



The Littleton Weekly Record

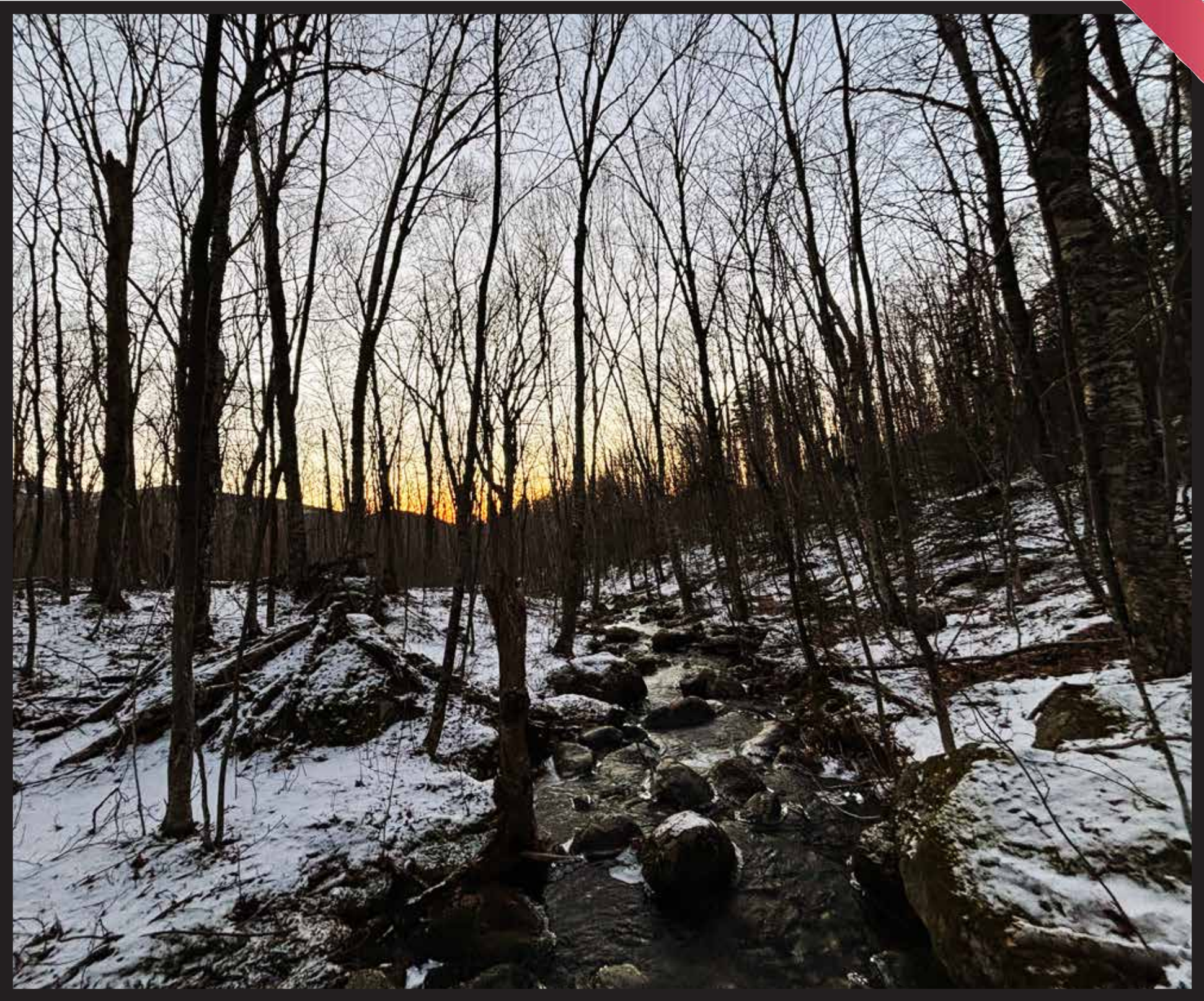
THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2024

LOCAL NEWS

Whitfield Police Chief Stepping Down

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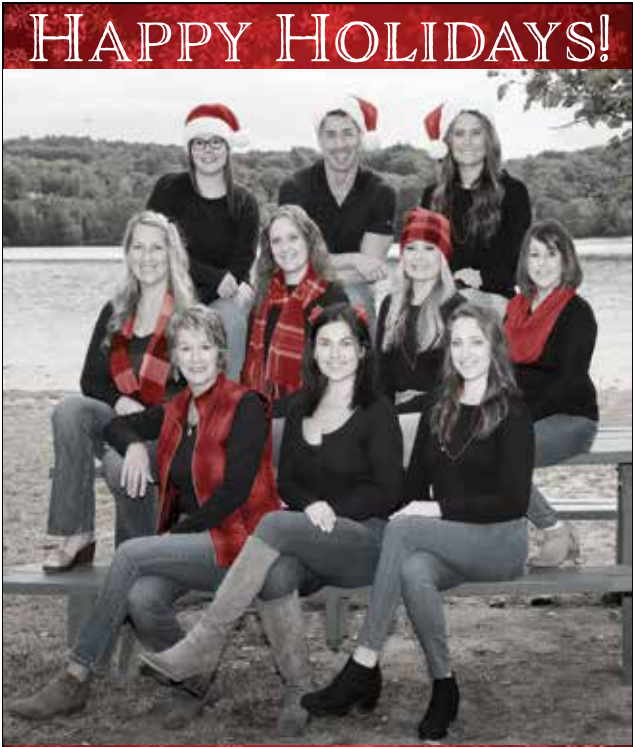
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Cross State Concern. Littleton-Waterford Bridge Cannot Be Fixed, Replacement Needed. **Page 2**







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Littleton-Waterford Bridge Cannot Be Fixed, Replacement Needed

NORTH COUNTRY/NORTHEAST KINGDOM — The Route 18 bridge connecting Littleton, N.H., and Waterford, Vt., will need to be replaced.

Originally, the bridge was scheduled for a \$4.1 million deck repair next year; however, work has been postponed until at least 2030 due to changes in the project’s scope and cost.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has determined that deck repairs were no longer feasible, after further studies revealed that the bridge supports are beyond repair.

A NHDOT spokesperson explained, “After a more intensive review it was determined that the bridge piers were in an unrepairable condition and that the bridge would have to be replaced. As a result of the increased design time and increased cost of the project we had to move the project from a 2025 construction date out to 2030. This will give us the time necessary to develop the project, conduct additional public outreach, and develop a funding schedule appropriate to the increased cost of the project.”

The revised project cost is around \$4.8 million, according to state reports. The timeline for public input and project design is to be de-

termined.

Built in 1934, the bridge has been on the state’s “red list” since 2014 due to its substandard condition. According to the 2024 inspection both the bridge’s superstructure and substructure were rated as “poor.”

During earlier project talks, state officials considered various options before deciding on a complete deck replacement. One option included closing the bridge to vehicular traffic, converting it into a multi-use path for both motorized and non-motorized recreational travel, and transferring ownership to the towns.

The 90-year-old Route 18 bridge is owned 67 percent by New Hampshire and 33 percent by Vermont. It has undergone periodic improvements over the years; for example, a wider deck was installed in 1980 and modifications were made to the piers. In 2012, scour prevention measures were installed around the piers.

The bridge’s ranking on the New Hampshire’s red list has fallen from eighth place in 2021 to 81st in 2023.

As of 2022, approximately 1,500 vehicles crossed the 53-foot long, 30.6 foot wide bridge each day, with around four percent of those vehicles being trucks.

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News Briefs

Whitefield Police Chief Tenders Resignation, Effective Jan. 17

WHITEFIELD — Whitefield Police Chief Ed Samson III is resigning.

Samson, 44, was hired as a sergeant in 2008 and was promoted to chief in 2012.

His resignation takes effect Jan. 17.

"It has been a privilege to serve this community for the last 16 years, 12 as your Police Chief," Samson wrote in his resignation letter. "This decision has not come easily, as Whitefield has afforded me not only a great career, but a wonderful community to live and raise my family."

Samson will leave to accept a position as a risk management consultant with the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex). Founded in 1979, Primex is a public entity risk pool organized and operating as a trust on behalf of member municipalities, schools, counties and other governmental entities.

Samson said the new position will allow him, his wife Kelli, and their two teenage sons to remain in the North Country.

Samson is also vested in the state retirement system and can begin collecting next year when he turns 45. By retiring from the police force now, he said, he is young enough to begin a second career.

"I have been offered a new career opportunity outside of Law Enforcement, and feel it is the best time to take advantage of that opportunity," Samson said.

Born and raised in Lancaster, Samson graduated from White Mountains Regional High School in 1998.

The son of the longtime former Lancaster Police Chief, Samson didn't decide on a law enforcement career until his senior year.

"Through high school it was not anything I was interested in," he said. "Senior year it kind of just came about. It was clearly a direct reflection of my father being involved in it."

Samson graduated from New Hampshire Technical Institute with a criminal justice degree and began his career as a full-time officer with Lincoln Police in 2000 at age 20.

He subsequently worked for Littleton Police from 2004 until 2008, when he accepted the sergeant's position in Whitefield.

Samson said he had done what he set out to do with Whitefield PD,

and that it was time for "new blood" to take over the department.

"With the support of the Town, I am leaving the Police Department in a great place, having accomplished every goal I've set over the years, leaving behind a skilled, well-liked team of Officers," Samson wrote. "I am sure this support will continue for my successor, ensuring a Department that will continue to effectively serve this community."

And after 18 years as Whitefield, residents, Samson said he and his family have no plans to leave.

"I've had it really good here," he said. "I live here, I work here, this is where I'm going to remain."

Plans Advance For First Dells Pond Ice-Out Contest

LITTLETON — After no ice to speak of in the winter of 2024, Friends of Remich Park (FoRP) is hoping for enough ice in 2025 to support the first-ever planned ice-out contest on Dells Pond, modeled after the longstanding contest on Joe's Pond in West Danville.

The money raised by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit FoRP, formed in the 1980s and revamped after the new playground project in 2020, will go toward programming and other needs.

"We have a new fund-raiser, it's called the ice-out, from Joe's Pond," Jocelyn Nute Corell, president of FoRP, said during a presentation to the Select Board on Monday. "We're trying to copy it because it's such a good idea. We had a whole plan to do a run-through last year, and there was no ice. But we had everything all ready to go."

In March, the Select Board gave FoRP the green light.

The group has the wooden pallet, the marker, the cinder blocks that will cause the pallet to sink when the ice thaws, and the clock, whose batteries will be remotely pulled out when the contraption sinks, instantly stopping the clock at the exact time.

"We have it all," said Nute Corell.

Whoever comes close to guessing the exact day and time of the ice-out will be the winner.

"The fire department is going to help us put the pallet out there and help retrieve it," she said. "They were really awesome to assist us with that and it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to and fro. Very easy. We have our sign to alert people when they come to The Dells. We

want people to come to The Dells in the wintertime and have something fun to look forward to."

The fund-raiser will be 50-50, with half the proceeds going toward parks and recreation programming and half to the winner.

If the ice is safe, tickets are expected to be available sometime in February to coincide with a launch party, and FoRP is working out how they will be purchased, whether in-person, online, or both.

From other fund-raisers, FoRP donated nearly \$4,000 to seven families last year for summer programming.

"We want to do more," said Nute Corell. "This would be a great way to do that."

The ice needs to be four inches thick to be safe, said FoRP member Courtney Bowler.

"There was no ice last year, but this year we want to make sure we are in a good position where we are good to go to put it out on the ice and move forward with it," said Bowler.

Although some ice-out contests, such as Joe's Pond, run on AC power for the clock, the Dells Pond contest, because of the expense to set up AC, will have the clock battery as well as a backup game camera, said FoRP member Jim Fillion.

A retrieval rope will be tied to the pond's observation deck, and another rope could be tied to a tree upstream to prevent the pallet from washing over the dam.

On Thursday, Fillion said he hopes the contest takes off.

The all-volunteer FoRP does a lot and puts in a lot of work, and that's the only way volunteer groups make improvements, he said.

"We scholarship kids to the summer program, we put tree benches in so people can sit down," said Fillion. "It's very costly, so we're doing a lot for the community. There's a lot going on."

Ideally, a good couple thousand dollars could be raised through the contest, he said.

State Names Littleton 'Housing Champion,' Awards Housing Grant

LITTLETON—Littleton has been awarded a state housing grant designating it a "housing champion" and allowing the town to hire a consultant to revise policies and zoning regulations to increase affordable housing opportunities in the community.

Town planning and zoning administrator Joanna Ray and some team members put together an application approved with a \$35,000 grant award, Littleton Town Manager Troy Brown said during Monday's Select Board meeting.

The New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs administers the Housing Champion Designation Grant Program, authorized by the New Hampshire Legislature in July 2023 and funded with \$5 million in state money.

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News Briefs

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Municipalities had until Nov. 15 to apply. By earning the designation, communities are eligible for two additional sources of money through infrastructure funding and per-unit production grants.

To qualify, towns must prove that zoning and land use regulations promote workforce housing, members of land use boards are trained on applicable procedures and laws, sewer and water infrastructure improvements are being made, and public transportation and walkability infrastructure, such as sidewalks, are being pursued.

The grant will accomplish several things, said Brown.

“The first step, the grant specifically, will take a look at all of our policies, [primarily] zoning regulations, and identify ways that may be limiting the ability to increase housing opportunities in our town,” he said. “Over the next year, we’ll be hiring a consultant with this money. They’ll review pretty much zoning, but any type of other regulations that we may have regarding land use so we can make those changes to try to encourage more housing opportunities in our town.”

“We really need that,” said Select Board member Kerri Harrington.

“With this distinguishment of being a housing champion, we then also have access to grant funding that can provide infrastructure improvements in

our town, whether that’s road improvements, water, sewer, those types of infrastructure that would benefit and encourage development as well,” said Brown. “That opens the door to a couple million more dollars, a pot of money.”

He said the Housing Champion grant is a recent program that is expected to continue.

“You’ve heard a lot about COVID money drying up and programs going away,” said Brown. “This program is sort of new in the state and all indications are that this is going to continue to grow and it will be a good source of funding for infrastructure improvements.”

New Dog Park

As Littleton looks to establish a dog park on a plot of town-owned land at Remich Park, a short-term dog park committee will soon be formed to help the project break ground in the spring.

In November, the Select Board dissolved the former committee, the membership of which had fallen off.

“What we would like to do is start up a committee for the month of January and the month of February for three members, a member of the Select Board, a member from the nonprofit dog park group, and one member from the community.”

MacNeil is seeking the documentation from the previous committee, which was established in 2017 and later morphed into the nonprofit dog park group, which has engaged in fund-raising.

The documentation includes details such as fencing and ground cover and cost estimates.

The nonprofit will present its plan to the Littleton Parks and Recreation Commission on Monday, following the Select Board’s November decision to task the nonprofit to first present to the commission because the board needs the commission’s input, said MacNeil.

Anyone willing to serve on the new committee can contact Brown, said MacNeil, who will be the Select Board member on the committee.

“The three of us should be able to put this to bed in two months,” she said.

Local Toys For Tots Campaign Sets Record

LITTLETON—With the help of indispensable partners and sponsors, Toys for Tots in northern New Hampshire is spreading Christmas cheer in a big way.

“We have a record high this year of over 700 kids taking part in our Toys for Tots campaign,” Rilee Clark, coordinator for the Grafton North campaign area, including all of Coos County, said during a recent Select Board meeting.

Prior to the meeting, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Littleton, team members began organizing the toys collected in the community.

They were back on Tuesday.

“We’ve been accepting toys for about a solid month now, and accepting applications since the beginning of October,” said Clark. “We do ‘shop with a cop’ as well. We have students from Lisbon who won the toy collection last year and they come and join local law enforcement and officers from LPD [Littleton Police Department] to shop around for all of the toys that we have gaps with.”

She said all of it is funded by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Toys for Tots account and money raised from different events.

Clark said the campaign also teams up with its sponsor, the Littleton-based Northern Builders, which does a lot as well.

“We’ll go out and we’ll spend some money and then Wednesday through Sunday we’ll have all of

our families come that have applied with us and they’ll get all the gifts for their kids,” said Clark. “We’re excited for a record high this year and it’s going to set the way moving forward.”

Since at least 2018, All Saints church has been the drop-off and pickup location.

“They’ve always been very generous giving us their hall to use,” said Clark. “At 3 o’clock on Sunday we pack everything up, but our goal obviously is to give every kid a Christmas and to also really not have any leftovers for toys. We like to spend all our money and give away all our toys, and I think we’ll do that this year.”

As of Dec. 11, the campaign reached its 2024 goal of 3,500 toys.

There are five to seven gifts per child per family.

“It’s lots of shopping, but we’re happy to do it,” said Clark. “We’re happy to be the home base for it ... We are still looking for volunteers, so if you know anybody or if you want to come yourself we’ll be there for the remainder of the week. You can help in many different capacities. A lot of families need help shopping and bringing the boxes and bags out to their car, from Wednesday to Sunday. If you’re interested in volunteering this year, next year, whenever, please feel free to reach out to me, and we’ll get you all set up.”

This year’s effort and record number of children met with applause at Monday’s meeting.

On Wednesday, Clark provided more details on the campaign for her Toys for Tots district, which includes northern Grafton County and the entirety of Coos County, as well as northern Merrimack and northern Carroll counties.

This year’s total of north of 700 children served is more than 100 more than last year’s, which was about 620 children.

She attributes the increase to people still recovering from the protocols put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the campaign being more visible with donation boxes and getting the word out on the street that Toys for Tots is a good resource for families in all of the Grafton North dis-

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News Briefs

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trict and not just the immediate area.

“We’re finding people up by Berlin and Groveton whose numbers have also increased from last year, so more northern New Hampshire families are taking part in our campaign,” said Clark. “2018 was a soft launch for us. We were helping out one of the sister communities up here because there were a lot of families that needed it up here. So we were like the middle man to our neighbors down south and helping them out. We’re an official Toys for Tots site now, but we have been in the area either as an official or as an assistant to another sister campaign since 2018.”

Despite the pandemic, interest and donations have been growing each year since the launch, she said.

“We are very thankful to have this in our community and we definitely want to keep it here,” said Clark. “If anybody wants to help keep this tradition alive, they are more than welcome to join us in any aspect of our campaign.”

The season of giving is also the season of gratitude. “It’s important that we say thank you to all of the community agencies that take part in everything, as well as Northern Builders who sponsors it,” said Clark. “And a special shout-out to Kristi Hucksohl, who is a former parks and rec employee who has really come out and pulled a lot of this together, helping to make sure people know when their appointments are and getting the toys organized. She has been instrumental in this entire process. Thank you to all of the people who have contributed. We really appreciate it.”

Grants Awarded For North Country HAZMAT Mutual Aid District

LITTLETON — A regional hazardous materials mutual aid response district for the North Country is in the process of forming, though fewer towns than expected have, at least for the moment, expressed interest in joining.

During last week’s Littleton Select Board meeting, the board approved a HAZMAT supplemental grant in the amount of \$12,152 and a second supplemental grant in the amount of \$25,000.

The funding for both comes from the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The purpose of the first grant is to basically cover wages, overtime, or back-bill for firefighters, and cover costs for participation in approved HAZMAT programs, such as hazardous materials technician courses, said Chad Miller, chief of Littleton Fire Rescue.

The HAZMAT truck for the district is currently being housed at the Twin Mountain Fire Department.

Littleton Selectman Roger Emerson said from his understanding the district is supposed to be regional, though he spoke with representatives from some towns that are not interested.

“Do you have a commitment from other towns?” he asked Miller.

“We and a number of other communities signed a letter of intent requesting the fire marshal establish a hazardous materials response district here in northern New Hampshire,” said Miller. “We had the organizational meeting for that and we met the bylaws.”

The steering committees of both the Twin State Fire Mutual Association and Northern New Hampshire Mutual Aid (Northpack) have completed the paperwork to send to the New Hampshire attorney general’s office for review.

Miller said he is a bit surprised that some towns have decided not to opt in.

Emerson expressed concerns about Littleton becoming the de facto provider at the town’s expense.

Miller said that’s not the plan.

“It’s my strong desire and goal that either we will make this a regional system and see that through or will have to determine how to divest ourselves of some of these types of items,” said Miller. “That’s where I stand. Today, a town that chose not to opt in called us because they have a HAZMAT issue going on and I hope it opens their eyes to the risk involved. The cost is not a lot for each community to join. It’s similar to our mutual aid dues for either Twin State or Northpack.”

He said the current interest is something LFR is conscious of and working through.

“Littleton will not be stuck as the HAZMAT responders for the North Country,” said Miller. “It’s not our role. We’re happy to be well-trained and participate and help neighboring communities like we do for everyone else. But it can’t be on us.”

The two trucks for the district are currently registered to Littleton, but would be registered to the district following state approval.

Responding to a concern by Emerson, Miller said he makes the commitment that any equipment will not be owned by Littleton, will not be part of the town’s capital improvements plan, and LFR would participate with other fire departments and share the load if the district is ultimately formed.

“We have a lot going on in Littleton without trying to be responsible for everything,” said Miller. “I’m not interested in Littleton being a HAZMAT team for the region. It’s not something that we can do. The idea is each department participates in the training.”

The second, larger, grant is for equipment, such as dome covers for transportation, and is part of an allotment that the state gives annually for capacity-building.

The Twin State Fire Mutual Aid Association includes a number of Vermont towns, said Miller.

“Vermont has a great statewide HAZMAT system,” he said. “New Hampshire does not. We’re very local control, we are off the grid for HAZMAT.

We couldn’t just take Twin State and do the HAZMAT through Twin State. We learned it wasn’t going to work.”

The conclusion is that a separate HAZMAT district is needed, such as how it’s done in the Lakes Region and other parts of New Hampshire, he said.

“We have a team made up various fire departments,” said Miller. “Some of them are Littleton firefighters. Not every Littleton firefighter, in fact, not many Littleton firefighters would be considered HAZMAT members. We are operating under a joint agreement between the mutual aid districts in this interim period until we are able to finalize the original structure through those bylaws.”

The HAZMAT district would have limited capacity in terms of response.

“There are different levels,” said Miller. “Level A is the highest. We are not Level A. We are dealing with what we have and just trying to slow and lessen

the impacts of hazardous materials incidents.”

The most common HAZMAT incidents come from motor vehicle crashes and oil spills, such as spills from oil trucks that crash or flip over.

For larger incidents, and for any radioactive spills from trucks along the nearby interstate, state officials might come in for the cleanup and transportation, after the local team makes the initial response, secures the scene, and works to mitigate the spread.

HAZMAT incidents are generally low-frequency, high-risk events.

The HAZMAT mutual aid district would encompass northern Grafton County and all of Coos County.

For the two grants, the Littleton Select Board voted 2-1 to approve them, with Emerson casting the nay votes because he said he needs more information.



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2024-25 Area New Hampshire H.S. Boys Basketball Preview

2024-25 boys basketball preview capsules for our area New Hampshire high schools, as submitted by the coaches. Lisbon will play junior varsity this season and expects to field a varsity squad next winter.

WMR: Division III

Head Coach: Eli Vincent (third season).

Assistant Coach: Jared Prince.

Last Year's Record: 11-7, lost in the quarterfinals.

Graduation Losses: Avery Woodburn, Trevor Armstrong, Eli Beaulieu, Ian St. Cyr, Robert Breault, Ethan Heng, John Randall.

Returnees: Aiden Whipple, Sr., G; Noah Covell, Sr., F; Shayne Farrell, Sr., F; George Welch, Jr., G; Deagan Stover, Jr., G/F; Carson Mallet, Jr., G; Landin Foss, Jr., G; Kasen Smith, So., G.

Newcomers: Tommaso Paluel-

lo, Sr., G; Aiden Ruggles, Jr., G; Jace Gooden, Jr., G; Devon Mailhot, Jr., F; Clayton Kipp, Jr., G; Josh Ford, So., G; Wyatt Parsons, So., F.

Players to Watch: Covell is a great defender, great at rebounding positioning, a leader and can hit the outside shot. Whipple is a great athlete, a good defender, explosive, and a good finisher around the rim. Smith is a scorer, playmaker, great shooter and can get to the hole. Paluello is an excellent ballhandler, can get to the hole, and is great at ball pressure. Farrell is a leaper, a good rebounder and a good athlete. Stover, Welch, Foss, Mallet, Ford and Parsons will contribute to making this team competitive.

Season Outlook: "We can go as far as we want to as long as we buy in, work hard every day, and find a way to stay positive," Vincent said. "We are an athletic team, with not a lot of experience, but are showing progress early, and we hope to keep that going."

COLEBROOK: Division IV
Head Coach: Ryan Call (third season).

Assistant Coaches: Steve Dowse, Duane Call.

Last Year's Record: 8-11, lost in prelims.

Graduation Losses: Kolten Dowse, Keenan Hurlbert, Balin Laperle, Jesse Caron, Ben Christman.

Returnees: Jackson Weir, Sr., G; Jack Kyller, Sr., F; Dart Cauller, Sr., C; Dylan Eldridge, Sr., F; Vinny Santamaria, Jr., G; Bryson Fogg, Jr., G; Patrick Rainault, So., F; Eddie Hand, Soph., C.

Newcomers: Cooper Weir, Fr., G; Kamren Dowse, 8th, G; Lucas Hand, 8th, G.

Players to Watch: Weir and Cauller.

Season Outlook: "We are an inexperienced group at the varsity level," Call said. "There's going to be some ups and downs during the season, but I hope to be playing our best by the end of the year."

GROVETON: Division IV
Head Coach: Mark Collins (37th season).

Assistant Coach: John Rooney.

Last Year's Record: 11-11, lost in quarterfinals to Littleton.

Graduation Losses: Kaden Cloutier, Luke Shannon, Jace Ramsay.

Returnees: Brody Platt, Sr., F; Dylan Simino, Sr., G; Isaac Noyes, Sr., F; Broc Meunier, Sr., G;

Konner Shannon, Sr., F; Ashton Kenison, Jr., F; Gage Collins, Jr., F; Hunter Parks, Soph., F.

Newcomers: Michael Mellet, Sr., F; Matt Hickey, Soph., F; Brady Hickey, Soph., F; Justin Grana, Soph., G; Rowan Perkins, Fr., G; Ian Kennett, Fr., F.

Players To Watch: Simino, Kenison and Parks.

Season Outlook: "Players need to know their roles," Collins said. "Taking care of the basketball is key. Turnovers will be a big concern. Show patience on offense. They will need to know who needs to have the basketball. Get back in transition."

LITTLETON: Division IV
Head Coach: Trevor Howard (28th season)

Assistant Coaches: Joe Walker, Charlie Paradice.

Last Year's Record: 20-4, lost in state championship.

Graduation Losses: Dre Akines, Kayden Hoskins, Grady Hadlock, Cam Cook, Charlie Daine. Also lost Mikey Rodriguez to St. J Academy and senior captain Landon Lord to injury (ACL).

Returnees: Reece Cook, Sr., G; Logan Poulton, Sr., G; Sam Reagey, Jr., F; Ryan Mahy, Jr., F; Marcus Hampson, Jr., G; Connor Roy, Soph., G.

Newcomers: Shiloh Reagey, Sr., F; Max Butson, Sr., F; Mason Allaire, Jr., G; Whalen Lemire, Soph., G; Jack Cook, Soph., G;

Daven Reagey, Fr., G; Jerson Perez, Fr., G.

Players To Watch: Sam Reagey is the only returning starter. He is a good all-around player and will have to do a little of everything for the Crusaders.

Season Outlook: "We lost six of our top seven from last year," Howard said. "This gives other kids opportunities to contribute and play; let's see what they make of it. We need to get more physical and tougher on defense and we will have to find consistency on the offensive end."

PROFILE: Division IV

Head Coach: Tim Clough (first season).

Assistant Coaches: Rob Locke, Karsen Robie.

Last Year's Record: 22-0, D-IV state champions.

Graduation Losses: Josh Robie, Karsen Robie, Alex Leslie, Bode Dimarzio, Riley Plante, Danny Bumell, Noah Francis.

Returnees: Jackson Clough, Sr., F; Everett Locke, Sr., F; Josh Roman, Sr., G; Cayden Wakeham, Sr., F; Daryion Faustin, Jr., F; Bryce Dimarzio, Jr., F; Carter Clough, Soph., F.

Newcomers: Travis Locke, Sr., F; Tanner Schmarr, Soph., F; Trent Laleme, Soph., F; Trey Laleme, Soph., G; Bradyn Stone, Soph., G; Braden Gignac, Fr., G; Braden Claybaugh, Fr., F.

Players to Watch: Locke is a versatile scorer and rebounder looking to score in the double digits this year. Clough, a senior captain and four-year starter, will look to increase his scoring and continue

his strong rebounding and defense. Roman will be in charge of the offense and hit the open shot when it presents itself.

Season Outlook: "We are rebuilding after last year's championship," coach Clough said. "We have a very tough schedule with the North Country having six to eight teams that will fight for the division's top half. We only returned two players who saw significant time, with one being a starter. We will work hard and learn as a group throughout the season."

WOODSVILLE: Division IV
Head Coach: Jamie Walker (26th season).

Assistant Coaches: Rob Maccini, Derek Maccini.

Last Year's Record: 14-6, lost in the semifinals.

Graduation Losses: Jack Boudreault, Connor Houston, Mike Hogan, Coby Youngman.

Returnees: Landon Kingsbury, Sr., F; Jacob Putnam, Sr., G; Devin Sabina, Sr., F; Ethan Fenn, Sr., F; Charles Ladd, Sr., F; Ryan Walker, Jr., PG; Cowan Kimball, Jr., F.

Newcomers: Owen McClintock, Sr., G; Tyler Pickering, Sr., F; Riley Emmerton, Jr., F; Matt Cote, Soph., G; Brady Fish, Fr., G; Landon Tetreault, Fr., G.

Players To Watch: Kingsbury, Walker.

Season Outlook: "We have the pieces to be competitive with anyone," Walker said. "Our season will depend on how well the team comes together. This group has not played together often, and it will take some time for them to figure each other out on the court."



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2024-25 Area New Hampshire H.S. Girls Basketball Preview

2024-25 girls basketball preview capsules for our area New Hampshire high schools, as submitted by the coaches.

WHITE MOUNTAINS SPARTANS

Division III
Head Coach: Chris Foss (fifth season).

Assistant Coach: Aaryn Ford (fifth season).

Last Year's Record: 12-8, lost to St. Thomas in the second round.

Graduation Losses: Ava Simpson, Ciera Challinor, Ainsley Savave and Hallie Wright.

Returnees: Emma Simpson, Sr., G; Izzy Ford, Jr., G; Kaya Nkwen-Tamo, Jr., G; MacKenzie Foss, Soph., G; Jenna Kenison, Soph., G; Olivia Lorenz, Soph., F; Harper Rowe, Soph., G;

Newcomers: Addy Kenison, Jr., C; Resse Dubois, Fr., G; Laycee Ingerson, Fr., G;

Players to Watch: Simpson, senior captain, a four-year varsity team member. Great ballhandler who can shoot and drive. She will outwork everyone on the floor. Harper Rowe has a natural ability to score and shoot. She understands the game very well and has great court vision. She continued to get better as last season progressed. Lorenz is a natural athlete who doesn't stop working. She will fight for every rebound, not afraid to shoot the 3 and our best defender. Great team player.

Season Outlook: "We have seven returning players from last year's team and most of these girls have been playing together for several years now," Foss said. "We have a nice mix of returning players that are meshing well with the newcomers. The girls have been working hard this preseason and we are expecting results from all of them in order to be successful. Our goals for the season are to keep working hard in practice, continue to build off last year's season and show up to play every game. We are looking forward to another solid season and making a deep run in the playoffs."

COLEBROOK MO-HAWKS

Division IV
Head Coach: Duane Call (fifth season as head coach).

Assistant Coaches: Katie Parker, Kristen Wheelock.

Last Year's Record: 10-11, lost in prelims.

Graduation Losses: Sabrina

Tallmage.

Returnees: Samantha Kuhn, Sr., G; Haley Rossitto, Jr., G/F; Alexis Santamaria, Jr., F/C; Samantha Samson, Jr., F; Lindsey Eldridge, So., F; Carli Daigneault, So., F; Madison Parker, Fr., G; Kaelyn Fournier, 8th grade, G.

Newcomers: Arlyn Dorman, Sr., G.

Players to Watch: Haley Rossitto: A Division IV first-team All-state player last year, Rossitto has worked very hard in the offseason to improve her overall game and shooting abilities. She is a threat to score from anywhere on the floor, is an excellent free-throw shooter, and will be the focus of every team's defense. Alexis Santamaria: A Division IV honorable mention player last year, Santamaria has developed into a scoring threat from the mid-range and post area. She is a very good rebounder on both ends of the floor and an excellent free-throw shooter.

Season Outlook: "We will be looking for Haley and Lexi to be the leaders," Call said. "Our two seniors, Samantha and Arlyn will have to provide stability, ballhandling and defensive intensity. The Rossitto/Santamaria duo will be the focus of every team, but how the remaining players develop into their roles could define our season. Several players have limited varsity experience, but all will get playing time. If we can stay healthy, gain confidence and improve, we hope to make another tournament run in the postseason."

GROVETON EAGLES

Division IV
Head Coach: Tim Haskins (19th season).

Assistant Coaches: Alan Wheelock (19th season); Kelley Brown (second season).

Last year: 20-3, lost to Newmarket in the semifinals.

Graduation Losses: Paige Lambert, G.

Returnees: Aspen Clermont, Sr., G; Kaycee Chappell, Sr., G; Kandrah Savage, Sr., F; Delaney Whiting, Jr., F/G; Julia Chappell, Jr., F; Mylee Kenison, Soph., F; Aubrey Hickey, Soph., G; Sophie Kenison, Soph., F; Makalyn Kenison, Fr., G/F.

Newcomers: Callie Deblois, Fr., F; Adrianna Dorr, Fr., G; Audrey Brasseur, Fr., F.

Players To Watch: Whiting was the D-IV player of the year last season and Clermont was second-team All-State and All-Defensive team.

Season Outlook: "Players who saw significant minutes last year should give us a solid first seven

that we can rotate in and out," Haskins said. "Clermont, Whiting, Julia Chappell and Mylee Kenison all started last year, and Savage, Kaycee Chappell, and Makalyn Kenison all look ready to step up and make bigger contributions this season. The group runs the floor pretty well, and as we don't have a lot of height, our success will have to come with an aggressive defensive and fast-break style. Whiting averaged 17 points last season, and we will look to her again for scoring. Clermont has been more aggressive in the preseason and is looking to score. If we can move her 9.0 ppg from last year into consistent double figures this year, that will enhance our outlook as well.

"If a couple of the girls rounding out the roster can develop enough during the season to extend our depth a little more, that will be good, but as it is, we should be pretty competitive night in and night out with the seven established players. We finished in the top four in the regular-season standings the past two years, and that is our goal again, but we face a potentially tougher schedule this season, with a second game versus Woodsville and a trip to Farmington, both of which project to be among the better teams in the division. A home matchup with Portsmouth Christian on Dec. 13 will give us an early-season measuring stick for the other southern division teams, and the Christmas Tourney will give us a preview of matchups with three of our biggest rivals, Littleton, Colebrook and White Mountains, with whom we have six games after Christmas."

LISBON PANTHERS

Division IV
Head Coach: Brent Covell (fourth season).

Last Year's Record: 0-18.

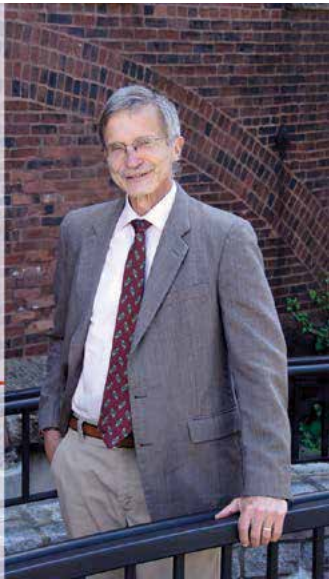
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Graduation Losses: Mya Drew.

Returnees: Bailey Clark, Jr.; Sophie Lafond, Soph.; Arya Kimball, Fr.; Emily Choate, Fr.; Miaya Shannon, Fr.; Kassidy Smith, Fr.

Newcomers: Amara Daniels, Fr.; Rachel Santy, 8th grade; Emma Daniels, 8th grade; Lyla Berrios, 7th grade.

Players To Watch: "Kimball has greatly improved her game and will do most of the scoring. Choate and Clark will be counted on for some inside points and tough rebounding.

Season Outlook: "We are very young and inexperienced," Covell said. "We have only six returning players and they are mostly freshmen. We look to improve every time we step on the floor. This year's success will not be measured with wins and losses. We need to gain experience and do what we can do. Not things we cannot. Practices are very good with this group as they work hard and want to get better."

LITTLETON CRUSADERS

Division IV
Head Coach: Dale Prior (20th season).

Assistant Coaches: Kelly Hadlock (13th).

Last Year's Record: 22-0, Division IV champions after beating Newmarket 41-23.

Graduation Losses: Lauryn Corrigan.

Returnees: Addison Hadlock, Sr., F; Kiera Therrien, Sr., G; Ella Horsch, Jr., G; Juju Bromley, Jr., G/F; Ashtyn Chadburn, Jr., G/F; Madison Nelson, Jr., G; Addison Pilgrim, So., F; Sadie Roberts, So., F; Leah Poulton, Fr., G.

Newcomers: Miyah Akines, Fr., G; Rylee Hampson, Fr., F; Taylor Martin, Fr., G/F; LeeAnn Seidof, Fr., G.

Players to Watch: Addison

Hadlock, Ella Horsch, Juju Bromley, and Addison Pilgrim are all returning starters. Leah Poulton will fill the fifth starting spot. On any given night, any of these five can score 15-plus points, which is a testament to their hard work in the offseason. Hadlock was the D-IV POY runner-up last year and we expect her to be in that mix again this year as she is an asset on both ends of the floor, especially at protecting the basket defensively. Bromley and Pilgrim worked on mid-range shots this offseason and it shows so far in the preseason. Horsch and Poulton are consistent outside threats, and they are getting by defenders with the dribble from their hard work in the offseason.

Season Outlook: "As with any team, our goal is to be a final four participant where anything can happen on the neutral floors," Prior said. "This team needs to develop its own identity and not listen to the outside noise of defending champions, as this team is not last year's team. They need to work hard and achieve their own goals, by building chemistry and sullen-

See **Previews**, Page 10





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Obituaries

Barbara Siggins

Sept. 29, 1962 – Dec. 12, 2024

After a lengthy battle with cancer, Barbara Siggins of Sandwich, Mass. passed away on Dec. 12 with her husband by her side. She leaves behind a lifetime of footprints that have formed a path of love, generosity, and kindness.

She leaves behind her lifelong business partner and husband of 41 years, Dennis. Barbara is also survived by their three children: Dustin Siggins and his wife, Leslie of Stephens City, Va., Charlie Siggins and his wife, Leslie of Yarmouth, Mass. and Katie Rose Lombardi and her husband, Frank of Whitefield, N.H. Barbara also leaves behind nine grandchildren: Abigail, Phineas, Lya, Lena, Teddy, Charlotte, Anneliese, Sophia, and Elizabeth Ruth; a 10th grandchild is due to be born in February of 2025. Barbara is also survived by three siblings: Jonny (Cotton) Boston, Susan Cotton and Michelle Cotton. She will be missed by many, especially her best friend and mother-in-law Mary Siggins of Framingham.

Barbara was predeceased by her parents, Ruth and Les Cotton of Ashland, Mass., her father-in-law Walter Siggins of Framingham, her infant sister Linda Rose Cotton, and so many others...

Ever the social butterfly, Barbara will be missed by her friends in several informal groups including The Ashland Angels (MA), Bethlehem Prayer Group (NH), Whitefield Bible Babes (NH) and the Cape Cod Catholic Chicks.



Barbara was born to Jewish parents but was baptized and confirmed into the Catholic Church in her late 20s. A devout follower of Catholicism, she rose to become a Eucharistic Minister in the Catholic Church. Her ministry included bringing the body of Christ and the spirit of Christianity to folks who were not able to attend formal church services as well as people living in nursing homes and others who had physical limitations that prevented them from attending church. At the time of her passing, she was a member of the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Sandwich, Mass.

Barbara was an avid real estate investor who began buying, renovating, and selling long before flipping houses was cool. A recent count of her accomplishments includes at least 22 real estate properties...

Lifelong entrepreneurs, Barbara and her husband were business partners before they were married, beginning in 1981, as they began developing many successful businesses in the contracting, food service, real estate, and home services industries. Most notably and most recently, Barbara and Dennis partnered with lifelong friends, Andy and Nancy Brennan, to form the Cape Cod Gutter Monkeys, a home service company that has grown to its current six locations across Massachusetts and beyond.

Family and friends are invited to gather at Hallett Funeral Home, 273 Station Ave., South Yarmouth, Mass. on Friday, Dec. 27 during visiting hours from 3 to 6 p.m.. On Saturday, Dec. 28 at 11 a.m., Barbara will be remembered with a funeral Mass at Corpus Christi Church, 324 Quaker Meeting House Road, Sandwich, Mass. A reception will follow in the Corpus Christi Church hall.

Previews

Continued from Page 9

dering the ME for the WE mentality. We have plenty of tough opponents on our schedule that will require us to be prepared and focused each night. This group of players complements each other very well, and we have confidence as coaches that they will do what it takes to make a deep run in February."

PROFILE PATRIOTS

Division IV

Head Coach: Reed Weekes (third season).

Assistant Coaches: Bradford Weekes Jr. (second season), Dana Sekelsky (first season).

Last Year's Record: 11-7, lost in the second round to Groveton.

Graduation Losses: Mya Brown, Maddie Koehler, Morgan Presby, Dana Sekelsky, Taylor Weir, Evie Burger, Avery Gignac.

Returnees: Kyah Knight, Sr., F; Addison Koehler, Jr., G; Avery Weir, Jr., F; Natalie Brantley, Jr., G; Bailey Verret, Jr., G; Adora Freselone, Jr., G; Autumn Casey, 8th grade, G.

Newcomers: Sophie Marceau, Sr., G; Cadence Long, 7th grade, G; Freya Wheeler, 7th grade, G; Jaysyn Tarr, 7th grade, G; Lily King, 7th grade, G; Lily Noyes, 7th grade, G.

Players to Watch: Knight is the only player returning who has played significant varsity minutes. She has been the team's most consistent player; she might not score the most or play flashy. She's a strong presence in the paint, rebounding and defensively. Her offensive game has improved and she will be the leader this year. Koehler brings a lot of energy everywhere on the floor. She had some clutch moments last season. She is ready for a much bigger role this winter. Weir could have a breakout year. She is tall and athletic and will be a presence in the paint. She will also have a much bigger role. Brantley is the best dribbler on the team. More mature, she's ready to show that as a primary ballhandler and will bring aggressiveness on the defensive end. Verret always works very hard and gives it her all, and she is looking to be a consistent presence for Profile.

Season Outlook: "I always have higher expectations for myself and the team," Weekes said. "Coming off one of the most suc-

cessful seasons for the girls' basketball program in a long time, people have expectations for us now, too. Losing seven of the top eight rotation players and starters from last season brings a big challenge for all of us. I have seen a lot of maturity and commitment to begin the year. I think these girls are ready for the challenge, and I am, too. I believe we are a playoff team again this year. We have players that are ready for that next step. I am very excited for this season."

WOODSVILLE ENGIN-NEERS

Division IV

Head Coach: Tori Thayer (fourth season).

Assistant Coaches: Steve Colby.

Last Year's Record: 15-6, lost in quarterfinals to Farmington.

Graduation Losses: None.

Returnees: Eliza Wagstaff, Sr., G; McKenna Locke, Sr., F; Allee Rowe, Sr., G; Paige Royer, Sr., F; Makayla Walker, Jr., G; Katie Houston, Jr., G; Eyrleigh Hambrick, Jr., G; Grace Griswold, Soph., G; Alexis Impey, Soph., F.

Newcomers: Natalie Therrien, Sr., F; Kaidyn Cox, Fr., G; Joslin Williams, Fr., G.

Players to Watch: Royer is a senior second-year captain. She has a strong post presence and great basketball IQ. She is the team leader and our go-to scoring threat. Walker is a junior captain and our floor general. She is in charge of the offense and ball distribution. Walker is a smart ball player and sees the floor well. She can shoot from the perimeter and attack gaps and find lanes to the hoop. Houston is a taller guard; her athleticism is evident in her defense. She is often guarding the opposing team's top scorer. She will also need to be productive on the offensive end. Wagstaff is a returning veteran guard and can set up on the outside or underneath the hoop and provide offense on any given night.

Season Outlook: "The year we are lucky enough to return our full team to the floor," Thayer said. "We are hoping for a deep run into the playoffs and will be keying on Walker and Royer as our team captains. We will be looking to them to motivate and lead our team as well as be the spark needed during tough games. We are looking to be a competitive team this year and get better every day."

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