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Help On The Way. Residential Treatment, Recovery Center Nears Opening. **Page 7**

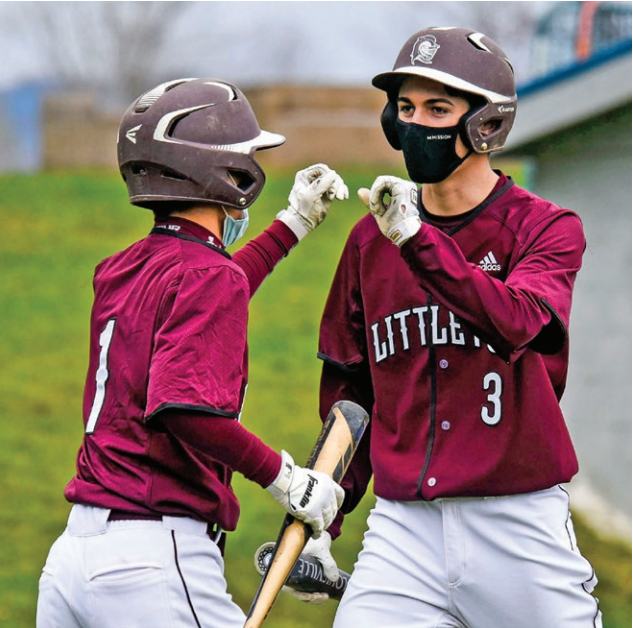


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PEAK PERFORMANCE — Hard-throwing junior right-hander Tyler Hicks combined with sophomore reliever Karter Deming on a no-hitter with 12 strikeouts, as White Mountains Regional polished off rival Littleton 10-0 in six innings on Monday, May 3, 2021. Hicks added two hits and two RBIs at the plate, as did the top two hitters in the lineup, Brody LaBounty and Robert Breault as WMR had 10 hits overall. Keegan Nelson added a pair of RBIs for the Spartans, who scored four times in the second off Crusader starter Josh Finkle. The hosts then closed the game out with three runs in the fifth and two in the sixth. Hicks finished with seven strikeouts and five walks in four innings to get the win. Deming had five Ks and two walks in two frames. (Photos by Michael Beniash)



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Stk. #J21128A - 46,868 miles
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2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4WD
Stk. #J21134A - 47,970 miles
\$322 /MO
Sale Price \$25,939. Payment calculated with \$2,995 cash or trade equity down at 4.79% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers

2018 DODGE DURANGO SXT AWD
Stk. #DT21094A - 30,135 miles
\$358 /MO
Sale Price \$29,528. Payment calculated with \$3,995 cash or trade equity down at 4.79% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers

2018 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4WD
Stk. #J21167A - 31,293 miles
\$397 /MO
Sale Price \$32,276. Payment calculated with \$3,995 cash or trade equity down at 4.79% APR for 84 months to qualified buyers

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Obituaries

Robert P. DeLaBruere Sr.

Robert P. DeLaBruere, Sr, 79, of Dole Hill Road, in Danville, Vt., passed away on Monday, May 3, 2021 in Danville.

Robert (Bob) was born May 4, 1941, in W. Stewartstown, N.H., the first of 12 to Roland and Cecile (Ruelle) DeLaBruere. Bob grew up in Island Pond on the family's dairy farm and went to Catholic school until the age of 10 when he had to begin working full time on the farm. He joined the National Guard serving his basic training in Ft. Dix, N.J. His experience in logging led him to be a union heavy equipment operator and he worked all over New England as well as Florida. Bob built a hunting camp in Newark which became the family home for three years, running a generator for electricity. Hunting was a big part of his life and off season he was in the woods preparing for it. He enjoyed snowmobiling, boating, fishing, and playing the guitar. He was an excellent baker and absolutely loved pie! A "Man of God, he was born again" 1978 and attended the Wheelock Brethren Assembly. In 1990 he bought his dad's gravel pit in Island Pond with his sons, and they aptly named it DeLaBruere & Sons Sand & Gravel.

In 2000 he and his wife, Betsy, moved to a Christian community in Frostproof, Fla. He continued to work summers until he suffered a stroke in 2014. Within a short time, he became Betsy's loving and patient care-



Robert DeLaBruere

giver as she developed dementia over a period of seven years. Bob was a great dad and a wonderful grandfather. He enjoyed taking his grandchildren to Sunday School in his 15-passenger van.

Survivors include his children; Lisa DeLaBruere of Inverness, Fla., Roberta (Eric Lucier) Jordan of Stowe, Vt., Robert DeLaBruere, Jr of Island Pond, Vt., Andrea DeLaBruere of Essex, Vt., Rhiannon (Yong Huang) Esposito of Danville, Vt., and Isaiah (Billie) DeLaBruere of Island Pond, Vt.; his step-children, Steve (Kerrie) Smith of North Carolina, Christine (Steve) O'Rourke of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and Mathew (Donna) Smith of Lyndonville, Vt.; his siblings, Claude and Joanne DeLaBruere, Armand and Dawn DeLaBruere, Richard and Lisette DeLaBruere, Pauline and Eugene Sage, Diane and Fred Jackson, Claire and Ray Fontaine, Yvette and Gary Hadlock, Yvonne Ovitt, Leonard and Linda DeLaBruere, Roland and Tammy DeLaBruere, and Katherine and Brian Maxwell; 31 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Robert was predeceased by his parents, Roland and Cecile DeLaBruere; his wife, Betsy (Ronan) DeLaBruere on Oct. 14, 2018, his former wife, Judith Sloan, their infant daughter, Shelia, and grandson, Anthony Lee Esposito.

Services will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday May 8, 2021 at the Tempson Barn, 695 Town Farm Road in East Burke with Elder Jim Sanders officiating. Burial will be private at Lakeside Cemetery in Island Pond, Vt. at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robert's name can be sent to Compassion Interna-

tional, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Or give online: www.compassion.com/donate.

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

Gertrude "Trudy" Carmen Bly

Gertrude "Trudy" Carmen Bly, 85, formerly of Milford, N.H. passed away April 20, 2021 at her more recent residence in Laconia, N.H. She was born Aug. 27, 1935 in Littleton, N.H. to the late Albert and Clara Burgess. She was predeceased by her younger sisters Caroline Charbonneau, Diana Carter, Irene Goodspeed, and Rachel Gagnon, and survived by her youngest sister, Virginia Noor. Trudy is survived by her children Keith, Jessica, Nathaniel, Marie, Becki, Kelly, Billie, and Sue, and was predeceased by two sons, Brian and Bobbie.



Gertrude Bly

Also known to many as "Mrs. C," Trudy always maintained an open house policy for family, friends, and neighbors; large gatherings were a common occurrence at her home. She was extremely outgoing and personable, and most enjoyed herself when she could make others laugh. Trudy had an almost magical ability to make friends wherever she went, regardless of the circumstances, and is well-remembered for throwing together huge meals from scratch or imparting important life lessons to those she welcomed into her home. Above all else, Trudy was proudest of being a mother to such a large family, and raising her children was her greatest accomplishment. She also had many nieces, nephews, and grandchildren who will miss her dearly.

The Cremation Society of NH and Phaneuf Funeral Home in Manchester, N.H. are assisting the family with arrangements. Following cremation, a private family gathering will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers or specific donations, the family wishes that when given the chance, individuals would pay it forward via random acts of kindness.

Judith Linda Stimson

Judith Linda Stimson, 73, of Maple Lane, Bath, N.H., died unexpectedly at St. Johnsbury Health and Rehabilitation Center, St. Johnsbury, Vt. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Judy was born in Woodsville, N.H. at the old Cottage Hospital, on May 24, 1947, to Fred Kinsley and Audrey L. (George) Robinson. She was a graduate of Haverhill Academy, Class of 1965. On June 4, 1966, she married David George Stimson.

She worked on the family farm, the Carbee Valley Farm, and performed all the chores

from milking to sugaring to keeping the books. She enjoyed gardening and working outdoors maintaining her property. In her spare time, she liked reading novels. She loved time at Long Sands at York Beach, Maine. Mostly, Judy loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, David G. Stimson on April 10, 2014; her daughter, Davalyn Anne Stimson on March 1, 2018; and her father, Fred K. Robinson on Feb. 5, 2011.

Survivors include two daughters, Carmen Stimson Graham of Bath and Robin Heywood and husband Sean of Monroe, N.H.; three grandchildren, Caitlin Fullerton and husband Justin, Michael Vogt, and Carrie Vogt and partner Brian Mallett; two great-grandchildren, Jackson and Piper Fullerton; her mother, Audrey L. Robinson of North Haverhill; a sister, Laury Theriault and husband Paul of Monroe; her extended family from Australia, especially her cousin, Lynn; her best friend since childhood, who was like a sister, Patsy Woods of Bath; along with nieces and nephews.

Private services will be held in the Carbee District Cemetery, Bath.

Memorial contributions may be made to MDA, Myotonic Dystrophy Research, 1 Sundial Avenue, Suite 208N, Manchester, NH 03103.

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

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

Patricia (Little) Towle

Patricia (Little) Towle, 85, formerly of Mill Brook Road, Landaff, N.H., died on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at the Grafton County Nursing Home, North Haverhill, N.H., following a time of failing health.

Patricia was born in Woodsville, N.H. on Oct. 1, 1935 to Herbert and Gertrude (McCrae) Little. She was a graduate of McIndoe Falls Academy in 1953.

Patricia worked as a chambermaid at what is now called Ogontz Rustic Resort in Lyman, N.H. While there, she met Chester David Towle at a dance and they were married on June 24, 1961.

She continued working and was a stitcher at the Lisbon shoe shops as well as cleaning at Mittersill and for families in the area.



Judith Stimson



Patricia Towle

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News Briefs

State Rep. In Fight To Save State Film And TV Office

It's a small state office with a small budget - just one person and a yearly operating budget of \$123,000 - but a North Country state representative says it helps generate millions of dollars for the state of New Hampshire and has the potential to bring in more.

Right now, though, it's on the chopping block.

State Rep. Timothy Egan, D-Sugar Hill, is among those lawmakers and industry leaders fighting to keep the New Hampshire Film and Television Office, which, after decades in operation, is not only at risk of losing its budget but of being entirely dissolved in Gov. Chris Sununu's proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 biennium budget.

"I understand looking at state government and making it efficient and I understand if a film office and the folks running it could be doing work better in a different way, but they're talking about not just cutting the film office's budget. They're talking about dissolving the agency, which says to me it's more about controlling power and ignoring an industry that has such great potential."

He pointed out Northwoods Law, the television series that launched in New Hampshire in 2017 on the Animal Planet channel and follows the adventures of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

"I think most people in New Hampshire tout the fact that Northwoods Law is produced in the state of New Hampshire, how proud they are of that and of our Fish and Game officers," said Egan, who has worked in television production in New England. "That's packaged television and that doesn't happen without the help and advice of a film office. You can't create more of those if you don't have an office where somebody is the voice for you and those industries."

Although New Hampshire doesn't offer film investment tax credits like states such as Massachusetts, its lack of sales and income taxes can make it an attractive state for film and television production companies, he said.

"Without a film office to let bigger organizations know that we

have a viable marketplace, that's another bad economic development policy," said Egan.

Game Creek Video, which is based in Hudson and is the largest production firm in the sports programming business, offers mobile production TV units to some of the world's largest production companies, television networks, and news organizations.

"That is the potential businesses that would move to the state because there's no income tax, 'and my employees will like that,' and there's no sales tax, 'and my clients will like that,' just like we're trying to court manufacturing businesses or financial services businesses," said Egan. "Film and TV is a multi-billion dollar business."

"The Sound of Metal," a drama film released in 2019, had several scenes filmed in New Hampshire, where its two producers are from.

"If you close a film office, what does that say to those business leaders?" said Egan.

Dissolving an office, in general, makes no operational sense and a budget instead can be zeroed out as operations are studied for a possible change, he said.

In any given year, the money generated in the state from film and television production is \$10 to \$15 million, said Egan.

Local communities have benefited from crews frequenting local businesses.

"It's not a lot, we're not Massachusetts or Illinois or Georgia, but we do get a lot of advertising revenue and we do get a lot of documentaries and reality shows," he said. "Commercials are shooting here. We should look at how to engage the film and TV industry. I know we're not going to give away tax credits here, but there could be other things that could draw film and television production companies to come here. I think when you shut that door, when you dissolve an agency, it basically takes the shingle off the wall and says we're not even open for business ... If you want to bring new businesses into the state, you have to market it to them."

New Hampshire's film and television office falls under the umbrella of the New Hampshire Department of Business.

In recent weeks, in the fight to keep the office, a growing number of industry and advertising leaders in New Hampshire have made their voices heard at the statehouse, among them Tim Messina, of Events United, of Portsmouth, and Travis York, a partner at GYK Antler and Big Brick Productions, of Manchester, one of the state's largest advertisement agencies.

"They are all frustrated because we are making progress," said Egan. "While we don't have the financial give-back incentives of Massachusetts, we do have the no-sales-tax and no-income-tax incentives that New Hampshire throws out for manufacturers, and they are equally as important to smaller production companies that would want to set up shop here. They could go over to Massachusetts, but the business would still here. We are chopping off that potential by shutting off a film office. It says New Hampshire doesn't care about TV and film. Unfortunately, it's still a fight."

ATV Proposal Stirs Debate In Haverhill

HAVERHILL — Town roads in the Mountain Lakes District could be opened to ATV use.

A proposal would allow Mountain Lakes residents to drive ATVs off their properties, and access the existing trail system through a series of Class V and VI roads, instead of hauling them to trailheads.

The plan was narrowly approved by precinct voters in March, 42-39, and the Board of Selectmen are expected to make the final decision at their next meeting on May 10.

Mixed opinions were expressed during a public hearing on Monday.

David Long, a proponent of ATV road access, said the plan would benefit the people of Mountain Lakes and downplayed

concerns over speeding, noise, dust and other bad behavior.

But some residents worried the proposal would exacerbate problems with inconsiderate and irresponsible riders, and negatively impact safety and quality of life for Mountain Lakes District residents.

"We have had more than a couple of signs — 'No Trespassing,' 'This Is Not A Trail' — on our property that have been mowed over," said Lynn Graham, whose property is located on the connector between Mountain Lakes and the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail.

Her neighbor, Jeff Page, described similar problems at his dairy farm, where narrow roads and commercial/industrial vehicle traffic pose safety hazards.

He suggested that ATVs were better suited for dedicated trail systems, such as Ride The Wilds in Coos County.

"There's places for them to enjoy their four-wheelers without taking away from the rest of us," he said.

Haverhill Police have jurisdiction over Mountain Lakes' municipal roads. However, it's unclear what resources they would dedicate to ATV enforcement.

The responsibility would lie, in large part, with the ATV operators.

Long said the "good, responsible" people of Mountain Lakes would self-police and willingly follow regulations, but Graham disagreed, noting that ATV riders in the area already trespassed, littered, and violated curfew.

"Last summer some person or persons accessed our property. They left behind broken bottles and evidence they had tried to start a bonfire. Last summer, as hot and dry as it was, they could have set the forest on fire," she said. "You cannot control disrespectful people and my big concern is, if you open up that Class VI road from both ends, who is going to police that?"

Addressing the Board of Selectmen, Mountain Lakes resident Joe McQueen offered a list of concerns and suggestions — he supported a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. overnight ATV curfew and opposed an ATV rental facilities in Mountain Lakes — and said if ATV road access plan were approved, it should be for a one-year trial basis.

"If passed, it should get a summer full-season test run. At the end of that time, then we'll have another meeting and decide whether or not the conditions have been met, and whether we want to go on any further," he said.

McQueen found support from an unlikely source — four-wheel enthusiast Doug Dutile.

"If you want to see four-wheeling, go to Coos County. Berlin, Stark, Pittsburg, Colebrook, all that. What the boards did up there, they did [road access] to trial. After the first year they went back to make modifications and adjustments," he said. "My suggestion is to try it. It might work."

DCI Furniture Contesting Nearly \$400K In OSHA Fines

Two years after being fined nearly \$400,000 by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Workplace Administration (OSHA) for dozens of workplace safety violations following the serious injury of an employee in 2018, DCI Furniture is disputing the findings.

"The case is still in contest," said OSHA spokesman Ted Fitz-

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ON THE COVER: White Mountains handles rival Littleton 10-0 in six innings in New Hampshire high school baseball game on Monday, May 3, 2021. (Photo by Michael Benish)

News Briefs

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gerald. “A hearing is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December.”

OSHA cases in dispute can be settled at some point or go to jury trials, though the outcome of the DCI case, which in 2020 had been on deck for a trial after unsuccessful settlement talks with OSHA, is currently unknown.

“There has been no progress as of yet,” DCI owner Henry Kober said Tuesday.

In April 2019, Design Contempo Inc. (DCI), the furniture-manufacturing company headquartered at 265 South Main St. in Lisbon, was fined a total of \$378,488 by OSHA, including a willful violation with a penalty of \$119,338 regarding the injured employee and 32 serious violations of workplace safety carrying penalties of \$274,444.

According to the willful violation, a DCI manager intentionally disabled machine guarding that had been in place to protect operators using an automated CNC wood-cutting machine

The disabling prevented the machine from stopping and resulted in serious injury to the employee, who was pulled into the machine on Oct. 9, 2018, said OSHA inspectors.

OSHA inspections then began at the plant a few days later and lasted to March 2019.

OSHA alleges that the serious violations throughout the plant included electrical, struck-by, flammable and crushing hazards; trip hazards near a mill and saw; obstructed emergency exit routes; no requirement for eye protection near chemical splash hazards and lacquer spray booths; no protection for employees from amputation and laceration; no training to prevent the accidental activation of machinery; electrical repair employees not protected from electric shock or burns; and lack of training for forklift operators.

On April 25, 2019, DCI had a deadline by which to pay the penalties, reach a settlement, or contest the violations.

Kober in 2019 said DCI did not willfully violate any safety or health regulations.

According to OSHA records, DCI in the preceding five years had been inspected twice, once in 2017, which resulted in one serious violation with a penalty that ended in a settlement of \$4,075, and once in February 2018, when no violations were found.

DCI was launched in the mid-1970s by Kober, who had been making furniture in a farmhouse barn.

In 1976, he expanded into the former Saranac Glove factory in Littleton before purchasing the current 150,000-square-foot building in Lisbon in the early 1980s.

Hardwood furniture products for the bedroom, dining room, and living room include beds, bookcases, chests, desks and desk chairs, lounge chairs, nightstands, dining and activity tables, end tables, television stands.

Operations also include a factory and warehouse in North Carolina, an assembly facility and warehouse and showroom in California, and a sawmill in South Royalton, Vt.

The company is among the largest employers in the Littleton and Lisbon area and as of 2016 had about 150 employees at the Lisbon site.

Prosecutors Seek No Bail For Man Accused Of Violent Assault

At the moment, prosecutors in Vermont have successfully argued to keep in jail a Maidstone man accused of beating, strangling and threatening to kill a 24-year-old woman in August 2020 in Vermont.

At Grafton Superior Court in New Hampshire, prosecutors seek to do the same in a separate felony case against Parker Lovell, 22, this one involving a gun stolen in Littleton.

As his case pends in Vermont, Lovell remains in pre-trial confinement at the Northeast Correctional Complex in St. Johnsbury

for lack of \$5,000 cash bail.

He has pleaded not guilty in Essex Superior Court to two felony counts of first-degree aggravated domestic assault.

On Aug. 15, Lovell was the driver of a car in Maidstone and the woman was his passenger when he allegedly became angry and punched her and then strangled her with both hands, impeding her breathing and causing her vision to become blurry.

After the woman bit his finger, he released his grip and she soon managed to escape and hide and was found by a group of ATV riders after she had screamed for help, said Vermont State Police.

On April 13 at Grafton Superior Court, Lovell was indicted by a grand jury on a Class A felony count of theft by unauthorized taking for stealing a 9-mm handgun from Amanda Stiles on May 24, 2019, in Littleton.

On Friday, Assistant Grafton County Attorney Amanda Kelsey filed a proposed bail order with the court that seeks to hold Lovell on preventative detention without bail.

In her proposed order, she describes the Vermont case, stating that Lovell “is alleged to have punched the victim in her head several times and strangled her inside a vehicle while under the influence of heroin and alcohol. [Lovell] threatened to kill the victim and then himself as he pulled into a remote area. Victim fled from the vehicle and hid in the woods until she encountered a Good Samaritan.”

Lovell, wrote Jacobson, was armed with a knife when he is alleged to have committed the crimes in Maidstone, just as he is alleged to have possessed and stolen a firearm in the Grafton Superior Court case, and both constitute deadly weapons, she said.

In addition, Jacobson said Lovell is charged with four counts of violating the conditions of his release in Essex Superior Court and has previously been convicted of breach of bail conditions and has been a fugitive from justice.

On Monday, Lovell, who is being represented in New Hampshire by court-appointed Defense Counsel Melissa Davis, waived his arraignment that had been scheduled for today at Grafton Superior Court and requested a bail hearing.

In New Hampshire, a Class A felony count is punishable by a maximum New Hampshire State Prison sentence of 7 1/2 to 15 years.

If convicted of both charges in Vermont, he faces a maximum sentence of up to 30 years.

According to court records, Lovell has also lived in Guildhall and Landaff.

On Feb. 18 at Grafton Superior Court, in a third separate felony case, Lovell pleaded guilty a Class B felony count of possessing a quantity of fentanyl in Littleton in 2020.

He was given a deferred Grafton County House of Corrections sentence, ordered to remain on good behavior and complete treatment programs, pay a \$434 fine, and comply with all of the conditions of his release in Vermont.

Residential Treatment, Recovery Center Nears Opening

Although it is taking some time to assemble a team of staff members, the managing company that will run a new residential addiction treatment and recovery center in Bethlehem is hoping to open its doors next month.

“I am confident we will be close to that June 1 target,” Christine Weber, New Hampshire state director for the Maryland-based Amatus Recovery Centers, said Friday.

Amatus is taking over the management of the former Friendship House, at 2957 Route 302/Main St., which will now be called New Hampshire Detox.

The goal in staffing up is to ensure that enough qualified personnel are in place to provide the dignified and quality care that clients deserve, she said.

Plans are to ultimately expand the current 36-bed capacity to about 50 beds.

“We know that need exists and there is also a workforce need in that area,” said Weber. “We don’t see this as a build-it-and-they-

will-come. We know that medical detox beds in New Hampshire is a huge need, but we want to make sure we can sustain what we’re providing. That will require medical personal, non-medical personnel, and support service personnel.”

Amatus is not alone in finding enough qualified people to staff its medical facility, as that has been a workforce challenge for a number of years across New Hampshire and New England, she said.

“It was a challenge before the pandemic,” said Weber.

She said those looking to become a member of the Amatus team in Bethlehem can reach out to her directly, at cweber@amatusrc.com.

Amatus is looking forward to working with stakeholders, said Weber.

“We are excited to collaborate in this region,” she said. “It’s a unique area of the state and they are creative in identifying gaps and needs and we are looking forward to working together to provide a much-needed service to this part of New Hampshire.”

Involved in a number of treatment and recovery initiatives in the North Country during her time at the statehouse is state Rep. Linda Massimilla, D-Littleton, who looks forward to Amatus opening in Bethlehem.

“This is just another piece that the North Country needs in order to serve the clientele that we have,” she said.

The residential recovery homes in Littleton that have opened in the past few years were also a big step, said Massimilla.

“With this opening, it’s another big step,” she said. “I know it will make a difference. It’s needed. We’re flourishing with the recovery homes, but now we need a good solid center to help them get started.”

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In February, Amatus signed a lease with Affordable Housing, Education and Development Inc. (AHEAD), which will continue to own the building.

In addition to an increase to 50 residential treatment beds and adding the medical component that the Friendship House never had, the center will move to 24/7 service and admission, a limited withdrawal management program with nurses available 24 hours a day, launch an intensive outpatient treatment program, expand the number of residential treatment services, and provide transportation to those in need.

"As far as transportation (driving only), we will pick patients up for admission into the program, which was a significant barrier to entry in the past," said Chris Foster, regional executive director for Amatus.

Amatus' licensing process is being completed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

The center will also serve lower-income residents and Medicaid clients.

Amatus Recovery Centers, established in 2015, runs 15 centers in six states, including two in southern New Hampshire, the Blueprint recovery center in Concord and Bonfire center in Dover.

Prior to Amatus coming on board, the North Country Health Consortium managed the building (then still called the Friendship House) from late 2017 to December 2020.

The current building, a \$5.5 million project, opened in October 2017 and replaced the building that housed the original Friendship House since the 1960s.

Prior to the consortium coming on board, the Friendship House was managed for many years by the Tri-County Community Action Program.

New Hampshire Detox, the first such facility north of the Notch and the only addiction treatment center in a 65-mile radius, will be a 30-day program, after which clients can step down to other programs and community programs.

Carroll Withdrawal Committee Holds First Meeting

WHITEFIELD — The Carroll Withdrawal Committee held its first meeting on Thursday.

The 10-member committee will evaluate Carroll's request to withdraw from the White Mountains Regional School District SAU 36.

By law, they have 180 days to either make a recommendation to the state Board of Education or request more time.

Their mission is clear, said SAU 36 Superintendent Marion Anastasia.

"We have to decide what's best for our children," she said, adding that no matter what town they live in, "They're all our kids."

Earlier this year, Carroll voters approved a Town Meeting warrant article to initiate a withdrawal, 214-58, which triggered a multi-step process, starting with the creation of the Withdrawal Committee.

Mike Finn, who helped to draft Carroll's warrant article, urged the Withdrawal Committee to focus on the SAU 36 funding formula.

The current funding formula — with Carroll accounting for 6 percent of students and 26 percent of taxpayer contribution to the district — is a key reason why the town supported withdrawal, he said.

"That's the crux of the issue," he said.

Herb Randall, chairman of the Withdrawal Committee, said he expects the committee will spend considerable time looking at the funding formula.

"It's not the first thing we will tackle, but I'm sure it will play a pretty significant role," he said.

During Thursday's organizational meeting, the Withdrawal Committee elected leadership, established ground rules and set priorities.

As a first order of business, the committee will lay out the current SAU 36 school funding situation and withdrawal scenarios for Carroll.

Those subjects are expected to take up most of the next meeting at 6 p.m. on May 6.

By law, the committee must include school- and select-board members from each SAU 36 community.

The school board members are James Murphy of Carroll, Greg Odell of Dalton, James Brady of Jefferson, Herb Randall of Lancaster and Robert Loiacono of Whitefield.

Select board members are Ken Mills (and alternate Rob Gauthier) of Carroll, Tamela Swan of Dalton, Norman Brown of Jefferson, Troy Merner of Lancaster and John Tholl of Whitefield.

Chosen as committee leadership were Randall and Swan (vice-chair).

The committee also includes ex-officio members from SAU 36: Anastasia, Business Manager Kris Franklin and consultant, Phillip McCormack.

The Withdrawal Committee will meet twice a month (first and third Thursdays) and will have until Oct. 27 to either make a recommendation or request additional time.

A recommendation for withdrawal would require approval from school district voters, and a recommendation against would require no voter action.

Meanwhile, Carroll officials have said the town has grounds to file for withdrawal regardless of the Withdrawal Committee's recommendation and intends to.

Anticipating a contested withdrawal, Carroll has added \$70,000 to its legal budget over the next two years.

Major Littleton Sidewalks Project To Enter Final Design

LITTLETON — A pedestrian safety project nearly half a decade in the planning will be entering its final design — sidewalk reconstruction and associated improvements along a segment of

Cottage Street and the entirety of Mill Street.

The total project, just north of \$1 million and funded by a \$200,000 town share and an \$800,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), entails new sidewalks, curbing, crosswalks and a green strip along Cottage Street from South Street to Route 302/Bethlehem Road and a raised sidewalk and curbing along Mill Street.

Recently added to its \$1 million price tag was \$88,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

"Some additional funds were added for design changes, which is good," Doug Damko, superintendent of the Littleton Public Works Department, said Thursday. "It covers some additional engineering work for the project ... This year, it's going into the final design, to be completed this year, and that includes acquiring easements. And then construction next year."

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022 and last through that summer.

Several years ago, the project encompassed six or seven streets, but after a cost analysis and prioritization, it was reduced in cost and scope to two, Cottage and Mill streets, said Damko.

As for Cottage Street, which currently has just one crosswalk, near Main Street at the Lane House, a benefit will be more sidewalks up toward Route 302, near the Littleton Food Co-op, he said.

The new sidewalks on Cottage Street will be on one side, that of the Littleton Freehouse Taproom and Eatery and Mt. Eustis Commons.

"Right now, there is no curbing," said Damko. "We will be taking out the old sidewalks and putting in new curbing."

A large piece of the project will be the installation of a green, or landscape, strip, between the new sidewalks and the street.

"We are also planning for some decorative lighting in the future," he said. "The goal is to have an enhancement, not just replace the sidewalk."

Sidewalks were originally studied for both sides of Cottage Street, but there were concerns about traffic.

"On Mill Street, the town had a painted sidewalk last year which we are doing as a trial and we are continuing this year, but then the goal is to convert that to a permanent raised sidewalk as part of this TAP project, again with curbs and concrete," said Damko.

During Monday's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Damko asked the board to consider including some parking spaces along Cottage Street that weren't in the preliminary design.

The project currently has a bike lane designated for the side of the road, and that bike lane, if the parking goes through, would be eliminated.

Currently, there are only two approved parking spaces for Cottage Street, both of them at Dr. Howard Mintz's office at 220 Cottage St., said Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

Selectman Roger Emerson was not keen on adding parking to the design, though all three board members later reached a consensus that they would look at a design that includes parking.

"I sat up there for an hour the other day watching traffic go up the hill toward the Co-op," said Emerson. "If anyone is turning to the left onto any of the streets or the businesses, traffic can still go around that car that's waiting and not impede traffic all the way to the traffic light. If we allowed parking ... they wouldn't be able to do that ... It's just a concern of mine when I was watching what was going on."

Smith said he still hasn't seen the final design with parking spaces, but said if there isn't a traffic calming measure on Cottage Street that would prevent parking, people will park on the side of the road and it will be problematic.

If parking will not be part of the plan, the project engineering needs to prevent it so people don't try to park along the street, he said.

"I think there can be a compromise in some places, to allow some parking, and I know it's going to be tough for public works," said Smith. "My understanding is the state will have to tell public works you have to plow out those parking spaces."

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Service Providers And Disabled, Older Residents Seek Funds

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Providers and recipients of services for disabled, mentally ill and older residents pressed state senators Tuesday to fully fund such programs, saying the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated longstanding challenges in all three areas.

More than 200 people signed up to testify during the Senate Finance Committee’s public hearing on the proposed two-year state budget. In the first hour, lawmakers heard repeated pleas to increase reimbursement rates for adult day care and senior centers and for home care services that help people with disabilities live independently.

Amy Moore, director of Ascentria In-Home Care, said her program and others like it can’t hire enough workers because wages are so low.

“We hail these caregivers, these health care workers as heroes during the pandemic and yet we’re not paying them a livable wage,” said Moore, adding the current system is failing vulnerable residents.

“As someone whose spent many years out in the field, I can tell you I’ve never seen anything like this,” she said. “A 90-year-old woman in Campton, who fell a few months ago, was on the floor for 14 hours before someone found her. A 62-year-old veteran in Tilton, who’s not getting the showers on a regular basis that he needs, so much so that it’s affecting his health. A 39-year-old woman in Lebanon with cerebral palsy who’s supposed to receive 30 hours a week of care but is only receiving 12. She has intentionally overdosed twice in the last two months.”

The House approved a \$13.5 billion budget last month, and lawmakers have until June 24 to agree on a compromise after the Senate develops and approves its version.

Forrest Beaudoin-Friede, of Peterborough, urged the Senate committee to fully fund support services for those with devel-

opmental disabilities and to create a dental benefit for adult Medicaid recipients.

“The supports I receive help me to live independently in my own apartment, work part-time, volunteer in my community and stay involved in activism,” said Beaudoin-Friede, who has Down syndrome.

Marianne Jackson, executive director of the Gibson Senior Center in North Conway, said her organization, which has been closed for most of the pandemic, recently arranged an outing for four women who hadn’t been out of their apartments for more than five months.

“They gushed with joy,” she said. “Now, we need to pivot to bring back many of the people who have been otherwise stranded, but it’s going to take effort and funds.”

Matthew Houde of Dartmouth-Hitchcock health said the pandemic has exposed gaps in the state’s behavioral health system, and urged senators to prioritize funding for a robust continuum of care that includes prevention, early intervention, crisis support and integration with physical health. He also was among several callers who asked the committee to remove language inserted in the House-passed budget that would ban teaching that the state or U.S. are fundamentally racist or sexist in public schools or state-funded programs.

The so-called “divisive topics” bill echoes a since-repealed executive order by former President Donald Trump. It would apply to both schools and businesses that contract with the state, and Houde said it would undermine the health system’s efforts to advance “diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.”

Arthur Gardiner, a Hanover resident, agreed.

“It’s astonishing that citizens of New Hampshire, a state with a motto of ‘Live Free or Die,’ could seek to suppress diverse views of our 250-year history as a country conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” he said. “Our history is what it is, both its tremendous achievements and its difficulties. Our history viewed from all perspectives is the cauldron from which we must realistically fashion our future.”

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Any re-engineering would make the current Cottage Street situation better, he said.

“It’s very difficult from an enforcement perspective because the design is horrible and the signage is very difficult for us to be able to properly enforce that,” said Smith. “I would ask that you consider compromising. You needn’t say absolutely no parking, but if you do that there needs to be a proper design to prevent parking.”

As for parking, Selectman Milton Bratz said the board needs to look at a more definitive plan that could have flexibility built into it and allow parking in some places and not in others.

Local Man Avoids Prison In Bloody Domestic Violence Case

Facing felony charges that could have landed him years behind bars, a North Stratford man indicted in February for a violent assault, after which police said he ordered the victim who had been trying to leave him to clean up her blood, has avoid-

ed time behind bars by agreeing to a plea deal.

On Friday, Richard Allen Card, 34, pleaded guilty at Coos Superior Court to multiple felony counts and was given suspended House of Corrections and state prison sentences.

In February, Card was indicted by a grand jury on a Class B felony count each of domestic violence second-degree assault causing serious bodily injury and second-degree assault by strangulation, two Class B felony counts of falsifying or destroying physical evidence, and a Class B felony count of being a felon in possession of a dangerous weapon.

Each carried a maximum New Hampshire State Prison sentence of 3 1/2 to 7 years.

For the charge of second-degree assault causing serious bodily injury, Card was given a 12-month sentence in the Coos County House of Corrections, all of which is suspended for three years on condition of good behavior.

For the charge of being a felon in possession of a dangerous weapon, Card was given 2 to 4 years in New Hampshire State Prison, all of which is suspended for five years on the condition of good behavior.

For the charge of falsifying or destroying physical evidence, he was given a 1-

2-year prison sentence, all suspended on the condition of five years of good behavior.

The charges of second-degree assault by strangulation and the second count of falsifying physical evidence were dropped as part of the plea deal.

Card was given three years probation, the violation of which could result in the imposing of any sentence, and is required to complete a mental health evaluation within 90 days of sentencing and comply with all treatment recommendations that would be monitored by his probation officer.

According to his sentencing document, the court found that Card “has no ability to pay counsel fees and expenses.”

From his previous encounters he had with Card, New Hampshire State Police Trooper Jeremy Brann was already familiar with the victim when she called him on Nov. 27 about retrieving some of her items from the North Stratford property.

“I knew [the victim] from previous encounters that I have had with her boyfriend while working for the Lancaster Police Department, most of which have been domestic violence-related incidents,” Brann wrote in the affidavit for arrest.

In speaking with the woman, Brann

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DRUM OHARE ALMA

SAAB LUGES SNIP

EQUIPAGE SHARP

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learned the assault had occurred three days earlier in their camper trailer along Route 3.

They had been together nine years, she told him, and she wanted out.

"The [victim] told me that she has been slowly moving her stuff out of the camper trailer so that Card would not notice all of her stuff gone," said Brann. "She informed me that she was doing this out of her own safety because she was concerned of what he would do to her if he found out she was moving out."

A verbal argument began that morning after which Card came at her, she told Brann.

Knowing Card's "past and capabilities," the woman said she swung in defense and missed, after which Card put his hands around her throat and began squeezing to the point where she said she became dizzy.

The victim told police Card then took her cell phone.

When she screamed at him to return it, Brann wrote that Card then slammed her head against the bedroom wall.

She told Brann the impact from her head hitting the wall resulted in blood splattering onto

the blinds, curtains, and wall, which she showed police in photographs she had taken before being transported to Weeks Medical Center in Lancaster for treatment.

Although Card cannot possess firearms because he is a convicted felon out of Maine, the victim told Brann he kept a .410 shotgun in the camper trailer under his side of the mattress and the shells above the bed.

When Brann later went to the residence to deliver the domestic violence order paperwork, he said he looked at the head of the bed and saw a hole in the wall with a long crack, but no blood.

"I asked [the victim] if that was where Card had pushed her head into the wall and she informed me that it was," Brann wrote in the affidavit. "I asked her what happened to the blood and she told me that Card made her clean it up."

He also made contact with Dave Laney, whose pickup truck the woman said she had seen parked outside the camper on Nov. 24.

When Laney was asked by police why he was there that day, he told officers he was there to buy the .410 shotgun from Card for \$100, said Brann.

"When I retrieved the firearm from Laney's residence, the firearm and ammunition were all in yellow Dollar General bag, just as [the victim]

had described it," wrote Brann.

When NHSP ran Card's name through the National Crime Information Center, they found previous felony charges with guilty convictions in the states of Maine, Virginia, and Texas, and a current pending felony charge in Vermont for first-degree aggravated domestic assault with a weapon.

In Virginia in 2005, he was convicted of carrying a concealed weapon.

In Georgia in 2010, Card was convicted of felony robbery and theft and misdemeanor assault.

North Country Communities Get Look At Economic Development Tools

As the region's economy rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Country Council and a critical collaborator are presenting community leaders with an expanding basket of economic development tools and incentives to help build and revitalize communities, attract investment, retain people and grow tax bases.

Some of the state and federal initiatives are new and go beyond what for decades has been the mainstay programs.

"Traditional economic development measures were more jobs, more tax base, and more housing, and all of those are still viable," Stuart Arnett, of the Arnett Development Group (ADG) said during the NCC commission's remote meeting on Wednesday. "More recently, you are starting to see a wider definition of community development. The North Country in particular, having visitors and vacationers for an area that has had an outflow of people for quite some time, is now seeing an inflow."

That brings families, a diversity in demographics, younger residents and new ways of thinking, he said.

"The interesting thing is more places are identifying economic development, which people used to think as factories and shopping centers, as preservation and re-purposing and reuse of authentic assets," said Arnett.

The historic Gasholder House in Concord, owned by Liberty Utilities, is an example, he said.

"They wanted to do a demolition," said Arnett. "By working with the preservation alliance, all three parties the other day signed a memorandum of understanding to start putting money into it to preserve it. Everybody is talking about that as an economic development project, even though its preservation, which is great."

Wednesday's meeting includes representatives for the towns of Northumberland, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Sugar Hill, Coos County and other communities.

"We work often with Stuart," said Michelle Moren-Gray, executive director for the NCC, which is the regional planning commission. "He did a SWOT [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats] analysis for a comprehensive economic development strategy in 2018 and we collaborated on projects here and there, such as the Jefferson building reuse and several projects in Bethlehem."

Tools

In its 14th year, ADG advances community planning and economic development.

"We believe every community can have a better future and our objective is to help towns realize that," said Arnett.

Tools, he said, including what he called other people's money, such as grants, more revenues for enterprises, and private investment, the latter of which can be put into newly-designated federal opportunity zones, New Hampshire enterprise zones, and new market tax credits.

Sources of outside funding include the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Community Development Block Grant, Northern Border Regional Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, U.S. Small Business Administration, and state agencies such as the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Department of Transportation (DOT).

Though it's other people's money, it usually requires a match by a community, he said.

Communities can also invest in themselves through tax increment financing, or TIF, districts, and can capitalize on their assets, such as redeveloping municipal real estate and can implement low- to no-cost public investment through volunteerism.

As for other people's money, there are related funding sources that add to economic development, but they're not specifically called economic development, said Arnett.

"DES put out some notices about increased amounts of money for water and sewer and drainage projects," he said. "That's very important for the development of some areas. New Hampshire DOT is frequently putting out programs that can affect the development of a community."

There are also housing opportunities.

"MTAG, the Municipal Technical Assistance Grant, is a fund of money coming through the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and run through a not-for-profit called Plan New Hampshire," said Arnett. "It's a grant program that has a 25-percent match, but it allows you to look at revising your zoning for the purpose of getting additional choices for housing. We used it two or three times successfully in communities."

The SBA helps local enterprises, and although it's not economic development per se, it assists businesses that are in a community, he said.

There are also ways to help with tourism promotion.

TIF District

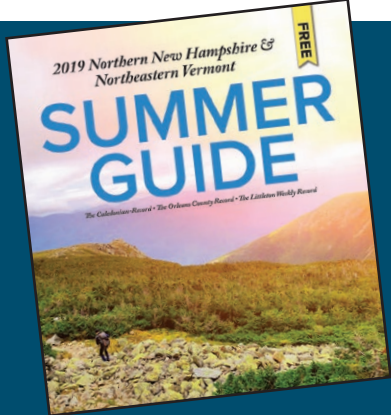
Funding that communities can implement themselves including the TIF districts, said Arnett, who described how they work.

"It's public investment often using debt to pay for infrastructure such as water, sewer, roads and industrial parks traditionally," he said. "More recently, we have been encouraging ... things like broadband, enhanced recreational sites, and preservation projects as eligible project uses."

The idea is to create new tax revenues.

"This tax revenue is the increment of the tax increment financing title," said Arnett. "Then you take that increment to pay the IOU that the town has until that's paid down to zero. Then the

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district goes away and the town keeps all of the revenue once that bond is paid off. Basically, it's using new revenue to pay off the debt until it gets to zero and then you keep all of it."

Once a municipality decides to adopt a TIF district, it creates a plan that includes the current tax base and a projection of what it will be after development to show the break-even point, which, if well-written, is a year or close to it, said Arnett.

Whether in the district or out, the tax rate and zoning are the same.

"You can do broadband and any capital investment project," he said. "Once the bond is paid off, the line on the map goes away, then the revenue goes back to the general fund calculation and never goes lower because all you're using from TIF is the increment to do it. It's one of the bigger tools for municipalities."

The size of a community doesn't matter as even a small one can use a TIF district for public investment, said Arnett.

"The smallest town to the largest city still needs to think about infrastructure for its development," he said. "It could be the acquisition of a building the municipality sees as important to development."

The size of a project also doesn't matter, and a bond obligation a town might want to take on could be as low as \$50,000 to \$100,000, he said.

"One small benefit of a TIF is any bonding that happens within a TIF district is not part of your bonding limits. Because the state figures you have a way of paying it off, they do not include that in your bonding cap," said Arnett.

Opportunity Zone

A new program, about a year and half old, is the federal tax incentive program called the opportunity zone.

"It's limited by sites and there are 27 sites selected in New Hampshire," he said. "Most of the North Country is in an eligible opportunity zone designated area."

The program is similar to the Community Development Finance Authority tax credit, said Arnett.

"It allows an entity to pay less taxes if they invest in designated areas," he said. "It's a tax credit on what's called unrealized capital gains ... It's typically real estate in the zone, some new, and some redevelopment. You can also invest in a small business in the zone, though that's rare. Maybe one of the things in the North Country is to encourage investment in small businesses."

The investor receives a tax deferral on a portion of the investment, a tax reduction of 5 to 10 percent depending on how many years the investment stays in the zone, and a capital appreciation tax elimination, meaning if the value of property triples over 10 years, for example, anything for the first 10 is eliminated, he said.

Cottage Hospital Announces New CEO

WOODSVILLE — Cottage Hospital has a new leader.

It's a familiar face.

Longtime employee Holly McCormack was named the new CEO this month, the hospital announced in a Facebook post on Tuesday.

"Holly is known by those around her as an authentic leader. Integrity, transparency, consistency and goal-driven are attributes that describe her style. Building relationships and establishing connections are important to her," the hospital said in a statement.

McCormack joined the hospital as director of inpatient services in 2010 and served as chief nursing officer since 2016.

She was named the Nurse Leader of the Year by the New Hampshire Nurses Association in 2017 and is now the organization's president-elect.

In an interview with WCAX, McCormack said Cottage Hospital has seen "significantly less traffic" during COVID-19, noting

the numbers are still not back to normal.

However, the rural, 35-bed hospital has continued to serve a front-line role during the pandemic through vaccine distribution and COVID testing.

Looking ahead, she hopes to address across-the-board workforce shortages while renewing the hospital's focus on "what the hospital does well," including specialties like acute psychiatric care.

McCormack brings a nursing background to the position.

Prior to joining Cottage Hospital, she worked 15 years in Providence, R.I. — 13 as a registered nurse at Hasbro Childrens Hospital and 2 as an assistant nurse manager at Women and Infants Hospital.

McCormack received her nursing degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1995, Master's degree in nursing administration from Saint Joseph's College of Maine in 2015, and will complete her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of New Hampshire in December 2021.

She is married and the mother of triplets. She enjoys running, and completed her first marathon in October of last year.

She succeeds Maria Ryan, who stepped down after a decade as CEO.

Traffic Safety Concerns Grow At Presidential Mountain Resort

A pedestrian bridge in Bethlehem?

That's one suggestion to keep people safe at the Presidential Mountain Resort development, where selectmen say an accident is waiting to happen if nothing is done to calm traffic along a segment of highway that is notorious for speeders and where up to 100 children will be crossing the road during the peak summer season.

Agreeing with the Board of Selectmen that a solution needs to be found is Yizchok Rudich, who owns the property on both sides of Route 302/Main Street between Cherry Valley Road and Brook Road.

During their meeting on Monday, board members said they will contact the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for options on the state highway, where the current speed limit at the development is 40 mph, though some drivers — those east-bound coming downhill from The Rocks Estate and those west-bound down the hill from Bethlehem village — don't heed it.

"He's very willing to work with the town on signage," Linda Moore, vice-chair of the board, said of Rudich. "He did contact DOT was told what we were told, that a traffic study might increase speed. A lot of times you don't get what you think you're going to get. He would like to do something permanent, like 'children at play,' something to slow traffic. He's very concerned that there's going to be 60 to 100 children during their busy time crossing back and forth on that road. I really think we need to talk to DOT about this as far as putting a crosswalk there and maybe a flashing yellow light."

The south side of the property, where the playground is located, currently has 15 cabins. Twelve new cabins are being installed on the north side, with more planned for that side in the future.



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"I really don't know what our options are," she said. "Signage, 'children at play,' 'children crossing,' 'people crossing,' whatever. When the cabins open, the playground is on the other side of the road where the pond is. I can see it being a nightmare down there. He felt it should be regulated like a school zone."

Rudich asked selectmen for guidance and requested that they and the planning board write a joint letter to DOT expressing their concerns.

"I'm in favor of that," said Selectman Chris Jensen. "We need to do what we can to keep that area safe."

Jensen suggested that Rudich, as a start, put signs on his property, which Moore said he is allowed to do.

Selectman Bruce Caplain said the board can reach out to DOT and feel them out a bit on where they stand for any changes to that segment of road.

"Things are changing [and] ... it will be dangerous in the summer and we'd really like to address it before something happens," he said.

"Frankly, the solution is for him to do a really, really tall pedestrian bridge," said Jensen. "He's talking about doing an additional development beyond the 12 that are there. It would be much bigger and sit in the back. It's only going to be a bigger issue. A pedestrian bridge – it's the only real solution."

Caplain said the state would have a lot of input on any bridge and it's therefore undetermined if Rudich could build it.

Moore suggested a crosswalk with a flashing light that is activated when pedestrians push a button, something that Jensen said is in Hanover for students crossing the roads and warns drivers, through a flashing yellow light, that there are pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Resident Veronica Morris said the town of Meredith, much busier than Bethlehem, put lighted crosswalks on Route 3 in 2019, after there was trouble with the previous unlighted crosswalks when cars were "just whizzing past" people who were in the crosswalks and trying to get to the other side.

"DOT put these in and they had to station some police there to help educate drivers on stopping for those crosswalks even with the red light," she said.

She suggested that Bethlehem selectmen inquire about the status of the crosswalk setup in Meredith to see how it's currently working out. Moore agreed.

Morris also suggested that Bethlehem could install permanent digital speed readers in the vicinity of PMR, similar to those along Routes 116 and 3 in Whitefield, so drivers can tell how fast they are going and be alerted by a blinking speed number if they are driving too fast.

"It looks like they're about \$5,000 apiece," she said. "If we could get permission to put one of those out closer to where he is

See News Briefs, Page 12

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News Briefs

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that might start to slow things.”

Resident Allegra Wright said a pedestrian bridge is a great idea.

“Maybe we can’t get it right away,” she said. “If we do signs that say pedestrians ahead, it’s all about placement. If we put it far enough ahead then people should get it, and if they don’t, then maybe that’s where the policeman steps in. I think the safety of the pedestrians is really paramount. Kids, they’re kids, they don’t pay attention and their parents can’t be looking all the time. Something really needs to be done.”

July 4 Fireworks Returning, But No Entertainment, Vendors

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Independence Day fireworks celebrations are returning in New Hampshire communities, but with some changes.

In Portsmouth, the City Council voted to hold the celebration on July 3, with a rain date of July 5. Last year’s event was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Seacoastonline.com reports City Manager Karen Conard said this year, there will be no entertainment, food or vendors “so as to discourage gathering.”

The Fourth of July fireworks display in Dover was moved to an area that will allow more of a 360-degree view for spectators, organizers said.

“We usually see between 8,000 to 10,000 people

in downtown Dover for a typical Fourth of July,” said Gary Bannon, the city’s recreation director. “We needed a location that would provide enough room for people to spread out. This location allows a lot of people to see it from their neighborhoods, too, so they can meet with their neighbors and safely have more smaller group settings outside.”

Hassan, Shaheen, Support Expansion Of Telehealth Services

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A bill supported

Senate Passes Bill To Make Secret Police List Public

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire’s secret list of roughly 270 police officers with credibility issues would be made public under a bill passed Thursday by the state Senate.

The so-called “Laurie list” tracks officers whose credibility may be called into question during a trial because of something in their personnel records. Prosecutors are required to turn the information over to defendants before trial, but public access has been limited to heavily redacted versions of the list.

While the attorney general’s office and law enforcement unions traditionally have opposed the list’s release, both back the compromise legislation. Its provisions match a recommendation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency that was established last summer in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Under the bill, the list would become public after a six-month period during which officers could contest their placement on the list.

“The language of the bill is the culmination of work by media outlets, law enforcement and various other stakeholders that is consistent with the hard work done by the LEAC commission,” said Sen. Sharon Carson, R-Londonderry. “This is an important piece of legislation that finds a delicate balance between the rights of officers and the transparency that is vital for our democracy.”

The bill, which also requires police disciplinary hearings to be open to the public, now goes back to the House. It passed the Senate 24-0.

“Making information about police misconduct and hearings public is an important step, and I believe the appeals process there is here for holding information confidential ... is also a valuable part of this bill,” said Sen. Jay Kahn, D-Keene.

Several media outlets and the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire sued, seeking access to the list in 2018. Most of the parties, however, recently asked the court to delay its ruling until July, pending the outcome of the proposed legislation.

The list’s official title is the “exculpatory evidence schedule.” It is often called the “Laurie List” after Carl Laurie, whose murder conviction was overturned in 1995.

New Hampshire Spring Turkey Hunt Starts Saturday

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is warning turkey hunters to be extra sure of their targets as the spring season gets under.

The state’s spring turkey hunt opens Saturday and runs through May 31. The department said hunters should be aware of the increased number of people enjoying the outdoors during the coronavirus pandemic and be prepared with back-up locations if their desired spot is crowded.

Some registration locations may be closed or have limited hours due to the pandemic, but hunters also can register their birds online.

A New Hampshire turkey license is required for hunters of all ages.

New Hampshire State Workers To Return To Offices By May 10

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — State government employees who have been working from home during the coronavirus pandemic will be back in their offices by May 10, Gov. Chris Sununu said Thursday.

“All agencies are getting the same message, we’re not picking or choosing certain agencies or divisions or departments,” he said. “We expect to be fully operational and in person, with buildings open to the public, with public access for the business transactions that have to happen one-on-one.”

While Sununu lifted the statewide mask mandate earlier this month, state offices remain subject to any municipal ordinances in their particular location, according to his office. The ordinance in Concord, however, where many state offices are located, only applies to retail businesses.

Individual workers can wear masks if they prefer, Sununu said.

“Obviously we always want them to feel safe, it’s always an option for them to have,” he said.

by U.S. Sens. Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire would expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and permanently remove geographic restrictions on them.

The bill also would require a study to learn more about how telehealth has been used during the coronavirus pandemic.

“I’m glad to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to permanently expand telehealth options and in turn get more patients, especially in rural communities, the care that they are counting on,” Hassan said in a statement Monday.

The Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies for Health Act would allow health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services, a provision currently in place because of the pandemic, but on a temporary basis. It also would allow for the waiver of telehealth restrictions during public health emergencies.

Hassan and Shaheen joined with U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, a fellow Democrat from Hawaii, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, a Republican from Mississippi, and others in introducing the bill.

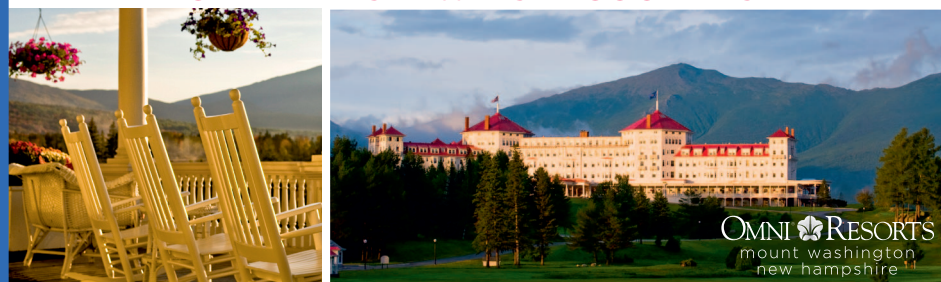
Senate OKs Expanded Statute Of Limitations For Kid Assaults

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — That statute of limitations for prosecuting assaults against children would be expanded under a bill approved by the New Hampshire Senate.

Under current law, charges must be brought within six years of first- or second-degree assaults, regardless of the victim’s age. The Senate voted 24-0 in favor of amending the law to also allow prosecution for assaults against children up to the victim’s 21st birthday if the assault happened more than six years earlier.

The bill now goes back to the House, which had voted to allow such prosecutions up until a victim turned 24.

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News Briefs

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Gun Advocates Testify On Both Sides Of Background Check Bill

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — With gun sales on the rise, Second Amendment advocates in New Hampshire are divided over a bill that would eliminate the state's role in conducting background checks for those purchasing handguns.

The House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee held a public hearing Wednesday on a Senate-passed bill that would abolish the state police "gun line," and instead put the FBI solely in charge of performing background checks using the National Information Criminal Background System.

County sheriff's offices, however, would use the system to perform searches related to the return of guns to people who are the subject of protective orders for domestic violence or stalking.

Supporters of the bill, including the National Rifle Association, argued that the current system frequently results in lengthy delays and that the state is wasting money on a task the federal government already handles for most other states.

"We are spending state tax dollars, using state employees, state resources and state computers to perform a federally mandated task that the federal government will perform free of charge in a more expeditious manner," said Alan Rice, state director of Gun Owners of America, at the hearing.

Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn said the department struggled in 2020 because handgun sales increased by nearly 65% and the coronavirus pandemic sometimes led to staffing shortages. Without taking a position on the bill, Quinn noted that state police perform extra research that would not happen if the bill passes, and said the department has made changes to better manage the backlog.

"The gun line is no longer broke," said Executive Councilor David Wheeler, R-Milford. "The problems have been virtually fixed."

Wheeler, a founder of the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, said state police do a better job investigating possible cases of mistaken identity and other issues. And if problems arise, they're easier to correct at the state level, he said.

Joining him in opposing the bill was Pamela Keilig of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She said it would put victims of domestic violence and stalking at heightened risk of harm.

"Domestic violence offenders are the most likely to murder someone in this state, and this system is crucial to protect the lives of victims," she said.

Rice, however, suggested victims shouldn't look to the government for protection.

"If someone is a victim of violence, they should buy a gun, learn how to use it and take responsibility for their own personal safety," he said. "Americans as a group are self-reliant. If you become reliant upon government, you generally lose."

Hassan: Move To Ease Opioid Treatment Rules A Step Forward

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire said a move by the Biden administration to ease decades-old requirements that made it difficult for doctors to treat opioid addiction using medication is a step in the right direction.

New guidelines announced Tuesday mean doctors and other health workers will no longer need extra hours of training to prescribe buprenorphine, a gold standard medicine that helps with cravings. And they no longer have to refer patients to counseling services.

Under the loosened guidelines, prescribers will be able to treat up to 30 patients at a time with the drug.

Hassan, a Democrat, led a bipartisan effort to eliminate a waiver for prescribing buprenorphine.

"It never made any sense that the law made it harder to prescribe the treatment than it did to prescribe opioids," she said in a statement Tuesday. "For too long, these burdensome requirements have prevented Americans from getting the treatment that they need."

Hassan said the announcement "is a step forward in removing some of the barriers in accessing medication-assisted treatment."

Buprenorphine helps by moving a patient from powerful painkillers or an illicit opioid like heroin to a regular dose of a legal opioid-based medication.

Besides doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives and some other types of nurses will be able to prescribe buprenorphine without first getting special training.

State Schedules 10 Virtual Job Fairs After Benefits Change

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The state of New Hampshire has scheduled 10 virtual job fairs during May.

Starting May 23, New Hampshire is once again requiring that people receiving unemployment benefits be looking for work. That was waived last year during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This return to our traditional, more normalized system is a sign that we are getting back to normal, and I would like to thank the team at Employment Security for their efforts in opening up access to job seekers and employers," Gov. Chris Sununu said in a statement Wednesday.

Scheduled job fairs include May 6, for veterans; May 11, one for students and the other for students and adult education in partnership with Pinkerton Academy; May 13, construction industry in partnership with ABC NH/VT; May 18, Great North Woods Region and Dartmouth Lake-Sunapee Region; May 19, Seacoast Region; May 20, White Mountains Region; May 25, Lakes Region; May 26, Monadnock Region; May 27, Capitol and Southern Region.

Employers looking to register their company and job seekers can register for one of the job fairs by going to virtualjobfairs.nh.gov.

Fair Housing Project Launches Housing Discrimination Website

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire Legal Assistance's Fair Housing Project has launched a website to help victims of housing discrimination.

The site is fairhousing-nh.org. It gives information on housing protections and available resources.

"We are here to help, and we can evaluate your case," Lindsay Lincoln, co-director of the Fair Housing Project, said Wednesday.

State and federal laws prohibit discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of housing based on someone's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.

The most common housing discrimination complaints in the state are made by people with disabilities, the organization said. Issues range from refusal to rent because of an assistance animal to refusing reasonable modifications, such as a ramp, that allow people to fully use and enjoy their home.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance also continues to see a number of complaints from parents who face challenges with potential and existing landlords because children will be living in the home, as well as a recent rise in complaints based on race and national origin. It's seen over 800 discrimination cases in the past five years.

The Fair Housing Project also operates a testing program to identify and provide evidence of unlawful housing discrimination.

Painted Bird Houses Lead To Colorful Treasure Hunt In Town

WEST LEBANON, N.H. (AP) — Checkered and striped in bright colors, small wooden bird houses are hanging outside a public library in West Lebanon as a part of a public art project,

"The idea is just to start something that people can participate in and add to," said Kim Wenger Hall, one of the organizers of the public art project that is supported by a local gallery and art education organization AVA Gallery and Art Center.

Wenger Hall told the Lebanon Valley News on Sunday, the town "needs color. It needs foot traffic. It needs art."

Some 100 people signed up to participate, though only a handful of painted bird houses were on hand on Sunday as organizers hung them outside the library, the newspaper reported. Organizers said they hoped more would trickle in or that people would hang them where they wanted to.

Participants were asked to pay \$10 to get a small wooden bird house, paint, brushes and some bird feed, though the donation was not mandatory. They could pick up the kit at AVA Gallery and then could drop it off again on Earth Day and the following days to be hung outside.

"It's sort of an unintentional scavenger hunt," the project's other organizer Chet Clem told the newspaper. "The best thing this has accomplished so far has been connecting people."

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

Patricia was a member of The Shared Ministry-UMC & UCC in Lisbon.

She was a meticulous housekeeper and enjoyed her flower gardens. Summers spent at York Beach at Short Sands Crowe's Cottages with her family was time she treasured.

She was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Chester David Towle on March 3, 2012; her daughter Wendy Ellen Towle on Aug. 22, 2009; and her brother, Clifton Little on Sept. 12, 2020.

She is survived by two daughters, Beth Miller-Clark of Landaff and Dawn Nelson and husband Ted of North Haverhill; four grandchildren, Justin Miller, William D. Clark, and Lilly and Emily Nelson; a sister, Joan Kinney of Littleton, N.H.; as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins.

There will be no calling hours.

A graveside service will be on Thursday, May 6 at 2 p.m. in Landaff Center Cemetery, with Rev. Lyn Winter, officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, NH Chapter, 166 South River Road; Suite 210, Bedford, NH 03110.

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

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

Harold W Reid Jr.

Harold W Reid, Jr., 78, of Manchester, N.H., passed away on April 27, 2021, after a prolonged battle with heart and kidney disease, at Catholic Medical Center, surrounded by his family. Harold was born April 8, 1943, in Medford, Mass. He was the son of the late Harold W. Reid, Sr. and 'Evelyn' (Keslake) Reid. He was raised in Lowell, Mass., and a graduate of Lowell High School, and is a veteran of the United

States Air Force. He moved to Pelham, N.H. in 1974, where he raised his two children.

Harold is survived by his loving wife, Marion (Thompson) Reid, of 55 years, and his Golden-Pyrenees dog, Rex; his daughter, Elaine (Reid) Murtagh and son-in-law, Daniel Murtagh; his son Warren Reid and his wife Amy (Provencher) Reid, who blessed him with two beautiful grandchildren, Kyle and Madeline.

Harold then moved to Whitefield, N.H., and enjoyed the North Country, where he made a great number of enriching friendships, of which he spoke with great pride and joviality. He was truly at peace in the Great North Woods of New Hampshire, but as he aged, he desired to be closer to his grandchildren. His daughter and son-in-law built an in-law apartment for them to move into in Manchester in 2018, so his grandkids could visit easily, and so that his health issues could be tended to.

Harold is also survived by his brother, Rev. David Reid, Ph.D., and his sister, Karen (Reid) Foresman.

There will be no calling hours, and a memorial service will be announced by the family at a later date. Harold requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the New England Heart and Vascular Institute at Catholic Medical Center, in Manchester, N.H. This dedicated and compassionate team of people fought valiantly for him, and helped give him the dignity and highest quality of life he could possibly have had in his last months.

Online Donations to CMC can be made at: <https://www.catholicmedicalcenter.org/giving/donate-online>.



Harold Reid, Jr.

Charlene A. Potter

Charlene A. Potter, 75, of Melcher Court, Groveton, N.H., died at her home Wednesday afternoon, April 28, 2021, after a sudden illness.

Ms. Potter was born, one of six sisters, in West Stewartstown, N.H. on Dec. 3, 1945 the daughter of Jack and Lila (Algier) Potter. She resided in Stewartstown where she attended local schools, later moving to Massachusetts, attending Holyoke High School.

She spent her early adult life residing in Holyoke then returned to the North Country to raise her family. For the past 38 years she has resided in Lancaster and surrounding New Hampshire towns. She worked as a housekeeper at the Spalding Inn, Whitefield, and helped raise all her grandchildren. They were the loves of her life.

Charlene loved going for long drives and hitting every yard sale she could find. Her true happiness was spending time with family and visiting with all her granddogs.

Surviving family members include her children, Richard Potter of Littleton, Tammy Potter Sanborn of Guildhall, Vt.; her sister Lois Potter of Groveton; grandchildren, Cayden Kilby, Jayce Sanborn, Shawna Potter and Krista Potter; and several nieces and nephews in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She was predeceased by sisters Jackie Halverson, Edna Crandall, Evelyn Scott, and Waretta Potter Sanford.

Memorial visiting hours will be held Tuesday evening, May 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Bailey Funeral Home in Lancaster. Burial will be at a later date in Northumberland Cemetery.

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



Charlene Potter

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