

Charge Dismissed. Noyes Found Incompetent To
Stand Trial For Cass Killing. **Page 4**



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FYI

For Farms, Agritourism Makes Ends Meet

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — "I want to see the Guinea pig," Mason asked.

"No, Mason, it's a mini pig, not a Guinea pig," explained his mother.

Mason, a 5-year-old boy, and his parents, were spending the night at our Farm House Inn and wanted to snuggle with Tazzy, our mini porch pig.

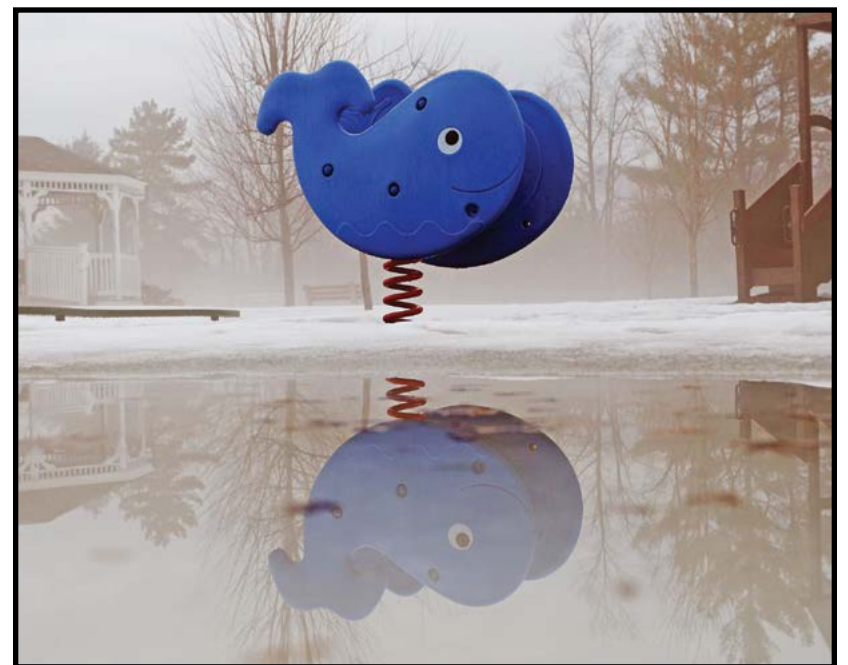
Miles Smith Farm is a working pig and cattle farm and most of our income comes from selling meat. No matter how hard we work, our sales don't quite cover farm operations. With a \$30,000 yearly hay bill, \$12,000 annual electric bill, plus taxes, mortgage, heat and more, we often wonder how we can pay our bills. How do we manage? We brought back a tradition that is just as old as farming: agritourism.

Many think that agritourism is a new thing; it's not.

"Agritourism has been part of the fabric of agriculture in New Hampshire for generations. If anything, the increase in attention of late is a revival," said Josh Marshall, New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation communications director.

Marshall's great-grandfather settled in Boscawen in 1919, when "you did whatever you could to make a living." His great-grandfather took in summer boarders and passers-by. The children would sleep in the barn, giving up their bedrooms for guests. They did what they had to do to keep on farming.

On The Cover



Snow melts and fog rises on the Dow Field playground in Franconia, N.H., on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

Turning Right In The Center Lane

Humanity and Humiliation

I used to be a serious gum-chewer. The kind that shoved five sticks of gum in my mouth at once and blew bubbles so big they popped in my hair. Bubblicious was my preferred gum of choice, but I'd settle for Bubble Yum if I had to. Juicy Fruit was okay, but definitely a last resort.

In my gum chewing days, a pack of bubble gum cost \$1.00 at the Cannon Mountain Cafeteria. I was never the kid in my ski group who had any money to spend on snacks or candy, so I relied on others to support my habit. My friends usually pulled through, but one day in particular it seemed like everyone was broke.

We sat in the Peabody Lodge and watched the lone cashier yawn with boredom and stare at the Gatorade fridge, then to the hot chocolate machine, and back to the Gatorade fridge. She picked at her nails, and shifted her weight from side to side. This was before cellphones became a thing, so she was doing her best to entertain herself. Eventually a line of customers showed up at her counter, and I saw my opportunity unfold.

Stealing the gum was so easy. I simply walked into the cafeteria, put the gum in my pocket, and walked out. Piece of cake. I skied my way over to the race headquarters on the other side of the mountain to meet up with my dad, gathered my equipment and prepared to go home. Waiting for him, I popped a piece of gum in my mouth.

"Where did you get that pack of gum?" He asked me, knowing damn well I had no money for it, since he never gave me any. I didn't answer him.

"Where did you get that gum, Paige?" He asked me again.

"I stole it," I said, blowing a bubble and letting it pop in my face. At seven-years-old, my parents were freshly divorced. I didn't receive a lot of discipline because I didn't do a lot wrong. For the most part I was good. This was the first time I found myself in trouble without both my parents there to punish me, or to calm one another down in the process. I expected my dad to go easy on me, as it was my first shoplifting offense. I figured he'd probably lecture me, tell me that what I did was wrong, never do it again, and take my gum away.

Boy, was I wrong. My dad dragged me all the way back over to the Peabody Lodge, found the food and beverage manager, made me give the gum back, pay for it since I chewed a piece, and sputter out an



By Paige Roberts

apology between wet, soggy tears. When the manager felt pity on me and offered to let me have the gum since I had paid for it, my dad didn't let me keep it.

This other time, when I was about ten, I joined my classmates in laughing at a mentally disabled student who forgot their lines during a school play performance. Right before it was my turn to go on stage, my dad pulled me aside and read me the Riot Act.

"But everyone was doing it!"

I pleaded. Nothing worked. He didn't care that I was about to go perform; he wanted me to feel as embarrassed as we all made that kid feel. I sulked up on stage, tears running down my red face, and croaked out my lines before finding a way back to my seat in the audience where I could hide for the rest of the night.

At the time, I hated him for doing those things to me, for embarrassing the hell out of me, for forcing me to expose my faults, and expecting better from me. As I've grown older, and I think back on what my parents each taught me, I always remember these slips in my character. My dad recognized them so clearly, and had zero tolerance for that blatant disrespect and misbehavior. At the time, his reactions seemed so over-the-top, but they were really quite simple, and incredibly warranted.

My dad is one who is quick to forgive. After these mortifying lessons on character building, he would turn to me and say, "You know, Paige, humility is good for the soul." I didn't understand at the time, but I do now.

I never stole anything ever again. I didn't jump off the bridge even if my friends were doing it. He embarrassed me, but he humbled me, and he made me better because of it.

I'm not afraid to call myself out on my flaws and faults. I'm not afraid to embarrass myself. I do my best to stay grounded, and humbled. I give credit where credit is due, and try my hardest to remember that everyone is fighting their own battles, including me.

Humility and humiliation: two very similar words with completely different meanings. Yet, to me, they go hand-in-hand. I learned humility through my humiliations. I still am. It's one of the greatest lessons my dad has ever taught me.

Paige Roberts has a degree in Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University. She is the Assistant to the Director at The Frost Place. More of her writing can be found at www.idontreallyknowwhatkindofgirliam.blogspot.com.

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Murder Charge Dismissed In Celina Cass Killing Case

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LANCASTER — With a deadline looming, and after agreeing with the defense that the mental competency of the accused killer of Celina Cass cannot be restored in time to stand trial, prosecutors on Monday agreed to dismiss his murder charge.

Lancaster District Court Judge Paul Desjardins, however, did determine that Wendell Noyes, 53, of West Stewartstown, who had been Celina's stepfather, is a danger and signed an order committing him to the secured state psychiatric hospital for a minimum of five years.

Every five years, his case will be reviewed by a probate court, and subsequent determinations could keep him committed for life or could at some point, if he is no longer deemed a danger, release him back into the community.

"Unfortunately, because of his mental state, we weren't able to incarcerate, but that's the system we have," said Senior Assistant N.H. Attorney General Jane Young. "If he becomes competent at any point in his life, we can reinstate those charges."

No members of the Cass family, including her mother, Luisa, were present in the courtroom for a reaction.

Noyes, who had been held at Coos County jail since his June arrest, was not brought into the courtroom but instead transported to the state hospital in Concord.

On June 21, Noyes, who also had unrelated 2015 assault and criminal mischief charges dismissed Monday because of competency, was arrested on a charge of second-degree murder in the July 25, 2011, killing of 11-year-old Celina by drowning her in the Connecticut River.

The girl who had been a student at Stewartstown Community School and a basketball player for the Canaan School was last seen sitting behind her computer at about 9 p.m. July 25, 2011, at the apartment at 863 Washington St., West Stewartstown.

She was reported missing on the following morning by a neighbor.

Her body was found a week later by a N.H. Fish and Game diver 15 feet below the surface of the water at the Canaan Hydro Station Dam,

a quarter-mile from the apartment she shared with her mother, sister and Noyes.

Noyes was admitted to the N.H. Hospital several days before his June arrest and was set to be discharged, defense attorneys Justin Shepherd and Robin Melone wrote in their motion to dismiss.

Under N.H. law, defendants have 12 months to have their competency restored to understand the charges against them. If it cannot be restored, and a defendant is a danger, a court can order an initial five-year commitment to the secured state psychiatric unit.

According to the state's findings, Noyes "is presently not competent to stand trial, not restorable and dangerous to himself and others ... [and] there is no reasonable likelihood he can be restored to competency through appropriate treatment within 12 months."

The state's determination comes after three hearings to determine his competency — in August, September and November — were called off.

After six months of treatment with high doses of anti-psychotic medication, "the intensity of his psychotic symptoms improved, but the paranoid and delusional thinking did not," psychiatrist Albert Drukteinis wrote in his report.

Melone said Noyes "has consistently denied he's responsible for Celina's death."

Had the case gone to trial, Young said the state is confident it has the facts to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

On Monday, attorneys also agreed to unseal the 35-page affidavit for arrest against Noyes that alleges he committed the murder based on several pieces of physical and circumstantial evidence, among them the type of sand found in the bed of his pickup truck they said was used to weigh down Celina's body.

State's Case

According to an autopsy by Jennie Duval, of the state medical examiner's office, the cause of death was drowning. Duval also noted during the autopsy there was evidence of abrasions consistent with sexual penetration.

The affidavit for arrest does not note any defensive wounds.

Celina's body, clothed in a T-shirt and bra, was found wrapped in a comforter and blanket

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Prosecutors dismissed a murder charge against Wendell Noyes, above, in the killing of 11-year-old Celina Cass, below. Noyes was found incompetent to stand trial and was committed to a state psychiatric facility for a minimum of five years. (Courtesy photos)



Franconia's First-Ever Town Administrator Settles In

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

FRANCONIA — For Holly Burbank, it's been a trial by fire. Franconia's first-ever town administrator was brought on in mid-January, just as budget and town warrant season was in full swing.

"It's going great," she said Friday. "There is a lot to learn and a lot to do. I'm hitting the treadmill at full speed."

The position of town administrator was created last year, in September, after several dozen residents at a meeting gave it their unanimous support and selectmen agreed it would be good for the town.

Burbank rose to the top of a total of 17 candidates and selectmen unanimously chose her.

Her hiring comes after the Dec. 31 retirement of Sally Small, who had been the town's administrative assistant for 24 years and whose duties through the years came to include those carried out by town administrators.

Those residents and selectmen supporting the position of town administrator say the person in the role can better outline town policies, pursue more revenue and grants for the town, and allow selectmen to better focus on longer range goals.

After town meeting, Burbank plans to meet with department heads to get a better understanding of what they do and will review town policies and procedures to see if they need improve-

ment.

"I'll also be looking at ways to streamline the budget process next year," she said.

Burbank brings eight years of municipal government experience to the job - for three years, she was the clerk and tax collector for the city of Franklin and for five years was the administrative assistant to the selectmen and town manager in Waterville Valley.

"The Waterville job was where I got most of my training and knowledge about how this all works," she said.

Franconia's selectmen - Bernadette Costa, Eric Meth, and John Lachapelle - have been supportive, she said.

"They are very welcoming and open to any ideas I bring to them," said Burbank.

Before becoming Franconia's town administrator, she was the communications coordinator for a nonprofit in northern Michigan, where she lived with her boyfriend who worked in the Forest Service.

Burbank said she enjoyed her time there, but said it's also nice to be back home in her native N.H. and back in municipal government.

What she loves about the job, she said, is helping people, solving problems and making procedures better and more efficient.

"And the employees I work with are all great people," she said. "I'm just loving the job."

After town meeting, Burbank will be looking at how she can help the town prosper in the years ahead.

"I want to see how we can provide a better future," she said.



New Franconia Town Administrator Holly Burbank behind her computer Friday. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

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News Briefs

Accused Meth Maker Faces 30 Years For Exploding Lab In Home With Kids

NORTH HAVERHILL — A North Country man whose meth lab allegedly exploded in November, in the basement of a home where two children lived, now faces stiff felony counts for drug possession.

Derek L. Silva, 36, who had been living at 25 Mann's Hill Road in Littleton, was indicted last week on a special class felony count of attempted manufacture of methamphetamine with ingredients and two Class B felony counts of vi-

olating the Controlled Drug Act.

On Nov. 13, the day responders were called out to the residence for the report of the explosion, police said Silva had salts and isomers to make the drug, and also had a quantity of it.

In the basement of the home, authorities said they found the lab and said the suspected cause of the fire was the combustible chemicals used to make methamphetamine.

For the drug charges, he faces a maximum sentence of up to 30 years in state prison.

Two weeks after the explosion and after posting bail, Silva was arrested on charges of violating the conditions of his bail after being pulled over in his vehicle by police and being found

with a loaded pistol hidden in his waistband.

He was charged with three Class A misdemeanor counts each of contempt of court for carrying a loaded 9-millimeter handgun, possessing it without a concealed carry permit, and contempt of court possessing the shotgun.

In addition, he faces a Class A felony count of receiving stolen property for having the pistol while knowing it was stolen as well as a new Class B felony count of possessing another quantity of methamphetamine.

Littleton police had been at a Perkins Land Road residence attempting to locate a person wanted in connection to a domestic violence charge when they saw Silva, who was traveling

along the road, but saw the officers and abruptly turned around and departed the vicinity at a high rate of speed before being pulled over.

The pistol was reported stolen from the town of Sugar Hill, said police.

Silva was arrested again, with bail set at \$150,000 cash.

Town Wants To Make Zoning Clearer

WHITEFIELD — With an eye toward its future, the town of Whitefield is proposing six

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Dismissed

Continued from Page 4

from her bed that were secured with about 30 feet of twine. A bag of sand, weighing more than 50 pounds, was found between her legs, and some had spilled out.

When a search warrant was executed on Noyes' pickup truck, police said they seized three sandbags from the bed, weighing 70 pounds each.

Analysis was done comparing the three bags to the plastic tube of sand recovered between Celina Cass' legs, Charles West, detective with the state's Cold Case Unit, wrote in the affidavit.

It was concluded that prior to Celina's death there had been four sandbags in Noyes' truck, and lab analysis supports the conclusion the fourth bag had likely been placed with her body, he stated.

In 2015, there was a renewed effort to identify the twine, and investigators said at the time of the murder there was a Family Dollar store in Colebrook that sold it, beside the former Lads and Ladybugs thrift store where Luisa worked.

Luisa told police the twine was consistent with string she used for Christmas and seasonal crafts and it had been kept in Noyes' toolbox.

Three days before Celina's body was found, authorities said Noyes, when confronted about inconsistent statements and times, walked out of an interview.

According to the report, N.H. State Police troopers then eyed through binoculars what they said was an agitated Noyes as he walked toward Vermont. They said they watched him stop on the bridge into Canaan, turn north, and, unaware he was being observed, point upriver in the direction where her body would be found.

When Noyes learned her body had been discovered, police said he dropped to the ground in front of his apartment and rolled around.

Although unauthenticated, West wrote in the affidavit that in 2015 a Coos County inmate told police that Noyes, who was also being held at the jail, admitted to him he was having sex with Celina, thought she was pregnant and afterward choked her, wrapped her in blankets and dumped her in the river.

Prosecutors have not disclosed a motive for

the murder.

The affidavit states other potential suspects were also interviewed, including Kevin Mullaney, 29, who is the son of a former boyfriend of Luisa's who had been living in the apartment with Noyes, Luisa and Celina and her sister.

Mullaney, who is currently serving a 6- to 10-year N.H. State Prison sentence on unrelated felony charges, was ruled out, according to the affidavit.

After Monday's court proceeding, Shepherd said the defense maintains Noyes' innocence.

He said the case was thoroughly investigated, but added, "There are a lot of open ends."

In their motion, Shepherd and Melone cite the DNA evidence, including male DNA found on Celina's underwear that was suitable for entry into the DNA index system.

"It is fair to say that no DNA testing done on evidence found on Celina's body or the items of evidence attached to her body when it was recovered implicate Wendell Noyes," they said.

Future

If prosecutors obtain additional information, they would look into the possibility of other suspects, said Young.

"The only evidence we have at this point is against Wendell Noyes," she said.

Some defendants committed to the state psychiatric unit are never released while others are, said Melone.

When asked if Noyes could ever be released into the community, Shepherd said it's a possibility.

According to the state's ruling of law, in the event Noyes is transferred to another facility or discharged, the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services is to notify the N.H. attorney general, who will then notify the Cass family as well as the law enforcement agency in the community to which he is being discharged.

Monday's hearing had initially been to determine if Noyes is mentally competent to stand trial. It had been scheduled for 11 a.m., but was continued as prosecutors and defense attorneys reached the agreement announced by the judge nearly four hours later.

Outside the courtroom, Young, when asked why it took five years for the state to formally charge Noyes, said prosecutors came to the conclusion in June they had enough evidence to go forward with a case.

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The N.H. Army National Guard is finishing up an addition to its armory in Littleton. (Image courtesy of NHNG)

Work Wraps Up On Expanded Armory

LITTLETON — After a year of work, the N.H. Army National Guard has completed a 4,500-square-foot addition to its armory in Littleton to prepare for a new era.

“Like our other Cold War era armories across the state, they are in need of modernization to meet the demands of today’s NHNG,” said NHNG Lt. Col. Greg Heilshorn.

The \$1.4 million renovation, paid for through federal dollars, had been planned since 2013.

“Later this spring, when the ground thaws, we’ll begin a site improvement project on the grounds, which will include a parking lot in the front and side of the armory as well as some drainage work at a total cost of about \$500,000,” he said.

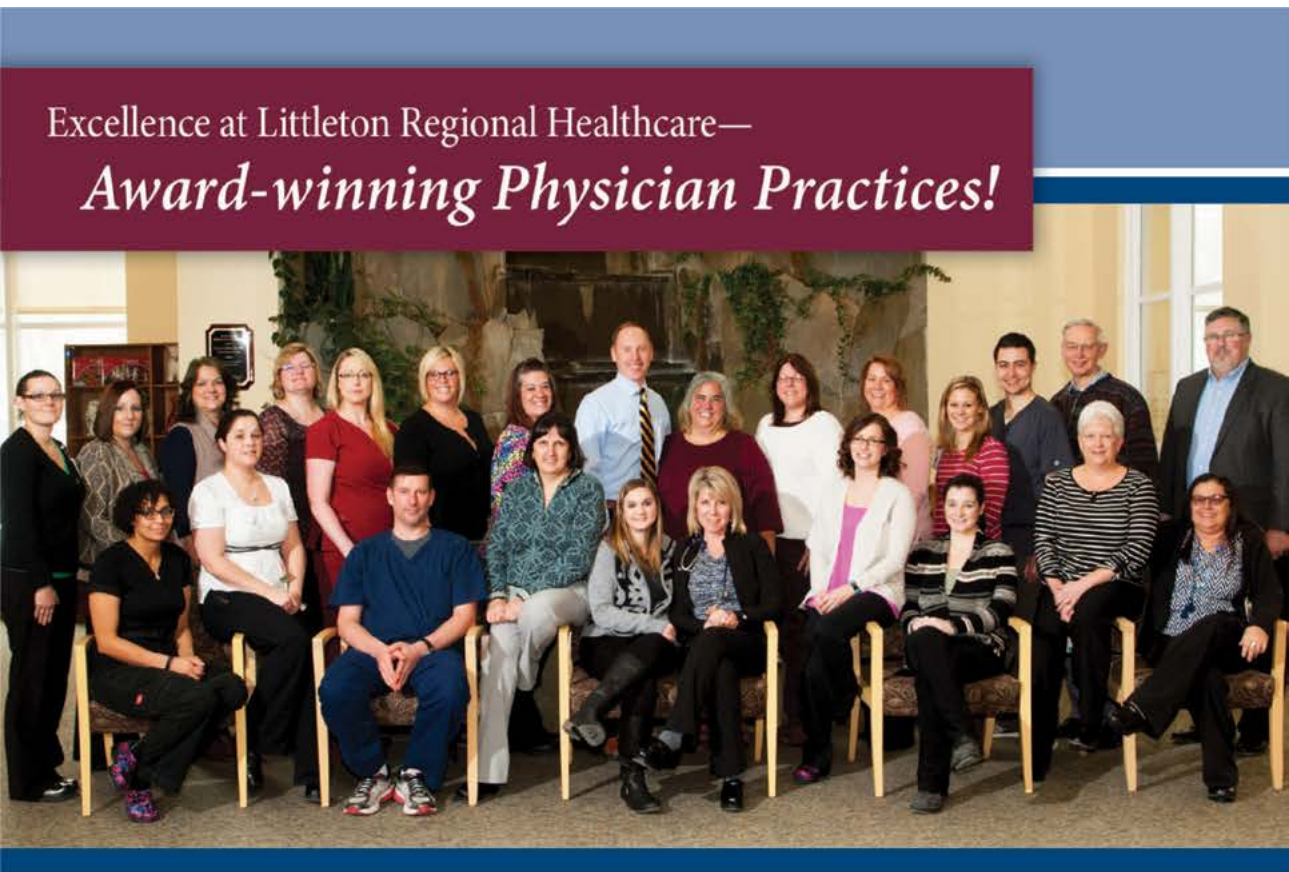
The addition includes a large, multi-purpose classroom, conference room and multiple administrative offices as well as a female latrine.

Because the armory has been designated a historic structure, the NHNG is working with the town historian to include a gallery of historic photos in the hall that connects the new addition to the original armory, which was built in 1955, said Heilshorn.

In recent years, no NHNG unit has been drilling at the armory.

“A detachment from the 744th Transportation Company had been drilling there, but it’s to be determined whether it will return or another one of our Army National Guard units will transfer there,” said Heilshorn. “Typically, a small staff works there full-time. The unit would drill there a weekend a month, plus addition training periods throughout the year.”

The Littleton armory, also called the Littleton Readiness Center, is located at 350 Meadow St. near the intersection with Dells Road. — *By Robert Blechl*



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Obituaries

Linda (Charland) Dalglish

Linda (Charland) Dalglish, 71 of Littleton, went to heaven on February 27, 2017 after a long, courageous battle with pulmonary hypertension. She was in the comfort of her home, surrounded by family.

Linda was born on August 13, 1945 in Littleton, to her parents, Frank Charland and Ethel (McLeod) Charland. She was raised in Bethlehem and attended Bethlehem High School, where she was a member of the last graduating class in 1963.

She married Donald Ross in 1964 at Christ The King, Catholic Church in Bethlehem. Working several jobs in her lifetime, Linda spent most of her employment years at Lakeway Elementary School as a special education aide, and later as an office assistant. Most recently, she was the data entry clerk at the North Country Charter Academy.

Linda married Frank Dalglish, on May 11, 2002. They made their home in Littleton and enjoyed vacationing in Maine.

Linda is survived by her four loving children: Brenda Ross Jette of Bethlehem; Rhonda Stover of Lancaster; Donald Ross, Jr. and his wife Cindy of Wappingers Falls, N.Y.; and Eric Ross and his wife Jennifer of Littleton; her devoted grandchildren: Michael and Andrew Place; Matthew Ross; Morgan and Quintin Ross; and Emerson Jette; sisters: Jane Grimes; sister-in-law,



Linda Dalglish

Lois Charland; Rena and Larry Elliott; June Elliott; Janet and Tom McKay; Sally and John Anderson; and many nieces and nephews who brought her great joy. Linda was predeceased by her husband Frank Dalglish, brother Arnold (Pean) Charland, and her nephew Bruce Charland.

Visiting Hours will be Friday, March 3, at Ross Funeral Home, Littleton Chapel, 282 West Main St. Littleton, N.H. from 6-8 p.m. Fr. Mark Dollard will celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 77 Clay St. Littleton, N.H., on Saturday March 4 at 10 a.m., interment will follow privately.

Those who wish make donations in Linda's memory to North Country Home Health and Hospice, 536 Cottage St. Littleton, NH 03561. For more information or to share memories and condolences with the family go to www.RossFuneral.com

Betty Mildred Pilotte

Betty Mildred Pilotte, a longtime resident of Whitefield, N.H., passed away peacefully from Alzheimer's at Country Village of Lancaster, N.H. on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 with her daughters by her side.

Betty was born in Stratford, N.H. on Aug. 5, 1928 daughter to Percy and Lena (Hampton) Bushaw. She married Darcy Pilotte and shared her life with him until his death in 1986. Betty worked at the Morrison Hospital on the maternity ward taking care of the babies. She also worked at Norton Pike for 25+ years until her retirement. After her retirement she enjoyed babysitting her grandchildren as well as Tyler and Brooke Ramsdell in their younger years.

Betty loved reading, shopping, dining out and yearly trips to the Maine coast.

Betty is survived by two sons: Michael and wife Deborah, Donald and wife Melody both of Whitefield, N.H. Two daughters: Sandra and husband George Stone of Whitefield, N.H. and Marie Fisher of Littleton, N.H.; a sister: Lorraine and husband

Marcel Caron of Phoenix, Ariz.; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband: Darcy Pilotte; two brothers and two sisters.

Friends may call on the family on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Ross Funeral Home, Whitefield Chapel, 69 Lancaster Rd, Whitefield, N.H. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated St Mathew's Catholic Church, 9 Jefferson Rd, Whitefield at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Burial will be in the spring at St. Mathews Cemetery. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.RossFuneral.com.

Wanda Jean Langmaid

Wanda Jean Langmaid, age 69, of Stannard Mountain Road in South Wheelock, passed away on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, after a long battle with cancer.

Wanda was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on Feb. 12, 1948, daughter to Chester and Rita (Stuart) Howard. She was raised and educated in St. Johnsbury graduating from the Academy. In 1999, Wanda married Ronald Langmaid.

Wanda was a member of the VFW. She enjoyed puzzles, playing cards, and fishing.

She is survived by her husband: Ronald Langmaid of South Wheelock; her mother: Rita S. Howard of St. Johnsbury; a son: Les Daniell and wife, Meghan, of St. Johnsbury; a daughter: Christine Langmaid and husband, Scott, of St. Johnsbury; a step-son: Brian Langmaid of South Wheelock; a step-daughter: Shelly Tanner and husband, Alan, of Sutton; three brothers: Chet Howard and wife, Lynn, of Everett, Wash., Ronnie Howard and wife, Maybelle, of Landaff, N.H., and Terry Howard and wife, Rachel, of Ocklawaha, Fla.; a sister: Teala Hooker and husband, Leslie, of St. Johnsbury; four grandchildren: Aaron and Brandon Langmaid, Evan and Anissa Daniell; and



Wanda Langmaid

See **Obituaries**, Page 9

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 8

two step-grandchildren: Tanika Allard and Dakota Sylvain.

She was predeceased by her father: Chester Howard; and a niece: Robin Howard.

Friends may call on the family on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Sayles Funeral Home, 525 Summer Street, St. Johnsbury, Vt. A service of remembrance will follow immediately after visiting hours.

Burial will be in the spring at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com.

Blanche Byrd Maurice

Blanche Byrd Maurice, a long time resident of St. Johnsbury, Vt., passed away at Riverglenn House of Littleton on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, at the age of 98.

Blanche was born in Grand Isle, Vt. on Feb. 2, 1919, daughter to John and Ella (Larock) Byrd. She graduated from Montpelier High School. She married Roland Maurice and shared her life with him until his death in 1999. Blanche worked for 30 years at St. Jay Glove Shop. After their closing she worked at Fairbanks until her retirement in 1983.

Her grandchildren and great grandchildren brought much joy to her life. It was a source of pride to Blanche that she was born in the Hyde Log Cabin, the oldest log cabin in the United States.

Blanche is survived by four sons: Donald Rafus and David Rafus, both of White River Junction, Vt., Gary Maurice and wife, Marie, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, and Jeffrey Maurice of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; a sister: Marion Skinner of Lancaster, N.H.; 18 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband: Roland Lionel Maurice; a daughter: Anne Dudley; and five of her six siblings.

A memorial service will be held at Sayles Funeral Home on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 10 a.m. followed by burial at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in St. Johnsbury.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com. Sayles Funeral Home is located at 525 Summer Street, St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819.

Clyde Towle

Clyde Towle, 66, of Lancaster Road, Whitefield, N.H., died Monday evening Feb. 20, 2017 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, after a recent illness.

Mr. Towle was born in Lancaster on June 18, 1950, the son of Asa C. and Doreen B. (Ball) Towle. During his lifetime he had many jobs primarily working as a woodsman and a teamster. He was employed as a teamster at local grand hotels including the Omni Mt. Washington and Mountain View Grand and has worked with horses in the logging industry. For a time he was employed at Thompson Manufacturing in both the woodshop and the machine shop.

Surviving family members include his

brothers Ben Towle of Whitefield, Curt Towle of Porter, Maine, a sister Darlene Towle of Berlin; and six nephews and one niece.

A visiting hour will be held Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster. A funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Sandra MacKillop of Lancaster will officiate. Burial will be in the spring in Forest Vale Cemetery, Jefferson.

Please go to www.baileyfh.net for more information or to send an online condolence.

Carolyn Ann Byrne

Carolyn Ann Byrne, 74, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, at Cottage Hospital, Woodsville, N.H., following an extended illness.

She was born in Holton, Maine, on Oct. 15, 1942, the daughter of Lester and Elizabeth (O'Malley) Defrates. She was raised in Woodsville and graduated from Woodsville High School Class of 1960, and later attended the Boston Stenotype Institute and became a certified stenographer. Initially she worked for the former Edes Law Office in Woodsville before going to work for the former Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover. Carolyn was the purchasing agent for the operating rooms at Mary Hitchcock and later at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center when it moved to Lebanon. Upon her retirement she had worked for the institution for over 40 years. During that time for a period of 20 years Carolyn drove the commuter "HanoVan" from Woodsville to Hanover, picking up hospital workers along the way.

She was a member of the North Country Chorus and St. Lukes Episcopal Church in Woodsville, and Cottage Hospital Auxiliary. With her husband Paul, they had been fortunate to have traveled the world visiting Egypt, Tibet, China, Australia, South America, Africa, and Europe to name just a few. Carolyn loved taking care of her home and many perennial gardens.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 53 years, Paul R. Byrne of Woodsville, to whom she married on Sept. 21, 1963, along with nieces, nephews, and close friends.

She was predeceased by her father, Lester on Oct. 25, 2000, her mother, Betty on Oct. 3, 2003, and her brother, Peter L. Defrates on Oct. 24, 1967.

There will be no calling hours. A graveside service will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017, at noon in the Horse Meadow Annex Cemetery, North Haverhill, N.H.

For more information or to sign an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com.

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements.



Carolyn Byrne



Ice melts on Coffin Pond in Sugary Hill, N.H., on Feb. 24, 2017. (Photo by Paul Hayes)



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Photo Taken 2/27/17





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Friday, Mar 03

COMMUNITY

Tech Help: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. Get free one on one help from Tech Intern Blake Kincaid. Sign up for a time at the front desk or call 626-5475 for more information. Cobleigh Public Library staff, info@cobleighlibrary.org, 802-626-5475. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Lenten Chowder Luncheons: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 18 Main Street, Littleton. Annual Lenten Chowder Luncheons with fish and corn chowders, sandwiches, and homemade pies. Free delivery in the Littleton Area. Debbie Alberini, fumcchowder@gmail.com, 603-444-5567.

Tech Support: 4-5:30 p.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, St. Johnsbury. Device giving you trouble? Bring your phone, tablet, or laptop to our weekly tech support session and learn how to access our online services. Rene Joly, rene.joly@stjathenaeum.org, 802-748-8291. <http://www.stjathenaeum.org>.

Saturday, Mar 04

COMMUNITY

10th Annual Bill Cunningham Race, Raffle, & Silent Auction to Beat Amyloid: 12 a.m., Cannon Mountain Yellow Room for Registration, Franconia Notch, Franconia. Family Fun Ski Race - Tea Cup Raffle - Silent Auction. The race is open to all ages. and bib pick-up/late registration starts at 8 a.m. in the

Family Room downstairs in the Peabody Base Lodge next to the raffle tables that will be open 9 AM. Carol Carlson-Cunningham, CarolsLodge@juno.com, 603 846-5501. <http://www.BillsRace.com>.

Story Time: 9-10 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 Main Street, Hardwick. Stories, snacks, and a craft. Snacks generously provided by the Buffalo Mountain Coop. For the birth to five crowd. Diane Grenkow, jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.org, 802-472-5948. <http://www.jeudevinememoriallibrary.org>.

Tech Help: 9-11 a.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. Get free one on one help from Tech Intern Blake Kincaid. Sign up for a time at the front desk or call 626-5475 for more information. Cobleigh Public Library staff, info@cobleighlibrary.org, 802-626-5475. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Show and Tell: 10-12 a.m., One Stitch Two Stitch, 81 Main Street - Outback, Littleton. Bring in any project (finished or not) that you are proud of and show it off to a group of supportive, fellow crafters. Can be any type of crafts or projects. Children are always welcome. Beth Anderson, henpeckedquilts@yahoo.com, 603-444-5284. <http://www.onestitchtostitch.com/>.

Sunday, Mar 05

COMMUNITY

Sunday Meditation: 10-11 a.m., St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury. Meditation instruction available. Caroline DeMaio, cde maio5@gmail.com, 802-748-9338. <http://st-johnsbury.shambhala.org>.

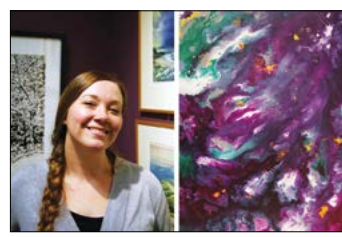
League of Women Voters meeting: 3:30-5 p.m., Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. We will discuss how to be

Get Out

Arts & Entertainment In The North Country

ON EXHIBIT

The Gallery at 42 Maple Contemporary Art Center will present original works by Heidi Vaughn for the month with an opening reception on March 3. For more info see facing page.



an engaged citizen and plan projects/events. The LWV is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization that has been helping our democracy to work better since 1920. It is open to men and women of all ages. Everyone is welcome! Karen, 748-6313.

Monday, Mar 06

COMMUNITY

Free Open Sew: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., One Stitch Two Stitch, 81 Main Street - Outback, Littleton. Bring your machine and project. Be social, get feedback on your work, and help each other. Beth Anderson, henpeckedquilts@yahoo.com, 444-5284. www.onestitchtostitch.com.

Art class with Rick Tilton: 10 a.m., Littleton Area Senior Center, 77 Riverglen Lane, Littleton. Any medium, all levels welcome.

Hand building pottery: 2:30-5 p.m., Littleton Studio School, 21 Mill Street, Littleton. For beginners and experienced. First session of six. 603-444-1066.

Nia: 4:30 p.m., Barnet Wellness Center, 64 Monument Circle, Barnet. 633-2700.

Join the St. Johnsbury Band:

7-9 p.m., St. Johnsbury Band, Caledonia County Court House, Main St., St. Johnsbury. All musicians are invited to join the St. Johnsbury Band. The band meets weekly at the Caledonia County Court House. All genres of music are played and all ability levels are welcome. More information at manager@stjohnsburyband.org. Susan Gallagher, susgallagher@gmail.com, 802-626-5836. www.stjohnsburyband.org.

Tuesday, Mar 07

COMMUNITY

Tai Chi: 8:30-9:30 a.m., Barnet TradePost Workshop Annex, 64A Monument Circle, Barnet. info@barnettrade-post.com, 802-633-2700 x4.

Story time: 10-11 a.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. For ages birth to 5. A fantastic time to borrow books, enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays and rhymes! With a "letter of the day" and a focus on one of the six early literacy skills, songs, crafts and the opportunity to meet new library friends! Abby Johnson,

abbynjohnson3@gmail.com, 802-626-5475. www.cobleighlibrary.org.

Line Dancing Class: 2-3 p.m., Coutts-Moriarty 4-h Camp, 490 4-H Rd, Derby. Oldies, Disco, Country, Latin and more. Some old dances and some new from Philly! Join Mo Profera for lots of fun and great exercise. No experience, just bring a smile. For more information or to register call Mo 766-5560. Pre-Registration Required.

Tech Help: 3-5 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. Get free one on one help from Tech Intern Blake Kincaid. Sign up for a time at the front desk or call 626-5475 for more information. Cobleigh Public Library staff, info@cobleighlibrary.org, 802-626-5475. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Tai Chi: 5-6 p.m., Barnet TradePost Workshop Annex, 64A Monument Circle, Barnet. info@barnettrade-post.com, 802-633-2700 x4.

Weekly Chess: 6-9:30 p.m., Vermont Liquor Outlet Bldg, Route 2 and Hill Street, Danville. All levels of chess players welcome. If you don't know how to play, we'll gladly teach you. Contact Kingdom-ChessAssociationLtd@gmail.com for information. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/700339456802664/>.

Tobacco Cessation: 6-7 p.m., Dr. Bob's House, St. Johnsbury. An exercise and education program for people with cardiac and/or breathing problems. 802-748-7532. <http://www.nvrh.org>.

Wednesday, Mar 08

COMMUNITY

Throwing/Hand-building Pottery: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Littleton Studio School, 21 Mill Street, Littleton. Open to

beginners and students with any level of clay experience. 603-444-1066.

Assemblages: Sacred spaces, retablos and pocket shrines: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Littleton Studio School, 21 Mill Street, Littleton. Create contemplative art using cigar boxes, anchovy tins and matchboxes. 603-444-1066.

Free Open Sew: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., One Stitch Two Stitch, 81 Main Street - Outback, Littleton. Bring your machine and project. Be social, get feedback on your work, and help each other. Beth Anderson, henpeckedquilts@yahoo.com, 444-5284. <http://www.onestitchtostitch.com>.

Story time: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. For ages birth to 5. A fantastic time to borrow books, enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays and rhymes. With a "letter of the day" and a focus on one of the six early literacy skills, songs, crafts and the opportunity to meet new library friends! Abby Johnson, abbynjohnson3@gmail.com, 802-626-5475. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Red Clover Program: 1-2 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. The Red Clover Book Award is a children's choice picture book award for K-4th grade. A nominated book will be featured each week, with a special project. The last program will be April 5 with a voting party on April 12. Abby Johnson, abbynjohnson3@gmail.com, 802-626-5475. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Learn to Meditate: 6-7:30 p.m., St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury. Open House: Mindfulness Meditation, Discussion and Refreshments. Open to all - beginners and experienced. Caroline DeMaio, cde maio5@gmail.com, 802-748-9338. <http://st-johnsbury.shambhala.org/>.



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Opening Reception for Heidi Vaughn At Maple 42

The Gallery at 42 Maple Contemporary Art Center is pleased to present original works by, Heidi Vaughn, which will be on display for the month of March. Vaughn's body of work reflects her ability to let go and abandon the fear of traditional technique. It's this collaboration with the medium rather than the directing of the medium, that makes her pieces unique and thought-provoking.

The arts run in Heidi's blood. Reared in a family of musicians, writers, artists and photographers, her entire childhood was steeped in creative processes. Some of her earliest memories involve watching her father drawing on the walls of her home, creating detailed and beautiful images. Her father shared his passion and taught Heidi sculptural clay work and figure drawing.

Heidi's mother has been a photographer for as long as Heidi can remember, and has a deft eye for nature photography. Another ele-

ment of Heidi's formative years was spent developing photos side by side with her mother in the photo labs. It was here, Heidi first got her taste for photography, as she learned how to develop and correct imagery, as well as hand-color black and white photos for wedding packages, something that is nearly a lost art form today.

As Heidi got older, she spent a great deal of her education on the artistic process, learning the foundations of art as well as a variety of mediums and techniques, in addition to several years of architectural training. Today, she passes the passion for creativity on to her two young children.

Because of the nature of her background, Heidi does not limit herself to one focus or material. Historically, she has exhibited a great deal of control in executing technique. Her latest body of work is all about letting go and losing control. Through this particular painting technique, she grounds, centers, relaxes and works with her mediums rather than forcing the direction of any given piece of work.

The opening reception for Heidi Vaughn will be Friday, March 3, 2017 from 7pm to 9pm and her work will be on display until April 3rd. If you are interested in learning more about the events at 42 Maple, please call 603-575-9077 or visit the website at ww.42maple.org.

Vishten Trio Performing In Colebrook

Enjoy a different cultural spin on French-Canadian traditional music when the award-winning trio Vishtèn performs in Colebrook on Friday, March 10.

"Many in northern New England trace their roots to the Quebecois culture, with its customs and distinctive music," said Charlie Jordan, President of the Great North Woods Committee for the Arts. "But there is an entirely different strain you may be missing if you've never heard Acadian French music. And Vishtèn is ready to introduce it to you in a show that will celebrate a French Canadian culture which traces to the Maritimes."

The GNWCA brings Vishtèn to Monadnock Congregational Church for one show, set to begin at 7 p.m. For over a decade, Vishtèn has earned its place as one of the most respected bands on the international touring scene. The members of this driving trio are both powerful Francophone singers and fiery multi-instrumentalists, fusing Acadian and Celtic genres with rock and indie-folk influence. Lauded as "traditional but fiercely up-to-the-moment," this band from Canada's East Coast has been recognized as an ambassador of Francophone culture around the world.

The trio comprises multi-instrumentalists Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc from the Evangeline Region of Prince Edward Island, and Magdalen Islands' native, Pascal Miousse. Cradled in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, in the North Atlantic Ocean, Prince Edward Island is home to a small but thriving a Francophone Acadian community with a rich tradition of song and instrumental music. Nearby, the even smaller archipelago of the Magdalen Islands is predominantly Francophone, recognized for its distinctive French dialect, songs and unique fiddling style. All three members of Vishtèn were raised in homes in which traditional music, percussive dance and kitchen parties were part of everyday life. Together, they pay homage to their traditions and to the historic and strong musical connections between their two island Acadian communities.

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News Briefs

Continued from Page 6

zoning-related articles aimed at creating a development guide that is clearer for developers and town planners alike.

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the articles during the all-day balloting scheduled for March 14, before town meeting.

"We want to make it easier for developers to understand the requirements and easier for the planning board to enforce the spirit of the document," Selectman Peter Corey said Thursday.

Amendments involve removing or rewording some confusing language and making other language more straightforward and bringing it in line with N.H. statute.

"Whitefield has a very unusual zoning ordinance," said Corey. "It's not the traditional zoning you think of, like in Littleton or Lancaster. It's modeled on zoning out of Breckenridge, Colorado. It was meant to be more permissive than restrictive."

The current zoning doesn't create zones, but evaluates every proposed development by a set of criteria, he said.

"It was adopted in 1992 and hasn't been changed or modified since," said Corey. "But we are finding it's difficult to interpret for the developer as well as for the planning board."

An effort undertaken in the past year called for changes and clarifications and the end result was the six articles that will go before voters.

Article 3 asks residents to rename the Comprehensive Development Guide the Whitefield Development Code and make amendments to correct inconsistencies and clarify intent. In effect, it would make the guide more user friendly for property owners and planners.

Article 4 seeks to create certain permitting exemptions for homeowners and would also require the planning board to communicate better with applicants regarding an approval or non-ap-

proval of permits. It would also align Whitefield's planning document with N.H. statutes.

Article 5 seeks to clarify and amend the role of the Whitefield Zoning Board of Adjustment with N.H. statutes.

Article 6 adds provisions regarding lawfully pre-existing non-conforming uses, colloquially called "grandfathering," to permit them to continue but with limitations on enlargement, alteration or replacement.

"We really didn't have anything addressing non-conforming uses and we added that," said Corey.

Article 7 seeks to further define accessory dwelling units, commonly called "in-law apartments," for the town and specify restrictions and requirements per a new N.H. statute.

Article 8 seeks to clarify and update definitions in regard to single family home development and more clearly define historic structures, site build homes, and modular homes.

As town officials drum up support for the articles, the Whitefield Economic Development Corp. (WEDC), founded in 1983, is looking to reorganize in an effort to build a future for the town that includes more business development and jobs as well as events.

The group met Wednesday and will meet again on March 8 to select its new slate of officers and outline goals.

"Whitefield, I believe, can be a quintessential New England town," WEDC member Gerry Pons said Thursday. "It has a lot of things going for it."

The catalyst for a revived WEDC was the Whitefield Community Project, which last year involved several dozen residents working on short- and long-range goals to revitalize the town and make it more attractive to visitors and new businesses.

Some projects, such as new welcome signage on roads into town and new lighting around the village common, were completed. The five welcome signs, now in hand, will be installed when the weather warms.

The thinking now was that two groups might not be needed, so the community project morphed into a reorganized WEDC, said

Pons.

"We had a meeting two weeks ago to gauge the interest of the people from the downtown Whitefield project and that meeting went well and they said, 'let's go,'" said Pons.

The benefit of the WEDC is that it's a registered nonprofit that can apply for Community Development Block Grants and other grant funding, he said.

"It gives us some leverage on what we want to do in downtown Whitefield," said Pons.

The WEDC, for instance, can be a liaison between the town and the Mt. Washington Regional Airport, which is an under-appreciated asset, said Pons.

The organization can also work with the town to develop tax credits and can enlist people for events and concerts at the village common, he said.

"I'd like to see it centered more toward economic development," said Pons. "We are at a point in time where we have enough people, and new people, who want to do something."

Members of the public are invited to WEDC meetings, he said.

Littleton Man Cut Wrists After Sunday Nashua Crash

The Littleton man who led police on a high-speed chase late Sunday night that ended in Nashua sat in his crashed truck drinking wine and cutting his wrists before officers got him out, according to N.H. State Police officials.

They did not say, however, if the incident was triggered by what Littleton police said could have been a threat that the man, Nicholas Santy, 27, received several hours earlier from Nicholas Gilding, 26, of St. Johnsbury.

In addition to felony charges of assault and kidnapping involving his girlfriend in St. Johnsbury, Gilding will likely face charges out of Littleton for allegedly wrecking Santy's residence.

Tensions rose, said police, after Santy admitted to Gilding he had slept with Gilding's former girlfriend.

After the downstate police chase, in the early morning hours of Monday, Santy was transported with non-life-threatening injuries to Southern N.H. Medical Center.

Santy faces multiple counts of reckless driving, disobeying a police officer, crossing a median, improper backing up on an interstate in Merrimack County as well as charges in Hillsborough County of two counts of reckless conduct, reckless driving, disobeying a police officer and resisting arrest.

Bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

Motorists called police at about 11:30 p.m. Sunday to report a man recklessly driving a Toyota Tundra pickup truck on southbound Interstate 93 in Concord, N.H.

A NHSP trooper in the area unsuccessfully tried to stop the driver, identified as Santy, who reached speeds of 110 mph as he drove along I-93, I-293, and eventually the F.E. Everett Turnpike, NHSP Troop B Trooper Geoffrey Rogan wrote in the affidavit for arrest.

When he entered Nashua, Santy allegedly swerved toward two non-police vehicles in an attempt to run them off the road, said Rogan.

During the pursuit, troopers said they received information from police in northern N.H. that Santy might have been involved in an unrelated incident prior to driving south.

By that time, Santy had entered the city of Nashua, where officers of the Nashua Police Department successfully deployed spike strips near Exit 5 of the Everett Turnpike.

The spikes caused his truck to swerve and it collided with the center guard rail and then a bridge abutment before becoming stuck in a snowbank and coming to a rest on its left side near Exit 3, which was closed for two hours.

It was during that time that Rogan said Santy "remained in the vehicle ... cut both of his wrists and appeared to be drinking a bottle of wine."

Eventually, police were able to remove him from the truck and

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News Briefs

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place him in custody, said Rogan.

On Tuesday, Gilding was ordered to be held without bail by Caledonia Superior Court on charges of assaulting and kidnapping his ex-girlfriend, Sterling Gapa, before allegedly vandalizing Santy's apartment.

Gilding pleaded not guilty to felony charges of first-degree aggravated domestic assault, second-degree domestic assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and kidnapping "by pointing a gun at Sterling Gapa and demanding that she put their 2-year-old child in a vehicle and come with him to New Hampshire and telling that he planned on killing her..." according to the charges.

Littleton police this week said Gilding will likely face charges in Littleton, though on Friday he had not yet been charged with anything.

He is accused of punching Gapa in the face during a Sunday night argument in St. Johnsbury.

According to an affidavit filed by St. Johnsbury Police Sgt. Kevin Barone, the argument between Gilding and Gapa was over the issue of infidelity involving Gapa and their friend, Santy.

In his report, Barone said, "Santy advised dispatch he told Gilding in a conversation over the phone that he had slept with Gilding's girlfriend. He advised Gilding became belligerent with him..."

Gapa told police Gilding took her and their young child at gunpoint to look for Santy at his 42 Grove St. residence in Littleton, but he was not inside.

She also told police Gilding then searched for Santy at nearby restaurants, but then returned to the residence on Grove Street, wrote Barone.

Afterward, Gilding allegedly went back to Santy's unlocked residence and destroyed the kitchen area, said Barone.

Early Sunday evening, St. Johnsbury police said Santy called them asking that a welfare check be made on Gilding and his family because of concerns Gilding and the family might be in danger.

Early Monday morning, Gilding was arrested by St. Johnsbury police and Vermont State Police, who laid in wait and converged on him from two different directions as he left his home at 154 Carroll Blvd in his Dodge pickup truck to go to work.

St. Johnsbury police subsequently obtained a warrant for Gilding's vehicle and said they found a 9-mm handgun inside.

Littleton police this week began assessing the damage to Santy's apartment.

An investigation has begun on the Littleton side and Littleton officers need to speak with Santy to determine exactly what happened, said Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

Of the incident in Nashua and Santy's behavior there, Smith said, "I have spoken to some

individuals who said this was extremely uncharacteristic of him."

Littleton police received word there might have been a death threat against Santy and had been looking for him at about the time he drew attention to himself with the high-speed chase downstate, said Littleton Police Capt. Chris Tyler.

Officers are now trying to confirm what happened in N.H., he said.

Charges Could Be Dismissed In Animal Cruelty Case

LANCASTER — A Whitefield couple might have lucked out after their attorneys and N.H. State Police agreed to dismiss animal cruelty charges provided an inspection of the property that houses the remaining horses shows no signs of neglect.

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In September, Stephanie Rapp-Brooks, 36, and Jonathan Brooks, 38, were each charged with four Class B misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty that allege they kept 12 miniature horses on a property in Dalton and deprived them of food, water, medical care, and sufficient shelter.

Those horses – among a total of 17 on

the property – were seized and taken to the N.H. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals farm in Stratham, where they were treated for parasites and poor teeth and rehabilitated back to health and adopted out to new homes.

In December, court documents state the couple agreed to a plea in the case, and a plea hearing had been scheduled for Monday at Lancaster District Court.

On Monday, however, their attorneys – Charles Keefe, representing Jonathan

Brooks, and Adam Bernstein, representing Stephanie Rapp-Brooks – said there had been a negotiated agreement with the state to hold the complaints in abeyance for 30 days pending the property inspection.

NHSP Trooper Daniel Quartulli confirmed the agreement.

On Monday, Lancaster District Court Judge Paul Desjardins agreed to continue the case for 45 days and dismiss the charges if the remaining horses are determined to be healthy and the property in good condition.

In August, NHSP troopers responded to 47 Dalton Road after receiving calls from passersby concerned about the welfare of the horses that could be seen from the road.

According to the NHSP affidavit for arrest, Brooks and Rapp-Brooks had kept them in a condition where they lacked proper water and food as well as medical care and that led to health conditions that included hoof problems and skin sores.

To evaluate the animals, NHSP enlisted state veterinarian Erica Koch and Steven Sprowl, of NHSPCA.

According to Koch's report, nine miniature horses were housed in metal pens too small for them and another pen contained multiple trip hazards and a significant amount of glass and sharp metal objects on which the horses could injure themselves.

Specifically, police said the couple deprived three mares of appropriate food and hoof care and also deprived a stallion, who suffered skin sores and hoof problems, of ap-

propriate food and medical care.

Koch's report also states at least seven of the total 17 horses were underweight and several had skin wounds.

In conclusion, Koch cited a "significant lack of care for the welfare of the animals and animal neglect was apparent."

In his affidavit for arrest, Quartulli said he spoke with Rapp-Brooks, who he said has a degree in horse management and nutrition, and Brooks, who told him the horses recently arrived in N.H. and they were working to improve their living conditions.

In December, NHSPCA representatives said the 12 horses, some underweight when they arrived at the Stratham farm, had gained their weight back and were expected to be adopted out by the end of the month.

The case is not the first one to involve Rapp-Brooks, according to district court records.

In 2013, according to police records, David Yeagle, of Littleton, pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty for neglecting nearly two dozen horses that had been delivered to his North Littleton Road property and intended for Rapp-Brooks.

Those charges came after another group of passersby said they observed the horses standing in muck and manure and with no water or adequate shelter.

In N.H., a Class B misdemeanor count carries no jail time, but does come with a maximum fine of up to \$1,200.




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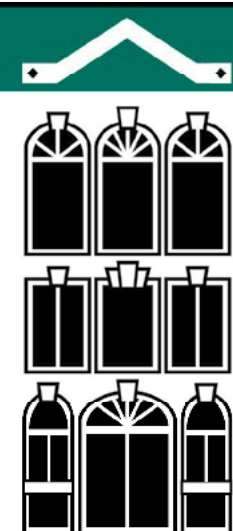
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