



The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, JAN. 12, 2023

LOCAL NEWS

Town Clerk Found Guilty

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View From Concord.
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Northumberland Clerk Found Guilty Of Divulging DMV Registration Information

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

After taking the case under advisement following a bench trial on Jan. 5, a Lancaster Circuit Court judge has found the Northumberland town clerk guilty of knowingly disclosing the Department of Motor Vehicles registration information of one person to another person not authorized to have it.

Melinda “Min” Kennett, 58, of Northumberland, who has been town clerk/tax collector for 18 years, is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 26 on a Class B misdemeanor count of violating RSA 260:14, IX(a), the New Hampshire statute for the administration of motor vehicle laws.

She faces a maximum fine of \$1,200.

Class B misdemeanor charges in New Hampshire carry no jail time.

After an arrest warrant was issued in November, Kennett entered a plea of not guilty.

On Jan. 10, Leif Becker, Kennett’s attorney, said he will be filing a motion asking the court to reconsider its decision.

An appeal of the court verdict, if the reconsideration motion is rejected, is a future option, he said.

The charge stems from a vehicle parked in the loading zone at the North Country Shop and Save in Northumberland.

The car had been blocking a delivery vehicle for some time and the store manager had called Kennett to obtain the identity of the car’s owner.

According to the narrative in the judge’s decision that was issued on Monday, Kennett, on Aug. 1, gave the registration information of Amy Reynolds, the registrant of the vehicle, to David Deming, the general manager of the Shop and Save.

At trial, Reynolds testified that she did not give anyone permission to release her motor vehicle information.

On Aug. 1, Northumberland Police Chief Peter Pelletier was dispatched to a call at the Shop and Save regarding the vehicle in the loading zone.

Deming told Pelletier he had called the town office and spoken with Kennett, who, according to court papers, had run the plate number and given Deming the owner’s name and address.

When asked by Pelletier, Deming repeated what he said a second time and told Pelletier he wasn’t sure if Kennett had the authority to disclose the information “and it was clear to Chief Pelletier that Mr. Deming didn’t want to get the Defendant in trouble,” Judge Janet Subers wrote in her 2-page decision.

The court heard from New Hampshire State Police Trooper Brandon Girardi, of NHSP Troop G, which issued the arrest warrant. Girardi interviewed Kennett on Oct. 14 and at a later time with her attorney.

(According to the court decision, Girardi had been assigned to investigate a separate,

Attorney: Troopers Stalled Commissioner Quinn Investigation, Then Promoted

BY DAMIEN FISHER
InDepthNH.org

The New Hampshire State Troopers interviewed as part of the investigation into alleged illegal actions taken by Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn refused to talk, and have since been rewarded for their silence, according to attorney Andrea Amodeo-Vickery.

“They all got promoted,” Amodeo-Vickery told InDepthNH.org.

The New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office started an investigation into Quinn after he allegedly pressured a Department of Safety employee to run a background check on a friend in order to help the friend get a permit to carry a firearm.

Michael Garrity, spokesman for New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella, declined to say if any investigation took place, telling InDepthNH.org privacy concerns prohibited disclosing the existence of an investigation.

But, Amodeo-Vickery said at least three troopers were questioned by the Attorney General’s Office, as was her client, former Department of Safety employee Tiffany Foss.

“The investigator is a very good guy, but the troopers buttoned up, they wouldn’t talk. The only one who talked was Tiffany,” Amodeo-Vickery.

Amodeo-Vickery and Foss filed a complaint Wednesday with the New Hampshire Department of Labor seeking whistleblower protection against Quinn. Foss left the Department of Safety for a position with the Department of Health and Human Services, but fears retaliation.

“She felt she needed to file the complaint to be protected from him even though she doesn’t work for him anymore,” Amodeo-Vickery said. “He has a long reach in this state.”

Quinn’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Foss received an email from a Department of Safety employee in October of last year after that employee, Elias Furey, became uneasy with the situation.

Quinn allegedly called a State Police Trooper to ask Furey to run the background check on Quinn’s acquaintance. Furey was uncomfortable with the situation. Running improper background checks is a felony in New Hampshire. Last week, Formella’s office dropped charges against former Ossipee police sergeant Justin Swift as part of a plea agreement.

Swift is getting added to the state’s Exculpatory Evidence Schedule, also known as the Laurie List, and is being decertified by the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council, meaning he cannot work as a police officer in New Hampshire, as part of the deal to have

unrelated incident, and in the course of that investigation interviewed Kennett).

Kennett testified at trial that Deming did call her with a license plate number for which she accessed DMV records to determine the owner of the car, Subers wrote in her decision.

“She testified that Mr. Deming sounded frantic,” wrote Subers.

Having considered all evidence, Subers said the court finds that the state met its burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and a finding of guilty is entered for Kennett for knowingly disclosing the information.

The case was prosecuted by Kevin Barone, of NHSP Troop F.

“A motion to reconsider is being submitted today, in part based upon the defense’s belief that false and misleading testimony was

the charges dropped.

According to public records, Swift used Ossipee’s SPOTS system to search the license plate of a motorcycle in which his wife was a passenger.

In Quinn’s case, his friend was counseled on how to clean up his criminal record in Massachusetts so that he would be able to qualify for a firearms license in that state, according to Furey’s email.

Foss alerted her superior’s about Furey’s email, telling them it is a legal problem for the department.

“This is HIGHLY illegal and will possibly be an issue on our audit in 2022,” Foss wrote.

However, legal consequences don’t seem to be in the cards. The Attorney General’s Office referred the matter back to the State Police with a recommendation of an internal investigation into the troopers, Amodeo-Vickery said.

That did not happen, and instead the troopers involved got promotions, and Foss had to seek legal protection, Amodeo-Vickery said.

“(Foss) is concerned that Commissioner Quinn is treated differently than every person in New Hampshire,” Amodeo-Vickery said.

John Scippa, the executive director with Police Standards and Training, said that a police officer credibly accused of breaking the law would be investigated, and then called before the council for possible decertification. Scippa would not comment on the allegations against Quinn.

“Every time there’s an allegation it has to be investigated,” Scippa said.

Quinn, who retired from state police in 2010, was appointed to lead the Department of Safety by Gov. Chris Sununu in 2019 after serving as assistant commissioner. When Quinn retired he gave up his certification, Scippa said.

“He’s not a police officer, so there’s no police certification for us to consider,” Scippa said.

Amodeo-Vickery said any police officer in the state facing similar accusation would be facing serious consequences even including possible loss of certification.

“Commissioner Quinn should be put on the EES list,” she said. “That’s what would happen to any other State Trooper and Police Officer in the state.”

Quinn remains head of the Department of Safety. He’s currently paid \$141,858 a year in salary while also collecting a little more than \$90,000 a year in pension benefits.

Foss is concerned about legal consequences, however, Amodeo-Vickery. She is seeking the whistleblower complaint, in part, because she is concerned she will be blamed for leaking the emails to the press. Amodeo-Vickery said the emails were sent to multiple media outlets, and her client had nothing to do with the leak.

“It’s absurd. She did not leak it,” Amodeo-Vickery said.

provided by the state,” said Becker. “There was a statement by the state police that a confession was given by Ms. Kennett, and that was made during trial. Subsequent review of body cam footage shows that that’s not the case ... On Min’s case, I think the court got it wrong, and part of the reason they got it wrong was that testimony, which we are seeking to address.”

According to Lancaster Circuit Court records viewed on Tuesday, Courtney McClain, Northumberland’s deputy town clerk/tax collector, faces similar charges of disclose/misuse of DMV records.

On July 18, McLain, 31, of Northumberland, is alleged to have knowingly disclosed the DMV registration information of “W.D.” to an unauthorized person, that being members of the public, during a Northumberland

selectmen’s meeting.

On July 28, McClain is alleged to have knowingly disclosed the registration information of “G.W.” to an unauthorized person, that being Wayne McClain.

Both counts are Class B misdemeanors.

On Dec. 1, McClain entered a plea of not guilty.

A bench trial for McClain is scheduled for March 2 at Lancaster Circuit Court.

Becker said he is not yet ready to comment on McClain’s case.

On Friday, Becker said state officials in recent months have been focusing on the disclosure of DMV records, and he noted that New Hampshire Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn was recently charged with a violation.

LITTLETON food co-op

Weekly Specials

Prices Effective Fri. 1/13 — Thu. 1/19/2023

Round up this January to Support The Bethlehem Elementary School Garden Club



Broccoli Crowns
\$1.49
Lb



Whole Pork Loins
\$1.89
Lb



52 oz
Tropicana Premium Orange Juice
\$2.99



Cauliflower
\$2.99



Avocados
69¢



7.25 oz • **Limit 6**
Kraft Mac & Cheese
88¢



4.6 oz • Organic
Lesser Evil Popcorn
2/\$4



Organic
Cara Cara or Blood Oranges
\$1.29



12 oz
Superior on Main Eclairs
\$3.59



6 oz • Organic
Lundberg Farms Rice Sides
2/\$6



6 pk
Zevia Zero Calorie Soda
\$4.49



Certified Angus
Sirloin Steak
\$5.99
Lb



5.3 oz • Select Varieties
Desert Essence Toothpaste
\$3.99



Boar's Head Red Wax Cheddar Cheese
\$7.49
Lb



Boar's Head Deluxe Ham
\$7.99
Lb



12-15 oz • Local
Wyman's Berries
2/\$6



20 oz • Organic
Woodstock Pasta
\$5.99



6-8 oz • Local
Limit Two w/Coupon
Cabot Cheese Bars or Shreds
2/\$4



32 oz • Local • Organic
Limit Two w/Coupon
Stonyfield Yogurt
2/\$6



Local • Organic
Grandy Organics Maple Mulberry Granola
\$6.99
Lb



Local
NEK Grains Stoneground Vermont Whole Wheat Flour
\$1.99
Lb



750 mL
Mark West Pinot Noir
\$7.99



12 pks
Athletic Brewing Non-Alcoholic Beer
\$18.99

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Obituaries

Lucy Oakes Canterbury

Lucy Oakes Canterbury died peacefully on Christmas morning under the care of Riverglen House staff and North Country Home Health Agency, Littleton, N.H. She was born (the third child) of Frank and Florence (Wyckoff) Upson in Elmira, N.Y. She was raised in Dundee, N.Y., and had an idyllic childhood on the farm and swimming in her beloved Seneca Lake. Swimming would become a lifelong passion. After graduating from Dundee High School in 1939, she went to the University of Vermont (1940-1943) then transferred to Cornell University, N.Y., to graduate in 1944 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After graduation she worked for the Signal Corps in Virginia (1944). She first met Gilbert Oakes at UVM, marrying him on Aug. 18, 1945, upon his return to the states after having served with the 10th Mountain Division (Ski Troops) in Europe. They enjoyed 42 years together until his death in 1987. She was a devoted wife and mother, an excellent cook and housekeeper. She loved hiking and skiing in the White Mountains and swimming in Echo Lake. She lived in many states: NY, VT, CT, MA, and moved to NH 1964. She met and married her second husband, Andrew Canterbury in 1998 and moved to the "Hideaway" in Fort Myers, Fla., and shared five great years of traveling to England, France, Mexico, and Greece. After his death in 2002 she remained at the condo for 16 years playing bridge, golfing and swimming daily. Having broken her pelvis and being so far away from family necessitated her moving back to NH in 2014. She spent the next 7+ years at Riverglen House reading, playing bridge, watching old movies and British comedies on PBS. She loved to laugh and enjoyed a daily scotch well into her 90's. She was predeceased by her parents, a sister Ruth, and a brother Brooks.



She is survived by a son, Brenton Oakes and wife Paulinda Chapman, Salinas, Calif., a daughter, Susan Oakes Peabody and husband Jon, Franconia, N.H., a granddaughter Lindsay Oakes of Forest Hills, N.Y., a niece Sandra Upson Hartsfield, Geneva, N.Y., several grand-nieces, grand-nephews and cousins.

At Lucy's request there will be no services. A private family Celebration of Life will take place in the summer when the grass is green, and the flowers are blooming. In lieu of flowers please donate in Lucy's memory to Above the Notch Humane Society, <https://atnhs.org/product/donation/>, P.O. Box 98, Franconia, NH, 03580. HOW LUCY LOVED HER DOGS! To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com

Ed Westman

Ed Westman, 105, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 27, 2022. Ed was born in 1917 in Philadelphia.

He graduated from Girard College, a private boarding school for fatherless boys in 1935. Ed pursued a career in data processing starting with his first job at Philco Radio. He served in the Navy as Chief Petty Officer during World War II, then entered the Civil Service after the war. During his spare time, he sold mutual funds, studied for a time at Philadelphia College of the Bible, and preached occasionally as a layman. Ed retired from Civil Service in 1975, moving to Center Haverhill, N.H. in 1976. He worked in data processing at Dartmouth College for two years. He also did a short stint selling men's clothing



at Campions in Hanover.

Following these occupations, Ed retired to a life pursuing his ongoing passion for driving hither, thither and yon. During his final years he served as an Elder at the Sugar Hill Community Church in Sugar Hill.

He was predeceased by his wife, Esther, is survived by his son, Timothy and his wife Faith. A private graveside service will be conducted in the spring of 2023. Any memorial should be sent to Grace to You, P.O. Box 4000, Panorama City, CA 91412, gty.org.

In addition to the above, a Celebration of Life will be held at the Sugar Hill Community Church, Rt. 117 in Sugar Hill on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023 at 11 a.m.

Theodora Carbonneau

January 1, 2023, Theodora Carbonneau quietly passed away after a lengthy stay at the Grafton County Nursing Home in North Haverhill, N.H.

Her parents, Herbert and Thelma (Revoir) Beaton, welcomed her into this world on Jan. 18, 1931. Teddy, as she was known by family and friends, was the third of four children, and a lifelong resident of Littleton, N.H. She is predeceased by her parents, sisters Patty Beaton and Sharon (Beaton) Geary, and Herbert Beaton Jr. (Buddy).



Teddy and Wm. R. Carbonneau (Bill) fell in love and were very happily married for 62 years until Bill's death in 2018. She devoted the entirety of her life to her husband and three children. The many birthdays, holidays, and family vacations are only a few of the memories which we will forever cherish. She taught by example how to be a good person, to always see the best in people. She taught us the importance of laughter, especially at oneself rather than at others. We three "kids" were blessed to have such a caring, kind, and loving person as our mother. Although Teddy was stricken with Alzheimer's, she never lost her ability to laugh. This was a gift to our family and to her caregivers.

Teddy is survived by two sons, Scott Carbonneau and his wife Lee of Loudon, N.H.; Kurt Carbonneau of Bristol, N.H.; a daughter, Lisa Dauphine and her husband Tim of Longs, S.C.; four grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Kyle Dauphine, Amy and Ben Carbonneau; as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins. A special thank you to the staff at the Grafton County Nursing Home for their love and support over the years. The care that they provided was compassionate and professional in every way. Also, thank you to the Ross Funeral Home for their assistance with the arrangements.

A private graveside service will be held at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Cemetery in Littleton, N.H. in the spring. In lieu of flowers please consider giving in Teddy's memory to the Grafton County Home Association, 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill, NH, or The Alzheimer's Association, 166 S. River Road #210, Bedford, NH 03110. To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com

Roger Robar

Roger Robar of Lisbon died peacefully at his home on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, from pulmonary fibrosis with his wife at his side. He was 86.

Roger was born on June 15, 1936, in Littleton to Lorne and Hazel (Lucia) Robar. He was a lifelong resident of Lisbon and married his high school sweetheart, Ruth (Lee), on Sept. 17, 1960.

He worked for Whitney's Weatherproofing for 36 years, specializing in remodeling kitchens and other home improvements. He was highly sought-after for his workmanship and loving attention to details.

Roger's passion for all aspects of railroading developed as a young man and continued throughout his life. He was a sought-after wealth of knowledge to historians and modelers alike, especially for the period of steam to first generation diesels (1920's - 1953) on the Boston & Maine line.

His home, HO-scale, layout was 12x28' with three levels reproducing the route from Well River / Woodsville to the Groveton paper mill, including all the railroad-served industries along the way. Roger and his train buddies created scratch-built bridges and buildings to replicate locations from the period. As he would say, he was recreating history in miniature.

But not only in miniature. After retiring, he worked part-time at the Conway Scenic Railroad, restoring historic rail cars to their original glory. During that time, he owned a working caboos from the period and later an on-site, refrigerated box car converted into a very comfortable apartment with bedroom, bath, kitchen and living area. No train buff had it better than living comfortably at the rail yard while working with like-minded people to repair, restore, and operate historic trains.

Roger was involved in many organizations and activities in Lisbon, although his legacy might best be seen in the rescued and restored historic Lisbon Railroad Station. Built by the Boston, Concord, and Montreal Railroad in 1853, the station is noted for its unusual architectural design, the only station of its kind. Serving as Clerk of the Works, he donated hundreds of hours to the restoration project. Every aspect of the project, from the doors to the shape of the clapboards and their color, was restored or custom designed by Roger. For five years, he would be at the station working to bring it back to life, piece by piece. It stands as a monument to the past, present, and future and is now open to the public.

He was known not only for his woodworking and photographic skills, but for his character, integrity, unselfish dedication, enthusiasm, and creative energy.

Roger was an active member of the Lisbon Bible Church. His deep and abiding Christian faith was evident in his quiet, gentle, and generous nature. He was a giving man aware of others' needs and readily helped where he could.

Roger is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruth (Lee) and their two sons, Randy and his wife Lisa of South Royalton, Vt., and Doug and his wife Elizabeth and four children of Stowe, Vt.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Marjorie (Poor), Margaret (Jarrell), and his twin brother, Ronald.

The funeral will be held at Lisbon Bible Church on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. Burial will be held in the spring. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Lisbon Area Historical Society, PO Box 6, Lisbon NH 03585, of which Roger was a Trustee.

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

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

Carole Ann Doran

Carole Ann Doran (Newell), 76, of Littleton, N.H., died

Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

peacefully and comfortably at her home, alone with her daughter, on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022.

Born on Oct. 26, 1946, she was the daughter of Edward J. Doran Sr., and Ida M. Persutti.

She was the widow of her long-time best friend, Arthur Zager.

She is predeceased by her big sister, Mary Curran, her best friends, Kim Renshaw Wark, Patsy Davey, Arthur Zager, and so many more special people in her life, far too many to mention here, but equally praised. God bless her, and all of them, so happy to be reunited in their new lives together, in a new Kingdom ... until we all meet again.

Carole is survived by her only child, her only daughter, Jennifer Newell.

Also survived by her dearly cherished nieces, Christine Mc-Fadden (Curran), Andrea Falvey (Curran), and her nephew James Curran; her dearly loved sisters-in-law, Joyce O'Neill and Janet Cox, who always hold a special place in my mother's heart ... and, of course, all the children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, on both the Newell side and Doran side of her family. Again, all are adored, yet there are so many to mention, they all wouldn't fit! It is important for me to include her neighbors, John and Mary D' Etcheverry because of the special place that they held in my mother's heart, in her daily life, and the unique bond that developed. They became family.

As a multi-talented and multi-faceted human being, Carole had an outstanding work ethic and work history that we can see in her colorful variety of positions held throughout her life. From hairdresser at Carl's Beauty in Brockton, Mass., to building sound boards for ATS in Avon, Mass., to being a licensed service representative at Liberty Mutual in Hingham, Mass., to running the Hillwinds in Franconia, N.H., (with many more nestled in between), to her most recent role, during her retirement, at TJ Maxx in Littleton, N.H.

Kayaking! Snowshoeing! Yogilates! Hiking! Her John Deere tractor! Road-riding! My mother loved her kayak and shared that time with her friend Sue Mattheson at various local hot spots. In the winter, she loved to snow-shoe, with her beloved neighbors, John and Mary, trekking on their own little oasis of land between them. And, let's remember her John Deere tractor! Her yard and her lawn were her pride and joy, her favorite chore was mowing her 2.5 acres; aside from spending time in her little escape — her enormous barn. We all know how much she loves that barn! Light hikes and yogilates with the girls, Meggen, Ellen, Jacqui, and Diane on Tuesdays, and just taking non-destination rides from time to time just to appreciate the beauty of where she lived were a couple other hobbies that she enjoyed. My mother was an amazing, active, energetic, and vibrant little lady.

Carole was an avid blood donor, donating blood nearly every 6 weeks for the past 24 years in dedication to her predeceased sister-in-law, Maureen LeBlanc (Newell). She also donated faithfully, on a monthly basis, for decades, to St. Jude's, Wounded Warriors, and World Wildlife Federation because these were her favorite heart-felt charities that mattered deeply to her. She was also a giant fan of Elephant Nature Park in Chang Mai Thailand, a rescue sanctuary for elephants. In lieu of flowers, please consider, and feel free to, send donations to any of these in honor of my mother, Carole Doran.

There will be two celebrations of life parties held for Carole because she is that special of a lady! One party will be held in New Hampshire, at 2349 North Littleton Road, Lit-

tleton, N.H., on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, from noontime to 4 p.m., for her NH folks. The second will be held in Massachusetts, in the summertime, to be determined and announced at a later date for her Massachusetts folks. Please know that all of you are happily and graciously welcomed to both parties! Holding two will make it convenient and conducive for all that know her, love her, and want to celebrate her life.

I will be notifying people of the exact details of Mum's summer party as it unfolds.

We so look forward to sharing space, time, memories, and stories, and celebrating Carole's life with all of you who are able to join us!

Norma Winn

Norma Winn, formerly of Groveton, N.H., died on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, at the Morrison Nursing Home. She was born in Littleton the daughter of Carl and Edith (Pike) Bergin. She worked at the Lisbon Wire Mill but was mostly a homemaker. She was very proud of earning her GED and getting her driver's license when she was in her 40's. She was very social and loved to gamble and play BINGO. She could often be found watching her favorite Hallmark movies. She was predeceased by her husband Paul Winn.

She is survived by her son Waywood and wife Michelle, four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, brothers Bob and Harry Bergin, a sister Barbara Bergin and lots more family.

A graveside service will take place in the spring at the Grove Hill Cemetery, Lisbon, N.H.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Norma (Bergin) Winn, please visit the Ross Funeral Home floral store online at <https://www.rossfuneral.com/obituary/Norma-Winn/sympathy-landing>

Harold "Heshey" Friedman

Harold "Heshey" Friedman, age 92, of Bethlehem, N.H., passed away on Jan. 5, 2023, of natural causes.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. at the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, located at 39 Strawberry Hill Rd. Bethlehem, N.H. Burial will follow the funeral at Maple Street Cemetery, located at 17 Cruft St. Bethlehem.

Harold was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Oct. 4, 1930. After his third year of college, in pursuit of a law degree, he was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve his country in the Korean War.

Harold was married to Sue Friedman, whom he lovingly referred to as, "Big Red," because of her vibrant red hair, for 59 years until her passing in 2018.

He enjoyed working on his yard and was a meticulous groundskeeper of many ornamental shrubs and perennial flowers. Harold loved saltwater fishing and owned a number of boats for many years, taking his three sons out frequently off the south shore of Long Island. He enjoyed skiing and brought his family on frequent trips to Vermont and New Hampshire, eventually deciding that it would be more convenient having a place of their own rather than depending on availability of lodging. In 1982 he purchased and gradually remodeled an unoccupied cottage in the town of Bethlehem. When he retired in 2001, he decided to follow his son Russell who had moved to town six years prior, and bought a larger home, also in Bethlehem. Harold served two terms as selectman in Bethlehem and worked on the zoning board.

Harold is survived by son David Friedman and his wife

Kathy, their children Kristen and Joseph, son Michael and his two children Rachael and Alex, son Russell and his two children Abigail and Yonah. To view Harold's Online Tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, visit <https://phaneuf.net/>.

Irene Murray Jesseman

Irene Murray Jesseman, of Bixby Brook Road, died on Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022, at home peacefully with her family by her side. She was ill for a very short time, and she left to be with her other family. She will be greatly missed.

Irene was born on May 14, 1936, and she died at 86 years old. She graduated from Franconia schools. Her mother and father Kenneth L. and Henrietta (Nichols) Murray predeceased. Irene had four jobs her entire life. She worked at Hensel Shoe for 26 years. She also worked part-time driving trucks for her husband Ed Jesseman for three years. She then worked at Hitchiner for 11 years. She then left there and worked at Walmart as a greeter for 18 years.

Irene then retired to be with family and play more bingo. Irene Bixby was a very social lady. She loved going to the senior center and socializing with all her friends. She enjoyed going to Jill Richards's home to play cards with her. They have been friends for 70 years. She loved going to play bingo with her friends. As well as knitting scarfs and mittens and making blankets for all of the family. If you needed a pair of mittens, she would make it just to be friendly. She loved her newspaper and her dog bingo. Her passion for life was her family. She loved spending time with them all. Whether it was a visit or a luncheon or just an unexpected reunion of family. She loved the flowers that bloomed, especially her azaleas. The joke in the house is a ball of yarn, a TV remote, and a newspaper and you wouldn't hear a peep out of her. She never ever complained of anything, no matter what came up, she took it with a grain of salt, and she was and always will be a fantastic woman, mother, grandmother, and friend. We like to thank Dr. Neilson and his nurses who care for mom as well as hospice care nurses. As well as a special thanks to my mom's friends Betty Anne Emerson her friend and bingo Partner as well as her friend Sara Edward's who was her Walmart and bingo friend. A special thank you to Bobbie Jo Fysh for all her help taking care of Gram.

She was predeceased by two husbands: Edward Jesseman and Harold Bixby; three brothers: Bob Nichols and Harold, Newton, and Newell Murray; three sisters: Annie, Aner, and Iona; and two of her children: Barbara and Scott.

She is survived by her two children, nieces and nephews, Paula and spouse Michelle Jesseman of Bethlehem, N.H. Deborah and spouse Ellen Jesseman of Texas, and one brother Kenneth (buddy) Murray of Texas, five grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren three great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. at Wheeler Hill Cemetery, Littleton. To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com

Edith Halpin

Edith Halpin, 95, of Lunenburg, Vt., passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, following a period of declining health.

Edith was born on Sept. 30, 1927, to Herbert and Mae (Fuller) Silver and lived her entire life in the Lunenburg/E. Concord area. She married Norman "Paddy" Halpin on Dec. 15, 1949, and they celebrated 47 years together.

Her favorite times were spent walking or riding the back roads, picking wild berries, picnicking and sharing time with



On The Cover

'Light & Form: Northern Landscapes' Opens Jan. 14 at WREN

BETHLEHEM, N.H. — Saturday, Jan. 14 from 5-7 p.m., WREN (Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network) kicks off "Light & Form: Northern Landscapes" featuring artists Chris Whiton, Kimberly Druker Stockwell, and Jane Elfner. This exhibition celebrates the beauty of natural landscapes through paintings and photography.

Longtime Bethlehem resident Chris Whiton (*who took this week's cover photo*) has been dabbling with photography

for several decades. It started as a hobby and eventually grew into White Mountain Images, a solid photography business dedicated to capturing the beauty of the northern half of the state. Whiton's love of photography initially stemmed from a long involvement with oil painting.

In photography, he found that a digital darkroom has similarities to the magic of oils: painting with light instead of a brush and canvas.

Kimberly Druker Stockwell's current work focuses on the White Mountains. Painting en plein air, Stockwell's work is less about rocks and trees than color and light. The patterns created by different species of plants and trees are reflected on her canvas in a series of playful brush lines and swipes of pallet knives, toying with

appearance and reality.

Jane Elfner's mother recognized her daughter's penchant for visual learning at a young age and encouraged her daughter to explore art as a way to express herself, sparking a life-long love of painting. Years later, Jane did the same for her daughter, Kimberly. "Kim and I have enjoyed so many wonderful times together painting and discussing our creations," says Jane. "She is so committed. She is in her studio most days and has really evolved. She has become my inspiration."

Though both live in Boston, this mother-daughter duo spend ample time in Bethlehem and at Mittersill and are constantly inspired by the mountains, lakes and forests.

Snow date for the new exhibit is Jan. 15, 1-3 p.m.

News Briefs

Franconia Reaches Agreement With Interim Town Administrator

FRANCONIA — The Select Board has agreed to terms with retired municipal executive Sharon Penney to serve a 20-week period as interim Town Administrator.

She replaces former Town Administrator Kim Cowles, who resigned this month over a pay dispute.

Penney will be the town's first full-time Town Administrator since 2020.

"We are very excited to have Sharon on board for the next few months; her expertise and experience will help us navigate budget season, town meeting, and, hopefully, finding a well-qualified full-time Town Administrator who is a good fit for Franconia. We are grateful to her for 'coming out of retirement' to support the town during this time," said Select Board Chair Jill Brewer in a statement.

Penney and the Select Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Jan. 9.

She is slated to make \$38.50 per hour for a 36-hour work week, for an estimated total compensation of \$22,176.

Her salary is based on a \$72,000 annual salary, nine percent less than what Cowles had requested before stepping down.

"The per-hour rate is based upon a \$72,000 annual salary which the board believes to be a fair and reasonable salary for someone with Sharon's expertise and experience," Brewer said.

A Franconia resident, Penney previously served as Town Manager in Colebrook, Town Administrator in Lisbon, and Town Planner in both Plymouth and Alton.

She also worked for ten years as a regional transportation and land use planner for North Country Council.

Franconia's Select Board originally established the full-time Town Administrator position in Sept. 2016 and Holly Burbank served in that role from Jan. 2017 through Jan. 2020.

When the search for a full-time replacement was halted by COVID-19, parks and recreation director Cowles was hired as a part-time administrator in June 2020.

Cowles managed day-to-day municipal operations and Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) of Meredith was contracted to handle financial and accounting duties.

Last fall the Select Board unanimously backed Cowles' plan to make the administrator position full-time.

However, due to public backlash and divided board support for her full-time salary request, Cowles resigned effective Monday.

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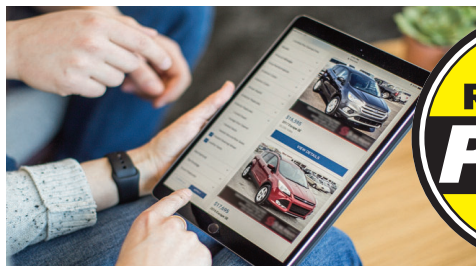
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Stk.#J22135A – 37,744 MILES

\$266 /MO

Sale Price \$23,000. Payment calculated with \$5,995 cash or trade equity down at 8.14% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.



**2019 JEEP COMPASS
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Stk.#J22134A – 46,518 MILES

\$266 /MO

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\$267 /MO

Sale Price \$21,000. Payment calculated with \$4,995 cash or trade equity down at 7.35% APR for 75 months to qualified buyers.



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Stk.#J23005B – 36,877 MILES

\$292 /MO

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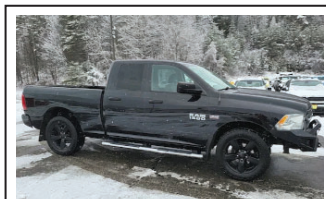


**2018 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID LE
AWD SUV**

Stk.#J23023A – 59,694 MILES

\$298 /MO

Sale Price \$25,000. Payment calculated with \$5,995 cash or trade equity down at 8.14% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.



**2017 RAM 1500 EXPRESS
QUAD CAB 4WD**

Stk.#J23002C – 95,245 MILES

\$300 /MO

Sale Price \$22,400. Payment calculated with \$4,995 cash or trade equity down at 7.35% APR for 72 months to qualified buyers.



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Stk.#CP1328 – 8,871 MILES

\$301 /MO

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**2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
LAREDO 4WD SUV**

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\$321 /MO

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**2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
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Stk.#J22065A – 66,290 MILES

\$327 /MO

Sale Price \$26,900. Payment calculated with \$5,995 cash or trade equity down at 8.14% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.

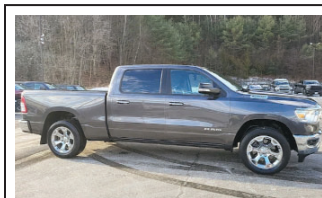


**2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN
QUAD CAB 4WD**

Stk.#CP1357A – 84,112 MILES

\$369 /MO

Sale Price \$29,500. Payment calculated with \$6,995 cash or trade equity down at 6.75% APR for 75 months to qualified buyers.



**2019 RAM 1500 BIG HORN
CREW CAB 4WD**

Stk.#DT22171A – 44,415 MILES

\$446 /MO

Sale Price \$35,500. Payment calculated with \$6,995 cash or trade equity down at 8.14% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.



**2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN
4WD CREW CAB**

Stk.#J22102A – 54,934 MILES

\$464 /MO

Sale Price \$37,000. Payment calculated with \$6,995 cash or trade equity down at 7.74% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.

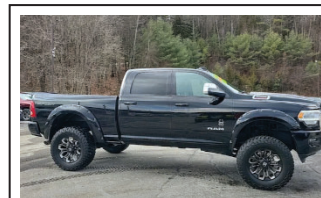


**2021 RAM 1500 BIG HORN
4WD CREW CAB**

Stk.#CP1369 – 18,410 MILES

\$493 /MO

Sale Price \$41,900. Payment calculated with \$9,995 cash or trade equity down at 7.74% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers.



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CREW CAB 4WD BLACK WIDOW**

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News Briefs

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With Penney on board, Franconia is expected to end its contract with MRI.

“We are not planning to use MRI services moving forward with a well-qualified full-time Town Administrator,” Brewer said, “so I do not think we will have money set aside for MRI in the budget.”

Cowles also stepped down as part-time parks and recreation director.

The Easton, Franconia and Sugar Hill Select Boards will meet with the Lafayette Recreation Committee in the near future to determine whether or not the recreation director should be posted as a part- or full-time position.

“We look forward to filling that position and continuing, and building on, the incredible Lafayette Recreation program that Kim Cowles was integral to creating,” Brewer said.

Littleton Select Board Puts Community House Funding Back In Budget

LITTLETON — The prospect of having annual town funding for the Littleton Community Center go on a warrant article instead of in the town operating budget — where it has been for more than a century — brought scores of community center supporters to the Select Board meeting on Monday.

During a board work session on Jan. 3, Town Manager Jim Gleason recommended that the town’s annual \$35,000 in funding for the community house be placed on a warrant article.

The funding goes toward community center maintenance and upkeep.

While historically the money has been in the town’s general fund, there has been no contact or communication with the nonprofit Littleton Community Center board of directors and the town needs clarification, Gleason said at the work session.

The town would also like to discuss the agreement for parking, he said.

Select Board member Roger Emerson said the town pays \$35,000 a year plus plowing and salting.

The community center is owned by a nonprofit but is used as a meeting place for the Littleton Select Board, planning and zoning boards, the budget committee, conservation committee, and other town committees.

It is also used by nonprofit groups at no charge and is rented out for events.

On Jan. 3, the board tabled their decision about putting the community center funding on a warrant article until their Monday meeting, leaving open the possibility that they could reconsider.

In the meantime, the LCC board of directors got the word out through a mass email.

“We have learned that the current proposed Town budget has cut the Community Center’s funding out of the budget and put it into a separate warrant article,” they wrote. “This will allow the town to cut their budget by \$35,000 and put our funding and the very future of the Com-

munity Center at risk. The Town has supported the Center every year since its inception, so this is very upsetting!”

The directors encouraged residents concerned about the prospect of warrant articles to attend the Select Board meeting.

Dozens of community center supporters turned out for the meeting, making for a packed Heald Room in the Littleton Community Center.

Near the beginning of the meeting, Gleason recommended a motion for the Select Board to put the \$35,000 back into the general fund, which eliminated the proposed warrant article.

The board voted 3-0 to put the money back into the town budget.

LCC board member Mary Menzies thanked those in attendance for coming out.

She also read a statement by Kate Smith, another LCC board member, who couldn’t attend Monday’s meeting, but wanted to comment.

Smith said putting the money on a warrant article would change more than 100 years of precedent.

“The town of Littleton and the Littleton Community Center benefit each other in tangible and intangible ways,” said Smith. “A warrant article would put the building’s annual maintenance cost at the whims of the taxpayers for year to year ... The center depends on this town’s \$35,000 contribution to fund our continued expenses, which consist almost entirely of buildings and grounds maintenance ... Please continue to support the building for the use of local residents ...”

In large part because of the COVID-19 pandemic and decreased building use, the community center’s most recent financials showed net income to be in the red, she said.

Smith said there are several ways the operation of the community house is beneficial to the town.

They include nonprofit groups being able to meet in comfortable surroundings free of charge, town board and committee meetings held free of charge, local families and organizations being able to rent the facility and its full kitchen at affordable prices, and the center being used as a venue for weddings.

The center is also the venue for a family visit with Santa following the annual Christmas Parade, is a place for summertime concerts on the front lawn, and has outdoor space for vendors during the fall arts festival and town-wide yard sale, she said.

Most of its 5,000 to 10,000 visitors each year use the center free of charge, and the building has also been used by state health workers for interaction with local patients, said Smith.

Along with the public library and First Congregational Church, the community center is one of three places in town listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

“The building contributes to the charm of the town, architecturally anchoring the Main Street on the west end along with post office and the Congregational Church,” said Smith.

Menzies said it’s good to get LCC facts out to everyone and said she appreciates the Select Board’s continued support of community center operations.

Hennessey’s Experience As Deputy Secretary Of State

Six months ago, Erin Hennessey, the former state senator from Littleton, took the job as deputy secretary of state for New Hampshire.

Since then, she’s been on the go, and last year traveled to municipalities across the state to help them prepare for the 2022 elections.

On Thursday, Hennessey spoke of her experience and what’s in store for 2023.

“What I’m learning so far is there’s no downtime,” she said. “Initially, when I started in June when I resigned my Senate seat, I went right into prepping for the primary and the general elections.”

When she wasn’t helping to proof ballots and get them out the door, Hennessey was assisting in the training of different town officials.

“Every election cycle we do training sessions to help them with updated laws and also just the laws in general because a lot of times there’s turnover with local elections officials,” said Hennessey. “We traveled around the state and did various online training programs.”

There’s always a new law that elections workers need to get up to speed on, she said.

For the Sept. 13 primary, Hennessey spent the day in Laconia Ward 6, which previously had an issue with a ballot-counting device that had not been emptied properly and had ballots in it from previous elections. The Laconia ward also had an issue with the counting of write-in ballots that had been done incorrectly.

“There were three locations in the state that had an issue in their previous election,” she said. “I was at one of the locations helping to monitor them to make sure that they didn’t repeat any of the infractions that the attorney general had written a report about.”

But with a new moderator and assistant moderator, the Ward 6 election went well and the new elections officials corrected all the previous problems, said Hennessey.

“Once the primary was over, there was again a lot of prepping for the general election with ballots and other election materials, and also with training,” she said.

For the Nov. 8 general election, Hennessey spent the day in Woodstock.

“They were one of three locations in the state that decided to try a new ballot counting device from VotingWorks,” she said.

For decades, the only ballot tabulator machine authorized by the New Hampshire secretary of state for municipalities has been the AccuVote machine, and it currently still is.

But those machines are being phased out by the vendor because the machines are aging and parts are hard to come by.

The New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission had authorized the VotingWorks pilot program for a few different locations, in Woodstock, Ashland, and Newington.

Hennessey was in Woodstock to monitor how the process went and to ensure there were no issues with the device.

While Newington had an issue with the machine’s reader and wasn’t able to use it to complete the election there, the VotingWorks devices in Woodstock and Ashland went smoothly and

completed the elections process in those towns.

Since becoming deputy, about 80 percent of Hennessey’s focus has been in the secretary of state’s elections division, doing outreach, education, informing elections officials of changes in laws, monitoring elections, and helping with any questions they have.

“There’s always calls every day from various elections officials,” she said.

But with the office having five divisions and the big elections not coming up again until 2024, Hennessey’s work is not all voting-related.

“Archives, vital records, corporations and the securities bureau are also part of the office, so I do a lot of work with those as well,” she said. “My day-to-day is different every day and changes depending on what’s going on.”

The new year will involve new duties for the second-in-charge at the New Hampshire secretary of state’s office.

“Now that the Legislature’s back in session, I’m working on a lot of legislation,” said Hennessey. “I’ll be going to all of the House and Senate committees any time they have a bill related to the secretary of state’s office.”

Hennessey is New Hampshire’s constitutional deputy secretary of state, who was appointed by New Hampshire Secretary of State David Scanlan.

In early 2022, Scanlan, who had served as deputy secretary since 2002, replaced Bill Gardner, New Hampshire’s previous secretary of state who served for 46 years and made history as the nation’s longest-serving secretary.

The New Hampshire office has a senior deputy secretary of state, a part-time position that is a legislative and not constitutional role, as well as assistant secretaries of state in the different divisions.

“My accounting background has helped a lot with the other departments and with management and budgetary work,” said Hennessey. “And this is a budget year, so I was part of the process to work on the department’s budget ... It’s been a very jump-in-the-deep-end process for me, especially with the elections piece, because I was never on the election law committee in either the House or Senate. It was a big learning curve I had to overcome, but it’s very interesting, too. I like learning new things. My previous experience had just been running for office. I had never been at an election for a whole day to see what went on and how much work goes into it beforehand, during, the night of, and after the polls close.”

She praised those at the local elections level who undertake significant education to be able to fulfill their duties, and said she has an increased appreciation of all the hard work that local elections officials take on, and their dedication to it.

She also thanked those who work in her office and who have been nice and helpful and answered her questions, making for an easy transition into the job.

The secretary of state’s office is housed in the New Hampshire statehouse in Concord.

Hennessey, who served three terms as a state representative before being elected to a first state senate term, is known to many in the statehouse.

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“I see old friends stop in the office all the time, from the House and Senate,” she said. “It’s great to see some new faces come into the statehouse from the North Country and to see the familiar faces from previous years, too. I get to see everyone I used to work with, but in a different role.”

Hennessey’s office is rich in history and includes what is called the red books, going back to the 1800s and chronicling elections across the state.

According to the office’s archives division, Hennessey is New Hampshire’s second female deputy secretary of state. (To date, there has never been a female secretary of state).

“1933 was the last time there was a female deputy secretary of state,” she said. “Her name was Mary Jenkins, from Concord. That was 90 years ago. Her book is sitting on the shelf in my office with her name signed in it.”

Looking at another part of the state’s history, for more than 100 years New Hampshire has held the first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Recently, there’s been a push among some to have South Carolina hold the first primary.

Hennessey, though, said New Hampshire’s tradition will continue.

“The primary is here,” she said. “It’s our state law, RSA 653:9, and we will have it at least seven days prior to any similar election. The secretary has flexibility as to when he has to set that. Fortunately, we have great election workers who can adjust when that date comes out, and do so very rapidly.”

For residents wanting to pay a visit to the secretary of state’s office, they are always welcome, said Hennessey.

“I think people don’t realize how open the statehouse is and the secretary of state’s office is,” said Hennessey. “Our doors are open, and if you’re ever around, come on in and say hello.”

Select Board Fires Back At DRA For Tax Rate Delay, Demands Speedy Resolution

HAVERHILL — The Select Board on Jan. 6 gave the Department of Revenue Administration an ultimatum: Set the tax rate, or see you in court.

By a 5-0 vote, the board directed town counsel to draft a letter to DRA, demanding that the agency certify the town’s tax rate based on either the previous year’s tax rate or “status quo” spending levels.

If DRA does not comply, the letter states, the town will pursue legal action in superior court.

“I think we need to empower our attorney to threaten [DRA] with a suit to set the damn tax rate,” said Select Board member Michael Graham.

In a letter dated Dec. 22, DRA announced it would not certify the tax rate due to uncertainty caused by a New Hampshire Supreme Court case, filed by the Woodsville Fire District in ef-

orts to secure town funding for precinct operations. It may be a year before the case is settled.

However, town counsel has advised that DRA overstepped its authority.

“According to our attorney [DRA has] no right to do this,” said Select Board Chair Fred Garofalo.

It’s the latest development in the Woodsville Fire District funding saga.

The issue dates back to March, when Town Meeting agreed to send \$450,000 to Woodsville Fire and Highway.

DRA ruled the petition articles were illegal and refused to reconsider, and Woodsville filed an appeal with the state Supreme Court.

In its letter on Dec. 22, DRA announced that the Town of Haverhill’s tax rate cannot be set until the Supreme Court settles Woodsville’s appeal because they are connected.

Select Board members called the situation unprecedented and said Haverhill was the first municipality in New Hampshire to face a tax rate delay under such circumstances.

“This is one for the history books,” Garofalo said.

The town has executed a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) with Woodsville Guaranty Bank to fund town operations until the matter is settled.

However, TAN spending is restricted and cannot be used for some purposes, such as capital expenditures. It also carries an interest payment.

Steve Robbins, the Select Board Vice Chair, said DRA set the tax rate last year under similar circumstances, amid a different lawsuit between the Woodsville Fire Precinct and the Town of Haverhill.

“There was a lawsuit pending against [the town] last year and it had no relevance on the setting of the tax rate,” Robbins said. “It just doesn’t make any sense.”

Describing the DRA action, he said, “They’re holding us hostage.”

Two Injured In Apt. Fire, Neighboring Units Saved

JEFFERSON — Two people were injured in an early-morning apartment fire.

Jefferson Fire was summoned to a four-unit apartment building at 653 Meadows St. at 6:45 a.m. Jan. 7 and first arriving crews found one unit with heavy smoke and fire.

According to JFD Chief Chris Milligan, the married couple living in the two-story apartment awoke to the fire and escaped through the front door.

They suffered unspecified injuries and were transported to Weeks Medical Center for treatment, Milligan said.

Seven residents living in three other units were unharmed.

Jefferson Fire contained the fire to the single apartment, assisted by departments from Lancaster, Whitefield, Twin Mountain, Dalton and Lunenburg.

Despite it being the first major fire in Jefferson in over nine months, the departments responded quickly and effectively, demonstrating the importance of regular training and the regional “mutual aid” response system, Milligan said.

“I can’t say enough about the mutual aid sys-

tem we have, everyone works together,” Milligan said about the rapid regional response. “Everyone gave their best effort to contain the fire to that apartment, which allowed the other residents to go back to their apartments.”

The final crews cleared the scene at around 1:30 a.m.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by New Hampshire Fire Marshal’s office. It is not considered suspicious, Milligan said.

Robbins Continues Family Tradition, Steps In As Woodsville Chief

WOODSVILLE — Four days after taking over the top spot, Woodsville Fire Chief Steve Robbins led his first response.

Woodsville Fire was called out to a fully-involved house fire at 56 South Court St. at 9:40 p.m. Jan. 5 and four residents were successfully evacuated from the two-story building.

A man, woman and child safely exited a first-floor apartment while another man jumped from the window of a second-story unit.

Because the fire spread so quickly, it was a defensive operation and Woodsville Fire — assisted by departments from Haverhill, Wells River, Bath, Lisbon, Newbury, Groton and Piermont — prevented the blaze from spreading to the surrounding properties.

Two vehicles and a camper were also damaged. Three people were treated for minor injuries and one cat perished in the blaze. The building was demolished and the Red Cross was summoned to assist the displaced residents. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

“This was ‘Welcome to the job,’” Robbins said.

Although a newcomer as Fire Chief, he is a 40-year department member.

He succeeds his brother, Jeff, who served a decade as chief and follows in the footsteps of his father, Bruce, who was Woodsville Fire Chief for nearly a quarter century.

“It’s going to be a challenge to fill their shoes and the shoes of [former WFD Chief] Brad Kennedy,” Robbins said.

The Robbins brothers joined WFD when they were 18 years old — Jeff in 1982 and Steve in 1983 — and mark the final generation of the family to serve with Woodsville Fire.

Robbins, 57, called it bittersweet.

“I’ll be the last of the Robbins name to lead the fire department,” he said.

For Robbins, it continues a career of public service.

He served 33 years with Woodsville Ambulance, stepping down as the ambulance director to take over as Fire Chief on Jan. 1.

He is also an Iraq War veteran and incumbent Select Board member. He plans to run for re-election this year.

Woodsville Fire has opted to remain independent and not merge with the recently formed Haverhill Fire Department. Last year WFD responded to 114 calls.

Moving forward, Robbins expects the department will continue operations as usual.

“We’re not looking for any big changes,” he said.

Rep. Rochefort Announces Committee Assignment, Legislative Priorities

Elected to his first statehouse term in November, state Rep. David Rochefort, R-Littleton, is the only North Country representative who has been named to the New Hampshire House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee.

In a statement issued Monday, Rochefort highlighted his committee assignment and his legislative priorities for the 2023 term.

“It is an honor to be appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee,” he said. “This committee reviews legislation relating to revenue and raising money by state tax. The committee also has the important job of forming estimates of state revenue, which is vitally important to budget writers as they craft New Hampshire’s spending plan and ensure our state expenditures do not exceed what we can reasonably expect to raise. Serving on this committee provides me with the opportunity to help maintain the New Hampshire Advantage — keeping our state free of a sales or income tax.”

While performing his duties to the committee, Rochefort said he would also continue to work on the legislative priorities on which he ran.

“As a pharmacist with business ownership experience, I am bringing a first-hand perspective to the Legislature on a topic that affects many Granite Staters,” he said. “I am the primary sponsor of two bills that will increase transparency in prescription drug pricing as well as change regulatory requirements for pharmacies making it easier to hire pharmacist staff. I’ve been collaborating with members of the Senate to improve access to healthcare and improve the function of the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund. I am also proud to be co-sponsoring important legislation regarding landfill siting. Protecting our groundwater and drinking water is not a partisan issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass legislation important to our community.”

Rochefort said, “Between my committee assignment and the legislation I am sponsoring, I am going to have a very busy term. However, I took on this job to work for the North Country, not watch from the sidelines, so I’m excited to get to work.”

Anonymous Donors Help Local Family In Need

There is a spirit of giving in the community of Northumberland.

To date, residents and businesses have donated more than \$1,500 in goods and services to a family in need, as well as to others.

With resources depleted, Northumberland police are now looking for other anonymous donors to help the next person.

Just before Christmas, police responded to what Northumberland Police Chief Peter Pelletier called a “brutal” domestic violence incident that, following the arrest of the suspect, left a mother and four young children living on the

Classifieds

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edge.

"We got the danger out of the house and were immediately confronted with a picture of great need in the house because the primary wage earner was gone and the other person involved had just been laid off," said Pelletier. "There was a limited amount of food in the house, the lady's gas tank to her van was just about empty, the oil tank was just about empty, there was hardly any firewood, and now you're looking at Christmas coming up."

In the North Country, the role of police goes beyond just putting handcuffs on people and involves "community care-taking," he said.

"It's about participating in the community and helping people get by," said Pelletier. "So we put out the call to people we knew who could potentially help us out. The next thing we knew we had donors for a Secret Santa-like thing, for gifts for the kids."

The four children's age range from about 6 to 14.

"We made a call to somebody who ended up filling the oil tank the following day," he said. "Then there was a door that was damaged during the initial altercation and it was leaking cold air. It was bitter cold during that week and a torrent of cold air was coming into the main living space. We called one of our part-time officers who knew a guy who could help us out with that. We had a local contractor come in who did the work at no charge to the family."

More generosity followed.

"We had a whole bunch of food cards and coupons at the station that someone previously donated to us that we were keeping for an appropriate time," said Pelletier. "We ended up getting a carload of decent food to sustain them. Then somebody else filled the gas tank and somebody else bought a gas card for the mom. This girl also had her catalytic converter stolen on her vehicle. We were able to source an aftermarket cat for her at no cost and the labor to install it was donated. People chipped in to make that happen."

The same night they dealt with the domestic disturbance, Northumberland police handled another situation after a resident called to say they were completely out of heating oil and their furnace stopped running.

"One of the officers filled a five-gallon can with diesel and poured diesel into their tank, and one officer who knows how to bleed lines got the furnace running," said Pelletier. "The following day, somebody else donated another 50 gallons."

In the meantime in both circumstances, police were helping the residents fill out fuel assistance applications.

For the donors, Pelletier said they all want to remain anonymous.

He called what they did encouraging.

"In spite of everything that goes on around us politically and every other which way, the people who live here side by side haven't forgotten how to take care of each other," said Pelletier. "It was just amazing to see the outpouring of help that came across to this family. It's reassuring. Things seem to have broken down, but that basic we-all-have-to-get-through-this-together men-

tality still is here. That is what makes life good here."

The \$1,500 expended in goods and services has pretty much depleted the police department's pool of funds for such efforts.

"No public money was used," said Pelletier. "It was strictly all donations out of pocket. Anybody who's interested in helping us continue to do good stuff, if they want to donate food cards or gas cards and kind of thing, can purchase them and drop them off at the station or they can put themselves on a list to be on call and we'll compile a list of anonymous donors."

Police can call such donors if someone needs, for example, heating fuel for the winter, he said.

"We'll handle distributing to those in need when we have people who need it," said Pelletier. "The new problem we have is we are pretty much out of that stuff, and that's why we're actively seeing if anyone is willing us to help us source help for those in need because there will always be someone in need."

Local Moose Population Holds Strong

New Hampshire's moose population, for many years a common part of the Granite State landscape, is toughing it out.

Today, the number one threat to the largest land mammal in New Hampshire remains the winter tick, which can attach to individual moose in the tens of thousands, particularly during warm autumns, which the state has been experiencing more and more.

For young moose and cow moose, the result is blood loss and anemia.

The result during high tick years, when warm autumns allow the parasites to hang on later into the year, is increased calf mortality and reduced reproductivity.

Henry Jones, a moose biologist with New Hampshire Fish and Game, gave the latest population numbers and the projections going forward and spoke of other factors that also impact the moose population and if it is all doom and gloom or if there is hope.

Brain-worm

On Friday morning, Jones was called to deal with another issue impacting moose populations — brain-worm, which causes weakness, fearlessness around humans, reduced coordination and paralysis, and eventually death.

That particular moose with brain-worm was too near to a highway and had to be euthanized.

Brain-worm originates in white-tailed deer, but does not cause symptoms in deer, which pass it through feces, where it's picked up by a snail or slug, undergoes a change, and is passed on to moose.

It's undetermined if brain-worm is a growing threat to moose.

"Brain-worm is a disease that it's very hard to collect information on," said Jones. "It may be a growing issue. It is our second most impactful disease factor on the population, after winter ticks."

When deer densities reach above ten deer per square mile, some areas see a long-term decline in the moose population because of it.

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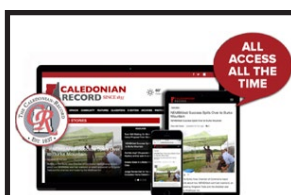
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Obituaries

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her family. She loved gardening and her “green thumb” was evident in all the flower and vegetable gardens surrounding her home. She was an avid knitter and an accomplished seamstress who could create, alter, or mend anything as many people in the area can attest.

Edith’s Catholic faith was an important part of her life. She was an active member of St. Leo Parish in Lunenburg until its closure and then attended Gate of Heaven Parish in Lancaster. Edith was predeceased by her husband “Paddy” in 1997, her daughter Janet in 2019 and by her brothers Buddy and Billy and her sister Tootie.

She is survived by her daughter Karen, son-in-law Roland Dube, sister-in-law Jackie Scott and nieces and nephews. She was also blessed with special neighbors, John and Darlene and Dave and Kathy who have always been there for her.

Edith was very grateful to be able to remain in her own home, to look out over the Connecticut River and watch the birds in her backyard feeders.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m. at All Saints Church, Lancaster. Reverend Britto Adaikalam, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the spring at Riverside Cemetery in Lunenburg.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for the Gate of Heaven Parish, 163 Main St., Lancaster or Caledonia Home Health and Hospice, 161 Sherman Dr., St. Johnsbury.

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

Wilbur Leon Parker

Wilbur Leon Parker, 96, of Franklin, N.H., died of natural causes in the early morning hours of Dec. 18, 2022, at the Golden Crest assisted living facility, with his two daughters by his side. He was born in Lyman, Maine in 1926 to Leon and Gladys Parker, one of nine children. He went by the nickname Cody for most of his adult life, but his siblings always called him Whoopie due to his love for eating Whoopie pies while growing up in East Waterboro, Maine.

Cody was a WWII veteran and served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1947. After his discharge, he became an ironworker in 1949 and worked throughout New England as a member of the Iron Workers Union Local No. 474, Manchester, N.H., until he retired in 1988. Notable construction projects he worked on include the Samuel C. Moore Dam near Littleton, N.H.; the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in Seabrook, N.H.; and tower construction on top of famous Mount Washington.

It was during the time that Cody worked on the Moore Dam in 1956 that he met Elaine, his future wife, in St. Johnsbury, Vt. After getting married, they lived in St. Johnsbury for 43 years and raised a family. They moved to a retirement community in Rochester, N.H., in the early 2000s. He especially enjoyed RVing, bowling, and playing pool, horseshoes, and cribbage.

Cody was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Elaine; sons Wilbur Jr. and James “Jimmy”; brothers Bill, Raymond, and Eddie; and sisters Lillian, Evelyn, and Leone. He is survived by two brothers, James “Buster” and Everett; his two daughters, Susan (David) Simms and Pamela (Mike) Demers; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-



grandchild; and many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A small celebration of life ceremony was held at the Golden Crest assisted living facility in Franklin, N.H., on Dec. 22, 2022. A private cremation burial service will take place at the St. Johnsbury Center Cemetery on a later date.

Pauline E. Marcou

Pauline E. Marcou, 84, Lisbon, N.H., died after a period of failing health on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville. She was born in Walden, Vt. to John & Elenora (Hughes) McPherson on Oct. 6, 1938, the sixth of seven children. The family moved to Lyman, N.H. when she was very young and she attended the one room school house in Lyman with her siblings.

Pauline entered the workforce after school and held several jobs throughout her life, working until the age of 81, when her health would no longer allow it. She worked at Ogontz as a teenager, in the Lisbon Shoe factory, New England Wire Mill, White Mountain Stitching, and in the kitchen and housekeeping at the Lafayette Center in Franconia until her “retirement.” She continued to work as a housekeeper in people’s homes, at one time serving 16 local families, finally retiring for real from Home Depot in the garden department.

Pauline enjoyed traveling, visiting Branson, Mo., Nashville, Tenn., and many trips to Maine with family in the late spring and early fall when there weren’t so many people around. She loved roller skating at The Blue Echo, snow-machining, and spending time with her extended family on holidays and summer cook-outs.

Pauline is predeceased by her parents, two brothers, Herbert McPherson, and Allan McPherson; a sister, Bernice Bunnell; and sister-in-law and best friend, Roberta McPherson. She is survived by a brother Richard “Mitch” McPherson, of Lisbon; two sisters, Marjorie Blodgett and her husband Bill of Littleton, and Betty Dube and her husband Mark of Lisbon; special nieces & nephews, Diana Caswell, Donna and Larry Hubbard, Penny and Dale Colby, Ron and Cheryl Wilkins, and Ron and Julie Hubbard, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, all of whom were special to her.

Those who wish may make donations in memory of Pauline Marcou to Riverside Animal Rescue in Lunenburg, Vt. at www.riversideanimalrescue.org/howtohelp

Pauline will be buried in the family lot in Lyman, N.H. in a private family service.

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

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

Aldis E. Wright Sr.

It is with a sad and heavy heart to announce that our dear husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather died on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, at the Littleton Regional Hospital. Al was born in Glover, Vt., the son of Carroll and Christina (Gilman) Wright. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1960-1964. Al and Nancy made Littleton their home for 56 years and had three sons. He was a volunteer member of the Littleton Fire Department in his younger days. Al worked for TV cable for seven years, Littleton Water & Light for 15 years, and NH Electric Coop for 18 years prior to his retirement. He later worked for Federated Auto Parts for a couple of



years before getting ill. He enjoyed hunting with his boys and special friends up in Pittsburg. He loved camping at Prouty Beach for 12 years. He was a very handy man and liked to remodel the homes he and Nancy lived in. He was also very fussy about his lawn and kept it beautiful. He was pre-deceased by his son Andrew and daughter-in-law Jessica. We will all miss them deeply.

Al is survived by his loving wife Nancy (Patrick) Wright, sons Aldis and wife Heather, Anthony, grandchildren Patricia, Erice, Brendan, Nick, Korrine, Tamra and Joslynn, two great-grandchildren Arianna, Parker, brothers Hazen and wife Alice, Mark and wife Elaine, Milo, his sister Nancy and husband Bob LaRose, Kay and husband Sonny Friend, sister-in-law Betty Gravel, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m., at the Ross Funeral Home with Reverend Lyn Winter officiating. To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com



Sherry Lacey

Sherry Lacey, 74, died peacefully Friday, Dec. 12, 2022, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H.

Sherry was born “Cheryl Lee Elliott” to Russell & Clarissa Elliott in Woodsville, N.H. on Dec. 12, 1948. She attended Woodsville High School and, not long after graduating, married Albert Bowen of Lisbon N.H. They had and raised two sons together, Russell Bowen and James Bowen. They lived in various places, starting out at Fort Lee Virginia, then Concord, N.H., Oxford, Maine, Ryegate, Vt., Newport, Vt. and Acutney, Vt.

On July 7, 2007, Sherry started a new chapter in her life, marrying Donald Lacey and living happily in Lebanon, N.H.

Sherry loved her sons; they were her world. She was always staying in touch with them and following their lives as they became adults and married. She will always be remembered for her fried chicken and fudge.

In 1974 Sherry became one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. She enjoyed sharing her faith with many others. She made dear friends from all over and had been part of many congregations.

Sherry had many jobs, waitressing, retail clerk, bank teller, but in her 50s she went back to school in Claremont N.H. and became an LPN. After that achievement she worked in a couple of nursing homes and a doctor’s office. She kept up with schooling and received a bachelor’s degree to advance her nursing career.

She was predeceased by her parents Russell & Clarissa Elliott, along with her oldest brother Thomas Elliott. She is survived by her loving husband Donald Lacey of Lebanon, N.H., her sons and wives, Russell and Ellen Bowen of Derby Line, Vt., James and Lynda Bowen of Aberdeen, Scotland, her granddaughter Grace Davis of Holland, Vt.; her brothers and wives Gary and Elaine Elliott of Haverhill N.H., Steve and Barbara Elliott of Ryegate, Vt., along with her nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather graveside to remember her in the spring at the Ladd Street Cemetery in Haverhill, N.H. The service will be conducted by Robert Cummings an Elder in the Lebanon Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.



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