



# The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

## LOCAL NEWS

Great River Hydro  
Claims \$114 Million  
Dam Value In Tax Abatement

FREE



**Groveton Girls,  
Woodsville  
Boys Edge  
Littleton For  
State Titles**

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



**Town Meeting.** MacNeil, Lehmann, Hennessey  
Elected To Littleton Select Board. **INSIDE**

## TOWN MEETING

# MacNeil, Lehmann, Hennessey Elected To Littleton Select Board

## Voters Approve Building Purchase For New Town Hall

BY ROBERT BLECHL  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Three new members were elected to Littleton's new five-member Select Board.

Although 40 to 45 votes for elected officers and the first 10 warrant articles still needed to be hand-counted, the margins were clear for the board's two open 3-year seats.

With the votes tallied, Linda MacNeil landed 544, which propelled her to a second term.

Paul Lehmann landed 539 votes for the second seat.

"A friend of mine said the first three years is practice, and the second three years proves you're crazy," said MacNeil.

On a serious note, she said she appreciated the support.

"They put their confidence in me for three more years," said MacNeil, who added that she looks forward to advancing various projects, including new town fees and policies.

"Thank you to the people who came out and supported me," said Lehmann.

Selectman Roger Emerson said he looks forward to working with Lehmann.

Coming up short for landing seats were Select Board candidates Bill Latulip, with 473 votes, Carrie Gendreau, with 283, and Lauren Rodier, with 277.

Ed Hennessey, netting 955 votes, ran unopposed for the Select Board's one 1-year seat.

In the race for parks and recreation commissioner, Heidi Hurley appears to have defeated Courtney Bowler in a 529-484 vote.

By an 839-210 margin, voters approved Article 12 for a new town hall, which authorizes \$700,000, of which \$625,000 will go toward purchasing the building at 50 Pleasant St. and \$75,000 toward immediate minor renovations.

By a 673-429 margin, voters approved the proposed gen-



Littleton Town Moderator Chad Stearns speaks with a voter during Tuesday's town balloting. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

eral fund operating budget of \$10.875 million.

By a margin of 709-428, they also authorized Article 16, which raises \$375,000 for a new sweeper-vacuum truck.

By 901-244, voters ap-

proved Article 18, which raises \$600,000 for road improvements.

Approved in a 693-242 vote was Article 19, which authorizes \$126,976 for a new Ford F-600 dump/plow truck.

By 790-313, voters passed Article 6, which approves \$2 million for the Palmer Brook Culvert replacement, with \$1.5 million covered by a federal grant.

By 903-208, voters approved Article 7, which green lights \$500,000 for septage receiving improvements at the wastewater treatment plant, with the money coming from sewer use fees.

They also approved, by a margin of 883-231, Article 8, which authorizes \$1.2 million in water system improvements for Littleton Water and Light, with more than \$800,000 in loan principal forgiveness from the state and the remainder coming from LWL user fees.

Approved in a 655-488 vote was Article 25, which appropriates \$5,675 from the dog park special revenue fund for expenses to build the dog park.

They also approved, by a margin of 816-316, a petition to rescind the additional \$1 added

to the annual dog license, which had accumulated to reach \$5,675.

Authorized in a 702-424 vote was a petition authorizing the town to enter in a \$100 yearly lease for five years with the Littleton Off Road Riders, which plans improvements for club functions at the town-owned parcel at Riverside Drive and South Street.

In a closely watched petition that drew divisions for the second consecutive year, voters somewhat narrowly approved, by a margin of 615-522, Article 32, which authorizes \$3,200 for Pathways Pregnancy Care Center.

By solid margins, they approved several capital reserve funds for the police, fire, and public works departments.

A total of 1,193 ballots were cast, with 58 by absentee.

Tuesday's voting results were unofficial and must be certified by the New Hampshire Secretary of State's office.

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## Voters Approve New Union Contract For Teachers

BY ROBERT BLECHL  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — After Tuesday's Littleton School District ballot vote, a teacher union contract was approved, and two incumbents were reelected to the school board.

About 40 votes still needed hand-counting, but the margins were evident when the tabulator machine counted the ballots.

In a 777-355 vote, residents approved Article 3, a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Littleton Teachers Association, which calls for a \$262,624 increase in salaries and benefits for the 2025-2026 school year and a similar amount for each of the two successive years.

By a 790-330 margin, voters

approved an operating budget of \$18.509 million, \$140,000 below the default budget.

Running unopposed for reelection were school board members Greg Cook, who netted 799 votes, and Travis Howard, who netted 867.

Also approved were Article 5, which adds \$50,000 to the school district facility equipment capital reserve fund, and Article 6, which adds \$100,000 to the school district facilities maintenance capital reserve fund.

Approved, too, was Article 7, which extends the elected terms of the school district clerk, school moderator, and treasurer from one to three years.

Tuesday's voting results were unofficial and must be certified by the New Hampshire Secretary of State's office.

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# Great River Hydro Claims \$114 Million Dam Value In Tax Abatement

**BY ROBERT BLECHL**  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — In a newly filed tax abatement, Great River Hydro, the operator of the Moore hydroelectric station and dam, is claiming a total property value in Littleton of \$114 million, below the 2024 value of \$141 million set by the town.

The town's valuation factors in a 60-percent equalization ratio, before which the dam is assessed at \$224 million, a figure presented last year by Skip Sansoucy, Littleton's utility appraiser.

In its abatement application,

GRH claims the town miscalculated the equalized valuation of the dam based on its own contracted appraisal and said the tax bill received from the town indicates an equalized value of improvements at \$135.965 million.

Applying the 51-percent equalization rate to that improvement value, GRH argues the improvement assessment should be at \$114,308,933.

"Adjusting for this error alone should reduce our 2024 valuation by \$21,655,867," said GRH representatives.

Along with taxation for "phantom building values" on five parcels of vacant land where they said no buildings

exist, company representatives said those two errors alone equate to an overvaluation of \$21.905 million and a refund of \$504,245 owed to GRH, after a payment to the town of \$3.25 million for the April 2024 through March 2025 tax year.

In addition, they allege the town's appraisal is overestimating the facility's hydro generation and understating GRH's capital expenditure forecast.

Town officials have stood by the appraisal.

"I am not surprised that GRH is contesting their property value," Littleton Town Manager Troy Brown said Friday. "They informed the Select Board a few months ago that if the town

did not agree to a reduced valuation, then they would file for an abatement. The Select Board has hired specialists to handle this matter to ensure GRH is taxed fairly just like all other residential and commercial properties in the town of Littleton."

GRH, which has 2,476 acres across 21 Littleton parcels that are protected by a conservation easement, had been hoping to sign a new 5-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement with Littleton in 2024, but town officials wanted first to enlist Chris Boldt, an attorney who specializes in utilities, to determine if the town would be receiving the best possible deal.

Historically, Moore dam has made up about one-quarter of Littleton's total tax base.

In 2024, it received renewed attention after the expiration of the previous 5-year PILOT and a tax rate spike.

While managed by GRH, Moore Dam is owned by Hydro-Quebec, a company of the Canadian province.

In October 2022, Hydro-Quebec paid \$2.25 billion for 13 hydroelectric generating stations along the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

The assets total 589 megawatts and power more than 200,000 homes.

The 192-megawatt Moore Dam is the largest and represents about 35 percent, or one-third, of the total megawatts.

In September, Sansoucy gave a presentation on the dam and his opinion of its value.

Based on the total sale prices, he estimated Hydro-Quebec paid more than \$700 million for the Moore Dam but said the value is not the sales price.

The price of the total assets was driven up during the 2022 bidding, although the value of Moore Dam could eventually reach its sale price because hydroelectric facilities are sought-after assets, said Sansoucy.

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## Lawsuit Doesn't Delay Town Vote

**BY ROBERT BLECHL**  
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — A lawsuit against the town that was filed on the eve of the town vote and

sought a restraining order to delay Tuesday's balloting neither canceled it nor caused complications, town officials said that evening as voting was coming to a close.

"Many of you may be aware

there have been several postings on social media regarding a potential lawsuit filed against the town or an injunction to try to postpone tomorrow's election," Littleton Town Manager Troy

See **Lawsuit**, Page 11

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# Woman In Horse Abuse Cased Charged With Laundromats Burglary

BY ROBERT BLECHL  
Staff Writer

A local woman who was charged in a 2009 horse abuse case in Vermont and later for multiple occasions of felony drug possession in New Hampshire has been indicted for burglarizing two laundromats in Littleton and stealing tools and other items.

Jessica Chernicki, 47, whose last known address was at a house of suspected drug activity in Bethlehem, was indicted by a grand jury on three Class B felony counts of burglary.

Between Oct. 26 and 27, she is accused of entering the Full Hamper Laundromat at 336 Union St. while it was not open to the public and remaining inside with the intent to commit theft.

On Sept. 10, Chernicki is alleged to have unlawfully entered the Easy Wash Laundromat at 24

Pleasant St., also while it was unopened to the public, to commit the crime of theft.

The Easy Wash break-in encompasses two of the three indictments.

According to the probable cause statement for the arrest warrant, police were notified about the Easy Wash break-in several days later, on Sept. 13, when an employee said he discovered a broken vent in the back area and indications that someone had broken in, though the surveillance cameras were not working at the time.

The property owner, however, brought to the police station a video from the night of Sept. 10 with time stamps from 1:50 a.m. to 2:52 a.m.

In the affidavit, Littleton Police Officer Chris Wilkins said while watching the video, he observed Chernicki and Nicole Girard,

both of whom he recognized from previous police encounters, in the back room of the laundromat, though it is unclear how they entered.

The owner said the laundromat had been broken into several times, and there were multiple points of entry.

Making a physical inspection, Wilkins observed tool marks on the rear door of the laundromat and on the wall panel that had been found unscrewed several times.

"For a portion of the incident, Girard wore a face covering while walking around the laundromat, but when she was in the rear section of the laundromat, I was able to see her whole face, including her distinct pink hair," wrote Wilkins. "Chernicki wore a face covering while in the back of the room, but took the face covering off when walking into the

front area of the laundromat. Both individuals carried bags out of the back area and into the front area."

The property owner told police that a Bosch power drill had been stolen.

When watching the video, Wilkins observed Chernicki walk out of the laundromat carrying the drill case, and both walked out carrying full bags.

On Sept. 30, at Littleton's homeless encampment, Wilkins spoke with Girard about the trip to the laundromat and advised her that there were video cameras.

Girard, in response to Wilkins, said she was there with Chernicki.

On Oct. 1, Wilkins spoke with Chernicki on the rail trail near Girard's campsite.

"I asked her about the laundromat on Pleasant St. and she stated she did not know anything about the laundromat," wrote Wilkins. "She stated if she did know anything about the laundromat she would need a lawyer. I again advised her that I had video of her in the back and she stated she had not been in the back."

Although nighttime burglary in New Hampshire is punishable by a stiffer Class A felony, Grafton County prosecutors are charging Chernicki with Class B felonies.

An arraignment/bail hearing is scheduled for March 17 at Graf-

ton Superior Court.

In a separate case against Chernicki, a Class A felony count of subsequent felony drug possession for having methamphetamine, stemming from a Sept. 5 incident in Littleton that also involved misdemeanor criminal trespass, is scheduled for a final pre-trial conference on June 23 at Grafton Superior Court.

A previous case involving two felony drug possession charges for methamphetamine in Lancaster in March 2021 resulted in Coos County prosecutors dismissing the two felonies in exchange for Chernicki pleading guilty to a misdemeanor count of drug possession for a suspended jail sentence.

A felony charge for possessing methamphetamine in Littleton in January 2021 resulted in Grafton County prosecutors downgrading it to a misdemeanor and a deferred sentence.

In 2009, Chernicki and Keith Powers of Waterford drew the spotlight after they were charged in a horse beating and animal abuse case in Vermont.

According to charging documents, they attached a rope to a 12-year-old mustang mare named Cheval Noir and attempted to pull the horse into a trailer.

The horse, however, refused to enter the trailer despite being

whipped with a 6-foot rigid whip and the rope being pulled.

Eyewitnesses, who several times told Chernicki and Powers to stop, said the horse crashed through a wooden fence, flipped over backward, fell to the ground, and crashed into the trailer several times.

During the loading, the mare suffered a laceration to her forehead and a serious fracture to her skull and sinus bone, which opened a direct wound into the skull, exposing the inner sinus area.

The horse also suffered a deep laceration to her lower leg and, at one point, was lying on the ground motionless, bleeding, oozing fluid from the hole in her skull, and with her eyes closed while Chernicki continued to whip her and Powers pulled on the rope, according to the affidavit for arrest.

Powers was charged with cruelty to animals, but in May 2010 he agreed to a plea agreement in which the charge was dismissed once he paid restitution.

Chernicki was initially charged with aggravated felony cruelty to animals, but Caledonia County prosecutors dropped the charge down to a misdemeanor, which would be dismissed upon \$500 in restitution paid to the horse's previous owners.



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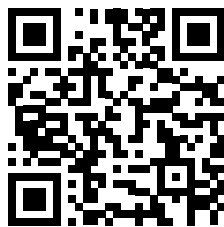
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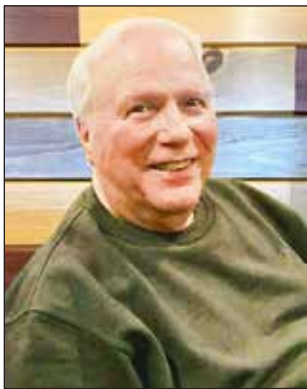
ALBERT ‘AL’ AUBIN

 Albert Edgar Aubin, lovingly known as Dad, Bunka, Bee Bee, Big Al, and Bonhomme, passed away peacefully at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, N.H., at the age of 80.

Born on March 25, 1944, in Berlin, N.H., Al was the son of Napoleon “Paul” and Juliette (Croteau) Aubin. He graduated from Berlin High School, where he met Susan Cooper, the love of his life and future wife. After high school, Al proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1968, earning recognition as Airman of the Month during his time in the Philippines. Following his service, he built a remarkable 31-year career with UPS, where he was inducted into the Circle of Honor for his exceptional safe driving record.

Family was Al’s greatest pride, and he leaves a legacy of being everyone’s “Bunka.” Whether in the front row or on the sidelines, Al was there to support his family at every sporting event, dance recital, academic ceremony, and birthday. He took joy in celebrating every milestone in his loved ones’ lives, big or small, especially when cake was involved.

Al was a true testament to slowing down and enjoying life. His passions included fishing, coaching hockey, and babysitting his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed



occasional visits to the casino to try his luck at the slot machines. A long-time member of the local Elks Lodge and the VFW, Al also enjoyed being part of the unofficial McDonald’s coffee crew.

He is survived by his daughter, Amy Aubin Ingerson (Darrel Yeagle), and his son, David Aubin (Melinda Aubin). His grandchildren, whom he “loved to the moon and back,” include Douglas Ingerson III, Kate Ingerson, Hayden Ingerson, Nicole Fisher, Carolyn Simpson, Susan Ash, and Conner Aubin; along with his great-grandchildren: Andrew Fisher, Harrison Fisher, and Julia Ash. Al was predeceased by his parents and his beloved wife, Susan Aubin.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, March 14, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Phaneuf Funeral Home in Littleton, N.H. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church in Littleton, officiated by Father Ryan Amazeen. Burial will follow at Glenwood Cemetery, with a luncheon immediately afterward at the Littleton Elks Lodge 1831.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Al’s memory to the VFW Post 816 Relief Fund.

To view Albert’s online tribute, or to send condolences to his family, please visit: <https://obits.phaneuf.net/albert-al-aubin>.

MILTON ‘TONY’ GARGES

Milton “Tony” Garges, 84, of Danville, Vt., passed peacefully at his home March 4, 2025, with his wife Michele at his side.

Tony was born April 21, 1940, the only child of Milton and Marguerite (Ewers) Garges in Mineola, N.Y. He attended local schools in Baldwin, N.Y., graduating in 1958 from Holy Cross High School in Flushing, Queens. He received a BA in Business Administration at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., in 1963.

He and his parents spent their summers in the Grafton, Vt. area where he met his future wife, Michele Hennessey. They were married July 1, 1967, sharing 57 years together. They adopted a daughter, Melissa Jane, in 1970.

Tony held a number of marketing and sales positions over the years. In 1977, he and Michele purchased Fenton and Hennessey Furniture Store (a family business in Bellows Falls, Vt.), eventually moving the store to Walpole, N.H. He was a realtor in Concord, Mass., and Nashville, Tenn. In 1993, he and Michele purchased The Historic Statesboro Inn (a 19-room bed and breakfast with a dining room and catering facility in Statesboro, Ga.). They ran the Inn with their daughter and her husband John



until 2007. He and Michele retired to Danville from Florida in 2016.

In his free time, Tony enjoyed reading, woodworking, gardening, interior design, and cooking and remodeling shows. He had a passion for creative cooking.

Tony is survived by his wife: Michele of Danville; brothers-in-law: Laurence (Sue) Hennessey of Springfield, Vt., and Timothy (Valerie) Hennessey of South Burlington, Vt.; sisters-in-law Kathleen (Warner) Hodgdon of Waterford, Vt., Martha (Valentine) Deale of Kensington, Md., and Susan Hennessey (Paul Bourassa) of Barre, Vt.; and his cherished grandchildren: Mathias and Cecilia Armstrong of Cookeville, Tenn.

He was predeceased by his parents and his daughter Melissa Armstrong in February 2017.

A celebration of Tony’s life will be held on April 5, 2025, at 1 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Littleton, N.H., with The Rev. Veronika Travis officiating. There will be no calling hours.

Memories and condolences can be shared with the family at [caledonialifeservices.com](http://caledonialifeservices.com). Guibord-Pearsons & Sayles Funeral Home is assisting the family.



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## OBITUARIES

## MARJORIE DORIS (HATCH) BONE

Marjorie Doris (Hatch) Bone, 80, of South Ryegate, Vt., passed away peacefully on the night of March 7, 2025.

She was born on Feb. 17, 1945, first born twin, to Fredrick and Laurian (Grenier) Hatch.

Marjorie graduated from Woodsville High School in 1963, and married David Alan Bone that same year on Oct. 12.

Marjorie and David raised their family on Stone Road in South Ryegate, Vt. When asked what one of the happiest times in her life was, she said "Having my babies." She was a Domestic Engineer, running the household, and bookkeeper for her husband's trucking business, Dave's Transport. It was a blessing to be available at home to lovingly take care of her children and grandchildren when they were sick, and always be there when they got home from school, often times to freshly baked cookies.

Marjorie had a love for the arts; enjoying classic movies and musicals, music of many genres, and creative writing. She was a self-taught keyboardist and accordion player. She could read music but learned many songs by ear. Marjorie was a proud member of the Northeast Fiddlers Association, sharing in their efforts to preserve and promote the Old-Time fiddling tradition. She enjoyed playing music with many different people, and hosting her music parties at her home.

Marjorie was an American Legion Auxiliary member, since 1977, at Post 20 in Woodsville, NH. Throughout the years she assisted in bake sales and other events. Baking was one of Marjorie's passions and creative outlets. She enjoyed baking cookies, bars, fudge, and more, especially during the holidays. Marjorie contributed many recipes to the South Ryegate Presbyterian Women's Club cookbooks. Marjorie's submission of her Sugar Cookie recipe was accepted and published in a prestigious cookbook publication. Marjorie always made sure holidays and birthdays were special for loved ones with home-



made sweets.

Marjorie enjoyed puzzles, coloring, playing cards and Bingo. She enjoyed the time she spent sharing meals with friends at the Horse Meadow Senior Center, followed by line dancing, and she enjoyed playing cards with her circle of friends in Ryegate Corner.

Marjorie was a devout Catholic, with a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, God's boundless and passionate love for Mankind. Marjorie's faith led her through many dark times in her life, and she deeply believed in the power of prayer.

Marjorie is predeceased by too many loved ones to name, but they are together again in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Marjorie is survived by her children; Tuesday (Peter) Carbonneau, David Bone Jr (partner Mary Horne) and Melonie (Kim) LaDuke, as well as grandchildren, Talan (partner Chelsea) and Tayla (partner Joe) Bryant, Genevieve and Evalyn Bone, and great-grandchildren, Opal and Lily Bryant, a sister, Rachel Clough, sisters-in-law Becki Daniels and Virginia Ross, and brothers-in-law, Stephen Ross and Walter Bone.

Funeral Service will be at Saint Eugene's Catholic Church in Wells River, Vt. on Tuesday March 18, at 1 p.m. Burial Service will be at Pinehurst Cemetery in South Ryegate, Vt. on Tuesday May 6, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Blue Mountain Education Foundation, for funding in the Music Department: Blue Mountain Union School, C/O Ashely Kennedy, 2420 Route 302, Wells River, VT 05081.

Never say Goodbye, say see ya in the next chapter.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

## BEVERLY FLETCHER

Beverly Rollins Fletcher, born May 8, 1938 in Lisbon, New Hampshire to Frank Rollins and Lettie (Rollins) Merrill, died Feb. 23, 2025 in Eugene Oregon. Bev was a 1956 graduate of Lisbon High School and in 1959 graduated from Mary Hitchcock Hospital as a registered nurse. It was shortly after graduation, during her time working at Mary Hitchcock Hospital, that she met Albert Fletcher. They married in 1960 and had two daughters Shari and Melissa. The family moved from Bellows Falls, Vt. to Eugene, Oregon in 1969. After a long career as a nurse Bev returned to college and earned



a Bachelor degree in Human Services from the University of Oregon in 1990. She used her degree to help children through Head Start of Lane County.

Bev was predeceased by her husband Albert Fletcher, mother and stepfather Lettie and Clyde Merrill, father Frank Rollins, brothers Robert Rollins, Alvin "Ike" Rollins, and Eugene Rollins. She is survived by daughters Shari (Blake) Howard, Melissa (Nathan) Hanson, four grandchildren and

two great-grandsons; brothers Donald Rollins, Dale Rollins and a large extended family.

At her request no service will be held.

## JOHN ROLFE

John Raymond Rolfe, 92, Lancaster, N.H., passed away on Feb. 27, 2025, after a short illness. He was born to Vera Rolfe Letourneau and John Angus Rolfe in 1932 in Northumberland, N.H.

In 1955 John married Beatrice Stevens and raised a family of five children in Lancaster. He worked at the Groveton Paper Company beginning in 1952 until he retired in 2014.

John always had a smile on his face and loved to tell stories. He enjoyed outdoor life, hunting, fishing, kayaking and taking scenic car rides that often ended with getting lunch or ice cream. He loved taking his family to their camp in New Hampton and having family gatherings at Nash Pond and the Community Camp. In his later days, John enjoyed sitting outside watching nature and his beloved view of Mt.



Washington.

Surviving family includes his children: Bruce Rolfe of Island Pond, Vt., Barry Rolfe of New Hampton, N.H./ Weirsdale, Fla., Cynthia Foltz and her husband Greg of Mechanicsville, Md., Dale Rolfe and his wife Simone of Burke, Va., Debra Rolfe and her husband Howard of Winterville, Ga.;

Grandchildren: Sarah Gray of Stephens, Ga., Adam Gray of Winterville, Ga., Chana &

Zahavah Bieksker Rolfe of Burke, Va., Max & Jacob Foltz of Mechanicsville, Md. John was well loved by extended family and friends.

A funeral service will be held in the spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster, N.H. For more information or to send an online condolence please visit [www.baileyfh.net](http://www.baileyfh.net)

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STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

# Groveton Leans On Defense, Stuns Littleton To Seize D-IV Crown

BY MICHAEL BENIASH  
Sports Editor

NEW LONDON, N.H. — Littleton's had a stranglehold on the division the last two winters.

But Groveton delivered a suffocating defensive effort in the biggest game of the 2025 season.

Mylee Kenison scored 10 points, including a pair of late clutch free throws, and the third-seeded Groveton Eagles unseated defending champion and top-seeded Littleton 36-33 in the New Hampshire Division IV state girls basketball championship.

Relentless on defense and the glass, the Eagles held the Crusaders to a season-low point total while ending Littleton's impressive 43-game win streak at the packed Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center at Colby-Sawyer College on Saturday afternoon. It was the first time in history these two programs met for a title.

"This is when it counts the most and we did it," said Kenison, whose team's lone two losses this season came to previously undefeated LHS.

"Our defense all year has

been really good all season and today we were on them like flies on poop," GHS senior Aspen Clermont said.

Julia Chappell and Makalyn Kenison each scored eight points for Groveton (20-2), which built a 33-24 lead after three quarters and then survived Littleton's late rally attempt to bring home coach Tim Haskins and the Eagles their first championship since 2013.

"It's been a long time since we won a title, so it sure feels good after 12 years," said Haskins, the 19th-year coach. "We got to the final two years ago, played well and almost had that one. We got knocked out in the semis a year ago and that left a bad, bad taste in our mouths. For the last two years, we have been so close. Today was the day we believed we could do it."

"This team has a lot of competitive spirit, and what we lack in size we make up with heart. We've tried to make them a basketball-smart group, and we saw that today."

Spurred by its defense and patient offense, the Eagles led 20-16 at the break and the cushion extended to 31-24 late in the third quarter. Then with 26 seconds left in the frame,



Mylee Kenison delivered a pinpoint backdoor pass to a cutting Makalyn Kenison to give the Eagles their largest lead at 33-24 heading to the final frame.

But Littleton, which went undefeated last season en route to the 2024 crown, showed the heart and fight of a champion. With under 5 minutes to go, Addison Hadlock, one of two

Crusader seniors, scored back-to-back buckets and blocked a shot in 45 seconds. Juju Bromley's bucket brought LHS within 33-30.

Down 34-30, Bromley splashed a 3 with 32.7 seconds left to make it 34-33. Addison Pilgrim then stole the ball, but Littleton lost possession on a

See **Groveton**, Page 11

FRIGG

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## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

# Woodsville Outlasts Littleton To Cap Undeclared Championship Season

BY MICHAEL BENIASH  
Sports Editor

NEW LONDON, N.H. — Woodsville took Littleton's best shot.

Then, the top-ranked Engineers landed the final key blows.

Senior Devin Sabina forced overtime with a game-tying bucket and senior captain Jacob Putnam splashed a decisive 3 late to lift Woodsville past third-seeded Littleton 51-48 in the thrilling New Hampshire Division IV championship at the jam-packed Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center at Colby-Sawyer College on Saturday afternoon.

Woodsville star junior guard Ryan Walker finished with a game-high 19 points as the Engineers rallied from an ear-

ly 10-point hole and capped an undefeated 22-0 season with their fourth title in five seasons.

"It's a good team, a really good team," WHS coach Jamie Walker said. "Everybody has a role and they do their job. They love playing together."

Woodsville sought a four-peat a season ago, but Littleton ended the Engineers' season in the semifinals on a game-winning shot. It was a different ending in 2025 between the North Country rivals who had never squared off in a state final.

"It's a great feeling," Putnam said. "After last year, I came in really hungry to get one more championship before I left."

Sabina and Landon Kingsbury each finished with eight points, and Cowan Kimball (seven) and Owen McClintock combined for 13 for Woodsville's balanced offense.



Top-seeded Woodsville defeats No. 3 Littleton, 51-48, in the Division IV championship game at Colby-Sawyer College on Saturday, March 8, 2025. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

Sam Reagey led Littleton with 16 points before fouling out with 3:37 to play in the contest. Conner Roy scored 10 points while Logan Poulton and Marcus Hampson combined for 18 for the Crusaders, chasing their first outright crown since 2016.

It was a wild ending in regulation. Walker scored on an

acrobatic finish to put WHS up 43-40 with 2:31 to play, but Poulton answered with a game-tying 3.

Woodsville then ran over a minute off the clock before setting up a sideline out-of-bounds play with 18.3 seconds to go. Hampson, however, stole the inbounds and play and got fouled on his fast-break layup

attempt with 15 ticks to go. The point guard hit both foul shots to put the Crusaders up 45-43.

Walker then sped the ball upcourt, drove hard to his right, and dished a dime to a wide-open Sabina on the block, who tied the game at 45-all. Littleton didn't get a final shot, and the game went to overtime.

Even at 47 in OT, Putnam caught the ball on the wing and splashed a 3 with just over 2 minutes to play. It was his first points of the game.

"It felt great off my hand," said Putnam, known as a defensive stopper who earlier this season hit a game-winning 3 against Profile from the same spot.

"Jacob knows his job is to play defense," Walker said. "He hit another one just like that against Profile. That must be his spot over there."

A Hampson foul shot brought LHS within 50-48 and Walker made it 51-48 on a foul shot with 27.8 seconds to go.

The Crusaders got the ball back after a pair of missed WHS free throws with 19.9 to play and had a shot to tie the game. But Reece Cook's 3 attempt hit the glass, a putback attempt missed, and the final buzzer went off.

"This feels great," said Ryan Walker, who won his first title as a freshman. "The first one was great, but this one feels a little better. Undefeated after losing most of our starters from the last couple of years. Littleton is always tough. They made us earn it today."

Woodsville led 10-6 early, but Littleton responded with four straight 3s and used a 14-0 run over the first and second quarters to go ahead 20-10. But the Engineers fired back with a 19-6 run, including four 3s, to own a 29-26 halftime lead. Littleton led 35-34 after three to set up the back-and-fourth final two frames.

**LHS (18-4):** Marcus Hampson 3-3-9, Sam Reagey 6-2-16, Conner Roy 4-0-10, Logan Poulton 3-0-9, Ryan Mahy 2-0-4. **Totals:** 18-FG 5-6-FT 48.

**WHS (22-0):** Ryan Walker 7-3-19, Owen McClintock 2-0-6, Jacob Putnam 1-0-3, Cowan Kimball 2-2-7, Landon Kingsbury 2-4-8, Devin Sabina 4-0-8. **Totals:** 18-FG 9-19-FT 51.

**LHS 11 15 9 10 3 — 48**  
**WHS 10 19 5 11 6 — 51**  
**3-Point FG:** L 7 (Reagey 2, Roy 2, Poulton 3); W 6 (Walker 2, McClintock 2, Putnam, Kimball). **Team Fouls:** L 18, W 11. **Fouled Out:** L, Reagey.

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# Groveton

Continued from Page 9  
double-dribble.

Still 34-33 with 14.8 seconds to go, Mylee Kenison got fouled and stepped to the line, looking to make it a three-point ballgame.

“It was a very stressful moment,” she said.

Kenison calmly sank both shots for a 36-33 lead.

Littleton pushed the ball up the floor, and Bromley’s clean look at the game-tying 3 hit the back iron. Two Crusader put-back attempts missed the mark and the final buzzer sounded, sending the Eagles players sprinting to halfcourt for a well-deserved celebration.

“Littleton really stepped up in the fourth quarter,” Haskins said. “They got us a little antsy and turned us over and got back in the game. But we had just enough left in the tank to hang on.”

Pilgrim finished with 10 points while Hadlock (eight) and Bromley combined for 15 for the Crusaders, who struggled to hit shots they’ve made all season long.

“We dug ourselves a deficit that we had to battle out of, and we almost did,” LHS coach Dale Prior said. “Hey, it wasn’t



No. 3 Groveton defeats No. 1 Littleton, 36-33, in the Division IV championship game at Colby-Sawyer College on Saturday, March 8, 2025. (Photo by Paul Hayes)



meant to be. Things happen, and hats off to Groveton. Our team played with a lot of pres-

sure on their shoulders all year. When you win, a lot of people want to beat you. We always get everyone’s best effort,

which makes us better. “I am most proud that we didn’t quit. Nothing was going our way. We just needed a bucket to go in, and we finally did. We got some momentum and almost pulled it out. You can’t ask for much more.”

Credit the swarming defense of Groveton, which won five titles in six years from 2008-13 and finally returned to glory after 12 long years.

“It was fun,” Clermont said. “We all went out there and had fun. After losing in the finals two years ago, I’ve had a chip on my shoulder ever since, and to get back here and win means everything to me.”

**GHS (20-2):** Julia Chappell 3-2-8, Makalyn Kenison 4-0-8, Kandrah Savage 1-0-2, Delaney Whiting 2-0-5, Kaycee Chappell 1-0-3, Mylee Kenison 3-3-10. **Totals:** 14-FG 5-7-FT 36.

**LHS (21-1):** Ella Horsch 1-0-3, Addison Pilgrim 5-0-10, Juju Bromley 3-0-7, Addison Hadlock 3-2-8, Leah Poulton 2-0-5. **Totals:** 14-FG 2-2-FT 33.

**GHS 7 13 13 3 — 36**  
**LHS 7 9 8 9 — 33**  
**3-Point FG:** G 3 (Whiting, K. Chappell, My. Kenison); L 3 (Horsch, Bromley, Poulton).  
**Team Fouls:** G 11, L 11.

# Vote

Continued from Page 4  
Brown said during Monday’s Select Board meeting. “I have been working with our town moderator, our town clerk, who oversee the election process. They have been reaching out to the Secretary of State’s office and doing everything they can to ensure that the elections are going to continue as planned.”  
On Monday at Grafton Superior Court, December Rust (whose real name, according to superior court records and a family court case at Littleton District Court, is Stephen Woodworth), filed a civil action against Littleton seeking the restraining order. He is acting as his own attorney and filed a motion to waive the filing fee.  
At Monday’s board meeting that evening, the town released a statement read by

Select Board member Kerri Harrington.  
“Town officials are aware of social media reports regarding a temporary restraining order filed with the New Hampshire Superior Court seeking to postpone the local election scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025,” said Harrington. “These reports reference allegations related to financial misconduct, conflicts of interest, and election integrity violations involving the Board of Selectmen. Town Moderator Chad Stearns has contacted the New Hampshire Secretary of State’s office for guidance. At this time, the election remains scheduled as planned.”  
It’s not the first lawsuit Woodworth has filed against the town of Littleton.  
An April 2024 request for injunction at Grafton Superior Court that sought to prohibit the town from implementing an overnight camping ban on

municipal property was withdrawn.  
A September 2024 complaint for injunction filed by Woodworth against the town of Littleton and a Select Board member remains pending.  
A tort case filed in September 2023 in Coos Superior Court against an apartment owner in Whitefield and the town of Whitefield was dismissed four months later. In the claim, Woodworth sought \$1 million and alleged he was injured walking up the stairs to his then-Whitefield apartment.  
A Grafton Superior Court tort case he filed against Walmart in September 2023 that sought \$1.75 million for an alleged “manufacturing defect” in a pair of sneakers was dismissed four months later.  
A restraining order sought in April 2023 at Coos Superior Court against a woman was dismissed by the court two months later.

A defamation case filed in 2024 at Grafton Superior Court against what records state was his ex-wife was dismissed. According to court papers viewed Tuesday, it was appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.  
A defamation case filed at Grafton Superior Court in April 2024 against a second woman was dismissed four months later.  
Both defamation cases sought \$875,000 each.  
According to records, the court dismissed several of the cases after a failure to follow through on paperwork or a failure to appear in court.  
In all, court documents show eight superior court actions filed by Woodworth in Grafton and Coos superior courts.  
In all cases, he has acted as his own attorney and sought to waive filing fees, citing financial hardship and inability to pay court costs.

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