



LOCAL NEWS

Grafton 2 Candidates Lay Out Positions

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Campaign Kerfuffle.

Tucker Says Mystery Signs Spread Misinformation On Her Tax Position.

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Senate-1 Candidate Says Misinformation Swirling On Her Tax Position

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

BETHLEHEM — The first joint candidates night for the towns of Franconia and Bethlehem, held at Profile School on Tuesday, drew candidates for the Grafton County Commission, Grafton-1 House district, and Senate-1 district.

Seeking the Senate-1 seat, which represents all of Coos County and towns in northern Grafton County, are Republican Carrie Gendreau, a five-year Littleton Select Board member, and Edith Tucker, a three-term Democratic state representative from Randolph.

Each candidate was given three minutes to introduce themselves and talk about their experience and why they're running.

Tucker used that time to dispel what she said is misinformation on signs posted across the Senate-1 district that claims she supports an income and tax and sales tax.

"I wanted to start tonight by bringing up what's most on my mind," said Tucker. "I put an ad out more than two years ago. It said 'Edith has taken the pledge, no income or sales tax for her.'"

But all over the North, from Berlin to Littleton to other towns, are signs that were put up stating she has charged an income tax or a sales tax, said Tucker.

"I have never, never charged a sales tax," she said. "I have not had any kind of income tax. That is just plain wrong."

The source of the signs appears to be some Republicans who believe that the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Act, a voluntary program that allows eligible employees to take job-protected leave for a specific medical reason for themselves or their families, constitutes an income tax, said Tucker.

"It's not an income tax," she said. "It is a tax that is taken for a particular purpose from your paycheck. It is not an income tax, it is not a sales tax ... It makes me very unhappy that this is being said. This is not true ... I'm not going to continue with this introduction, I'm going to move on to other topics, but I want this to be said right out."

Most of the residents in attendance applauded Tucker's comments.

Candidates night moderator Jim Walker, of Franconia, who received a list of questions from residents beforehand, asked Gendreau to address allegations that the tax was labeled by some as an income tax as well as address the signs that were put up stating Tucker voted for an income tax.

"Can you address if that's true, not true?" he asked.

"First of all, I didn't put signs up," said Gendreau, who noted that she received a telephone call about the situation on Monday.

She also said she was accused of stealing Tucker's signs.

"I would never do that," said Gendreau. "And I know that Edith has a heart for the North Country and I know that she loves the people here and wants the best for the people. I can't speak to what's true, what's not true."

Tucker said she has said her piece and wants to move on.

Sullivan, Qi Face Off In Grafton-2 House Race

Two candidates from Bethlehem are running for the newly remapped one-seat Grafton-2 House of Representatives district, which encompasses the towns of Bethlehem and Franconia.

Cathy Qi, a Republican, has been a full-time Bethlehem resident since 2019 and ran for the Select Board in March 2022.

Jared Sullivan, a Democrat, has been a full-time resident since 2020, after buying a home in the town in 2016.

Describe your background, occupation and education, and any previous elected office held?

Qi: My latest degree is a master's in marketing from Drexel University in Philadelphia. However, I have learned about how the world works and people think from my two decades working in the freight forwarding industry. After living in Bethlehem for over three years I believe I can help make a positive change for our community and state by running for my second elected office. If elected, it will be my first held office.

Sullivan: I went through a master's program in economics and worked in commercial real estate my entire career and now work for myself as a consultant. This is my first time running for office. As a real estate economist, I've always had to pay attention to politics because they're intertwined, and I decided to jump into it this year.

Why are you running for the New Hampshire House and what makes you the best candidate?

Qi: My passion is to care for the residents in the district by being their voice in Concord. My two-plus decades of business experience will contribute to developing programs to assist small business promotion. My grassroots view of how the world works enables me to make practical decisions about the legislation that will come before me. This passion, practicality and business experience make me the best candidate to represent the residents in the area.

Sullivan: My motivation to run for office is basically because I became frustrated with the state of things across the country, certainly nationally, but even at the state level in the last few years. It's not even so much about policy — yes, policy matters and getting it wrong can impact people's lives and getting it right can impact people's lives — but the thing that really got to me is the discourse, the state of our country and the lack of faith in the political process. If we can't get this right, we can't get anything right. I figured you have to have people who are honest and open-minded and not talk past each other, and rather than complain, this is my chance to try to do my part and win this election and go to Concord and try to have discussions with people and learn about where they're coming from and try to show respect and hopefully provide the electorate with faith that we can get things done and solve problems.

One of the biggest problems in the North Country is the lack of housing, and as a real estate economist, that will allow me to bring a unique and deeper understanding to the problem.

If elected, what will be your top priorities?

Qi: When elected, my business experience will help me identify some of the deficiencies state regulations impose on New Hampshire businesses and taxpayers. A top priority of mine is to make sure the state meets its obligations by ensuring help gets to those in need in a timely manner whether it's an individual or a business. At the same time, I will look for ways to make our government more efficient.

Sullivan: The motivation to run is to help contribute to the cooling down of the political dysfunction. Housing would be the issue I'd want to do the most on. I also care deeply about the environment and will look to understand how we can improve that. New Hampshire doesn't have a plan on how to deal with global warming and I would love to see something on that. Education is driving

the increase in property taxes and I think a more equitable way of funding education would be great.

Do you have any pieces of proposed legislation you intend to sponsor?

Qi: a. Senior residents with fixed incomes should be considered to get additional deductions from their property tax depending on need.

b. Parents should be involved in their children's education. Parents have right to know what their children are taught in the school. Schools should focus on the basics like reading, math, science, and history. History courses should include how and why our country developed as it did and should include the good, bad, and ugly events.

Sullivan: I would love to reform the redistricting process to get rid of gerrymandering. The real reforms need to come from things like an anti-gerrymandering bill, independent redistricting, and ranked-choice voting. That is how we get the structural reforms to help make the political process more trustworthy. I would love to see funding at the state level to address housing and more funding to get more people into the trades. That would help to increase the supply of workers to build housing and reduce the cost of building housing.

As a local resident, do you support or oppose a commercial landfill in Dalton or anywhere in the North Country? Each candidate was also asked specifically how they would have voted on House Bill 1454, the groundwater bill that sought to establish a distance for which a new landfill can be sited from a river, lake, or other surface water based on the speed of the groundwater, and how they would vote on the bill when it returns for the 2023 legislative session.

Qi: I believe landfill issues should be decided by local people who understand how the landfill will affect their community. Bethlehem had already voted prior to my move here. I will respect their decision.

Sullivan: I would have voted for that. The reason is I'm not opposed to landfills and we need landfills, but it makes sense to me that you would acknowledge that some areas you might not want to site a landfill because of the way the water is. They had a good map there [at the proposed Dalton site] and I could trust that science. I would say landfills are reliable, I wouldn't say they're fail-proof. To the extent that something could fail, it would be good to not have the leakage move fast. It's a sensible bill with good scientific methods that puts things in a spot where if the liner fails or clay dam fails and some of that leachate gets into the groundwater, it's not moving so fast where it contaminates a large area before you have to clean it up. To me, that makes a lot of sense.

On the issue of guns, do you support or oppose red flag laws, banning or restricting assault rifles, a minimum age limit to purchase all or certain types of firearms, or universal background checks?

Qi: I would oppose all of the above restrictions as they violate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Sullivan: I wish I could wave a magic wand and move it to the D.C. level, but that's not going to happen. It doesn't matter what New Hampshire does because someone can drive to the next state over. That said, my view in general on guns is we need to acknowledge there is an issue because we see shootings at a level that no other industrialized country has. So start there and say there seems to be a problem and let's look at regulations that will actually work. To me, waiting periods on buying a gun, not just one day, would be a good one. Let's close any loopholes for mental health issues. I grew up around guns and I'm not a ban-gun type of person and my dad is very pro-gun and has always supported background checks. I think universal background checks make a lot of sense.

See **Grafton 2**, Page 11

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Obituaries

Frank Bradford Tillotson Jr.

Frank Bradford Tillotson Jr., 63, passed away peacefully at his home in Dalton, N.H., on Friday, Oct. 28.

He was born in Lancaster, the son of Frank and Alice (Gould) Tillotson Sr. He was a graduate of Littleton High School, Class of 1977. He was a member of the cross-country team and LHS band. He worked at Pizza Hut. He had a radio show on the North Country Community radio called Nocturnal Caravan where he was known as "Bear on the Air."

He enjoyed playing music from the Grateful Dead and once showed up at his niece's 7th birthday party dressed as a bear. She had the biggest smile when she saw him. Frank took pleasure in kayaking, playing his guitar, music, fishing and especially finding a quiet place to read or create pictures on his etch a sketch. He loved many pets in his life includ-



ing China & Gretta the beagles and Pete & Emma the chihuahuas.

One of Frank's famous quotes was "If you are confused, listen to the music play" - Franklin's Tower, the Grateful Dead.

He was predeceased by his grandmother Hazel Tillotson Lewis.

Frank is survived by his parents Frank and Alice, Dalton, a sister Robin and husband Everett Derrington, Littleton, a niece Lisa and husband Jon Fraser, Mason, Mich., former wife Regina Radice Lalumiere, and several cousins.

Visiting hours will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 4-6 p.m., at the Ross Funeral Home, Littleton. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m., at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Littleton, with Father Ryan Amazeen officiating. Burial will follow at the Cushman Cemetery, Dalton, N.H. Donations in Frank's memory may be made to Riverside Rescue, 236 Riverside Ave., Lunenburg, VT, 05906.

To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com

Maureen H. (Morin) Philbin

Maureen H. (Morin) Philbin of Attleboro, MA passed away on the evening of October 24, 2022 at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Philbin was 83 years old. She was the wife of the late Paul (Tim) Philbin.

Born on February 7, 1939 in Central Falls, RI, Maureen was the daughter of the late Lionel and Victoria (Kwolek) Morin. Maureen married the love of her life, Tim, with whom she had 5 children and 8 grandchildren. After growing up in Central Falls and Pawtucket, and moving through New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island (twice), Maureen and Tim retired to Twin Mountain, NH, where they lived for 15 years before relocating to Attleboro.



Maureen dedicated herself to raising her children. After the birth of her their 5th child, Maureen went back to school and became a Registered Nurse. She applied her care-giving skills at Cardi's Nursing Home and as a visiting nurse. After she retired, Maureen spent 6 years as the Town Librarian in Twin Mountain. She loved being an integral part of the town community.

Maureen enjoyed life and certainly made the most of it. She loved traveling, from visiting Cape Cod as a child, camping, trips to Hawaii and Las Vegas, and many road trips to Florida. Maureen also enjoyed reading (she was an avid Stephen King fan), listening to 1950's rock n' roll, watching movies, going to casinos and would never miss her weekly card games in Twin Mountain. She loved to go snowmobiling and was a member of a snowmobiling club for many years. Maureen loved to cook for her family and friends; nobody would ever leave her house with an empty stomach, whether she made you something from scratch or you dipped into the always-full cookie jar. No matter where they lived, in a camper or a 15 room Inn, Maureen's love and spirit made it Home, where everyone would always feel welcome. She was a devout and faithful Catholic and made sure to let everyone close to her know that they were in her prayers.

Along with her husband, Maureen is reunited with her daughter, the late Tracy Philbin Vadnais. She is survived by her loving chil-

dren; Sharon Philbin of Seekonk, MA, Jeffrey Philbin of West Union, South Carolina, Tim Philbin of Pawtucket, RI and Nicholas Philbin of Worcester, MA. Mrs. Philbin was the proud grandmother of 8 grandchildren: Victoria Dower, Timothy Dower, Madeline Vadnais, Nicolas Philbin, Rachel Bennett, Alison Philbin, Erin Vadnais and Marina Philbin. She was the sister of the late Robert Morin.

Calling Hours will be held 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2 at St. Teresa's Catholic Church in South Attleboro. Burial will follow in Notre Dame Cemetery in Pawtucket.

Marie A. Perkins

Marie A. Perkins, 60, of Log Cabin Lane, Bethlehem, N.H., died Saturday morning, Oct. 22, 2022, at the home of her caretakers, Eugene and Charlene Miles, after a recent illness.

Marie was born in Connecticut on Jan. 24, 1962, the daughter of Leonard B. Perkins Sr. and Rosemary J. (Pritchard) Perkins. She was raised in Connecticut and was a graduate of Glastonbury High School. For a time, she resided in New York before moving to New Hampshire in 1996. She attended Crotched Mountain School in Greenfield, N.H.

Marie loved country music and cowboy movies, and she was a big fan of Michael Jackson. She also enjoyed outings and travel with Eugene and Charlene, particularly when she went swimming.

Surviving family members include her brothers, Leonard B. Perkins Jr. and Karl Perkins both of Lancaster; sisters, Pamela Lurvey of Jefferson, Suzanne Edwards of Tennessee; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; two sisters, Leonardina Medina and Cynthia Whitman.

A graveside service will be held Friday morning, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m., in the Riverton Cemetery, Jefferson. Life-Cycle celebrant Deborah Szauter will officiate.

Arrangements are entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster, N.H. For more information or to send an online condolence, please go to www.baileyfh.net.



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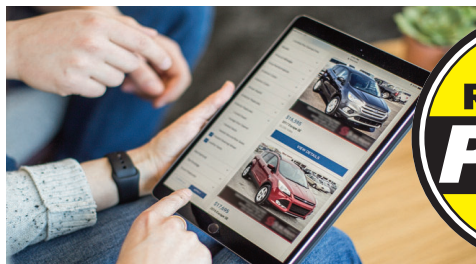
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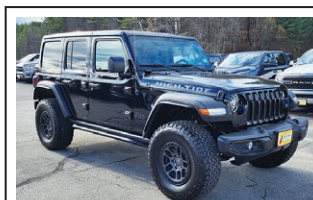


**2021 RAM 1500 BIG HORN
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News Briefs

Community Center Manager Sought After Host And Hostess Retire

LITTLETON — Community members are thanking Briggs and Wendy Clark for two decades of service as the live-in caretaker host and hostess at the Littleton Community Center (LCC).

Oct. 31 was their last day before they retired. They will remain in the community.

On Tuesday, George Mitchell, president of the LCC's nonprofit board of directors, said the board, in the short term will manage the LCC, which is also called the Littleton Community House.

Living in the building's apartment upstairs, Wendy began as caretaker-hostess 22 years ago and Briggs joined her as host more than 18 years ago.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

County Races: Incumbent Sheriff, Attorney Face Challengers

In county races in the North Country, two incumbents are seeking reelection.

Grafton County Sheriff Jeff Stiegler, a Democrat from North Haverhill, is running for a third term.

Coos County Attorney John McCormick, a Democrat from Lancaster, is seeking a sixth term.

Challenging Stiegler is Steve Tatham, a Republican from Plymouth, who began as a write-in candidate.

Challenging McCormick is challenger is Roger Sylvestre, a Republican from Clarksville, who launched a write-in campaign for the September primary.

Tatham, if elected, would turn 70 in the middle of his two-year term as sheriff.

Under Article 78 of the New Hampshire Constitution regarding judges and sheriffs, no person shall hold the office of judge of any court or sheriff of any county after he or she has reached the age of 70.

According to a check on Tuesday with the New Hampshire Bar Association, no attorney by the name of Roger Sylvestre is found in

NHBA records.

The nonprofit NHBA is a court-mandated organization and all attorneys licensed to practice in New Hampshire must belong to the bar and pay annual dues.

Telephone calls placed on Thursday, Oct. 27, to Tatham and Sylvestre seeking a candidate interview with questions about why they are running, what relevant experience they could bring to the job, and what their priorities would be if elected were not returned by Tuesday evening.

For fiscal year 2023, according to the Grafton County budget approved by the county delegation, the Grafton County sheriff's position carries an annual salary of \$67,890.

For 2022, the Coos County attorney's position carries an annual salary of \$86,000.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Littleton Voters To Decide Three Union Contracts

LITTLETON — Although it's uncommon for town meeting voters to decide on three union contracts in one year, they will be presented with that number, in three separate warrant articles, in March.

During the Select Board's meeting on Oct. 24, board members took up the discussion and were split on their support.

Up for negotiation this year are the contracts for employees in the Department of Public Works and the Transfer Station, who belong to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union; Littleton Fire Rescue, who now have their own bargaining unit with AFSCME; and the Littleton Police Department, which belongs to the State Employees Association Local 1984.

Last year, the town was only able to negotiate a one-year contract with LFR and with DPW and the transfer station, said Littleton Town Manager Jim Gleason.

The goals for the new contracts (three years for the DPW, the transfer station and police and four years for LFR) are to keep taxpayers in mind and be aware of the tax impact and to provide some labor certainty and some budgeting and financial certainty for the town, he said.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Bethlehem Village: Town Meeting Voters To Decide Proposed Solar Array

BETHLEHEM — As March town meeting nears, the Bethlehem Village District commissioners and Bethlehem Energy Commission are advancing a proposed solar array for the district's wastewater treatment facility that is estimated to save \$500,000 or more in electricity costs during 25 years of operation.

At an estimated turnkey cost of \$421,000, the project would be funded with a \$250,000 grant and a 30-percent tax credit, leaving the total village district cost at about \$120,000, or possibly less if additional grants can be found, BEC members said during a presentation at town hall on Thurs-

day.

The proposal comes after the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' Water Division authorized an energy audit for the WWTF, at 359 Maple St./Route 142, and offered several recommendations.

"One was to look into whether you would save money by putting in a solar array," said BEC Chairman David Van Houten. "The energy commission saw this report and asked the commissioners if we could look into the feasibility of that."

The commission then reached out to a solar developer to arrive at the proposal, which Van Houten said is being introduced now because village district residents will need to vote on it at the March annual meeting.

If approved, the solar panels would generate enough electricity to offset all of the electricity currently being used at the plant, he said.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Caleb Caregivers Shuts Down Due To Lack Of Volunteers

NORTH COUNTRY — A senior support organization has shut down.

Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Lancaster ceased operations Nov. 1.

The Board of Directors made the difficult decision due to a lack of volunteers, according to Executive Director Barbara Payer.

Clients will be referred to other organizations such as Tri-County Community Action Program (CAP).

Founded in 1995, Caleb Caregivers provided non-medical caregiving services to help Seniors (60+) to remain independent in their own homes or Senior apartments.

The organization served more than 150 clients in nine communities from Colebrook to Littleton, providing transportation, visitation, light chore service, computer instruction, telephone reassurance, and in-person visits.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Rising Costs Reduce Scope Of Riverfront Commons Development

LITTLETON — Rising construction costs are reducing the scope of the development of Riverfront Commons, pushing some elements originally planned for phase one to later phases.

In addition, the welcome center and public restrooms that had been planned have been removed after a survey and meetings with stakeholder groups indicated that they weren't a priority.

The next step is for the town, by November or December, to decide on a final direction.

The public commons area, on the south side of the river by the footbridge and Littleton Area Senior, is the location of the Littleton Farmers Market and the summer First Friday events.

The town is looking to make improvements for recreation and more events while keeping the area natural with plenty of green space.

During the Select Board's meeting on Monday, Cathy Conway, of Horizons Engineering; Kelly Stoecklein, landscape designer with the SE Group; and Mike Welch, senior project manager and grant-writer from Northern Community Investment Corp., gave an update on the total \$1.44 million project, which has \$920,000 remaining in its bud-

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**Harold French, EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR, District 2
 (Grafton & Coos Counties)**

**Carrie Gendreau, NH STATE SENATE, District 1
 (Grafton & Coos Counties)**

Glenn Libby, GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, District 2

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Omer Ahern, Jr., GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, District 3

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Calvin Beaulier, David Rochefort, & Matthew Simon, Grafton District 1

(Bath, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, Sugar Hill)...VOTE for 3

Cathy Qi, Grafton District 2

(Bethlehem & Franconia)... VOTE for 1

Bonnie Ham, Grafton District 3

(Easton, Lincoln, Livermore, Woodstock) ...VOTE for 1

Rick Ladd & Matthew Coulon, Grafton District 5

(Benton, Haverhill, Landaff, Piermont, Warren) ...VOTE for 2

Family, Friends Hope Tragedy Raises Awareness

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

Pick up the phone and call someone.

That's the message from friends and family of Blue Mountain Union alum Jared Cushing after the popular, bright and ambitious 21-year-old committed suicide on Oct. 16.

If you are in trouble and thinking of harming yourself, they said, take a breath and reach out for help.

"It costs you nothing to do something; It can cost you a life to do nothing," said his mother, Jennifer Lamontagne.

The reasons for that plea are clear and obvious.

One is the value of life.

Cushing was full of promise. Over the summer he founded a Senior Babe Ruth baseball team and coached them to a state title, began his dream job as athletic director at Hazen Union, and purchased a 2020 Toyota Tacoma that he called his dream vehicle.

The other reason is the impact on others.

Those who knew Cushing have been shattered by his death. He connected with hundreds of people across the North Country and the Northeast Kingdom. They are coping with feelings of grief, regret, anger, helplessness and trauma.

His loss was felt deeply at Blue Mountain Union, where Cushing was a beloved student-athlete. He graduated in 2019 and returned three years later to coach the middle school baseball team in the spring. BMU hosted a celebration of life on Saturday that drew around 400.

One of them was Cushing's longtime friend Caleb Nelson.

"Being at the [ceremony] really made me think how much Jared meant to so many people," Nelson said. "It showed how much of an impact he had on everyone."

TAKING ACTION

Cushing's family aims to turn tragedy into advocacy.

They have announced a scholarship fund, with

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know is thinking about or planning to take their own life, three is help 24/7.

The New Hampshire Department of Health recommends the following resources.

— Dial 988 to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (veterans press 1) or visit <https://988lifeline.org/>

— Text "HOME" to 741741 anywhere in the U.S. and a trained crisis counselor will respond within five minutes.

— Visit the NAMI-NH website at <https://www.naminh.org/crisis-lines/>

— Contact the Trevor Lifeline: LGBTQ Crisis Lifeline at 1-866-488-7368 or visit <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

tentative plans for a memorial softball tournament as part of the fundraising efforts.

The family will also make an annual gift to BMU to pay for mental health and suicide prevention workshops so that staff and students are better equipped to help themselves and each other.

Beyond that, there are rubber bracelets (one in memory of Cushing, one for suicide awareness) and ribbon-shaped car decals featuring an image of Cushing and the phrase "Someone's always here to listen."

"We're really trying to drum up the awareness," his mother said.

Meanwhile, Blue Mountain Union Middle/High School is taking steps to tackle the issue.

The school district Leadership Team — which includes the co-principals, mental health professionals, and Assistant Superintendent John Barone — met recently to map out a response.

They will build on work already done.

BMU expanded mental health services over the past two years to address growing social-emotional problems during COVID.

Barone said that Cushing's death has created "a renewed sense of urgency" regarding the matter.

Barone, who served as BMU co-principal from 2016 to 2022, said previous efforts to prepare students for life's challenges — including the "senior seminar" he taught last year — have fallen short in some respects.

"Given what happened to Jared, I wish I had done a better job of teaching the students how to access community resources. Because I don't think we do a good enough job on that," he said.

WHAT WAS LOST

As a student, Cushing was a leader and a community builder. He was friendly, outgoing and supportive.

During events like Spring Fling and Winter Carnival, or playoff games he wasn't competing in, he would dress up as



"Buck Man" to fire up the crowd and stoke school spirit.

"He brought an energy to BMU," recalled Barone. "He had a presence in school, in a good way. For Jared, it wasn't about ego. He was someone who believed in the word "team" no matter if it was on the field or in the school."

Tough times revealed Cushing's best qualities.

Two days after his friend and teammate Tyler Curtis died in a tragic accident, Cushing returned to the baseball field for a contest between BMU and Twinfield on May 8, 2019.

Cushing delivered pre-game remarks to the mourning crowd, then proceeded to lift their spirits. He pitched a complete-game shutout and went 4-for-4 with five RBIs in a 15-0 win in five innings.

Scott Blood, the Bucks 16th year head coach, recalled, "Jared really put the team on his shoulders and was able to really help his team through such a difficult situation."

Known for being a high IQ player, Cushing seamlessly transitioned to coaching.

This spring he skipped a middle school team and in the summer he founded the Green Mountain Wild, made up of high school-aged players from Blue Mountain, Danville and Hazen. He guided the first-year Wild to the 2021 Vermont Babe Ruth 16-18 state title.

He took over as the Hazen Union Athletic Director in June and was the youngest AD in the country. He was also a senior at Husson University and was completing a Sports Management degree online at the time of his death.

"Jared was full of potential," Blood said. "The sky was the limit for Jared in terms of where he wanted to go. It was just a matter of where he wanted to go, because he was going to get there."

BMU assistant coach Brandon Flood was a member of the Green Mountain Wild coaching staff under Cushing.

He marveled at the way Cushing was able to build such a strong team culture in such a short time span.

"He had an ability to bring people together," Flood said.

From that experience, Flood believed that Cushing would do great things as an athletic director, and be a positive impact on generations of Northeast

Kingdom student-athletes.

"He had a lot of big ideas [for Hazen] and I have no doubt in my mind he was going to find a way to make them happen," Flood said.

SEEK OUT HELP

Lamontagne said her son was the first person to help others.

However, he didn't ask for help himself.

"When you're used to rallying others, carrying others and holding space for others, it's humbling when you need someone to hold space for you," she said.

For that reason, those who knew Cushing have encouraged people in crisis to seek out assistance, no matter what.

It's not a sign of weakness, they said.

"There's a stigma around reaching out for help and accessing mental health services, and that's a stigma we have to keep working to break down," Barone said.

If Cushing had asked for help, his friends and family would have come running, they said.

Flood said that, had he been contacted, he would have told Cushing, "We can figure this out together. Whatever problems or struggles you are going through, there's somebody out there that cares about you, that loves you, and that will be there for you."

In the aftermath of the tragedy, people have coped as best they can.

Nelson was in sixth grade when he met Cushing and said "he was like a brother to me."

"I'm still trying to process everything," he said, noting that in the week after hearing the news "I really couldn't sleep because I was thinking about it."

He has gotten in touch with high school classmates and teammates as a support system.

"I've been talking to a lot of my friends, and reconnecting with them, because this shows we have to be there for each other. Or just check in with each other. I wish I checked in with Jared more," he said.

Forming a support system is important, Lamontagne said.

She has communicated with many young people affected by her son's death, and has urged them not to grieve alone.

Those who are struggling to process their feelings, she said, should call someone.

"To the friends who find themselves on the other end of this, don't be afraid to look weird, or stupid, or like you're making a mountain out of a molehill. Don't be afraid to do that because it could be life or death," she said.

For Lamontagne and her family, community support has been vital.

In particular, she said, Blue Mountain Union has been a source of comfort and strength.

Staff, students, alumni, and others in the BMU community have shown her "an unbelievable amount of love," she said.

"I don't know how I'd make it through the day if it wasn't for the outpouring of love [from members of the BMU community]. If I get one smile a day, it's because one of them has reached out and sent me a reminder, a video, a photo. Of they are just checking in. It's really beautiful."

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Incumbent Kelley, Challenger Greer Vie For Coos 7 Seat

Incumbent Eamon Kelley, D-Berlin, and challenger John Greer, R-Carroll, are running for a single seat in the Coos 7 House District (Berlin, Carroll, Jefferson, Kilkenny, Whitefield).

Kelley, 33, is a first-term state representative who sits on the House Resources, Recreation and Development committee, and was appointed to two commissions to study OHRV use. As a member of the Coös County Delegation, he served as a member of the Coös Extension Advisory Council. He is a lifelong resident of Coös County who was born in Berlin and raised in Randolph. He attended St. Michaels in Berlin before moving to Gorham public schools. After graduating high school, he went on to Boston College and obtained a degree in Physics. After college he returned to Berlin and began working at his family's sawmill, which has operated in Berlin since 1945. In 2018, he officially moved to Berlin. He is unmarried with no children.

Greer, 67, worked in the packaging industry for 40 years. He switched occupations to individual investing in 2020. He has been a New Hampshire resident for 22 years and a Carroll resident for 15 years. He and his wife, Anita, have five children.

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND PRIORITIES?

GREER: Our way of life is under attack by authoritarian politicians who feel free to lock us down, tax us into poverty, and regulate us to death. My campaign is for individual liberty. I will do all in my power to keep the power of the state small and well behaved as it should be.

KELLEY: My number one priority is lowering property taxes in our communities by making sure that the state is paying its share toward public education. Every child in our state deserves the best possible opportunity to succeed and that requires a robust public education system. New Hampshire ranks last in the country for state-level contributions to public education and it is high time to change that. Besides that, I intend to continue to foster communication between our growing OHRV community and lifelong residents when challenges arise. I also will push for upgrading the "Coös loop" electrical grid so our communities can actually benefit from the incredible surplus of renewable energy we generate here without having to create disruptive new lines.

WHAT CAN THE STATE DO TO IMPROVE WORKFORCE AND HOUSING IN THE REGION?

GREER: My platform of low regulation and taxes should incentivize both small and large businesses to relocate to NH. Further, this environment will promote organic business creation, which will boost working wages and home availability in the region.

KELLEY: Property taxes are our area's biggest barrier to new development. In communities where property taxes are highest, new development comes at an even greater expense. Getting property taxes under control will level the playing field between communities. I also believe we should incentivize investment in our downtown areas. It costs a community three times more to provide services along its borders as it does to provide those services in the center of town. Paving, snow removal, water, sewer, etc. all cost more as you extend out. We should first incentivize those who wish to develop or redevelop along our existing infrastructure. This will also allow us to defend our treasured wilderness from further expansion.

To improve our workforce, we should first stop our own children from leaving. That starts with recognizing that public education doesn't stop at Grade 12. New Hampshire ranks 48th in the country on funding for higher education. By making state college unaffordable we are forcing talented students to seek education elsewhere. Increased funding for state colleges and community colleges should go hand in hand with improving education funding at the local level.

SHOULD THE STATE



John Greer



Eamon Kelley

PASS SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS?

GREER: Absolutely not. Price controls and regulation interrupt free market forces and lead to shortages. They make the matter worse, not better. The cure for high prices is high prices.

KELLEY: I believe that short term rental controls should be left up to local communities. I think local boards are better equipped to make decisions on this issue. I don't think every town is the same and people should have the right to decide what works for them.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON ACCESS TO ABORTION?

GREER: Twelve weeks from conception.

KELLEY: I absolutely believe that medical decisions should be left between a patient and their doctor. The state is not equipped to be involved in those conversations. We are now seeing the heart-wrenching stories from around the country as hardline laws have created unnecessary suffering for women of all ages. The reality of abortion care is far more complex and intertwined with women's health than the political discourse would portray it as.

YOUR STANCE ON MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION?

GREER: All for it. The war on drugs has been a total failure. The definition of insanity is doing more of what has not worked. These victimless crimes disproportionately punish minorities, leaving them with records that make employment hard in the future.

KELLEY: I completely support the legalization and taxation of marijuana in New Hampshire. We are surrounded in every direction by those who have already recognized the benefit of doing so. Studies have shown conclu-

sively that the theory of marijuana as a gateway drug is nothing more than a myth. Legalization will lift the burden of prohibition from our strained law enforcement so that they may focus where they are needed most. It will also provide much needed funding to help us fight opiate addiction throughout our state.

DO YOU PROPOSE CHANGES TO GUN LAWS, EITHER TO INCREASE OR REDUCE RESTRICTIONS?

GREER: Driving a motor vehicle is a privilege and all 50 states honor the NH driver's license. Owning a gun is a right. All 50 states should honor NH license to carry credentials.

KELLEY: My family has owned guns all my life and I've always been raised with a respect for the power of firearms. I do believe that more can be done to keep guns out of the hands of those who would intentionally or accidentally use them with tragic outcomes. Suicide is the number one cause of firearm deaths in our state and the fact is that rate of suicide by firearms here is higher than in surrounding states with more restrictions. The rate of death by suicide in New Hampshire is twice as high as it is in Massachusetts and the entire difference comes down to the rate of firearm-assisted suicide being a staggering four times higher here. We owe it to our residents to understand how we are different and make improvements to the process to keep that from happening while defending the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW LANDFILL IN THE REGION?

GREER: Our beautiful New Hampshire is being used as a trash dump for the region. 50% of all trash hauled up to Coos is from out of state. We may not be able to ban this practice due to the Commerce Clause in the Constitution, but we can sure raise tipping fees to uncompetitive levels and rebate the revenues directly to the towns. If we significantly reduce the load on our landfills, this will cease to be an issue.

See Coos 7, Page 10



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Coos 7

Continued from Page 9

Further any new sites should not be near any environmentally sensitive areas. Plus testing needs to happen so leaks can be plugged quickly.

KELLEY: As someone who lives within a mile of our state's (soon to be) longest sited landfill, I understand the necessary role they play in our society. I also recognize that there are places they should go and places they should not. Listening to discussion on HB 1454 last year I learned how our current rules are antiquated and don't consider what we now know about different soils and how water moves through them. We need to pass a version of HB 1454 next year that keeps Coös from becoming the dumping ground for all the things other communities don't want to properly deal with.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL FUNDING IN N.H.?

GREER: Who knows? It's the future. Yogi Berra stated predictions are really hard, but especially about the future.

KELLEY: I believe the state should ensure that every child has

the same excellent education no matter what zip code they are from. I believe the only way to ensure that is to increase state-level funding. School choice programs can be beneficial for some students, but they shouldn't come at a cost to local districts. If the state wants to mandate them, they should pay for them fully. One child leaving a school doesn't lower the heating costs or cut the cost of a bus route in a rural community. When we leverage these programs on the budgets of local districts, we burden the remaining students with an even more strained system. Data shows that the states with robust public education have the best outcomes for students.

DO YOU BELIEVE THE OUTCOME OF THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS LEGITIMATE?

GREER: Of course not. We saw several high-profile video clips of major voting centers shutting down and then ballot stuffing on camera. In all 6 swing states that shut down vote counting after hours, Trump was winning by large margins before the pause. Then, miraculously, when the voting centers reopened, he was behind in all 6 races.

KELLEY: I do.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOU

AND YOUR OPPONENT, AND WHY SHOULD VOTERS CHOOSE YOU?

GREER: My opponent is listed by the NH Liberty Alliance as a Constitutional threat. I, on the other hand, will honor and protect both the NH Constitution and the US Constitution with every fiber of my being. This is about the rule of law vs. the rule of man.

KELLEY: I know very little about my opponent. The nature of this new district is that it has forced together communities who share very few things. I do know that, as someone who has lived here my whole life in both rural and "urban" areas, I better understand how this county works than just about anyone my age. I respect the Coös attitude of getting by on what we have while also recognizing that sometimes we are given the short straw by the state. I will always push for what is best for Coös. I will listen to our community leaders for guidance, and I will not hesitate to reach out for help. Serving this large new district will not be easy, but I am prepared to make sure that everyone at least feels like their voices are heard.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE & WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

GREER: In 2018 we almost lost our state. The Democrat party passed both sales and income taxes in both houses of Congress. I will always be grateful to our Governor for vetoing this horrible legislation that would have destroyed the liberty all NH residents enjoy. My opponent at the time was running unopposed. I then realized individual citizens must step up to protect our liberties, which are under threat. My position since then has been that I will step up and give back to our state with my time. New Hampshire has been so good to me in so many ways, I must give back for the benefit of all. Yes, even Democrats.

KELLEY: I love this area and I want to give back everything that it has given me. I'm inspired by the work of those who have served before me. I hope to continue the tradition and fight for a future where my children will have the same opportunities that I had growing up. It is amazing place to live, and I hope to keep it that way.

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Briefs

Continued from Page 6

get following the town's purchase the 7.2-acre parcel in 2021.

"In 2020, when COVID hit and the economy turned upside down and prices and supply chain issues started, we took a closer look at the budget and the concepts," said Conway. "Some of the projects that Horizons had been bidding over the last year or two have seen 20- to 50-percent increases in some of the materials, gas prices, and contracting prices."

The original Riverfront Commons proposal, coming after a 2019 charrette, or visioning session, involving community members, entailed the welcome center and restrooms, about 40 to 50 parking spaces, connection to the recreational rail trail, lighting along the river walk, a performance area with concrete footings for a mobile stage, landscaping, and a community area for the farmers market and other events.

The big takeaway is using the land for public benefit, said Conway. See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Employee Accused Of Stealing Nearly \$350K From Car Dealership

A former employee of Brooks Chevrolet and Noyes Chevrolet in Colebrook is accused of stealing a total of nearly \$350,000 from the car dealerships during the course of five years and using company credit cards to buy products from Amazon, booze from local liquor stores, and purchases from a Connecticut casino.

In the October round of felony indictments handed up by a grand jury at Coos Superior Court on Oct. 21, Tina Fournier, 47, of Clarksville, was indicted on two Class A felony counts of theft by unauthorized taking and three Class A felony counts of fraudulent use of a credit card.

Between January 2017 and April 2019 in Colebrook, prosecutors said Fournier engaged in a pattern of theft from Brooks Chevrolet when she made numerous unauthorized checks and electronic fund

Briefs continues on 11

Briefs

Continued from Page 10

transfers from the company's general fund checking account in the amount of \$147,975.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

WMRSD Curriculum Director To Resign

A high-ranking school district administrator is stepping down.

The White Mountains Regional School Board on Oct. 27 accepted the resignation of Curriculum and Instruction Director Steven Nilhas effective when his contract expires on June 30, 2023.

He is leaving to pursue opportunities elsewhere, he said.

In his resignation letter, Nilhas wrote, "I am grateful for the time I have been able to work with you and the staff of SAU 36 and the School Board that represents the towns in our district. I wish everyone all the best going forward, and I will continue to do my best with the time that remains in my employment with the district."

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Select Board Stays Out Of Woodsville Funding Fight, Defers To Courts

HAVERHILL — A month ago the Select Board supported town intervention in the

Woodsville funding issue.

Not anymore.

With the matter under appeal, Select Board leadership last week called for the courts to settle the messy, divisive issue.

"I seriously, seriously believe that for everybody's benefit, for both sides, this needs to be decided in court once and for all," said Chair Fred Garofalo.

Town Meeting in March approved nearly \$450,000 for Woodsville Fire and Highway but the state Department of Revenue Administration ruled the petition articles were illegal.

DRA dismissed Woodsville's request for reconsideration, ruling that the precinct lacks standing in the matter.

On Oct. 12, Woodsville appealed DRA's decision to both Grafton County Superior Court and the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Garofalo and Vice Chair Steve Robbins agreed that a definitive court ruling is necessary to end persistent bickering over the matter.

"At the end of the day, we have to see this through, so this law is clarified [and] we know in the future how to go," Robbins said.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com.

Committee Appointed To Review Plan To Move Grades 7/8 To High School

WHITEFIELD — The White Mountains Regional School Board on Oct. 27 appointed 18 members to the Grade 7/8 Transition Advisory

Committee.

It will work from November through June to develop recommendations on whether grades 7 and 8 should be moved to the high school.

Named to the advisory committee were Mike Curtis (WMRHS co-principal), Michael Cronin (WES Principal), Scott Holmes (LES principal, community member, parent), Amy Kopp (LES assistant principal), Rob Scott (CTE director), Steve Nilhas (Curriculum and Instruction Director), Shelli Roberts (Director of Student Services), Beth Ridely (paraprofessional), Beth Lufkin (teacher), Chris Eaton (teacher), Aaron Giragosian (teacher), Cynthia Daly (teacher), Jennifer Watson (teacher, parent), Caitlin Joubert (parent), Nichol Jones (parent), Jessica Kenyon (parent), James Akerman (parent, community member), and George E. Brodeur (community member).

In addition, school board liaison Evelyn Flynn and Superintendent Marion Anastasia will serve as non-voting members.

The advisory committee will take a comprehensive look at the matter.

Among other things they will consider the school district's preparedness to move grades 7/8, the cost of moving the grades, enrollment trends, and input from parents, students and staff.

The District Leadership Team had recommended the formation of a grades 7/8 advisory committee as part of its 2019 Blueprint For Tomorrow, but those plans were postponed by the pandemic.

In the meantime the White Mountains Regional School District has already grouped the middle and high school grades programmatically, with a grades 7 to 12 learning model, to allow for better continuity.

any future effort to keep our election integrity. I would oppose letting towns to keep ballot tabulator machines. Regarding absentee ballots, as long as it follows the Constitution, I agree with it.

Sullivan: I do think the election was legitimate. There was so much effort going in to find evidence of fraud, millions of dollars and high-powered lawyers looked into this and there isn't any evidence of it. I don't think there is any evidence of widespread voter fraud. I don't think you should change anything unless there is evidence of problems. If there's no evidence, and you're just doing it to sow doubt, I don't support that. We can't lose faith in our electoral process. We are we if we don't believe our elections are fair? That is fundamentally the most important thing facing our country right now.

Do you support or oppose a state income tax and state sales tax?

Qi: I oppose a state income tax and state sales tax.

Sullivan: No. I think we need to raise more revenue and I think we have levers to pull before we need to worry about that.

Currently, abortions are illegal in N.H.

after 24 weeks, with a few exceptions that include rape, incest, fatal fetal anomalies, or if the life of the mother is at risk. Do you agree with this law or would you seek to expand or restrict abortion access in N.H.?

Qi: I need to learn more about current N.H. abortion law and how the term was determined. I need to research more about this area, such as who is paying for abortion. Taxpayers or patients? If paid by taxpayers, I wonder if it gets taxpayers' consent. Personally, I am pro-life but I do understand the reasons for exceptions in extreme cases, and agree that they should be continued.

Sullivan: I believe that a woman should have the right to choose until the end. I know that's controversial, but I think it's a human rights issue. I think if a woman is making a choice, even if it's a late-term abortion, there's probably a good reason. I believe if a woman is going to make that choice, she should make it with her doctor and her partner and we should stay out of it. There are just so many circumstances and you can't apply one standard to every circumstance. I believe a woman should make those choices and the government should stay out of it.

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Do you believe the 2020 presidential election and general elections were legitimate? Why or why not? Do you support or oppose letting towns keep ballot tabulator machines? Do you support or oppose expanding absentee ballots? Are there any measures you would want to see in regard to expanding voter access or restricting voter access?

Qi: We should all agree that integrity of election should be protected and pursued at all costs so that voters will have confidence in our elections.

I support that elections should be conducted according to the Constitution, according to Part 2 Article 32 of N.H. Constitution: Ballots should be counted by human beings. I understand legislators in N.H. passed the bill to temporarily allow machine counts, however, the bill was not constitutional. Legislators can't amend the constitution without 2/3 valid voters' consent. Therefore, I believe machine counts are not constitutional, so 2020 election outcomes were questionable. I would support

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