuming spirit is a strength worth celebrating and maintaining.

In the week ahead, as families prepare meals, gather with friends or simply take a breath before December begins, there is value in pausing to appreciate the work happening behind the scenes. There is also value in asking a simple question: What small action can I take that would make life easier for someone else?

Not every contribution needs to be large. In fact, the durability of a community is often built on the accumulation of small things — the sort that don’t make the news yet shape the character of a place. If each of us contributes even one such act in the weeks ahead, the impact will be felt not only during Thanksgiving, but throughout the winter to come.



COURTESY

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin recently installed a Little Free Library, which is located at 206 Central St. in Franklin. Several members and friends of the congregation made the purchase and installation possible through generous donations and teamwork. The congregation looks forward to the community utilizing the library by taking, borrowing, and sharing books. Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin is excited to be a part of that mission. Pictured, left to right: Freya Chapple, Paul Duncanson, Cindy Clarenbach, Pat Sleeper, Theo Chapple, Charlie Chapple, and Erin Metcalf.

From hosiery to heritage: The long life of the Belmont Mill

BELMONT — The red-brick Belmont Mill, rising above the Tioga River in the center of town, has stood for more than 180 years as one of the most recognizable industrial landmarks in the Lakes Region. Its survival is not accidental. The building has been reinvented multiple times since the 1830s, reflecting the economic and civic transformations of the community that grew around it.

A mill village takes shape

The original structure dates to 1833, when local investors formed the Gilmanton Village Manufacturing Company to produce cotton textiles along the river. At the time, Belmont was still part of Gilmanton, and the village that would become Belmont developed around the mill complex, which once included a dam, machine shops, boarding houses and outbuildings.

By the 1850s, the site changed hands several times, weathering economic cycles common to textile towns. The 19th century brought both expansion and disaster; fires in 1865 and 1875 destroyed portions of the complex, prompting significant reconstruction and the addition of the four-story brick

structure that still stands today.

Hosiery makes the mill a regional employer

The use that cemented the mill’s identity came in 1884, when the Belmont Hosiery Company moved into the building and began large-scale production of wool and cotton stockings. For decades, hosiery dominated the local economy, employing hundreds of men and women from Belmont, Laconia, Northfield and surrounding rural villages.

Historic reports note that the company produced both knit and seamless stockings and shipped its goods throughout New England. By the turn of the century, the mill village was thriving enough that Belmont voted to separate from Gilmanton and incorporate as its own town in 1869, a decision strongly influenced by the presence of the growing mill industry.

Decline and uncertainty

Like many New England mill towns, Belmont faced a long economic shift in the 20th century as textile production moved south and, later, overseas. By the mid-1900s, hosiery operations tapered off, and the mill passed through various small manufactur-

ing uses.

By the 1960s and 1970s, the future of the building was unclear. Portions of the structure deteriorated, and there was increasing concern about fire safety, code compliance and structural viability. Several proposals surfaced — from demolition to commercial redevelopment — but none materialized.

A pivotal decision in the 1990s

The turning point came in 1996, when Belmont residents voted to rehabilitate the mill for municipal and community use rather than allow the structure to fall into disrepair. The project was ambitious: stabilize the building, preserve its historic features, and convert the interior into offices, meeting rooms and public spaces.

The \$3.2 million restoration, completed in 1998, remains one of the region’s most significant adaptive-reuse efforts. It included new mechanical systems, fire suppression, interior renovations and the reconstruction of historically sensitive exterior elements. The project received multiple preservation honors, including recognition from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. Source: New Hampshire Preservation Alliance,

“Saving Belmont Mill,” 1998–1999 project archives.

A center of community life

Today, the Belmont Mill houses town offices, meeting rooms, community programming and public events. Historical photographs displayed in its hallways show workers lined up outside the old hosiery plant, evidence of the building’s industrial past.

The mill also anchors the broader Belmont Village Revitalization Project, a multi-decade effort to preserve historic buildings, improve walkability and strengthen the civic heart of the community.

An enduring landmark

Few structures in the Winnisquam region illustrate the arc of New England history as clearly as the Belmont Mill. It has survived fire, economic upheaval, industrial decline and the uncertainty that follows when a town grows beyond its early industry.

Its restoration ensured that, rather than stand as a relic, the mill remains a working part of the village — a reminder of how communities can honor their past while building toward their future.



Winnisquam Echo

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USPS 024-975

The Winnisquam Echo is published weekly by Salmon Press, P.O. Box 729, 5 Water St., Meredith, NH 03253. Periodicals postage paid at Meredith, NH 03253.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the Winnisquam Echo, P.O. Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.

Children’s Auction ornaments now available

LACONIA — ‘Tis the season to support the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, and local businesses are now selling decorative ornaments for in-store display or to take home. The ornaments cost \$1, \$5 or \$10 and help raise money for the auction, which will be held this year from Tuesday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Belknap Marketplace in Belmont.

The ornaments are four-inch-round cardstock decorations that customers can write their names on for display at a business or to take home. All proceeds benefit the auction.

Ornaments are available at many community partner locations:

Alton: Foster’s Tavern, 403 Main St.

Belmont: Mobile Electronics Solutions, 7 Fruite

St.
Bristol: Cielito’s Mexican Restaurant, 50 South Main St.; Franklin Savings Bank, 250 Lake St.

Campton: Handyman Hardware, 12 Six Flags Road

Danbury: Danbury Country Store, 705 US-4

Franklin: Grevior Furniture, 440 Central St.; Franklin Savings Bank, 387 Central St. and 933 Central St.

Gilford: Axe and Ale Taphouse, 9 Old Lake Shore Road; Bank of NH, One Country Club Road and 1441 Lakeshore Road Route 11; Belknap Landscape, 25 Country Club Road, Unit 10; Gilford Village Store, 7 Belknap Mountain Road; Children’s Dentistry, 369 Hounsell Ave; Franklin Savings Bank, 11 Sawmill Road; Gilford Coun-

try Store & Nahamsha Gifts, 1934 Lake Shore Road; Country Cook’n at the Lakeside, 1457 Lake Shore Road; Gunstock Mountain Resort, 719 Cherry Valley Road; H. Salon, 28 Weirs Road; Jennifer’s Color Bar, West 25, Country Club Road Unit 407; Lakeshore Market & Deli, 18 Weirs Road, LaValley Building Supply, 32 Gilford East Drive; Patrick’s Pub & Eatery, 18 Weirs Road; The Wine’ing Butcher, 28 Weirs Road; Winnepesaukee Bay Gulls 2, 18 Weirs Road.

Laconia: Bank of NH, 62 Pleasant St.; Body Covers, 94 Primrose Drive North; Café Déjà Vu, 311 Court St.; Case n Keg Laconia, 855 Union Ave. Unit 2554; Defiant Records & Craft Beer, 609 Main St. Units 1&2; Downtown Gym, 171 Fair St.; Dox on Winnepesaukee, 263 Lakeside Ave.; Fratello’s, 799 Union Ave.; High Octane, 1072 Watson Road; Jug-

ernaut Fitness, 28 Lexington Drive.; Laconia Daily Sun, 781 Union Ave.; Laconia Village Bakery, 660 Main St.; LACS Snack Shack, Memorial Park; Social Club Creamery, 51 Elm St.; The Alamo Texas BBQ, 70 Endicott St. North; The Big House, 322 Lakeside Ave; The Fancy Bar and Grill, 306 Lakeside Ave.; Vista Foods, 376 South Main St.; Wayfarer Coffee Roasters, 626 Main St.; Wild Women’s Studio & Gifts, 637 Main St.

Meredith: Frog Rock Tavern, 67 Main St.; Great Northern Trading Company, 312 Daniel Webster Highway at Mill Falls; Fitness Edge, 169 Daniel Webster Highway; Giuseppe’s Pizzeria & Ristorante, 312 Daniel Webster Highway, Mill Falls; Harley-Davidson Laconia, 239 Daniel Webster Highway; Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery, 72 Main St.; Jeremy Noyes Gallery, 23 Main St, Unit 1; Kettle-

head Brewery, 8 Plymouth St.; LaValley Building Supply, 157 Main St.; Meredith Insurance Agency, 2 Lake St., Suite 1; The Wine’ing Butcher. 81 NH Route 25; White Birch Gifts, 63 Main St.

Moultonboro: Bank of NH, 960 Whittier Highway Route 25; For Your Eyes Only, 517 Whittier Highway; Winnepesaukee Bay Gulls, 118 Whittier Highway

Plymouth: Grotto, 5 RR Square Road; La Familia Mexican Bar and Grill, 588 Tenney Mountain Highway.

Tilton: Franklin Savings Bank, 67 Laconia Road

Wolfeboro: Winnepesaukee Bay Gulls, 118 Whittier Highway.

Businesses interested in offering ornaments at their location should call 603-527-0999 or email jenn@childrensauction.org.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction
Numerous fundraising events in the Lakes Region throughout the year support the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, including our four-day signature event every December. In the past four decades we have distributed more than \$9.2 million to over 80 nonprofits that serve low-income families and children in the Lakes Region, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Auction falls under the umbrella of the Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps local community organizations that serve children and families in need. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit ChildrensAuction.org.

Pemi Choral Society announces annual Holiday Concert Series

REGION — For more than 50 years, the Pemigewasset Choral Society (“Pemi Chorus”) has brought seasonal cheer to the region with its annual holiday concerts. Now featuring more than 100 singers, this year’s three-concert series begins at Gilford Community Church on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Performances follow at Inter-Lakes Middle/High School in Meredith on Friday, Dec. 5 (7:30 p.m.) and at Silver Center

for the Arts at Plymouth State University on Sunday, Dec. 7 (3 p.m.).

All concerts feature free admission with open seating. Patrons who wish to can provide a free-will donation at the door.

The theme for the chorus’s 2025 program is “Songs by the Hearth,” and selections include seasonal pieces drawn from many sources that feature both traditional carols as well as less familiar offerings from earlier centuries up until

modern times.

Regarding the concert theme, Pemi Chorus Music Director Will Gunn says, “The hearth is the perfect setting for our concert selections. It is our place of warmth, memory, and music. The songs represent the arc of the season, from the stillness of darkness to the light’s return. They are songs of reflection, ritual, and rejoicing, reminding us that even in the longest nights, there is joy, gratitude, and community to

help create bonds among all of us.”

Gunn is the director of music at Plymouth Regional High School and in 2023 was named New Hampshire Choral Director of the Year by the state chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Collaborative pianist, organist, and pianist Laura Belanger accompanies the chorus. She also composed one of the pieces featured in the program.

The Pemi Chorus is

a 52-year-old regional community chorus based in Plymouth with a wide-ranging musical repertoire. Singers come from 33 communities throughout the Lakes Region, central New Hampshire, and the White Mountains. The chorus boasts a diverse range of ages from high

school students to age 80 and above.

The group performs concerts in December and May and welcomes new members at the beginning of each semester. For more information, please visit pemichoral.org or email an inquiry to pemichoralsociety@gmail.com.

Winni Players bring “Lovely” version of “My Fair Lady” to Playhouse stage

MEREDITH — The Winni Players, the community theatre wing of the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, will present the beloved classic musical “My Fair Lady” from Nov. 19-23, featuring a cast of two dozen talented local performers.

“My Fair Lady” is the story of Cockney flower-seller Eliza Doolittle who is taken under the tutelage of linguist Henry Higgins. Along with his friend Colonel Pickering, Higgins sets out to turn her into a “proper lady” just in time to trick the guests at the Embassy Ball. With unforgettable songs such as “Get Me to the Church on Time,” “On the Street Where You

Live,” and “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “My Fair Lady” is one of the most beloved musicals of all time.

The Winni Players production is directed by Cory Lawson, the Playhouse’s Director of Education and Community Engagement. Music direction was provided by Christine Chiason, and choreography by Margaret Fair.

This family favorite fea-

tures a cast of 24, including Anna Cook (“Fiddler on the Roof,” “The Ferryman”) as Eliza Doolittle, Rick Morten (“Matilda the Musical”) as Henry Higgins, Brendan Berube (“The Ferryman,” “August: Osage County”) as Col. Pickering, and local radio personality Pat Kelly as Alfred P. Doolittle! Lakes Region residents will undoubtedly recognize his iconic voice, and

will now have the opportunity to see him sing and dance as well!

Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. The production is generously sponsored by Northeast Mill Services and Lakes Region Fence. Tickets can be ordered by calling (603) 279-0333 or online at www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org.

Mobile Food Pantry offered for Lakes Region SNAP recipients Nov. 26

PLYMOUTH — The New Hampshire Food Bank will host a mobile food pantry for Lakes Region SNAP recipients Tenney Mountain Resort in Plymouth from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Distributions made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recipients will need to show their EBT card or eligibility letter.

NH Food Bank is looking for volunteers to help staff distributions through nhfoodbank.volunteerhub.com.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Simi!

Simi is the total package — handsome, loyal, and full of energy! This athletic boy loves to run, jump, and show off his playful spirit, so a home that can give him plenty of exercise and adventure is a must. Whether it’s a long walk, a backyard sprint, or a good game of fetch, Simi is always ready to move.

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

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

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

A man knows what he wants, after all!

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

NH Humane Society

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Holiday Shopping

Holiday shopping tips you can't afford to miss

The festive and fun nature of the holiday season can make it easy to forget the benefits of being frugal. Many people go overboard on holiday spending, making this time of year costly for consumers.

ing this time of year costly for consumers.

Sales between the beginning of November 2023 and Christmas Eve 2023 climbed 3.1 percent from the year earlier, according to the Mastercard SpendingPulse. The National Retail Federation reported in November 2023 that holiday spending was expected to reach between \$957 and \$966 billion. Trading Economics, a financial market indicator and forecast provider, said personal spending in the United States only rose 0.2 percent in May 2024 from the previous month, which marked the lowest increase since January 2024.

Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

- Set a value to gift recipients. It may sound harsh, but certain people on holiday shopping lists may be assigned a higher value than

others. For example, you wouldn't necessarily spend the same amount on a gift for a child's teacher as you would for a grandmother. Putting a dollar figure next to each name on the shopping list helps you identify your expected spending and where you can cut back, if necessary.

necessary.

- Establish your overall budget. Once you have an idea of your potential holiday expenditures, set a firm budget. Avoid the temptation of impulse buys, which can make it easy to go over budget.
- Begin shopping early.

ly. Start scouring ads and looking for deals prior to Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Keep a running list of gift ideas and when the price is right, purchase those items.

- Price check "perfect gifts." If you've spotted

SEE SHOPPING PAGE A7

Seasons Greetings from
The Loon's Feather Gift Shop!

The Loon Center
Holiday Open House
Saturday November 29th
10am-2pm

Celebrating The Loon Preservation Committee's
50th Anniversary!

Horse & Wagon Rides | Holiday Crafts |
Balloon Animals | Refreshments
A visit from Jolly Old St. Nick!

Store-wide Savings in our gift shop!

THE LOON CENTER
183 Lees Mill Rd, Moultonborough
Winter Hours: Thu - Sat, 9am-5pm
Hiking trails open dawn-dusk, everyday.
www.loon.org—info@loon.org

Book of photos by Helen Fernald
WOLFEBORO BLESSINGS

Iconic views of Wolfeboro and Winnepesaukee by New Hampshire photographer Helen Fernald
Available at Amazon • helen@helenfernald.com • <https://helenfernald.com/>

Sawyer's Holiday Open House 2025

520 North Barnstead Rd, Barnstead NH
603-496-9086

Country Farmhouse filled with New Hampshire's
handmade items just in time for the Holiday Shopping!!

Open Hours
Friday November 28th 9am – 6pm
Saturday November 29th 9am – 6pm
Sunday November 30th 9am – 4pm

As always MasterCard and Visa are accepted
Featuring: Fresh Holiday arrangements, kissing balls, wreaths, candles, wooden crafts, various ornaments, resin jewelry, soaps, essential oil sprays, primitive items, cocoa bombs/ candy, jams & jellies, braided items, quilted table runners, Smoked cheeses.

There is MUCH MUCH more
and something for everyone!
Come start your Holiday shopping
in our Country farmhouse!
DOOR PRIZES DAILY.....

Effingham Christmas
Saturday, November 29, 2025
30 Town House Road, Effingham

Mark Your Calendars For A Full Day Of Fun Events Scheduled Throughout The Day

- **10:00 - 11:00** – 1st Annual Christmas Parade on School Street.
- **11:00 - 4:00** – Vendors and Food at Library, 30 Townhouse Road.
 - Free Photos with Santa (11-2)
 - Soup & Bread Tent (11-2)
 - 15 Unique Vendors
 - Cookie Decorating
 - Children's Gift Table (\$1-2)
 - Christmas Wreaths
 - Raffle Baskets
 - Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- **4:00 - 6:00** – Spaghetti Dinner and Christmas Caroling at Fire Station, with announcement of float winner and Library Raffle winner.
- **6:30 - 8:00** – Concert & Tree Lighting, South Effingham/Taylor City

Go to <https://effingham.lib.nh.us> or contact Betsy at Effingham Public Library 603-539-1537 FMI

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Belletetes Your One Stop Holiday Shop

We have something for **every one** on your shopping list. Come shop with us and see everything we have to make your holiday shopping easier -- all in one place!

Shopping for last minute gifts? Visit one of our 9 locations, we bet you can find a gift or if not, a Belletetes Gift Card would be perfect!

Make sure your shop out "Winter's Coolest Deals" starting November 20th - December 31st!

*Our Brookline store won't be open until early December.

	JAFFREY, NH 603.532.7716	WINCHENDON, MA 978.297.1162	PETERBOROUGH, NH 603.924.9436	NASHUA, NH 603.880.7778
	ASHLAND, NH 603.968.7626	ANDOVER, NH 603.735.5544	SUNAPEE, NH 603.763.9070	PEMBROKE, NH 603.224.7483
		MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 603.253.4404	BROOKLINE, NH 603.673.4549	

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Ship 2 Pounds of
Harman's really-Aged Cheddar Cheese
with Westminster Cracker Squares
Gift wrapped for the Holidays
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Harman's Cheese & Country Store
1400 Route 117 ~ Sugar Hill, NH 03586
Phone: 603-823-8000
E-Mail: Cheese@HarmansCheese.com
November Hours: Open 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Closed Sunday, Nov 23
Wednesday, Nov 26th: Closing at 1 pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, Nov 30th: Open 9 am – 3 pm



Holiday Shopping

SHOPPING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A6

the perfect gift for someone but it's beyond budget, see if you can find a better price elsewhere, says Better Money Habits. There are apps that allow users to scan barcodes and check items across various retailers. Many stores also have price-match policies that can save shoppers money.

• Look for deals all of the time. Many people get hung up on perceived deep discounts from Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers. However, industry experts say there often isn't a huge difference in markdowns between these promotions

and those during other sales. Some retailers even increase prices on goods only to mark them down for Black Friday to make it appear that there is a discount. Only by knowing the average price for items can you know if a sale is legitimate.

• Sign up for store re-

wards. If you don't want your regular email inbox inundated with offers, set up a separate email account for in-store and online shopping. Then you can sign up for the rewards programs at checkout. Utilize the coupon codes and advertisements for sales to save

money without having your primary email data shared with other marketers.

• Track spending carefully. If you don't know how much you're spending, then you cannot possibly stick to a budget. After each purchase, keep a running tally of all holiday spending to see how far you are from the finish line.

The holidays can be expensive, but with smart budgeting and dedication to savvy shopping, it's possible to stay out of financial trouble.



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Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

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25% OFF

Friday through Sunday of Black Friday Weekend

'tis the season



Do your holiday gift shopping early and SAVE!

Purchase online or in-store
*May not be purchased and redeemed on same day



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Bristol | Route 104 | 603.744.2022
www.HomesteadNH.com



Laconia | 799 Union Ave. | 603.528.2022
Manchester | 155 Dow St. | 603.624.2022
www.Fratellos.com



THANKSGIVING WEEKEND IN Waterville Valley, New Hampshire!

Join us in Waterville Valley Saturday, Nov. 29th, for a festive day full of winter wonder!

8:00am Waterville Valley Ski Resort Opens
11:30am 13th Annual Cold Turkey Plunge
12:00pm Alpine Advent Christmas Market
3:30pm Santa Comes to Town Square
7:00pm Tree Lighting Ceremony
7:00pm Fireworks in Town Square



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For More Information
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Presents our 4th Annual ... 'SHOP LOCAL' EVENT

THE KEY TO COMMUNITY SUCCESS

Look for the 'KEY' sign at participating retail shops in the Meredith/Center Harbor Area.

Follow the instructions to enter for a chance to win 1 of Our **Holiday 'Shop Local' Gift Baskets** filled with donations from our generous retailers!

We will be accepting entries from **Nov 28th through Dec 14th.**

The Drawing will be held on **December 15th** at:
Meredith Landing Real Estate
285 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith.

Visit our Facebook page for more details!
Winners will be notified by email.

*No purchase necessary to enter but we **ENCOURAGE** you to shop local!

Power Chords Holiday Concert comes to Laconia!



Lorraine Barrows leads the Power Chords in last year’s Holiday Concert at the Congregational Church of Laconia.

COURTESY

LACONIA — The Power Chords celebrate the end of their 2025 season with two free Holiday concerts open to the public. The Power Chords are Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative’s Broadway show choir for adults who come together on Sunday nights all year long to sing Broadway showtunes together. On Friday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m., the performance

will take place at the Woodside Building of the Taylor Community. The second performance is Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Laconia.

This is the second annual Power Chords Holiday Concert where the Power Chords perform one act of the Broadway music they have been working on this season, and a second act

full of holiday favorites to get everyone in the holiday spirit! The concert will be performed by more than 50 community members and feature Broadway songs from shows such as “Wicked,” “Mamma Mia,” “The Music Man” and “Cabaret,” and holiday classics such as “White Christmas,” “Winter Wonderland” and more! There will even be a chance for audience mem-

bers to sing along on some traditional tunes.

The Power Chords are led by Lorraine Barrows, a longtime music educator who moved to Laconia upon retirement and quickly got involved in Powerhouse productions. Power Chords is open to anybody, without audition, and is a great way to meet new people or “warm-up” to build

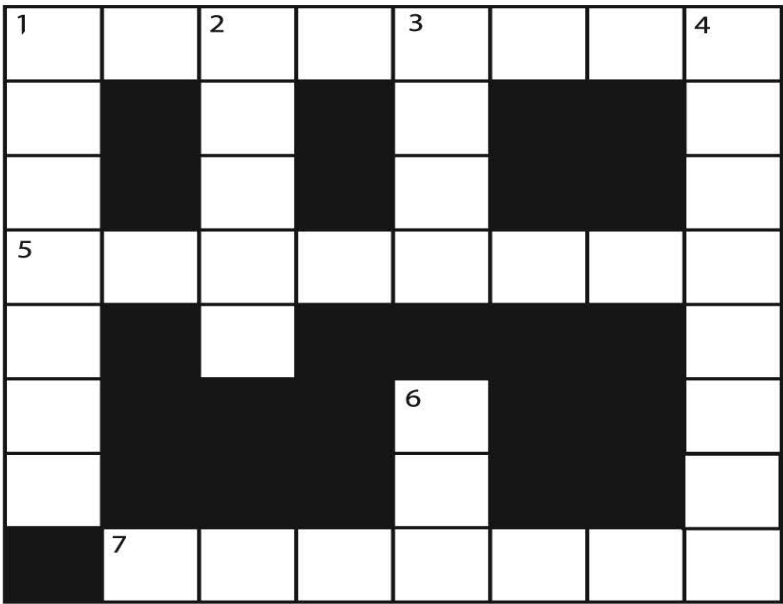
the skill and confidence to audition for a community theatre production.

The Power Chords Holiday Concert is part of Powerhouse’s 2025 Spark Series sponsored by Taylor Community and the Laconia Daily Sun. Powerhouse’s 2025 season has been sponsored by Grappone Automotive, MVS and LaValley Middleton Build-

ing Supply. To find out how you can get involved as a sponsor of Powerhouse’s 2026 season contact info@powerhousenh.org for more details. For all the information on Powerhouse events and auditions including ticket information for Powerhouse’s annual production of “A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story,” check out powerhousenh.org.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Parcels
- 5. Tidy a space
- 7. Liquid turning into a gas

DOWN

- 1. Nuts that are not a nut
- 2. Transparent
- 3. Pain
- 4. Trying things out
- 6. Liquid fat

Answers:
Across
1. Packages 5. Neaten up 7. Boiling
Down
1. Peanuts 2. Clear 3. Ache 4. Sampling 6. Oil

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1777: The Articles of Confederation are submitted to the states for ratification.

1820: Captain Nathaniel Palmer becomes the first American to see Antarctica.

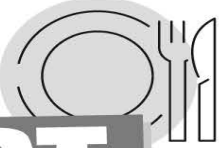
2019: The first known case of COVID-19 is traced to a man in China.

NEW WORD

CHUNKY

containing thick pieces

Food FACT:



Despite the word “nut” in the name of this food, they are actually legumes, which is a family of plants that includes peas and lentils.

Answer: Peanuts

How they say that in...

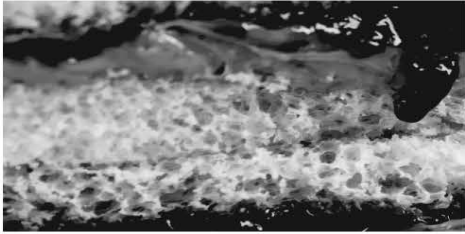
- English: Peanut
- Spanish: Cacahuete
- Italian: Arachide
- French: Cacahouète
- German: Erdnuss

Did You Know?

Peanut butter is not just for sandwiches. It also is delicious in baked goods or even savory dishes.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Peanut butter & jelly sandwich

ALL-STATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Leah Walsh of St. Thomas.

Second Team honors were also presented to Marcella Tonge of Bishop Brady, Mia Lambert of Conant, Emma Pelletier of Hopkinton, Stella Syversten and Reagan Billado of Kearsarge, Evelynnn Shippee of Mascenic, Georgia Kondi and Aubrey Elizabeth of Mascoma, Makayla Harwood of Monadnock, Lillian Clark of Stevens and Elizabeth Holden of St. Thomas.

Also earning Honorable Mention were Ava Archambault and Ella Blanchett of Bishop Brady, Autumm Burgoyne of Conant, Mary Maughan and Lauren Vetter of Hopkinton, Ava Nolan of Kearsarge, Ava Haavisto and Hailey Saari of Mascenic, Tori Petty, Samantha Har-

kins, Sophia Smith and Abby Harkins of Mascoma, Jade Dutton of Sanborn, Olivia St. Aubin and Callie Demars of Stevens and Talula Gregg, Emma Massicotte and Bea Burlage of St. Thomas.

McKenna Kelley was named Defensive Player of the Year and Makena Houston was named Offensive Player of the Year. Mascoma's Danielle Pushee was named Division III Coach of the Year.

For Division II, the lone local player earning First Team honors was Plymouth goalie Carmen Donis while Second Team honors went to Kingswood's Issy Fournier and Plymouth's Lucia Sakin. Earning Honorable Mention were Kennett's Abigail Smith, Izzy Fitzsimmons and Noli Houde, Kingswood's Addy Ingham, Adelle Harrington and Avery Gilpatrick and

Plymouth's Trista Strickland, Diorah Hussey and Amelia Avery.

Joining Donis in earning First Team honors were Bow's Josie Johnson and Peyton Vaughn, Derbyfield's Rosie Blake, Hanover's Greta and Sophia Mancini, Hollis-Brookline's Paige Shirley, Merrimack Valley's Lauren Bailey, Oyster River's Eliza Farewell, Nora Rogers and Rowynn Pickering, Souhegan's Mariellah and Oriannah Dart and John Stark's Caylin Worthen and Claudia Dustin.

Joining Fournier and Sakin in earning Second Team honors were Bow's Kaylee Jacques and Madelyn Hebert, Ava Kosowski of Derryfield, Joia Collins of Hanover, Ashley Disco, Brooke Bouchard and Caroline Crawford of Hollis-Brookline, Hannah Dubuc of Merrimack Val-

ley, Sadie McLeod of Oyster River, Ella Russell and Emeline Godin of Souhegan and Ava Friberg and Zoe Lawson of John Stark.

Also earning Honorable Mention for Division II were Ainsley Herrick and Elise Jacques of Bow, Kaelyn Samuelson of ConVal, Ella LaFlamme and Tyl-Elle Fulton of Derryfield, Addyson Olszewski, Anna McGuirk, Jenna O'Connor and Madeleine Barich of Hollis-Brookline, Addison DeCew, Kaitlin Dennis

and Maxine Lundeen of John Stark, Claire Kelly, Harper Rancourt and Kate Clary of Lebanon, Nora Cardin, Lily Webster and Paige Bernier of Milford, Abbey Thompson and Julia Michael of Merrimack Valley, Grey Bowden and Maggie Aldous of Oyster River, Ashlyn Barker, Ava Strazzeri and Phoebe Morris of Pembroke and Amelia Warecki and Avery Wybomey of Souhegan.

Oriannah Dart and Caylin Worthen were named

Co-Offensive Player of the Year and Paige Shirley was named the Defensive Player of the Year. Souhegan coach Kelli Braley was named Division II Coach of the Year. Fournier was also named to the New Hampshire Twin State Team, which will take on Vermont in June.

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

*Support Meredith Food
Pantry at Nov. 26
Songwriter Round-Up*



MEREDITH — Spend your Thanksgiving Eve at the next Songwriter Round-Up and you'll be helping to support the efforts of the Meredith Food Pantry. As we enter into a time of year in which we celebrate each other with Holiday meals and gifts, let's also remember those who are less fortunate in our community.

At the Nov. 26 Songwriter Round-Up show one-half of all ticket sales and tips will be donated to the Meredith Food Pantry. This gifting is being done through the generosity of the three singer-songwriters who will be performing their original compositions on the stage of "The Loft" at Hermit Woods Winery.

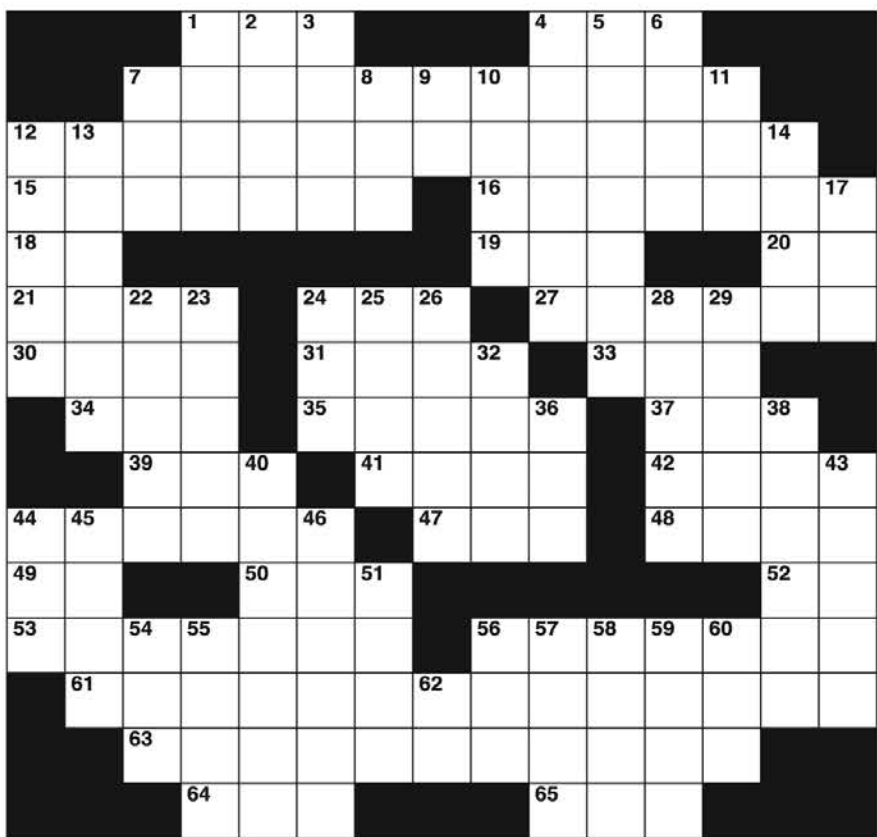
In addition, show attendees who bring a canned good for donation to the Food Pantry will be entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to any upcoming Songwriter Round-Up show.

These shows are made possible through the partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region. Held in the region's premier listening room, The Loft located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented

singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. Held on the last Wednesday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside host performer Katie Dobbins.

The next Songwriter Round-Up show takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 26, featuring the Lakes Region's own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers her artistry with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies, Mike Morris, a singer-songwriter from New Hampshire with a highly creative spirit that he pours into in a genre he describes as "freestyle Folk," and Dane Anderson, a New Hampshire singer-songwriter who delivers honest, heartfelt lyrics that reveal truths gleaned from life experiences and seafaring adventures. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This promises to be an evening of great original music and dynamic entertainment that you won't want to miss. Learn more about each of these artists on the Hermit Woods Winery Web site.

A complimentary wine tasting will begin at 5:30 p.m., the Loft opens at 6 p.m. for seating & dinner orders, and music starts at 7 p.m. Patrons can further enhance their evening by selecting from a menu of tasty items available from Chef Kaylon Sweet of Sweet Mercy's Kitchen. Tickets can be purchased in advance at hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft or in-person at the Winery.



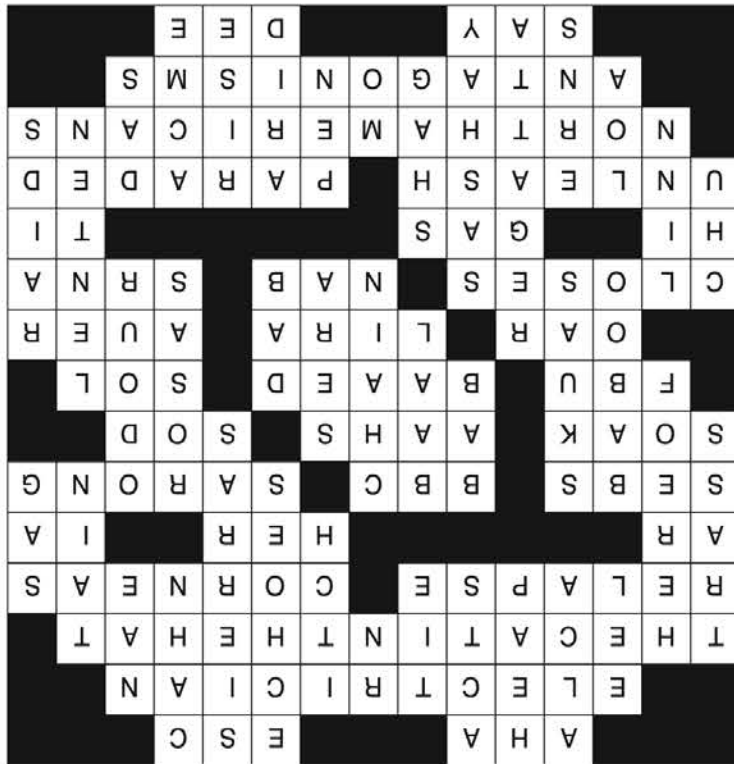
CLUES ACROSS

1. Expression of surprise
4. Keyboard key
7. One who works on lights
12. Notable children's story
15. Fall back into a bad pattern
16. Eye parts
18. Atomic #18
19. Of she
20. Farm state
21. One point south of southeast
24. British media entity
27. Asian garment
30. Drench
31. Expressions of pleasure
33. Turf
34. UK trade union (abbr.)
35. Bleated
37. Fifth note of a major scale
39. Paddle
41. Monetary unit of Italy
42. American classical pianist
44. Shuts down for the day
47. Seize
48. Soluble ribonucleic acid
49. Greeting
50. Some cars still need it
52. Atomic #22
53. Let go
56. Marched in public
61. U.S. residents, Mexicans and Canadians
63. Hostilities
64. Speak aloud
65. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

1. Razorbill genus
2. Longtime Baltimore tight end
3. Performs on stage
4. Supports a sentiment
5. Rugged mountain ranges
6. Broadway songwriter Sammy
7. Snake-like fish
8. Men's fashion accessory
9. Hospital worker
10. Something to scratch
11. No (Scottish)
12. Volcanic ash
13. Of this
14. American jazz drummer Watts
17. Drop down
22. English dialect
23. Predatory seabirds
24. Imams' deputies
25. Fertility god
26. Fence material
28. Parks and DeLauro are two
29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)
32. Protein-rich liquids
36. Touch lightly
38. Season for Catholics
40. Boat race
43. Police actions
44. Chinese river
45. Waterfall (Scottish)
46. Walk ostentatiously
51. Type of carpet
54. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
55. Sea eagles
56. An enclosure for confining livestock
57. Dry
58. An increase in price or value
59. The highest point of something
60. Government lawyers
62. Larry and Curly's pal

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Loon Preservation Committee to host Holiday Open House in celebration of 50 years

MOULTONBOROUGH — The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) is inviting the public to a special Holiday House on Nov. 29 to celebrate 50 years of work to restore New Hampshire’s threatened loon population. The family-friendly event is an opportunity to usher in the holiday season and to reflect on five decades of work on behalf of New Hampshire’s loons. Visitors can enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, hot cider and holiday refreshments, balloon animals, kids crafts, a walk through the autumn woods of the Frederick and Paula Anna Markus Wildlife Sanctuary, and visit with Santa.

LPC was founded in 1975 by a small group of citizens alarmed by the dramatic declines in New Hampshire’s loon population. Today, with a small but dedicated staff and nearly 1,000 volunteers statewide, LPC monitors more than 350 lakes across New Hampshire for loon abundance and nesting, protects vulnerable nest sites, rescues loons in distress, conducts research to determine threats to loon survival and nesting success, and educates the public about loons and their needs.

While it has not yet recovered to historic levels, New Hampshire’s loon population has more than quadrupled from the lows documented in the 1970’s, growing to 370 pairs in 2025.

“The ongoing recovery of New Hampshire’s loon population shows what can happen when science and community come together,” said Harry Vogel, LPC Senior Biologist and Executive Director. “The progress we’ve made is not the work of our staff alone—for fifty years, we’ve worked hand-in-hand with the people of New Hampshire to protect loons and their habitats. Every person who volunteers, donates, or takes the time to learn about loons and help them has played a role in this success story. As we reach this fifty-year milestone, we are both celebrating the successes we’ve seen so far and looking forward to the next fifty years of loon conservation in New Hampshire.”

The Holiday Open House, says Vogel, is one way for LPC to thank the public for five decades of support. It will take place on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at The Loon Center (183 Lees Mill Rd. in Moultonborough). Admission is free, and all ages are invited and will be warmly welcomed.

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PLYMOUTH — Plymouth State University women’s lacrosse head coach Becky Dale announced that the program will host a position-specific skills clinic for youth and high school players in December.

The clinic is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Bank of New Hampshire Field House in ALLWell North.

Youth Session (grades 5-8) will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. and the high school session (grades 9-12) will take place from noon to 2 p.m.

Each session will focus on position-specific instruction, with skills and drills tailored to draw specialists, midfielders, attackers, defenders and goalies. Participants should select their position during registration and bring appropriate lacrosse equipment and indoor sneakers.

Check-in opens 30 minutes prior to each session.

The youth session fee is \$30 per player, while the high school session costs \$50 per player. To help expedite check-in, participants are asked to bring printed, signed waivers.

Online registration is required for all Plymouth State Athletics camps and clinics. Registration and waiver links are available at athletics.plymouth.edu/camps.

Children’s Auction offers max bidding for this year’s event, beginning Black Friday

LACONIA —Bidders who want to be sure they get the item they want—at the price they want—may place a Max Bid on items above a \$300 value in this year’s Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction.

The auction will be held this year from Tuesday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Belknap Marketplace in the former CVS location. Early bidding, and the placement of Max Bids, will begin on Black Friday, Nov. 28, at 9 a.m. and extend through Friday, Dec. 12.

Anyone can register as an auction bidder online at ChildrensAuction.org. Registered bidders can then bid early and place a Max Bid on high-value

items over \$300. Bids will automatically go up in increments to keep the bidder in the lead, up to the Max limit set.

“We’ll let you know if someone outbids you, and you can decide if you want to increase your Max limit,” said Executive Director Jennifer Kelley.

Want to donate an item? Visit childrensauction.org to see all the drop-off locations in the region.

“The organization is still seeking items of any value for this year’s auction,” Kelley said. “While many items have been received at this time, there is a need for thousands of items to raise enough money to meet the needs of the community.”

Auction leaders will collect new, unused, unwrapped items right up to the week of the auction. Gift cards, electronics, tools, toys, sporting goods and household items all bring the highest bids. Visit ChildrenAuction.org for a list of donation drop-off sites throughout the Lakes Region.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction
Numerous fundraising events in the Lakes Region throughout the year support the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, including our four-day signature event every December. In the past four decades we have distributed more than \$9.2 million to over 80 nonprofits that serve low-income families and children in the Lakes

Region, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Auction falls under the umbrella of the Greater Lakes Region

Charitable Fund for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps local community organizations that serve children and families in need. For

more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit ChildrensAuction.org.

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SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT KITCHEN MANAGER

Shaker Regional School District has an immediate opening for a Kitchen Manager for Canterbury Elementary School. Duties include, but are not limited to, oversight of food and supply inventory, maintaining daily food production records, preparation and distribution of breakfast and lunch, and oversight of kitchen staff. This school-year position is 6.00 hours per day, with starting pay of no less than \$18.43/hr, and is eligible for the district contribution toward Health Insurance, plus fully paid Dental, Life, and Long-Term Disability Insurance.

Please submit an application and 3 letters of reference to Nancy Cate, 255 Seavey Rd, Belmont, NH 03220. You may contact Mrs. Cate at 603-267-6525 X1352 to obtain an application or visit the Human Resources section of our website: www.sau80.org to download a copy. Successful completion of a post-offer pre-employment criminal background check, including fingerprints, are required. Shaker Regional School District is an equal opportunity employer.

Anestis reaches 75 wins for PSU wrestling

WORCESTER, Mass. — Graduate student Chase Anestis (Belmont) picked up a pair of victories, giving him 75 career wins, to lead the Plymouth State University wrestling team in a tri-meet against Rhode Island College and host WPI at the WPI Sports and Recreation Center on Saturday.

Despite Plymouth State falling to the host Engineers, 43-3, Anestis earned a 7-1 decision at 165 pounds. Junior Ryan M. Fleming (Salisbury, Mass.) competed strongly at 149 pounds, falling by decision to Mason Basara, the seventh-ranked wrestler in New England at that weight class. Freshman Hayden Durocher (Nashua) came up just short at 125 pounds, losing a narrow 8-6 decision.

Against Rhode Island College, Anestis rolled to a 15-0 technical fall victory. Freshman Sam Cowette (Bedford) earned his first career win with a 9-4 decision at 184 pounds, though the Panthers fell to the Anchormen, 48-8.

Plymouth State (0-2) drops its first two duals of the season. WPI improved

to 2-0 after eking out a one-point win over Rhode Island College, while the Anchormen now stand at 1-1.

The Panthers head to Springfield College for the Doug Parker Invitational next Saturday, Nov. 22.

TNS Christmas Fund applications now available

TILTON — Applications are now available for assistance from the Tilton Northfield Sanbornton Christmas Fund.

The TNS (Tilton, Northfield, Sanbornton) Christmas Fund has been in existence for more than 40 years. This privately funded group of volunteers provides toys and new winter clothing (coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens/gloves) to any student in the Winnisquam Regional School District. In addition, they assemble a holiday meal food basket for each family. All are welcome to apply.

A few things to note:
The application deadline is Nov. 22 to allow ample time for shopping
The delivery date is Dec. 20. An adult must be present to accept the gift/food delivery
Completed applications should be returned to the Tilton, Northfield or Sanbornton Town Halls or can be submitted online to tnschristmasfund@gmail.com.



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WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The WRSD Budget Committee has two vacancies it seeks to fill from the town of Tilton until the 2026 annual meeting of the School District. Registered voters from the town of Tilton who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter stating their intentions to:

Chairperson
Winnisquam Regional
Budget Committee
433 West Main Street,
Tilton, NH 03276



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MVSB participates in statewide #NHBanksGiveBack Month of Giving effort

COURTESY
At right: Debra Sturgeon and Toon Devito, MVSB Branch & Business Development Managers, spent a day in October sharing stories and smiles with kids at the Moultonborough Public Library in honor of #NHBanksGiveBack.



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MVSB was proud to support NH JumpStart Coalition in October in honor of #NHBanksGiveBack. NH JumpStart is dedicated to improving the personal financial education of students throughout New Hampshire. From left, Cathy Sleeper, MVSB Regional Vice President, Dan Hebert, NH JumpStart Senior Director of Education, Lauren Reddy, MVSB Teller Supervisor, and Joy Roberts, MVSB Branch Services Supervisor.

just through financial contributions, but through countless hours of volunteer service. This month of giving showcases what has long been a core value of our industry: a steadfast dedication to supporting local nonprofits and civic organizations,” said Kristy Merrill, President/CEO of NH Bankers.

“Community giving is at the heart of who we are at MVSB,” said Marcus Weeks, MVSB President. “Our employees take great pride in rolling up their sleeves and making a difference for the people and organizations that make our communities such special places to live and work. Participating in #NHBanksGiveBack is a wonderful reminder of the collective impact we can have when we all come together to serve.”

Throughout the month, MVSB employees volunteered their time and talents to a variety of local causes and events. Efforts included supporting the Children’s Tractor Pull at the Sandwich Fair, volunteering for the Greater Lakes Region Children’s Auction, Halloween decorating at Geneva Point Center, participating in Trunk-or-Treat events in Meredith and North Conway, reading to children at the Moultonborough Public Library, cleaning up at the NH Veterans Cemetery Association, providing public financial education presentations, supporting Wolfeboro Friends of Music and the Goodwin Library in Farmington, partnering with NH JumpStart, collecting socks for Inter-Lakes Interact Club’s annual sock drive, and many more meaningful activities across its communities.

The New Hampshire Bankers Association is a statewide, not-for-profit trade association representing and serving banking institutions in the State of New Hampshire. The mission of NH Bankers is to support our members by fostering a banking environment that strengthens our communities. Go to www.nhbankers.com to learn more.

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 stock-holders 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, Exeter, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, North Conway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvsb.com.



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Charlie Dowd, MVSB VP Residential Mortgage Sales NMLS# 737415, announces the results of each participant in the MVSB Children’s Tractor Pull event at the Sandwich Fair in October in honor of #NHBanksGiveBack.

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During the month of October, MVSB (Meredith Village Savings Bank) participated in #NHBanksGiveBack, a volunteer celebration organized annually by the NH Bankers Association. MVSB was pleased to join the banking industry in New Hampshire to help celebrate the ongoing support of our local communities through community service and financial support.

#NHBanksGiveBack is a coordinated month of service where NH Bankers Association’s member banks are asked to engage in one or more community service efforts during the month of October.

“New Hampshire’s banks remain deeply committed to strengthening our communities — not

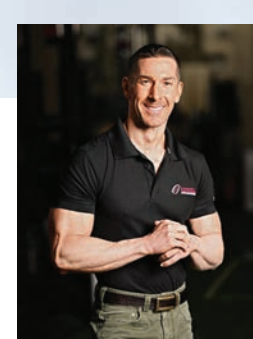


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