

Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

FREE

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43rd Annual Children's Auction to be held Dec. 10-13 at Belknap Marketplace

Cash and Cans prize calendars available now



REGION — Mix 94.1 FM's 38th annual Cash and Cans Money and Food Drive for the Holidays is set for Dec. 8-13. A unique way to raise money is to purchase a Mix Cash and Cans prize calendar. "The calendar is filled with over six thousand dollars in cash and prizes, each prize donated to us by area businesses and individuals. And we appreciate each and every one of them," said Fred Caruso, founder of the Cash and Cans program in 1987. Winners will be selected daily during December and you can win multiple times.

Calendars are 10 dollars each and available at Prescott's Florist, Vista Foods and All My Life Jewelers in Laconia; at Franklin Savings Bank offices in Franklin, Tilton, Gilford, Bristol, and Boscawen; Caleb's Barber Shop, Hanser Auto Body, Tilton Senior Center and Diana's Morning Brew, Downtown Tilton; Park-N-Go Market, Northfield and Grevier Furniture and the Hair Depot in Franklin. You can also e-mail Caruso at fred@mix941fm.com and calendars will be mailed to you.

Last year, Mix Cash and Cans raised more than \$71,000 in cash and thousands of pounds of non-perishable food items. All donations stay local, benefiting the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry; St. Vincent DePaul's Food Pantry, The Santa Fund of the Greater Lakes Region; the Tilton/Northfield/Sanbornton (TNS) Christmas Fund; Bread and Roses Soup Kitchen; the Franklin Police Toys for Tots program; Santa's Lil Helpers through the Belmont Police Department; Every Child Is Ours; American Legion Post 49's Christmas Baskets; the Meredith Emergency Food Pantry; St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Belmont, the Northfield/Tilton Congregational Church Food Pantry and Got Lunch! Belmont.

Donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to Mix Cash and Cans and mail to PO Box 99, Franklin, NH 03235 or Venmo @mixcashandcans. For more information about the Mix Cash & Cans program, contact Caruso at 603-934-2500 or by e-mail.

BELMONT — The 43rd annual Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, presented by Hannaford Supermarkets, will be held this year from Tuesday, Dec. 10 to Friday, Dec. 13 at the Belknap Marketplace in Belmont.

The auction occurs live at the marketplace and airs daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. A variety of items will be up for bid each day, and friends and neighbors from throughout the community will appear on the set. Watch the event on Lakes Region Public Access television viewers can tune into Channel

25. The auction will also stream live at ChildrensAuction.org, on The Laconia Daily Sun's website at laconiadailysun.com and on Facebook. Listen to the auction each day with Zack Derby and friends at Lakes 101.5 FM.

On Friday, Dec. 13, auction volunteers will come together to announce the total funds raised for children and families in need.

Jennifer Kelley, executive director of the auction, is thrilled to have the event at the Belknap Marketplace.

"We are grateful to

everyone at the marketplace for welcoming our hundreds of auction volunteers into their space," she said. "The auction is such a valuable community event. Business leaders throughout the Lakes Region continue to show their generosity as we raise funds to financially support local children and families in need."

George Vernet, owner of Vernet Properties, which oversees the marketplace, said, "It is an honor to be associated with such an outstanding organization as the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction. It

provides so much to the Lakes Region community. The Belknap Marketplace looks forward to hosting this event that financially supports local children and families in need."

The auction will host its second annual family night on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Have your picture taken with Santa, meet the Grinch, build a toy in Santa's workshop, decorate holiday cookies, face paint, sing along with the Snow Family and hear holiday stories; children will get a free book courtesy of the local Kiwanis Club.

The auction still needs donations of new, unused, non-perishable items, big and small. Gift cards are always a hit with bidders. Other popular items include electronics, tools, tickets to sporting events, toys and services.

Convenient item collection sites are now open throughout the region. Visit ChildrensAuction.org for details. And on Nov. 29 and 30, visit the collection site at the Belknap Marketplace and drop your items off between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Also donate items on Dec. 7-9, from

Turn To **AUCTION** page **A6**

Chris Kelly receives Norman Marsh Award at Belknap EDC Annual Meeting

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

The offices of the Winnisquam Echo will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

To ensure that our Nov. 28 edition arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor@Brendan.Berube@brendan@salmonpress.news.

The staff of the Winnisquam Echo thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.



LACONIA — Belknap EDC hosted its 2024 Annual Meeting Oct. 24 at Lakes Region Community College (LRCC). It was an evening of celebration as Belknap EDC reviewed its successes while looking ahead toward continuing to support Belknap County's businesses and communities. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Belknap EDC's Norman Marsh Award to outgoing Belknap EDC Board Member, Chris Kelly of RE/MAX Innovative Bayside who retires from the Board at the end of this year.

The Norman Marsh Award recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership and advocacy that strengthens the Belknap County community and its economy. This award is given in memory of the late Norman Marsh, a local businessman and long-time



Norman Marsh Award Recipient, Chris Kelly with Belknap EDC Executive Director, Justin Slattery (Left) and Chair of the Belknap EDC Board, Allison Ambrose (right).

Belknap County Commissioner who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the region and was instrumental in supporting Belknap EDC in its early years.

The decision to honor Chris Kelly with this award was made unanimously by Chris's fellow

members of the Belknap EDC Board and Executive Director, Justin Slattery.

Chris has been a leader for Belknap EDC, serving as Board Chair and Vice Chair, as well as a key leader in the

Turn To **KELLY** page **A6**

Prescott Farm welcomes new Camp & School-Age Programs Director, Assistant Executive Director



Phoebe Hartvigsen

LACONIA — Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center is pleased to announce exciting new additions to our team this fall. We are thrilled to welcome Phoebe Hartvigsen (she/her) as our new Camp & School-Age Programs Director. In addition, Chris Wellens has taken on the role of Assistant Executive Director, bringing expanded leadership to our organization.

Phoebe Hartvigsen joins us with a wealth of experience and a passion for connecting people with nature. Originally from a small town in western New York, she grew up as an avid animal lover. She earned a B.S. in Biology from SUNY Geneseo, and has since worked as an educator at various nature centers across the country. Her mission is to help people of all ages and

backgrounds have positive, meaningful experiences in the outdoors and with wildlife.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Phoebe to Prescott Farm,” said Jude Hamel, Executive Director at Prescott Farm. “Her strong background in biology and environmental education, along with her lifelong passion for supporting connections with the natural world, makes her a fantastic addition to our team.”

In addition, Prescott Farm is pleased to announce Chris Wellens’ new role as Assistant Executive Director. Previously, Wellens served as our Camp & School-Age Programs Director, bringing extensive experience in environmental education and program leadership. Originally from Wisconsin, Wellens grew up exploring the woods and eagerly anticipated family camping trips. He earned a B.A. in International Studies from Northern Michigan University and has worked in various roles at camps and environmental centers

throughout New England since moving to the region in 2011. His experience spans positions

such as program instructor, wilderness trip leader, environmental educator, nature director, farm camp director, director of education, and resident camp director. In his personal life, Chris is an avid gardener, beekeeper, food preserver, traveler, hiker, and cross-country skier.

Prescott Farm is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to en-

vironmental education and preservation. For over twenty years, we have been a destination for people of all ages to explore and learn about New Hampshire’s wildlife, ecology, and natural and cultural history through hands-on programs and service learning opportunities in the beautiful Lakes Region. Open daily year-round, our center features more

than three miles of woodland, pond, and field trails, heritage gardens, a Natural Playscape, and is home to Fledglings Nature-Based Preschool and WildQuest camps.

For more information on Prescott Farm, our programs, and ways to support our mission, please visit www.prescottfarm.org.

Around and About Tilton

BY GREGG DEVOLDER

Hello, and welcome back.

Last week I had the pleasure of working at the polls and what an experience that was. As many of you probably expected, turnout was high and with the exception of just a few blips, things went amazingly well. Here’s a few fun facts as of this writing. We now have 2,780 registered voters. I say now because approximately 300 registered prior to the election and nearly 300 more registered on election day. That alone was an enormous undertaking. We had nearly 300 absentee ballots processed, nearly double the usual and I’m happy to report that 2,255 of our citizens voted. That’s a whopping 81% turnout of our registered voters. Well done!

The fact that things went so well at the polls was no accident. The amount of planning and execution that occurs well in advance and on election day is amazing. There were several people watching and monitoring our small-town election, some from out of state. At the end of the day, high praise was given for how things went and the process we have in place. We should be proud of our town employees, elected officials and all the volunteers that made this possible. For many, the day started well before seven in the morning and ended nearly at midnight. On behalf of all of us, a special thank you to our Town Clerk, Kim Sowles, Deputy Town Clerk, Becky Albert, and especially Helen Hanks, our Town Moderator, who exuded confidence as only someone can when they have an excellent grasp of how things are supposed to be done and knows how to do it. What a day.

I’d also be remiss if I failed to mention one other act of community spirit and kindness. Our friends at Tilton House of Pizza came in on their day off and made dinner for the poll workers and this was not the first time. I believe it’s become a bit of a tradition, and I can tell you, it was greatly appreciated by all. If there’s a friendlier place in town, I have yet to find it. Thank you THOP!

The Selectmen and Budget Committee had their meetings last week. The Selectmen met with the Tilton-Northfield Fire Chief to discuss placing a cistern on Calef Hill Road. It would be located on private property and would hold approximately 30,000 gallons of water. Because I failed to ask the chief and was curious, I googled how many gallons of water it takes to put out a house fire. On average, it said approximately 3,000 gallons, which seemed rather low to me. I imagine it all depends on the type of fire and whether it’s fully engulfed or just a kitchen fire. These things aren’t cheap with the average cost coming in between \$60,000 and \$100,000, fortunately the Fire Department has a cistern fund, and the cash is available for this expense.

For those of you wondering what’s happening with the roadwork needed on Morrison Avenue. The company hired for repairs is hoping to start the first week of December. If not then, it will likely be moved to the spring. Let’s hope it’s December.

There was a discussion concerning Route 3 traffic. Folks are concerned with the additional traffic likely to come with all the new projects underway from Route 93 to Mosquito Bridge. The Selectmen share their concerns and will schedule a public hearing sometime in the future to discuss this with the NHDOT. One study showed over twenty-three thousand cars passing through this corridor daily during the week. Can you imagine what the weekend numbers look like?

The selectmen approved funding for the assessor’s contract for the next five years along with funds for updating and adding fire and smoke detectors to town hall.

Finally, the Selectmen set the tax rate at \$12.86. That’s down from \$20.45 but don’t get your hopes up on seeing a lower tax bill. Unless of course you are a commercial property owner. As was stated, “for commercial properties, some will pay the same, some will pay less and for residential, some will pay the same and some will pay more.” As I listened to the numbers, I found two that were particularly disturbing. The county went up by 21 percent, and is now just over \$1,077,000 and even worse, the Fire District went up by a scorching 26.8 percent, and is now running at \$2.2 million. Ouch!

The Budget Committee met with the Pines and Library to review their budget requests. Last year these two budgets garnered a fair amount of attention from both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee and from the looks of it, will likely receive similar attention this year.

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

Have a great week!



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COURTESY

Southwick School students enjoy pumpkin carving

Southwick Elementary School students got into the spirit of Halloween with a fun-filled day of pumpkin carving. The students eagerly participated in the festive activity, transforming ordinary pumpkins into spooky and creative masterpieces. The carved pumpkins were displayed in front of the school, adding a festive touch to the Halloween season. PE teacher Kathleen Morrill, coordinated the event while staff member Chelsea Moreau organized all of the pumpkins donations including pick-up and delivery. Thanks to Franklin Hannaford Supermarket and many Southwick families for the generous pumpkin donations. Pictured above are James Messier, Cohen Wingate, Parker Beck, Chloe Burbank, Emmalynn Ladd, Michael Ham, Piper Jewett, Wyatt Greenwood, Baylor Jewell, Gianna Powers, James Messier, Lillian Schofield, Levi Miller, Ayden Auger, Carter Drew, and Kelsei Douglas.

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Barbershop Quartet concert Sunday at Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia

LACONIA — The Unitarian Universalist Society will host a Barbershop Concert featuring “Feelin’ Fine!” a quartet that began several years ago when Rob Sheridan, Rick Hochsprung, Andy Herrick and Lee Daum met at the 2022 New England Harmony Brigade. Sheridan and Daum had been talking about getting a quartet started, and Sheridan mentioned that he had been talking to Hochsprung, who lived in New Hampshire, but had been coming down to the Boston area frequently to visit with his family. Daum had also been talking with Herrick about the same thing. Since they all had attended Harmony Brigades before, they had a shared repertoire based on the repertoire they had learned for the Brigades.

At their first few rehearsals, they found their voices blended well and they enjoyed each other’s company. The quartet started rehearsing again in time to make the Spring 2024 Divisional Competition where they placed very well indeed for a new quartet.

The quartet name came spontaneously after singing an upbeat gospel number called “Feelin’ Fine!” which symbolizes so much about what this quartet gets from making music, and what they try to leave behind with each audience they perform for.

Despite their different lives, Hochsprung, Daum, Sheridan, and Herrick share the pleasure found in making and sharing close harmony singing. And they



Rick Hochsprung, Lee Daum, Rob Sheridan, and Andy Herrick are set to perform on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m.

all were willing to “do the work” necessary to sing at a very high level of proficiency. They enjoy working together and have seen the results

of their work bloom into a great quartet.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17. There will be light refreshments served at intermission followed by more songs and an old fashioned sing-along during the second half.

Tickets are \$25. You are encouraged to get your tickets early. Reserve by calling 603-848-2469 or email uusl@my-fairpoint.net to reserve your tickets. The church is located at 172 Pleasant St. in Laconia.

Laconia Historical & Museum Society presents reading of “A Christmas Carol”

LACONIA — On Dec. 27, 1853, Charles Dickens held his first public reading of “A Christmas Carol,” embarking on a notable tour in the U.S. His performances conveyed a powerful message of compassion and hope, enhancing the story’s legacy and impact.

The Laconia Historical & Museum Society, in partnership with the

United Baptist Church of Lakeport, invites you to immerse yourself in the joyful spirit of the holiday season with a special reading performance of this cherished Christmas classic. Based on Dickens’s original reading text, this unique rendition offers a captivating glimpse into the magic experienced in the 19th century.

The event will be held at the beautiful United Baptist Church sanctuary on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. It promises to be an unforgettable experience that inspires and uplifts!

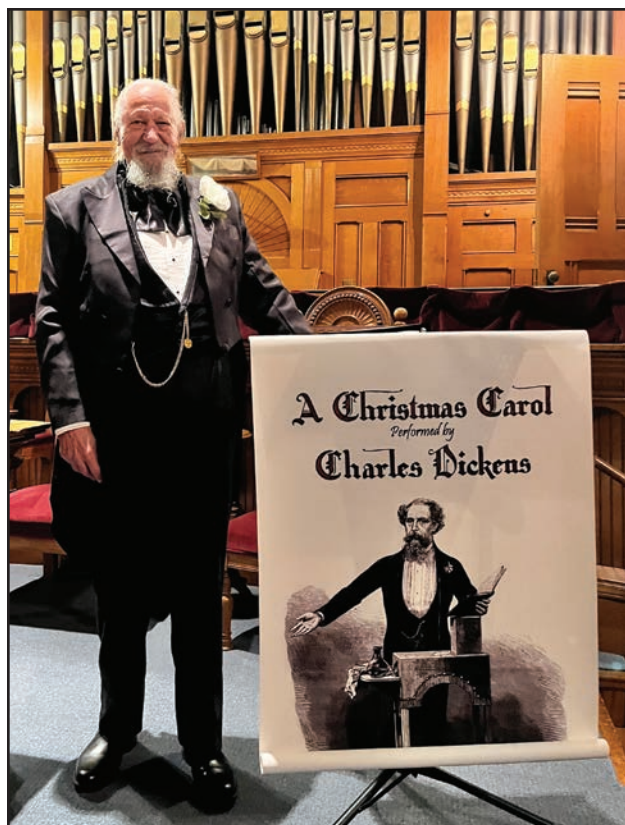
The presenter, Cedric Flower, began his acting career at Laconia High School in 1955. He served in the U.S. Navy and earned a degree in theater and history from the University of New Hampshire. While teaching at Portsmouth Senior High School, he founded “Theater by the Sea.” He continued to act and teach throughout New England until retiring at 70. Today he resides in Laconia with his wife and continues to act.

Tickets are available for \$15 per person, and can be purchased through the LHMS website at laconiahistory.com. For those wishing to pay by check, please make it payable to LHMS and mail it to PO Box 1126, Laconia, NH 03246 by Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Members of the Laconia Historical & Museum Society and congregants of the United Baptist Church of Lakeport receive a discounted rate of \$12. Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of a cherished holiday

tradition that will warm your heart!

For more information, visit laconiahistory.com or follow LHMS on Facebook and Instagram.



COURTESY

Drawing from Charles Dickens’s original text, presenter Cedric Flower will lead the audience through an immersive storytelling experience of the beloved classic holiday tale, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. Visit laconiahistory.com for more information.

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Christmas Tree Farmer, Forest Society North at The Rocks

This position is Full-time, Exempt, Salary
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Position Summary:
The Christmas Tree Farmer is responsible for running the Forest Society’s 17,000-tree Christmas tree farm operation at The Rocks in Bethlehem, NH. Since 1989, this has been a successful retail and wholesale Christmas tree farm.

Qualifications and Skills required:
The ideal candidate will demonstrate independence and the ability to work autonomously, while also embracing opportunities for growth and effectively managing the responsibilities of running a farm. The Christmas Tree Farmer should have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience working in an agricultural setting and/or Christmas tree farm and be competent in running tractors, chainsaws and equipment. An education of a two-year associates degree or equivalent is preferred, but not required.

Please see our website for the full job announcement and application information:
<https://www.forestsociety.org/page/christmas-tree-farmer-bethlehem-nh>

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Opinion

Letter submission policy

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

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

The power of local politics: Building strong communities from the ground up

In an age where national politics often takes center stage, it's easy to overlook the importance of local and state government. Yet, these levels of government have the most immediate impact on our daily lives. From the roads we drive on to the quality of our schools and local law enforcement policies, our state and local officials play a huge role in shaping our communities.

One of the greatest dangers in politics is voting based on loyalty over logic. If we vote against our own interests or blindly trust politicians, we're risking the very issues we care about. Accountability is key; even if you supported a candidate, it's essential to pay attention to their actions in office. Politicians are human, and power can sometimes lead to decisions that may not align with the interests of those they represent. Voting for someone is not the end of the process—it's the beginning of our responsibility to stay engaged.

Local and state politics offer real opportunities for grassroots organizing and meaningful change. Working together to make our communities better strengthens the country from the ground up. When we invest time and energy into making our neighborhoods safer, our schools better, and our support networks stronger, we're not just improving our immediate environment; we're creating a stronger, more resilient nation. And kindness should be at the heart of this process. Community building is as much about empathy and understanding as it is about policy.

But kindness doesn't mean complacency. It's important to be vigilant and to speak up when policies go astray, even if it's uncomfortable. Sometimes we don't want to criticize the politicians we voted for, but staying silent when we see something wrong is like cutting off our nose to spite our face. If we care about our communities, we must be willing to demand accountability from everyone, regardless of party or personal preferences.

In the end, focusing on local and state politics, holding our leaders accountable, and committing to kindness and grassroots efforts can create the change we want to see. Real change starts with us, with our neighborhoods, and with our willingness to stay involved in the issues that matter. Together, we can make our communities and, ultimately, our country a better place for all.



The officers and staff at the Tilton Police Department weren't immune from the pull of spooky season this Halloween. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

Comfort Keepers Keeping seniors safe during inclement weather

BY MARTHA SWATS

Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

No matter where your client or loved one lives, bad or unexpected weather is bound to happen. Here is a quick guide for protecting seniors around their homes and when they are out and about.

Power outages. Whether it's a winter storm, during a flood or hurricane season, snow, ice, rain, and wind can cause power outages. Here is how to prepare a senior for those occurrences:

Supply the phone numbers of all utility companies including power, gas, and water. Also include emergency numbers such as the fire department, police, doctor, and home care provider. Quick access to these phone numbers is crucial.

Make sure seniors are equipped with working flashlights and a battery-powered radio. Have extra batteries on hand.

Seniors should stockpile warm blankets and non-perishable foods, and if it's cold or damp, wear several layers of clothing, including a hat. Moving around also raises body temperature.

Does your senior rely on a home medical device powered by energy? As soon as an essential medical device is put in service in the home, the local electric utility (and sometimes other authorities) should be notified of its existence and need. This can put your loved one on a list for immediate attention during a power outage.

Carbon monoxide poisoning. Burning wood, natural gas, kerosene and other fuels produce carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that no one can see or smell. Unless fireplaces, wood and gas stoves, and gas appliances are properly vented, cleaned, and used, they can leak dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide. These and other appliances, such as kerosene and electric heaters, can also be fire hazards. Here are some sound safety measures:

Call an inspector. Chimneys and flues need to be inspected yearly and cleaned when necessary. (Ask the local fire department to recommend an inspector, or look up "chimney cleaning" for your area.)

Open a window. Just a crack will do when using a kerosene stove.

Use carbon monoxide detectors. Put battery-operated carbon monoxide and smoke detectors near fireplaces, wood stoves, or kerosene heaters.

Never allow someone to heat a home using a gas stove. Charcoal grills or other stoves are not made for home heating.

Driving tips. Adults 65 and older are involved in more car accidents per mile driven than those in any other age group. Because driving can be more hazardous during bad weather, seniors should:

Have the car weatherized ahead of time. This means having anti-freeze, tires, and windshield wipers checked and changed, as needed.

Take a cell phone when driving in bad weather. Seniors

should always let someone know where they are going and when they expect to arrive, in case a call for help is necessary.

Avoid wet or icy roadways, overpasses, or bridges, if possible. Check the news (or go online) for road conditions. It may be wise to consider a different route.

Stock the car with basic emergency supplies, such as:

- a first aid kit
- blankets
- extra warm clothes
- booster cables
- a good quality windshield scraper
- rock salt, a bag of sand, or cat litter for wheel traction
- containers of water, canned or dried foods, and a can opener
- a flashlight and a shovel

Slippery surfaces. Falls are common for senior citizens and can cause major injuries such as hip and wrist fractures, head trauma, and major lacerations. It is easy to slip and fall, especially in wet, icy, and snowy conditions, but here are some precautions that can be taken:

Shovel snowy steps and walkways for seniors or hire someone. At home, seniors should stay inside until pathways are shoveled. When away, they should look for sidewalks that are dry and cleared.

Seniors should wear boots with non-skid soles to prevent slippage. Have them remove footwear as soon as they return indoors because rain, snow, and ice can be tracked in and lead to slippery conditions inside.

If a senior uses a cane, replace the rubber tip before it is worn smooth. You might also buy (at a medical supply store) an ice pick-like attachment that fits onto the end of the cane.

With a sound plan in place, seniors can be properly prepared for inclement weather. Comfort Keepers® trained caregivers help provide senior clients with the highest quality of life possible to keep them happy and healthy at home. Our Interactive Caregiving provides a system of care that addresses safety, nutrition, mind, body, and activities of daily living (ADLs) no matter what the weather.

About Comfort Keepers

Comfort Keepers is a leader in providing in-home care consisting of such services as companionship,

transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, bathing, mobility assistance, nursing services, and a host

of additional items all meant to keep seniors living independently worry free in the comfort of their homes.

Comfort Keepers have been serving New Hampshire residents since 2005. Let us help you stay independent.

Please call 603-536-6060 or visit our Web site at nhcomfortkeepers.com for more information.



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Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra welcomes guest vocalists for holiday concerts



REGION —The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra (LRSO) is thrilled to announce its annual holiday concerts, set to light up the season on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre in Laconia, and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Inter-Lakes Auditorium in Meredith. Featuring cherished holiday music from timeless classics to modern favorites, the concerts promise to be a highlight of the season for all ages. These concerts sell out every year, so we encourage you to

buy your tickets early. The Orchestra will be joined by special guest artists Rachel and Alex Hunton from Laconia's Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. Rachel, a passionate vocalist and award-winning actress, has delighted New Hampshire audiences in roles such as Maria in *The Sound of Music* and in *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Alex, a music and theatre educator, is known for his work at Pinkerton Academy and with the New Hampshire Master Chorale. Together, the

Huntons bring warmth and charisma, adding a unique theatrical touch to LRSO's holiday festivities. The holiday program includes moving classics including "O Holy Night," "Joy to the World," and "Ave Maria," alongside popular modern selections "The Christmas Song," "Winter Wonderland," "White Christmas," "The Prayer" (popularized by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli), and many others made famous by the likes of Bing Crosby and Amy

Grant. This rich mix of traditional and contemporary pieces is designed to evoke the magic of the season, bringing the joy and peace of the holidays to life in music. Under the baton of LRSO's conductor Ben Greene, these concerts create a memorable experience for all, whether for family gatherings, date nights, or simply for sharing in the spirit of the season. The LRSO's holiday concerts are a beloved tradition, offering audiences a chance to escape into the warmth and

wonder of live orchestral holiday music. Tickets are on sale now and are going fast. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the sounds of the season with the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra. For tickets and information, please visit www.LRSO.org. Tickets are \$20-\$30 for adults, and \$10-\$20 for students college-age and under (please, no children under age five). You

can also order by phone using the contact numbers listed for each venue on our Web site. The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra extends its gratitude to its concert sponsors, Fay's Boat Yard and Cupples Car Company. Their unwavering support is an essential part of what makes LRSO, your community orchestra, possible.

The Playhouse's funniest fundraiser is back!



The team from Lakes Region Community Services was the 2018 winner of ImprovOlympics, raising over \$500 for the nonprofit organization.

MEREDITH —The Winnepesaukee Playhouse is bringing back its popular fundraising event, ImprovOlympics! This one night only special event is an evening of improvisational comedy to benefit not only the Playhouse but four other area nonprofits as well. Teams from 603 United, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention New Hampshire, Interlakes Community Caregivers, and Queerlective will compete in the style of the tv show "Who's Line is it Anyway?" to

win laughs and votes. Audience members will have the opportunity to vote with their wallet (cash or check) for their favorite nonprofit, and 100 percent of proceeds from the voting will go directly to the participating nonprofits. The four nonprofit organizations participating this year have varied, but important, missions. 603 United is based in Belmont and provides social inclusion activities for adults 18 and older with and without an intellectu-

al disability. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention New Hampshire is a voluntary health organization ded-

icated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. Interlakes Community Caregivers supports clients by providing rides free of charge to adult residents of Meredith, Center Harbor, Moultonborough, and Sandwich, including local and long distance rides for medical appointments, grocery shopping, prescriptions, and other personal errands. Queerlective creates a more inclusive world for the Queer, BIPOC and other marginalized communities through art.

The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith. It will be hosted by the Playhouse's Director of Education and Community Engagement, Cory Lawson. Admission is \$10 and tickets are available online at www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org or over the phone at (603) 279-0333.

PSU softball announces winter clinics

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth State University softball coach Mike Bernier announced the dates for the program's winter hitting and defense clinics on Friday.

The clinics will be held Feb. 2 and 16, and March 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Bank of New Hampshire Field House at ALLWell North.

Plymouth State coaches and players will run attendees through a series of drills and games, covering throwing, fielding, hitting and baserunning.

The clinics are open to students in sixth through 12th grades. Individuals can register at the link below for \$80 per session, with discounted rates for athletes attending multiple sessions (\$140 for two sessions, \$200 for all three sessions). Attendees should bring gloves, bats, sneakers, and water.

For more information and links to the mandatory online registration and waiver forms, please visit athletics.plymouth.edu/camps.

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Rocky is a 3 month old male who recently arrived from Texas in search of a forever home. More information coming soon!

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AUCTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Belknap Marketplace.

Bid online at ChildrensAuction.org or over the phone during auction week at (603) 527-0999. Pre-bidding begins Friday, Nov. 29 online on items with a retail value of \$300 or more. Anyone can bid on these featured items as well as place a max bid on any item.

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tunities exist at every level. Email Jenn@ChildrensAuction.org or call (603) 527-0999 for more information on how your business can make a difference in the lives of children.

Follow the auction on Facebook at Facebook.com/ChildrensAuction; Instagram at Instagram.com/childrensauction603/; and LinkedIn at LinkedIn.com/company/greater-lakes-region-children-s-auction/.

KELLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

effort to bring many of Belknap EDC's recent projects and initiatives to fruition. He also serves his community in many ways including in his hometown of Meredith as a member of the Greater Meredith Program.

"Chris is a committed partner to Belknap EDC and the Greater Lakes Region," says Belknap EDC Board Chair, Allison Ambrose. "His positive attitude and team-based approach have resulted in countless successes for our region."

All attendees were treated to a cocktail hour with delicious appetizers and bar service by Bernini Pizzeria & Wine Bar, followed by the annual meeting program hosted by Belknap EDC

Chair of the Board, Allison Ambrose of Wescott Law and Belknap EDC Executive Director, Justin Slattery. Patrick Cate, President of LRCC and Belknap EDC Board Member, was the meeting's guest speaker who shared exciting updates about the college.

"It was great to see so many reconnecting with colleagues, making new connections, and simply enjoying a nice evening with the Belknap EDC team," says Slattery.

The event was sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank (gold sponsor), Bank of New Hampshire, Franklin Savings Bank, Cross Insurance, Northway Bank, and Wescott Law.

For details on Belknap EDC's accomplishments over the last year, visit belknapedc.org to view the Annual Report.

Trout Unlimited meeting Tuesday in Plymouth

PLYMOUTH — The Pemigewasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Common Man Inn in Plymouth. Pemi TU Chapter meetings are free and open to the public, all are welcome.

The November meeting will be done as a hybrid, with members and guests at the meeting and with the speaker presenting remotely via Zoom. The presentation will be projected on a screen in the meeting room. If you can't make it in person, consider joining via Zoom.

Join the Zoom meeting at tinyurl.com/pemitu115 or with Zoom meeting ID 845 6024 2193 and Passcode 617315.

This month's presenter will be Bob Lindquist, who lives (and guides) on the banks of the Delaware River in New York's famous Catskill Mountains. He speaks and teaches fly fishing / fly tying at many fly fishing shows, mostly in the Northeast. Lindquist also writes for many magazines including American Fly Fishing, Fly Tyer, Fly Fisher-



DAVID PUSHEE — COURTESY PHOTO

A Prince Nymph pattern fishing fly.

man, Japanese Fly Fisherman, and On The Fly. His presentation "Flies For the Underhatch" expands on an upcoming Fly Tyer magazine article. Lindquist describes that, like an iceberg is 10 percent above the water and 90 percent below, often the key to completely capitalizing on a hatch is to understand what is going on below the surface where many anglers struggle to find success. He will discuss reading rise forms and

other clues that feeding fish give and using that information to choose the best presentations and patterns to maximize success. He will discuss angler's choices, such as Are you actually best off with a dry fly? What about an emerger? Caddis, mayfly, or midge? Dry dropper? Cast of wets? What are the most productive patterns? How should they be fished?

Pemi TU will have raffle tickets available at

the meeting to support scholarships for youths to attend the Barry Conservation Camp fishing session or NH TU Council Trout Camp Sessions. Speaking of raffles, if you have any trout-fishing oriented items that you no longer use or want, please consider donating a few of them to Pemi TU for future raffles.

E-mail Pemi Trout Unlimited at PemiTU@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

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Audubon announces program on Hornbills



MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Loon Center in Moultonborough, the Lakes Region Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will present a program on “Hornbills: A unique Old-World Family of Birds,” presented by Dana and Bob Fox.

Hornbills are an Old-World family of birds which first evolved in Africa over 60 million years ago, and then one species radiated to Asia. Today, half of the 64 species in the world live in Africa, including two land-loving species, and half in Asia, where new species have evolved as far east as the Solomon Islands.

As their name suggests, they have massive bills which are integrally attached to their skulls, and some have an additional special horny crown-like protrusion called a casque above their bills. In 1758 Linnaeus bestowed the name Buceros on the family, Latin for “having ox’s horns.”

Another unique feature about most members of this family involves their nesting behavior. Females of almost all species make unique nests in tree cavities using their bills to wall themselves in with a plaster made of mud, droppings, chewed wood and bark and other detritus. They leave only a slit narrow enough to deter predators but sufficiently wide for the male to present food from the outside.

The tree hornbills have become very important distributors of tropical fruit seeds.

Come hear Dana and Bob’s tales of seeing these marvelous birds and see stunning pictures taken by Tim Layman, an intrepid, talented photographer.

The Foxes, of North Andover, Mass. and Center Tuftonboro, have traveled extensively in over 50 countries worldwide, seeing or hearing over 6000 species of birds. They have collaborated with numerous birding organizations, museums, and publications.

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

NHBM to participate in Museum Store Sunday

MOULTONBOROUGH — On Sunday, Dec. 1, from noon to 4 p.m., the Museum Store at New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will participate in Museum Store Sunday. Founded by the Museum Store Association, Museum Store Sunday is a global initiative to encourage public support of museum stores during Black Friday weekend.

“We’re inviting people to do their holiday shopping with us this year,” said NHBM Program Director Anne Lennon. “We have great books, games, maps, posters, bags, lake-themed mugs, sweatshirts, stocking stuffers, and toys—anything a boat lover would love.”

Noting she will also host a craft area where kids can make a free Christmas ornament, Lennon expressed excitement about the opportunity for people to visit NHBM’s Museum Store in Moultonborough during their off-season.

“This is our first year participating, and we hope this will become a yearly event for us,” she added.



The Museum Store at NHBM will be open on Sunday, Dec. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. and is accessible online year-round. To learn more about NHBM or visit their virtual museum store, visit nhbm.org.

Founded in 1992 by vintage and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM offers dynamic exhibits, engaging programs, and events tailored to people of all ages’ diverse boating lifestyles and values. NHBM is sponsored in part by North Water Marine,

Goodhue Boat Company, Kingswood Press and Design Studio, Epoxy Floor New England, Belletetes, and Eastern Propane.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Northfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on November 19, 2024, beginning at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Northfield Town Hall 21 Summer St, Northfield NH, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 231:163 and 43:2, for the purpose of considering amending all existing pole licenses to include language regarding taxation pursuant to RSA 72:23.

The Board will also consider adopting a revised Pole and/or Conduit License form which will include language regarding taxation pursuant to RSA 72:23.

The hearing is being held to determine if it is in the best interests of the public good to amend the pole licenses so that they are consistent with the property taxation statutes (RSA 72:23).

WINNISQUAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The WRSD Budget Committee has a vacancy it seeks to fill from the town of Tilton until the 2025 annual meeting of the School District. Registered voters from the town of Tilton who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter stating their intentions by November 27, 2024 to:

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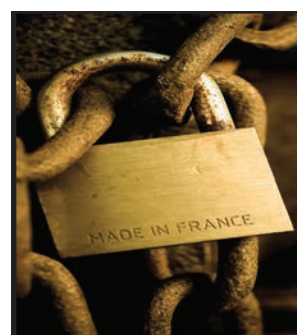
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