

Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

FREE

SERVING TILTON, NORTHFIELD, BELMONT & SANBORNTON, N.H.

Bears play host to Winnisquam Winter Classic

Colin Parenteau picks up weight class win to lead Winnisquam wrestling



BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam wrestling team hosted more than 20 teams for the Winnisquam Winter Classic on Saturday, with a full day of action on three mats in the gymnasium and the Bears one weight class win and second place finishes from three different athletes.

At 150 pounds, Colin Parenteau pinned an

Colin Parenteau won his weight class at the Winnisquam Winter Classic on Saturday.

opponent from Timberlane, got a 13-8 win over

Mascoma and a 9-3 win over White Mountains to advance to the finals, where. He got a 12-2 win over Kingswood to claim the win.

At 175 pounds, David Jean pinned an opponent from White Mountains, beat a Kingswood

opponent 8-5 to advance to the finals and was pinned by an athlete from Middlebury, Vt. in the championship bout to place second place overall.

Ryan Cormier was also second at 126 pounds. He pinned a

Middlebury opponent and won by technical fall over a foe from Manchester West before falling to a Timberlane opponent in the finals to place second overall.

At 138 pounds, Nate Tassej got pins over opponents from Man-

chester West, Conant and Keene before being pinned by a White Mountains opponent in the finals to place second overall.

Dylan Griffin finished in third at 132 pounds. He pinned opponents from Lebanon and Kearsarge, lost by technical fall to Newport then pinned a Middlebury opponent and got an 18-15 win over White Mountains to place third overall.

At 120 pounds, Aiden Sufert pinned a Prospect Mountain opponent to start the day, was pinned by a White Mountains opponent before coming back to beat teammate Dayton Brigante by an 8-2 decision and was pinned by a Timberlane foe to finish in fourth overall. Brigante got a pin over a Manchester West opponent, was pinned by a Portsmouth foe then got a pin over Timberlane. After falling to Sufert, he won by technical fall over a Manchester West

SEE CLASSIC, PAGE A6

JOSHUA SPAULDING

Stevens sweeps giant slalom, slalom at Gunstock

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Belmont alpine ski team played host to a meet at Gunstock on Friday, Jan. 10, racing two runs of giant slalom in the morning and two runs of slalom in the afternoon.

Ella Stevens won the morning giant slalom with a time of 58 seconds while Riley Degange was 16th in 1:09.88. Meg Soucie was 18th in a time of 1:10.73 and Anna McDonald was 30th in a time of 1:21.21.

Stevens also won the afternoon slalom, finishing in 58.67 seconds with Degange in 10th place in a time of 1:15.72 and Soucie in 12th in a time of 1:16.91. McDonald was 24th overall in a time of 1:34.6.

For the boys in the morning giant slalom, Mathias Krauchunas was eighth overall in 1:01.75, while Ryan Cribbie was 10th in 1:02.84. Landon Bormes was 11th in 1:03.1 and Henry Ashworth finished in 18th place in 1:05.7.

Krauchunas was fifth in the afternoon slalom in a time of 1:05. Cribbie finished in 1:12.99 for 14th place and Ashworth was 16th in a time of 1:17.07.

Belmont is slated to compete at Gunstock again on Friday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m.

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

Franklin Footlight Theatre to hold auditions for spring play, summer musical

FRANKLIN — Get onstage with Franklin Footlight Theatre! This spring, they will present “Puffs (Two Act Edition) or; Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic” by Matt Cox. The play follows the events of a particular seven years when one well-known boy wizard attended a well-known magic school and fought against forces-of-evil-that-must-not-be-named. But this isn't that boy's story: it's the story of the Puffs, who happened to be there too.

SEE AUDITIONS, PAGE A7

Embree's third-period goal lifts Bulldogs over PAC



Jaxen Lien looks to pass the puck from the corner during action against Pembroke-Campbell on Saturday.

JOSHUA SPAULDING

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

LACONIA — The Belmont-Gilford hockey team welcomed Pembroke-Campbell to town for a Saturday afternoon tilt at Merrill Fay Arena.

The Bulldogs got the lead early in the second period before PAC tied the game early in the third period. However, Belmont-Gilford answered that goal and held tight for the 2-1 win.

Evan Guerin had a couple of early chances and Ethan Girard and Nathan Gerbig had bids denied by the PAC keeper, as did Ethan Ellingson. Ben Girard made a good defensive stop and Tyler Mull and Ethan Girard came back with chances that were de-

nied. Jaxen Lien got in close on a bid and Carson McGreevy made a good save on a PAC bid in close.

Belmont-Gilford took a five-minute penalty with 10:50 to go in the period and used good clears from Colton Byars, Guerin and Brayden Mercier helped to kill off the first few minutes of the penalty. Jaxson Embree sent a shot wide before PAC took a penalty to make it four-on-four for two minutes. Sean Ellis and Lien had chances denied by the PAC goalie and Byars also had a chance stopped before the penalty was killed off. PAC had a brief power play that the Bulldogs finished off.

Embree just missed

connecting with Lien before Guerin, Lien and Mull had chances denied while Ben Girard just missed connecting with Lien on a chance. After a good defensive stop from Ethan Girard, Guerin and Embree had shots denied as the first period ended with no score on the board.

PAC had early bids in the second period, with McGreevy making the saves in the net before the Bulldogs got him a goal to work with. With 12:46 to go in the second period, Ellingson sent a pass in front and the puck bounced around before Ben Girard poked it into the net for the 1-0 lead. Ellingson and Byars got the assists on the tally. PAC came right

back with a chance that went off the post and Max Ryder had a chance in close for the Bulldogs.

Mercier had a bid denied and McGreevy turned away four more chances as PAC pressured. Ellingson had a shot stopped and Ryder and Embree teamed up on a terrific chance that saw the PAC keeper make a stellar save. Guerin had a bid go high and another stopped while Ethan Girard sent a shot on net and Ellingson and Embree had bids go wide.

Belmont-Gilford went on the five-minute power play with 2:40 to go in the period and Guerin, Byars and Embree had

SEE HOCKEY, PAGE A7

Belknap Mill offers “Exploring Photography” series

LACONIA — The Belknap Mill is excited to offer another six-week series, “More Exploring Photography” with well-known local photographer, Alan MacRae. Classes will be Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 30. “More Exploring Photography” will be an adventure looking at different areas of photography, structured around the interests of the group members. The only prerequisite

is that you bring your desire to learn more about photography and a ‘real’ camera, not a cell phone camera. It doesn’t have to be fancy or expensive but does need to have controls allowing you to adjust the aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings.

Born and raised in Laconia, MacRae has had a passion for photography since his childhood. He studied Business Administration at Plym-

outh State University and Communications Engineering at Northeastern University and pursued careers in law enforcement and telecommunications until the age of 45, when he decided to devote himself to doing the thing he loved the most. He began his professional photography career by taking photos for the then fledgling Laconia Daily Sun with the support of publisher/editor Ed Engler. His work has appeared

in newspapers and media streams across the country and the world through outlets like the New York Times, the New York Daily News, the Boston Globe, the London Times, Hearst Broadcasting, ABC News, CNN, Fox News and Good Morning America.

To register for the class or learn more about other classes and programs offered at the Belknap Mill, visit belk-



Alan MacRae

napmill.org/classes.

Winnisquam get big win over Mascoma

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — The Winnisquam girls’ hoop team took on Gilford on Tuesday, Jan. 7, dropping a 55-27 decision to the Golden Eagles before getting a win over Mascoma to close the week.

“Gilford is a very good team and I really liked our overall effort,” said

Bear coach Mark Dawalga. “Like I told our team tonight, we still have a lot to work on but we are seeing a lot of good things coming along.”

Caidyn Carter finished with 15 points with Bella Soucy adding five points and pulling down 10 rebounds.

The Bears were at home against Mascoma

on Friday, Jan. 17, and came away with a 52-46 win over the Royals. Winnisquam trailed 14-11 after one and 25-20 at the halftime break before closing the gap to 35-34 after three and finished strong.

“This is a very young group and I was really proud of them all with how they stuck together

in a game that could have gone either way,” said Dawalga. “The fourth quarter was the difference in the game, outscoring Mascoma 18-11.”

“Our team defense was great all night,” he continued, noting that Carter, Averill LaBranche and Jaelynn Treamer all did a great job handling the Royal press and Natalie Wolfe

had a strong defensive game overall.

Carter finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and four steals, Averill LaBranche had 18 points, 10 rebounds, five steals and two blocks, Sophia LaBranche pulled down seven rebounds, Soucy grabbed nine rebounds and had four steals and Treamer had seven rebounds, five steals and a

block. The Bears are slated to be in action on Friday, Jan. 17, at home against White Mountains and then will host Gilford for a rematch on Monday, Jan. 20, both with 7 p.m. scheduled starts.

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

New courses for the new year

LACONIA — A new course of study has begun at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, and is open to interested members of the wider Lakes Community. The next session begins on Jan. 16, on Zoom only, is ten sessions, entitled Lost Christianities, by Dr. Bart Ehrmann as part of the Great Courses lecture series.

This class consists of watching and listening to two lectures each time we meet, followed by discussion. Class time takes about an hour and a half and is facilitated by Rev. Judith Wright, minister of UUSL. There are

twenty lectures left in this series, and so the class will meet every other week for ten times. Lost Christianities is a course that considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity, before the Christian church decided which books should be included in its canon of Scripture. Including in these lectures are the early Christians who identified as Christian-Jews (The Ebionites), Thomas’ Gnostics Teaching, and the Gospel of Peter, all of which are not included in The New Testament.

Are you looking for something in the new year to start? Come join us in our exploration of Christian beliefs and practices in the second and third centuries A.D! This class is on-going and you can join in its study at any point. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Judith Wright at UUSL@myfairpoint.net or call her at 603-524-6488.

Laconia man pleads guilty to distributing Methamphetamine, possessing a firearm as a Prohibited Person

CONCORD — A Laconia man pleaded guilty in federal court in connection with his distribution of methamphetamine and his possession of a firearm

as a prohibited person, Attorney Jane E. Young announces.

Steven Ridgeway, 50, pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of methamphetamine and one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. U.S. District Court Judge Joseph N. Laplante scheduled sentencing for April 17.

A confidential informant purchased a total of approximately 165 grams of methamphetamine from Ridgeway on July 5 and July 24, 2023. During the July 24, 2023, drug sale, Ridgeway also sold the confidential informant a pistol. Ridgeway, a felon, is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms and ammunition.

The charges of distribution of methamphetamine provide a maximum prison term of 20 years, a maximum fine of \$1 million and at least three years of supervised release. The charge of possession of

a firearm by a prohibited person provides a maximum prison term of 15 years, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and not more than three years of supervised release. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Major Offender Task Force led the investigation. The Major Offender Task Force is comprised of federal agents partnered with law enforcement officers from police departments state-wide. Valuable assistance was provided by the New Hampshire Attorney General’s Drug Task Force, the New Hampshire State Police, and the Laconia Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Heather A. Cherniske prosecuted the case.

Local resident named to Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Chance Butler of Sanbornton named to the Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College for the Fall 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean’s List for that semester. About Saint Michael’s College Saint Michael’s College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country’s best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

BELMONT POLICE LOG

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 30-Jan. 6.

James Caswell MacDonald, age 63, of Belmont was arrested on Dec. 30 for 2nd Degree Assault-Domestic Violence-Indifference and 2nd Degree Assault-SBI-Domestic Violence.

Noel A. Archambeault, age 29, was arrested on Jan. 2 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in Bodily Injury.

Richard Allen Wilkins, Jr., age 48, of Belmont was arrested on Jan. 2 on a charge of False Information pertaining to Hand Guns.

Anthony T. Smith, age 32, of Belmont was arrested on Jan. 3 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in Bodily Injury, Domestic Violence-Obstructing a Report of a Crime or Injury, Criminal Mischief, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Violation of Probation or Parole.

A 32-year-old male from Chepachet, R.I. received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 4 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of registration.



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Artistic fusion



McQuades unveil mcquadefinearts.com at Historic Belknap Mill Riverside Gallery

LACONIA — We are thrilled to announce the merger of scmcquade.com and photopiks.net into a new, unified platform, mcquadefinearts.com.

This exciting new venture combines the artistic visions of Mike and Stephanie McQuade, bringing together paintings, photography, and mixed media under one roof.

Celebration event at historic Belknap Mill Riverside Gallery

To celebrate this significant milestone, Mike and Stephanie McQuade are hosting an exclusive exhibition at the historic Belknap Mill in Laconia, NH. The exhibition will run throughout January, showcasing their latest works in a unique setting that honors both art and history.

Public reception Join us for a special reception on Friday, Jan. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet Mike and Stephanie in person, discuss their art, and gain insights into their creative processes. Light refreshments will be served, providing a warm, convivial atmosphere to enjoy the arts.

Mike McQuade's photography and Stephanie's paintings have each garnered significant acclaim for their unique styles and profound emotional depth. Together, under mcquadefinearts.com, they aim

to inspire and connect with art lovers across various mediums.

For more information, please contact:

Email: mmcquade@mcquadefinearts.com

Visit: mcquadefinearts.com

We look forward to welcoming you to the historic Belknap Mill and sharing this new chapter in our artistic journey with you.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Jan. 16
 BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops vs. St. Thomas; 6
 Unified Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 3
 GILFORD
 Indoor Track at UNH; 4
Friday, Jan. 17
 BELMONT
 Alpine Skiing at Gunstock; 10
 Swimming at Keene; 6
 GILFORD
 Alpine Skiing at Gunstock; 10
 Boys' Hoops vs. Prospect Mountain; 6
 Girls' Hoops at Prospect Mountain; 6
 WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hoops at White Mountains; 6
 Girls' Hoops vs. White Mountains; 7
Saturday, Jan. 18
 BELMONT-GILFORD
 Boys' Hockey at Monadnock; 3:45
 WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hockey vs. Pembroke-Campbell; 3:45
 Wrestling at Merrimack; 9
Sunday, Jan. 19
 BELMONT
 Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
 GILFORD

Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
 WINNISQUAM
 Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
Monday, Jan. 20
 GILFORD
 Boys' Hoops vs. Winnisquam; 6
 Girls' Hoops at Winnisquam; 7
 WINNISQUAM
 Boys' Hoops at Gilford; 6
 Girls' Hoops vs. Gilford; 7
Tuesday, Jan. 21
 BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6
 Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 6
 GILFORD
 Alpine Skiing at Sunapee; 1:30
Wednesday, Jan. 22
 BELMONT
 Boys' Hoops at Prospect Mountain; 6
 Girls' Hoops vs. Prospect Mountain; 6
 Unified Hoops vs. Laconia; 3
 BELMONT-GILFORD
 Hockey vs. John Stark-Hopkinton; 5
 GILFORD
 Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6
 Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 6
 Nordic Skiing at Hopkinton; 3
 Unified Hoops at Kingswood; 3
 WINNISQUAM
 Wrestling vs. Prospect Mountain; 6

All schedules are subject to change.

Anestis breaks into regional rankings at PSU

PLYMOUTH — The top two wrestlers from the Plymouth State University wrestling team broke into the regional rankings when the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) released its most recent rankings last Tuesday.

Senior Chase Anestis (Belmont) is ranked seventh at 165 pounds in Region 1, while graduate student Ty Miller (Groton, Conn.) is sixth in the 184-pound weight class.

The pair has had an impressive start to the year, sharing the team lead in pins (six) while combining to post a 29-10 overall record.

Anestis is coming off his first tournament win of the season, cruising to the top spot at the Williams Open last Saturday. He also appeared in the finals of the Ted Reese Invitational at Southern Maine in the final competition of the fall semester and boasts an impressive 14-2 record to surpass the 50-win threshold for his career. Anestis has placed at three of four events this season.

Miller is also a three-time place winner, most recently taking third at Southern Maine. His 15 wins are a team high as he improved to 61-44 for his career after going 2-2 at Williams.

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 Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Laconia Adult Education Winter 2025 Class Schedule

Course Title	Day(s) of the week	Start date	Times	# of weeks	Cost	Location	Instructor Name
Enrichment Classes							
Arts & Crafts							
DIY Wedding and Event Flowers	Wed	2/5/2025	6:00-8:00pm	4	** \$125.00	LHS-509	Shirley Glines
Creating a Spring Wreath	Wed	3/19/2025	6:00-8:30 pm	1	**\$70.00	LHS-509	Shirley Glines
Health & Wellness							
Freedom Through Forgiveness	Thu	5/1/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Introduction to Spiritual Energies	Thu	3/6/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Meditation 101	Thu	4/3/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
What are Angels & How to Communicate w/them	Thu	3/20/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 1	Tue, Thu	1/28/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 2	Tue, Thu	3/4/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 3	Tue, Thu	4/1/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Learning a skill							
Basic Woodworking	Thu	2/13/2025	6:00-8:30pm	8	** \$110.00	LHS-517	Wes Anderson
CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team)	Tue	3/5/2025	6:00-9:00pm	12	\$30.00	LHS 615	John Beland
Intro to Intermediate Woodworking	Wed	TBA	6:00-8:30 pm	8	TBA	LHS-517	Ed Philpot
Open Shop Woodworking	Tue	2/11/2025	6:00-8:30 pm	10	**\$110.00	LHS-517	Ed Philpot
Welding Fundamentals: ARC,GAS,MIG&TIG- Tuesdays	Tue	2/11/2025	5:30-8:30 pm	10	** \$350.00	Welding Lab	Bruce Beckford
Welding Fundamentals: ARC,GAS,MIG&TIG- Wednesday	Wed	2/12/2025	5:30-8:30 pm	10	** \$350.00	Welding Lab	Bruce Beckford
Diploma Classes*							
Economics/Civics	Mon	1/28/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-612	J. McLeod
English	Tues	1/21/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-312	J. Ratcliffe
US History	Wed	1/22/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-304	T. Osborne
Foundations of Math II	Thurs	1/23/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-611	A. Stefank
Adult Education and Literacy Classes							
High School Equivalency Classed (GED and HSET)	Mon & Wed.	2/3/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-606	J. Andrews & T. Krivitsky
English as a Second Language (ESL)	Tues & Thurs.	2/4/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-604	M. Rudolf
Adult Basic Education-Reading	Tues & Thurs.	1/21/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-221	J. Hoell

* * Additional Supply/book fee or pre-class requirement is additional in this course.

CHECK ONLINE FOR MORE DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION (Including materials, book fees or Labs)
 REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE at: adulediaconia.weebly.com
 Still have questions? Call Laconia Adult Education at 524-5712

Opinion

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a day-time 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 ties that really matter

You never really think about how much a good friend means until life throws you a curveball or a moment of joy, and you look around for someone to share it with. A true friend isn't just a person who's around when it's convenient; they're the ones who stick with you through life's messier moments, offering support when you need it and calling you out when you need that too. But as the years pass, it's easy to let these relationships fade into the background, overshadowed by work, family, and the endless demands of daily life.

Friendship isn't just a nice thing to have; it's a cornerstone of what makes life meaningful. Studies show that strong relationships can boost mental health, reduce stress, and even help us live longer. But this isn't about science. It's about the people who make you laugh until your ribs hurt, who know your embarrassing stories and love you anyway. These bonds are rare, and they deserve more care than we often give them.

Think about your own life, your moments of celebration, your hardest days. Who was there with you, either physically or in spirit? A good friend is the one who shows up, even when it's inconvenient, and listens without judgment. They're the person you call when you need advice but also when you just need someone to laugh with. That kind of bond doesn't come along every day, and when it does, it deserves to be nurtured.

But here's the thing: friendships don't maintain themselves. Life's busy pace often makes us assume that the people who matter will always be there, even if we don't put in the effort. Days turn into months, and before we know it, the people who once meant everything become distant memories. It's not intentional, it's just what happens when life gets in the way. Yet the cost of losing those connections can be profound, leaving us feeling isolated or unmoored when we need them most.

The good news? It doesn't take much to rebuild or maintain those bonds. A quick phone call, a handwritten note, or even a spontaneous "How are you?" text can remind someone they matter to you. Showing up doesn't always have to mean grand gestures; often, it's the little acts of consistency that count. It's not about having dozens of close friends; one or two truly meaningful relationships are enough to make a world of difference.

As life keeps moving forward, take a moment to think about the friends who've been there through thick and thin. Reach out to the ones you haven't spoken to in a while, even if it feels awkward at first. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. A good friend isn't just someone who walks into your life, they're someone who stays. Make sure you do your part to keep them there.

In the end, life's most valuable currency isn't money or success; it's the people who stand by us through all of it. Good friends remind us of who we are when we forget, and they make even the hardest days a little easier to bear. Don't let the busyness of life rob you of one of its greatest gifts. Stay in touch. Stay connected. Because the best friendships are worth holding onto, no matter how far life pulls you apart.



Officers Heeger and Somogyi of the Belmont Police Department recently showed their support to our local Belmont/Gilford Hockey Team by donating to the Jake Deware Kindness Project. The department would like to thank Osborne's Farm and Garden Center in Belmont for helping contribute to our donation of cat/dog food and toys to a local animal shelter in Jake's name. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

Coral Castle

I've always been a person who loves to travel. Over the years, I've taken dozens of road trips, spanning almost every state. My dad used to take us on road trips in the motorhome, and he would stop for every historical marker; every boulder that seemed out of place, and every national park. If we saw a strange-looking animal, we'd stop to stare.

One place I learned about recently that I'd love to visit is the Coral Castle in Florida. The pictures are stunning, but what truly captivates me is the impossibility of how it was built.

Spanning over 1,100 square feet, the Coral Castle is made up of massive coral blocks, some weighing up to 30 tons—equivalent to the weight of six elephants. These stones form walls, furniture, and intricate carvings, all seamlessly aligned.

Altogether, the structure contains over 1,000 tons of coral rock—a feat so astonishing that it defies explanation.

What makes the Coral Castle even more incredible is that it was built entirely by one man, Edward Leedskalnin.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

From 1923 to 1951, Edward quarried, transported, and positioned these enormous stones, often working at night to protect his methods from prying eyes. Using only rudimentary tools like pulleys, levers, and wedges, he accomplished what modern engineers with advanced machinery would find daunting.

To this day, experts are baffled by how Edward achieved such precision and scale without heavy equipment.

Perhaps what drove Edward to create the Coral Castle is even more remarkable than the structure itself. As the story goes, Edward was set to marry the love of his life, Agnes Scuffs, in his native Latvia. He called her his "Sweet Sixteen" because she was just 16 years old. On the eve of their wedding, however, she broke off the engagement, leaving Edward heartbroken.

Consumed by grief, he emigrated to America and began work on what many believe was a monument to his unfulfilled love. Each stone, carved and placed with meticulous care, seemed to carry the weight of his devotion, a tangible ex-

pression of the loss he could never overcome.

The Coral Castle isn't just a feat of engineering—it's a mystery. I often write about how anything is possible, but have you ever considered that it might be possible for one man to move and position stones weighing 30 tons—all by himself? And not just move them, but do so in the dead of night, shrouded in secrecy?

Edward's work remains one of the most astonishing accomplishments in history.

Witnesses tell stories that only deepen the intrigue. Flatbed trucks loaded with enormous coral stones would arrive at Edward's property, yet no one ever saw how he got the stones onto the trucks or offloaded them once they arrived. Drivers would return in the morning to find their cargo unloaded and perfectly positioned, as if by magic.

One neighbor claimed to have seen Edward late one night, standing near an enormous stone that seemed to "float" into place. The neighbor described the block as if it defied gravity, though this account has often been dismissed as the product of awe and exag-

eration. Another story comes from a truck driver who left a delivery of coral stones overnight. By morning, the stones had been removed and arranged within the Coral Castle with no visible equipment or assistance.

Edward himself only added to the mystery with cryptic statements like, "I understand the secrets of weight and leverage," and, "I've discovered the secrets of the pyramids."

These remarks fueled speculation that Edward had tapped into lost knowledge or harnessed forces beyond modern understanding.

The Coral Castle features towering monoliths, a perfectly balanced gate that pivots with a finger's touch, and spiral staircases carved from single blocks of coral. Each piece showcases a level of craftsmanship and ingenuity that seems impossible for one man to achieve.

Edward's ability to transform raw coral into this intricate masterpiece leaves us marveling at both the structure and the enduring allure of mystery.

Edward Leedskalnin's methods may forever remain a secret, locked away with him, but his creation continues to captivate visitors and defy explanation.

So, the next time you laugh when someone says, "Anything is possible," remember the Coral Castle and the man who made the impossible real.



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Raiders take to the track at Plymouth State



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Adeline Takantjas clears a hurdle in action at Plymouth State University on Saturday.



Cullen Decato races over a hurdle during action at Plymouth State University on Saturday.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor
PLYMOUTH — In a meet delayed by an hour due to snow, the Belmont indoor track team picked up some solid results at Plymouth State University on Saturday. Adeline Takantjas took third overall in the 55-meter hurdles prelim-

inaries in 10 seconds and then took third in the finals in a time of 9.86 seconds. Hannah Young placed fourth in the preliminaries in the 55 meters in a time of 7.93 seconds and then placed sixth in the finals in eight seconds. Kyleigh Roe was 29th in 8.64 seconds and Dahlia

Beaudette was 59th in a time of 10.39 seconds. Jaelyn Nialetz placed 12th in the 300 meters in 48.49 seconds, Emerson Decato was 26th in 55.35 seconds, Aleena Nialetz was 31st in 57.61 seconds and Augusta Alexander-Provencal was 39th in 1:06.16. In the 600 meters, Hailey Clairmont

was 19th in 2:02.79, Clemence Lhermitte was 21st in 2:03.47, Devyn VonKadich was 25th in 2:08.16, Rebekah Edgren was 26th in 2:08.56 and Violet Smith was 27th in 2:08.78.

Young took 12th overall in the long jump at 13 feet, 10.5 inches while in the shot put, Ava Tonkin was 11th at 26 feet, .5 inches, Lillian Petersen was 20th at 22 feet, 4.5 inches, Madelyn Divers was 23rd at 22 feet, Madelyn Moorehead was 29th at 17 feet, 3.5 inches and Wednesday McCant was 35th at 13 feet, 2.5 inches.

The 4X200-meter relay team of Young, Jaelyn Nialetz, Talia Watson and Ava Lacasse was fifth in 1:59.99 and the 4X400-meter team of Jaelyn Nialetz, Roe, Takantjas and Lacasse placed seventh in 4:58.64.

In the preliminaries for the 55-meter hurdles for the Raider boys, Cullen Decato was seventh in 9.42 seconds and Da-

vid Tripp was eighth in 9.54 seconds while in the finals, Tripp was seventh in 9.43 seconds and Decato was eighth in 9.46 seconds. Enes Sagirli was 12th in 10.46 seconds and Brodie Henry was 16th in 12.58 seconds.

In the 55 meters, Deri Matthews was 14th in 7.18 seconds, Brock Smith was 16th in 7.22 seconds, Tripp was 33rd in 7.45 seconds, Kyle Waldron placed 35th in 7.48 seconds and Brennan Geoffrey was 43rd in 7.64 seconds.

In the 300 meters, Tyler Durand placed 13th in 41.58 seconds, Decato was 26th in 44.08 seconds, Henry was 39th in 47.64 seconds, David Mahoney was 41st in 49.34 seconds and Jasper Sottak was 44th in 53.76 seconds. Andrew Cryans was 29th in the 600 meters in 1:58.98, Jacob Blanchette was 30th in 2:00.91 and Aiden Milmore was 32nd in 2:01.61.

In the 1,500 meters,

Brayden Townsend was 20th in 4:55.2, Sean Andrews was 25th in 5:20.77 and Jack Crockford was 26th in 5:24.87.

In the long jump, Smith was 14th at 17 feet, 8.5 inches, Christian Edgren was 25th at 16 feet, Jake Michaelson was 30th at 15 feet, three inches, Daniel Tripp was 32nd at 14 feet, 11.75 and Geoffrey was 35th at 13 feet, 7.75 inches. Ryan O'Connor was 25th in the shot put at 27 feet, 5.5 inches and Daniel Tripp was 28th at 24 feet, .5 inches.

The 4X200-meter relay team of Waldron, Geoffrey, Matthews and Smith placed sixth in 1:45.74 and the 4X400-meter team of Durand, Michaelson, Sagirli and Edgren was 13th in a time of 4:12.09.

The Raiders are slated to compete at the University of New Hampshire on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2:30 p.m.

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CLASSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

opponent to place fifth overall.

Sam Weisman finished in fifth place at 190 pounds. He started with a pin over Keene, and got an 11-10 win over

Kearsarge. After being pinned by an Alvirne foe and a Keene foe, he came back to pin a Kearsarge foe to place fifth overall.

Jameson Dunn was also fifth at 144 pounds. He pinned a Masceenic wrestler; fell to Kearsarge 9-8, pinned foes from Raymond and Timberlane, dropped an 11-6 decision at Manchester West and pinned a Keene foe to finish in fifth.

At 106 pounds, Kane St. Hilaire was pinned by

foes from Plymouth and Manchester West while Lucas Durphey got a pin over Portsmouth and was pinned by opponents from Timberlane and West. At 113, Gaige Buskey-Reed pinned a White Mountain foe before being pinned by a Timberlane foe. He came back to beat a Lebanon foe and was pinned by a Plymouth athlete to end his day.

At 126 pounds, Lucas Fournier pinned a Man-

chester West opponent before being pinned by Mascoma and Kearsarge. Jack McGranaghan was pinned by a Timberlane opponent, came back to pin an Oyster River foe and was pinned by a Portsmouth opponent and Kaito Tamaru was pinned by foes from Manchester West and Raymond.

At 132 pounds, Bennett Ponder pinned opponents from Middlebury, beat teammate Madden Gove by pin, won 16-7 over a Kingswood foe and lost 8-5 to Kearsarge to finish the day. Gove was pinned by a Plymouth foe before falling to Ponder. Carl Edwardson was pinned by Oyster River, came back to pin opponents from West and Lebanon before being pinned by a Monadnock wrestler to end his day.

Cole Thompson pinned a Portsmouth foe to start the day at 138 pounds, was pinned by an Alvirne opponent, pinned a West foe and was pinned by a Conant athlete to finish the day. At 144 pounds, Isaac Timmons was pinned by a foe from White Mountains and forfeit a match to Plymouth. Lazar Arbutina fell by a 17-5 score at 157 pounds against Lebanon, pinned a Franklin opponent and

lost 11-10 to Keene to finish the day.

At 165 pounds, Noah Bassett pinned a Newport foe to start, was pinned by a Middlebury opponent, came back to pin a Franklin opponent before falling to a Mascoma wrestler 5-3 to end the day. Victor Pham was pinned by a Dover wrestler, pinned foes from Stevens and Keene before falling 16-6 to a Middlebury wrestler. Andrew Field was pinned by a Middlebury foe at 190 pounds, came back to pin a Concord opponent before being pinned by a Concord opponent to end the day.

At 215 pounds, Kyle Voight was pinned by Kearsarge and Raymond opponents while McKinley Desmarais got a pin over West before being pinned by foes from Middlebury and Kearsarge. Louis Soyk at 285 pounds pinned a Franklin foe to start the day then was pinned by foes from Raymond and Portsmouth to end the day.

Winnisquam is scheduled to be in action on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Merrimack at 10 a.m. and will host Prospect Mountain on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m.

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

Shaker Regional School District PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TIME LIMIT FOR FILING CANDIDACIES FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The undersigned clerk of the School District herewith gives notice of the time limit for declaration of candidacy from this school district for election of moderator and school board members of the Shaker Regional School District. The filing period will start Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

The election will occur during the annual voting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 and will be conducted under the non-partisan ballot law.

Positions to be filled at the election are:

Moderator – one member to serve for two years
Belmont School Board Member – one member to serve for three years
Canterbury School Board Member – one member to serve for three years

Written declaration of candidacy must be filed prior to 5:00 pm on Friday, January 31, 2025 in order for the name of the candidate to appear on the ballot. A filing fee of \$1.00 is required. Forms may be obtained from the Superintendent of Schools Office; 58 School Street; Belmont, NH 03220, telephone number 603-267-9223.

No person may file a declaration of candidacy for more than one position of the School Board to be elected at such election. Any qualified voter in each of the pre-existing districts named above is eligible to file for the position to be filled from that District. All candidates will be elected at large.

Diane Clary, Clerk
Shaker Regional School District

PUBLIC NOTICE INTER-LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

The filing period for vacancies for School District officer positions will begin January 22, 2025 and run through 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2025.

The following positions are open for filing:

School Board Member from Sandwich.....3-year term
School Board Member from Center Harbor...3-year term
School Board Member from Meredith.....3-year term
Moderator (1).....3-year term

Filing forms are available at the Superintendent of Schools Office at 103 Main Street, Suite 2, Meredith. The office is open from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with an exception on January 31, the office will remain open until 5:00 p.m.

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HOCKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

chances before a Bulldog penalty with 20 seconds left made it four-on-four to close the period and then to start the third period.

Just 34 seconds into the period, PAC was able to tie the game at one. Guerin and Ethan Girard had chances before the first penalty was killed and McGreevy made a save on a PAC shorthanded bid before the other penalty was killed.

With 12:04 to go in the game, Guerin made

a great pass in front to Embree, who buried the shot on the open net for the 2-1 lead. McGreevy made another save and Guerin helped out with good defense. Ryder and Mercier had chances denied by the PAC goalie and Belmont-Gilford took a penalty with 7:54 to go. Embree had a good clear and McGreevy made a couple more saves before the penalty was killed off.

McGreevy made a couple more saves and Mercier; Guerin, Lien and Ryder had chances for the Bulldogs while

Guerin had another good defensive stop. PAC had a breakaway chance that McGreevy saved and the Bulldogs held on for the 2-1 win.

Belmont-Gilford is scheduled to be in action on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Monadnock at 3:40 p.m. and will be hosting John Stark-Hopkinton on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 5 p.m.

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



Ethan Ellingson battles in front of the net during action on Saturday against Pembroke-Campbell.

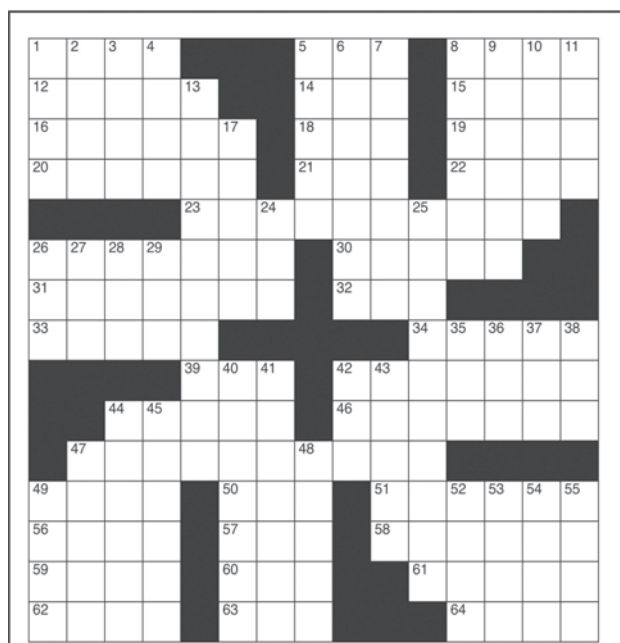
Abbott, Williams lead Bears in Plymouth



Zariah Moore breaks from the starting blocks in the 55 meters on Saturday morning in Plymouth.



Kyren Whitmore runs in the 1,000 meters during action in Plymouth on Saturday morning.



BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — The Winnisquam indoor track team's meet at Plymouth on Saturday was delayed an hour due to the snow, but the Bears hit the road north and competed at the All-Well North Center at Plymouth State.

The top performance for the Bear girls came in the 300 meters, where Denessa Williams finished in fourth place in a time of 46.51 seconds. Emily Tripple was 22nd in 51.05 seconds, Danica Weymouth was 29th in 56.11 seconds, Sierra Lambert was 33rd in 57.67 seconds and Hayden Rose Moriarty was 38th in 1:02.11.

The 4X200-meter team of Williams, Tripple, Zariah Moore and Kaiden Robb placed seventh overall in a time of 2:04.09.

In the 55 meters, Williams was 14th in 8.17 seconds, Moore was 34th in 8.77 seconds, Devin Timmons was 50th in 9.53 seconds, Lambert was 52nd in 9.6 seconds and Moriarty was 56th in 9.87 seconds. Robb took 13th in the 600 meters in 1:56.77.

In the shot put, Timmons was 18th at 23 feet, 7.5 inches, Weymouth was 26th at 21 feet, .5 inches, Kaylin Liesner was 28th at 20 feet, .5

inches, Mileydi Jaynes was 34th at 13 feet, four inches and Addison Todd was 36th at 11 feet, seven inches.

The top performance for the Bear boys also came in the 600 meters, where Nolan Abbott finished in fourth in 1:30.49 and Brendan Goodwin was fifth in 1:30.67.

In the 55 meters, Ari Booth was 35th in 7.48 seconds, Cullen Desroches was 64th in 8.24 seconds, Christopher Collins was 66th in 8.58 seconds and Andrew Paquette was 70th in 9.23 seconds. Collins was also 42nd in the 300 meters in 49.39 seconds. Kyren Whitmore ran to 30th in the 1,000 meters in 3:29.42 and Desroches was 21st in the 1,500 meters in 4:58.9.

In the long jump, Booth was 21st at 16 feet, 8.5 inches and Paquette was 30th in the shot put at 17 feet, nine inches. The 4X400-meter team of Desroches, Booth, Abbott and Goodwin placed eighth overall in 4:00.78.

The Bears are slated to compete at UNH on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2:30 p.m.

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

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits
- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. "For goodness _"
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy



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AUDITIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A hilarious, fast-paced romp through a familiar magical landscape, Puffs is "a tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world." Auditions are open to adults and high school-aged teens and will be held Jan. 27 and 30 at 7 p.m. at Franklin High School. Performances are April 3-6 at the Franklin Middle School.

Next, Footlight will hold auditions for their summer musical, "Rock

of Ages," on May 27 and 29. This big, brash jukebox musical is a celebration of the rock scene of the '80's, featuring songs like "We Built This City," "I Wanna Rock," and "Don't Stop Believin'." Auditions are open to anyone sixteen and older. Performances are Aug. 13-17 at Tilton School's Hamilton Hall.

Footlight has been bringing community theatre to Franklin since 1995. To learn more about both productions and register to audition, visit www.franklintheatre.org/audition-info.

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Mark Shilansky Trio featuring Grace Wallace to perform at Hermit Woods

MEREDITH — Hermit Woods is thrilled to welcome back the incredibly talented Grace Wallace for an unforgettable evening of music alongside the renowned Mark Shilansky Trio. Join us for a night of

soulful vocals, reimagined classics, and exceptional original compositions in the unique, intimate atmosphere of The Loft.

Event details:
Complimentary Wine

Tasting: 5:30 – 6 p.m.

Doors Open and Dinner Service: 6 p.m.

Showtime: 7 p.m. (Drinks and dessert available during the show)

Grace Wallace,

known for her smooth and understated vocal style, returns to Hermit Woods for her third mesmerizing performance. Grace's repertoire of reimagined jazz and pop classics from artists such as Bob Dylan, Burt



Bacharach, and Cyndi Lauper, as well as her original works, promises to captivate audiences.

Accompanying Grace are three masterful musicians:

Mark Shilansky (Piano) – Accomplished pianist, composer, and Berklee College of Music professor with a dynamic background in jazz, Latin, and original music.

Austin McMahon (Drums) – One of Boston's most sought-after jazz drummers, known for his work with world-renowned artists and performances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and international festivals.

Greg Loughman (Bass) – A highly respected bassist and composer, celebrated for his lyrical style and performances with renowned artists such as Jerry Bergonzi and the Rhythm Future Quartet.

Grace Wallace, originally from Worcestershire, England, discovered her passion for jazz after moving to the U.S.

and studying with renowned mentors. With performances throughout New England and collaborations with celebrated jazz musicians, Grace has made a name for herself in the music scene. She is currently working on two albums set to release in early 2025.

Hermit Woods provides a true listening room experience where audiences can immerse themselves in the performance without distractions. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the complimentary wine tasting and dinner service before the show. The kitchen closes at 7 p.m., when the performance begins, ensuring a quiet and intimate atmosphere. After the show, attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artists and explore their merchandise offerings.

Reserve your seat now to experience this exceptional evening of live music. Visit <https://hermitwoods.com/events/> to purchase tickets.



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Please email adoptions@nhhumane.org with additional questions or to make an appointment to meet Billy!



Meet Baby!

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

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