

A Tale Of Two Summers

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**Big Turnout.** North Haverhill Fair Sets Attendance Records. **Page 4** 

Black

THE RECORD Thursday, August 5, 2021

## **News Briefs**

## **Haverhill School Board Stands By No Mask Decision**

HAVERHILL — The Haverhill Cooperative School Board on Monday stuck by its decision to open the 2021-2022 school year without a mask mandate.

By a 3-1 vote, they rejected a proposal by School Board member Don LoCascio to bring back the mask mandate for all students until those under 12 are vaccinated. It reaffirmed their vote against a mask mandate in June.

LoCascio unsuccessfully argued that a mask mandate would protect Woodsville Elementary School students who are too young to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which is only available in the United States to people 12 and older. He called it a small price to pay for student (and community) safety.

"[A mask requirement poses] no inconvenience to the parents, they can still send their kids to school, and we avoid a little bit more the possibility of something terrible happening," he said.

The majority of school board members in attendance disagreed. They said a mask mandate was unnecessary at this time, given the circumstances. Grafton County has a moderate transmission rate and 46 active cases, with less than five active cases in Haverhill.

Monday's vote guarantees that the Haverhill

Cooperative School District will open the school year on Aug. 30 without a mask mandate.

However, if COVID case numbers rise dramatically, the school board could be forced to revisit its decision as soon as its next meeting on Sept. 13.

The highly contagious delta variant, which the Centers for Disease Control has called "as contagious as chickenpox," has already been detected in the Upper Valley, noted SAU 23 Superintendent Laurie Melanson.

"The Delta variant is here in New Hampshire," she said. "I had a colleague today who is fully vaccinated who tested positive, he and his wife, and they work in the district. So it's not that far away."

New Hampshire school districts have local control over mask mandates, and CDC recommendations for universal indoor masking in K-12 schools is optional.

As a result, individual school districts must formulate their own mask protocols. That opens the door for debate.

School Board member Alexandra Keeler called for the school district to take a measured response to COVID data — and consider hospitalizations and deaths over total case numbers when deciding whether to resume COVID precautions such as mask mandates.

"All I'm hearing about in the news right now is cases alone. And I feel it's very misleading to a lot of people," she said.

Meanwhile, LoCascio favored a better-safethan-sorry approach. He noted that a U.S. Department of Transportation emergency order already requires masks on school buses, and indoor transmission rates remain high.

"I don't think we should take a risk," he said. Regardless of the criteria, School Board Chairman Richard Guy (who abstained from Monday's vote) said the Haverhill Cooperative School District needed to have a plan in place. He called for a plan with clear guidelines on when mask use would be triggered.

He said it was important for the school district to be proactive and get ahead of the issue. While COVID numbers remain low in the region, Guy said the Delta variant was "considerably uglier" than prior strains and was a growing concern across the country.

"Unless you're living under a rock, you see it's changing nationwide. And we need to be prepared," he said, adding, "If we take this issue too likely and we have just one child get critically ill, that's on us."

School Committee members, Nate Swain and Sabrina Brown were absent. According to Melanson, both supported a mask mandate in classrooms until students under 12 were vaccinated. However, they were not present to vote.

VACCINATION CLINIC: Plans to host inschool vaccination clinics were met with push-

School Committee Vice-Chair John Rutherford worried that in-school vaccination clinics would stigmatize unvaccinated students, and open them up to ridicule and harassment. He suggested students could easily access the widely available vaccine elsewhere.

'We want to be really careful about isolating the kids whose parents choose for them not to get the vaccine, and using peer pressure to try to get them vaccinated," he said, adding, "The vaccine is still an emergency use only vaccine."

At one point, Keeler said vaccinations were a personal choice.

"As a parent and as a school board member I feel that it's very important to allow parents to make decisions for their own children," she said.

LoCascio disagreed. He said vaccinations were a public health concern. He equated unvaccinated (and eligible) students bringing the delta variant to school with unvaccinated students bringing measles to school.

"I agree that the parents know what's best for their children. But when their decisions impact the others at school, it's a different story," he

The district will conduct a parent survey before deciding if and when to hold a vaccination clinic.

## **Intersection Safety Concerns Prompt Face Response By State**

For years, concerns have been voiced by Franconia residents and town officials about the safety of the intersection in the village at Main Street/Route 18, Church Street/Route 116, and Wallace Hill Road.

The most recent batch of concerns, in mid-June, however, prompted a site visit and a plan that calls for installing four-way stop signs, larger signs for those coming from Easton, stop signs with LED lighting, and painted medians, all expected to be completed before the end of the year.

"We were very happy with the meeting and glad to see some quick action," Franconia Town Administrator Kim Cowles said Tuesday.

On July 16, Cowles, Franconia Police Chief Martin Cashin, Franconia Fire Chief Rick Gaudette, and Franconia Selectman Eric Meth met with New Hampshire Department of Transportation District 1 Engineer Phil Beaulieu and several DOT traffic and safety engineers, and Katie Lamb, transportation planner with the North Country Council.

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Fair goers enjoy a thrill on a midway ride at the North Haverhill Fair, in Haverhill, N.H., on Saturday, July 31, 2021. (Photo by Paul



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## North Haverhill Fair Sets Attendance Records

## BY PAUL HAYES Staff Writer

HAVERHILL — Back after a one-year COVID-19 hiatus, the North Haverhill Fair smashed records last week.

The five-day fair drew the biggest crowds in its 77-year history, according to North Haverhill Fair Association President David Lackie.

For proof, he pointed to Saturday's mammoth turnout.

"We have a wood yard at the north edge of [the fair grounds]. I always said I wanted to park cars 'clear to the wood yard.' And this year we made it," he said. "This is the first time in our history we had to open up our overflow emergency parking."

Lackie said fair attendance was probably 35% to 40% above average, which he attributed to COVID-induced cabin fever.

He said fairs nationwide are seeing similar increases in turnout, based on reports from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

It coincides with a rise in vaccinations, a de-

cline in hospitalizations, and a general willingness to gather after more than a year of COVID separation.

"People are itching to get out and do something," Lackie noted.

The all-volunteer North Haverhill Fair Association held a virtual fair in 2020 and didn't green light plans for this year's in-person event until June.

Somehow, in a compressed six-week window, they organized a full-throttle, all-systemsgo fair that felt remarkably normal. Minor booking, scheduling and manpower challenges were overcome. The fair offered its usual complement of rides, games, concessions and a complete schedule of events and entertainment.

Plans are already underway for next year's fair (scheduled for July 27 to 31).

"It was good to get back to a real, live, in-person, this-is-what-it's-supposed-to-belike family fair," said NHFA director Gary Scruton.

By all indications, the fair drew a wider-than-usual audience. There were reports of several first-time fair goers. One measure was the number of people who didn't realize live entertainment was included in the admission price.

"You knew we were drawing people we never had before when they went to the ticket booth for a ticket to a concert. We don't charge extra for the concerts," Lackie said. "We were pulling people from areas that we hadn't before. Everyone was looking to get out."

There were moments that crowds threatened to overwhelm the fair association's 300 volunteer staff. But in the end, everything went smoothly.

"We handled it," Lackie said.

For Lackie, the North Haverhill Fair was another sign of the region returning to normal — or something resembling normal — after the scourge of the pandemic.

He recalled the opening day on Wednesday, when scores of people streamed into the fair grounds. He noted the sounds of the midway, the smells of the fair food, and the sight of children laughing and smiling at the fair again. In that moment a thought crossed his mind: We're back.

Said Lackie, "To see that many people, it was like 'Yup, everybody was waiting for this."



Thursday, August 5, 2021

A large crowd turns out to see Recycled Percussion perform at the North Haverhill Fair, in Haverhill, N.H., on Saturday, July 31, 2021. (Photo by Paul Hayes)





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The main safety concern stems from the sight of lines of the intersection for northbound Route 116 drivers because of the curve of the bridge and view of the interstate, making it difficult for some drivers to see the intersection and knowing they have to stop.

The near-term recommendations coming out of the July site visit are added stop signs on both sides of Main Street/Route 18 approaching the intersection, including a new "stop ahead" sign on the northbound approach.

Route 116 and Wallace Hill Road currently have stop signs at the intersection.

Although a four-way stop would reduce the risk of collisions from unstopped northbound cars, town and state officials said it would not address sight-line concerns.

Therefore, the larger "stop ahead" signs will be installed on Route 116 before the bridge and the added LED lights around the stop sign on 116 approaching the intersection, both to increase driver awareness.

The medians will be painted on the approach to the intersection on both Route 116 and Wallace Hill Road for the purpose of visually reducing the overall size of the roadway and suggesting to drivers to slow down and stay alert.

The medians will be about six feet wide.

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An additional and separate measure suggested is to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Route 116 and Academy Street to slow drivers down and provide a safer connection for those using the overflow parking at the Community Church of Christ.

Long-term recommendations include raised medians and a roundabout, both of which would go in the DOT's 10-year plan and be years out from completion, as well as the removal of excess pavement, mainly the right-turn slip lanes on Wallace Hill Road southbound and the southbound interstate off-ramp.

The roundabout was suggested by resident Jim Walker in June.

At their upcoming meeting on Monday, Cowles said the Franconia Board of Selectmen will write a letter of support for the recommendations.

The good news for Franconia and area residents is that the short-term measures come with little or no cost to the town.

"It's an intersection of two state roads and it will be a state project," said Cowles. "When the painting crew is out, that's when they'll paint those strips. We'll do the four-way stop and replace the 'stop ahead' signs coming from Easton with bigger signs."

The near-term measures will happen sometime after DOT crews finish repairing the flooding damage downstate and complete other jobs, she said.

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The long-term solutions, as they are put into the state's 10-year plan, will involve studies and measurements, Cowles.

"The issue is the cars aren't stopping coming from Easton because of the raised bridge," she said. "There are accidents there, but not enough to put it on the radar. The stats you don't see are all the near misses, the cars that go through and nothing happens. That's why it's not on the state's radar. We want to make it safer before something really tragic happens."

## Welcome Center Plan Soon To Be Put Out For Bid

The town of Franconia was host to a second informational meeting on the design for its proposed new welcome center building on Monday evening, following an initial hearing held last week.

Around 20 people gathered to give input, some of it useful to the volunteer committee that has put together a draft "request for bid" for the project, and some of it a continuation of last week's concerns that the project will come in over budget.

The new welcome center is to be funded from \$100,000 allocated by taxpayers in 2019 and a \$250,000 donation from an anonymous town resident, the Caledonian previously reported.

"God help us, if this person is sitting in the audience right now: thank you, and don't be discouraged," said Kevin Johnson, director of the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce and a Franconia water commissioner. "Your generosity is appreciated by many of us."

The new building is set to include an ADA-compliant bathroom, warming hut,

space for the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce, solar panels and storage space.

Town officials were clear: if the project goes over budget, it will either be pared down or the town will come to voters asking for additional funding.

A slideshow on the proposed welcome center, updated just before Monday evening's meeting based on feedback from the first meeting, is available on the town website. The project will soon be put out to bid and town officials hope that it might be able to be completed this fall.

## Financial Information Non-Public In Wind Farm Sale

After a decade in operation, the 33-turbine, 99-megawatt Granite Reliable Power commercial wind farm in Coos County is about to be sold, and the buyer and seller want to keep the purchase and sale agreement from the public.

The sale must first be approved by the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, which on July 26 held a public hearing in Concord.

On May 3, Brookfield Renewable Power, the majority owner, and NextEra Energy, the prospective buyer, filed a joint petition for a transfer of membership interests, following a purchase and sale agreement the two entities entered into on April 17.

If the sale is approved, a 100-percent ownership share of the wind farm, which the state in 2012 assessed at \$217 million, would be transferred to Tusk Wind Holdings LLC, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy.

In 2009, after a series of public hearings that draw some area residents and groups that includ-

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## **News Briefs**

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ed the Appalachian Mountain Club and Industrial Wind Action Group opposing the project and arguing it would degrade sensitive high-elevation areas and impact wildlife species, the SEC approved the wind farm, which was then majority-owned by Noble Environmental Power LLC.

In 2011, a 90 percent ownership share was transferred to Brookfield Renewable Power, with 10 percent going to Freshet Wind Energy LLC.

According to the petition for transfer, NextEra Energy Partners was formed in 2014 to buy, manage, and own contracted clean energy projects.

NextEra currently owns 4,855 megawatts of wind-generating facilities and 975 megawatts of solar generating facilities and has a total company enterprise value of \$21 billion.

On June 23, the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General appointed Senior Assistant Attorney General Allen Brooks as counsel for the public on the proposed sale.

To date, Brooks has not filed any motions in the SEC docket.

Along with the petition for ownership transfer, NextEra and Brookfield filed a motion for protective order and confidential treatment seeking to seal from public disclosure the purchase and sale agreement and a statement of Tusk's assets and liabilities, arguing both are "confidential, proprietary, and competitively sensitive commercial and financial information."

On July 9, the two companies filed another motion for confidential treatment regarding two additional documents, the proposed form of agreement for the operation and maintenance between GRP and NextEra and the proposed administrative services agreement between them.

On July 28, the SEC granted the request to keep the four documents from public disclosure on the condition that Brooks, as counsel for the public, has access to the complete and un-redacted copies.

According to county property tax cards, the current total assessed value of the wind farm (the turbines are separate from the land) is \$113,083,546, based on the value given to the county by an appraiser with the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration in 2007.

That is the assessment that an annual \$495,000 payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement between Brookfield and Coos County was based on.

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Appraising the value of the wind farm, though, has proved tricky

THE RECORD

In 2012, the DRA set for the wind farm an appraised utility tax valuation of \$217 million.

That figure would have led to an unprecedented spike in the total equalized valuation of Dixville, where the Balsams Grand Resort is located, and Millsfield, meaning a jump in taxes for property owners in the two places.

In 2014, the county commissioners appealed a decision by the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals that upheld the total equalized valuation set by the DRA for Dixville and Millsfield

In 2014, the state agreed to drop the value and then-Gov. Maggie Hassan signed a bill that July to keep the value of the wind park in Coos County at \$113 million.

During their meeting on July 21, the three-member Coos County Commission held a public hearing on the proposed sale.

Douglas Patch, representing NextEra, and Harold Pachios, representing Brookfield, presented information on the upcoming transfer.

The wind farm, following a sale, would still continue as Granite Reliable Power and a discussion on the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement will occur after the transfer of ownership, said Patch.

Notice must be made 180 days prior to the last payment date.

The commissioners said they want what's best for the county and its residents.

On Tuesday, The Caledonian-Record reached out to county commissioners Tom Brady and Paul Grenier via email to ask if them if they will likely be considering another PILT agreement with the new owner, and if so, if any agreement would be executed before or after the real value is known or before or after the DRA sets the total appraised utility tax valuation.

No response was received before press time.

The wind farm in Coos is located in the unincorporated places of Dixville, Ervings Location, Millsfield, and Odell, and the incorporated town of Dummer and stretches across 15 miles of ridgeline from Odell to Dixville Peak.

In September 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy issued a \$169 partial loan guarantee to finance the project, which reached

See News Briefs, Page 12

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## **Obituaries**

## Carol A. Reed

Carol A. Reed, 89, of Portland Street, Lancaster, N.H., passed away at her home Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021. She was born March 9, 1932, the daughter of Harold and Bernice (Cryan Bailey) Hood. She attended

local schools and was a 1950 graduate of Lancaster Academy.

Carol was very active in both municipal government and politics. She was employed at the Coos County Probate office in 1983



Carol Reed

and was elected Register of Probate in 1986 and held that position until her retirement in 1998. She served on the committee for New Hampshire Statis of Women for 6 years, 3 years as vice chair. Additionally, she was the area chairwoman for the New Hampshire State Republican Committee, and as a member and past president of the Coos County Federated Republican Women's Club. In 1988 she was an electoral voter for the Presidential Election.

She particularly enjoyed shopping, socializing, and making new friends. Carol was very fond of sweets and often passed up meals and headed straight to the dessert menu.

Survivors include her daughters Caryn Whitney of Lancaster, N.H., and Cheri LeClere of Lander, Wyo., a brother Christopher Bailey and wife Tina; four grandchildren, Isaac Hicks and wife Mara, Katherine Dawn Abernathy and husband Rhett, Lindsay Cote, and Kristina Hammond-Rendon and husband Edward. Carol also had six great-grandchildren, Zoe Hicks, Eva Hicks, Braeden Cote, Antonia Rose Abernathy, Alexandra Mae Abernathy, and Isabel Katherine Abernathy. Countless nieces, nephews, friends, and other family that meant the world to her.

Besides her parents she was predeceased by her stepfather James Bailey, a brother Paul Hood, grandson Boe Hicks and longtime friend Nate Martin.

Family and friends may call at the Bailey Funeral Home, 210 Main Street, Lancaster on Thursday, Aug. 12, from 5-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with burial to follow at the church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, 210 Main Street, Lancaster. For more information or to send an online condolence please go to www. baileyfh.net.

### Sally Mancino

Jan. 21, 1949 - July 27, 2021

In loving memory of Sally Mancino who passed along, in her home in Walnut Creek, Calif., at the age of 72. Shew was born on Jan. 21, 1949.

Sally was a beloved mom, friend, nana and more! She was a resident of Franconia, N.H., and a loving and extremely caring mother to Mary Ellen, Kevin and Alex

will remember her as the owner of Not Just Desserts Bakery in Littleton, N.H., creating and baking delicious desserts, breads, pies, cakes and local catering weddings, birth-



Sally Mancino

days, and celebrations for the locals nearand far!

She moved to California to be closer to her children, became a nurse, traveled the world (she loved cruises), and enjoyed spending as much time as possible with her children and especially her six grandchildren: Chase and Walker (Mancino) Dudum, Alicia and Adam Mancino and Malia and Domi Mancino.

She will be remembered for her sense of purpose, support, strength, her faith in God, and for her love of life, laughter and all the joy that revolved around her children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Services will be held Monday, Aug. 9, at Oakmont Memorial Park & Mortuary at 2099 Reliez Valley Road Lafayette, CA

#### **Anita Cate**

Anita Cate, 86, formerly of Lake Tarleton Road, Warren, N.H., and more recently from Lyndonville, Vt., died on Monday, August 2, 2021, at Northeastern Vermont Region-

al Hospital, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Anita was born in Littleton, N.H., on July 24, 1935, to Harold and Myrtle (Bean) Butson. She was graduate of Lisbon Regional High School, Class of 1953.



Anita Cate

Following graduation, she worked for the Lisbon Police Department and at New England Wire. Later, she drove the Warren school bus route for Clough Transportation and was a substitute teacher. Anita served as the office assistant for the Haverhill (NH) Police Department.

Along with her husband, Lloyd, they owned and operated the Cate Farm in Warren, raising Milking Shorthorn Cattle. She showed dairy cattle all over Northern New England and the country. She was active in the Mt. Hope Grange, holding several

offices, participated in 4-H and PDCA and assisted for many years with the North Haverhill Fair. Anita also was a member of the Pythian Sisters in Warren as well as the Warren and Landaff United Methodist Churches.

She was predeceased by her husband of 40 years, Lloyd Dennis Cate on Dec. 23, 2005; her parents, Harold and Myrtle Butson; and her brother, Richard Butson.

She is survived by four sons: Timothy B. Cate and wife Lori of Haverhill, N.H., Christopher S. Cate and wife Karen of Lyman, N.H., Nicholas L. Cate and wife Teressa of Woodstock, N.H., and Peter J. Cate and partner MacKenzie Nichols of Lyndonville; two daughters: Holly J. Cate of Hood River, Ore., and Sarah J. Stark and husband Wayne of Warren; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; four sisters: Elaine Clough of Lisbon, N.H., Mabel Howard and husband Ronnie of Landaff, N.H., Susan Webster of Landaff, and Nancy Butson of Landaff; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

There will be a graveside service on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the Landaff Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to either New Digs for Dogs, 538 French Pond Road, North Haverhill, NH 03774 or to the North Haverhill Fair Association, PO Box 207, North Haverhill, NH 03774.

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 arrange-

## **Gerard Francis Ferland**

Gerard Francis Ferland, 73, passed away surrounded by his loved ones early Sunday

morning, Aug. 1, 2021, at the UVM Medical Center.

Gerard born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on Dec. 20, 1947, the only son to Eudore and Juliette (Gagne) Ferland, who predeceased him. On June 17, 1967, he married Jennifer (White) Ferland.



For many years he worked in the shoe industry in Littleton, N.H., and at New England Wire in Lisbon, N.H. Later in life, he and his wife Jennifer built their own business; Jen's Home Cooking, located in East St. Johnsbury.

Gerard loved going to Maine in his early years and later on camping with friends. He enjoyed the family camp in Waterford and was happiest surrounded by friends and family. Gerard always had a joke to share and loved to make others laugh. He especially en-

See Obituaries, Page 9

Continued from Page 8

joyed all the special moments he shared with his granddaughter, Avery. Gerard is survived by his wife Jennifer (White) of 54 years. He is also survived by his son: Jeffrey Ferland and partner, Ryan (Spain); and granddaughter, Avery Hartmann-Ferland of Essex Junction, Vt.

A graveside service and celebration of Gerard's life will be held at a later date.

The family would like to thank all the staff at the Visiting Nurses Association, Elderwood at Burlington, Queen City Nursing & Rehabilitation, and the UVM Medical Center for all of their help and support.

Memorial contributions in Gerard's name can be made to: The University of Vermont Health Network, Home Health & Hospice, 1110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446, or to the American Diabetes Association

Stephen C. Gregory And Son Cremation is assisting with arrangements.

## Henrietta "Honey" Helen Aldrich

Henrietta "Honey" Helen Aldrich, of Waterford, Vt., passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday. July 27, 2021. Born in Pier-

mont, N.H. on Dec. 2, 1931, the daughter of George 'Henry' Noyes and Mary Silvia (Morin) Noyes, Henrietta was a light and inspiration to all who knew her and especially to her family whom she loved and served with boundless energy.

On Dec. 30, 1950, Henrietta married the love of her life, Kenneth Neil Aldrich. Together they raised a family, founded and managed a thriving business, served and supported the local community and shared habits of restfulness and playfulness. Henrietta ran the office and billing at Aldrich Formica for many years.



Henrietta Aldrich

Henrietta loved to travel, camp and hike, visiting all 50 states and most of the National Parks.

She loved sewing, knitting, baking, gardening, playing cards and quality time with family. In 1984, Henrietta and Ken joined the Littleton Squares. For 32 years, they danced around the northeast building friendships and reaching the highest challenge square dance level.

Henrietta was always creating and finding ways to meet the needs of others. Her love for knitting became a mission to ensure that every child in the family and every child in the local school system who needed it, would have a warm hat and mittens for the winter.

Henrietta had a gift for hosting relationships. She had a way of holding space and allowing others to have their own experiences, while also asking important questions and sharing stories to spur awareness and growth. Her strong, encouraging and gracious love made her the "my person" for many people.

Henrietta was predeceased by four brothers: George Henry Noyes, Bertram Keniston, Hugh Keniston and Roger Noyes. She is survived by her beloved husband of 71 years, Kenneth Neil Aldrich; daughter Sharon Marie Bessette and her husband Ronald Adrian Bessette, daughter Carrie Ann Baron, son Gregory James Aldrich and his wife Shari Aldrich; nine grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; Bryan Bessette, his wife Hannah Bessette and three children; Peter Baron; Penny Young, her husband Joshua Young and three children; Pamela Adams, her husband John Adams and three children; Jennifer Anti, her husband Thomas Anti and two children; Nicholas Bessette, his wife Jennifer Bessette and three children; Ginger Montminy, her husband Kevin Montminy and three children; Daniel Baron and his daughter; Tiffany Lasnier, her husband Jonathan Lasnier and two children.

There will be no calling hours. A private memorial service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 14.

In lieu of flowers, you are invited to make a donation to Littleton Regional Hospital (https://littletonhealthcare.org/donate) or First Congregational Church in Littleton NH (https://secure.myvanco.com/L-

YR4H/home).

## Philip T. Bell

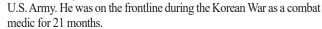
Philip T. Bell passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021 surrounded by his family at the nonagenarian age of 95.

Phil was born in Southampton, Bermuda at Green Mount on Dec.

19, 1925. He was born to parents, Leslie Dunbar Bell and Annette (Ingham) Bell. Phil's father was a dentist and his mother a housewife and avid gardener residing in Bermuda.

Phil was predeceased by his brother Merrill Bell of England. His sister, Nora Kast, 98 years young, continues to live in Bermuda. Phil and his brother were educated in private schools. Merrill moved to England and Phil moved to the United States.

At the age of 19, Phil moved to Connecticut and shortly after was drafted into the



When he returned to the U.S. from Korea, he met and married Marie Stanton Curran. Phil and Marie were married for 52 years and had two children together. Philip "Jumper" Bell and Marie "Tinker" Stevenson. Phil also raised five stepdaughters while in Newtown, Conn. and Bethlehem, N.H. Phil was preceded by Marie in December 2012. He was employed by the State of Connecticut at Fairfield Hills Hospital as a senior septic engineer for41 years. He was a volunteer firefighter while at the hospital. Upon his retirement to Bethlehem, N.H., Phil worked for Casella Transfer station in Bethlehem for 20 years.

Phil leaves behind his son, Philip W. "Jumper" Bell and wife Lynda Martin and grandson Philp E. Bell; daughter Marie "Tinker" Stevenson and husband Scott Stevenson and grandsons, Shelby & Johnathan Stevenson of Littleton and Bethlehem, N.H.

Phil is also survived by five stepdaughters: Linda Lee & family, Bristol, N.H., Christine Curran & family, Bethlehem, N.H., Bonnie Nezvesky & family, Newtown, Conn., Debbie Starbuck & family, Miami, Fla., and Wendy Miller & family, New Fairfield, Conn. He also leaves behind a total of 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. at the Maple Street Cemetery, Maple Street, Bethlehem, N.H. A gathering at the Eagles Club, Route 302, Bethlehem, N.H. will follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity.



Philip Bell

## Francis "Frank" Joseph Robb

Francis "Frank" Joseph Robb passed away on July 25, 2021 with his family by his side. Frank was born on April 6, 1943 in Epson, N.H. to Michael James Robb and Annie Madeline (Shallow) Robb.

Frank graduated from Haverhill Academy. He was a gifted athlete in basketball, baseball and cross country. He was the N.H.

Class S Cross Country Champion in 1957 and 1958. There was always a ball being bounced or thrown around in the Robb household.

Frank attended Plymouth State College and joined the National Guard, attending the Officer's Candidate School. His love for architecture and building led to a lifelong career as Superintendent for several large construction companies.

Frank was the lone Yankees fan in a large family of Red Sox fans. The rivalry and competitiveness was constant and



Francis Robb

although outnumbered, Frank held his own and wore his N.Y. Yankees hat with a smile on his face. He loved college basketball and was an avid Duke Blue Devils fan.

Frank was well-known for his quick wit and Irish humor and left people laughing and just plain enjoying his company.

Frank leaves his children, Veronica Robb Grenier (Martin), Catherine Robb Silsby and Francis Robb II; grandchildren Jessica, Lucas and Samuel; great-grandchildren Gabriel and Evelyn. His sisters, Patricia (George), Janet (Edmond) and Theresa (Larry), many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his parents and brothers, Mike, Don and spouse Brenda and Dale.

Per Frank's wishes, there are no services.





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Cyan Magenta

PRICE KEY: \$ - Under \$10; \$\$ - \$10 to \$29; \$\$\$ - \$30 to \$49; \$\$\$\$ - \$50 & up

Thursday, Aug. 5 MUSIC

Lisbon Summer Concert Series: Mikala Woods. 6 p.m. Lisbon-Landaff Shared Ministry, 25 Central St., Lisbon, N.H. Farmers market and concessions available. For more info visit facebook.com/Lisbonmainstreeetinc

Lake Morey Resort Waterfront Concert Series: Michael Glabicki or Rusted Root. 8 p.m. Free admission. Lake More Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd., Fairlee, Vt. For more info visit lakemoreyresort.com

PERFORMANCE

Cyan Magenta

Yellow Black

Disaster!: Earthquakes, tidal

0000000000000000000

Your ticket to the next great moment.

FEATURE FILMS: FRI-TUES: 7:30. WED: 5:30

SPECIAL FILM EVENTS: 7:30 unless otherwise indicated.

\*COVID-19 Protocol: Masks are required entering and moving around

the theatre. When seated, masks may be removed to enjoy the show.

**Spotlight Series: Truman & Tennessee,** 

The work, lives and personal journeys of two creative Americans –

novelist Truman Capote and playwright Tennessee Williams - coalesce

Director: Michael Sarnoski, Cast: Nicolas Cage, Steve Tisch, David

Living alone in the Oregon wilderness, a truffle hunter returns to Portland to find the person who stole his beloved pig.

Alejandro's Olde Tyme Magik Showe WED, AUG 11, 11 AM • TICKETS: \$7 at the door

guaranteed to enchant and amuse the whole family.

**REEL Outdoors: Afghan Cycles** 

A one-man stand-up show featuring magic and physical comedy

Following a new generation of young Afghan women cyclists, Afghan

– and the struggles faced by Afghan women on a daily basis. These

women ride despite cultural barriers, infrastructure, and death threats, embracing the power and freedom that comes with the sport.

REEL Outdoors series is sponsored by North Country Climbing Center

Cycles uses the bicycle to tell a story of women's rights – human rights

**An Intimate Conversation** 

THURS, AUG. 5, 7:30

Aug. 6-11

in a dual portrait documentary.

Carrico, Adam Paulsen, R

THURS, AUG. 12, 7:30

STARTS FRIDAY, AUG. 13

HI Listening & VI Audio Narration Devices accessibility systems

are available for movies. Please ask at the Concessions counter.

HE COLONIA

waves, infernos, and rampant wildlife can't stop an outrageous cast of characters from dancing, gambling and singing the night away aboard New York's first floating casino and discothèque. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www. weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

Friday, Aug. 6 MUSIC

Myra Flynn: Singer-songwriter Myra Flynn. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, Vt. For more info visit highlandartsvt.org. \$\$

**Patrick Ross:** Patrick Ross & The Fiddler's Crew on Newbury, Vt., town common. Free admission. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Luke Bryan:** Country. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion. com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

See **Events**, Page 11

## Upstage Players Set Audition, Rehearsal Times For 'Children From Eden'

LITTLETON, N.H. — Upstage Players recently announced auditions for its fall production of the Stephen Schwartz' musical Children of Eden will be held at the Littleton Opera House, Thursday, Aug 19 from 6-8:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug 22 from 1-4 p.m. Callbacks to follow on the 22nd as necessary.

Children of Eden tells the story of the Book of Genesis from the Creation to Noah & The Great Flood. "This incredible musical tells its wonderful tales in an accessible way and centers on the universal themes of love, loss, betrayal, family, and the struggles we all face as we look to find our place in this world," says Upstage Players Managing Artistic Director Andrew Lidestri.

This show is a great opportunity for aspiring actors of all ages," he added. "Upstage is a welcoming and nondiscriminatory organization, and Children of Eden in particular is seeking an incredibly diverse and inclusive cast. We encourage community members to attend regardless of age, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and/ or experience. This story is told actively by an ensemble of 'storytellers' whose speech, song, and movement will create a vibrant world and exciting story. There is so much opportunity."

Interested actors are asked to prepare a short song they know well, preferably from musical theatre repertoire. Please bring sheet music. Singing with accompaniment preferred. An accompanist will be provided. Actors may be asked to do some movement and/or read from the script. "Come prepared to move," encouraged Lidestri.

Directed by Lidestri, Children of Eden will be choreographed by Madalyn Sheehy and Lidestri, with music direction by Marie Snyder. All roles are open. Full character breakdown is available on our website. The show will rehearse and perform at the Littleton Opera House. Rehearsals begin Aug. 25 and performance dates, Oct. 29-31, and Nov. 5-7. Upstage Players is a not for profit community theater company, serving the North Country with quality theatrical experiences for over 40 years. The company's mission is to "create exceptional theatre in the community setting," making theatre accessible to interested thespians and audiences at

## Now Playing at Weathervane Theatre!

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Closing Tuesday, August 10th!

GREEN DAYS

AMERICAN

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An electric-rock musical of youthful disillusion based on Green Day's award-winning album



The Huge-Hearted, High-Heeled hit Musical based on a true story

Sponsored by Presby Transportation Museum



A loving send-up of 1970s disaster movies sprinkled with hit tunes of the era!

Earthquakes, tidal waves, infernos and rampant wildlife can't stop an outrageous cast of characters from dancing, gambling, and singing the night away aboard New York's first floating casino and discothéque. Bursting with humor, romance, and high-energy dancing, this blockbuster Broadway hit features some of the greatest songs in musical theatre history including "Put On Your Sunday Clothes," "Before the Parade Passes By," and "Hello, Dolly!".

**Starring Shinnerrie Jackson** 

as Dolly Gallagher Levi

Sponsored by Bank of New Hampshire

**WEATHERVANE THEATRE**389 Lancaster Road, Whitefield, NH



the Littleton Opera House.

## Nashville's Mark209 Is Coming To Jefferson

MARK209 is an award-winning Nashville recording vocal quartet with top charting songs receiving national radio airplay. Perhaps, their casual appearance, friendly rapport with fans, wide-range of country gospel songs and the addition of piano player extraordinaire, Joshua Pope, have built them a large fan base nationwide. Audiences respond immediately to their dynamic four-part harmony and the contrast of their soaring high tenor and rumbling low bass. MARK209's signature sound has a true country grace and their lyrics reflect the joys, troubles and triumphs of life which allows them to effectively connect with their audience. Their fast-paced, fun-filled show combines popular classics, MARK209's original hits and a touch of comedy, delivering something for audiences of all ages.

Traveling in their signature "Yellow Bus", MARK209 has performed at The Crystal Palace in Bakersfield, CA and across the country in Kennebunkport, ME where they sang for the Bush family at Walker's Point three times prior to the passing of President George H. W. Bush and Barbara Bush. Stops between have included the Main Stage at Graceland in Memphis, TN, Harmony at the Gulf in AL, the Main Stage at the NC Apple Festival, the Owasso Gospel Opry in OK, the Arlington Music Hall in TX, the Wheeling Jamboree in WV and Dollywood in TN.

When not touring, the band makes television appearances and gives radio interviews. You may have seen them on May 29, 2021, when they aired on the Daystar Television Network. They performed on the "Gospel Music Showcase" hosted by Guy Penrod.

The group has been honored most recently with the "Christian Country Group of the Year" - Diamond Award (2020). They also are recipients of the following awards: "Christian Country Group of the Year" - Diamond Award (2019); "Christian Country Group of the Year" - Diamond Award (2017); "Favorite Group" - Christian Voice Magazine (2015); "Quartet of the Year" - GME (2014); "Quartet of the Year" - GME (2013) and "Song of the Year" - GME (2013).

MARK209 will be presenting their country gospel concert on Friday, August 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at E & R Dairy Farm, 516 Meadows Road, Route 115A, Jefferson, New Hampshire.

There will be no admission charge, but a free-will love offering will be taken. Please be respectful of all in attendance by following CDC guidelines and practicing social distancing. Also, you will need to bring your own lawn chairs. Chairs will not be provided. Come enjoy an open-air performance that is sure to please. This event is sponsored by Our Corner Store, 4 Main Street, Whitefield, NH. For more information, contact Elaine LaLumiere at 603-586-7000.

## Carriage Lane Players Present Live Radio Play 'Twisted Tales Of Poe'

COLUMBIA, N.H. — The Carriage Lane Players have announced their next show, titled Twisted Tales of Poe, Aug. 6-8 at the Great North Woods Center for the Arts in Columbia (the former Shrine of Our Lady of Grace property).

This chilling collection of four famous stories from Edgar Allan Poe will be presented as a live radio drama. Those in attendance can expect to feel like they are in the studio of a 1940s-era radio show, with the actors speaking out the dialogue as live sound effects are performed before the audience's very eyes.

This will be the fourth live radio show performed by the See **Arts Briefs**, Page 13

Tickets & Info at BethlehemColonial.org

TICKETS: weathervanenh.org | 603-837-9322

## **Events**

Continued from Page 10

#### PERFORMANCE

Halloween Mystery Show: Family-friendly, kid-centric show presented by the Patchwork Players. 11 a.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$

Hello, Dolly!: Iconic Broadway musical about a strongwilled matchmaker who travels to Yonkers, N.Y., in order to find a match for a miserly half-millionaire. Bursting with humor, romance and high-energy dancing. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www. weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### **EVENT**

**Littleton First Friday Arts:** Arts, culture, and entertainment at various locations in downtown Littleton starting at 5 p.m. Live music by Donkilo! Afro Funk Orchestra at Littleton Riverfront Commons from 8 to 10 p.m. Free admission. For a map, schedule or more information visit littletonfirstfriday.wordpress.com

Saturday, Aug. 7 MUSIC

North Country Chamber Players: Mozartiana. 4 p.m. Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall, Haverhill, N.H. Free admission, donations appreciated. For more info visit northcountrychamberplayers.org

Luke Bryan: Country. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion. com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

#### **PERFORMANCE**

Kinky Boots: Charlie is a factory owner struggling to save his family business. Lola is a fabulous entertainer with a wildly exciting idea. With a little compassion and a lot of understanding, this unexpected pair learns to embrace their differences and create a line of sturdy stilettos unlike any the world has ever seen! Two shows 2 and 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

**Our Domestic Resurrection** Circus: A brand new show in the tradition of the iconic Bread & Puppet Circuses that began at Goddard College in 1970. Stilt dancers, paper mache beasts, a riotous brass band and more. A colorful spectacle of protest and celebration. 3 p.m. Bread & Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Road, Glover, Vt. For more info visit breadandpuppet.org. \$\$

#### **EVENTS**

Danville Fair: Rides, games, exhibits, food, live entertainment and more. Danville Green, Danville, Vt. www.danvillevtchamber.org/danville-fair/

Sunday, Aug. 8 MUSIC

Levitt AMP St. Johnsbury Music Series at Dog Mountain: Pop-rock act Mike Mains and the Branches. 5 to 7 p.m. Dog Mountain, 143 Parks Rd., St. Johnsbury, Vt. Free admission. Fore more info visit catamountarts.org/shows-and-events/ levitt-amp-st-johnsbury-music-

Bethlehem Gazebo Concerts: Six-piece pop/rock/soul band Imagine That. 6 p.m. Bethlehem Gazebo, Main Street, Bethlehem, N.H. Free admis-

North Country Chamber Players: Mozartiana. 4 p.m. Dow Park Pavilion, Franconia, N.H. Free admission, donations appreciated. For more info visit northcountrychamberplayers.org

#### PERFORMANCE

**Our Domestic Resurrection** Circus: A brand new show in the tradition of the iconic Bread & Puppet Circuses that began at Goddard College in 1970. Stilt dancers, paper mache beasts, a riotous brass band and more. A colorful spectacle of protest and celebration. 3 p.m. Bread & Puppet Theater, 753 Heights Road, Glover, Vt. For more info visit breadandpuppet.org. \$\$

#### **EVENTS**

Back Roads Readings: Readings by authors Mary Ruefle and Julia Alvarez. 3 to 4 p.m. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, Vt. Admission is free. For more info visit highlandartsvt.org

Monday, Aug. 9 MUSIC

Hall & Oates: Pop rock duo. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion.com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

#### **PERFORMANCE**

Disaster!: Earthquakes, tidal waves, infernos, and rampant wildlife can't stop an outrageous cast of characters from dancing, gambling and singing the night away aboard New York's first floating casino and discothèque. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www. weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Tuesday, Aug. 10 **PERFORMANCE**

Halloween Mystery Show: Family-friendly, kid-centric show presented by the Patchwork Players. 11 a.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. Live stream option. For more info visit www. weathervanenh.org. \$

American Idiot: Rock musical based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning multi-platinum concept album. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Wednesday, Aug. 11 **PERFORMANCE**

Family-friendly, kid-centric show presented by the Patchwork Players. 10 a.m. The Rialto, 80 Main St., Lancaster, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$

Hello, Dolly!: Iconic Broadway musical about a strongwilled matchmaker who travels to Yonkers, N.Y., in order to find a match for a miserly half-millionaire. Bursting with humor, romance and high-energy dancing. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

Thursday, Aug. 12 MUSIC

Series: DC3. 6 p.m. Lisbon-Landaff Shared Ministry, 25 Central more info visit facebook.com/ Lisbonmainstreeetinc

front Concert Series: Sean Keladmission. Lake More Resort, 82 Clubhouse Rd., Fairlee, Vt. For more info visit lakemoreyre-

Spruce Peak Summer Concert Series: Stephen Kellogg. 6 p.m. Spruce Peak, 7412 Mountain Rd., Stowe, Vt. For more info visit sprucepeak.com/concerts. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Limp Bizkit: Rock. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion. com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

#### PERFORMANCE

The Good, The Bad & The

## NCCP Presents 'Mozartiana' Aug. 7 In Haverhill, Aug. 8 In Franconia

FRANCONIA, N.H. — Guest artists Sophie Scolnik-Brower on piano and Celia Hatton on viola join the North Country Chamber Players for "Mozartiana," in the fourth week of the White Mountains Music Festival. The free concerts are at 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at Alumni Hall in Haverhill, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 8, at Dow Field Pavilion in Franconia.

'When Mozart decided to add a second viola to the string quartet form, he opened up new worlds of expression, harmonic possibilities and grandiose scope," said the NCCP's Eileen Alexander. "His String Quintet in C Halloween Mystery Show: Major gloriously combines an exhilarating spirit with a profound sense of seriousness, and synthesizes, perhaps for the first time, the intimacy of a string quartet with the epic breadth of a symphony." This idea had an impact on composers like Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky, and then on into the 20th century, with composers

> like Eric Ewazen, "whose melodious Ballade, Pastorale and Dance deftly evokes colorful orchestral sonorities while employing only a trio," she added.

"Mozartiana" guest artist Celia Hatton finds herself in N.H. For more info visit www. a myriad of musical settings. From premiering new works for solo viola, to collaborating with dancers, to exploring the Lisbon Summer Concert conductor-less chamber orchestra process, her ability to adapt to various creative back-St., Lisbon, N.H. Farmers market drops has led her to a colorful and concessions available. For career performing throughout the US, Europe, and Asia.

She is a founding member Lake Morey Resort Water- of Shattered Glass, an Associate Musician at the Metropolily of The Samples. 8 p.m. Free tan Opera, has performed with St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Knights, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, toured nationally with A Far Cry and Sphinx Virtuosi, and toured internationally with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Hatton has performed at the Apollo Theatre, Jazz at Lincoln Center in collaboration with Paquito D'Rivera, Smalls Jazz Club, The Blue Note Jazz Club, and Birdland Jazz Club. She can be heard on Mark Gross' jazz album Strings," BIGYUKI's Cool: Family-friendly, kid-cen- electronic album "Reaching tric show presented by the Patch- for Chiron," and Terry Slingwork Players. 10 a.m. The Omni baum's "Slingbaum One." She Mount Washington Resort, Bret- has performed on NBC's Toton Woods, N.H. For more info day Show in conjunction with visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$ NPR, and has performed with

Alicia Keys, Eminem, Frank Ocean, John Legend, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Pharrell, and Stevie Wonder, among others.

Also joining the Players as a guest artist for "Mozartiana is pianist Sophie Scolnik-Brower. Having completed her graduate studies in the studio of Vivian Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory in 2016, she has since performed with her piano trio, Beacon Street Trio, Flatirons Chamber Music Festival, and Mistral Music.

Scolnik-Brower graduated Magna cum laude in 2012 from Harvard University with a B.A. in psychology, followed by a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer for at-risk New York City high school students.

The summer festival concerts are free, but online registration is required for all seating. Attendees should bring their ticket with them. To register and for additional information, visit northcountrychamberplayers.org.



## **News Briefs**

Continued from Page 7

full commercial operations in February 2012.

According to the DOE, the wind-generating facility prevents 130,000 metric tons of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere each year.

In 2011, Brookfield representatives said 82 of the 99 megawatts were under 15- and 20-year contracts, with Green Mountain Power agreeing to purchase 32 percent of the output and Central Vermont Public Service 50.3 percent.

## **Bancroft House Raising Funds To Replace Barn**

FRANCONIA — A homeless shelter is raising funds to build a new storage space.

The Bancroft House in Franconia seeks up to \$100,000 to replace the 170-year-old carriage barn where it keeps donated household furnishings. Those items are given free-of-charge to clients, to ease their transition to permanent housing.

Kevin Johnson, a member of the Board of Directors for Bancroft House, said the barn is ill-suited for its current use.

He said the two-story red barn is structurally unsound, home to many critters (including fox, mice and rats), and the current layout required most items to be stored in hard-toaccess boxes, bins and piles. Donations of linens, towels and clothing cannot be accepted because they would become bedding material for wildlife.

Bancroft House has been working towards its fundraising goal for some time.

The shelter was ready to proceed with the barn replacement in 2020 but the project was delayed by COVID-19. Now, additional fundraising is needed. The project price tag (estimated at \$84,000 in 2019) increased nearly 20% because of rising material costs, a by-product of the pandemic-fueled building boom.

The non-profit has continued its fundraising activities to close the gap. They hosted a corn hole tournament in June (which raised \$6,000) and were the Littleton Food Co-op's Partner of the Month in July (expected to generate another \$3,000 to \$6,000). They continue to accept donations through their website at thebancrofthouse.com.

"Two years ago we were ready to go. We had enough of the funds that we would have been able to take out a small loan, tear down the barn, and build a new structure. Then COVID hit. Unfortunately, the cost of building materials has gone through the roof, so our budget has increased, and that's what we are trying to do now. We're trying to catch up with those increases," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, the new storage building would be bare-bones with no heat, plumbing or insulation.

It would be equipped with sturdy floors and shelving, allowing for proper display and distribution. It would be critter-proof to permit the storage of bedding, linens, towels and clothing.

The first floor would be laid out like a thrift store (but would remain a free, clients-only service) and the second-floor storage area would be expanded.

Those improvements will help Bancroft House clients when they move into permanent housing. The less money they spend on furnishings, the more they can spend on other necessities, Johnson said.

"A lot of times people come in with the clothes on their back and a suitcase, and that's all they've got," he said. "So when they do find an [permanent] apartment to move into, they have nothing to go with them.

According to Johnson, the new building would permit Bancroft House to accept more donations. As a result, the non-profit would have the ability to expand the program to non-client homeless families.

He said demand for homeless support services was on the rise and Bancroft House has been at capacity for 2 1/2 years and typically turns away between 6-12 placement requests

"With the eviction moratorium expiring, homelessness throughout the state and throughout the nation, that wave is going to crash," Johnson said.

## **Littleton Parks And Rec Forges Ahead**

LITTLETON — Although the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic has so far passed, the Littleton Parks and Recreation Department is facing some infrastructure challenges as it reopens its programs and plans new programming for the

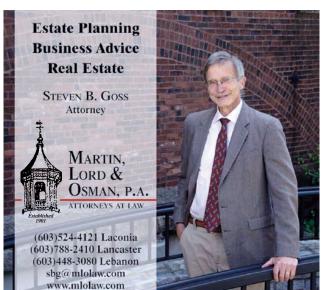
The community pool and the gazebo, both at Remich Park, are down.

The pool has a leak and the gazebo remains condemned because of structural issues.

"We are having a specialist come out to look at the pool on Monday to see if we can open for the rest of the summer," Parks and Recreation Director Caitlin Leverone said Friday. "They will help determine what it needs and what the problem is and how much it will take to fix or figure out a Plan B option."

To run the pool, the water would have to be on constantly, she said.

At some point a new pool will be built, after voters in



March approved a \$200,000 warrant article for the design and construction of a new town pool, water activity area, and pump house and authorized selectmen to apply for grants and

The money approved will only be expended if matched by a minimum of \$2 for every \$1 in the \$200,000 town appropriation, which is non-lapsing and expires Dec. 31, 2026.

In June, after deterioration of the gazebo compromised its stability, the gazebo was cordoned off and placed off limits to avoid town liability.

Parks and Recreation officials are now determining a cost to fix the gazebo or, if need be, replace it.

"I've reached out to a couple of contractors and we are just getting quotes at this time," said Leverone. "I've already had a bunch of community support reaching out with donations. I'm just hoping I can solidify that and start the work, either demolition or fixing, this summer, if not this fall, and get it ready for next year.'

Going forward, Leverone, who is two weeks into the director job, is looking at developing an annual maintenance schedule for parks and recreation assets across town.

"A maintenance schedule will help us make things last longer," she said. "There's a lot of things that can be looked at yearly, monthly, or weekly ... I'm excited for where we're at. There's so much potential with the parks, with the pool, with the gazebo, to make everything better."

As 2021 enters August, the department is winding down its summer parks programs, which are overseen by Kristi Hucksoll, the Littleton park program director, whom Leverone said has done an amazing job with this year's program counselors.

With the pool not being open, the lifeguards were moved into the programs to help.

The youth programs this summer had a strong demand.

Unusual for 2021 was the high number of youth from other towns, the most Hucksoll said she's seen, and some youth were from families vacationing in the Littleton area and spending just a few days or a week in the program, said Leverone.

"Having that availability for the other towns and other guests is great," she said.

The department is now getting ready to start the after-school program and move into the fall with basketball.

The after-school program begins Aug. 30 and runs from school dismissal to 5 p.m.

"We already have quite a few sign-ups and we are looking for staff for that," said Leverone. "It would be great to get some more counselors who need community service hours."

Coming into the job, Leverone said she lucked out with no COVID restrictions this summer, unlike last summer, when youth were separated into pods and the concern was having enough counselors.

She will determine if there is the possibility that the after-school program will have to be separated into pods and is meeting with staff in the next few weeks to determine the

While running seasonal programs, Leverone and staff are eyeing the future.

"We're always looking for opportunities to start new programs," she said.

One idea is to have a night with music at the skating rink.

Another is to possibly partner with The Colonial Theatre in Bethlehem for an outdoor summer movie night, which she said would go well with the Littleton community.

"I would love to get that going for next year," said Leve-

Andrew Harper's Littleton Flag Football League opens up another possibility.

"I have been working with him to start a flag football program next year," she said. "Right now he's not tied to us and he's just using the field, but I'd love to expand his flag football program. He's doing a men's league and it would be great



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## **Arts Briefs**

Continued from Page 10

Carriage Lane Players, who have done similar projects including War of the Worlds and a collection of vintage Hitchcock radio dramas.

In Twisted Tales of Poe, prisoners gathered in the Leverett Street Jail share their stories as they await their fate. The Caretaker (Nika Harper) tries to prove her sanity as she relays her experience with "The Tell-Tale Heart." A matterof-fact Montresor (Steve Bunnell) brings listeners into the depths of "The Cask of Amontillado," and the fate of Fortunato (Charles Jordan). The Poet (Thomas Jordan) recites the famous tale of something that happened "Once, upon a midnight dreary," with a telling of "The Raven." And, in the darkest tale of all, audiences are left with the warped deeds of Augustus Bedloe, who is driven to depravity by a certain "Black Cat."

In addition to the members of the cast, bells are rung, bricks are laid, and thunder is struck by a buffet of live sound effects that are done in real-time. Performing in "Twisted Tales of Poe" are Steve Bunnell, Charles Jordan, Thomas Jordan, Nika Harper, Amy Mihalik, Alice Umlah, Cheryl Eastland, Ruth Priolo, Paul Priolo, and Becky Bunnell, along with Stephanie Lassonde doing hair and makeup.

## **Summer Dog Party Set** For Aug. 7 At Dog Mtn.

ST. JOHNSBURY — Dog Mountain, home of Stephen Huneck Gallery, is hosting its 2021 Summer Dog Party on Saturday, Aug. 7.

"If there was ever a day for the dog, this is it! The dog days of summer have arrived and what better way to beat the heat than to bring Fido and Rover to Dog Mountain for a joyous celebration," says Ali Ide, Director of Operations for Friends of Dog Mountain.

On the docket for four-legged friends and their two-legged companions are paths to walk, swimming for the dogs, live music by Gulf Coast blues artist Shrimp Tunes, eats and treats from the Tacos Del Reino food truck and more. "Satisfy your sweet tooth with local treats from Makin' Maple and Sweet Seasons," Ide says. "Participate in the fun-filled dog contests, lawn games, doggie agility course, magic show, and bounce house."

Covered with green fields and meadows, dog ponds, hiking trails, and breathtaking views, the 150 hilltop acres of Dog Mountain are an enchanting location to run, romp, and play. Visiting families and their dogs can explore the vast grounds, the Dog Chapel with its newly-restored winged angel on the steeple, and the well-known Stephen Huneck Gallery. With hundreds of guests and dogs expected, "this is an event that you don't want to miss," Ide says. "We want to give a special thanks to our title sponsor, The Orange Rind, from East

The free will be held rain or shine. The Vermont National Guard will be onsite for the day to host a pop-up Covid-19 vaccination clinic.

## **First Night North Issues Annual Call To Artists**

ST. JOHNSBURY — Preparations are underway for First Night North 2022, beginning with the annual call to artists.

St. Johnsbury's First Night North committee is accepting online applications for family-friendly acts who'd like to perform Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, as part of Vermont's favorite New Year's Eve performing arts festival.

Formerly known as First Night St. Johnsbury, First Night

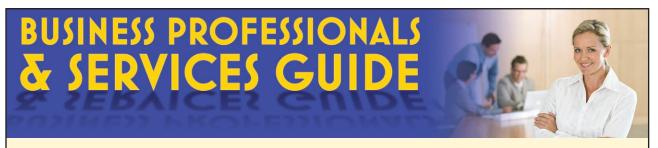
North began in 1993 and was modeled after Burlington's First Night festival. Attendance declined sharply in 2017 due to record-breaking cold temperatures, and the entire festival went online in 2020 due to COVID. Nevertheless, First Night North is busily planning its 29th festival, lining up musicians, dancers, comedians, puppeteers, storytellers, magicians, and

While First Night North relies year after year on a few eagerly anticipated tried-and-true acts, organizers always make room for exciting new performances and have a history of adapting on the fly to unforeseen circumstances. "Last year's challenges were unprecedented: bands could not meet in person to rehearse, performers could not tour, and public venues were all closed," recalled Catamount Arts' Erin Narey. "Pandemic safety guidelines seemed to change daily."

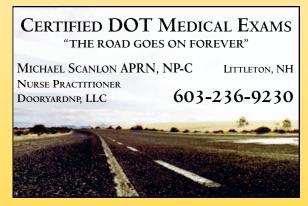
Catamount Arts, presenters of First Night North, barely gave canceling a thought, she added. "In a year that kept so many people separated from friends and family, First Night seemed more necessary than ever, a way to bring people together metaphorically if not physically, even if everyone watched from their own living rooms."

While it's unclear what winter 2021 will look like, First Night North organizers are confident they can handle just about anything, thanks to help from a devoted community of volunteers, sponsoring businesses, and partnering organizations. Planners are working full steam ahead to preview applications for performers and food vendors.

First-time and former First Night North artist candidates are welcome now to apply for a spot in this year's line-up. The deadline to apply is Aug. 31. The First Night North Committee will make decisions based on act variety, venue availability and overall budget, and plan to notify applicants of their decision by Sept. 15. To apply, go to catamountarts.org.















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## A Tale Of Two Summers

Last summer opened with a good bit of trepidation; in the midst of the pandemic, we brooded about not being able to travel far, worried about what was safe and what was not, and lamented the disruption of cherished summer traditions. As we approached this summer of 2021, conversely, things were looking up: the kids had made it through a strange school year, our family was fully vaccinated, and it felt like we'd return to a carefree summer of freewheeling fun.

Now, as we enter these waning weeks of the summer (I know it's only early August, but I always feel that whoosh of time flying when I turn the calendar from July to August), it seems that the tale of these two summers wasn't quite what we expected it to be. This summer, it turns out, wasn't better than last summer – or worse. It was just different.

Despite the pandemic – or maybe, in some strange way, because of it - our summer of 2020 was pretty great. Yes, it was weird to eschew cookouts and gatherings. We were bummed to not fit in a trip to Cape Cod with my folks, and even more disappointed to miss the usual visits from far-away cousins. We missed the spring soccer season that spills into summer. We missed family sessions of mini golf. We missed impromptu trips to - well, anywhere, really.

By necessity, we embraced local wonders more than ever. And one of the huge perks of the summer of 2020 was that all our local friends were here; nobody was traipsing off for a week at the beach, trips out west or abroad, or time away at summer camp. Instead, we'd gather by our favorite swimming holes late in the afternoons, the kids splashing around and jumping off rocks and downed trees, the moms soaking up the sun and catching up. We refurbished forgotten mountain bike trails in the woods by our house and created a couple new ones. We paddled around in kayaks, looking for turtles and sliding into the water to cool off.



BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY MCPHAUL

And through the month of July, the kids and I hiked. Sometimes it was just the four of us on the trail, but often one group or another of our hiking friends joined us. From the first day of the month to the last, we crossed eight of the state's 48 4,000-footers off our list. We even added a couple of overnights – my kids' first ever backpacking adventures, and my first in a good long

This summer, though, we've hit the trail only a few times. I don't

know that we've had a single lazy afternoon by the river with friends. And the kayaks have been loaded into the truck and slipped into the water only one time so far.

The start to our summer was partly consumed by the tail end of a competitive spring soccer season of busy weekends. The two teenagers in the family started their first jobs in June, which made spontaneous hikes and river trips and anything else nearly impossible. The weather has been weird. And fitting in hiking trips or other outings with friends has proved difficult, with other teenagers working and other families taking vacations at different times.

Instead, this July opened – very happily so - with a visit from my California brother and his family and wrapped up with a visit from the Tennessee contingent. There was tons of cousin time, late nights of visiting and kids running around, and short visits from more extended family thrown into the mix. These cousin visits are among my children's most cherished summertime traditions, made even sweeter this year by last year's hiatus.

Another summer tradition returning this year: our pilgrimage to the sandy shores of Cape Cod and the beaches my brothers and I visited when we were kids. Summer may be fading faster than I'd like. But I'll get my toes in the sand before it goes.

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is assistant editor for Northern Woodlands and a former staff reporter for the Caledonian-Record.

## **News Briefs**

Continued from Page 12

to do co-ed or boys and girls teams. That's all in the works."

Another idea is to develop more feeder sports programs, for activities like softball, baseball and soccer, to help generate interest in sports and help youth develop their skills.

"We want to develop those because you're now starting to see some stresses on the softball and field hockey programs, either just not enough people or the skill level isn't probably where it should be," said Leverone. "That is one of my goals, to get that going, because it reflects on our town and community."

Another plan is to use the money from the grant that was obtained by former parks director, Chris Wilkins for a multi-phase project at Remich Park that includes grading and paving a walking path around Remich, completing drainage work in the baseball field area, creating a literacy walk with signs educating people about nature or the park itself, and installing a new snack shack at the playing field.

"Those things are approved and I just have to get the right contractors," said Leverone.

A thank you board expressing gratitude to all those who donated money or their labor to the new playground at Remich Park, that was completed last year as part of the project, will also be installed.

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