



The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 2024

LOCAL NEWS

Smith Named
Interim Town Manager

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FREE



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Sticker Shock. Gendreau Raises Concerns
Over North Country Pride Sticker. **Page 2**

Board Member Sticker Shock Adds To Growing Tensions

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — One Select Board member's new concern about a North Country Pride sticker at the opera house has prompted the departing town manager to cite town legal counsel and advise the board that if they want to remove one sign or message on public property, they would have to remove all signs.

The small sticker that reads "Pride North Country All Are Welcome Here" is taped to the interior window at the front entrance of the opera house office, along with other stickers that include Lahout's Ski Shop, Theatre UP, Mt. Eustis Skill Hill, the Littleton Food Co-op, Buy Local (nhmade.com), Friends of Remich Park, the Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Industry Association, Phlume Media, and welcome message in French to visiting Quebecois.

On Jan. 29, Select Board member Carrie Gendreau — whose previous comments in opposition to a diversity mural on private property led to a firestorm of criticism from residents saying that as an elected official, it is improper for her to try to impose her personal religious beliefs on the community — emailed town administrative secretary Vicki Potter and fellow board members Roger Emerson and Linda MacNeil.

According to a copy of the email, Town Manager Jim Gleason was not included.

"Just an FYI, I was not aware of anyone asking permission to hang a pride flag poster going into the opera house office," wrote Gendreau. "Because the opera house is public property and paid for by taxpayers, we have a responsibility to monitor this. Did I miss something? Maybe Roger or Linda were made aware of this."

Three hours later, Gleason, whose last day is Friday and whose resignation came about after exhaustion from the town's LGBTQIA+ controversy, emailed a three-part response to board members and others and included two attorneys for the town.

"Firstly, I would like to remind everyone that Vicki is a valued 'Town Employee' and, as such, should not be subjected to or directly involved in political issues by any member of the Board of Selectmen," said Gleason. "It is essential that we maintain a respectful and non-political working environment for all our employees."

"Secondly, I would like to clarify the presence of the Pride Sticker at the Opera House," he wrote. "There is indeed a Pride Sticker from North Country Pride on the window or doors, similar to the stickers found on numerous other businesses in Littleton. Unfortunately, we are uncertain when this sticker was initially put up, but it has been there for quite some time, possibly even dating back to Adam's tenure as director."

Thirdly, it is crucial for the town to establish a clear policy regarding the placement of stickers and signs on town-owned buildings, said Gleason.

Police Chief Agrees To Be Interim Town Manager

LITTLETON — Unable to find the ideal or qualified candidate from the pool of town manager applicants, Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith has agreed to be interim town manager.

On Jan. 30, Select Board Chairman Roger Emerson said he plans to make the motion to install Smith during a Select Board work session on Thursday.

"He's willing to do it for the town, just to hold the fort until we find somebody," said Emerson.

Smith will succeed Littleton Manager Jim Gleason, who is closing out his tenure as manager at the end of this week, after taking the reins in April 2021.

During the board's Jan. 22 meeting, Gleason, citing Smith's familiarity with the town, recommended that the board appoint Smith as interim town manager if it was determined that an interim was needed.

While Littleton, in the past, has enlisted Municipal Resources Inc. to find town managers and an interim fire chief, Emerson said he called MRI regarding a temporary town manager for Littleton and was told they have no one.

"That pool is shallow," he said.

Similarly, in early 2021, former Selectman Milton Bratz served as interim Littleton town manager for two months part-time, spanning the gap between former town manager Andrew Dorsett and Gleason signing the needed paperwork and making the needed town approvals.

"Paul's going to hold the fort until we can find somebody who's qualified," said Emerson. "Like he said to me, 'I don't want you picking somebody because you think I'm not comfortable where I am. I will stay as long as I have to until you find the right person.' He has some prior commitments that he can't step away from, from the police stuff. It may not be full-time, but he's going to put a lot of time into it to keep us going and keep everything on track."

James Gardiner is serving as deputy Littleton police chief.

Smith is a Littleton native who has served 32 years on the Littleton Police Department.

"If the Board of Selectmen's policy is to 'Censor Content' (stickers, flags, pictures etc.), then we must ensure that this policy is consistently applied," he wrote. "This means that not only Pride Stickers but all stickers or signs must be removed from town buildings. Our legal advisors have emphasized that it must be an all-or-none approach. We cannot selectively enforce policies regarding signage. We will need to remove the Love Jesus signs from Town Property."

He also said that "the imposition of one Board of Selectmen member's religious views on our staff and the town potentially violates the principles of the United States Constitution."

"It is essential that we uphold the separation of church and state, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, and respect the diverse beliefs and backgrounds of our community members," said Gleason. "I hope that we can address these concerns and ensure that our policies and actions align with the values of fairness, equality, and respect for all individuals. Let us work together to create an inclusive and harmonious environment within our community."

Asked if he wants to add anything beyond his email, Gleason told The Caledonian-Record that no board member has the right to direct any town employee, and the town manager is the employee that the board should contact with questions or concerns.

"Secondly, if the board were to dictate me to do any form of censorship, then it's removing everything or we remove nothing," he said. "I will not — and I will repeat that again — I will not follow through on anything that is illegal or unconstitutional. She took a pledge and oath to uphold the constitution of New Hampshire and the constitution of the United States of America and I will not take any directive to violate any of the state or federal regulations or law."

Town legal counsel's main element was that the board, in regard to content on stickers, signs, etc., allow it all or allow nothing, said Gleason.

"Or, you pick where it can be, how long it can be there, and how big it can be, but, again, you have absolutely zero regulation over content," he said.

On Monday morning, Gleason said he was advised that the American Civil Liberties Union New Hampshire is aware of Gendreau's email about the Pride sticker.

He also said Gendreau's email sent to Emerson and MacNeil violated the state's public meeting laws.

"They are not allowed to communicate to each other without a called public meeting," said Gleason. "By her cc'ing Roger and Linda, she violated the New Hampshire public meeting laws."

A call placed to Gendreau for comment on late Monday afternoon was not returned by press time.

During the board's Jan. 8 meeting, Gendreau and Emerson said the board has no intention of banning art. MacNeil previously said she does not support the censorship of art.



A North Country Pride sticker (top right) at the Littleton Opera House is the latest point of contention in the town's ongoing LGBTQIA+ saga. (Contributed photo)



Triple OD Victims Identified, Fundraisers Launched For Families

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith is a 32-year veteran of law enforcement. He has never encountered a case like this.

On Jan. 21, Littleton Police were summoned to a triple overdose that resulted in three deaths.

The LPD on Thursday identified the victims as 24-year-old Hunter Goodwin-Yeargle of Littleton, 26-year-old Macayla King, and 29-year-old Michael Bryant of Dalton.

"I've never seen a triple fatal overdose," Smith said, describing the incident's deep emotional impact, "You're on scene with that, and you throw in the fact that they're young, who wouldn't feel that sobering effect?"

Victims of the triple overdose were among six suspected overdoses this week in the greater Littleton area.

All six occurred under similar circumstances and likely involved the same drug.

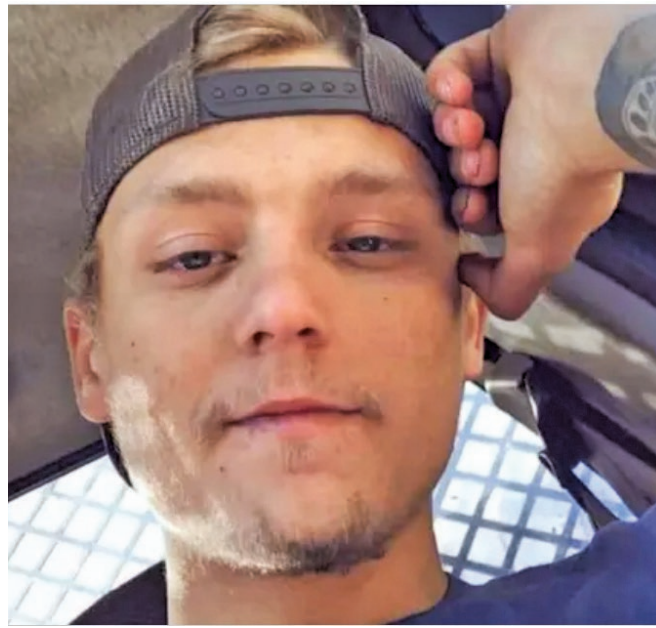
However, authorities said no connection has been made.

Toxicology tests are pending, and investigations are ongoing.

Smith said the incidents drove home the threat that drug use poses to the community.

In 2015, New Hampshire's drug overdose death rate was the second highest in the nation, and in 2022, the number of overdose deaths (486) was four short of the state's all-time high.

Those numbers would likely be higher if not for the emergency overdose treatment



Hunter Goodwin-Yeargle, right, and Michael Bryant and Macayla King (GoFundMe)

Narcan and for New Hampshire's stepped-up recovery efforts, Smith said.

"The reality — and the danger — is that we're still in the midst of a drug epidemic," Smith said. "The fact of the matter is our numbers were just as bad in 2023 as they were pre-pandemic."

In the wake of this week's triple-overdose deaths, Smith hoped members of the community would pay more attention to the problem.

"I hope, if there's any good that comes out of this, that people will start to realize this is killing us, is killing everybody," Smith said.

"Perhaps this may raise awareness even to a greater level, where we can save just one more life. That's super important to me."

Along those lines, the LPD has prioritized getting people with substance abuse problems into recovery programs.

"Our biggest focus right now is to make people understand that, if they have a loved one whose addicted or is using drugs, there are resources," Smith said. "The one good thing about Littleton, the silver lining I guess, is that we are a recovery oasis. We have a lot of resources available in this community for people in recovery."

Smith urged drug users to seek out resources through the NH 211 health and human services hotline, Littleton Regional Healthcare's Doorway Program at (603) 259-1659, or LPD Recovery Coach Jamie Allaire at (603) 444-7711 ext. 4951.

"Get your loved ones into a recovery center, get them into The Doorway, call 211, or we're here 24/7 at the police department. I have a recovery coach on staff that will come out at 2 a.m. if somebody needs them, to guide them onto the road to recovery. That's what we do," Smith said.

FUNDRAISERS LAUNCHED FOR VICTIMS

GoFundMe campaigns have been launched to support the families of the triple-overdose victims.

Free Rein Rescue Rehab in Carroll started a campaign to raise \$40,000 for the families of Macayla King and Mike Bryant, who had been a couple for over six years.

It can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/macayla-king-and-mike-bryant>

The fundraising statement says, "In the wake of this heartbreaking loss, the families left behind are not only grappling with an immense emotional burden but are also faced with unexpected and overwhelming financial

challenges associated with arranging the funerals and settling affairs for their departed loved ones. In times like these, the last thing we want our grieving families to worry about is the financial strain that accompanies such unexpected tragedies."

"To honor the memory of Macayla and Mike and to support their grieving families, we are launching an urgent fundraising campaign. Macayla and her mother, Kim, have been an integral part of our horse rescue from day one and we want to do everything possible to ensure these families are wrapped in love through this horrific journey. We are reaching out to our community, friends, and anyone with a compassionate heart to come together and help uplift these families wracked with grief."

"Funeral costs are an additional burden that these families should not have to bear alone. Your generous contributions will make a profound difference, providing comfort and assistance during this dark chapter. Let's rally together as a community to lift some of the financial weight from their shoulders, allowing them the space to grieve and remember their loved ones without the added stress of financial hardship. While we are running this effort through our charity, every cent will go to Macayla and Mike's families to take care of whatever they need."

A separate fundraiser was launched to cover Hunter Yeargle's burial costs, with a \$20,000 goal.

Organizer Cheri Rokita wrote, "As most of you know, my nephew, Hunter Yeargle, passed away unexpectedly on January, 21, 2024. We're just looking for a little help with the expenses to make sure he gets a proper burial. Gone way too soon. Any little bit helps. Even if you just share this."

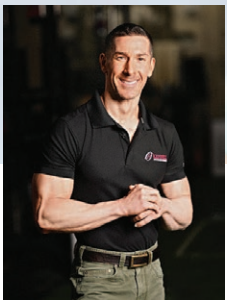
For more visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hunter-yeargle>



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Ice Cream Shop
Grabs National Spotlight

Soon to be celebrating five years in the North Country is Super Secret Ice Cream, which has now captured the national spotlight as a semi-finalist for the James Beard Awards, which recognize top restaurants and chefs across the United States.

Super Secret, which is owned by Kristina Zontini, of Bethlehem, and which moved to Bethlehem’s Main Street in July 2022, was nominated for outstanding pastry chef or baker.

Zontini is in the running with chefs who have extensive backgrounds and who have since been winnowed down to some two dozen.

“There’s 20 or 30 people across the United States that became semi-finalists,” Zontini said.

A James Beard judging panel reviewed the nominations, narrowed them down to semi-finalists and will return for interviews and more tastings before choosing one finalist, who will be announced during an awards ceremony in Chicago, she said.

“To most people in the food community, being a semi-finalist is the win,” said Zontini. “To me, that’s like an Oscar. It’s wild to all of us at the shop. We are on this list with people from all over the country.”

She said she doesn’t know who nominated her, and likely never will.

Although the recognition names solely Zontini, she said it is the result of a group effort.

“I view this as our kitchen team and don’t see it as an individual award,” said Zontini. “We have an incredible crew. This is their nomination.”

She was asked what the recognition for a shop that has become popular with residents and visitors means.

“It means we’ll be a lot busier,” said Zontini. “One of the most important things, it means our little town and great community is getting the spotlight shined on it. To me, people are seeing all the cool stuff happening in our nook of the North Country and that is really awesome.”

As for future plans, being a James Beard semi-finalist won’t change the trajectory of the shop.

“We’re just going to keep chugging along,” said Zontini. “I feel we’re at the beginning of how much local [ingredients] we’re using. We want to do more community events, more fundraising, and we are already on that path. I don’t think it changes anything. Our plan is to not expand across the U.S. We still want to be our town’s ice cream shop.”

In addition to the national recognition, Super Secret Ice Cream has been awarded a grant from the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center.

The money is being used to ramp up the kitchen space.

“The next few years, that’s what we’ll be focused on, to make an impact on the community,” she said.

The James Beard recognition began with a local effort and it is because of the community that Super Secret is on the national stage, said Zontini.

The James Beard Awards also focus on culture around food, she said.

“That community piece is so important,” said Zontini. “Whoever these judges were saw what a strong community we have up here and saw our commitment to sustainability.”

AHEAD Presents Conceptual For
Affordable Housing Development

Nearly a year after making the initial presentation to the Bethlehem Select Board, a representative for Affordable Housing, Education and Development Inc. and an architect went before the Bethlehem Planning Board to present a conceptual for a planned

affordable workforce housing development toward the east side of town.

The development of smaller homes would go on about 117 acres of land near Maplewood Hill Road and the Maplewood golf course.

“We’ve been working with [Bethlehem Selectman] Bruce Caplain and Leslie Dreier on a potential single family development on a parcel currently owned by Leslie,” Larry Berg, business manager for AHEAD, said to town planners during their meeting on Jan. 24.

AHEAD has enlisted the North Woodstock-based Alba Architects, whose partner, Phil Bennett presented the conceptual and what the development could look like.

“We just wanted to share that with you to get comments and feedback before we get too far along,” said Berg.

Proposed is a cluster development, but one of the issues, when reviewing Bethlehem’s zoning ordinance, is that District 1, where part of the development would lie, has a 60-foot center line setback for buildings, said Bennett.

“If we were to incorporate that into these clusters, that would make it much larger,” he said.

Planning Board member Martie Cook noted that the town is bringing forward a town meeting warrant article proposing a zoning amendment that speaks to cluster developments.

The article would allow such developments everywhere except District 1 Main Street and the landfill district.

To make the development work as envisioned, Bennett said a 30-foot setback from the center line would be preferable for each of the buildings in order to create a small community.

The development would be in two town zoning districts and comprise all single-family homes, featuring a mixture of two or three bedrooms and a single-bay garage, with green space and open space throughout the property.

Proposed for the first phase is a total of 138 bedrooms in 54 actual units, the majority of them single story and with three-bedroom homes having single and two-story versions, said Bennett.

Single-story two-bedrooms units will encompass about 1,100 square feet, plus the 220-square-foot garage, and three-bedroom units about 1,260 to 1,300 square feet, plus the garage.

Some homes will be fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

“We’re looking at affordable because they will be sold,” he said.

The development is a new foray for AHEAD, which has typically developed and managed rental units.

Planning Board member Mike Bruno asked if the concept presented Wednesday is the same as presented in March, when AHEAD representatives said the development will be modeled on the Champlaine Housing Trust in Burlington, Vt.

Berg said it is, with a difference being the financing.

Planning board members said they are excited about the concept and hope to see the project move forward.

Cook suggested that AHEAD representatives read a town survey of what first-time residents and young families are looking for in regard to housing in Bethlehem.

When the concept was first presented last year, AHEAD representatives said the multi-phase development, which would be targeted toward working families, would be the first of its kind in New Hampshire.

The homes would be shared-equity homes, which carry some restrictions for the owners, including how much they can sell the homes for.

The idea is for a homeowner to still be able to gain equity through home ownership and allow the owner to get money back from a sale, with that money being a down payment on a full market rate home.

Shared equity housing protects the subsidy that was put on the property and maintains the future affordability.

It would prevent a homeowner from living in a house for two or three years only to flip it several years later and make a substantial

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profit, thus making it unaffordable.

Deed restrictions also ensure that the homes are primary residences and not second homes. The homes also have to be lived in full-time and cannot be used as short-term rentals.

For funding, AHEAD is looking at a mix that includes federal grants, private investment, and its own funding.

Littleton Revises Approach To Bond Warrant Articles

LITTLETON — Three bond articles that were eyed for removal from the March town meeting warrant will still be presented to voters, though in different forms, and with two possibly after the March town vote, in special town meetings.

Article 4 asks voters to authorize the Select Board to borrow \$300,000 for a new ambulance.

Article 5 asks voters to authorize the borrowing of \$500,000 for septage receiving improvements at the wastewater treatment plant.

Article 6 asks voters to rescind the previous authorization in 2019 to borrow \$6.322 million to repair and replace sewer lines and the storm-water collection system because the project was canceled in 2021.

As bond warrant articles that ask for more than \$100,000, the three articles were required under state statute to go to public hearings, but they did not.

As of last week, the Select Board was looking at withdrawing them from the warrant.

But during Monday's board meeting, Town Manager Jim Gleason said Article 4 can remain on the warrant if its language is revised, and the other two can still be dealt with in 2024 following the town vote, if the board so chooses.

For Article 4, Littleton Fire Rescue Chief Chad Miller has advised that it would be a two-year lead time, even after the order is placed, before the town would receive an ambulance, said Gleason.

"After talking with the town's legal advisor and finance, she said it would be appropriate for that article to be amended," he said.

The revision reads a five-year lease-purchase agreement with an escape clause, which now exempts the article from going to a required public hearing.

As rewritten, the town would vote to authorize the board to enter into the agreement for the same \$300,000 figure for leasing and purchasing an ambulance, with the first payment to begin in

Durkin Tops Fountain In Coos 1 Special Election

COOS COUNTY — Republicans swept two special elections in Coos County on Jan. 23.

In the Coos 1 House district, Sean Durkin of Northumberland beat Democratic challenger Cathleen Fountain of Dalton by a 1,289-851 margin.

Durkin replaces former Rep. Troy Merner, R-Carroll, who resigned over residency violations and faces criminal charges.

He will represent the four-town district of Dalton, Lancaster, Northumberland and Stratford through November.

In a statement, Durkin thanked voters, saying, "I am humbled by the trust you have bestowed upon me and it is with great honor and a tremendous sense of responsibility to serve you as a Representative in the New Hampshire State House."

"No matter our party, we are bonded by the shared love of our beautiful Granite State. I want to thank so many of the Coos 1 residents who have supported me, along with so many others who went out of their way to lend a helping hand before and during the election."

While the campaign turned personal, with Fountain taking aim at Durkin for family matters, he took the high road in his statement.

"I also express my respect to Ms. Fountain for running a spirited campaign. While I do not support the gutter politics she chose to engage in, I am proud that our party stayed the course and remained professional," Durkin wrote.

"Today marks a significant milestone and a new journey. I pledge to honor you by serving you with integrity, sincerity, and unyielding commitment. Along this journey, I know we will face challenges, this I certainly do not doubt. However, as the resilient residents of NH, we will confront these head on and continue our values of tireless collaboration and commitment to progress."

Fountain could not be reached for comment.

A first-time candidate for office, Durkin was the top vote-get-

ter in Dalton (198-156), Lancaster (573-442), Northumberland (400-192), and Stratford (118-61).

A strong Republican turnout for the contested Presidential primary between Donald Trump and Nikki Haley buoyed him.

Republican voters accounted for over 70 percent of Tuesday's estimated turnout of 2,200 across the four communities.

Conservatives statewide took to X (formerly Twitter) to congratulate Durkin on his win.

House Speaker Sherman Packard, R-Londonderry, wrote, "Congratulations to Representative-Elect Sean Durkin. He will be a strong voice for his constituents in COOS County District 1. I am looking forward to working with him on key legislative priorities that will benefit the people of New Hampshire."

State Rep. David Rochefort, R-Littleton, wrote, "Congratulations Representative-elect Sean Durkin, Coos-1!!"

The New Hampshire Republican Party wrote, "Congratulations to Representative-Elect Mike Murphy and Representative-Elect Sean Durkin in winning their Special Election Seats in Coos!"

The Committee to Elect House Republicans wrote, "Congratulations to Representative-Elect Sean Durkin, newly elected in the Coos 1 Special Election held today! This big win is a Republican held seat!"

Meanwhile, Republican Mike Murphy of Gorham defeated Democrat Edith Tucker of Randolph in the Coos 6 House special election.

Murphy flipped the district, replacing former Rep. Bill Hatch, D-Gorham, who stepped down for personal reasons.

With the sweep, Republicans increased their slim advantage in the New Hampshire House to 200-195, with three independents and two seats vacant.

The New Hampshire House Republicans published a message to both winning special election candidates on X.

It read, "Congratulations Representatives-Elect Sean Durkin and Mike Murphy. Coos County spoke loud and clear last night and are sending two champions to Concord to protect and expand the New Hampshire Advantage. We look forward to welcoming our newest members to Representatives Hall soon."

2025.

The estimated tax impact is none for 2024 and would be .076 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation beginning in 2025 and each year thereafter through 2029.

While the board recommended the original ambulance article 2-1, it voted 3-0 on Monday to recommend it as rewritten.

For Article 5, town legal counsel recommended that it be removed from the warrant and not debated at the Feb. 6 deliberative session, said Gleason.

But the board has two options to revisit it, he said.

The first is to wait until 2025.

"The negative with that is our plant hasn't been able to take septic systems for some time, and this would start the project going forward that would create a separate septic receiving system," said Gleason. "And based on the revenue the town used to get from that, it probably would pay for itself in four to five years. So, it actually is a revenue maker, and folks right now in Littleton who are having their septic go outside the area may see their septic bill decline."

The second option is to hold a special town meeting in 2024.

"The recommendation is if you wanted to do that, let's get through the vote now and get through deliberative and look at that item in April and determine whether it's important enough to call a special town meeting similar to what we had to do when bought the Murro property, when had to raise that \$150,000," said Gleason.

The board voted 3-0 to withdraw Article 5 and revisit it later.

While Article 6 doesn't have any tax impact because it entails rescinding the previous borrowing authorization, it was still under the requirement for a public hearing.

Gleason said that the rescinding came after the town did not

meet its share of the grant.

If the board wants to revisit Article 5 for the septage receiving improvements, it can add Article 6 to the same special town meeting or leave it until 2025, said Gleason.

The board voted 3-0 to remove Article 6 from the warrant.

Committee Or Commission? Word Choice Debated In PUC Application

LANCASTER — The town's pursuit of lower residential electric rates could hinge on a single word.

The Select Board on Jan. 16 heard from Racheal Stuart who said the town's community power application may include a small but significant mistake.

The Energy Committee submitted the application to the Public Utilities Commission under the name "Lancaster Energy Commission."

Stuart explained that under the law, Energy Committees can submit community power applications to the PUC, Energy Commissions cannot.

The PUC's public comment period for Lancaster's application ends on Thursday.

"I think we want to make sure our I's are dotted and our T's are crossed," Stuart said.

The Select Board referred the matter to Town Counsel, who found no issue with the application.

To date, the Public Utilities Commission has not commented on the application or the committee/commission issue.

Lancaster's community power application can be viewed at

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<https://bit.ly/48cizax>

The state community power law approved in 2016 allows municipalities to purchase and resell energy on their own, and establishes a process for them to do so.

As a first step, the Select Board created the five-member energy committee on July 17.

The committee's charge was to draft a community power plan that would allow the town to sell low-cost electricity directly to residents if approved.

The plan must be approved by the state Public Utilities Commission, the Select Board, and finally Town Meeting voters.

If the plan is approved, the town would launch a community power program and partner with an energy broker to sell low-cost wholesale energy direct to residents.

For more info on community power visit <https://bit.ly/3S-gApTL>

PSU, SAU 84 Partner For Special Education Teacher Residency Program

On Friday, Feb. 2, Plymouth State University and Littleton School District SAU 84 will host an open house for prospective graduate residency program applicants.

The program covers tuition, housing costs, and monthly stipend for students pursuing master's degrees in special education

From 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, the Holmes Center and Littleton School District will host the open house at Lakeway Elementary School in Littleton for prospective applicants to explore what the program has to offer, including newly renovated housing in downtown Littleton.

Open house attendees will meet current graduate student residents, mentors and teachers as well as tour the provided housing, which is located at Rail Trail Village apartments on Beacon Street, within walking distance from all Littleton schools.

"We're looking forward to welcoming the third cohort of this successful program," said Holmes Center Director Brian Walker. "The PSU Graduate Residency Program in Littleton is a model for how community school districts can partner with higher education to create the next generation of educators while filling immediate needs in our most rural districts. Plymouth State students in this program gain invaluable experience with co-teaching and engage in current best practices in inclusive education."

A total of six graduate student applicants will be selected to participate in the program, where they will become immersed in the district's K-12 schools for the 2024-2025 school year, while they work and learn under the guidance of a licensed special education mentor and general education teacher.

The selected students will receive full tuition, a \$1,000 monthly living stipend, and local housing and utilities for the duration of the 10-month program.

"It's been such a joy to have this program here in Littleton for the past couple of years," said Kristen Moreland, SAU 84 director of teaching and learning. "There are so many benefits for everyone involved. Our students, of course, are receiving additional support, and the partnership among the teaching teams creates a strong environment for learning and growth. Everyone learns from one another. The experience is different for each of the PSU graduate students, and we encourage them to visit each others' classes to learn even more."

PSU and Littleton kicked off the partnership in spring 2022.

To date, the first cohort of program residents have graduated, with many securing teaching jobs in New Hampshire and beyond.

A second cohort is currently engaged in the program and will graduate in May.

"Traditionally, students get their teaching experience in more restrictive settings, but we're fortunate that Littleton aligns with the best practices around inclusive teaching policies," said Sara

Scribner, PSU assistant professor and special education coordinator. "This prepares the next generation of educators to not only know how to teach students with disabilities in general education settings, but also bring those best practices with them should they become employed with other schools in the future."

Amanda O'Leary, originally of Northfield, was one of the first graduates of the residency program who co-taught in kindergarten and now works as a grade K-2 case manager and special education teacher at Bristol Elementary School.

"Having this experience really prepared me for the job that I have now," O'Leary said. "Being a case manager and a special education teacher is honestly like two jobs in one. And having this experience and being so immersed really helped prepare me for that and helped me not feel so overwhelmed."

Applications for the third graduate residency program cohort are due no later than March 15. The priority deadline is March 1.

Registration is available online for those who wish to attend Friday's open house.

To learn more about PSU, or to apply for the graduate residency program, visit www.plymouth.edu.

Alabama Man Injured While Ice Climbing

BARTLETT — A man was injured while ice climbing at Cathedral Ledge on Jan. 28.

According to authorities, 21-year-old Ryan Cooper of Fairhope, Ala., suffered a leg injury after falling "20 to 30 feet" while climbing the Repentance Route.

First responders were summoned at around 12:20 p.m.

Cooper was lowered to the ground by his climbing partner and then carried out by members of New Hampshire Fish and Game, Mountain Rescue Service, North Conway Fire, and Bartlett-Jackson Ambulance.

Cooper was transported to Memorial Hospital in Conway for treatment.

In a press release, New Hampshire Fish and Game urged hikers to prepare themselves before venturing out into the wilderness, including packing the ten essential items: map, compass, warm clothing, extra food and water, headlamp, fire starter, first aid kit, whistle, rain/wind jackets & pants, and a knife.

For additional information, please visit www.hikeSafe.com.

Man At Center Of Bethlehem Sign Controversy Dies

LACONIA — The man who drew complaints for posting of fensive signs outside of a Bethlehem motel has died.

Laconia Police reported that 39-year-old Ryan Collins died on Jan. 25.

Collins was at the center of a pitched free-speech battle in Bethlehem two and a half years ago.

On the weekend of July 4, 2021, Collins hung a flag outside his roadside apartment at the Pinewood Motel that read "F*** Biden. And F*** You For Voting For Him."

The motel owner attempted to remove the sign but was overruled by Bethlehem Police, who deemed it protected free speech.

After someone allegedly torched the signs on July 7, Collins produced larger and more profane signs.

Those signs occupied a high-visibility location on Route 302 along the western approach to the downtown.

Following months of mounting public frustration, the property was sold twice. The second buyer was the neighboring Presidential Mountain Resort (PMR), which acquired the 14-unit motel in September 2021. PMR eventually evicted the 17 tenants and razed the building.

Collins was a habitual offender with a string of felony convictions. Laconia Police did not provide information on the nature and whereabouts of Collins' death, citing an ongoing investigation.

WMSI To Advance Workforce Development With \$216K Grant

LITTLETON — After being awarded federal grant, White Mountain Science Inc. will spend 2024 broadening the segment of local residents its serves through a workforce development initiative in collaboration with local employers.

WMSI, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary as a local nonprofit, was awarded a \$216,048 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission.

The money will be put toward the creation of a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skill and workforce development program, which will involve various workshops to increase workforce development and community engagement in Grafton and Coos counties.

Workshops will run the gamut and include engineering, design, technology, artistry, computer science, data science, problem-solving, and more.

"The overall program is to increase the amount of high school workforce development programs that WMSI facilitates on a yearly basis and to not increase, but to develop, adult workshops around workforce development in the region," Jeremy Knowlton, executive director for WMSI, said Friday. "We haven't done that in the past, so this is a brand new program that we're spearheading. Its not unique to the region, but it fills a unique gap. There are other programs, and a lot of high schools have CTE [career and technical education] programs. This is more meant to be smaller in scope and meant to introduce high school students to new skills that they might not otherwise have the chance to get exposed to without signing up for an entire semester class."

Being developed are WMSI workshops that will be much shorter than a full CTE class.

And for adults, there is currently the Above the Notch Community School, which is part of the Littleton school system, and White Mountains Community College, which recently expanded

See News Briefs, Page 10



CHEM-FREE

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 11th

at Christ United
Methodist Church Hall
at 135 Main Street,
Lancaster, NH

Doors Open at 5 PM



Game starts at 6:30. Pizza, popcorn, and soda, coffee and tea will be provided.

Feel free to bring chips, dip and any other potluck item you'd like to bring to share. Bring your friends and family for a great evening and cheer on your team, as we all watch the game on a 75" flatscreen.

Admission is by suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Please RSVP by February 2nd, by calling or texting Danielle Rodrigues at 603-631-0281 so we have an idea of how much food will be needed.

In Foley's Memory, Skate Park Fundraiser Sees Huge Response

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

BETHLEHEM — Brendan Foley was part of the generation that established the Bethlehem Skate Park.

Now, an effort is underway in his memory to modernize the 30-year-old facility.

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched to raise \$50,000 towards skate park renovation and expansion.

It honors Foley, who died Jan. 14 following a snowboarding accident on Cannon Mountain at age 42 and has already raised \$38,000.

Longtime friend Leonard Greco said about the fundraising total, "I think it goes to show how much he impacted so many different people."

See the fundraiser at www.gofundme.com/f/Bethlehem-skate-park

CREATING COMMUNITY

According to friends, Foley was instrumental in knitting together the area's first skateboard community in the mid-1990s.

He skateboarded at a time when few in the North Country did, and when he saw another skateboarder he reached out.

Through his friendly, outgoing personality and deep interest in others, he drew together those who shared his passion for the emerging skating subculture.

For example: Greco recalled skateboarding through downtown Bethlehem in the summer of 1994 when Foley suddenly called out.

The two 13-year-olds instantly clicked.

"I had just moved to town, I was a total loner," Greco recalled. "I was going by the video store and there's this kid, he had a giant orange afro. Like, really big. I think he had a tie dye Grateful Dead or Bob Marley shirt on and he's eating a frozen ice pop. He said, 'Hey kid, nice skateboard, who are you?' So, I told him who I was. Then he said 'Do you want an ice pop?' And that's how we met."

TRENDSETTER

Now 43, Greco said Foley was "the best worst skateboarder" whose interest went far beyond the sport.

Way back before the North Country had widespread internet access, Foley searched out skate culture: Music, movies, fashion and literature.

Foley would go to Rae's Smoke Shop in Littleton, buy copies of Thrasher and Transworld skateboarding magazines, and order the catalogs from the far-flung record labels and skateboard shops that were advertised on the back pages.

"That was his personality," Greco said. "He was always so intrigued by counterculture. He was just a really interested kid that wanted to find out what was going on outside of our little small towns."

Through his many interests and his big heart, Foley forged relationships, bridged divides, and

made connections, Greco said.

"He was somebody who always introduced himself to somebody else. Especially if that person was alone or seemed lonely," Greco recalled. "He was always giving people books, giving people music to listen to. The way he interacted with people and gave a part of himself to people, that really influenced people. That's part of his legacy. He just made a huge impact on all the people he met."

SKATEPARK LEGACY

Nick Storella, 46, was a part of the skateboarding community in the 1990s and reconnected with Foley a few years ago.

Both had returned to the area after time away, Storella in 2015 and Foley during the pandemic.

Together, they helped form the Bethlehem Skate Park Association to modernize the skate park.

"He wanted to get involved in building a park and raising money, he was very much a big part of that," Storella said.

Tentative plans call for an estimated \$250,000 project to replace the existing worn, cracked asphalt surface with a smooth, waterproof concrete surface, reinforced with rebar and outfitted with true skate park features.

Storella said Foley was a strong cheerleader for the project — and still an avid skateboarder.

"He was there every week with his dogs and his wife skateboarding and talking to younger kids about skateboarding," said Storella.

"Getting older, skateboarding is much harder on your body, but he'd still be out there doing stuff. He was pushing me. It was impressive, it was inspiring."

Foley was also an accomplished snowboarder and news of his death was met with shock.

After Foley's untimely passing, his sister-in-law started the online fundraiser.

She chose the skatepark as the beneficiary, writing in the fundraising statement, "When Bren and his wife Catherine moved from Portland and began to build their life in Bethlehem, he reconnected with his roots - kicking it with the other old heads down at the local skate park. Bren and Catherine started attending the weekly board meetings and got involved with the development efforts to modernize the skate park and expand its role as a community gathering spot. Toward that goal we are raising funds in Bren's honor to support the development efforts of the Bethlehem Skate Park."

Some are already talking about naming the park for Foley.

"[Storella] did a post that the Brendan Foley Memorial Skatepark has a great ring to it and then [Foley's] sister in law started this GoFundMe," Greco said. "It's only been a week, it's up to [over \$38,000]. I think it's just the beginning. I think that cap of \$50,000 is nice, but I honestly see this going way beyond that and becoming a legacy project that the whole community is behind and is proud of."

N.H. Lawmakers Consider Multiple Bills Targeting Transgender Students And Athletes

BY HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — New Hampshire lawmakers considering whether to ban transgender athletes from competing in school sports that align with their gender identities heard from two former athletes Jan. 30 who took opposite positions on the bill.

At least 20 states have approved a version of a blanket ban on transgender athletes playing on K-12 and collegiate sports teams. New Hampshire lawmakers have rejected similar proposals in recent years, but this year are considering two bills. The version heard by the Senate Education Committee on Monday goes further than the House proposal in that it also would regulate the bathrooms transgender students can use at school.

Michelle Cilley Foisy, of Temple, told the committee she broke track and field records in high school, won a state championship as part of a relay team and attended college on an athletic scholarship.

"I go into this detail with my athletic career not to receive recognition but to emphasize that my accomplishments were not once lessened by the runners I ran against, they were only improved upon,"

she said.

Cilley Foisy said her opposition to the bill also stems from her experience as a mother to six children, including a teen who was suicidal until they expressed "how lost they felt in their own body."

The proposed legislation, she said, "escalates and exacerbates the isolation trans youth like my child have to endure."

"Supporting and promoting the blatant discrimination of transgender athletes is not the way of the Granite State," she said. "Sports should be a place where we embrace diversity."

The committee also heard from Nancy Biederman, who opened her testimony by noting that she won the Connecticut high school doubles championship in badminton in 1987.

"I worked really hard to get that status," said Biederman, a supporter of the bill who argued that transgender athletes are taking spots on teams away from other students.

"I don't care what you wear. I don't care what drugs you take. I don't care what surgery you take, you are not a woman," she said.

Biederman was the only person who spoke in favor of the bill other than its sponsor, Republican state Sen. Kevin Avar.

Advocates for transgender youth also have opposed other bills this session, including a House-

passed bill that would make New Hampshire the 24th state to restrict or ban gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors. The care has been available in the United States for more than a decade and is endorsed by major medical associations.

The House also has passed legislation critics say would roll back anti-discrimination protections enacted in 2018.

The current law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender identity, but the bill passed earlier this month would allow public and private entities to differentiate on the basis of "biological sex" in multi-person bathrooms and locker rooms, athletic events and detention facilities. One lawmaker who voted to pass it, however, has said he will seek reconsideration.

Trump Wins N.H. Primary As Rematch With Biden Appears Increasingly Likely

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump easily won New Hampshire's primary on Jan. 23, seizing command of the race for the Republican nomination and

making a November rematch against President Joe Biden feel all the more inevitable.

The result was a setback for former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, who finished second despite investing significant time and financial resources in a state famous for its independent streak. She's the last major challenger after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis ended his presidential bid over the weekend, allowing her to campaign as the sole alternative to Trump.

Trump's allies ramped up pressure on Haley to leave the race before the polls had closed, but Haley vowed after the results were announced to continue her campaign. Speaking to supporters, she intensified her criticism of the former president, questioning his mental acuity and pitching herself as a unifying candidate who would usher in generational change.

"This race is far from over. There are dozens of states left to go," Haley said, while some in the crowd cried, "It's not over!"

Trump, meanwhile, can now boast of being the first Republican presidential candidate to win open races in Iowa and New Hampshire since both states began leading the election calendar in 1976, a striking sign of how rapidly Republicans have rallied around him to make him their nominee for the third consecutive time.

Parks And Rec Commission Sends Legal Bills To Town

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — The town has received nearly \$1,000 in legal bills for decisions made by the Littleton Parks and Recreation Commission.

The problem, say town officials, is that the expenses that will be paid for with taxpayer money needed first to be authorized by the Select Board, but were not.

An invoice dated Dec. 8 for \$500 and another dated Jan. 12 for \$347.50 were sent to the town office at 125 Main St.

Using the Upton and Hatfield law firm, the Parks Commission, whose members are elected, had secured services for items that included review of records and emails, legal research, conference calls, meeting preparation, preparation of outlines, review of charter documents, and research of town reports and statutes.

On Jan. 17, in an email that included town legal counsel and the Select Board, Town Manager Jim Gleason wrote the commissioners to say that he needs a copy of the fee agreement letter with Upton and Hatfield as well as copies of the posted public meeting and minutes where the item was discussed and voted on by the commission.

“There is no RSA in the state that authorizes them to spend town money without authorization from the Board of Selectmen,” Gleason said to The Caledonian-Record. “And if they have a legal question, in the past, that was directed at the Board of Selectman, and the Board of Selectmen would then direct the town manager to reach out to our lawyers. So they’re using taxpayer money to go to another law firm in Concord to get review charter documents, research town reports, statutes, prepare outlines, and our attorneys not only have done that, but could have done that.”

In April 2022, confusion about the parks commission and its authority under New Hampshire statute went to a Select Board discussion, following a legal opinion from town counsel.

In its current form, the Littleton parks commission was created in 1955 through special legislation to allow the commissioners to be an elected body.

It is the only elected parks commission in New Hampshire, and because of that, has led to years of confusion and sometimes disagreement



As town meeting voters consider a warrant article asking them to change the Littleton Parks and Recreation Commission from elected members to appointed, the commission has been sending invoices for legal bills to the town, which town officials said the commission is not authorized to do. Speaking to the confusion that has been generated with an elected parks commission, the only elected town parks commission in New Hampshire, and to the petition article was former Littleton parks commissioner John Simon, pictured here in October. (File photo by Robert Blechl)

about the limits of the commission’s authority, said town officials, who sought clarification through the town’s attorney.

According to an April 2022 opinion by town legal counsel Walter Mitchell, the commission has authority over the town fields, setting open hours for the fields, and setting rules and regulations as to who can and can’t use the fields.

The 1955 legislation had been adopted in the context of repealing the charter of the Littleton Village District, which had been managing community recreational responsibilities, and merging those responsibilities into the town and giving the parks commissioners charge of all playground, commons, and recreational activities within the town.

“You’ve got an elected board that is over programs, not individuals,” said Gleason. “The parks and rec director, the parks and rec field superintendent, the programs director, all the rec aides, they are town employees. The parks and rec commission does not have a single em-

ployee. And while we have the revolving fund budget, that gets voted on as a stand-alone item. When you look on there, there’s no legal line item in that budget.”

On Friday, The Caledonian-Record reached out to parks commissioners Danielle Cook, Blake Roberts, and Andrew Kilmer, using their contact email addresses listed on the town website.

They were asked why the legal bills were sent to the town office; if they believe that the commission has authority under New Hampshire statute to make that decision at town expense, and if so, what is the authorizing RSA; are any more legal bills coming to the town; and do they believe that the commission has authority over individual employees, and if so, what is the authorizing New Hampshire statute.

Responses were not received by press time Tuesday.

“There is no elected parks

and rec board anywhere in New Hampshire, but in Littleton, and it’s archaic,” said Gleason. “It goes back to an act of the Legislature that created it. And since it is the only elected board in the state, there’s no RSA to point to to say this is your job, these are your duties. There are RSAs for an advisory board. The easiest thing to do is introduce legislation that says we’re going to be the same as the rest of the state. That hasn’t happened, but there is a warrant article that is supported 3-0 by the Board of Selectmen that would immediately terminate those elected positions and turn them into appointed positions that are advisory to the Select Board, which would then appoint the commissioners.”

Submitted by petition, Article 52 will ask town meeting voters in March to change the elected commissions to appointed, with all three positions immediately filled by Select Board appointments in April and with staggered terms, with one member appointed for one year, one member for two years, and one for three years.

“I don’t think they would be spending money and telling employees what to do,” said Gleason. “This started with a \$500 bill that was at the end of 2023. There is a bill in 2024. I don’t know how many more there are going to be.”

On Wednesday, Emerson said he supports an appointed board, in part because it could clear up confusion and conflict and the commission would then have someone to answer to.

“The people elected them and they’re not answering to the people, like spending money for legal that’s not in their budget,” he said. “They have not budgeted for any legal. Any department that has a budget, if they have legal expenses, they budget for it.”

And former parks and recreation director Caitlin Leverone worked for the town manager, but would also have to answer to the commissioners, which made for four bosses, said Emerson.

“You can’t put somebody in that situation and expect them to do a good job,” he said.

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Established 1901

News Briefs

Continued from Page 7

its Littleton campus.

But those also run semester-long classes that involve a lot of paperwork to sign up for, said Knowlton.

"This is more going to be a platform where you can just sign up, and for a very low fee, can just come down to WMSI and try out a new skill," he said.

In addition to data science, subjects will include robotics and electricity.

"All of these are meant to introduce high school and adult participants to new skills without them having to go through a bunch of paperwork, pay a bunch of money, and sign up for a semester-long class," he said. "These are meant to fit around existing work that adults have. There will be evening and weekend workshops."

The workshops through what will be a WMSI pilot program will begin at WMSI's Littleton headquarters, at 23 Ammonoosuc St.

"I can foresee us branching to other locations in the future, because that's what we're best at, putting all the cool stuff in a box and putting it in a van and driving it to other locations," said Knowlton.

Currently, WMSI visits some 50 schools.

"We have an incredible reach," he said. "We're connecting with well over 1,000 students on a yearly basis, and hundreds of teachers, so we already have the platform. If this pilot goes well, I can see us using that existing platform we have to get these workforce development programs out to more high school and adult-age folks, because primarily the programs that we run are focused on K-8. We do some high school programming, but not much, so this is meant to widen who can access WMSI. We want to provide them with those

longer-term opportunities. We don't have the resources or the skill set to take them really in depth with data science or welding, but we can point them to the folks who do that in the region."

The WMSI initiative will also provide a new place for people to come together.

"This is all about initial exposure, and also just providing a different kind of community gathering spot," said Knowlton. "If you want to do art in the community, you can go to the [Littleton] Studio School or Theatre UP or The Colonial. If you want to rock climbing, you can go to the climbing gym. There really isn't a place, though, for adults to congregate and nerd out on science, engineering and problem-solving, so we want to provide that unique space."

Once WMSI gets access to the grant funding, it will hire additional staff members to facilitate the workshops program and will also make minor cosmetic changes in its classrooms and add new tools to facilitate the adult workshops.

The organization will spend 2024 ramping up the program with the hope to have a few dozen workshops by year's end.

"Next year will be our first full year," said Knowlton. "Overall, it's a three-year project."

The hope is that after that time it becomes self-sustaining.

"We've had a lot of success funding other projects that started out grant-funded," he said. "The hope is that it will be self-sustaining through a variety of different means, sponsorships and grants, and probably some minor contributions through the participants themselves. But it's very important that we keep these affordable because we want to make sure there's a very low barrier to entry."

One of the key pieces of the project is WMSI meeting on a quarterly basis with industry leaders, to include Burndy, Rotobac, New England Wire Technologies and others, as well as with Benoit Lamontagne, industrial agent for the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, to ensure that what WMSI is doing is in line with

the needs of local businesses, said Knowlton.

"That is the hope, that we're one part of the pathway to folks finding a career that they really enjoy and finding local opportunity," he said. "We feel that we're well-suited to do this work because we already work heavily with partners in the region. We've been working with 12 Littleton teachers [seven elementary and five secondary] this year on project-based learning and workforce development-centric projects that they can have in their classrooms. We're up there all the time chatting about workforce development and this is just another piece of the puzzle for us."

Knowlton said he's excited to open WMSI, which was founded by retired Littleton teacher Bill Church, to a broader base of the North Country population.

"We've been around for a while and feel we work with so many people, but we've really been most accessible to students and teachers," he said. "So we're excited to be open to more community members and can't wait to have folks start to take workshops here."

Former LI Hockey Coach Avoids Prison After High-Speed Chase Plea

A former Lyndon Institute boys' hockey coach charged in October with leading police on a high-speed chase at speeds of more than 100 mph in southern New Hampshire, where he nearly injured two state troopers and other motorists, will avoid prison after agreeing to a plea deal.

In November, Christopher R. Meunier, 56, of Littleton, was indicted by a Belknap Superior Court grand jury on four Class B felony counts of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com

Select Board Cuts Whitefield Library Request

WHITEFIELD -- The Whitefield Public Library ran into the budget buzzsaw last week.

The Select Board on Jan. 22 refused the library's request for a 53 percent funding increase, citing fiscal challenges.

"We don't have the money," said Selectman Shawn White. "We're at the point where we're probably going to have to lay people off if things keep going the way they're going."

The board countered with a 23 percent funding increase, and explained that every municipal department had been denied its full request.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com

Accused Shooter To Argue Self-Defense

A North Country felon charged in October for shooting a man in the leg in Landaff will plead self-defense, according to recent court documents.

See full story at www.CaledonianRecord.com

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Obituaries

Deborah Helen Page

Deborah Helen Page, 70, Pike, NH, passed away at her home on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, surrounded by those she loved. She was born in Woodsville, N.H. on July 15, 1953, to James J. and Ruth (Foster) Page.

Debbie graduated from Woodsville High School with the class of 1973 and went on to earn an associate degree in food service management from the University of New Hampshire in 1976. She worked her entire career at Littleton Regional Hospital in food services retiring in 2010.

Debbie demonstrated a profound sense of community service and faith. She will be missed by her family and by her church families at Bethany Congregational Church of Pike, N.H., and West Newbury Congregational Church in Vermont. Debbie was a member of Oxbow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a volunteer at the Orford Senior Center for many years, the North Haverhill Fair, as a coordinator for the DAV arranging rides for veterans, as well as many other groups and events throughout her life. She could always be counted on to lend a hand at local events. She loved all things maple, sitting outdoors with a cup of coffee and watching the birds, including the turkeys. She enjoyed square dancing, band music, hot air balloon rides, cats, and all woodland creatures.

She is predeceased by her parents, and a brother, Jeffers Foster Page. Debbie is survived by a sister-in-law, Margurite (Page) Donlon of Benton, N.H.; a niece, Danielle (Page) Hunt and her husband John of Woodsville, N.H.; a nephew, James Page and his wife Angela of Pike, N.H.; a great niece, Autumn Page of Rumney, N.H.; and three great nephews, Cody White, Lincoln Page and James Page of Pike, N.H.; and two great-great nephews, Silas and Finnagan of Rumney, N.H. She will be missed by the entire Kinder Family and all her neighbors especially her coffee buddy Greg Roche.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Haverhill Congregational Church. Spring interment will be announced. Those who wish may make donations in memory of Deborah Page to the Jim Page Conservation Scholarship, Grafton County Conservation District, PO Box 64, North Haverhill, NH 03774

“Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man” - Sam



Walter Foss

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com

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

Barbara (Haley) Holmes

Barbara (Haley) Holmes, 87, a longtime resident of Bethlehem, New Hampshire, passed away on Jan. 23, 2024, in Littleton. Born in Lancaster, she was the daughter of Oscar and Alexandra (Collier) Haley.

She graduated in 1957 from Central Maine Medical School of Nursing and was a registered nurse for many years. She married Ralph Holmes in 1957, and they moved to Bethlehem in 1959. Her family remembers her love of quilting and crafting, and the beautiful plants that she cultivated and grew.

Surviving are her five children and their families: Bradley Holmes, Cindy Holmes, Rachel Charland, Russell Holmes and wife Ruth, and Jennie Holmes; six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Barbara was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, Ralph W. Holmes; her grandson, Nathan Holmes; her parents, and sister, Ethel Haley Dyar.

A private committal service will be held in the spring at the family lot in Maple Street Cemetery, Bethlehem.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in their mother's memory be made to the Bethlehem Ambulance Service.

To view Barbara's online tribute, or to send condolences to her family, please visit: <https://obits.phaneuf.net/barbara-holmes>.

Brenda L. Bishop

Brenda L. Bishop of Lancaster, N.H., went to be with the Lord on Saturday afternoon, January 27, 2024, after a 2 ½ year battle with heart disease and cancer. She was 77 years old, born in Lancaster on March 10, 1946.

Brenda leaves her husband of almost 32 years William H. “Bill” Bishop Sr.; her daughter Tricia Walker and husband Larry; four grandsons, Caleb Walker, Zachary Walker, Nathan Walker, Brent Bilodeau; one granddaughter Shy-Anna Crawford and friend Shawn Whitcomb; three brothers: Phil Reynolds and wife Elizabeth, Jim Reynolds and wife Flo-



ra, Tim Reynolds and wife Susie; two sisters: Pam Willey and husband Reg, Becky Evans and husband Gary; many nieces, nephews, and cousins to numerous to mention. She also leaves a stepson Brad Bishop and wife Billie Jo; step grandchildren Nick Bishop, Gail, Bishop, Katie Bishop, Quenton Bishop, Arno Bishop, Garret Waterman, Ashley Waterman, and Emily Marcy and husband Jerome.

She was predeceased by her first husband, Sherm Crawford Jr. in June 1988 after 22 years of marriage; her daughter Tammy Crawford; her parents Philip and Beulah Reynolds; a nephew Timothy Ashley Reynolds II; stepdaughter Sue Waterman, stepson William Bishop; and two step-granddaughters Alicia Waterman and Kishia Bishop.

Brenda worked at Colonel Town in Lancaster for four years, the Lancaster Play & Learning Center for 13 years, and Mother Goose in Berlin-Gorham for 13 years. After 30 years of childcare, she worked for 7 years at Weeks Home Health, Lancaster. Upon retirement she worked at Santas Village for 10 seasons. A job she dearly loved.

Family and friends were very important to Brenda, and she spent many hours enjoying both camping, four-wheeling, dancing, playing games, and cards. She went on many shopping trips and always had a great time. Time spent with daughters was so cherished. Girl Scout leader, Sunday school teacher, chaperoning for field trips, watching games including softball, basketball, and bowling. She is very proud of her grandchildren and hopes they continue to grow even if she is not present in body.

Brenda greatly appreciated and extended her thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, and food. A thank you is also extended to Home Health and Hospice services; you went above and beyond the call of duty.

Visiting hours will be held Friday evening, Feb. 2, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster. A funeral service will be held Saturday morning, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, Lancaster. Reverend Eungil Cho, pastor and Reverend Richard Boyden of Jefferson will co-officiate the service. Burial will be in the spring Summer Street Cemetery, Lancaster, on Friday, May 17, at 11 a.m.

For more information or to send an online condolence, please go to www.baileyfh.net.



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