



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

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Franklin Savings Bank purchases new gym equipment for Spaulding Academy & Family Services

NORTHFIELD — Franklin Savings Bank recently donated more than \$1,700 in equipment to support the recently renovated gym at Spaulding Academy & Family Services. This new equipment will help their students develop critical skills that promote teamwork and a healthy lifestyle. Bank President & CEO, Brian Bozak, along with Jon Jones, SVP, Senior Commercial Loan Officer, Jenn Prince, AVP, Marketing & Community Engagement Officer, and Brian Lamontagne, Branch Manager at FSB's Gilford location, visited the academy and helped set up the equipment for the kids.

"At Franklin Savings Bank, we believe in strengthening our community by supporting healthy activities for youth. We hope that by donating this equipment for their newly renovated gym, we are encouraging healthy lifestyles and strong futures," explains Brian Bozak, Pres-



Left to right: Brian Doyle, Physical Education Teacher at Spaulding Academy & Family Services; Courtney Leighton, Director of Development & Community Relations at Spaulding Academy & Family Services; Brian Bozak, President & CEO at FSB; Meaghan Emmons, President & CEO at Spaulding Academy & Family Services; Jon Jones, SVP, Commercial Loan Officer at FSB, Jenn Prince, AVP, Marketing & Community Engagement Officer at FSB; Brian Lamontagne, Branch Manager at FSB's Gilford location.

provider of special educational, residential, therapeutic and community-based programs and services for

Franklin Savings Bank, students are making wonderful memories through play.

To learn more about Spaulding Academy & Family Services, please visit: <https://spauldingservices.org/>.

Established in 1869, Franklin Savings Bank is an independent, mutually-owned community bank, offering an array of commercial lending, personal banking and investment services. The Bank also offers investment and financial planning services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Independence Financial Advisors. A recognized leader in providing the latest in financial services technology, Franklin Savings Bank remains committed to serving the needs of businesses, families and the communities it serves, through a dedicated team of employees, a diverse line of financial products and services, and continued investment in emerging technology. Visit www.fsbnh.bank to learn more or follow the bank on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

Community celebrations and a fond farewell at Belmont Public Library

BELMONT — The Belmont Public Library is delighted to invite the community to Deck the Village on Sunday, Nov. 30 from 2-4 p.m. This annual celebration transforms the library and village green into a warm, festive space filled with crafts, conversation, and cheer. Families can create seasonal decorations, enjoy light refreshments, and take part in activities for all ages. A special visitor will stop by to greet children and help

us welcome the holiday season in true Belmont style.

Book groups will meet throughout December, offering readers several opportunities to connect and discuss outstanding titles. The Nonfiction Book Group gathers on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder" by David Grann. The Afternoon Book Group meets on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. to explore "The

Twelve Tribes of Hattie" by Ayana Mathis. The Mystery Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. to talk about "The Twelve Clues of Christmas" by Rhys Bowen. The Friday Fiction Book Group convenes on Friday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah.

Adults are encouraged to participate in our Creative Conversations series each Monday, with Fi-

SEE **LIBRARY**, PAGE A8

Winnisquam Regional School District to host 16th Annual Holiday Dinner

TILTON — The Winnisquam Regional School District (WRSD) is delighted to announce its 16th Annual complimentary Holiday Dinner, extending a warm invitation to all residents of the Tilton, Northfield, and Sanbornton communities.

The dinner is held annually to express profound gratitude for the unwavering support the community provides to the district, its staff, and, most importantly, the students.

The meal will be a traditional holiday feast, featuring oven-roasted turkey, farm-fresh potatoes and squash, homemade gravy, stuffing, salad, rolls, and dessert.

In addition to the dinner, the evening will feature a variety of festive entertainment and activities, including appearances by special guests, performances by carolers, and holiday centerpiece sales. The Raven Gael Blaisdell Foundation, based at Hall Memorial Library, will also be present to distribute free children's books. The event provides a wonderful opportunity for families to gather and celebrate the spirit of the season.

The dinner will take place on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Winnisquam Regional High School Cafetorium.

The Winnisquam Regional School District looks forward to welcoming community members for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

Chandonnait named Division III Co-Player of the Year

Division III Coach of the Year honors for Belmont's Kelly

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The New Hampshire Volleyball Coaches Association has announced the All-State teams for the recently-concluded season.

In Division III, Liv Chandonnait of Belmont and Kiera Moynihan of In-



Liv Chandonnait was named the Division III Co-Player of the Year for her senior season.



Madi MacDonald was named Division III First Team All-State for the fall season.



Sadie Sturgeon earned Second Team All-State for Division III volleyball.



Belmont's Gabby Murphy was named Division III All-State Honorable Mention.

ter-Lakes were named Division III Co-Players of the year. Belmont's Bry Kelly was named the Division III Coach of the Year and Beth Doda of Inter-Lakes was named Division III JV Coach of the Year.

Joining the Players of the Year in earning First Team honors were Madi MacDonald of Belmont, Alyssa Snow of Inter-Lakes and Ava Mardis of Moultonborough. Second Team honors went to Sadie Sturgeon of Belmont and Emily Doda and Lil-

SEE **ALL-STATE**, PAGE A8

Comedian Jim Breuer brings Find the Funny Tour to the Colonial



LACONIA — Comedian, podcaster, and actor Jim Breuer will bring his Find The Funny tour to Colonial Theatre of Laco-

nia on Saturday, April 25 at 8 p.m. Known for his wit and authentic storytelling, Breuer’s Find The Funny tour draws from everyday

family life, blending humor and heart in a way that has made him one of comedy’s most relatable voices.

Tickets are available now at coloniallaconia.com.

Born and raised in Valley Stream, Long Island, Breuer cut his teeth on New York’s comedy circuit before making his mark on “Saturday Night Live,” where he created iconic characters such as Goat Boy and delivered spot-on impressions of Joe Pesci, cementing his place as one of the show’s most memorable cast members. He went on to star in the cult classic “Half Baked” and appear in films including “Zookeeper,” “Beer League,” “Titan A.E.” and “Dick,” as well as documentary projects “More Than Me,” which screened at the Montreal Film Festival, and “The Jim Breuer Road Journals,” a film born from his Breuniversity Tour with his father.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Breuer has become one of America’s most beloved stand-ups, drawing from everyday family life, per-

sonal experiences and the moments that unite us. His storytelling and ability to find humor in the ordinary have earned him a devoted following through both his live performances and viral comedy clips, including “Party in My Stomach,” “I Look High All the Time,” “The Love for the Word Science” and “My First Kidney Stone.” His comedy specials—“Hardcore,” “Let’s Clear the Air,” “And Laughter for All,” “Comic Frenzy,” “Silly in San Diego,” “Somebody Had to Say It...” and his recent YouTube special “Country Boy Will Survive,” which reached millions—showcase the range, energy and emotional honesty that define his work.

Beyond comedy, Breuer has a lifelong love of heavy metal and often weaves it into his stand-up, a passion that has led to standout moments such as performing the Judas Priest classic “You’ve Got Another Thing Comin’” alongside Rob Halford for Comedy Central’s “The

Comedy Jam” and opening for Metallica on their “WorldWired” tour, where he blended comedy and metal for arena audiences across the country. He also teamed up with Brian Johnson of AC/DC on the track “Mr. Rock n’ Roll” for his album “Songs From the Garage,” produced by Rob Caggiano, further deepening his connection to the music that has inspired him for decades.

Breuer continues to expand his reach across generations and platforms. He is a regular guest on “The Joe Rogan Experience” and has made notable, and often viral, appearances on podcasts and radio shows including “This Past Weekend with Theo Von,” “WTF with Marc Maron,” “Bertcast” and “The Howard Stern Show.” He also hosts his own weekly live YouTube series, “Jim Breuer Live,” where he offers his take on life, family, faith and current events with his trademark warmth and comedic insight.

League of NH Craftsmen Gallery welcomes new juried artist

MEREDITH — The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, Meredith Fine Craft Gallery is delighted

to introduce newly juried artist Christine Pellerin, who brings landscapes to life through her needle-felted Merino wool art.

The natural world comes alive in an entirely new way through Pellerin’s work with richly layered landscapes that capture the beauty of surrounding nature. Using soft, fine Merino fibers and a slow, deliberate felting process, she creates textured scenes that invite viewers not only to look, but to feel the depth of the land. Each piece blends color, texture, and form to build vistas of rolling hills, quiet forests, dramatic skies, and shifting seasonal light, all sculpted from wool. Through meticulous layering and an aesthetic approach to felting, she transforms a traditional craft into expressive fine art.

Working primarily with premium Merino wool, known for its exceptional softness and vibrant dye absorption, Pellerin achieves depth and dimensions that are not possible with flat mediums. Each artwork is created entirely by hand, with thousands of needle punctures bind-



ing fibers into sculptural forms. The result is a tactile surface that evokes the contours of fields, lakes, clouds, and mountains so that the natural world comes alive in an entirely new way.

The Meredith Fine Craft Gallery invites you to come in and see Christine Pellerin’s harmonious wool landscapes that

showcase light, color, and fiber in natural scenes. For more information, please call the Gallery at 603-279-7920 or visit our Web site meredith.nhcrafts.org. The League of NH Craftsmen Gallery is located at 279 DW Highway, Meredith.

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit organization that encourages and promotes the cre-

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



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Powerhouse, Winnepesaukee Playhouse announce auditions for first joint production!

MEREDITH — Pow-
erhouse Theatre Collabo-
rative, the resident theatre
company of the Colonial
Theatre is excited to an-
nounce auditions for two
winter productions, one
produced in collaboration
with the Winnepesaukee
Playhouse in Meredith.
Auditions will be held
on Dec. 2 and Dec. 6 for
Shakespeare’s funniest
rom-com, “A Midsummer
Night’s Dream,” and one
of the funniest plays in re-
cent times, “The Play That
Goes Wrong.”

“A Midsummer Night’s
Dream” is adapted and di-
rected by Joel Iwaskiewicz,
and this exciting interpre-
tation is set in Athens...
Louisiana! Summer in the
bayou never felt so Shake-
spearean as Shakespeare’s
text mixed with traditional
American folk songs will
create a unique production
to be performed at the Co-
lonial Feb. 13-15 - perfect
for Valentine’s Day. The
director is looking for mu-
sicians and “movers” to
make up the “swampsem-
ble” of mischievous fair-

ies, as well as actors with
a love for or interest in per-
forming Shakespeare.
“The Play that Goes
Wrong” by Lewis, Sayer
and Shields is one of the
funniest comedies to hit
Broadway in years. The
Comley Dramatic Society
is excited to produce the
murder mystery “Murder
at Haversham Manor”
when everything, literally,
begins to go wrong. From
forgotten lines, to missing
props and an uncoopera-
tive set, the society bravely
continues their play against

all odds. This will perform
at The Winnepesaukee
Playhouse March 6-8 and
13-15, and will be direct-
ed by Powerhouse’s Bryan
Halperin, assisted by the
Playhouse’s Cory Lawson.
Says Halperin, “Both
of these productions give
both audience and partic-
ipants the chance to chase
away some of their winter
blues with an afternoon or
evening filled with laugh-
ter, romance and intrigue!
We are looking forward
to giving comedic actors a
chance to take the spotlight

on both stages.”
Auditions for “Midsum-
mer” are for ages 16 and
up, and for “The Play That
Goes Wrong,” ages 18 and
up, and will both be held at
The Winnepesaukee Play-
house the evening of De-
cember 2 and the morning
of Dec. 6. Actors may au-
dition for both productions
on the same day. Please
see [powerhousenh.org/](http://powerhousenh.org/auditions)
auditions or <https://www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org/winni-players-community-theatre-auditions.html>
for all the details on what

to prepare for each audition
and how to register.
The productions will
be part of Powerhouse’s
and the Playhouse’s 2026
seasons and mark the first
collaboration between the
two producing groups.
Members of both theatre’s
staffs will be leading the
production team for “The
Play That Goes Wrong.”

For more information
on both theatre organiza-
tions check out [powerhou-
senh.org](http://powerhousenh.org) and [winnepesau-
keeplayhouse.org](http://winnepesau-
keeplayhouse.org).

Bank of New Hampshire ranks 25th in NH’s Top 100 Private Companies

LACONIA — Bank of
New Hampshire has been
ranked 25th overall in
Business NH Magazine’s
Top 100 Private Compa-
nies in New Hampshire,
moving up from 31st in
2024. BNH was the only
bank included on this
year’s list. Businesses are
ranked based on 2024
gross revenue and average
annual growth between
2022 and 2024.

“Being named among
New Hampshire’s top pri-
vate companies reinforces
the value of staying true
to who we are as an in-

dependent mutual bank,”
commented Chris Logan,
President and CEO. “This
achievement is a direct re-
sult of the dedication and
hard work of our employ-
ees and their unwavering
commitment to service
and relationship-building,
which continue to propel
the bank’s growth. We’re
honored to be included in this
list and look forward to
strengthening our impact
across the communities we
serve.”

Founded in 1831, Bank
of New Hampshire is the
oldest and one of the larg-

est independent banks
headquartered in the state.
With assets exceeding
\$2.5 billion and 21 bank-
ing offices across New
Hampshire and southern
Maine, the bank provides
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agement solutions for fam-
ilies and businesses. As a
mutual organization, Bank

of New Hampshire is fo-
cused on the success of its
customers, communities
and employees—rather
than stockholders. With a
legacy of strength and sta-
bility, the bank combines
local decision-making and
trusted guidance with mod-
ern technology to deliver a
seamless banking experi-
ence. For more informa-

tion, call 1-800-832-0912
or visit BNH.Bank.

Ames Farm Inn named NHLRA Boutique Lodging Property of the Year

GILFORD — Ames
Farm Inn, a beloved fam-
ily-run lakeside retreat on
the shores of Lake Winni-
pesaukee, has been named
the 2025 Boutique Lodg-
ing Property of the Year by
the New Hampshire Lodg-
ing & Restaurant Associa-
tion (NHLRA). The award
recognizes Ames Farm
Inn’s enduring commit-
ment to hospitality, authen-
ticity, and family tradition
spanning more than 130
years.

Founded in 1890, Ames
Farm Inn has welcomed
generation after genera-
tion of families to the lake.
Today, under the leader-
ship of the fourth and fifth
generations of the Ames
family, the inn continues
to embody the timeless
spirit of Lake Winnepesau-
kee—where guests return
each summer to relax, re-
connect, and make lasting
memories.

“We’re honored to re-
ceive this recognition from

the NHLRA,” said Peggy
Ames, co-owner of Ames
Farm Inn. “Our family is
deeply grateful to our de-
dicated staff and to the gen-
erations of amazing guests
who return each summer
to unplug, enjoy the lake,
and spend meaningful time
together. This award is a
celebration of everyone
who has been part of Ames
Farm Inn’s story.”

The NHLRA’s annual
awards celebrate excel-
lence in New Hampshire’s
hospitality industry, rec-
ognizing properties that
demonstrate exceptional
service, innovation, and
community impact.

As the Ames family
looks ahead, their mission
remains rooted in what
has defined the property
for more than a century:
family, tradition, and pre-
serving a simpler time of
lakeside vacationing—un-
hurried, unplugged, and
centered on time well spent
together.

Community Calendar Nov. 27 – Dec. 4

When turkeys are carved and the leftovers stored,
The towns turn to twinkle-lights, cheer, and accord.
So bundle up tight as December draws near—
Here’s what’s happening close to home this year:

Belmont Farmers’ Market – Holiday Pop-Up
Sat., Nov. 30 – 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Jams, breads, and wreaths in the cool winter air,
A merry small-market with hometown flair.
Stock up on goodies, enjoy the warm chatter—
Nothing says season like neighbors who matter.
(Belmont Mill, 14 Mill St.)

Sanbornton Public Library Storytime
Tue., Dec. 3 – 10:30 a.m.
Little ones gather with giggles and books,
Bundled in mittens and curious looks.
Songs, crafts, and stories that brighten the cold—
Perfect for children from new to five years old.
(27 Meeting House Hill Rd.)

Tilton’s Tree-Lighting at Riverfront Park
Sat., Nov. 30 – 5 p.m.
Hot cocoa steaming, the brass bells will ring,
As families assemble to welcome the season in.
The switch will be flipped as the daylight grows thin—
Let the shimmering holiday magic begin.
(45 Canal St., Tilton)

Northfield Senior Center Cards & Coffee
Mon., Dec. 2 – 9 a.m.–11 a.m.
Shuffle the deck and sip something warm,
A perfect indoor refuge from winter’s first storm.
Friendly games, tall tales, and lighthearted cheer—
A gentle way to welcome the final month of the year.
(21 Park St., Northfield)

Belmont Recreation – Adult Pickleball Drop-In
Tue., Dec. 3 – 6–8 p.m.
Grab paddles and sneakers and glide ‘cross the floor,
The sound of soft volleys will echo once more.
Come one, come all—novice or pro—
A brisk winter workout with plenty of glow.
(Belmont Middle School Gym)

And that’s our roundup—another week spun,
With gatherings, crafts, and good neighborly fun.
As November bows out and December appears,
May warmth fill our towns through the close of the year.

Tanger Outlets announces Black Friday savings, extended hours

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

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

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

Black Friday doorbusters and extended weekend
hours

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

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

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



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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.



COURTESY

Meredith Village Savings Bank’s Elizabeth Brothers, Mortgage Loan Officer NMLS# 69282, Tina Simpson, VP Commercial Loan Officer, and Samantha LeClair, Business Development Officer, recently presented a donation to the Belknap Special Operations Group (BSOG) in Alton. The team toured the organization’s newly refurbished armored rescue vehicle and learned about their mission to protect and serve our communities during a training. BSOG was established to support law enforcement across Belknap County with a highly trained, specialized team of officers prepared to respond to high-risk situations beyond the scope of routine patrol operations. The program also enhances safety and readiness by offering classroom instruction and in-service practical training opportunities for patrol officers throughout the county.

A season for quiet gratitude

Thanksgiving arrives in the Lakes Region not with fanfare, but with familiar signals that have nothing to do with parade balloons or store displays. It comes in the brief hush after the first skim of ice forms on the ponds, and in the way neighbors wave a little longer as they pass each other on back roads. It’s a time that reminds communities across the Winnisquam region that gratitude is not a grand gesture—it’s a set of small ones that accumulate into something meaningful.

In towns of this size, it is easy to fall into the habit of seeing the same faces without truly noticing them. Yet November has a way of urging us to look again. A crossing guard who stays cheerful through cold mornings. A volunteer who keeps a food pantry stocked even when donations thin out. A plow driver who works through the night so families can safely reach school, work, or the grocery store. These acts are woven into the ordinary days of our communities, and Thanksgiving is a moment to acknowledge the value of that steady, often unseen commitment.

This season also arrives at a moment when many households are navigating increased costs, seasonal layoffs, or unexpected hardships. Food pantries across the region are reporting higher demand, and social service agencies are preparing for a busy winter. Gratitude does not require us to look away from those realities. Instead, it calls on us to respond with a renewed sense of shared responsibility. Helping one another—whether through a donation, a hot meal, or a quiet act of neighborliness—remains one of the oldest traditions in rural New Hampshire.

There is also something grounding about the constancy of our local rhythms. The turkey raffles, church suppers, school food drives, and holiday concerts that will fill the coming weeks are reminders that community life depends on participation, not perfection. These gatherings aren’t about elaborate production. They are about showing up, contributing what we can, and recognizing that being part of a place carries obligations as well as rewards.

Thanksgiving encourages reflection, but it also carries a forward-looking hope. The winter ahead will test the region, as it always does—plow crews will race storms, emergency responders will manage difficult calls, and families will stretch budgets to make ends meet. But year after year, our towns endure because people take care of one another in ways both quiet and profound.

As we sit down to our meals, in homes filled with tradition or in new places where traditions are still being built, it is worth remembering that gratitude is not confined to a single holiday. It is a practice. And in communities like ours, it remains one of the most reliable tools we have to strengthen the ties that hold us together.

This season, may we acknowledge not only what we are thankful for, but also whom. And may that gratitude guide us through the months ahead with the same steadiness and warmth that have carried our towns through many winters before.

When the railroad came to Tilton and Northfield

For more than a century, the Winnepesaukee River has carried the sound of freight cars and passenger coaches through Tilton and Northfield. Today the former Boston & Maine rail corridor serves walkers and cyclists along the Winnisquam Scenic Trail, but its history is rooted in the era when the railroad transformed these two mill towns into thriving commercial hubs.

The arrival of the Concord & Claremont Railroad in the mid-19th century reshaped daily life along the river. The northern branch of the line, originally chartered as the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad, reached Tilton (then known as Sanbornton Bridge) by the 1870s. A small but active station rose along the tracks near what is now downtown Tilton, and the village quickly grew around it. Business owners who once depended on slow-moving wagon freight now relied on dependable rail connections to Concord, Plymouth, and points north.

According to historical survey documents compiled by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, the railroad allowed Tilton’s mills—particularly the water-powered textile and hosiery mills along the Winnepesaukee River—to ship goods well beyond the region. Lumber, grain, hardware, and coal arrived daily, and local merchants developed a schedule around incoming freight. Postal service also grew more reliable; mailbags were exchanged

at the depot several times a day.

Northfield benefited in equal measure. Its own depot, located just across the river, supported the village’s manufacturing industries—including the Centennial Mill and the various paper and textile mills that lined the riverbank. Sanbornville-born merchant Charles Tilton, after whom the town eventually took its name, invested heavily in regional rail expansion. His civic projects—from the famous memorial arch to the island park that once stood near the river—were meant to cultivate a prosperous and accessible town anchored by the new transportation network.

Passenger service played a significant role in the region’s growth. Excursion trains carried summer visitors to Lake Winnisquam, Lake Winnepesaukee, and the hill-top resorts in neighboring Sanbornton and Laconia. Timetables published by the Boston & Maine Railroad in the early 20th century list regular daily service through Tilton, with connections to the White Mountains. Local residents could travel to Concord for business, medical care, or shopping and return home the same evening.

Rail travel also shaped community rhythms. The sound of the morning train was once a dependable marker of the workday’s start. Schoolchildren learned to stop at the tracks behind Main Street. Local newspapers of the era printed comings and goings—who took the

train to the city, who returned home for holidays, and which businesses received new shipments that week.

The decline of New England manufacturing in the mid-1900s eventually slowed rail commerce. Passenger service ended first, followed by reductions in freight service as trucks became the preferred mode of transport. By the 1980s, large portions of the line had fallen into disuse.

Yet the corridor’s legacy remains visible. The steel bridges crossing the Winnepesaukee River have been preserved, and the right-of-way forms the backbone of the Winnisquam Scenic Trail, a

multi-use path expanding steadily along the former railbed. Interpretive signs along the trail describe the area’s industrial past, including the mills and depots that once depended on the railroad.

Today, as Tilton and Northfield continue to redevelop their riverfront areas, the old rail line stands as a reminder of how transportation once connected this corner of the Lakes Region to the rest of New Hampshire. It tied together the mills, markets, and communities that gave both towns their identity—an identity still shaped by the river, the bridges, and the enduring memory of the trains that once ran beside them.



Winnisquam Echo

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Holiday Shopping

Budget-frendly holiday shopping tips

Holiday shopping and entertaining involve a whirlwind of activity to round out the end of the year. The holiday season also tends to be an expensive time of year. According to Capital One Shopping, the average spending for holiday travel, gifts and entertainment expenses is \$1,638. The National Retail Federation says American consumers spend an average of \$997.73 on gifts and other holiday items each Christmas.

For some people, adding an additional \$1,000 to their November or December budgets can be challenging, and many individuals seek budget-friendly solutions for their holiday celebrations. The following guidelines can help corral spending this year.

Set a budget
It's impossible to keep a budget if one is never established in the first place. Determine how much you can comfortably spend on gifts, travel and entertaining, as well as any other holiday expenses. Once the number is calculated, divvy up spending accord-



ingly.

Plan your list
Make a list of everyone you need to purchase gifts for, along with gift ideas and estimated costs. Set a dollar amount for each individual, particularly if you will not be spending the same amount on each person. Having numbers

in black and white, and comparing them to what you have allocated for gifts, will enable you to see whether you are overspending or on budget.

Shop early
Begin holiday shopping as early as possible, even months before the holidays arrive. Such an approach

enables you to take advantage of sales as they come up. Also, you will not fall victim to impulse buys or last-minute purchases because you are under a time crunch.

Track spending
Utilize whatever method works for you to keep apprised of spending. It

may be jotting down numbers on a piece of paper or using a budgeting app on a smartphone. Having a clear idea of what you have spent and any dollars remaining will help you keep your overall spending in line with your budgeted amount.

Get coupons
Signing up for stores' loyalty programs can enable you to receive members-only coupons or digital codes to your phone or email. Compare the discounted final price with other stores' offers to make sure that you are getting the best deals. Browser extensions also can search automatically for coupons and apply them to the checkout when online shopping.

Use credit cards wisely
Credit cards come with various perks, many of which are points or cash back accumulated with each purchase. Utilize a card that works best for your needs, whether it's to get airline miles or score extra spending money for a particular retailer. Only charge what you can pay in full when the bill arrives; otherwise, the benefits may be negated by high interest rates.

Holiday spending can derail financial plans for those who do not establish a firm budget and commit to spending wisely towards the end of the year.

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Holiday Shopping

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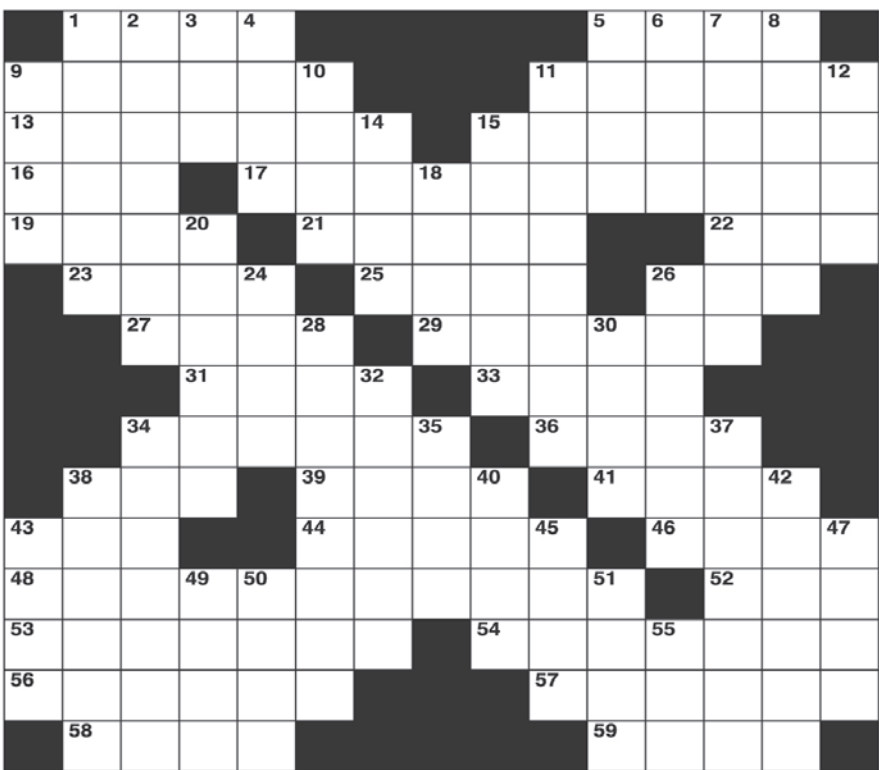




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Follow the instructions to enter for a chance to win 1 of Our **Holiday 'Shop Local' Gift Baskets** filled with donations from our generous retailers!
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The Drawing will be held on **December 15th** at:
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Visit our Facebook page for more details!
Winners will be notified by email.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult

5. Coarsely ground corn

9. There's one for the "world"

11. Loved Romeo

13. Sticky situation

15. Pelvic areas

16. An informal debt instrument

17. Cannot be repaired surgically

19. A device attached to a workbench

21. Related on the mother's side

22. Sound unit

23. ___ Sagan, astronomer

25. Utah city

26. A disappointing effort

27. Steal goods during a riot

29. Wakes up

31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded

34. Looked intensely

36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.

38. A type of cast

39. One's duty

41. Where golfers begin

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic sun god

46. Ancient Greek City

48. Having had the head cut off

52. A place to stay

53. Unwise

54. Most unnatural

56. Dennis is a notable one

57. Ointments

58. Students' exam

59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave

2. Act of awakening

3. Jest at

4. Sandwich store

5. Chapter of the Koran

6. Dismounted

7. Small vehicle

8. Irrked

9. One who earns by disreputable dealings

10. Monetary unit of Samoa

11. Long, mournful lamentation

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

15. Decreases

18. Indicates beside

20. Worn by exposure to the weather

24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal

28. Amino acid

30. Nasal mucus

32. US government entity

34. Swinish

35. Legislative body in Russia

37. Grant an exemption to

38. Put in advance

40. Satisfy

42. Felt

43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

45. Witnesses

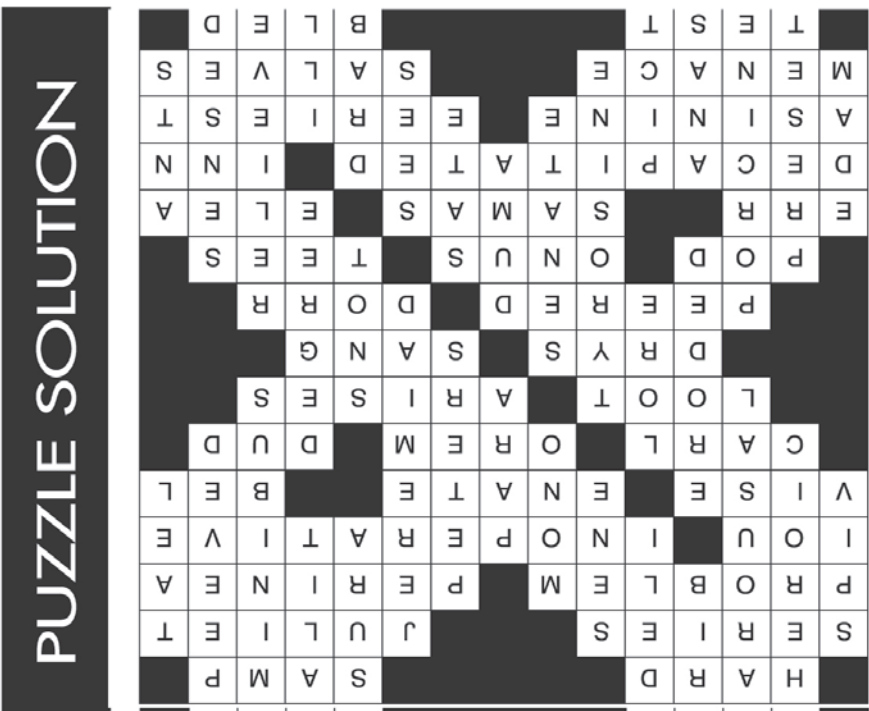
47. Picnic invaders

49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

50. Ancient person of Scotland

51. Cheerless

55. Unwell



LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ber Arts at 10 a.m. and a Watercolor Workshop at 2 p.m., both designed as relaxed, self-guided creative sessions with plenty of opportunity to chat and connect. For families with young children, Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. offers stories and activities tailored to preschool-age participants.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

lian Lybrand of Inter-Lakes and Honorable Mention went to Belmont's Gabby Murphy and Newfound's Evie Bastarache.

Also earning First Team honors were Farmington's Anna Cardinal, Mascenic's Lyla Somero, Raymond's Lucille Donohue and Trinity's Ava Tetu.

Second Team honors were also presented to Conant's Nex Harris, Concord Christian's Evelyn Doan, Farmington's Jace-lyn Doyle and Zoey Johnson, Portsmouth Christian's Bea Monahan and Trinity's Kallie Davalos.

Also named Honorable Mention were Epping's Rachel Mazzone, Mascenic's Fiona Alix, Ports-

Please note that the library will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1.

This December also marks an important transition for our community as we bid a heartfelt farewell to our library director, Eileen Gilbert, who has served Belmont with dedication, creativity, and exceptional care for nearly eleven years. Her leadership has strengthened the

library's programming, expanded services, and fostered a welcoming environment for patrons of all ages. We extend our deep gratitude for her many contributions and wish her all the best as she turns the page to her next chapter.

For more information, please contact the Belmont Public Library at (603) 267-8331 or visit belmont-publiclibrary.org.

mouth Christian's Marion Spurr and Raymond's Madelyn Donohue.

In Division II, First Team honors were presented to Kingswood's Opal Grupp while Second Team honors were given to Gilford's Rainey Hinds.

Joining Grupp in earning First Team honors were Izzy Grenier and Kelli Daniel of Coe-Brown, Ivy Armstrong-McEvoy of ConVal, Claire Starosta of Hanover, Savannah Watson of Milford, Claire Jorgenson and Leah Lynskey of Oyster River and Savanna Comeau of Somersworth.

Joining Hinds with Second Team honors were Hanover's Ellie Molina, Milford's Piper Greenhalgh, Oyster River's Aubrey

Young, Pelham's Sophia Guinazzo, Somersworth's Emily Runions and Paige Demers, Souhegan's Juliana Koch and Alaina Hathaway of St. Thomas.

Honorable Mention for Division II went to Ava VanHorn and Zadie Marshall of ConVal, Hudson Cusimano of Hanover, Ella Giuliano of Manchester Central, Gabrielle Linkkila of Laconia and Somersworth's Kylie Pettengill.

Somersworth's Savanna Comeau was named the Division II Player of the Year.

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

Bored Teachers bring "Is It Friday Yet?!" Comedy Tour to the Colonial

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Bored Teachers: "Is It Friday Yet?!" Comedy Tour on Sunday, May 17 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

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Since 2022, they've performed for more than 200,000 teachers worldwide and sold out more than 200 theaters across 49 states, five countries, and three continents. Their brand new, "Is It Friday Yet?!" Tour starting January 2026, is more than a comedy show, it's the

ultimate night of laughter and solidarity for anyone who's ever worked in education, taught a lesson, or just survived parent-teacher conferences.

Get ready to laugh until you cry as the funniest teacher-comedians in the world share their side-splitting stories, savage truths, and hilarious classroom confessions. Whether you're a teacher, a parent, or just someone who's been in school, this show will have you nodding, clapping, and hollering, "That's SO TRUE!"



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World FACT:

This country
celebrates
Thanksgiving in
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Answer: Canada

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Garnish missing from stuffing 2. Extra slice of turkey 3. Missing knife 4. Pie in place of cranberries

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1833: A massive undersea earthquake rocks Sumatra.

1915: Albert Einstein presents the field equations of general relativity.

1963: The state funeral of John F. Kennedy takes place and the President is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

NEW WORD

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 \$375,000 MLS# 5059752 Laconia: Antique cape with timeless character and modern updates, offering commercial potential, original woodwork, remodeled bath, deck, fenced yard, parking, signage, and barn and near Lakeport.	 \$265,000 MLS# 5069060 Tilton: Beautiful 3-year-old, 3-bedroom, 2-bath Champion Atlantic home in Hunt Brook Estates. Features granite kitchen, central air, new shed, and prime Lakes Region location, close to shopping, dining, and recreation.	 \$529,000 MLS# 5054634 Belmont: Charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath Cape on 1.8 acres featuring master craftsmanship, granite kitchen, glassed-in porch, wide pine floors, built-ins, energy-efficient systems, two-story barn, and an ideal commuter-friendly location.	 \$949,000 MLS# 5065376 Moultonborough: Elegant Lake Winnepesaukee access home in Wildwood featuring lake views, sunsets, open-concept living, multiple decks, walk-out lower level, two-car garage, and exclusive sandy beach, day dock, and courts—refined, turnkey living in a premier low-tax community.
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* Statistics obtained from PrimeMLS for the past 26 years since 1997 for all real estate firms reporting sales in the entire state of NH during that time.

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Local soccer boys earn All-State honors

BY JOSHUA SPAULD-
ING

Sports Editor
REGION — The New Hampshire Soccer Coaches Association has announced the postseason awards for the recently-concluded boys’ soccer season and there were plenty of local athletes on the numerous lists.

In Division III, Second Team honors went to Berlin defender Hudson Goulet, midfielder Boyd Poulin and forward Dillon Boucher and Belmont defender Brock Smith, midfielder Brody Ennis and forward Evan Martinez. Honorable Mention went to White Mountains Regional goalie Landin Foss and forward George Welch, Gilford defender Jevan Beale, midfielder Christen Nunez and forward Owen Wolpin, Prospect Mountain defender Knyte Neathery and forward Wyatt Bubar, Belmont defender Derik Matthews, midfielder Wyatt Carroll and forward Bronson Giles, Newfound midfielder Zach North, Berlin defender Christopher Charron, Winnisquam midfielder Xavier Mondesir and Inter-Lakes forward Landon Richards.

Division III First Team honors went to goalie Grady Burch of Kearsarge, defenders Brady Livas of

St. Thomas, Cooper Russell of Kearsarge, Reed DeWitt of Hopkinton and Zachary Hearne of Fall Mountain, midfielders Fin Murphy of Hopkinton, Bryce Selby of Kearsarge, Andrew Wood of Trinity and Ryan Resch of St. Thomas and forwards Angus Forman and Luke Daly of St. Thomas and Nolan Linstad of Hopkinton.

Also earning Second Team honors were goalie Tyler Charette of Trinity, defenders Jacob Messer of Kearsarge and Connor Cote of Trinity, midfielders Kristof Cauley of Hopkinton and Alex Crowe of Hillsboro-Deering and forward Mouad Yzzgoh of Derryfield.

Honorable Mention was also awarded to goalies Kai Gaspard of Stevens and Henry Thresher of Bishop Brady, defenders Jake Oliviero of Derryfield, Brannon Wieters of Kearsarge, David Cameron of Bishop Brady, Aidan Hemmerling of Mascoma, Luke St. Pierre and Evan Parker of Fall Mountain, Cooper Cunningham of Sanborn, Zephaniah Grandmaison of Somersworth and Evan Clark of Raymond, midfielders Bryce Ballou of Mascoma, Elias Cooper of Kearsarge, Andrew King of Bishop Brady, Aaron. Hughes of St. Thomas, Lennon Doescher

of Fall Mountain, Juan Sandoval of Derryfield and Drey Seppala of Conant and forward Carmine Bactad of Fall Mountain.

In Division IV, First Team honors went to Gorham goalie Mason Roberge, defenders Gabe Roy of Woodsville and Landon Hoyt of Moultonborough, midfielder Ryan Walker of Woodsville and forwards Eli Vasconcelos of Woodsville and Matt Driscoll of Moultonborough. Earning Second Team honors were goalie Caleb Ilsley of Woodsville, defenders Connor Roy of Littleton and Cayden Cloutier of Moultonborough, midfielders Matt Kelley of Moultonborough and Marcus Hampson of Littleton and forward Shawn Walker of Woodsville. Honorable Mention went to defender Max Whitman of Lin-Wood, midfielders Silas Backler of Gorham and Wyatt Weeden of Lin-Wood and forwards Aury Perez of Littleton and Liam Ringelstein of Moultonborough.

Ilsley, Hoyt, Roy, Ryan Walker, Driscoll and Dominic Gherardi of Woodsville were all named All-Tournament Team, Moultonborough’s Eric Porusta was named Division IV Coach of the Year and Craig Langlois of Gorham was named

Division IV JV Coach of the Year.

Also earning First Team honors were defenders Matt Napoletano and Jack McKinney of Newmarket, midfielders Aidan Murphy and Jackson Pelland of Epping and Jonas Blackwood of Concord Christian and forward Blake Snyder of Epping.

Second Team honors also went to defenders Grady Jutras of Hinsdale and Vito Anzalone of Wilton-Lyndeborough, midfielders Brennan Zhe and Kaiden Doucette of Newmarket and forwards Colton Durant of Newmarket and Owen Burrell of Concord Christian.

Honorable Mention was presented to goalies Jackson Malone of Portsmouth Christian, Micah Pouliot of Concord Christian and Wesley Desrosiers of Mascenic, defenders Dylan Smith of Sunapee, Brayden Leland of Portsmouth Christian, Owen Jackson of Holy Family, Kam Duffy of Monadnock and Owen Clark of Pittsfield, midfielders Enzo Yoneku of Holy Family, Tommaso Alborghetti of Wilton-Lyndeborough, Vinny Santamaria of Colebrook, Jackie Prompradit of Newmarket and Hunter Taylor of Hinsdale and forwards Ian Thompson of

Colebrook, Bennett Money of Portsmouth Christian and Vitaliy Cisneros of Holy Family.

In Division II, Kingswood midfielder Brady Moulton and forward Nate Cloos earned First Team honors, Plymouth midfielder Ben Daigneault earned Second Team honors and Kingswood defender Thomas Benker, Kennett defender Yioner Pirona and Plymouth defender Turner Oldenburg and Bobcat midfielder Lucas Van De Moere all earned Honorable Mention.

Joining Moulton and Cloos in earning First Team honors were goalie Adam Correau of Campbell, defenders Amadu Diallo of Pembroke, Nico Bellabona of Oyster River, Ethan Bellino of Campbell and Nehemiah Billings of Lebanon, midfielders Max Scopel of Oyster River, John Constantine of Hollis-Brookline and Brady Marcotte of Campbell and forwards Xander Ahn of Oyster River and Nathan Roche of Campbell.

Earning Second Team honors alongside Daigneault were goalie Anthony Gutwein of ConVal, defenders Charlie Ferland of Lebanon, Ryan Dolder of Bow, Jonas Weed of Merrimack Valley and Ciaran Duffy of Bow,

midfielders Chris Ledger of Hollis-Brookline, Keilan Cox of Oyster River and Max Cail of ConVal and forwards Brady Colgan and Tommy Maskwa of Coe-Brown and Andrew Desmarais of Hollis-Brookline.

Honorable Mention was also presented to goalies Dylan Hawkins of Pembroke, Darian Bachelder of Milford and Ian Sinclair of Hollis-Brookline, defenders Andrew Duclos and Grayson Daly of Souhegan, Tiegan Barb of Milford, Josh Barich of Hollis-Brookline, Espen Anderson of ConVal and Kobe Berton of Pelham, midfielder Milles Saunders of Lebanon, Rutger Gilliland of Merrimack Valley, Rowan Schlosser of Bow, Brody Ricci of Pembroke, Benji Madory of Lebanon, Deems Brant of Oyster River, Clayton Dutile of Laco- nia, Owen Gitchell of John Stark and Oliver Ford of Coe-Brown and forwards Grayson Ahn of Oyster River, Matei Botha of Bow, Sean Murphy of Pembroke, Avery Grolljahn of John Stark, Weston Hickman of Souhegan, Jacob Watts of Pembroke and Milo Cocola of Bow.

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NHTI women’s soccer falls in National Championship game

Belmont’s Darci Stone part of historic season for Lynx

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The NHTI women’s soccer capped off its historic season as national runner-up following a 3-1 loss in the National Championship against top-seeded UC-Clermont, last Monday.

The Cougars started with the majority of possession early, creating the game’s first scoring opportunity when Reece Odrobina fired a shot that was saved by Lynx goalkeeper Hailey Knight. Clermont continued their offensive threats early, earning a corner kick and firing a shot that was stopped by Knight.

Despite the early opportunities, the Lynx struck first when Prospect Mountain graduate Piper Flood found the back of the net in the 19th minute. Late in the half, Clermont added more offensive pressure, earning three corner kicks while adding a trio of shots in a six-minute stretch. The Cougars got their breakthrough in the 41st minute when Kaylee Rose blasted a shot past Knight to even the score at one apiece headed into halftime.

NHTI’s top ranked defense stood tall to open the second half, blocking a pair of shots within the first 10 minutes of the second 45. The Lynx offense had some opportunities of their own, but the Cougars’ goalie Jordan Geis was up to the task, stopping a Flood shot in the 61st minute.

Clermont’s second goal of the game came off a counterattack when Rose drove along the byline and found a cutting Alexis Taylor who scored to give Clermont its first lead of the title match. The Cougars continued to control the pace of play and 15 minutes later, Taylor delivered the knockout blow with her second goal of the game. With the

win Clermont finished as national champions for the third straight season.

“Having so many upperclassmen on the roster really helped us out all year, especially this past weekend,” said head coach Heidi Crockett. “At this same tournament last year, we played nervously. This year we were much more composed, even when things got tough in the third game. To

me, that speaks volumes as to how tight knit of a group this is and how much everyone respected each other. The team chemistry was huge for our success this year and it resulted in them being national finalists.”

The 2025 Lynx are historic, finishing as national runner-up for the first time in program history, while notching 14 wins, second most all-time. The

Lynx also featured four All-Americans and ranked top six for every team statistic, both offensively and defensively, in USCAA Division II.

“It is so surreal,” said Crockett. We had just won our first game at USCAA nationals last year, the jump we made being the number

two seed, going undefeated in pool play without giving up a goal and making the national championship...I am still trying to wrap my head around it. This group is so special, and the best part is that they embrace this. They worked hard to make their success happen, and I love that they will

always be remembered as the team that accomplished this.”

In addition to Flood, former local high school players on the team include Belmont’s Darci Stone, Gilford’s Leah Davignon and Kennett’s Moira Irish. The team is coached by Gilman- ton native Heidi Crockett.

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Winnisquam Regional
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Unique holiday traditions across the globe

The holiday season is a special time of year. Regardless of which holiday people celebrate in December, billions of people across the globe embrace chances to be a little more festive and spend additional time with family and friends over the final month of the year.

Tradition contributes to the special feeling felt in many communities each December. Holiday celebrants who can't get enough seasonal magic can take note of some of the many unique traditions across the globe that help make the month of December such a special time of year.

The Yule Lads, Iceland

In a tradition that might call to mind the seven dwarves who welcomed Snow White into their home in the classic fairy tale, the Yule Lads of Iceland are said to leave a

small gift for children who leave a shoe on their windowsills before going to bed beginning on the night of December 11. The tradition continues through Christmas Day, with each night featuring a visit from a different Yule Lad.

Hiding Brooms, Norway

Norwegian folklore suggested evil spirits and witches awoke on Christmas Eve, and this unique

tradition is rooted in efforts to keep those unwelcome holiday guests grounded and avoid lost brooms. On the night of Julaften (Christmas Eve), Norwegians hide their brooms in closets inside their homes to keep them from being stolen by ill-intentioned witches.

Night of the Radishes, Oaxaca, Mexico

Held annually on December 23, the Night of the Radishes is a local celebration in Oaxaca, Mexico. This unique event celebrates oversized radishes, which certainly merits the celebration's inclusion on any list of unusual holiday season celebrations. The event involves the carving of large radishes into figures, a tradition that began as a way to attract more customers to Oaxaca's Christmas market. A formal radish-carving competition was instituted in the late nineteenth century, and the Night of the Radishes continues to draw visitors today.



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