



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

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

Volleyball Raiders survive scare from Panthers

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

BELMONT — It was a match befitting the final week of the regular season, as the Belmont volleyball team welcomed Moultonborough on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

The Panthers took the first set before the Raiders battled back and won the next two. Moultonborough rallied to win the fourth set to force a fifth and deciding game and the Raiders won the deciding match for the 3-2 win, 22-25, 25-15, 25-13, 20-25, 15-11.

Emma Cahoon and Emma Hovey for the Panthers and Molly O’Connell and Lyla Foley for the Raiders had early hits and Cahoon added a service ace.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Miranda Daley goes up for a hit during her team’s 3-2 win over Moultonborough last Wednesday evening.

Olivia Young had a tip for the Panthers to give them the 5-4 lead but Sadie Sturgeon answered on the other side of the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sadie Sturgeon goes up to the net during action last Wednesday evening against Moultonborough.

net with a pair of hits to send the Raiders back to the lead. Lillian Sheehan had a service ace for the Raiders but Ella Mardis answered with an ace on the other side of the net as the two teams tied at

Young added an ace as Moultonborough edged ahead by a 15-11 score. Anstey had an ace for the Raiders but Emma Hovey came back with a kill for the Panthers. Gabby Murphy got a pair of service aces for the Raiders to cut the lead to one and Foley added a hit at the net. Cahoon had a service ace as the Panthers went up by a 20-17 lead and Sturgeon came back with a hit for the Raiders. Young answered with a hit for Moultonborough before Sturgeon added a service ace. However, the Panthers got a hit from Cahoon and closed out the 25-22 win.

Emma Hovey had an early hit for the Panthers in the second set but Sturgeon answered with a hit and an ace. Murphy and Miranda Daley added kills for the Raiders but Mardis answered with a couple of service aces for Moultonborough, Sheehan had a hit for Belmont and the two teams were tied at 11 when Anstey stepped to

SEE **VOLLEYBALL**, PAGE A11

Winnisquam to host “Who We Play For” heart screenings

Five minutes that could save a life

TILTON — Winnisquam Regional High School will host “Who We Play For” heart screenings on Monday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. The screenings are led by school nurse Breck Spencer and are designed to find life threatening heart conditions before Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) occurs.

SCA is a condition that causes the heartbeat to stop suddenly and without warning. It can happen to children and teens who seem healthy. According to Who We Play For, SCA is the number one cause of death on school campuses and in student athletes. The organization also reports that 80% of youth who experience SCA had no symptoms beforehand, and that 1 in 300 young people has a detectable heart condition. A routine childhood physical or sports physical does not include an EKG.

Each screening is an electrocardiogram (EKG). It is painless and takes about 5 minutes. Every

EKG is read by a pediatric cardiologist.

“Knowing you have a silent but dangerous heart condition allows you to seek care before something like an SCA occurs,” said Spencer. “Until EKGs become part of routine physical examinations, I hope that people can take advantage of these types of events to have one done.”

The screening costs \$20 per student. Scholarships are available for families who need them. To request one, email Nurse Spencer at bspencer@wrsd.sau59.org.

Families can register at whoweplayfor.org/heart-screening-registration. The screening is open to students ages 10 to 25. Community members who would like to bring a child who does not attend WRHS are welcome to contact Nurse Spencer at the email above for more information.

The screenings will be held at Winnisquam Regional High School, 435 West Main St., Tilton.

Tanger Outlets to host Halloween Trick-or-Treat event Oct. 29

TILTON — Tanger Outlets Tilton invites families to celebrate Halloween with an afternoon of Trick-or-Treating on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. Presented by Breezeline, the free, family-friendly event will feature trick-or-treating throughout the center, with participating retailers and restaurants handing out candy to

guests. Children and families are encouraged to dress in their favorite Halloween costumes and enjoy a festive afternoon of fun.

Throughout October, Tanger Tilton is also recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month with its annual TangerPink campaign. Shoppers can make a \$10 donation at Tanger.com to the Breast Cancer

Research Foundation and receive TangerPink savings, including 25 percent off a single item at participating stores. Crocs expands the offer even further, with 25 percent off an entire purchase. Savings are available through Oct. 31, giving guests a chance to shop and save for a cause. For more information, visit tanger.com/pink.

“Britain’s Got Talent” alums Jack & Tim to perform in Franklin



FRANKLIN — The Franklin Opera House is excited to welcome Jack & Tim, four-time nominees for the British Country Music Awards. They captured Simon Cowell’s attention on “Britain’s Got Talent” with a heartfelt performance of their original song, “The Lucky Ones,” earning the coveted Golden Buzzer in 2018.

This talented father-son duo has been touring together ever since, delighting audiences around the world with their strong connection on stage.

Presented by NH Music Collective, this concert features Jack & Tim live! Join them on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Public Library, located at 310 Central St., Franklin.

Jack and Tim continue to create original works that reflect their growth and journey together. Whether recording at Abbey Road, performing at legendary venues like the London Palladium, or embarking on successful tours across Europe, they have garnered millions of streams on platforms such as Spotify, iTunes, and YouTube. Tim

has established a successful career as a songwriter and producer, while Jack started his journey in The West End with Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “School of Rock.”

Seating is limited; advanced purchase is strongly encouraged! Tickets are available at www.fohnh.org: \$25 for adults and \$23 for students and seniors.

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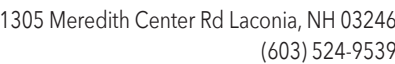
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Powerhouse announces 2027 season!

LACONIA — Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, the resident theatre company of The Colonial Theatre in Laconia, held a season announcement party for participants and supporters. There was much excitement as Powerhouse laid out the plans for its upcoming 2027 Colonial Series, Spark Series and Special Events.

The Colonial Series will kick off in February with a musical revue called *More in Love with Broadway*. This will be a night that features the musical talent of many Power Players and the Power Chords as they perform a night of show tunes about love, perfect for Valentine's Day weekend!

From April 30 to May

2, Powerhouse will bring the hit Broadway musical "The Drowsy Chaperone" to the Colonial stage. This is a musical comedy about a 1920's musical comedy coming to life in a modern-day apartment as a character known only as "Man in the Chair" plays the record of his favorite musical for the audience. In October Powerhouse will be producing the musical *Little Women* based on the classic American novel. This touching and entertaining musical will also have a school matinee performance available to local schools. The Colonial Series finishes as always next December with *A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story*.

Also part of the Colo-

nial Series, Powerhouse takes on its biggest and most expensive musical challenge to date, bringing the Disney classic "Mary Poppins" to the Colonial stage in August. Powerhouse will be hiring ZFX Flying Systems, one of the best theatre flying systems companies in the world, to make Mary, Bert and the Banks children safely fly high above the Colonial stage. The community has a chance to help Powerhouse make this magic happen at the Colonial by supporting its "Make Mary Fly Fund" throughout this holiday season.

The 2027 Spark Series will include a February Break production put on by teens called *Treasure Inland: A Pirate Adventure*

far from the sea, that will perform at area libraries and the Belknap Mill. It will also contain two annual events Powerhouse holds at Prescott Farm - the 2027 New Play Festival in May, and an all-new outdoor theatre adventure in September called "The Wonderful Venture Through Oz." The new play festival will consist of plays written in Powerhouse's 2027 playwriting workshop which is already filling up. The Power Chords will hold its annual Holiday concert in November at the Congregational Church of Laconia and the Taylor Community.

And for the first time since 2023's production of the musical "Quilters," Powerhouse will be per-

forming a full production at the Belknap Mill, Yasmina Reza's Tony-Award winning play, "Art." "Art" will star Powerhouse regulars Christopher Graham, Joel Iwaskiewicz, and making his long-awaited return to a Lakes Region stage, Powerhouse's founder/producer, Bryan Halperin.

Special events in the 2027 season include a new rendition of the naughty Christmas parody Fezziwig's After Dark, Just Duet V - a fundraiser for Powerhouse and the Colonial Theatre Advancement Fund, The 2028 Season Announcement Party, and a new cabaret series called

the Power Surge Cabaret that will perform quarterly at the Taylor Community as well as at other venues around the region.

Those looking to get involved in Powerhouse workshops, productions, or the Power Chords should be able to find all the information at powerhousesenh.org. But there are still plenty of activities left in the 2026 season including the Power Chords Holiday Concert, "A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story," and "Fezziwig's After Dark." Email info@powerhousesenh.org with any questions on how to get involved or support the "Make Mary Fly Fund."

Bat Out of Helloween brings celebration of Meat Loaf and Rocky Horror to the Colonial

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present *Bat Out of Helloween: Celebrating Meat Loaf and Rocky Horror* on Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Bat Out of Helloween is more than a concert - it is a powerful live experience that brings to life the music of Meat Loaf, Rocky Horror and other spooky hits. The show features alumni of Meat Loaf's official band, Neverland Express fronted by Andrew Polec.

Andrew Polec originated the role of Strat in *Bat Out of Hell: The Musical* in London's West End and across international productions earning critical acclaim for his ability to capture the intensity of Jim Steinman's writing. His performance uniquely bridges the theatrical origins of the material with the raw power of a live rock concert, delivering a frontman presence that is both electrifying and deeply authentic.

"The only band endorsed by me and Jim Steinman," Meat Loaf said of this tribute to his musical legacy.

"Do not miss this! This is the closest you could possibly get... This is not a tribute band, but Meat's incredible, actual band and this band rocks!" raves Sir Brian May of Queen.

"Andrew is phenomenal, the definitive embodiment of the rock-and-roll spirit," says Jim Steinman.

About The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays

host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246. www.colonial-laconia.com

About Spectacle Live

Founded in 2012, Spectacle Live offers venue operations, booking, programming, marketing, and production services across New England from offices in Lexington, MA, Lowell, MA, and Laconia, NH. The company partners with over a dozen venues to manage facilities and promote a variety of events, including concerts, comedy, theater, and family entertainment. For more information, contact Pete Lally at plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257. www.spectaclelive.com

251st Marine Corps Birthday luncheon Hosted by Cpl Demers Detachment Marine Corps League



All Marines and family members are invited to a join the Marines Corps League at the Black Bear Grill in Colebrook on Saturday, November 7.



Black Bear Grill 151 Main Street, Colebrook

Cost will be \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. We need an accurate headcount, so if you would like to attend, please call Dave Dubey at (603) 723 - 4193. Signup deadline is October 31. Hope to see you there.

12:00 - Social Hour
1:00 PM - Lunch
2:00 PM - Ceremony



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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.

A small test that could make a lifesaving difference

Parents spend a great deal of time worrying about their children's health and safety. From the moment they are born, there are doctor's appointments, vaccinations, routine checkups and countless reminders about eating properly, exercising and getting enough sleep. As children grow older, those concerns change, but the desire to protect them never does.

Yet some of the most serious health risks are the ones that offer no warning. That is what makes an upcoming heart screening event at Winnisquam Regional High School particularly important. On Monday, Nov. 2, students and young adults will have an opportunity to undergo a simple electrocardiogram, or EKG, designed to identify certain heart conditions that might otherwise go undetected.

The event, organized through Who We Play For and led locally by school nurse Breck Spencer, addresses a frightening reality: Sudden cardiac arrest can strike young people who appear perfectly healthy.

According to Who We Play For, approximately one in 300 young people has a detectable heart condition, and 80 percent of young people who experience sudden cardiac arrest have no symptoms beforehand. Those are sobering figures, particularly for parents who understandably assume that a child who feels fine and passes an annual physical has received a reasonably complete assessment of their health.

The truth is that routine childhood and sports physicals generally do not include an EKG. While those examinations serve important purposes, certain electrical abnormalities of the heart can remain hidden without additional testing.

An EKG is not a guarantee against sudden cardiac arrest, nor can it detect every possible heart problem. An abnormal result may also require additional evaluation before a diagnosis can be made. Nevertheless, screening can provide valuable information that might prompt further medical attention.

What makes the Winnisquam event especially worthwhile is its accessibility. The screening takes approximately five minutes, is painless and costs \$20. Scholarships are available for families who need financial assistance, helping ensure that cost does not become an unnecessary obstacle.

That last detail deserves particular recognition.

Preventive health care is most effective when families can actually obtain it. For many households, even relatively modest expenses can add up quickly, especially when several children are involved. Making financial assistance available demonstrates an understanding that protecting young people should not depend entirely on a family's ability to pay.

There is also something encouraging about seeing a public school serve as a center for preventive health care. Schools are naturally associated with education, athletics and preparing students for adulthood. But they also occupy a unique position in the lives of families, providing opportunities to share information and connect young people with services they might not otherwise seek.

The involvement of a school nurse is particularly appropriate. School nurses are often among the first professionals to recognize health concerns that might interfere with a student's well-being. Their responsibilities extend far beyond treating headaches and scraped knees. They help families navigate medical concerns, manage chronic conditions and recognize when additional care may be necessary.

Spencer's efforts to bring this opportunity to Winnisquam deserve acknowledgment, as does the willingness to welcome eligible young people who do not attend the high school.

The screening also offers parents an opportunity to have an important conversation with their children about heart health. Young people should understand that unexplained fainting, chest discomfort during exercise or a family history of certain heart conditions are matters worth discussing with a medical professional.

Parents should also feel comfortable asking questions about screening recommendations and whether an EKG is appropriate for their child. An informed decision, made with the guidance of a health care professional, is always preferable to either unnecessary fear or misplaced reassurance.

The Winnisquam screening will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the high school, 435 West Main St. in Tilton, for young people ages 10 to 25. Registration is available at whoweplayfor.org/heart-screening-registration. Families seeking scholarships or information about participation by students from outside the school may contact Spencer at bspencer@wrsd.sau59.org.

Five minutes is a remarkably small investment of time. For a family whose child has an undiagnosed heart condition, the information gained could be invaluable.

The opportunity is worth considering, and the effort to make it available locally is worth supporting.



COURTESY PHOTO

Don't miss the Lakes Region Early Holiday Craft Show, Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., held at the Tanger Outlets in Tilton! It will be the biggest craft show ever held at Tanger with 95 amazing exhibitors! Elise will be doing amazing chainsaw wood creations from logs! Some of the arts & crafts will include various styles of jewelry, delicious homemade varieties of fudge, beautiful recycled mittens, wool socks and demonstrations, 3D art, NH maple syrups, welcome signs, baked goods, CBD products, handsome soy candles, sublimation art, goat milk soaps, fused glass art, inlaid wooden cutting boards, home & holiday seasonal decor, local honey, personalized knit hats and lots more! Friendly, leashed dogs welcome! Rain or shine under canopies! Always Free Admission! For more information, call Joyce at (603) 387-1510 or preview online at joycescraftshows.com. Take I-93 Exit 20 in Tilton! Foods! GPS: 120 Laconia Rd., Tilton. See you there!

The things we keep meaning to do

I have reached the conclusion that there are two kinds of things in life. The things we do, and the things we keep meaning to do.

The second category is considerably larger.

Somewhere in our house, there is a mental list of little projects that have been waiting for attention since approximately the invention of electricity. Nothing terribly important, mind you. A picture that ought to be hung, a box that needs sorting, a pile of papers that should have been dealt with before the last presidential administration.

I know these things need doing. My wife knows

they need doing. The dog would probably know, too, if we had one. And yet, there they sit.

The curious thing is that most of these jobs wouldn't take very long. That's what makes the whole business so irritating. I could probably accomplish half of them in a single afternoon if I ever got around to dedicating a single afternoon to accomplishing them.

KIND HEARTS, COLD WINTERS

By CHIPPY

Instead, I spend considerably more time thinking about doing them than it would take to actually do them.

Take the mysterious box of miscellaneous household items that has occupied a corner of our basement for longer than I care to admit. Every so often, I open it. Inside are several unidentified electrical cords, a few screws, some instruction manuals for appliances we no longer own, and a collection of objects whose original purpose

has been lost to history.

I pick up a cord, study it carefully, and wonder what it belongs to. Then I put it back. I repeat this process with several other objects before closing the box and congratulating myself on having made a start. This has been going on for years. I suspect future archaeologists will discover that box and conclude that our civilization worshipped tangled wires.

My wife has suggested, quite reasonably, that we throw the whole thing away. I have explained that one of those cords

SEE CHIPPY, PAGE A5

Matter of Law

The risk of using AI to create your Estate plan



BY ATTORNEY ORA SCHWARTZBERG
PLYMOUTH

Artificial intelligence has quickly become part of everyday life, including in the legal world. Today, a person can type “Create a Will for

me” into an AI chatbot and receive a polished-looking document within seconds. It may use legal terminology. It may appear organized and professional. It may even seem personalized to the user’s situation.

However, estate planning is not simply a matter of filling in blanks or generating documents. It involves thoughtful legal guidance, carefully customized drafting, and state-specific analysis. Most importantly, it requires human judgment.

An AI-generated estate plan may look professional

on the surface, but errors often do not become apparent until it is too late to correct them. In estate planning, those errors are usually discovered by grieving family members after someone has passed away or become incapacitated.

Estate planning frequently involves some of the most personal decisions a person will ever make. You may need to decide whether to distribute assets unequally among children, how to protect a beneficiary who struggles with substance abuse or poor financial judgment,

whether to disinherit someone, or how to balance a surviving spouse’s needs and those of children from a prior relationship. These are not only legal decisions. They are also deeply human decisions.

AI cannot sense potential guilt, grief, anger, or uncertainty, and it cannot counsel you through these emotions. A Will or Trust does not operate in isolation. Any Estate plan must coordinate with how assets are titled and beneficiary designations are structured. Humans are much better at this than AI.



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BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
(508) 764-4325

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
JIM HINCKLEY
(603) 279-4516

MANAGING EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(603) 677-9081
brendan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(603) 677-9092
julie@salmonpress.news

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Red Cross: Blood and platelet donors needed now

CONCORD — The American Red Cross urges people to leave a lasting impact by giving blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types, especially those with type O blood, are needed to keep the blood supply steady ahead of the holiday rush.

As we lean into fall activities, keeping blood and platelet donation appointments on the books is crucial to ensuring hospitals have the tools they need to care for patients this fall. In thanks, all who come to give Oct. 19-Nov. 22, 2026, will get up to \$20 in Gift Cards - that's a \$10 Amazon Gift Card by email and 500 bonus points, which can be redeemed for a \$10 e-gift card through Blood Donor Rewards! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Maze for details.

Get into the spirit of saving lives. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a donation appointment.

Empower your health

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. To help empower and educate our blood donors, in November, successful donations will once again get free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for pre-diabetes and diabetes. (One result per calendar year; do not fast before donating.) For additional information, see RedCrossBlood.org/Maze.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities
Oct. 21 - Nov. 14:

Belknap Gilford
Nov. 5: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Laconia Municipal Airport, 65 Aviation Dr.

Nov. 12: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 18 Wesley Way

Meredith
Oct. 26: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Church Landing at Mill Falls, 281 Daniel Webster Highway

New Hampton
Nov. 2: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Jacobson Arena-Lobby, 37 Husky Dr.

Tilton
Oct. 29: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., NUCAR AutoMall of Tilton, 40 East Main St.

Nov. 7: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tanger Outlet, 120 Laconia Rd.

Carroll Conway
Nov. 6: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Conway NH American Legion Post #46, 47 Tasker Hill Rd.

Nov. 10: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Conway Humane Society, 223 E Main St.

Sandwich
Nov. 14: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sandwich Central School, 28 Squam Lake Rd.

Wolfeboro
Nov. 4: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., The Wolfeboro Inn, 90 N Main Street

Grafton Bristol
Nov. 13: noon to 3 p.m., Newfound Regional High School-Bristol, 150 Newfound Rd.

Lincoln
Oct. 30: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St Joseph Church, 25 Church St.

Littleton
Nov. 2: 10 a.m. - 3

p.m., Littleton Hospital, 580 St Johnsbury Rd.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's

license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at

their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to vic-

tims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojAmerica.org, or follow us on social media.

Lotus Land brings the music of Rush to the Colonial stage

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Lotus Land on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2027, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

With an unparalleled performance, The American Rush Tribute Lotus Land brings the force of live Rush to life on stage. Enjoyed by die-hard Rush fans, musicians, and casual music listeners alike, the Lotus Land experience has been heralded as the ultimate celebration of RUSH's musical craftsmanship and spirited performances.

With the true set up and sound of the Canadian power trio, Lotus Land delivers the thrill that peo-

ple expect when they see RUSH in concert. Their performances have wowed sold-out houses in premiere concert venues and their fan base continues to grow nationally and internationally.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial

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Spectacle Live

Spectacle Live's mission is to create connections that make exceptional live experiences happen. Founded in 2012 and headquartered in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Spectacle Live is a live event and venue management company specializing in performing arts centers

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CHIPPY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

might someday turn out to be important.

She has explained that we haven't needed any of them since the first time I grew suspicious of my knees. We remain at an impasse.

But the household projects are only part of it. There are people I've been meaning to call, books I've been meaning to read, and places I've been meaning to visit. Some of those places are practically around the corner, which makes the procrastination even harder to explain.

Living in New Hampshire, we are surrounded by the sort of scenery people travel hundreds of miles to see. Yet it's remarkably easy to spend an entire weekend doing ordinary chores while promising ourselves we'll take that scenic drive or visit

that little roadside place we've passed a hundred times.

"One of these days," we say.

One of these days is a wonderful expression. It sounds optimistic and purposeful without committing us to anything whatsoever. I've used it for decades. The trouble is that one of these days has a habit of turning into one of these years.

I was reminded of this recently when I came across the name of an old acquaintance I hadn't spoken to in quite some time. We weren't especially close, but we had always enjoyed a good conversation whenever our paths crossed. I found myself thinking that I ought to give him a call. Then I caught myself. There it was again. Another item for the imaginary list.

So I picked up the telephone. We talked for a while about nothing

particularly important. A few familiar names, a little reminiscing, some complaints about how quickly the seasons seem to change. By the time we hung up, I was glad I'd called. And I wondered why I'd waited so long.

I suppose that's the difference between the things we keep meaning to do and the things that actually matter. A box of old cords can wait indefinitely. A crooked picture won't lose any sleep over another year on the floor.

People are different. The older I get, the more I suspect that the best use of an ordinary afternoon isn't necessarily accomplishing every chore on the list. Sometimes it's doing that one small thing we've been putting off because we assume there will always be another opportunity.

Of course, I don't in-

tend to become one of those relentlessly productive fellows who wakes up at five in the morning and attacks a checklist before breakfast.

That sounds exhausting. But I might try crossing a few things off the list while there's still time to enjoy having done them.

As for the basement box, I've decided to deal with it once and for all. I'm going to open it, sort through everything, and throw away whatever we no longer need. Probably next weekend. Or the weekend after that. One of these days, anyway.

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NH Boat Museum offers veterans free admission Nov. 11

MOULTONBOROUGH — The New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will be open on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, with free admission for all who have served in the U.S. military.

“Veterans Day gives us an opportunity to welcome those who have served and thank them personally,” said NHBM Executive Director Devon Kurtz. “We hope veterans will spend some time here, explore the museum, and feel part of the community that is growing around it.”



The Machine brings the music of Pink Floyd to The Colonial Theatre



LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present The Machine Performs Pink Floyd on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show are on now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

The Machine has forged a nearly 40-year reputation of extending the musical legacy of Pink Floyd. The New York-based quartet performs a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive 15-album repertoire, complete with faithful renditions of popular hits as well as obscure gems.

With stellar musicianship and passionate delivery, The Machine explores collective improvisation rivaling that of an early 1970's Pink Floyd, while their use of expanded theatrical elements and elaborate stage displays and lighting continue The Floyd

spirit of the 1980's. The band is also known for recreating entire albums as a part of their show, accepting requests from fans, and for taking an A-Z approach in which one song is played for every letter of the alphabet.

The Machine has sold out theaters, premier showcase rooms and casinos across North America, Europe and Asia, performed at renowned music festivals such as Bonnaroo, Riverbend, and Gathering of the Vibes, and shared the stage with full symphony orchestras, including the Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Charlotte and San Diego Symphonies, as well as the Buffalo Philharmonic.

The band features founding member Tahrah Cohen (drums), longtime bandmates Scott Chasolen (keys,

vocals) and Ryan Ball (guitar, vocals), and newest member Chris DeAngelis (bass, lead vocals). The band continues on to celebrate the music of Pink Floyd and to honor the life of Joe Pascarell, who co-founded the band with Tahrah in 1988.

"They duplicate the sound and hits of Pink Floyd with chilling accuracy, and they play for a hell of a long time," raves Matt Diehl of Rolling Stone.

"These guys are great!" said Bob Ezrin, Co-Producer of Pink Floyd's "The Wall."

"The Machine look nothing like Pink Floyd, but that doesn't matter—they sound exactly like Pink Floyd, and that's what counts," added Matthew Webber of Spin Magazine.

atre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. www.coloniallaconia.com

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www.spectaclelive.com

Give the Gift of Life at Laconia Airport Nov. 5

GILFORD — WinnAero, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the Laconia Airport Authority (LAA) and the Red Cross have joined forces to host a potentially life-saving blood drive at the Laconia Airport from 10 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5.

The event will take place in Hangar #5 on Aviation Drive at the airport, and kicks off a celebration of National Aviation History Month in November. Look for the Red Cross Bloodmobile at the Hangar. New donors, as well as returning blood donors are most welcome to help the Red Cross prepare for this upcoming holiday season by giving the gift of life on Nov. 5. It's easy and only takes minutes to donate. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) with any questions or to schedule your November 5 appointment. Save time with the Red Cross' recommended Advance Reg-

istration at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>.

The Red Cross also offers an expedited donor pre-registration program on-line. Simply visit www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions. Persons with Type O, B negative or A negative blood are especially needed. "WinnAero, the STEM education for youth non-profit, is pleased to team up with CAP, the LAA and the Red Cross to bring this critical event to the Laconia Airport" said Dan Caron, WinnAero Educational Programs Director. WinnAero Board Chairperson, Karen Mitchell added that "we are very pleased to partner with the Red Cross and others in this worthwhile event. We consider our participation an extension of Winnaero's community outreach mission."

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Sanbornton Public Library receives NH Humanities grant for program on National Parks

SANBORNTON — The New Hampshire Humanities program, “Rethinking the U.S. National Parks” will be presented by Dr. Abby Goode on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Sanbornton Public Library and is co-hosted by the Sanbornton Conservation Commission.

As stated by NH Humanities, in the famous words of Wallace Stegner, “national parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” But are National Parks truly “democratic?” Who has access to National Parks and what kinds of fantasies do they serve? This interactive program explores the history of U.S. National Parks—as myths,

symbols of democratic ideals, and colonial spaces—alongside today’s common National Park activities. Why are visitation rates on the rise? What are we seeking at the National Parks? What do our National Park consumption habits tell us about ourselves? How might we revise the preservation tradition that gave birth to the National Parks to include our own neighborhoods and communities? We will consider these questions and others in the national context, but also in light of our own state—home to the White Mountain National Forest, which attracts so many eager visitors every year.

New Hampshire Humanities connects people and ideas by funding and supporting

statewide programs that inspire curiosity, foster civil dialogue, and explore big questions. In the last year, New Hampshire Humanities has made possible 709 free public humanities programs, reaching 15,118 residents in more than 145 communities in partnership with 252 organizations. For more information about New Hampshire Humanities, please visit www.nhhumanities.org.

Sanbornton Public Library is located at 27 Meetinghouse Hill Rd. in Sanbornton, and the program is accessible, free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be offered. Contact the library with any questions at (603) 286-8288 or SPLN-Hcirc@gmail.com.

COURTESY PHOTO
(Right) Dr. Abby Goode



Lineup set for next Songwriter Round-Up at The Loft



MEREDITH — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region is set to deliver another great show at the end of this month. Held in the region’s premier listening room, The Loft, located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. This intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside award-winning performer Katie Dobbins.

The series offers area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the show “magic” that each new lineup creates. Winery co-founder and owner Bob Manley is thrilled to have his establishment be home to the monthly Songwriter Round-Up Series. Remark on the success of the series, Bob reaffirms the valued partnership the Winery has developed with Katie Dobbins Music expressing “Working alongside Katie Dobbins and her Songwriter Round-Up Series has been an absolute delight. Katie brings an engaging presence to the stage, effortlessly connecting with our audiences and showcasing incredible talent with

each performance.”

The next Songwriter Round-Up show takes place on Thursday, Oct. 29, featuring the Lakes Region’s own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers heart-felt lyrics with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies; David Lockwood, a masterful songwriter, pianist, and entertainer from New Hampshire who’s many musical credentials include 35 years as music director for Holderness School; and Frank Critelli, a folk singer-songwriter from Connecticut with a lyrical approach that hints at a modern-day Bob Dylan and has extensive experience performing through the Northeast. All of these artists bring

their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This is sure to be an evening of great original music and dynamic entertainment that you won’t want to miss. Learn more about each of these artists on the Hermit Woods Winery Web site.

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

Learn to make silver stacking rings with small gemstones with Joy Raskin

MEREDITH — Join us at the Meredith Fine Craft Gallery on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for a Silver Stacking Rings with Small Gemstones Class with juried artist Joy Raskin.

In this one-day workshop, New Hampshire Jeweler Joy Raskin will guide students through making several assorted sterling rings. Students will solder on tiny silver bezel cups, polish rings and set small round gemstones. Whether you decide to make a set of stacking rings for yourself or as a hand-made gift, everyone will walk out of the workshop with a piece of art to be proud of. All materials will be provided, though students may bring their own gemstones or silver to use.

Tuition is \$75 per student. Materials fee is between \$20-\$80 depending on the stones and amount of silver the student uses. The materials fee will be paid cash or check to the instructor on the day of class.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Those who wish to take the class must sign up by Wednesday, Oct. 28.

To register for this



workshop, call the Meredith Fine Craft Gallery at (603) 279-7920 or visit the Gallery at 279 Daniel Webster Highway in Meredith.

For more details, visit our Web site at <http://meredith.nhcrafts.org/classes/> and our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/nhcraft/>.

The Meredith Fine Craft Gallery is located at 279 DW Highway, Meredith, and is dedicated to the education and support of NH’s fine craft tradition since 1932.

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Guest vocalist Catherine Martinez joins LRSO for holiday Pops concert

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra Presents Holiday Pops! with Guest Artist Catherine Martinez on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Put on your favorite Christmas sweater, gather your loved ones, and come experience the wonder and joy of the season with Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra and special guest vocalist Catherine Martinez.

Located in beautiful Meredith New Hampshire, the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides the best classical music performances for central New Hampshire



Catherine Martinez

COURTESY PHOTO

including the sounds of Broadway, movies, and orchestral Pops classics.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

The original owner, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246. www.coloniallaconia.com

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Spectacle Live

NHEX explores the human side of business efficiency

REGION — As insurance applications and enrollments move online, Amanda Lapar is helping her agency rethink how it works. She also values the personal relationships that help clients make sense of complicated choices.

“It’s nice to be able to be in person with them and create relationships,” said Lapar, a consultant at Doran Independent Insurance.

As a member of the New Hampshire Entrepreneurship Exchange (NHEX), Lapar brings that experience to conversations with other young professionals who are improving systems in their own businesses. By sharing what works at Doran, she supports fellow members while learning from the changes they are making.

Together, those discussions raise a practical question. As technology changes daily work, how can better systems support better service?

For Lapar, who has worked at Doran for four years, improving efficiency includes examining how the agency uses its software and what other tools might help. As more applications and enrollments become electronic, she and her colleagues are asking practical questions about the systems they use.

“How are we benefiting from this?” she said. “Should we be getting this to be more efficient?”

Those questions have relevance beyond insurance. NHEX members include professionals updating systems within established companies and owners developing processes for newer businesses. Founded in 2025, NHEX brings together young professionals from different industries to share knowledge, solve business problems, and build careers in the Lakes Region.

Their conversations create an opportunity to examine a change before making it and learn from someone who has already worked through a similar problem. For NHEX co-founder Ethan Keslar, the value comes from connecting those decisions to a clear purpose.

“A useful conversation about efficiency starts with what you are trying to improve,” he said. “Is the process easier for your staff? Is the experience clearer for your customer? Those questions help us think beyond simply adding another tool.”

In Lapar’s work, that customer experience depends on understanding individual needs. She helps people compare health insurance options, with much of her

work focused on Medicare. Knowing the plans is one part of the job. Helping someone understand which option fits their circumstances requires conversation.

“Everybody’s health insurance needs are different,” she said.

Clients may need help understanding benefits or comparing options they did not know were available. Lapar sees the consultant relationship as a way to make that complexity manageable.

“They don’t need to understand it 100 percent, because that’s why they have us,” she said.

Her experience helps NHEX members consider both the systems behind a service and the people using it. Although she does not own the agency, she brings knowledge of how its processes function in daily work.

“When someone is starting from scratch with their systems, we can share what we already have in place and what we’ve learned,” she said.

For Keslar, those observations are an important source of ideas for improving a business.

“Young professionals often see opportunities to improve systems because they work with them every day,” he said. “NHEX gives them a place to test those ideas with people who understand different parts of running a business.”

That exchange allows members to bring a specific challenge to the group, draw on experience from other industries, and consider what might work in their own setting.

“We’re bouncing ideas off of each other and kind of working to help each other grow,” Lapar added.

NHEX invites interested professionals to attend a session to experience the collaborative environment firsthand. For more information, visit nhex603.com or contact Ethan Keslar at ethan@keslarinsurance.com.

during the fall, winter, and spring. Under the baton of Conductor and Music Director Benjamin Greene, LRSO performs a variety of music ranging from the classics of Beethoven and Mozart to popular music

NHEX explores the human side of business efficiency

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Young & Strange on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2027, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Direct from London’s West End and fresh from their appearances in the Live Finals of “America’s Got Talent” 2026, England’s most famous comedy illusionists Young & Strange present “DELUSIONISTS” — a spectacular new magic show packed with breathtaking illusions and hilarious comedy.

Suitable for the entire family this fast-paced, high-energy interactive show brings some of the biggest and most astonishing illusions in magic to the stage, combined with the unmistakable comedy that has made Young & Strange an audience favourite around the world.

“DELUSIONISTS” is an unforgettable experience that will leave you laughing, gasping and asking one very simple question:

How did they do that?!

“Young & Strange are

stand-out stars,” raves The London Evening Standard.

“Young & Strange triumph,” wrote The London Times.

The Colonial Theatre of Laconia

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Skechers expands, relocates at Tanger Outlets

TILTON — Tanger Outlets Tilton continues to evolve its retail lineup with the expansion and relocation of Skechers, now open in a larger space at the center, along with plans for Old Navy to relocate to a new storefront.

Skechers recently opened its expanded 5,800-square-foot store in Suite 210, next to Bath & Body Works. The relocation expands the brand’s presence at Tanger Tilton from its previous 3,350-square-foot space, giving shoppers more room to explore Skechers’ popular selection of footwear and accessories for men, women and children.

Shoppers can also look forward to a future relocation of Old Navy within the center, featuring an updated format and fresh new store design.

“These moves reflect our continued focus on creating a strong, relevant retail mix and evolving the center to

best serve our shoppers and brand partners,” said Eric Proulx, Tanger Tilton General Manager. “We’re excited to see Skechers grow at Tanger Tilton and look forward to sharing more about Old Navy’s next chapter at the center as plans progress.”

Also joining the center’s retail lineup is The Blossom Shop, a locally rooted florist and gift boutique that has served Franklin, New Hampshire, and surrounding communities for more than 65 years. Set to open this November, the new 2,532-square-foot store will be located next to Jockey and offer a selection of fresh flowers, plants, locally crafted pottery, Van Otis chocolates and thoughtfully curated gifts for every occasion.

The store opening and relocations are part of Tanger Tilton’s broader strategy to refresh its retail mix for guests. Building on the opening of Crocs earlier

this year, these updates reflect the center’s continued commitment to bringing fresh brands and experiences to the Lakes Region, strengthening its longstanding role as a premier shopping destination for the surrounding communities.

About Tanger Tilton

Tanger Tilton is Lakes Region’s upscale, open-air outlet shopping destination, featuring an extensive collection of top brands and local shops. The 250,000-square-foot center features more than 50 premier

stores and eateries, including shopper-favorite brands like American Eagle, Bath & Body Works, Coach, Kate Spade New York, Old Navy, Gap and Under Armour. For a full store listing and map, as well as directions, events and offers, visit tanger.

com/tilton, download the Tanger App or connect on Facebook and Instagram. Guests can also access the ultimate shopping experience by joining TangerClub, Tanger’s exclusive loyalty program, for curated offers and rewards.

Start the new year off with a laugh at the Colonial Theatre

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Juston McKinney – 2026 Comedy Year in Review on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale NOW at ColonialLaconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

End the year with laughter as New Hampshire’s own comedian, Juston McKinney, brings his annual must see show to Nashua to review the past year, 2026!

McKinney has multiple appearances on the Tonight Show, Conan O’Brien and one-hour specials on Comedy Central. He also has two one-hour specials on Amazon Prime and his latest special “On the Bright Side” you can see for FREE on this YouTube channel. Throw in some appearances at the TD Garden for Comics Come Home, a Showtime special with Rob Gronkowski, and you can see why NH Magazine named him “Best of New Hampshire” and the New York Times called him “Destined for stardom.” Have the last laugh of 2026 with Juston as he uses multimedia to dish on his New England life and looks back at the year that was.

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BY MARTHA SWATS
Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

An upcoming appointment. An unexpected bill. A concern about a loved one. Everyone worries from time to time. But when worry becomes difficult to control, interrupts sleep or keeps someone from enjoying everyday life, it deserves attention.

For older adults, anxiety can be overlooked or dismissed as simply being cautious or “always having been a worrier.” Persistent anxiety should not be brushed aside. Effective treatments are available, and seeking help can improve daily life at any age.

Later life can bring changes that feel uncertain: health concerns, the loss of a spouse, changes in mobility or worries about remaining independent. Some people have experienced anxiety for years, while others notice it during a new chapter of life. Medical conditions, certain medications and substances such as caffeine or alcohol can also contribute to symptoms.

Anxiety does not always announce itself as worry. Someone may describe tense muscles, an unsettled stomach, trouble sleeping or difficulty concentrating. They may seem restless or irritable. Anxiety disorders can involve persistent everyday worries, intense fears of particular situations or recurring panic attacks. A healthcare professional can help identify what is happening.

Family members may notice changes before

their loved one mentions a concern. Perhaps someone begins declining social invitations, repeatedly worries about an upcoming appointment or avoids activities they previously enjoyed. These changes are reasons to start a conversation, rather than assume a diagnosis.

A helpful opening might be, “I’ve noticed you seem worried lately. What has been on your mind?”

Give the person time to answer. Saying “Don’t worry about it” may be well intended, but listening can reveal what kind of help they actually need. A concern about getting to an appointment, for example, may lead to a practical conversation about transportation.

When anxiety persists or interferes with daily life, encourage a visit with a healthcare provider. An evaluation can help determine whether symptoms relate to anxiety, a physical condition, medication effects or a combination of factors. New chest pain or severe breathing difficulty should receive urgent medical attention rather than be assumed to be anxiety.

Treatment may include talk therapy, medication or both, depending on the person’s needs. Cognitive behavioral therapy helps people develop different ways of responding to anxious thoughts and situations. A provider should consider the per-

son’s overall health and other medications when recommending treatment. Healthy sleep habits, appropriate physical activity and reducing caffeine may also support care.

Families can offer practical encouragement along the way. Help write down questions before an appointment, offer a ride or invite your loved one to choose a manageable activity together. Keep them involved in decisions about their day and the support they receive.

At Comfort Keepers, we understand that feeling comfortable with help starts with being heard. One person may feel uncertain about going out alone. Another may feel overwhelmed by household tasks or uneasy about welcoming a caregiver into the home.

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About Comfort Keepers

Comfort Keepers is a trusted provider of medical and non-medical in-home care, helping seniors and adults live safely, independently, and with dignity. Our comprehensive services include companionship, transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, mobility assistance, private duty nursing, Live in and 24/7 caregiving. We also offer Comfort360™ Alert, part of our innovative Comfort360™ suite, delivering 24/7 response, proactive support, and added peace of mind for clients and families. Proudly serving New Hampshire since 2005, Comfort Keepers is committed to elevating the human spirit through compassion, personalized care. To learn more, call 603-536-6060 or visit NHComfortKeepers.com.

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All-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland tour stops in Laconia Nov. 22

LACONIA — TCG Entertainment, the leading producer of live entertainment, announces its all-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland tour across the U.S. and Canada. A must-see holiday event and beloved tradition for families everywhere, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland visits the Colonial Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 22. Tickets are on sale now at www.CirqueMusica.com. <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/39284770/cirque-musica-holiday-wonderland-laconia-colonial-theatre>

This holiday season, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland 2026 invites audiences into a luminous world where time bends and wonder takes over. When our heroes are swept into an enchanting winter realm, they begin to rediscover something unexpected—the magic, curiosity and joy they thought they had outgrown.

Reimagined for 2026, this all-new production features your favorite holiday music and a bold lineup of breathtaking cirque acts. From gravity-defying aerialists to edge-of-your-seat acrobatics, each moment is crafted to feel more dreamlike and emotionally resonant than ever before. It's a fresh take on a beloved tradition and unlike anything



audiences have seen from Cirque Musica in its 17-year history.

Touring cities across North America, the production brings together elite performers from around the globe to create a visually stunning and musically rich holiday experience for audiences of all ages. In select markets, guests can enhance their visit with a VIP experience, offering exclusive be-

hind-the-scenes access, cast meet-and-greets and interactive photo opportunities.

"We wanted this year's production to feel transpor-tive in a completely new way—something that doesn't just celebrate the holidays but makes audiences feel like they've stepped inside them," said Stephen Cook, President of TCG Entertainment and Producer of Cirque Musica.

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland is an unforgettable experience for the entire family to enjoy – a world-class circus experience infused with the holiday classics we all love. Experience the magic live at the Colonial Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 22—and step into a holiday world you won't want to leave. For more information on ticketing, visit www.CirqueMusica.com.

ca.com.

About Cirque Musica

Cirque Musica is one of the top cirque-style shows in the industry. Since its inception in 2010, the world-renowned cast has performed feats of grace, skill, and strength to audience members worldwide. The visually stunning masterpiece of artistic interpretations combines mesmerizing ac-

robats, aerialists and dare-devil athleticism with the greatest music of all time. Current and past productions include Cirque Musica Symphonic, Cirque Musica Querida-The Official Celebration of Juan Grabiél, Heroes and Villains, and more. Cirque Musica shows are ground-breaking productions guaranteed to thrill and captivate audiences of all ages. For more information visit, www.CirqueMusica.com

About TCG Entertainment

TCG Entertainment is a leading producer of creative content for live entertainment properties and touring productions. Owning multiple intellectual properties, and partnering with top IP holders and studios, TCG has generated decades worth of live family fun and entertainment. With a laundry list of productions enjoyed by millions of audience members around the globe, TCG is the leading authority in providing brands a visionary, one-stop source for live touring and experiences. Current and past productions include DC Films in Concert, multiple productions of Cirque Musica, MasterChef Live, Rocky in Concert, A Night of Symphonic Rock, and more. www.TCGent.com





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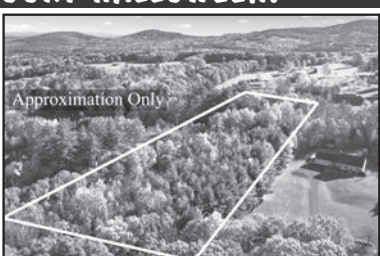
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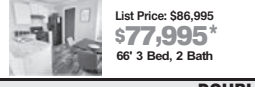
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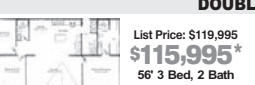
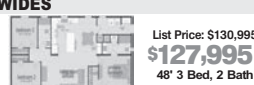
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Colonial to host Irish Winter Solstice celebration

LACONIA — The Colonial Theatre of Laconia will present Lunasa: Irish Winter Solstice Celebration on Friday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the show are on sale now at Colonial-Laconia.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, Lúnasa was formed in 1997 from members of some of the greatest Irish groups of the previous decade, an early review from Folk

Roots magazine describing the band as an “Irish music dream team.” From the start, the band’s complex arrangements and unique sound reshaped the boundaries of traditional music and energized audiences the world over. Critical acclaim followed, The Irish Echo describing the band as the “the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet”; MOJO magazine named the band “the new gods of Irish music,” adding that “nobody since the Bothies has wield-

ed such a thrilling rhythmic underlay.” Billboard raved that “anybody who listens can’t help but find them contagious.”

The original owner of the Colonial Theatre, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic De-

velopment Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse

Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. www.colonial-laconia.com

Founded in 2012, Spectacle Live offers venue operations, booking, programming, marketing, and production services across New England from offices in Lexington, Mass., Low-

ell, Mass., and Laconia. The company partners with over a dozen venues to manage facilities and promote a variety of events, including concerts, comedy, theater, and family entertainment. For more information, contact Pete Lally at plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257. www.spectaclelive.com

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

the service line.

She promptly rattled off 13 points in a row to get the Raiders out to a 24-12 lead. The run included five aces from Anstey and hits from Sheehan and Sturgeon. Emma Hovey added a block on the other side of the net and Emma Jameson had a pair of service aces as the Panthers cut into the lead, but the Raiders closed out the 25-15 win to pull even at one apiece.

A couple of hits from Sturgeon and one from Cora Takantjas along with two service aces from Sheehan got the Raiders out to a 6-0 lead. Takantjas added another hit, as did Anstey as the Raiders upped the lead to 13-4. Young answered with a hit and Hope Hovey had a block but Daley answered with a hit and O’Connell had a service ace.

Sturgeon added a couple of hits and Anstey added a service ace as the Raiders opened up the 21-8 lead. Lily Sousa answered with two service aces for the Panthers but a hit from O’Connell and an ace from Sturgeon closed out the 25-13 win for Belmont.

Sheehan had an ace to start the third set for Belmont but Emma Hovey answered with the same from the other side of the net. Anstey added another hit and Rowan Sottak put down a service ace for the Raiders. Young had a hit for the Panthers but Anstey and Sturgeon answered to keep the Raiders in the lead by an 11-10 score.

A hit from Hope Hovey tied the set at 11 but Belmont got a hit from Sturgeon to put them back in the lead. Sheehan added a couple of service aces as Belmont got out to a 17-12 lead and after a Isabella Russell hit, the Raiders led 18-13. Emma Hovey got a service ace to help lead the Panthers back to tie the match at 18 and then again at 19. Young had a hit to tie things up at 20 and then Mardis had an ace as the Panthers took the 23-20

lead. Young finished out the 25-20 win with a hit and the teams went to the fifth and deciding set.

The two teams went back and forth to start the fifth set, tied at one and two before a hit from Murphy helped push Belmont up by a 4-2 score. An Emma Hovey hit allowed the Panthers to pull even but Anstey followed with a hit for the hosts and they opened the lead up to 10-4. Young helped bring the Panthers back with a hit, cutting the lead to 10-7 but Anstey added another hit and O’Connell had a service ace for the Raiders. Young had a service ace

for Moultonborough and Mardis and Hope Hovey combined on a key point while Sousa added an ace, bringing the Panthers to within 14-11, but the Raiders were able to close out the 15-11 win for the 3-2 victory.

The Division III volleyball tournament starts today, Oct. 29, and continues Saturday, Oct. 31, both at the home of the higher seed. The semifinals are Thursday, Nov. 5, at Oyster River High School in Durham.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Don't miss the Lakes Region Early Holiday Craft Show, Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., held at the Tanger Outlets in Tilton! It will be the biggest craft show ever held at Tanger with 95 amazing exhibitors! Elise will be doing amazing chainsaw wood creations from logs! Some of the arts & crafts will include various styles of jewelry, delicious homemade varieties of fudge, beautiful recycled mittens, wool socks and demonstrations, 3D art, NH maple syrups, welcome signs, baked goods, CBD products, handsome soy candles, sublimation art, goat milk soaps, fused glass art, inlaid wooden cutting boards, home & holiday seasonal decor, local honey, personalized knit hats and lots more! Friendly, leashed dogs welcome! Rain or shine under canopies! Always Free Admission! For more information, call Joyce at (603) 387-1510 or preview online at joycescraftshows.com. Take I-93 Exit 20 in Tilton! Foods! GPS: 120 Laconia Rd., Tilton. See you there!

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The goal: A pool for the Lakes Region

Local residents form non-profit group to explore options

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — If you want to swim in the Lakes Region in the summer, there are countless locations amidst the myriad of lakes that dot the area.

But, if you want to swim in the Lakes Region in the winter, you might just be out of luck.

A group of local residents is getting the process started in possibly changing that, exploring opportunities to build a full-sized pool in the Lakes Region.

For years, there was a full-sized pool, which is 25 yards in length, in Laconia. It was originally the YMCA and later became the Laconia Athletic and Swim Club and after that, the Wellness Complex. However, a fire at the building in November of 2024 has left the pool unusable and the ripple effect has been felt throughout



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The former Wellness Complex in Laconia was ravaged by a fire in 2024, eliminating the lone full-sized pool in the Lakes Region. A local committee, Aquatic Center for the Lakes Region, has begun meeting to look into the possibility of building a new facility for residents to utilize.

the local communities.

“There was a ton of stuff that used the pool,” said local swim coach Dave Gingrich, who coaches with both the Lakes Region Wave-

makers and the Gilford High School swim team. “Back in the day it was a hopping place.”

Gingrich is part of a group of local residents that have formed the ACLR, Aquatic Center for the Lakes Region, which has a goal of building a pool in the region for use by the public. Though the group is relatively new, starting in June of this year, they have been meeting regularly and have made progress toward their goal.

One of the first steps was the apply for state approval as a non-profit organization, which the group did and now the group is working toward acquiring a federal non-profit status, which would make it a 501c3.

“That’s when donations become tax-deductible,” Gingrich

explained, noting the federal process is a bit longer than the state process that the group has already gone through.

“It appears like they’re not going to rebuild (at the current site), so it’s unlikely that a pool will go there,” Gingrich said. “So a big part of it is finding a location since it is unlikely that a community is going to build something on its own.”

He pointed toward a recent proposal that went before Moultonborough voters that would have created a community center that included a full-sized pool, a proposal that was rejected by voters in that town.

“We’ll have to raise the money and come up with a location,” Gingrich noted. “It probably

won’t be overnight.

“It would be nice if something just opened up, but that’s probably not going to happen,” he added. The local swim teams have to travel 45 minutes to an hour to use a pool that fits the needs, with the Wavemakers going to Plymouth State University and the Gilford swim team, among others, traveling to Concord. Gingrich himself drives to Colby-Sawyer College in New London to swim.

The committee has taken the time to research, visit and meet with officials from numerous pool facilities in Vermont and New Hampshire with hopes of getting a good idea as to exactly what is needed to make their vision a reality.

While a pool would be helpful and appreciated by local swim teams, it also offers a lot more opportunities for the community. The one in Laconia was used for swim lessons for all ages, water aerobics and exercise classes, water rescue training, pool parties, Marine Patrol training, injury rehabilitation, triathlon training, military qualification training, safety training for lifeguards and other officials, SCUBA classes, open pool time and even underwater movie

making.

The vision for the ACLR is to provide an aquatic, fitness and recreational venue that fosters a healthy, safe and connected Lakes Region. The group’s mission is to provide swimming, water safety education, fitness programs, recreational opportunities and lifelong learning experiences, creating a welcoming environment where individuals and families of all ages and abilities can grow, thrive and build meaningful connections.

“For all these activities, you can’t really use the lake, especially in winter,” Gingrich noted.

The group has set up a basic web site, aclakes.org, where those interested can reach out to get more information or get involved and Gingrich urged anyone who might have an interest in the project to reach out via the contact form on the web site.

Visit aclakes.org for more information on the project and how to reach out and become involved in the quest to build a pool in the Lakes Region.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Olivia McComiskey and Gio Natel are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their daughter, Aria. Aria was born Oct. 18 at Concord Hospital. She weighed six pounds, five ounces, and measured 20.5 inches.

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