



THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

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FREE

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Epic comeback gives Gilford boys fifth Division III title in seven years

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

KEENE — Sadie Hawkins Day is traditionally in November, but in Gilford, Feb. 28, will always be Owen Hawkins Day.

The sophomore guard erupted in the second half, leading the Golden Eagle boys back from a 22-point third quarter deficit against second-seeded Mascoma to bring home the team's fifth Division III championship in the last seven years with a thrilling 57-55 overtime win at Spaulding Gymnasium at Keene State College on Saturday.

"We told them at the half that we've had comebacks



(Left) The Gilford boys' basketball team celebrates with the Division III championship plaque after winning the championship game over Mascoma on Saturday in Keene.

bigger than that and we had to fight for each other one play at a time," said coach Rick Acquilano. "We faced adversity all year and this was just another adversity."

"Going into halftime down big, coach told us to take it one play at a time, take good shots and don't turn the ball over," Hawkins said. "Going into the fourth we knew we still had eight

SEE CHAMPS, PAGE A6

Barnstead voters to weigh water-quality study, highway equipment, OHRV road access at Town Meeting

BARNSTEAD — Barnstead voters will head to the polls March 10 for annual town elections and ballot questions, then return March 14 to debate and vote on the rest of the warrant, including a proposed lake water-quality study aimed at curbing cyanobacteria, multiple highway and capital reserve requests, and a petitioned ordinance that would allow off-highway recreational vehicles on certain public roads.

The annual meeting's first session, conducted by official ballot, will take place

Tuesday, March 10, at Barnstead Elementary School, 91 Maple St., Center Barnstead. The second session is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, at 9 a.m., also at the elementary school.

Among the biggest items for discussion at the second session is the proposed operating budget. The warrant asks voters to approve the Budget Committee's recommended \$5,821,309 for general municipal operations, while noting the Select Board's recommended figure is higher, at

SEE TOWN MEETING, PAGE A8

Prescott brings home Division III championship

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PETERBOROUGH — Robert Prescott earned himself a banner in the Prospect Mountain High School gym with his performance at the Division III State Meet on Sunday, Feb. 22, at ConVal Regional High School.

Prescott grappled his way to the state championship at 285 pounds, bringing home the title for the Timber Wolves. He started his day with a pin of a foe from White Mountains then pinned a Kearsarge opponent to advance to the finals. In the finals he beat an opponent from Pelham by a 15-6 score to win the weight class and earn a spot at the Meet of Champions.

Noah Gagnon was



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Prescott stands atop the podium after winning the Division III championship at 285 pounds.

pinned by a Conant wrestler to start his day at 175 pounds but he came back and got pins over foes from Lebanon and Franklin before his day ended with a pin by a Campbell wrestler.

Colt Twombly was pinned by foes from ConVal and Lebanon at 120 pounds, Owen Peterson was pinned by opponents from Plymouth and Kearsarge at 138 pounds and Skylar Perry was pinned by opponents from Winnisquam and ConVal at 157 pounds.

Prescott advanced to the Meet of Champions, held this past Saturday.

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

Gilford Community Church to host next Gals' Night Out

GILFORD — On Friday, March 13 at 6 p.m., the Gilford Community Church (GCC) will host Gals' Night Out with a presentation

from Sheryl Faye as she portrays Civil War Nurse and Red Cross Founder, Clara Barton.

Her story ties direct-

ly into Civil War studies, community service, and reinforces the importance of reading and getting a good education to achieve your

personal goals and dreams. From the time she was old enough to be a nurse within her own family, Clara's life

SEE NIGHT OUT, PAGE A8



Members of the New Durham Fire Department demonstrated ice and water rescues at the annual Winter Carnival this past Saturday. Under the tutelage of member Mark Taylor, the floodfighters in their dry suits rescued "victims" in seven feet of water, using a variety of equipment such as a buoyant sling, shown here, a basket stretcher, and other basic equipment that might be found on a fire truck that could be utilized in case of need. There were also single person rescues with no equipment.

Water rescues in action

PHOTOS COURTESY



After securing the victim, there's another step in ice and water rescue, as demonstrated by the New Durham Fire Department on the Farmington Fish and Game pond. Attendees of the New Durham Winter Carnival this past weekend watched as rescuers on solid ice pulled the rescuer and the hapless rescued person out of the water. Ice rescues are infrequent, so the department schedules training yearly to keep skills sharp. The condition of the pond during the event was a foot of ice over a foot of water, with another foot of ice below that. Locals were reminded to always be sure of ice thickness. Fire department lexicon for a single person rescue with no equipment is "dope on a rope," so as Spring approaches, be careful out there.

Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Alton Egg Hunt

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and the Gilman Library are sponsoring a community event for ages 10 years old and younger on Saturday, April 4 at the Gilman Library. Join the fun as we hunt for colorful plastic eggs hidden throughout the Library, then make a ladybug or butterfly craft to take home. A special guest is also planning to be there for selfies, and family photos so plan to bring your camera. Bring a container to collect your eggs in and arrive at the following times: Ages infant to four years- 9 a.m. start time for Egg Hunt- craft to follow; Ages five to 10- 10 a.m.-start time for Egg Hunt- craft to follow. The event is free to Alton residents. Parking is on Main Street and B&M Park. Please use the rear entrance of the Library to enter for the event. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109, parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Lean Into Edible Gardening- Baby Steps to Growing Your Own Food

Alton Parks and Recreation and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring a Lean into Edible Gardening class on Wednesday, March 11 from 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room, \$20 per person. Join Lisa Hynes, Gardenary Certified Consultant and Kitchen Garden

Coach for an introduction to the different ways to incorporate vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit into new and existing flower and vegetable gardens. Learn about companion planting, herb gardens, edible flowers, ornamental vegetables and receive recommendations for sourcing plants, containers, soil, seeds, etc. Register at the Parks and Recreation Department by March 5. For more information, contact parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or call 603-875-0109.

Guided Meditation

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring Guided Meditation with Karen Kharitonov on Thursdays- March 5, and March 19 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. Meditation is helpful for reducing stress and slowing our bodies down to breathe. The program is free, donations accepted to benefit the food pantry. For more information, contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

USTA Spring Tennis lessons — Adults

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Tennis in the Parks for adults on Wednesdays at the Liberty Tree Park Tennis Courts from May 6-June 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. Registration is \$75, includes

instruction with a USTA New England certified instructor. Basic tennis skills will be taught: forehand, backhand, serve, overhand and volley. Register by April 17, class size is limited to seven. Registration forms are available at www.alton.nh.gov or stop by the Parks and Recreation Kiosk at 328 Main St. to sign up. Contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 for more information.

Weight Training classes — Mondays and Wednesdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Weight Training Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, with AFAA Certified Instructor Kellie Troendle, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library

for adults of all ages and abilities. This program is ongoing. Build strong muscles and bones, increase flexibility and develop better balance. Bring light hand weights, a mat and water. For more information, contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109. Try a class for free. \$20 per month/session or \$5 drop in.

Pilates Classes in Alton Bay — Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Pilates classes at the Alton Bay Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. with certified instructor Donna Lee. All level adults are welcome for a full body, low impact class that will improve muscle tone, flexi-

bility, balance and strength. Pre-registration is \$10 per class or \$15 drop in. Bring a mat and water. For more information/register contact Donna at breathepilates1@yahoo.com or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

Dungeons and Dragons

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a weekly Dungeons and Dragons adventure on Wednesdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. The program is free for ages 18 and up. Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 to secure your game slot. Join in the fun with friends or plan on meeting new people.

Travel Club- Trip to Scotland, Wales and

England- October 2026

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a trip with Collette Tours to Scotland, Wales and England Oct. 25-Nov. 3. There is also an option for a three-night Paris post tour extension. The trip highlights include Edinburgh Castle; York Minster; Chester; Conwy Castle; Stratford-upon-Avon; Traditional Afternoon Tea; London and much more. Includes airfare, 12 meals, hotels and transportation to and from Alton. This is a great way to travel solo or with friends. A knowledgeable guide leads the entire trip. An information session will be held March 23 at 11 a.m. at the Gilman Library. RSVP to attend the session at 603-875-0109 or parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov.

Powerhouse announces auditions for “1776 the Musical!”

LACONIA — Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, the resident theatre company of the Colonial Theatre in Laconia, announces auditions for “1776 the Musical,” which will be performed June 27 at the Colonial in collaboration with 20 members of the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra in honor of America’s 250th birthday.

“1776” won the Tony Award for best musical in 1969, and concerns the events leading up to signing of the Declaration of Independence as John Adams fights to convince the Continental Congress to vote for independence from England. The musical looks at the compromises required to get all 13 states on board to sign Thomas Jefferson’s historic document, leading up to the powerful final vote.

Auditions will be by video only, and require a one-minute song of your choosing that showcases your vocal range and acting ability and an audition side provided at powerhousenh.org/auditions. Registration and video are due by Sunday, March 29.

Most rehearsals for “1776” will take place in May on Sundays, Mon-

days and Wednesdays in Laconia. There will be a few additional rehearsals in June and mandatory rehearsals on Tuesday, June 23 and Friday, June 26. There will be 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. performances at the Colonial on June 27.

Powerhouse is looking for talented actors who sing well as the show contains a lot of dialogue, and only a few group musical numbers. Auditioners should be self motivated, and able to practice at home, as while this is a concert version with minimal staging, the play will be fully memorized and performed without scripts in hand. The staging will be directed by Bryan Halperin, with Music Di-

rection and Conducting by Laura Iwaskiewicz, and Costumes by Emily Nelson. This is Powerhouse’s first collaboration with the Symphony!

Says Halperin, “We wanted to do something to commemorate this historic moment in American history despite the admittedly polarized time we find ourselves in. ‘1776’ is a powerful reminder about the way our Founding Fathers found common ground and a common mission to achieve independence and we hope community members can come together and be reminded of our common history as Americans.”

Tickets for 1776 are already on sale at co-

loniallaconia.com and powerhousenh.org/1776 - buyers should make sure they are only buying tickets from the correct links, as third-party sites inflate the ticket prices. This special event is sponsored by Friedman and Bresaw, PLLC.

For all the details on Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, auditions, and other events in the 2026 season, check out powerhousenh.org or email info@powerhousenh.org. Powerhouse is still looking for business sponsors to support the costs of this and other productions in the 2026 season - contact the email above with questions or interest.

Gilford Public Library

Top Ten requests (plus two)

1. “Cross and Sampson” by James Patterson
2. “Jigsaw” by Jonathan Kellerman
3. “Stolen in Death” by J.D. Robb
4. “The First Time I Saw Him” by Laura Dave
5. “The Invisible Woman” by James Patterson
6. “Private Rome” by James Patterson
7. “My Friends” by Fredrik Backman
8. “My Husband’s Wife” by Alice Feeney
9. “Dear Debbie” by Freida McFadden
10. “Pendergast: The Beginning” by Douglas J. Preston
11. “Theo of Golden” by Allen Levi
12. “The Storm” by Rachel Hawkins

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Boudreaux!

Meet Boudreaux — your future partner in fun and forever friend

Boudreaux is a lanky, goofy, and oh-so-lovable hound with a personality just as big as his long legs! This spunky young pup is full of life and always ready for his next adventure. Whether he’s zooming around the yard, romping with his four-legged friends, or showing off his silly side, Boudreaux brings joy and laughter wherever he goes.

He absolutely loves other dogs and would thrive in a home with a playful companion or an active family who enjoys getting outside. A good game of tug is one of his favorite pastimes, and he’s always eager



to show off his playful, puppy energy. Once the fun winds down, Boudreaux reveals his softer side. He’s a total snuggle

bug who loves curling up close and soaking in all the love and attention he can get. His loyalty and affectionate nature make him a wonderful companion who just wants to be by your side.

Because he’s still a puppy, Boudreaux has plenty of energy and is excited to keep learning and growing with his forever family. With guidance, love, and continued training, he’s sure to blossom into the best buddy you could ask for.

If you’re looking for a goofy, loyal, and loving dog to share your days (and your couch), Boudreaux might just be your perfect match. Could this sweet hound be your next best pal?



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Second half flurry sends Golden Eagle girls on to finals



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Addison Hodsdon drives to the basket in action against Monadnock in the Division III semifinals.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BOW — In their quarterfinal battle the previous week, the Gilford hoop girls struggled to finish off Hopkinton, letting the Hawks force overtime before pulling out the win.

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Division III semifinals, the Golden Eagles made sure that was not a problem, as they overcame a slow offensive start with a dominant second half on the way to a 43-35 win over Kearsarge.

“At the beginning of the game we knew there were a lot of new and learning experiences we were going to go through,” said coach Scott Currier. “At the half we felt the things we needed to fix were on us, like finishing our opportunities.

“It takes a half for us, with our youth, to get used to it,” the Golden Eagle coach continued. “We got some of the jitters out of the way.”

Addison Hodsdon got the scoring started with a three-pointer before Monadnock scored the next four points with two free throws and a bucket. Penny Lewis connected on another three for the Golden Eagles to give them the 6-4 lead, but Monadnock answered with their own three to take the one-point lead.

Skye Maltais hit Gilford’s third three-pointer of the quarter for the 9-7 lead before the Huskies came back with three free throws and a bucket to take the 12-9 lead. Penny Flanders connected on a bucket to cut the lead to one but the Huskies drained a three to close out the quarter and Gilford trailed 15-11 after one.

Neither team was able to generate much offense in the second, with Hodsdon opening the scoring by finishing off an Abby Watson steal and after a Husky basket, Maltais hit a free throw and Gilford trailed 17-14 at the halftime break.

The Huskies hit the first basket of the second half but Gilford scored the next nine points, with Lewis starting the run with a hoop and Watson adding a bucket. After Hodsdon hit a free throw, Maltais drained a three-pointer to give Gilford the 22-19 lead.

Monadnock came back with a hoop and after Hodsdon put back a rebound, the Huskies drained another bucket. Lucy Akerstrom

connected from the line and Maltais drained a bucket for the 27-23 lead before a Monadnock free throw cut the lead to three. Hodsdon then hit three free throws and Gilford took the 30-24 lead to the final quarter.

The Huskies hit a hoop and a three-pointer out of the gate to cut the lead to one but Akerstrom answered with consecutive baskets to up the lead to five again. Monadnock got



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Abby Watson drives past a Monadnock defender in the Division III semifinals last week.

a basket and a free throw to make it a two-point game but Watson connected on a hoop and Hodsdon hit two free throws.

After a Monadnock free throw, Hodsdon hit three more free throws for the 41-33 lead and the Huskies added another basket before Hodsdon and Maltais each hit free throws to close out the 43-35 win.

“I am just really proud of them,” said Currier.

“They’re turning my hair grey, but we’re having fun at the same time.

“Monadnock is a really good team, they’re skilled kids and well-coached,” he continued. “But I told them in practice that the hardest game was going to be the quarterfinal (Hopkinton), because it was at home, with the crowd and the expectations of coming away with a win.

“I think that night pre-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Skye Maltais launches a three-pointer during the Division III semifinals last week in Bow.

Gilford 43

Maltais 3-2-10, Hodsdon 3-10-17, Flanders 1-0-2, Lewis 2-0-5, Akerstrom 2-1-5, Watson 2-0-4, Totals 13-13-43

Monadnock 35

Fusco 4-1-12, Cintron 1-0-2, Kidney 3-5-11, Carroll-Clough 4-2-10, Totals 12-8-35

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Top-seeded Wildcats push past Timber Wolves in semis

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BOW — The Prospect Mountain girls’ basketball team had a stellar season that culminated in a trip to the Division III semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

However, the semifinal game saw the Timber Wolves go up against the top-ranked Fall Mountain Wildcats, a team loaded with seniors that has been a Division III powerhouse over the last few years.

After a first half that saw the Timber Wolves stay within striking distance, the Wildcats pulled away in the second half and took the 45-25 win.

“When you’re building a program, you have to pay your dues,” said Prospect head coach Isiah Anderson. “You have to learn to win with class and learn to lose with class.

“I don’t know the last time Prospect Mountain played a meaningful basketball game like this,” he continued. “That team got beat by 40 points in the championship game last year and they definitely remember that.

“I’m encouraged, it doesn’t feel great right now, but it’s an opportunity to grow,” Anderson added. “And hopefully that’s what they take.”

Kourtney Kaplan connected on a pair of free throws to get the scoring started and Ava Foster drained a bucket for the quick 4-0 lead for the Timber Wolves. Fall Mountain came back with a pair of three-pointers and two buckets for the 10-4 lead.

Emma Foster drained a three-pointer to cut the lead to 10-7 before the Wildcats added a hoop to close out the first quarter with the 12-7 lead.

Emma Foster drained another three-pointer to start the second quarter, cutting



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Paige Harding dribbles around a Fall Mountain defender in semifinal action last week in Bow.

the lead to two before the Wildcats added a free throw. An Ava Foster free throw pushed the lead back to two but Fall Mountain drained two hoops and a free throw for the 18-11 lead.

A bucket from Maddy Howlett and another from Ava Foster cut the lead to three before the Wildcats got two free throws and a three-pointer at the buzzer to take the 23-15 lead to the halftime break.

Fall Mountain came out on fire in the second half, hitting the first four baskets of the third quarter for the 31-15 lead before Emma Foster drained another three-pointer. Fall Mountain then converted a three-point play and added another free throw for the 35-18 lead heading to the fourth quarter.

The Wildcats got a three-pointer and a bucket to start the fourth and take the 40-18 lead before Emma Foster hit two free throws. Kaplan connected on a hoop and after a Wildcat



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Emma Foster looks to the basket during action against Fall Mountain in the Division III semifinals.

bucket, Kaplan drained two free throws. Maddie Miller added a free throw before the Wildcats hit a hoop and



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Ava Foster goes hard to the hoop during action in the Division III semifinals last week.

with 11 points on the night. “Last year we lost in the quarters and this year we took another step,” Anderson said. “And we bring back most of the team next year. It’s a good problem to have.”

The Timber Wolves finished out the regular season at 15-3 to earn the fourth seed in the Division III tournament and defeated Mascoma and Berlin to advance to the Division III semifinals.

PMHS 7-8-3-7-25

FMRHS 12-11-12-10-45

Prospect Mountain 25
Kaplan 1-4-6, Howlett 1-0-2, A. Foster 2-1-5, E. Foster 3-2-11, Miller 0-1-1, Totals 7-8-25

Fall Mountain 45

J. Fillion 3-0-7, Grillone 4-0-10, K. Fillion 3-2-8, Jarvis 2-1-6, Beckwith 3-3-9, King 1-0-2, Thomas 1-1-3, Totals 17-7-45

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Opinion

SECTION A, PAGE 4

SALMON PRESS, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

Guarding the shoreline that defines us

In Alton and Gilford, the shoreline is not a backdrop. It is the front porch.

Whether you approach the water from Alton Bay, along Lakeshore Road in Gilford, or from one of the smaller public access points that dot our towns, the presence of Lake Winnepesaukee shapes daily life. It influences property values, traffic patterns, business vitality, and even how we measure the seasons. The lake is not an accessory to these communities. It is central to their identity.

That reality brings both privilege and responsibility.

Each spring and summer, conversations surface about docks, moorings, boat traffic, parking pressure and the strain on local roads. In winter, attention shifts to ice safety, plowing access and protecting fragile shoreline areas from damage. These are not new debates. They are the predictable rhythm of life in a place where natural beauty intersects with steady growth.

The question is not whether change will come. It always does. The question is how deliberately we respond to it.

Alton and Gilford have seen continued interest from new residents and seasonal homeowners alike. That interest strengthens the tax base and supports local businesses. It also increases demands on public infrastructure, emergency services and environmental oversight. Shoreline development decisions made today will echo for decades.

Town boards and planning officials carry a heavy responsibility in this regard. Variance requests, dock expansions, subdivision proposals and zoning amendments may seem technical on paper. In practice, they determine whether future generations inherit clear water and accessible shorelines or congestion and erosion.

Residents, too, have a role beyond showing up when a project directly affects their own view. Participating in public hearings, reviewing warrant articles and understanding master plan updates are not glamorous civic acts. But they are essential. Shoreland protection ordinances and thoughtful land use regulations only work when the community stands behind them.

There is also a cultural element that deserves attention. Our lake towns thrive not only because of water access but because of a shared sense of place. Longtime year-round residents and newer arrivals alike benefit when there is mutual respect. That includes simple courtesies such as observing no wake zones, maintaining safe boating practices and supporting local conservation efforts.

It also includes recognizing that public access matters. Town beaches, boat launches and walking paths are more than amenities. They are equalizers. They ensure that enjoyment of the lake is not reserved only for those with private frontage.

The health of Lake Winnepesaukee has been monitored for decades through scientific study and volunteer water testing programs. Those efforts are not abstract exercises. They provide measurable data about clarity, nutrient levels and longterm trends. The findings consistently underscore one truth: prevention is far easier than restoration.

Erosion control, septic system maintenance, stormwater management and careful permitting may feel like incremental steps. In reality, they are the guardrails that protect both the environment and the local economy. A degraded shoreline would not only diminish natural beauty. It would undermine property values and tourism, two pillars of our local stability.

Communities that depend on natural resources must think in generational terms. The decisions we make at town meeting and planning board sessions are not about next summer alone. They are about what Alton Bay looks like in 2046. They are about whether Gilford's waterfront remains both vibrant and livable.

Growth is not the enemy. Complacency is.

Our shoreline defines us. Protecting it does not mean freezing our towns in time. It means guiding change with care, respecting science, and remembering that what draws people here in the first place is worth defending.

If we hold that principle at the center of every shoreline conversation, the lake will continue to serve as our front porch for generations to come.

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

This is not your father's Big Wheel. Wait a minute — yes, it is! Adults at New Durham's Winter Carnival held over the weekend were able to race across the ice, just like their kids. And grandkids. Afterwards, everyone headed to the chili/soup cook off or went back to ice fishing or worked on a snow sculpture. Warmer temperatures made it easy to take advantage of the different activities planned all day by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Letters to the Editor

SAU Study Committee — another move in the right direction for Alton & Barnstead taxpayers

To the Editor:

This March, school district meeting warrants in Alton and Barnstead will include a question about establishing a "study committee" to consider merging the existing Alton and Barnstead SAUs.

We hope the voters in both towns will take the time to understand a few important facts about this process:

This vote does not make a decision to merge our school offices into a single SAU. Creating a study committee is the first step in a two-year process required under New Hampshire law. An SAU Merger Study Committee is composed of two school board members from each district and budget committee members from each town. Once an SAU Merger Study Committee is created, it spends a year reviewing options and evaluating the impacts if the SAU offices were merged. Then, the Study Committee makes a report back to the school boards and voters. At that point, if a merger is recommended by the Study Committee, another warrant article to merge the SAUs would appear on next year's ballots in Alton and Barnstead.

Since 2021, the Alton and Barnstead school boards have already merged many central office functions under a "Shared Services" memorandum of agreement (MoA). Previously, the two boards employed three superintendents, three business administrators, three special education administrators, and so on for the two towns' three schools. Since merging services, both towns' school districts have saved money on administrative costs and have seen improvements in curriculum alignment, purchasing power, and operational efficiency. An SAU Merger study would evaluate these impacts and determine if a merger would be beneficial as a permanent change.

A merged SAU would increase transparency in how shared services are being funded. Under the current MoA, each school (Alton, Barnstead, and the Propsect Mountain JMA) pays one-third of shared costs, which appear in each school budget spread among various budget functions. With a single SAU, a separate SAU budget would be published every year, allowing voters to understand exactly what expenses are associated with central office administration and

other shared services. So, while the current ballot question only forms a study committee, that committee would have work to do to evaluate and explain how a budget and financial reports would be made.

In 2024, the New Hampshire legislature created an incentive grant program to encourage school districts to merge their central offices. The idea was to encourage consolidation of central office administration to save money and allow spending to be concentrated in the schools, where students are served. This grant program will provide a two-year, unrestricted grant to each new SAU created between 2024 and 2030 that consolidates at least two previously-existing SAUs. The grant is calculated by multiplying \$200 by the total number of students enrolled in all the underlying schools served by the merged SAU office. In Alton & Barnstead's case, with 1,267 students enrolled currently, that would provide \$253,400 each year for the first two years of a merged SAU's operations, a total of \$506,800 over two years, which would provide significant property tax relief to our communities. A study committee would also evaluate this grant and factor it into any recommendation made to the voters next year.

Finally, an SAU merger combines central office structures under a single publicly-available budget that Alton and Barnstead would get to review and approve each year. A study committee would also look at legal options for how to divide the costs associated with the SAU. And, it's important to understand that the SAU is different from the districts: even if we eventually merge SAUs, Alton and Barnstead would each continue to have its own school board, budget, annual meeting processes, and independent governance.

We hope the voters in both towns will take the time to understand the benefits of this article, and go to the polls or annual meeting this March to approve the formation of an SAU Merger Study Committee for our school system.

Jason Henry

Barnstead School Board & Chair of PMHS JMA Board

Christi Wood

Alton Central School Board Chair

Together, we can move New Durham forward respectfully

To the Editor:

I am pleased to announce that I am running for the New Durham Board of Selectmen. My goal is to bring honest calm leadership, respectful dialogue, and responsible budgeting to our town.

My wife, Ginny, and I have proudly called New Durham home for 22 years. We've raised our three children and are now enjoying life as empty nesters in the community we value so much. I care deeply about preserving the character, independence, and financial stability of our community.

For the past four years, I have served on the Town Budget Committee, reviewing expenditures and asking the necessary questions to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. I have also served for two years on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, working to apply our town's regulations fairly and consistently.

Professionally, I bring decades of hands-on municipal experience. I worked for 27 years for the City of Portsmouth Public Works Department, giving me firsthand understanding of how local government operates and how taxpayer dollars are invested in infrastructure and services. I later served as a Staff Representative for American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Council 93 (AFSCME),

working through contracts, negotiations, and problem-solving between employees and municipalities. Today, I serve as President of the AFSCME Retirees, and I work locally as a delivery driver for Baron Brothers Development in Farmington. This experience gives me practical insight into budgeting, labor costs, operations, and long-term planning - all of which directly impact our tax rate.

I understand that rising property taxes are a real burden for all of us. We must carefully evaluate spending, prioritize essential services, and plan responsibly for the future. Fiscal discipline and transparency should guide every decision. At the same time, strong leadership requires listening, weighing difficult choices carefully, and treating every resident with respect. We move forward by focusing on solutions.

Together, we can protect taxpayers and keep New Durham moving forward - responsibly and respectfully.

Please feel free to call me at 603-502-8940. I welcome your thoughts and ideas.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Tuesday, March 10 at the New Durham Elementary School (7 Old Bay Rd.). Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Kenneth Fanjoy

New Durham

Vote yes on Article 19 to save a piece of New Durham's history

To the Editor:

Article 19 on the New Durham Warrant asks taxpayers for a contribution of \$20,000 to the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund. This represents approximately \$5 - \$15 per household, depending on your home's assessment.

This money is needed - we have a contractor who can do the work in 2027, but even if this article passes, we are still \$10,000 - \$50,000 shy; the estimate is a range because you don't know exactly what must be done until you get in there!

That means we have to apply for a grant to complete the big ticket item Phase II - restoring the building's structural integrity with timber frame repairs and preventing water damage by replacing the roof.

We can do that now because the Committee's fundrais-

ing arm, a 501(c)(3) Friends group, received a \$100,000 donation (Yes! Spectacular!) so we have matching funds in hand. Every year the work is not done, costs rise, keeping completion just out of reach, and the historic Meetinghouse deteriorates more.

If you feel that saving our foundational building, the structure that officially made New Durham a town, that has stood right here since before there was a United States and that has seen residents gather within its walls for generations is worth \$10 to you, please vote Yes on Article 19.

Thank you,

Cathy Allyn

For The 1772 Meetinghouse Committee

New Durham

Vote yes for stronger school voucher oversight

To the Editor:

Article 33 on the New Durham warrant calls for voters to support income limits and stronger oversight for school vouchers in order to protect taxpayers and ensure responsible use of public funds.

A Yes vote asks state lawmakers to restore the income eligibility limits so the program is directed toward families with true financial need and require the same fiscal transparency and academic reporting for the voucher program required of public schools.

By expanding the eligibility to families of all income levels, state lawmakers have set vouchers to cost up to approximately \$110 million over the next two years. No new revenue source has been identified to cover those costs! They could fall on local budgets, and ultimately show up in higher property taxes.

Please vote yes on Article 33!

Alicia Hernandez

New Durham

LETTERS CONTINUED, PAGE A5

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LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Devolved

This morning, I got up and walked downstairs to find a cold stove. It looked as though I would have to

start it from scratch. After cleaning ashes from the front of the stove, I dragged the charcoals forward from

the back and low and behold, there was one small ember still glowing.

Not being in a hurry, I

decided to give my kindling prowess a test. I took the ember, about the size of a split pea, and placed

it inside a pile of charcoals and gently blew on it with my kindling stick. It didn't take too long before the neighboring charcoals were also glowing. Once I had a large enough pile of glowing coals I threw on some wood, and then it wasn't long before I heard the low rumble a fire taking hold in the stove. Ain't it great? I saved a match.

Yesterday I went to a memorial service for an old friend. It was nice to see that it was well attended. As with most churches these days, the music is like karaoke. Canned music with words up on the screens. They never cease to drive me nuts, and yesterday didn't let me down.

I am a little old fashioned. I prefer song books. At least the phrasing usually fits, and there are not randomly added measures like in Dylan songs. And the lyrics usually rhyme. Kind of like poetry. I guess I ask too much.

For hundreds of years now, musical phrasing has had a standard flow. At the end of a phrase, the chords would resolve to the tonic, or one chord. At least in the bass part. Try it out yourself with any song. The end of a phrase is a one.

For those who don't know, music people don't always use: do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti, do. They use numbers. A scale is one through eight. If I'm jamming and want to direct a song in another direction, a simple show of fingers informs my band mates where I'd like to take it. Like musical secret code. Hopefully everyone is watching.

A suspension is when you hold a note from the previous chord while everyone else moves on the next chord. It gives a little musical tension before it resolves. Think Amen.

These things usually happen in the upper parts. Never the bass. It just sounds terrible. So in the first song, in addition to the previous list of issues, the last measure of every verse, the bass player held a five. It

never resolved until the beginning of the next verse, if you could call it that.

It was like the last chord of the phrase was upside down. People subconsciously need this resolution, but it wasn't there. I could hear the crowd kind of clam up and not sing instead of letting that last note ring out. Every verse finished with this inverted chord. I was glad when it ended.

At the end of the service, we sang Amazing Grace. Everybody knows that song. It's ingrained in everybody's soul somewhere. We all know how it goes. At the end of every verse, there is a big resolution to the one. The final statement. There's nothing more to be said.

They can never leave these songs be. I'm sure that they think that they are adding something special, or unique, to these classic standards, but not necessarily so.

Every time a verse ended, while everyone's mind was anticipating a one, what came out of the speakers was a walk down, four, three, two, one. Yes, it finally got there, but not till after everyone subconsciously yearned to sing a one when the music said sing a four. Most people aren't that adept at picking out such things, and the last measure of this song was as un-sung and vocally confused as the other one. I can't see how everybody loves these things so.

Maybe I'm not "with it." Maybe they think that it's jazzy. Listening to jazz doesn't make me feel that way. Jaco wouldn't play it that way. Or any other great bass players. To me, it's just butchered bass parts and upside down chords all throughout these productions.

Is there not anywhere that hasn't given in to these poor excuses for music? Or is it that music really doesn't matter anymore? Or maybe it has just totally devolved.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor Continued

Zoning amendments will promote housing and safety and protect Barnstead's small-town feel

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Barnstead Planning Board, we encourage residents to review the four zoning ordinance amendments on the warrant for the March 2026 Town Election. These updates address accessory dwelling units (ADUs), short-term rentals (STRs), and minor housekeeping changes to keep our ordinance clear, consistent, and compliant with state law.

Question 1 aligns our

ADU rules with RSA 674:71-73 (as amended by HB 577, 2025), allowing one ADU by right on single-family lots, with owner occupancy required. A yes vote supports family housing options while preserving neighborhood character; a no vote keeps stricter rules that may limit choices and conflict with state law.

Question 2 creates a permit system for STRs, requiring Planning Board approval, safety inspections, occupant/

parking limits, and emergency postings. A yes vote adds oversight for safety and neighbor peace while permitting responsible rentals; a no vote leaves STRs unregulated, risking more disruptions.

Questions 3 and 4 are technical fixes: clarifying allowable uses across all districts and updating the permitted uses table to match the ADU/STR changes. A yes vote ensures consistency and avoids confusion; a no vote may perpetuate in-

consistencies.

These amendments were drafted thoughtfully to promote housing, safety, and our small-town feel. Full text is available at the Town Office or town Web site.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carr
David Kerr
Brianna Weller
Tim Eade
Anthony Palmieri
Erin Stone
Barnstead Planning Board

Chief Wilder is more than qualified

To the Editor:

In response to the misinformation on social media about New Durham Fire Chief, Tim Wilder, not being qualified, I felt the need to look into it myself and state the facts.

Chief Wilder is a Firefighter II. As a Fire and Emergency Instructor, he can teach the firefighting I and II curriculum anywhere in the state.

He is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist,

which means he is a nationally recognized professional, "validated to possess comprehensive knowledge in fire safety, prevention and suppression." It is the gold standard for fire professionals for reducing fire risk.

As a Fire Inspector level II. He holds the highest certification for fire inspections. He is also a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, and an Advanced EMT

(emergency medical technician). The Chief is also an ECSI instructor in New Hampshire. That is a certified, authorized professional, authorized to teach CPR, AED, First Aid and Wilderness First Aid courses.

In addition, he is a Firefighter III Confined Space Technician, a Firefighter III Swiftwater Rescue Technician and Firefighter III Ice Rescue Technician, as well as Firefighter III

Rope Rescue Technician.

These are only some of the certifications Chief Wilder brings to New Durham. My goal is to let people know he is very qualified for the position of Fire Chief, and deserves to be respected for his knowledge and training.

We are very lucky to have Chief Tim Wilder as our part time fire chief.

Respectfully,

Ellen Phillips
New Durham

Please come out and vote

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge the residents of Alton to come out and vote next Tuesday. This election is for local offices. We have several excellent candidates, including current and former officeholders.

Equally important, perhaps even more so, is to vote on the town budget, school budget and warrant articles. For the past two years, Alton has had to op-

erate under a default budget, which means a budget unchanged from the prior year except for certain contractual obligations. This has made it challenging to retain staff and increasingly difficult to provide critical services. Alton's employees have gone without a pay increase for two years, and a third year would very likely result in loss of some valuable and hard-to-replace people. Of further

concern is the risk to our fire/ambulance coverage. Last year Alton voters approved a warrant article to add enough firefighters/EMTs to always insure full twenty-four-hour coverage. Previously this could only be maintained by requiring first responders to work significant amounts of overtime, an unsustainable situation. Our coverage provisions are now well in hand but will quickly dete-

riorate if the town budget does not pass.

As is so often the case with local elections, our voter turnout last year was very low, less than ten percent. This means that less than one of every ten eligible voters decided the issues. Alton can do better.

Election day is Tuesday March tenth. Our polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Prospect Mountain High School. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall. Please come out and vote.

Richard "Dick" Shea
Alton

Talk to the Chief before you buy into what you see on social media

To the Editor:

The purchase of three recliners by our new Fire Chief has received much negative attention on social media. I'd like to focus on what he has done to maintain the fleet, bring the building up to code and improve the appearance and working conditions for those who serve our community in a very important town department.

When Chief Wilder was hired in September, he found quite a bit of excess money left in the former Chief's budget. He decided to use these funds to address the many much needed repairs to equipment, vehicles and the building. The Chief was determined to address deficiencies and repairs before developing an outline for the 2026 budget.

So he got to work: Chief Wilder had annual pump service for engine 1, engine 2 and the ladder truck. He purchased needed vehicle battery replacements as well as generator battery replacements. He bought EMS consumables and disposable medical equipment. A Knox Box Med vault was installed in the ambulance to safely and securely store controlled medications. He ordered headset and radio repairs and strobe replacement. He paid for septic system service to fix a clogged pipe in the Community room. He also removed some boards to find a non-working toilet, which he replaced for firefighter use.

Chief Wilder purchased uniforms for new and existing staff, instead of them having to wear their own clothes to a call. He purchased a new stackable washer and dryer to replace the aged existing ones, so their uniforms could be washed to remove carcinogenic residue. Uniforms should not be taken home to clean to minimize the risk of exposure to their family members.

Chief Wilder installed donated lockers for firefighters to put their street clothes in and others to hold their fire uniforms. The Chief also put in a much needed new fire door exit on the side of the building. He updated the front of our aging fire station to look more professional.

These are only some of the improvements the Chief made with money that we already had in the budget but had not yet been spent.

Only then, as there was still money left in the budget, did he buy three recliners and exercise equipment to provide a comfortable place for firefighters to rest or workout after a call and before they head to their real jobs.

Before you believe everything posted on social media, I challenge you to visit our fire station, meet Chief Wilder, and see in person the improvements and upgrades to protect the safety and welfare of our valued fire department personnel.

Sharon Powers
New Durham

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Prescott places sixth at Meet of Champions

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

DERRY — Prospect Mountain senior Robert Prescott wrapped up a stellar wrestling career for the Timber Wolves at the Meet of Champions on Saturday, Feb. 28, at Pinkerton Academy in Derry.

Wrestling at 285 pounds, Prescott be-

gan his day by pinning a wrestler from Bow and another from Kingswood. He then dropped a 15-5 decision to a foe from Pinkerton Academy and was pinned by a wrestler from Concord. He finished off his day getting pinned by a foe from Pelham to finish in sixth place overall.

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



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Owen Hawkins rises toward the basket in second half action in the Division III championship on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Bryce Cook fires off a shot in the lane during the Division III championship game on Saturday in Keene.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Emmett Hughes goes hard to the basket during action in the Division III title game in Keene on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Mark Uicker launches a three-point shot during championship game action at Keene State on Saturday afternoon.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Gilford hoop boys celebrate after knocking off Mascoma in overtime in the Division III title game.

CHAMPS

(continued from Page A1)

Early in third quarter, the Royals had a 36-14 lead over Gilford, with the Golden Eagles closing the gap to 15 at the end of the quarter and then outscoring Mascoma 23-8 in the final eight minutes to force overtime, where Gilford outscored the Royals 9-7 to claim the state title.

Neither team was able to

score for almost three minutes before the Royals got the game's first basket and Emmett Hughes followed with a hoop for the Golden Eagles. After a Mascoma three, Hughes hit a free throw and the Royals added another hoop. Hawkins got Gilford's final bucket of the first and Mascoma had the final basket in the frame for the 9-5 lead after one.

It was all Mascoma early in the second quarter, as the

Royals hit the first four baskets of the quarter to take a 17-5 lead. Henry Sleeper finished off a steal by Gavin Forest to get the Golden Eagles on the board and Hawkins drained a three-point shot.

Forest finished off his own steal to cut the lead to 17-12 but the Royals finished the quarter on a 13-0 run with two three-pointers, a three-point play and two buckets for the 30-12 lead at the halftime break.

After Hawkins hit two free throws to start the second half, the Royals hit consecutive three-pointers for the 36-14 lead and they were feeling it. Unfortunately for them, that was about the time Gilford started to feel it as well.

Sleeper converted a three-point play and added another free throw while Forest added two free throws. After the Royals hit two from the line, Mark

Uicker connected on a basket and Mascoma answered with their own hoop. Forest hit a free throw and Hawkins drained a three-point shot at the buzzer, cutting the Royal lead to 40-25 heading to the final eight minutes of regulation.

Gilford charged out of the gate in the fourth quarter, scoring the first 11 points of the frame to cut the lead to four. Hawkins had a hoop and a three-point shot, Uicker added a hoop and Sleeper finished off his own steal. Gorest then hit two free throws to make it 40-36.

After the Royals hit a hoop, Sleeper answered with a hoop and a Forest free throw cut the lead to three with just less than five minutes to play. Mascoma hit two free throws but a Uicker hoop kept the Golden Eagles within shooting distance with four minutes to play.

Mascoma connected on a hoop but Hawkins hit two from the line with 2:33 to go to cut the lead to three and then drained a three-point shot with 1:25 to go to tie the game at 46. Mascoma took the lead with 40 seconds to go and then missed two free throws with 13 seconds to go, giving Gilford one final chance to tie the game.

And it was Hawkins who did it, draining a pair of free throws with 3.5 seconds to go in regulation and the teams headed to overtime tied at 48.

Hawkins hit a free throw to start overtime and after Mascoma got a hoop and a pair of free throws, a Uicker three-point shot tied the game and the senior then buried a hoop with 1:35 to go to give Gilford the 54-52 lead. A Sleeper free throw upped the lead to three with 45 seconds to go but the Royals connected on three from the line with 15 seconds to go, tying the game at 55.

Hawkins then calmly drained two free throws

with nine seconds to go and Mascoma's last second chance missed the mark, giving Gilford the Division III title for the fifth time in the last seven years.

"I told them, I'll give you everything I have and that's all I ask for you," Acquilano said. "If everyone gives everything they have, it will take care of itself."

"We just needed to regroup (at halftime), stop making mistakes and just play Gilford basketball," the veteran coach continued. "I'd like to think at the end of the day it was about grit."

"And we had to get Owen eating, that would take the pressure off other people," Acquilano continued. "If we got him going, we knew it would get us going. Great players make big plays in big games."

"I could coach 100 more years and I'm not sure I would be in another game like that," he added. "This group has come farther than a lot of people would give us credit for."

Hawkins finished with 25 points while Uicker and Sleeper wrapped up their Gilford careers with 11 points each.

The Golden Eagles finished the regular season at 15-3 to earn the fourth seed in the Division III tournament then beat Prospect Mountain, Stevens and Kearsarge to earn the trip to the championship game.

GHS 5-7-13-23-9-57
MVRHS 9-21-10-8-7-55
Gilford 57

Uicker 5-0-11, Sleeper 4-3-11, Hawkins 6-9-25, Hughes 1-1-3, Forest 1-5-7, Totals 17-18-57

Mascoma 55
Myers 5-1-11, Pierce 7-3-21, Ballou 7-4-19, Hemmerling 1-2-4, Totals 20-10-55

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

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Gilford starts strong, holds off Keasarge to earn title game berth



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Henry Sleeper puts up a shot during semifinal action last Tuesday evening in Bedford.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BEDFORD — The Gilford boys' basketball team scored the first 10 points of the Division III semifinals on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Bedford High School and then hung tight through a few Keasarge rallies and advanced to the Division III finals with a 49-45 win over the Cougars.

"We don't look at seedings, we had a pretty good battle with them it feels like 10 days ago," said Gilford coach Rick Acquilano of the Cougars, who knocked off top seed Belmont in the quarterfinals. "They're well-coached, they have the Player of the Year (Eli Whipple), yeah that's dangerous."

Mark Uicker got the first hoop of the game and then Henry Sleeper hit two hoops in a row to up the lead to 6-0. Uicker then finished off his own steal to up the lead to 8-0 and Emmett Hughes put back a rebound for the 10-0 lead.

Keasarge got their first hoop of the game with 2:20 to go in the first quarter and then hit another and a three-point play to cut the lead to 10-7. Sleeper then finished off the quarter with a three-pointer and Gilford took the 13-7 lead to the end of the first quarter.

Sleeper then hit the first hoop of the second quarter and after a Keasarge bucket, Hughes connected from the free throw line. Keasarge added a three-pointer before Sleeper added another hoop and after another Cougar basket, Ryan Folan put back a rebound for the 20-14 lead.

Uicker connected from long distance to up the lead to nine but the Cougars answered with their own three-pointer. After Folan drained a hoop, the Cougars hit a pair of free throws to cut the lead to 25-19. Gilford then hit the final three baskets of the first half, with Uicker, Owen Hawkins and Hughes each draining buckets for the 31-19 lead at the halftime break.

Sleeper drained a hoop and a three-pointer to start the third quarter, upping the lead to 17 before the Cougars went on a 16-0 run with three three-pointers, a three-point play and two baskets, cutting the lead to 36-35 with three minutes to go in the quarter.

Uicker drained a three-pointer and after a Cougar hoop, Hawkins connected on two free throws and Uicker drained another basket. Keasarge got the final basket of the third quarter and the Gilford lead was 43-39 heading to the fourth quarter.

Folan started the fourth with a bucket and Keasarge answered right away. Sleeper connected on a hoop before the Cougars hit two hoops in a row, cutting the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Ryan Folan goes up to the basket during action against Keasarge in the Division III semifinals.

lead to 47-45 with just 30 seconds to go in the game.

Hawkins hit a free throw with 17 seconds to go and then added another free throw with eight seconds to go to seal the 49-45 win to send the Golden Eagles back to the Division III finals after a few years away.

"We watched the game before (Hopkinton vs. Mascoma) and Hopkinton was up 10 (in the second half) and lost," Acquilano said. "We knew we were

in a four-quarter battle with them.

"Credit to them, but also credit to our kids for finishing what they started," he continued. "It's about trusting each other and it's always about defense. Forty-five is a winning number."

The veteran coach praised the work of his captains, Sleeper and Uicker and sophomore guard Hawkins while also noting that the big guys down low



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Mark Uicker puts up a shot during action against Keasarge in last Tuesday's semifinal battle.

(Folan and Hughes) battled all day.

"I am definitely happy for the kids," Acquilano said. "I'm happy with what we accomplished."

Sleeper led the way for the Golden Eagles with 18 points and Uicker finished with 15 points.

The Golden Eagles advanced to the Division III finals against Mascoma on Saturday.

GHS 13-18-12-6-49
KRHS 7-12-20-6-45

Gilford 49

Uicker 6-0-14, Hughes 2-1-5, Sleeper 8-0-18, Hawkins 1-4-6, Folan 3-0-6, Totals 20-5-49

Keasarge 45

Boehle 1-0-2, Lamothe 1-0-2, Grieco 5-0-13, Whipple 7-3-19, Kinzer 1-0-2, Totals 18-4-45

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

Super opportunity for Kingswood grad Sean Stackhouse

Television journalist gets the chance to cover Super Bowl 60

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — It was the Super Bowl of coverage opportunities. Literally.

Kingswood graduate Sean Stackhouse had the chance to head to California to cover the Patriots in the Super Bowl, a once in a lifetime opportunity for a lifelong Patriots fan.

Stackhouse, who works for News Center Maine (Channel 6) as a managing editor, where he oversees the Bangor newsroom for the station, mentoring young reporters as they break into the business. But before he did that he was an on-air reporter who was trained in all aspects of the news business and this was a chance to bring his skills to the biggest media event in the United States every year.

"After the AFC Championship Game, they were looking for crews," Stackhouse said. "We had one team that had been covering the team and then we found out we could send two crews.

"It was a matter of who can make it work in their schedule and they asked me if I would be interested," he added. "I said 'are you sure?'"

They were indeed sure and he indeed headed out west the Tuesday before the Super Bowl to work with Lee Goldberg, who anchors the station's early morning broadcasts.

"As a lifelong Patriots fan, the only option was to accept it," Stackhouse said of the opportunity. "It's a once in a lifetime chance for a Pats fan since I was



born. Boutte and Christian Elliss among others.

"You never know if it's the only opportunity to go to the Super Bowl so I had to take it," he noted.

The idea for the team was to dig up some Maine-related content at the Super Bowl, which included a story on Don Crisman, a man from Kennebunkport, Maine who was attending his 60th Super Bowl. Yes, that's right, he has been to every Super Bowl since the first along with a group of his friends. That group now numbers just three, including Crisman, who said that this year will be his final Super Bowl. There was also a family with connections to Winterport, Maine that they talked with.

Then there was the regular stuff you think of when you think of the Super Bowl. They went to Patriots media availability and covered press conferences with coach Mike Vrabel and Stef Diggs along with open availability chats with Hunter Henry, Pop Douglas, Kayshoun

where every time he turned around there was another celebrity or athlete wandering by.

"It was really, really cool," Stackhouse said, noting that for the most part, he saw the action through the role of the photographer, as he was behind the camera.

Because he was working with Goldberg, it meant pretty long days, as he had to do early morning live shots from California. And early morning on the east coast means really early in California. Stackhouse said they would get up around midnight and drive to a garage near the stadium to do the live shots.

"Most of the days were 12-16 hours, but you know

it's going to be a lot of work," he said. "But it's so surreal when you're there."

And for Stackhouse, it had been a while since he'd been to a football game, as he recalled his last football game in a stadium was in 2006, the famous Doug Flutie drop kick game in Foxboro. Now he has a new one to add to his list.

"I just don't think anyone expected the Patriots to be in the spot that they were in," he said. And Stackhouse probably didn't expect to be in the spot that he was in, but when opportunity calls, you answer the phone.

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

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OBITUARY

Dr. Herbert R. Petelle, 92

Dr. Herbert R. Petelle, age 92, of Alton, New Hampshire, passed away on February 17, 2026.

Herb was born in Franklin, NH in 1933 to Eugene and Amy (Plummer) Petelle. Herb grew up in Northfield, NH and graduated from Tilton Northfield High School. After high school, Herb joined the U.S. Air Force. After serving four years, he attended Keene Teacher's College, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and continued in the Reserves for sixteen years.

Herb was dedicated to his studies and received his Master's and Doctorate in Education. He taught



at Coe Brown, Pembroke Academy, Kingswood and the University of New Hampshire at Manchester for over 30 years. Also, he taught Driver's Education at Alton High School.

Herb was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: James & Harold Petelle and sister Irene (Petelle) Nowell.

He is survived by his wife Louise, son Glenn Petelle, son Kyle & wife Karen Petelle, 3 grandsons: Justin, Ryan and Evan Petelle, granddaughter Julie (Petelle) & husband Jonathan Dukette, also several nieces and nephews.

As per his wishes, no services will be held. A private ceremony will be held in the spring with interment at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made in his memory to: Granite State VNA.

Cremation care by Peaslee Alton Funeral Home, to express condolences, please visit: www.peasleefuneralhome.com

TOWN MEETING

(continued from Page A1)

\$6,051,102.

Water quality is also on the agenda. Under Article 4, the town would raise and appropriate \$105,000 to hire a certified lake management or engineering firm to develop a watershed-based plan to reduce phosphorus loading in the Suncook Lakes basin, a step the warrant describes as aimed at preventing future cyanobacteria blooms. The article anticipates \$100,000 coming from a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan with anticipated principal forgiveness, along with \$5,000 from the Lakeland Improvement Association and the Suncook Lakes Association. The article requires a three-fifths majority vote.

Several articles focus on highways and infrastructure, including a \$283,750 appropriation to the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, split between \$150,000 raised by taxation and \$133,750 from unassigned fund balance, according to the warrant

language. The warrant also includes a proposed five-year lease-purchase for a new highway dump truck, with a \$69,614 first-year payment and an estimated total cost of about \$312,000, and a proposed \$32,000 purchase of a steel container cover for storage at the highway garage.

On the public safety side, voters are asked to appropriate \$52,674 for the sixth and final payment of a lease-purchase agreement for a new ambulance approved in 2021. Another article proposes adding \$60,000 to the Fire Rescue Expendable Trust Fund.

The warrant also includes a series of smaller funding proposals to bolster existing accounts, including \$250,000 to the Road Paving and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, \$115,000 to the Municipal Building Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, and \$250,000 to a Public Safety Building Capital Reserve that includes Town Hall, with that last proposal drawing narrower support margins

in the warrant's recommendation notes.

On the policy side, two tax-related questions are on the warrant: one would modify an optional tax credit for service-connected total and permanent disability to \$2,150, and another would increase elderly exemption amounts based on age brackets and eligibility criteria spelled out in the article.

Voters will also be asked whether to allow the Select Board to appoint, rather than elect, the town treasurer and welfare officer under the cited state statutes.

One of the longest and most detailed items is a petitioned article proposing a town ordinance to allow OHRV use on certain public roads, including side-by-sides, ATVs and trail bikes, with restrictions on hours, equipment requirements and designated connector routes listed in the proposed ordinance. The petition includes enforcement and fine provisions and outlines how complaints would be handled and how the Select Board could adjust certain conditions by vote.

At the March 10 first session, voters will also elect town officers and vote on ballot questions that include proposed zoning ordinance amendments described in the warrant as aligning the town's ordinance with state law and expanding housing options while preserving neighborhood character.

Gilford Public Library

Classes & Special Events

Feb. 12 – Feb. 19

Thursday, March 5
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.
Living With Grief, 10-11 a.m.

French, 4-5 p.m.
Discover Greenland, 4-5 p.m.

Friday, March 6
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.
Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon
Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Hand & Foot, noon to 2:30 p.m.
Happy Crafters, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Advanced Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
Beginner Line Dancing, 10-11 a.m.

Monday, March 9
Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 9-10 a.m.
Baby Storytime, 10-

10:30 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10:15-11 a.m.
Mahjong, noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10
Feel Good Fitness w/ Dottie, 9-10 a.m.
Senior Sculpt, 10-11 a.m.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Early Release: Shamrock Shakes, 1-2 p.m.

Drop by after school and grab a sweet green treat!

Early Release: St. Patrick's Shamrock Pie, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with making a shamrock pie and playing bingo!

Dungeons and Dragons, 3-4:30 pm
Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.
Senior Stretch Yogaah!, 10-11 a.m.

Card Games, 10 a.m.-noon

Check out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon

Paint Group, 1-3 p.m.
Reiki Sharing, 4-5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a peaceful pause this holiday season and receive a 10-to-15-minute Chair Reiki session with Lani Voivod, Carol Wallace, and fellow Reiki practitioners. Experience deep relaxation, release stress, restore balance, and leave feeling lighter, calmer, and renewed. Donations gratefully support the Friends of the Gilford Public Library.

Thursday, March 12
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.

Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.

Potato Head Planters, 3-4 p.m.

Take home your very own Mr. Potato Head and watch his "hair" grow!

French, 4-5 p.m.

Meghan Stodden competes in NCAA Spring Athletics at Muhlenberg College

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Meghan Stodden of Laconia is a freshman midfield player on the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse team this spring, while studying at Muhlenberg College.

More than 30 percent of Muhlenberg students participate in the college's 23-sport intercollegiate athletics program. The red and grey Mules are part

of the NCAA Division III, Centennial Conference. The college's athletic programs are designed to motivate and empower students to develop leadership, well-being, sportsmanship and interpersonal skills while nurturing a sense of civic responsibility.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a highly se-

lective, four-year residential, liberal arts college in the city of Allentown, Pa., with nearly 2,000 bachelor's and master's degree-seeking students and a high return on investment. The college's curriculum and experiences are designed to open doors to new ideas, discoveries, friendships and a lifetime of personal and intellectual growth.

Laconia's Joseph DiPietro named to College of the Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Joseph DiPietro of Laconia was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2025 Dean's List.

A member of the Class of 2026, DiPietro was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

To qualify, students

must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively under-

graduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

as well.

Tickets for Gals' Night Out are \$25, and may be purchased through Tuesday, March 10 at the GCC Administrative Office. For those with questions, please call (603) 524-6057.

Located in Gilford at 19 Potter Hill Rd., Gilford Community Church (GCC) is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. Sunday service takes place at 10 a.m., is also available on a livestream feed on GCC's Facebook page and later on YouTube.

NIGHT OUT

(continued from Page A1)

was dedicated to helping others. She accepted no pay as she taught poor children whose parents had no money to send them to school. She raised warehouses full of food, medicine and clothing during the Civil War, and then courageously went to the front to nurse the wounded and dying. Finally, she started the American Red Cross which is her legacy today.

A delicious dinner will be catered by Ellie Murphy, and any interested men are welcome to join this month

Church Service SCHEDULE

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

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

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

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship Service 10:00am
Bible Study 11:15am
Rte 126 next to Town Hall
Call or Text (603) 269-8831
centerbarnsteadcc.org

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF PRAISE C.C.O.P PRAISE GATHERING
Every Saturday @ 5:30pm at the Iron Works church, 1802 NH Route 140, Gilmanton Ironworks, NH
ccopraisegathering@gmail.com

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BARNSTEAD, UCC
Sunday School and Worship Services
Rev. Kate Kennedy
603-776-1820
Our services are in person at 504 North Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, NH and live-streamed on Zoom, Sundays at 10 a.m.
ccnorthbarnstead.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FARMINGTON
Worship Services 10:00 AM
All are welcome.
400 Main Street
Farmington, NH 03835
www.farmingtonnhucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW DURHAM NH
Sun. School 9:30am; Church 10:30am; Evening Service 6pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting 7pm. Depot St., New Durham;

Pastor Ryan Blackard

JOY CHURCH
55 Barnstead Road
Pittsfield, NH 03263
Sunday Celebration 9:30 am
Prayer Night- 1st Wed of every month 6:30 pm
Pastors Mike & Kathy Mavity
joychurchnh.com

PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BARNSTEAD, N.H.
on the Parade in Barnstead
Sunday Morning Worship Service for all ages begins 9:00am.
Prayer Meeting - April through November at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday Evenings.
Pastor Sandy Pierson - 483-2846

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL
40 Hidden Springs Rd., Alton, 875-2548.
Father Robert F. Cole, Pastor.
Mass Saturday 4pm;
Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am;
Daily Mass Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:00am.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Sunday 9:30, 50 Main St., Pittsfield
Rev. Miriam Acevedo with Rev. Stephen Ekerberg
www.ststephenspittsfield.com

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rt. 171 at Tuftonboro Corner.
Sunday services 10:30 am. Church 603-539-8058

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Victory in the experience as Gilford girls fall in finals

Young Golden Eagles fall to Fall Mountain in Division IV title game

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

KEENE — The Division IV championship game was not the kind of game that the Gilford hoop girls had played all season.

It was however, exactly the kind of game that the top-ranked Fall Mountain girls had played most of the season.

The Wildcats, loaded with seniors coming off a runner-up finish last year, capped off their undefeated season with a 50-21 win over the Golden Eagles at Spaulding Gymnasium at Keene State College on Saturday. For the Wildcats, it was just another in a long string of double-digit wins over the course of the year.

For Gilford, there had been no blowouts all season long, but the Wildcats took control early and never looked back, cruising to the Division IV title.

“Hats off to Fall Mountain, they played really well,” said Gilford coach Scott Currier. “There’s no way anyone was beating them tonight.”

“But the experience of it, obviously we want to win, being in this environment, learning the little things, it’s a huge thing for us to go through this experience,” the Golden Eagle coach said. “This was great experience for them, a great learning experience.”

The Wildcats scored the first seven points of the game on a pair of buckets and a three-pointer before Abby Watson got Gilford on the board with what would be the team’s only points of the first quarter. Fall Mountain closed out the first quarter with a 15-0 run on three three-pointers, two free throws and a couple of buckets and took the 22-2 lead to the second quarter.

Fall Mountain scored the first three points of the second quarter before Penny Lewis hit a hoop for the Golden Eagles. After two free throws from the Wildcats, Skye Maltais connected on a hoop and Fall Mountain finished off the first half with consecutive baskets and took the 31-6 lead to the halftime break.

The Wildcats connected for the first basket of the third quarter and Grace Scott answered with a basket for Gilford. After a Wildcat three-pointer, Watson hit a hoop for the Golden Eagles. Fall Mountain got a hoop and a free throw to take the 39-10 lead.

Lucy Akerstrom put back a rebound for the Golden Eagles before the Wildcats converted a three-point play and drained a three-pointer. Addison Hodsdon hit two free throws for Gilford and Fall Mountain got the final basket of the quarter to take a 47-14 lead to the final eight minutes.

The Wildcats got the first basket of the fourth quarter and Penny Flanders answered with a bucket for Gilford. After a Fall Mountain free throw, Gilford scored the final five points of the game. Hodsdon converted a three-point play and Watson hit two free throws for the 50-21 final score.

“I don’t know if a lot of folks thought we’d be here at the beginning of the year,” Currier noted. “We’re a little disappointed, but at the same time we are so proud of them.”

Even more encouraging for the Golden Eagle coach is the fact that they made the entire playoff run without the services of Taylor



Gilford captains Skye Maltais and Abby Watson pose with the Division III runner-up plaque after Saturday’s Division III championship game.



Gilford’s Skye Maltais (left) and Addison Hodsdon battle for a jump ball in action in the Division III finals on Saturday in Keene.

Marsh, who did much of the ball handling for the Golden Eagles throughout the season but was injured late in the regular season.

“I think Taylor has learned a lot the last few weeks, but she is a huge component of what we want to do going forward,” Currier said. “And I think Lucy (Akerstrom) has taken some big steps forward as well.”

“I think we’ll have the opportunity to be back here,” he added.

Watson led the way for the Golden Eagles with six points on the afternoon.

Gilford finished the regular season at 15-3 to earn the third seed in the Division III tournament, beating Campbell, Hopkinton and Monadnock to advance to the finals.

GHS 2-4-8-7-21

FMRHS 22-9-16-3-50

Gilford 21

Maltais 1-0-2, Lewis 1-0-2, Scott 1-0-2, Hodsdon 1-3-5, Watson 2-2-6, Flanders 1-0-2, Akerstrom 1-0-2, Totals 8-5-21

Fall Mountain 50



Lucy Akerstrom puts up a shot in the lane during championship action against Fall Mountain in Keene on Saturday.

Jarvis 5-2-14, Beckwith 18-8-50

3-2-8, J. Fillion 3-0-8, K. Fillion 0-2-2, Grillone 5-0-12, S. King 0-1-1, E. King 2-0-4, Vogel 0-1-1, Totals

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



Penny Flanders fires off a shot in action in the Division III championship game at Keene State College on Saturday.

“Man About Town” Gary McGloin to host musical fundraiser

WOLFEBORO — On Saturday, March 14, the Wolfeboro Friends of Music and Great Waters Summer Concerts will come together to present a performance to raise money for music education and scholarship. Featured performer “Man About Town” Gary McGloin will be joined on stage by singer Michelle Lowes and composer, conductor, and pianist Andy Campbell. The performance will begin at 4:00 at the First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro UCC. Weather date is March 21.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and may be purchased at www.greatwaters.org, www.wfriendsofmusic.com, or at the door on the day of the performance. All proceeds will be divided evenly between both organizations for educational purposes. Northeast Delta Dental and individual contributions are underwriting the performance.

This year, the Wolfeboro Friends of Music is celebrating 90 years of offering captivating performances and illuminating educational programs from September to June. Originally known as the Amy Beach Club, the organization was formed by Ella Lord Gilbert, a Wolfeboro resident and accomplished pianist. She named the organization after Amy Cheney Beach, a New Hampshire-born concert pianist and orchestral composer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The two had originally met at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, where they gave lectures and



Andy Campbell, Michelle Lowes, and Gary McGloin.

performed piano recitals. In 1941, Gilbert brought that Club to Wolfeboro, and in 1981, that organization changed its name to the Wolfeboro Friends of Music. Their educational programs support music education for students by offering assistance to help further students’ music education with private lessons, upgrading instruments/equipment, or attending music camps.

Thirty years ago, Dr. Gerald Mack, a summer resident of Alton and a retired professor of choral music at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford, formed a grassroots organization com-

posed of both summer and year-round residents to bring musical performances to the Lake Region of New Hampshire. Now celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, the Great Waters Music Festival, doing business as Great Waters Summer Concerts, has grown to present a variety of outstanding musical performances at both the Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough and on the grounds of Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro. Its mission is to present live concerts of diverse genres for the enjoyment of music lovers throughout the Lakes Region. Over the years, its scholarship pro-

gram has grown in leaps and bounds. Last year, it offered seven scholarships for students to attend colleges and universities to

advance their knowledge in the field of music, and two scholarships for high school students to attend summer music camps.

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	Cook Road	N/A	\$100,000	Morse Fiscal Trust and Carol Morse	Kevin Dyer
Gilford	Route 11A	N/A	\$290,000	Andrew J. and Concetta Pugliese	Charles P. and Pamela A. Mann
Gilford	N/A	N/A	\$142,533	Dejesus Fiscal Trust of NH and Dion Dejesus	Arthur Desmarais
Gilford	N/A	N/A	\$500,000	Joanne T. Dickinson RET	Andrew T. Pike RET
New Durham	63 S. Shore Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$600,000	Rick Feener	Scott and Kimberly Barker
New Durham	N/A (Lot 12)	N/A	\$1,830,000	Sean F. and Cara L. Kelley	James L. and Kristen A. Murphy

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www.thewarrengroup.com

Escape winter's chill with new exhibit at Lakes Region Art Association Gallery

TILTON — Tired of the endless gray skies, snow, and sub-freezing temps that define February in the Lakes Region? The Lakes Region Art Association (LRAA) has the perfect antidote: "Art in the Garden – Carved & Cultivated," a vibrant group exhibition bursting with the colors, textures, and life of gardens and nature's beauty. Featuring original

works from talented local artists, the show runs Feb. 19 through March 15 at the Lakes Region Art Gallery in Tanger Outlets, 120 Laconia Rd., Suite 300, Tilton. This uplifting collection transports visitors from winter's grip straight into lush, sculpted gardens—think carved elegance, blooming abundance,

textured landscapes, and serene organic forms brought to life through pastels, watercolors, mixed media, and more. It's an early glimpse of spring's promise, right when New Hampshire needs it most, celebrating the creative spirit of our community and the enduring allure of cultivated beauty. A lively Opening Reception welcomes

everyone on Friday, Feb. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. Meet the artists, sip and mingle, enjoy light refreshments, and soak in the garden-fresh inspiration in a warm, friendly setting. Adding extra fun to the evening, a Reverse Paint and Sip – "Forest Stillness" runs concurrently from 5 to 7 p.m. in the gallery. No experience required—guided

instruction helps you create your own tranquil forest scene while you unwind (supplies included; \$40 per person; register ahead via the gallery Web site). The Lakes Region Art Gallery continues its long tradition (rooted in the 1940s as the Laconia Art Association) as a welcoming hub for local creativity, with rotating shows of original

art in diverse media. Open Thursdays through Sundays—check lakesregionartgallery.org for current hours and details. For more info on the paint-and-sip registration, contact the Lakes Region Art Association Gallery at (603) 998-0029 or visit www.lakesregionartgallery.org.



Equal Housing Opportunity

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to The Federal Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to make, print, or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale, or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

(The Fair Housing Act of 1968 at 42 U.S.C. 3604(c))

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For The Washington DC area, please call HUD at 275-9200. The toll free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

You may also call The New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights at 603-271-2767 or write

The Commission at 163 Loudon Road, Concord, NH 03301

Neither the Publisher nor the advertiser will be liable for misinformation, typographical errors, etc. herein contained. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

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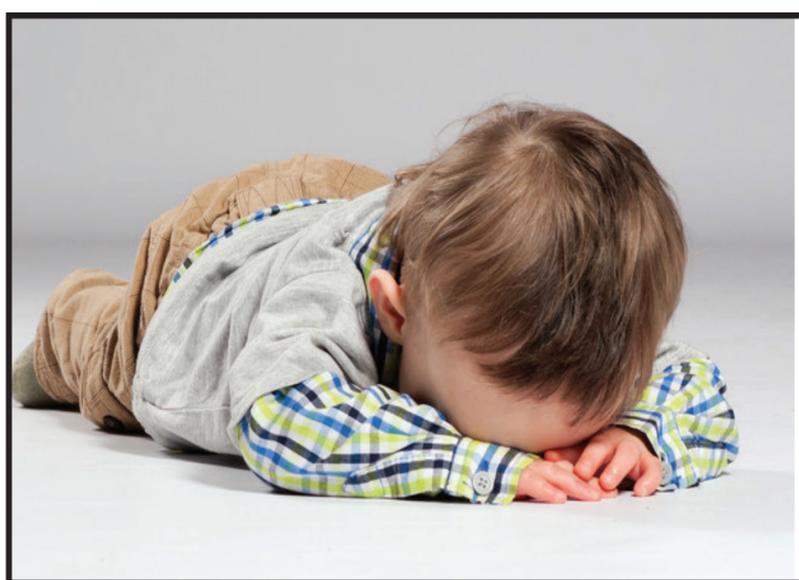
<p>\$974,900 MLS# 5068461</p> <p>Laconia: Style, space, and the lifestyle you've dreamed of at the lake! Like-new, 4 BR, 3 BA; 2,419 sqft. home in Long Bay. Fantastic amenities w/ 2 beaches, docks & pool, tennis, clubhouse & more.</p>	<p>\$699,000 MLS# 5076805</p> <p>Tilton: Restored in 2021, this bright 3BR Cape has soaring cathedral ceilings, a brick FP, and granite kitchen on 2.75 private acres abutting a golf course. 1-car garage under, new detached 2-car garage, central AC, screened porch & deck.</p>	<p>\$529,000 MLS# 5054634</p> <p>Belmont: Charming 3 BR, 2 bath cape (built 2007) on 1.8 acres w/ garage under. Timeless, quality craftsmanship & design; thoughtful modern updates. 2-story 22x36' barn (w/ electricity & water line) currently provides storage income.</p>	<p>\$799,000 MLS# 5077114</p> <p>Laconia: Iconic Tamarack Drive-In Business Opportunity. Own a Lakes Region landmark at the gateway to Weirs Beach, featuring high visibility and a turnkey seasonal restaurant operation. This prime corner lot sees up to 14,000 cars daily, offering massive potential for expansion or a fresh new concept.</p>
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Notes from the Closing Ceremony (and the trip home)



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Milan-Cortina Olympics Closing Ceremony took place in the historic Verona Arena on Sunday, Feb. 22.

SPORTING CHANCE



By JOSHUA SPAULDING

My sixth Olympic experience is officially over, as I arrived back in the United States last Tuesday afternoon. I was a bit surprised we weren't delayed due to the snowstorm that dumped two feet of snow on Boston the previous days, but we arrived right on time and I was able to hit the road to Bedford on the way home to see the Division III boys' basketball semifinals.

The Gilford hoop boys made the stop worth it, as they earned a trip to the finals with a win over Kearsarge, though it started at 7:30 p.m., which in my European mind was 12:30 p.m. I got home at 10:30 p.m., which was about 4:30 a.m. where my mind was. But, I was up the next day ready to go, unpacking and clearing up things that needed to be done.

Taking a look back at the Closing Ceremony in Verona, it was definitely an experience. Sitting on the cold stone for a few hours is probably nobody's idea of fun, but that being said,

it was a pretty cool location to hold the Closing Ceremony. It was by far, the smallest Closing Ceremony I have been to. The Verona Arena is not a huge place and they didn't put anybody behind the stage area as they wouldn't be able to see. So, the sheer number of people in the arena was definitely the smallest number in my four Closing Ceremony experiences.

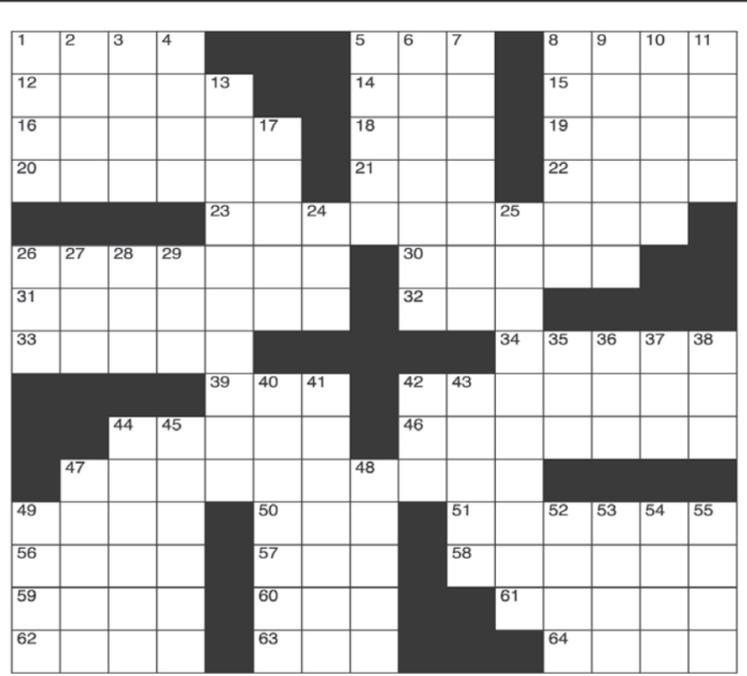
They did most of the traditional things that I have seen at the last few Closing Ceremonies that I have been to. The athletes all paraded in and got a chance to sit and watch as there was tons of pomp and circumstance and lots of performances on the arena floor. They did the flag turnover, where the Milan-Cortina folks handed the flag over to the French Alps folks, who will be hosting the next Winter Olympics in 2030. There was also a video put together by the French Alps Organizing Committee, which highlighted their region as they prepare to host the next Winter Games. It is expected that those Olympics will be much like the Milan-Cortina version, with activities all around the mountains (and coast)

of France. And of course, the Olympic flame was extinguished to close out Milan-Cortina.

There was a slight issue when we got back to Milan, as the Metro wasn't running since it was so late. So, I ended up having to take a local bus that I had never taken before. That in and of itself was an experience, as the bus was a little late and the driver was definitely bent on making up that time, which in and of itself is fine, but those cobblestone streets and old buses make for a bit of a bumpy ride at 1:30 a.m.

It's fairly fitting that my Olympics ended with a little bit of a crazy transportation situation. That was kind of the story of Milan-Cortina for me.

Joshua Spaulding is the Sports Editor for the Granite State News, Carroll County Independent, Meredith News, Gilford Steamer, Winnisquam Echo, Plymouth Record-Enterprise, Littleton Courier, Newfound Landing, Coos County Democrat, Berlin Reporter and The Baysider. He can be reached at josh@salmonpress.news, at 279-4516, or PO Box 729, Meredith, NH 03253.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unit of dry measure
- 5. One who defies authority
- 8. Social media giant
- 12. Render holy
- 14. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 15. Computer manufacturer
- 16. Creed
- 18. Immoral act
- 19. Mountain pass
- 20. Winged nut
- 21. Don't know when yet
- 22. Elected officials
- 23. Corrupt tendencies
- 26. Popular adult beverage
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Morally correct
- 32. Type of whale
- 33. Portable conical tent
- 34. Native people of the Congo
- 39. More (Spanish)
- 42. Classroom implements
- 44. Cognizant of
- 46. One who tells
- 47. Free from bondage
- 49. Thick piece of something
- 50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
- 51. Removed from the record
- 56. Legendary singer Turner
- 57. Broke up the earth
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Contributes
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Wreckage on the sea bed
- 62. Affirmative! (slang)
- 63. Witness
- 64. Scrape (Archaic)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "___ and flows"
- 2. Humble request for help
- 3. A position of leadership
- 4. Continent
- 5. Adherent of a particular religion
- 6. Things that can be eaten
- 7. Self-governing Netherlands territory
- 8. Long-tailed crow
- 9. Repeated
- 10. Bluish greens
- 11. Humanities
- 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
- 17. Labor (Spanish)
- 24. Zero
- 25. Shared by involving three parties
- 26. Queens ballplayer
- 27. Consumed
- 28. Rest here please
- 29. Men's fashion accessory
- 35. American time
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. They ___
- 38. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 40. Places to play video games
- 41. A sudden attack of illness
- 42. When you hope to arrive
- 43. Charges
- 44. Actress Seyfried
- 45. A tributary of the Ohio River
- 47. Omit when speaking
- 48. Armored fish
- 49. Remain
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Adventure story
- 54. Geological times
- 55. Eat dinner

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING PROSPECT MOUNTAIN JMA- SAU 301 ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Prospect Mountain School Board will hold a Public Hearing pursuant to the Prospect Mountain High School Open Enrollment Program established under RSA 194-D to establish the number of seats to make available under Open Enrollment for the school year 2026-2027.

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Prospect Mountain High School Library

Town of Gilford VOLUNTEERS WANTED Town Administrator Search Committee

The Gilford Board of Selectmen is now accepting letters of interest from anyone interested in serving on a Town Administrator Search Committee. This Committee will consist of 1 former Selectman, 3 year-round residents, 1 seasonal resident, 1 department manager and 1 long-term non-supervisory employee for a total of 7 members. (The current Town Administrator is retiring in August after serving the Town for 18 years.)

It is anticipated there will be a busy meeting schedule on a weekly basis beginning mid-March and lasting through mid-May. It is essential that committee members are able to make a commitment for regular attendance at these meetings.

The deadline to apply is 5pm Friday, March 6. For more information, contact Chrissy Blood, Executive Assistant at 603-527-4790 or send an email requesting an appointment to selectmen@gilfordnh.gov.

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Bruins alumni take to the ice to benefit local athletes

Successful event pushes Friends of Kingswood Hockey closer to fundraising goal

WOLFEBORO — The Friends of Kingswood Hockey is closing in on a major fundraising milestone, demonstrating once again what sustained community commitment can accomplish for local student-athletes.

When the non-profit launched its locker room expansion campaign in January 2024, it set a goal of raising \$250,000, with a commitment to contribute \$50,000 each January toward the project. Today, that finish line is in sight. Friends of Kingswood Hockey has paid \$202,000 toward the expansion, leaving a balance of under \$50,000 remaining.

Momentum accelerated on Feb. 7, when the organization hosted its third annual Bruins Alumni fundraising game at the Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Center. Featuring the Boston Bruins Alumni, the exhibition has quickly become a signature winter event in the Lakes Region, drawing strong attendance and enthusiastic support.

Following the game, supporters gathered at the Pickering House Barn for an after-party fundraiser that extended the evening's energy and generosity. Combined, the two events raised more than \$70,000 dedicated specifically to the locker room expansion.

The project will provide improved, equitable facilities for both the Kingswood Knights boys' varsity team and the Knightwolves girls' co-op team. The Knightwolves program represents athletes from Prospect Mountain High School, Kingswood Regional High School, and, new this year, Plymouth High School. As participation continues to grow across the region, the need for functional, inclusive locker room space has become increasingly important.

In addition to the locker room campaign, Friends of Kingswood Hockey partnered with Friends of Pop Whalen to address another pressing need at the rink: replacing the aging Zamboni. Together, the organizations raised an additional \$37,000 toward the purchase of a new machine, ensuring reliable ice conditions for hockey, figure skating, youth programs, and community skating events.

The non-profit's impact



The Boston Bruins Alumni and the Kingswood All-Stars pose for a photo during the Feb. 6 fundraiser at the Pop Whalen Arena.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY



A pair of Back Bay Hockey mini mites drop the puck before the annual Bruins Alumni Game on Feb. 6.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY



The Bruins Alumni pose with the Back Bay mini mites team at the annual Bruins Alumni Game to benefit the Friends of Kingswood Hockey.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY



Local auctioneer Byron Martin does what he does best at the post-game gathering at the Pickering House Barn on Feb. 6.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY



The Leach family, Steve Leach with sons Brendan and Connor and his grandson, have a legacy of local hockey.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY

reaches beyond capital improvements. Last year, Friends of Kingswood Hockey funded the purchase of rental skates for Pop Whalen, helping ensure that area schoolchildren can continue to access and use the facility regardless of equipment barriers.

The organization extends its sincere thanks to those who made this year's event

possible: the Pop Whalen staff, the Pickering House for hosting the after-party, the Mini Mites teams and their families, Craig Michaud for event photography, Brewster Academy for providing shuttle transportation to ease traffic and parking overflow, Byron Martin for his exceptional auctioneer skills, and Bella Dickey for singing the National



Kurt DeVlyder and his sons pose with Bruins Alumni President Frank Simonetti at the annual Bruins Alumni Game on Feb. 6.

CRAIG MICHAUD — COURTESY

Anthem so beautifully. The donors, attendees, fans, volunteers, and student-athletes were instrumental in the

evening's success.

With less than \$50,000 remaining on the locker room balance, the final

phase of the campaign is under way. Community members who wish to contribute may donate online at friendsofkingswoodhockey.org/ donate and specify whether their gift should be directed toward the locker room balance or the Zamboni fund.

In a region where local athletics are deeply woven into community life, Friends of Kingswood Hockey continues to demonstrate that clear goals, steady leadership, and broad-based support can turn ambitious plans into lasting improvements—on and off the ice.



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I have been practicing law since 1985, after graduating from Vermont Law School. Before starting my legal career, I earned a Master's Degree in counseling from SUNY, Plattsburgh, and completed my undergraduate studies in education at Temple University in Philadelphia. Before entering the legal field, I worked as an inner-city high school teacher and ran a cactus business, selling plants as a street vendor in downtown Philadelphia. My legal career began in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, New York, where I practiced law until 2002. In that year, I passed the New Hampshire Bar and relocated to New Hampshire to continue my practice. I am an active member of the New Hampshire Bar Association. Over the years, I have served as President of the Grafton County Bar Association and as Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. I also served on the New Hampshire Bar Association Board of Governors for 2 terms. Currently, I am a member of the New Hampshire Bar Legislative Committee and a Fellow of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation.

I also hosted a weekly radio show called "Family Law Talk Radio," which featured professionals with expertise in various related subjects. In recent years, I have focused my practice on Estate Planning and administration. This includes drafting wills and trusts, as well as probate and trust administration.

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