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UFO Report Renews Speculation Over Local Abduction Tale

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

Betty and Barney Hill were returning from a vacation when their lives – and popular culture – changed forever.

While driving through Franconia Notch on the night of Sept. 19, 1961, the Hills claimed they were taken away by visitors from another planet. It was the world's first widespread account of alien abduction.

Sixty years later, there have been hundreds of reported alien abductions around the globe. Meanwhile, depictions of people being snatched up by creatures from outer space have appeared in countless books, movies and television shows.

True or not, those stories are about to renewed attention.

The U.S. government on June 25 released a long-awaited report on UFOs. It states that 143 out of 144 unidentified flying objects spotted by military aircraft between 2004 and 2021 could not be explained.

It doesn't mention aliens. But no matter. The report, with its lack of conclusions, is certain to fuel theories of interstellar travelers.

That means UFO legends will be taken down from the shelf and dusted off for another look. Including the Hills extraterrestrial tale.

THE ABDUCTION

Barney and Betty Hill's otherworldly adventure began as they were traveling from Montreal, Quebec, to their home in Portsmouth, N.H.

According to their account, they noticed a bright light in the sky while they were driving along Route 3 near Lancaster, N.H. They concluded it was a UFO. As they continued south, it drew closer. Once they passed through Franconia Notch, they said it was directly over their 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air.

Barney described it as looking circular and flat, like a pancake, and said up to a dozen humanoid figures were looking through the craft's windows at him.

The Hills claimed they lost consciousness near the Indian Head rock formation in Lincoln, N.H. They said they regained awareness two hours later at a location 35 miles south of where the incident occurred. Later, under hypnosis, Barney and Betty said they had been taken aboard the craft, examined by the aliens and then released.

The story gained widespread attention when a front-page story ran in the Boston Traveler newspaper in October 1965. The story was subsequently picked up by wire services and appeared in publications throughout the world.

The following year, their story was turned into a popular book, "The Interrupted Journey" by John G. Miller. The book was later turned into the 1975 television movie The UFO Incident starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons.

THE AFTERMATH

According to their niece, Kathleen Marden, the publicity surrounding the alien abduction story had a negative effect on the Hills.

Prior to the story appearing in the newspaper, Barney and Betty Hill were primarily known for their work with the Civil Rights movement.

Betty, a social worker, and Barney, a U.S. Postal Service employee, were a mixed-race couple at a time when the practice was uncommon. Betty was white and Barney was black. They were members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Barney sat on a state board of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

They were also known as community leaders and were active church members.

"They were well known for the very good things they were doing in the state and then, out of the blue, they traveled home from vacation one night and had a close encounter," said Marden. "[The alien

abduction story] was not a good thing for them."

Following the newspaper stories and the book, the Hills attained celebrity status. Marden said Barney worked hard to publicize the book while also working on civil rights causes at the cost of his health. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1969. Meanwhile, Betty continued speaking about alien abductions until shortly before her death in 2004.

THE BOOK

Marden was 13 years old when her mother received a call from Betty about the incident.

"Betty phoned my mother to report a close encounter the previous evening. I'm the second person ever to hear about their experience," said Marden.

For years Marden said she paid little attention to her aunt and uncle's story. That changed in the late 1980s and early 1990s when she began working with her aunt Betty to "separate fact from fiction."

Marden spent 15 years looking into the matter. She and co-author Stanton Friedman finally published the book "Captured: The Betty and Barney Hill Experience" in 2007.

A 60th-anniversary edition of the book was released this year.

Years ago a magazine article described Barney and Betty Hill as a couple of people who saw a bright light, accidentally turned on to a back road and returned home later than expected, Marden said.

However, this account ignores the Hills' identical descriptions of their experience under hypnosis, the results of tests conducted on Betty's dress which found traces of unexpected soils, and other evidence, she said.

Since then, Marden collected evidence — through interviews with Betty, tests performed on the dress Betty wore the night of the incident, and accounts of Betty and Barney's separate hypnosis sessions — that lends credibility to her aunt and uncle's claims, she said.

"I was very skeptical, I tried to poke holes in this to break down this story," said Marden. "[But my research] led me to believe that at least part of this abduction experience was real."

For more information visit www.kathleen-marden.com



ABOVE: In this Sept. 16, 1966 file photo, Barney Hill and Betty Hill of Portsmouth are shown. (AP Photo, File)

BELOW: In this Sept. 14, 2011 photo, a car passes through Franconia Notch where a state marker is seen, in Franconia. Fifty years ago, Betty and Barney Hill recalled seeing a large, flying disc-shaped object, and eventually said through hypnosis that they were abducted by aliens. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)



Quick Fire & Rescue Response Likely Saved Schilling Brewpub

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Although the investigation continues, it appears the cause of the fire that broke out at the Schilling Beer Co. brewpub shortly before 6 p.m. Wednesday was an ember from burning wood fueling a pizza oven that blew out of the chimney and landed on the roof.

The quick response by Littleton firefighters and firefighters from neighboring towns prevented the flames from spreading and very likely saved the building, Littleton Fire Rescue Chief Michael McQuillen said Thursday.

“The potential was there and I was nervous about losing that building, just based on where the fire was going,” he said. “But I think the quick response from the initial firefighters that got on scene, to get up there and get on that fire with that hand-line in place and be able to get the ladder into place as quickly as they did prevented the spread of that fire. It was outstanding, with the vehicle placement and the quick response of getting everything into place to be able to attack that fire as quickly as they did.”

Responding were firefighters from departments in Littleton, Whitefield, St. Johnsbury (which provided station coverage for LFR), Sugar Hill, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Franconia, and Lisbon.

“I’d say we had between 30 and 35 firefighters assisting in the fire,” said McQuillen. “It was a great response and quick action by the firefighters.”

A crew entered the pub building along Mill Street and went up to the top floor, but it was soon discovered that the likely origin was external.

“We think it’s an ember from the chimney that actually got onto the wooden roof,” he said. “Crews initially deployed a hand-line inside and got up to the third floor to hit the fire and knock it down from up there.”

As they pinpointed the likely source as being outside, a ladder truck was deployed, and at the end of the ladder, suspended over the building’s roof, were firefighters Scott Daine and Kyle Bryant.

“They started opening up things from down below, but the heavy volume of fire was from the top, basically on those wood shake shingles,” said McQuillen. “They have several layers of the decking was on fire and it burned down through that, indicating the fire had burned through the outside, and burned into the roof.”

The Dutch ovens used to cook pizza run at about 500 to 600 degrees Fahrenheit, he said.

“They keep it warm with logs and it stays hot pretty much all day long,” said McQuillen. “It looks like one of those embers came out of the chimney and landed on the roof.”

Some customers dining outside reported that they didn’t realize anything was amiss until they observed passing drivers looking intently at the building.

No staff or customer injuries were reported, though a Littleton firefighter did have to be treated for minor heat exhaustion before resuming the fight against the fire.

“One of my full-time firefighters had a little bit of heat exhaustion from the initial attack on the fire, from getting up on that third floor,” said McQuillen. “He was okay, we got him some water and cooled him down and he was able to be cleared out of rehab and come back to work afterward. We had him evaluated and made sure he was doing okay.”

McQuillen estimates the total damage, between the roof and water damage, at about \$50,000.

To help patch the roof, a local business, Foto Factory, run by Art and Abby Tighe, donated material.

“We patched up the roof last night and made it watertight,” said McQuillen. “We were going to put up a tarp, one of our salvage covers up there, but Foto Factory donated some material that we

were able to screw into place on the roof to make it watertight.”
After nearly four hours on scene, the command was terminated shortly before 9:30 p.m.

On Thursday afternoon, Schilling co-owner and CEO Jeff Cozens estimated that about 100 people, among them those in the

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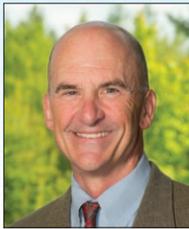
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News Briefs

Littleton Food Co-Op Relaxes Mask Mandate

LITTLETON — After nearly a year and a half, the first business in town to have a mask mandate after the COVID-19 pandemic hit New Hampshire will be the last or one of the last ones in town to lift it and make mask-wearing optional.

After receiving feedback from employees, customers and stakeholders, monitoring state and federal guidelines and New Hampshire case counts, and meeting with its management team to develop a plan for lifting the store's COVID restrictions, the Littleton Food Co-op will be easing its current mask policy for customers and employees beginning on Friday.

As of Monday, there were zero active cases reported in the town of Littleton and in surrounding towns and just two total cases in Coos County and four total in Grafton County, with the Grafton cases in the southern part of the county.

Health experts conclude there is no reason for people who are fully vaccinated to wear masks.

"We've been following the science right along and it's hard to stop following the science," LFC general manager Ed King said Monday. "There are still some concerns, and we strongly encourage people who aren't vaccinated to wear masks."

All in all, with a few exceptions, 15 months of the mask mandate met with compliance.

"Our core customer gets it, but our occasional shopper or tourist might have a hard time grasping how seriously we take it," said King. "We wanted to create a safe place. That was our primary goal."

In a note to customers, LFC management said 75.5 percent of staff have been vaccinated and more and more of the local North Country population is being vaccinated.

When the pandemic began, the store began offering curbside pickup service for those unable to shop and closed some aspects of the business, including the meat case and hot food.

"Those are all back and fully operational and the only thing we haven't opened up is our dining area, which has been doubling as our curbside assembly point," said King.

But now, in-store customer counts are getting back up to where they were before the pandemic, he said.

Also on Friday, LFC will reopen its public cafe space and resume its regular in-store tastings, classes, and events.

The online curbside pickup service will continue.

Going forward, though, the food co-op will continue to monitor case counts and any new COVID developments, such as the virus' Delta strain, to determine if any restrictions will need to be re-implemented.

"We are going to pay attention to local numbers," said King.

The LFC is now running at about 8,000 members and is consistently signing up about 400

new members each year, he said.

"We are looking forward to a good summer," said King. "We hope Canada opens up soon. We get quite a few Canadians."

As of Monday, restrictions on the U.S.-Canadian border are expected to be lifted in July in a phased border reopening.

SAU 36 Removes Mask Mandate For Summer School

WHITEFIELD — Masks off.

The White Mountains Regional SAU 36 School Board on Thursday unanimously approved a summer school COVID-19 mitigation plan which rolls back the school district's mask mandate.

Under the plan, masks must be worn on buses, but not inside or outside of buildings.

It follows the latest guidance from the state Department of Health and Human Services that face coverings are no longer recommended indoors and outdoors in low risk settings, including schools.

"It's a huge milestone," said School Board Member Herb Randall.

In another key change, SAU 36 will end routine COVID screenings at Lancaster Elementary, Whitefield Elementary and White Mountains Regional High School. Screening duties would fall to parents.

As before, symptomatic students may be sent home (an on-call nurse will make the call). But those incidents will be less disruptive to working families. That's because DHHS will no longer perform contact tracing in most cases, and will only quarantine household contacts.

"This is wonderful news, as many students experienced prolonged absences due to quarantine requirements. This change in practice will mean there is a greater likelihood of uninterrupted in-person learning for our students," wrote Lisa Miller, the White Mountains Regional School District COVID coordinator.

If successful, the summer school plan will serve as the basis for the district's fall-re-opening plan.

However, Miller wrote, everything is subject to change during COVID.

"Some epidemiologists are predicting a surge of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in September/October. If we see cases trending upward, we may have to escalate our mitigation efforts," she wrote.

The summer school plan reflects the state's changing COVID response.

Last month New Hampshire replaced its year-

old K-12 re-opening guidelines with "Universal Best Practices" guidance, which gives schools more leeway in how they operate during the pandemic.

The White Mountains Regional School District used Universal Best Practices to create the plan approved Thursday.

Beyond easing the mask mandate and eliminating the student screenings, the plan continues various mitigation measures such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and daily cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces. Classroom air flow would be maintained by HVAC systems, air purifiers and open windows. The cohorting of students will be recommended.

InkWell Coffee And Tea House To Reopen

LITTLETON — The InkWell Coffee and Tea House was down, but not for long.

After receiving an eviction notice in May and having their last day on June 16 at leased spaced at 42 Mill St., the stars aligned for owners Jim and Angel Anan.

Entering the picture to lead the new build-out and run the business at its new location will be their son, Gabe Anan, who recently graduated from Monmouth University in New Jersey.

The plan is to reopen for the short-term at the former Donut Cellar Shop, across the street from 42 Mill and in the building at 21 Mill St. that is owned by Matt Simon.

After receiving a new food license, that opening is expected in about two weeks, around mid-July.

Then, the plan is to sign a long-term lease to occupy space in what is now a large garage building at the other end of the river district, beside the Tannery Marketplace, which is owned by Joe Romano, who also owns the adjacent yellow buildings.

After a renovation, Anans hope to be up and running at the Tannery Marketplace location by early November.

"At the last minute, my son who just graduated with a business management degree, decided to come and live at home for while and help run the business to get experience," said Angel Anan. "He will be taking over Jim's responsibilities and some of mine so we decided to keep the business. As an interim location, we will be sub-leasing from our friends, the Simons, who had the Donut Cellar Shop, which is just a short walk from where we were."

Last week, Angel and Jim met with Romano and this week will be signing a lease to rent the

See **News Briefs**, Page 7



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ON THE COVER: North Woods claimed the District 3 Cal Ripken 10u title, 10-4 over Plymouth and will go on to states at Hampton next weekend. Kneeling, in front from the left are AJ Harden, Cade Samson, Calvin Foss, Jack McVetty, Noah Marier, Cameron Dowse, Easton Bowen. Standing are Tanner Davenport, Lucas McIlveen, Rory Shaw, Ryan Bennett, Reid Covell, Dawson Laflamme. In back are coach Ed Samson, assistants Larry McIlveen and Chris McVetty. (Photo by Arlene Allin)

LITTLETON food co-op

Weekly Specials

Prices Effective Fri. 7/2 — Thu. 7/8/2021

Senior Member Discount Day

Monday, July 5th, 2021

Littleton Food Co-op Members age 65+ save 10% on all eligible purchases. Standard restrictions apply. See service desk for details. 7/5/21 Only.

Member Appreciation Day

Wednesday, July 7th, 2021

Littleton Food Co-op Members save 10% on all eligible purchases. Standard restrictions apply. See service desk for details. 7/7/21 Only.



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New Jersey Blueberries

2/\$5



18 oz
Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce

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16 oz • Local
Cabot Butter Quarters

\$2.99



Organic • Local
Small Axe Farm Baby Lettuce

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8 oz
Blackberries or Raspberries

2/\$5



8 oz
Green Mtn. Gringo Original Tortilla Chips

\$1.99



5-6.5 oz
Boulder Canyon Potato Chips

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Broccoli Crowns

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18 oz Varieties
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6-8 oz • Local
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Certified Angus
Porterhouse Steak

\$13.99 Lb



Center Cut Pork Chops

\$2.49 Lb



Yellow or White
Land O'Lakes American Cheese

\$4.49 Lb



Mediterranean Bowtie Pasta Salad

\$3.99 Lb



Pint • Organic • Vegan
Coconut Bliss Frozen Dessert

\$4.49



3-4 ct • Organic
Alden's Ice Cream Novelties

2/\$6



750 mL
Fat Bastard Wines

\$9.99



12 pks
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Organic • Local
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School Board Hears Opposing Views On Transgender Policy

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

WHITEFIELD — The White Mountains Regional School Board heard conflicting opinions on a proposed transgender policy during their June 24 meeting.

The policy would require all programs, activities and employment practices to be free from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Two parents expressed contrasting viewpoints on the issue.

James Akerman of Jefferson spoke against the policy, saying provisions on bathroom and locker room access posed a threat to the safety and privacy of female students, including his two daughters.

“My daughters should be able to use the changing room or the bathroom without any boy, claiming he’s a girl, watching her,” he said.

Alison Breault of Lancaster responded that the policy would simply protect the rights and dignity of transgender students including her son.

“I don’t understand why this has to turn into something sexual, something deviant,” she said. “It breaks my heart.”

THE POLICY

Earlier this month the school board approved the first reading of the policy by a 5-0 vote. That opened the process.

The policy was drafted by the New Hampshire School Board As-

sociation in 2015 and has already been adopted, fully or in part, by roughly one-third of New Hampshire public school districts.

That includes five districts in southern Coos County: Milan, Northumberland, Stark, Stratford, and the Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative.

As written, the three-page plan would require staff to use a student’s preferred name and pronouns, and allow transgender students to use the bathroom or participate on the interscholastic sports teams of their gender identity.

Transgender locker room use would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Akerman said the school board should have consulted parents before the first reading.

“Your job, by law, is to protect our kids,” he said. “For you people to vote 5-0 and not ask the student body, and not enlighten the parents, is a dereliction of duty. You took an oath to protect our kids and you are failing by caving in to the social media and radical left agenda. You should be ashamed of yourself and resign immediately.”

The School Board replied that existing policies did not adequately address transgender students and that a more specific policy was needed.

“We have transgender students in our buildings now and we have not had a coherent policy. It’s been a lot of ad hoc stuff,” said school board member Herb Randall of Lancaster. “We’re doing the best we can but [the proposed policy] would be an improvement.”

PASSIONATE PLEAS

Breault’s son was born biologically female and came out as transgender a couple of years ago.

A nurse, Breault said transgender is a medical diagnosis, not a choice.

“It is known as gender dysphoria. It’s when a person’s physical, mental, spiritual, biological does not match how they were born. And it is a struggle,” she said. “I don’t wish that on anybody.”

She said Akerman’s concerns with bathroom and locker room access under the policy were unfounded.

To make that point, she described her son’s experience.

“My kid hates his body so much that he tried to kill himself, that he cut himself,” she said. “My kid would never go into a boys bathroom wanting to show his genitalia to anybody because he hates it. The same with a transgender female, she would never want to show her genitalia.”

Breault and Clare Brooks, a member of LGBTQ+ non-profit North Country Pride, said the policy would not radically impact non-trans students. They claimed SAU 36 students have used bathrooms matching their gender identity without incident for “at least five years.”

What the policy would do, they said, is give the school district the proper tools to protect trans students from harm.

“Our bullying and harassment policies do not include transgender and gender non-conforming students as a protected class,” Brooks said. “There are kids in the district who have been targeted and bullied for five-plus years. If they were being targeted and bullied for being black, Jewish, or Downs Syndrome, it would have been han-

dled at a level that would have kept these students safe. And sadly it hasn’t been.”

Addressing approximately 10 opponents to the policy in attendance, including Akerman, Brooks added, “Why must equal rights for one be less rights for another? If it’s Live Free or Die, then why can’t the trans kids live free like you’re kids live free.”

Meanwhile, Akerman said his motivation was student safety and privacy, not intolerance.

He described himself as generally supportive of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community and pointed to his career as a paramedic, noting he never asked “What’s your sexual orientation?” before treating a patient.

In spite of that, he vowed to fight the policy and announced his candidacy for the Jefferson school board seat.

“We’re going to use our weapons,” he said. “Us parents and taxpayers that love our children are going to use our weapons to defend our kids. That’s going to be our voice, that’s going to be our vote.”

NEXT STEPS

The school board, and school administration, are expected to continue deliberations on the policy through the summer.

SAU 36 Superintendent Marion Anastasia said she would convene meetings of various district committees, and administrators, to go over the policy.

Those meetings would address several of Akerman’s concerns, such as monitoring bathroom access or deciding “case by case” locker room use. Based on feedback, the policy will be subject to changes and revisions.

School Board member Kristen van Bergen-Buteau of Lancaster noted the policy covered all areas of school operations and was not focused solely on hot-button issues. It provides protections for LGBTQ+ youth, a vulnerable population that faces an elevated risk for depression, anxiety and suicide, she said.

“It’s really important for folks to understand that this policy is about a lot more than bathrooms and locker rooms. There are 10 specific areas of guidance written into this policy that address how to help children with gender dysphoria navigate their school lives such that they are not overwhelmed by worries about safety, and instead can focus on their academics and their social activities,” she said. “Without a policy we kind of hope that it goes OK. The policy provides us with some guideposts, some guardrails, about how to ensure that it goes OK.”

Chairman Greg Odell of Dalton said the proposed transgender policy was vetted by state and federal attorneys and conforms to U.S. Department of Education and New Hampshire Department of Education recommendations.

Working within that structure, Odell said, the school board’s mission was to “design policies that allow everyone to get a fair and equal education.”

While addressing the board, Akerman raised the specter of sexual assault, making it clear he wasn’t conflating transgender and sexual predators.

School Board member Robert Loiacono of Whitefield said sexual assault, and other violent crimes, were a separate and distinct issue from the policy under consideration.

“As to [Mr. Akerman’s] assertion that somehow a registered sex offender is going to come in and use this policy to go into the girls’ bathroom, there is nothing to stop that sex offender from doing it now. This policy isn’t going to make any difference for that,” he said.

In spite of the opposition present last week, Loiacono indicated he would support the plan. In his opinion, it served the greater good.

“I’m one of the people who [approved the first reading of the transgender policy] and I’ll vote for this policy every single time it comes up,” he said. “To say that there should be separate bathrooms for a trans child is to say ‘You are different, you don’t belong in the boys or the girls’ room.’ If a person identifies as a girl, she should be able to use the girls’ bathroom.”

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LOCATION: Dow Field, Franconia

(1971) Directed by Hal Ashby, Starring: Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon (PG)

This Cult classic at 50 years young pairs a dead-pan disillusioned 20-year-old obsessed with suicide and a loveable fun-loving 80-year-old eccentric.

EVENT TIPS: Bring a blanket or cushion to make your viewing experience extra comfortable, and pack a snack if you would like to enjoy a treat during the presentation.

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 3 & 4 | RAIN OR SHINE

TICKETS: at the door: \$25 GA, \$20 Colonial Members

Music Begins at 2 PM, Last Show Begins at 8 PM

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The Colonial and Rek’-lis Brewing are teaming up to present a two-day outdoor beer & music festival with four bands each day. July 3rd features headliner Zeme Libre, The Modern Fools, Poise, and The Barnyard Incident. July 4th features headliner The Blind Owl Band, Jason Spooner Band, Adam Reczek, and Sly Richard on the Rek’-lis green.

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WED, JULY 7, 11 AM • Tickets: \$7 at the door, Group discounts for 5 or more.

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COVID-19 Protocol: Masks are required entering and moving around the theatre. When seated, masks may be removed to enjoy the show.

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THURS, JULY 8, PRESENTATION: 8 PM, FILM: 9 PM | FREE Please register in advance for this outdoor event to receive weather updates: BethlehemColonial.org.

LOCATION: The White Mountain School – Ruhl Family Amphitheatre
371 West Farm Road, Bethlehem

Discussion and screening about the classic film Total Recall and what would it take to terraform Mars with Dr. James Kasting, geoscientist and Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University. Kasting is active in NASA’s search for habitable extrasolar planets.

FILM: Total Recall (1990), Director: Paul Verhoeven, Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin, Sharon Stone. Rated R.

Tickets & Info at BethlehemColonial.org



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News Briefs

Continued from Page 4

garage building that Romano will be renovating.

"It will serve as a perfect permanent location for the community and for growth," said Angel Anan. "I see the InkWell as an anchor on one end of the river and Schilling on the other."

In May, after the owner of the building at 42 Mill St. told the Anans in a letter that she wanted to renovate the property and they needed to be out, the Anans, to focus more on their church and ministry, had considered selling the business and its equipment to someone else who would ideally reopen the InkWell at another spot in Littleton.

Before the eviction notice, Gabe was planning on returning to Littleton and doing an internship with the InkWell so he could learn the business and his field of study.

That plan was scuttled with the eviction.

Soon, though, Angel was not feeling right about selling the InkWell.

Once she spoke with Simon and Romano, the new plan was set.

"I said to Gabe if you're serious about learning the business, would you consider staying for at least a year and you take over dad's responsibilities and even some more of mine and we'll teach you - really from the ground up because we are going to do a whole new build-out - on how to get a business started and how to run it," said Anan. "He was all about it. He said, 'You guys helped pay for my education and I want to give back.' He's very excited to start."

Simon plans on putting all of his donuts in Simon's Market on Union Street, as a part of a plan that Anan said works out for his business.

The space at 21 Mill St. is now being prepared for the InkWell.

On Tuesday, the Anans plan to sign the lease with Romano for the space beside the Tannery Marketplace and begin paying rent there in November.

The new space for the InkWell near the Tannery is about three times as large as the former space at 42 Mill St.

"He's renovating the whole inside to get it up to code and thinks that will take about two months," said Anan. "Then, we will come in and do our build-out, which will take about two months, so we're hoping to open in the beginning of November. We will have our own building and it's the coolest space and has a beautiful river view. There's lots of room to make new parking for us. It will be just awesome for our customers."

Because the temporary space at 21 Mill St. is smaller than that at 42 Mill St., food offerings will be reduced and there won't as much space for customers to hang out and do computer work, but all coffee and tea offerings will be the same, said Anan.

The new location by the Tannery Marketplace, however, can open itself up to private spaces for customers as well as a green room and outdoor seating, and while hours in the beginning will be the same, Anan said the plan is to grow into the space and perhaps open for few evenings.

"People like to do weddings in those coffee houses and we will have the room for it," she

New Parks And Rec. Director Hired As Dept. Enters Summer

LITTLETON — The Littleton Parks and Recreation Department has brought on a new director as it prepares for what is hoped to be a normal summer and works to overcome some infrastructure challenges.

Caitlin Leverone, a Littleton native, is set to begin the job on July 19.

She replaces Kelly Walsh, an adaptive sports specialist from Lyndonville who was hired as Littleton's parks director in February and departed a few months later to become the executive director of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country.

"We are looking forward to having a young, local woman who grew up here in the job," said Sean Doll, chairman of the Littleton Parks and Recreation Commission. "This particular individual was a candidate when we hired Kelly, but we didn't really get to talk with her on the first round."

Walsh had replaced former parks director, Chris Wilkins, who became director in February 2018 and left the department in November 2020 to become a Littleton police officer.

After Walsh departed in May, Doll said Kristi Hucksoll, the Littleton park program director, stepped up and took on reservations.

Also stepping up was Parks Department Superintendent Patrick Donahue, he said.

"Kristi has done a phenomenal job of righting the ship with reservations and Patrick with a lot of infrastructure challenges we inherited," said Doll.

One challenge is the gazebo at Remich Park that was condemned because of stability issues that were the result of deterioration.

"The gazebo was the one we inherited," said Doll.

During their work session meeting on June 17, Town Manager Gleason informed selectmen about the gazebo's condition and said it has been placed off-limits to people to avoid liability issues.

The gazebo's condition was a surprise, especially after the deck was renovated a few years ago, said Doll.

"The base is in great shape and the roof is in great shape and we are hoping to move on the gazebo as quickly as possible," he said.

The parks commission is also preparing to offer its summer programs in full force, now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in New Hampshire and virus infections are at all-time lows in the state.

(Littleton reported zero cases on Friday).

"We are hoping at least by mid-summer to have everything back to normal," said Doll.

Demand for programs is strong, and the department will do everything in its power to make it work, he said.

Last year, many summer parks programs were suspended or reduced and greatly restricted.

The Littleton Parks and Recreation Department has a number of offerings, among them summer youth camp programs with a variety of activities, childcare programs, adult softball and in-house basketball.

Facilities include Apthorp Commons, along Carleton Street, which features a soccer field.

Brickyard Field is along Blackberry Lane.

The Norton Pike Fields along Highland Avenue offer a soccer field and softball field.

The community's largest recreation area, Remich Park, along Pleasant Street, features large and small fields, a new playground, a gazebo, tennis courts and the community pool.

In March, town meeting voters approved a warrant article asking them for \$200,000 for a new town pool, water activity area, and new pump house at Remich Park to replace the existing pool that is a half-century old.

The starting annual salary for the parks and recreation director position is \$55,000.

said.

Jim and Angel Anan opened the InkWell in June 2017.

It proved a bit hit in town.

After Gabe is trained, the business will be turned over to him.

In the meantime, Anan will oversee it with her assistant manager, Ashlee Green, who will take on some duties Anan had been doing.

She said she's surprised at how fast the situation turned around.

"I'm really happy and it seems like the InkWell community is super-happy that we are keeping it and continuing on with what we've created," said Anan. "We always wanted to be anchor in the community, destination point, and we'll be on one end or the riverwalk and Schilling will be on the other - two anchor points and two destinations for visitors."

Juvenile Diversion Program To See More Referrals

The goal is to divert juveniles from the court system and reduce the likelihood of them becoming repeat offenders as youth or adults.

A half-decade after launching, the director of alternative sentencing at Grafton County and local police officials presented the numbers and spoke of what they said are the successes of the juvenile restorative justice program at the county complex in North Haverhill.

Since the program's inception, referrals to the county from some area towns that have no diversion programs of their own have risen.

Recent changes in New Hampshire law that

mandate diversion first and court second, if diversion doesn't work could increase that number.

Since at least 2017, Littleton has been the number one school-to-county pipeline, with eight in 2017 (accounting for nearly half of all referrals to the county), 12 in 2018 (account-

ing for 54 percent), 13 in 2019 (accounting for 87 percent), and three in 2020, the year of COVID-19 when schools were closed for several months and then resumed with some remote learning days during the week.

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Schilling

Continued from Page 3

store and tasting room beside the brewpub, were evacuated when the fire began.

The pub's roof has a liner with flame retardant material, he said.

The store and tasting room, opened in 2018, is owned by Schilling and the building that houses the pub, built in 1798, by Ron Murro, of Renaissance Mills of Littleton.

"It was the luck of the draw, but obviously something we want to prevent," said Cozzens. "We have a great relationship with Renaissance Mills and are working very collaboratively with them to make sure everything is done right."

Schilling management and staff are now assessing the water damage in the pub and cleaning things up to prepare for a reopening.

"We're very thankful and feel blessed that the damage isn't greater than what it was," said Schilling co-founder and technical director John Lenzini.

Cozzens agreed and said when he was called back to the pub while on a local business leadership retreat he thought he might see the second and third floors reduced to a "cinder."

The store and tasting room beside the brewpub was unscathed and will remain open.

The food truck will reopen Friday at noon with expanded outdoor seating.

Cozzens thanked Gov. Chris Sununu for his support and thanked the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, which is working with the brewpub on reopening the

pizza kitchen.

"Hopefully, within days and not weeks it will be up and running," he said. "The state support has been unbelievable. They are working with us to get open as soon as possible. It's been an easy process."

Cozzens also thanked local support, support from the New Hampshire Brewers Association, of which is president, and the support from the craft beer industry that has come from across the country.

"It's humbling," he said. "Brewers want to help brewers. We are floored by the outpouring of support."

He thanked the Tighes for their help in patching the roof.

In a post to customers and supporters, Schilling staff said, "This could have been so much worse had it not been for the quick action of the firefighters and the extreme professionalism of our staff in evacuating the buildings. Our people are safe, our guests are safe, and we are blessed to have escaped disaster."

At more than two centuries old, the pub building's character is what attracted Schilling Beer Co. to do a major retrofit to turn it into a brewpub, said Cozzens.

On the bank of the Ammonoosuc River, the Schilling pub, founded in 2013, has become a popular draw for locals and visitors and has helped revitalize the town's river district.

In the month of June, the fire at Schilling marks the third fire in Littleton that drew a regional response.

On June 8 and again on June 17, a fire broke out in the external air filtration unit at the Rotobec USA Inc. plant in the Littleton Industrial Park.

"We've had several multiple alarm fires in the last couple of weeks," said McQuillen. "My mutual aid staff and my firefighters have just done an amazing job and I give them all kudos."

AMC Huts To Fully Reopen July 1

BY KATHERINE
FIEGENBAUM
Staff Writer

Overnight hikers from near and far — as well as the "hut croo" — rejoice: the Appalachian Mountain Club's eight huts in the White Mountains will be open at full capacity starting this coming Thursday, July 1.

Last year, the high-elevation huts were closed to overnight guests for the first time in their over-130-year history.

While the huts reopened for overnight guests on June 3 of this year, it has been at limited capacity: a cohort model allowed groups to bunk in their own space (either their own room, or a discreet section of a larger bunkroom) and meals were shared only by the cohort.

This Thursday, however, most everything will be back to normal, including dinner: eating shoulder-to-shoulder with strangers and passing plates of food around the communal table.

The only remaining change from pre-COVID times will be bedding: guests will need to bring their own sleeping bag and pillow this summer and fall, since the huts do not have enough storage or laundry capacity to ensure proper cleaning or replacement of shared bedding. Mattresses will be disinfected between users.

James Wrigley, Director of White Mountain Lodging Operations for the AMC, said Friday that the huts are just about fully staffed for the year — the hut system employs 51 people spread throughout the eight huts in a normal year. While Wrigley says June has been slow due to the cohort bunkspace model lowering availability, the AMC is expecting normal occupancy for the remainder of the year.

According to a blog post on the AMC website, vaccination is recommended, but not required, for guests.

"At present, requiring proof of vaccination at our facilities would jeopardize the Special

Use permits that allow for our operation as a non-profit entity on public lands," it reads.

The AMC's hiker shuttle began operation starting on June 3 after not operating last season. At this time, masks are required.

According to Wrigley, last year the huts were able to remain open to the public for water, restrooms, trail information and rescue services, allowing the AMC to maintain much of their mission impacts beyond the support for recreation through overnight lodging. Trail crews ran on a "very scaled-down" model to address major issues and residential youth programs such as Teen Wilderness Adventures and A Mountain Classroom were suspended with a shifted focus on supporting schools on how to best use the newfound demand for outdoor instruction.

The AMC's White Mountains "frontcountry" lodges (the Highland Center and Pinkham Notch Joe Dodge Lodge) were able to open July 1 of last year onward, though suffered low demand.

"That low demand was, in part, normal seasonal dips in stick season and the obvious impacts to travel and tourism felt by the pandemic," said Wrigley.

Wrigley added that day hiker numbers have continued to follow the high trend that the AMC has seen in the region over the past five years, and the AMC is already hiring for the fall hut crew, whose season starts on August 18.

The eight huts include the Lonesome Lake Hut and Greenleaf huts in Franconia Notch as well as Galehead, Zealand Falls, Lakes of the Clouds, Madison Spring, Mizpah Spring, and Carter Notch huts.

The Randolph Mountain Club, which maintains four shelters in the Northern Presidential, has opened just two of them (The Perch and the Log Cabin) with the same restrictions as last year: one group in each shelter and one group per platform. Gray Knob and Crag Camp continue to be closed until further notice.

DINING



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Area Flower Farm Struggles With Drought

BY KATHERINE FIEGENBAUM
Staff Writer

“It’s totally scary.”

Tarnation Flower Farm in Sugar Hill has been experiencing drought since early last fall when their well, along with many others in the region, ran dry. Vanessa Tarr, who has been running the operation since 2015, said Monday that the water table has not been able to recover due to low snowfall this past winter followed by extra hot and dry spring temperatures.

While Tarr admits the property’s well is shallow, she said water has never been an issue for the past forty years that her father has lived and tended the land.

“This is a learning curve for everybody as the climate is changing at such a drastic pace ... sure, we’ve had dry summers, but this consistent, dry, hot heat early in the summer with no rain? It’s totally scary,” she said. “Last year when the well ran dry it was at the end of the season we were so smoked, so done, it was just like ‘we’re giving up.’”

While the well has filled up just enough to allow Tarr’s father to do his dishes and drink from, that’s about it. Tarr said she is incredibly thankful to be able to run a hose from a neighbor’s second (also shallow) well across the street to nourish her plants.

“If it wasn’t for them allowing us to use their well, we probably would be shut down right now,” she said.

Tarr pumps the water early in the morning and in the late evening. On Monday, she started watering at 4 a.m.

While drought is a problem for crops anytime, Tarr said that last fall’s conditions were more bearable because the plants had already established themselves and thus had deep root systems and greater resilience.

In the spring, however, small seedlings have sensitive, shallow roots that need lots of water to grow.

“When we plant into the ground in May and June and it’s 90 degrees out, they’re barely hanging on for life unless they have constant water,” Tarr said. “I’m talking a heavy soaking, multiple times a day ... it’s like dust right now.”

Plus, all the seedlings yet to be transplanted need watering as well.

Tarr was forced to close her farm store last week due to the weather: her perennial flowers came on about 20 days earlier than usual due to high spring temperatures and were used up long before the annual flowers were ready.

“This is farming,” Tarr said. “This is the situation we are in and we can’t control what mother nature does. All we can do is try to stay calm and reasonable and make plans so if the summer continues like this



Vanessa Tarr, who runs Tarnation Flower Farm in Sugar Hill, N.H., said Monday that the farm has been struggling with drought since early last fall with no end in sight. (Couresty photo)

we can still move forward.”

Tarr and her father are looking to put in a deeper well but have been unable to get in touch with anyone who can do so; Tarr said that she has called multiple places that dig wells multiple times in the past two weeks without a single response.

So the flower farm is on plan B: using the neighbor’s well and hoping a more permanent line might be able to be run under the road.

“God bless this community over and over and over again,” Tarr said. “I can’t begin to tell you how many people are calling me and stopping by the farm to offer to help water or use of their big 250-gallon tank.”

A Plan C has also been formulated, though Tarr hopes dearly that it isn’t needed. Large 250-gallon tanks could be used to water the plants, though it would be tricky due to the extra labor required with such a system.

“If we do hit that point, we would have to pick and choose what crops to save and which to let go,” she said. “That would be really hard because not only have we invested tons of money into seeds and getting plugs in but also so many hours and days and weeks planting and transplanting. To give up would be totally heart-breaking.”

While rain may be in the forecast, even

last week’s inch did little to change the conditions in the region.

“We were so desperate for rain, it was immediately gone so quickly,” Tarr said.

The farm is surrounded on two sides by water: a river and Coffin Pond. Tarr said that both are as low as she’s ever seen them.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire North Country and Northeast Kingdom are in a D1 “Moderate Drought” — to say nothing of the rest of the country.

Grafton County is currently experiencing its 9th driest year (out of the past 127 years) to date, 4.04 inches down from normal rainfall, while Caledonia County is experiencing its 11th driest year, 3.46 inches down from normal rainfall.

“People are completely unaware of how much we rely on water, and not just farmers: everybody,” Tarr said.

Tarr said many of her fellow area farmers are figuring out backup plans in case things get worse. She is currently talking with the Department of Agriculture to figure out what the best route would be to access emergency funds if and when they become available.

While the farm store at Tarnation will be open this week and back to regular business for now, everyone is hoping for more — and consistent — rainfall.

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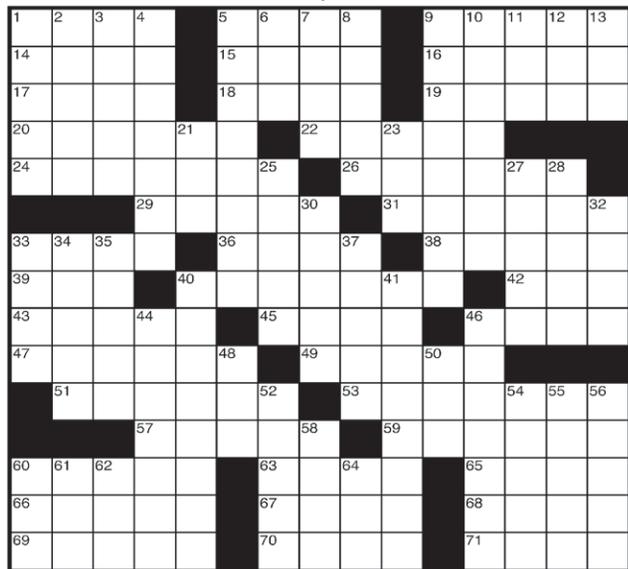
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- 22 Genuine warmth
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- 47 Withdraw
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News Briefs

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Haverhill ranked second in referrals in the years from 2017 to 2019.

“We definitely get a lot of referrals from Littleton,” said Renee DePalo, Grafton County’s alternative sentencing director. “It’s a busier area, they have multiple schools, and there are a lot of juveniles in the area with needs. We do work with the schools when juveniles are in our program ... We are going to start seeing more juveniles because there are some new RSAs coming out that are going to encourage, almost force, juveniles into diversion if they’re not high risk, meaning the police departments would have to try diversion before they would go through with any type of court case.”

As for offenses, criminal mischief and marijuana-level drug offenses are the two most common juvenile misdemeanor offenses in Grafton County, and the average offender age is 14 to 16, she said.

In 2018, Littleton had six cases involving theft and willful concealment, and in 2019 had three cases involving threatening or misdemeanor simple assault, all of which qualified for diversion.

A criminal charge is dropped and expunged from the juvenile’s record following successful completion of the program.

Felony charges against minors are rare, said DePalo.

Referrals can be made by police or schools.

The restorative justice process involves a panel of community members who get a clear understanding of what happened and what led the juvenile to commit the crime, said DePalo.

“We go through an understanding process,” she said. “We get to know the kiddo, get to know their lives, what their family life is like, and really identify any risk factors. Then we create an agreement with that juvenile. Sometimes it’s community service, sometimes it’s writing letters of apology to the victim or the police department.”

Juveniles have been required to complete research projects, such as the effects of marijuana on the brain.

“We get creative,” said DePalo. “The goal is that they’re doing something to give back to their community, to rebuild or repair the harm that they’ve caused. There is community service a lot of the time and always an apology letter of some sort, whether it’s to the police department because they had to deal with a 14-year-old with a pot pipe when they could have been dealing with someone more severe, or to a property owner because they damaged property. There’s always some form of apology that has to happen and we require them to deliver those apology letters in person.”

According to the New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network, diversion can cost \$2,400 per offender whereas some complicated court cases can run in the tens of thousands of dollars.

In addition to the reduced cost that comes with diversion, she said the recidivism rates for juvenile diversion programs in New Hampshire, which has 17 such programs statewide, are

Two Views On SB2 Petition To Transform Town, School Voting

LISBON — There’s a petition circulating that seeks to make the municipality of Lisbon and Lisbon Regional School an SB2, or Australian ballot, town and school district.

Put forth by resident, Sue Gadwah Farnham, it could go to a March 2022 ballot vote if it gets the signatures of at least 25 registered voters.

Gadwah Farnham’s rationale is straightforward — she wants to rein in town and school spending, give voters an opportunity for greater participation, and give them the opportunity to cast ballots and keep what they voted on to themselves.

“I think it gives more control to the town,” she said.

Not keen on SB2 is resident, Perry Gagnon, who said Australian ballot works well for larger towns, like Littleton, that have many warrant articles, but not so much for smaller towns, especially ones with fewer than 2,000 residents, like Lisbon.

“If they are not showing up to the one town meeting, what makes you think they will show up to two meetings?” he said. “You will have more uninformed voters. That’s a finding, from studies at the University of New Hampshire. I just want people to look at it from both sides.”

Gadwah Farnham’s petition was placed at several locations in town this week to collect signatures.

In New Hampshire, Senate Bill 2 passed in 1995 to allow towns and school districts to replace traditional March town meeting, where articles are debated, sometimes amended and then voted on, with a February deliberative session, where articles can be amended and voted on, followed by a straight-ballot vote on the articles a month later in March.

In the North Country, several towns and school districts have switched to Australian ballot.

They include the town of Littleton and the Littleton School District — which adopted SB2 in 1996 — and the town of Bethlehem.

The SB2 option for Lisbon was discussed most recently in 2017.

“It was the year all the selectmen resigned before town meeting,” said Gadwah Farnham. “The town manager at that time was in favor of it and had recommended it, but because of the chaos they didn’t do anything with it that year.”

She put forth her rationale for proposing it again.

“I’m a snowbird and I pay taxes here, but I can’t vote on anything,” she said, noting that she is usually out of town when March town meeting takes place. “If they do it as an SB2 and ballot vote, I can always do an absentee ballot, and I can’t do that now. I just see Lisbon taxes going up continuously and maybe it’s time for a change. I have been to several of the town meetings after we moved here in 2007 and I would guess there’s probably not more than 75 people there. I think more people need to be heard.”

Last year, the local school tax rate spiked \$3, from \$17 to \$20, angering a number of residents and resulting in a petition warrant article — which ultimately failed at the 2021 annual school meeting — that sought to cut the school budget by 10 percent.

The tax rate jump stemmed from money being returned to the school by the state in the form of a one-time payment of \$390,000 following the state reversing its decision to phase out the amount of state adequacy aid to public schools by 4 percent per year during a 25-year period.

Lisbon’s \$390,000 payment totals several years of receiving reduced aid in that amount.

The problem arose when the former school superintendent and former business manager recommended putting the full amount into the buildings

promising.

According to a state study, a juvenile’s likelihood of committing another offense within a one-year period after completing a diversion program is 20 percent lower than if they were sentenced in the traditional court system.

Nearly 60 percent had no arrests after three years.

By comparison, according to an Annie E. Casey Foundation study, 51 percent of New Hampshire juveniles who served time in a youth

detention center were later sentenced for adult crimes.

“Our program fee is \$100 per juvenile, but we do offer financial waivers for families who cannot afford the program fee,” said DePalo. “We are currently offering all program components on Zoom until families and panel members are comfortable being in close proximity with others.”

Unless the circumstance is a violent offense, sexual assault, or serious drug use, Littleton

and grounds capital reserve fund to pay for future projects without impacting the tax rate.

The school board, however, discovered afterward that the state counted it as an appropriation and penalized the school for keeping it, and the effect was a spike in the local school tax rate.

“The school budget was the big catalyst this year,” said Gadwah Farnham. “Everybody’s taxes went up and for people that are on a fixed income, like my husband and I, that’s not a good thing for us. For people that are raising families, it’s not a good thing either.”

She also said the anonymity of a ballot vote would be more comfortable for those residents who might not want to raise their hands during a traditional town meeting to have their vote counted.

“People are funny about raising their hands or standing up,” said Gadwah Farnham. “I think a vote should be private, especially at a school board meeting. In small towns, do you want to stand up and have people look at you? I just know too many people who are there and it’s uncomfortable. This way, it’s private. You vote the way you feel and nobody knows how you voted.”

Gagnon, who moved to Lisbon in 2018, said he also has concerns about intimidation during some town meeting article votes, but said the anonymity of ballot voting can still be had at traditional town meeting if voters approve having a vote on a specific article done by secret ballot.

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has stated that smaller towns don’t do as well with SB2, the reason being is some of those towns already have trouble with getting enough people to show up at a traditional town meeting, he said.

SB2 is not a value for small towns, and some towns in New Hampshire that have adopted it ended up with “buyer’s remorse” and tried to switch back, without luck, said Gagnon.

“Sixty percent of the voters have to vote it in and 60 percent have to vote to repeal it,” he said. “It’s not a simple majority ... It’s not easy to get in and it’s definitely not easy to get rid of. I just want people to do a little bit of research about it because once you go into it, it’s hard to get out of it. Many towns tried to repeal it and weren’t able to.”

The concern is that a handful of voters will show up to a deliberative session and either approve articles or amend them or vote them down, and many more voters will show up to the ballot vote a month later and cast votes on articles they aren’t fully informed about, said Gagnon.

The biggest issue in Lisbon is the taxes, though SB2 might not be the panacea to address taxes or cut spending, he said.

“Some of that stuff is necessary and we do have to have paving and infrastructure projects and that’s why people go to a town meeting and vote for it,” said Gagnon.

Pointing to an SB2 history by the DRA, he said Bethlehem, a town of some 2,500 residents that adopted SB2 in 2001, tried to repeal it twice, in 2002 and 2008, but both attempts failed.

Haverhill attempted to go SB2 in 2002 and Sugar Hill in 2010, but those proposals failed.

Whitefield’s proposals to adopt failed in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2010.

“The biggest piece I see for towns under 2,000 population is it doesn’t make any sense,” said Gagnon. “The DRA will point to studies. It’s just not a fix-all, and the thing I worry about most is it’s so hard to undo ... Make sure you know what you’re getting into.”

Gadwah Farnham said she might not get all of the signatures she needs for the petition, and that would be fine.

“I just think people would have more of a say about what goes on in town,” he said. “It’s an option. I’ve asked to have it a secret ballot vote. We’ll see.”

police are mandated by statute to automatically implement diversion, said Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

Although travel from Littleton to North Haverhill can be a challenge for some families, Smith said the program has been very successful for Littleton, which, because of limited money, could not have a program of its own.

That accounts for why Littleton has the most

News Briefs

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referrals compared to some other communities that have their own programs, he said.

Diversion was implemented for juveniles in Grafton County by the former county attorney, Lara Saffo.

"We've been a strong supporter of the science and the numbers that prove these programs work," said Smith. "The juvenile system is not supposed to be punitive in nature. It's supposed to be rehabilitative. Using that methodology, these kids get back on track and understand why they did what they did."

Under current rules, only if a juvenile fails out or commits new offenses would court be an option.

"They are given several bites of the apple before it goes down that road," said Smith.

DePalo said, "The more education and prevention work we give to kids, the more we reduce the option for that school-to-prison pipeline."

School Resource Officer

Another tool that can work with diversion is schools having a school resource officer, she said.

SROs are typically certified police officers of a municipality who work in the schools during the school year, with the municipality being reimbursed by the school district for the officer's salary and benefits, and then do regular police patrol or other police work when school is not in session.

After the Lebanon School District discussed removing its SRO, DePalo wrote the school letter outlining the benefits.

Citing costs, the town of Littleton in 2008 eliminated its SRO, though some in town in recent years said they would like to see an SRO back at the Littleton high school and middle school.

"There's a huge component to an SRO that people forget," said DePalo. "It's not just having a police officer in the school. It's not about just law. There's a lot of education that comes from the police in the school."

SROs can answer questions students have on a range of topics, and because they are in schools each day they are also able to observe any changes in a student's behavior and take a proactive approach before that behavior spills over into real trouble, she said.

"Their main role is to educate and be there as a support," said DePalo. "They are trained to see these changes and to know the resources in the community for any needs that arise."

Participants Invited To Join Second Annual July 4th Motorcade

LITTLETON — Participants are invited to join the second annual Fourth of July Twilight Motorcade, the town's newest July 4 celebration.

Sponsored by the Littleton Civic Booster Club, the event begins at 7 p.m., Sunday, July 4, at Athorp Common and proceeds down Union and Main streets, then turns up Maple Street to end at Littleton High School.

It was conceived last year as a safe way to celebrate the holiday while the majority of area events were canceled due to the ongoing pandemic.

"This is a fun and safe way to celebrate Independence Day as everyone will be in their cars," said organizer, Dennis Hartwell.

People will be decorating their cars in the red, white and blue colors. The event wasn't formally advertised last year because of social distancing and the intent to not have crowds gathering on the parade route.

This year, however, with the COVID calming down, people are invited to come to downtown Littleton and view the motorcade.

"This is not a parade and the motorcade route will not close down any streets," said Hartwell.

It will proceed in the right-hand lane and move with the flow of traffic.

Last year, there were 10 to 14 vehicles participating, and it is hoped to have more this year, said Hartwell.

Obituaries

Edwina Patricia Dewey Cowles

Edwina Patricia Dewey Cowles, "Pat," of Littleton, N.H., passed away peacefully at home June 23, 2021, surrounded by loved ones, at the age of 89. Born on Feb. 26, 1932, in Suffern, N.Y. She married Don on August 7, 1954, and together they moved to Littleton, N.H., in 1968.

Pat received her teacher's certification from Plymouth State College and was a member of Nu Sigma Chi sorority. Pat taught at the Bethlehem Elementary School for 20 years, retiring in 1991, after which she was a trustee of the Littleton Library for years. She loved entertaining, cooking, knitting, and shenanigans with her friends.

Pat was predeceased by 2 sisters, Eileen, Sheila, her loving husband



Edwina Cowles

Don Sr. and son Don Jr.

Pat leaves behind her sister, Jackie Rogers of Greensboro, Vt., daughter-in-law Janan Cowles of Cornville, Maine, Son, Timothy and Kimberly Cowles of Franconia, daughter, Cathleen and Gary Potter of Littleton, Grandchildren, Alisha, Amanda, Donald III, Anne, Tucker, Julia and Caitlin, Great-grandchildren; Noah, Shelby, Mason, Violet, Brady, Mike, Nick, Austin, and Isabella. Extended family includes the Campbell clan, Anna May Roux, Sadie Millen and many more still with us and many who left us too soon.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 29, 2021, at the All Saints Episcopal Church 35 School St Littleton. Burial will be at a future date. The family would also like to thank North Country Home Health and Hospice and her neighbors for the kindness care provided to her over the years.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Pat's memory to the Littleton Library.

Pat says, "if you want to make God laugh ... tell him your plans"

There will be no formal order of vehicles as everyone will line up according to when they arrive.

All participants should be at Athorp Common no later than 6:45 p.m. To sign up, contact Hartwell at lttnxmasparade@aol.com, or on Facebook, or by calling (603) 991-7517. There are no entry fees. Invited are decorated cars, trucks, and business vehicles festooned with red, white and blue. Not included in the event are floats, bands or marchers.

Pole Height Concerns Dominate Power Line Hearing

Eversource hosted a virtual community meeting Tuesday on the proposed Whitefield to Northumberland Power Line Rebuild.

Approximately 24 people attended the one-hour meeting, half of them Eversource employees.

Members of the public were particularly concerned with pole heights.

The company plans to replace 202 wooden H-frame structures with steel H-frames along an 18-mile corridor passing through Northumberland, Lancaster and Whitefield.

Structures will be 11 feet taller on average. In Lancaster and Whitefield 25 of 141 structures would be over 15 feet taller than before.

Eversource said the new structures are taller because of modern design standards.

Some local residents worry that the power line rebuild is connected to the failed Northern Pass hydropower transmission project, which faced heavy local opposition.

Not so, say company officials.

According to Eversource, the existing 115-kilovolt line from Northumberland to Whitefield is due for replacement.

The existing H-frames are over 70-years-old and are in poor condition due to age, insect and woodpecker damage, and pole rot, Eversource said.

Looking ahead, the time frame for the power line rebuilt remains unclear.

Eversource must obtain eight state and federal permits in order for the project to proceed. So far they have just one in hand, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Use Permit, for work in the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Whitefield.

Meanwhile local communities will remain involved. Eversource continues to meet with the Northumberland, Lancaster and Whitefield conservation commissions, to discuss potential mitigation projects for a state dredge and fill wetland permit.

Eversource hopes to begin construction later this summer and complete the project by the end of 2022.

Those with more questions can contact the Eversource Transmission Hotline at (888) 926-5334 or email NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com.

Selectmen OK Wireless Network

HAVERHILL — Wi-Fi is coming to Woodsville.

The Board of Selectmen on Monday voted 4-1 to proceed with plans for a wireless internet network in the heart of the precinct.

They allocated \$37,600 for Mosedale Integrated Solutions to install up to seven antennas, which would create a "mesh network" serving a half-mile section of Central Street between Dunkin Donuts and the Vermont border. That area includes Railroad Park.

It will be paid for through the town's Cellular Broadband Expansion Capital Reserve Fund.

The work is expected to be completed this summer.

Woodsville is currently a data desert with no cellular or wireless broadband service.

The mesh network will be created through multiple antennas hosted by local businesses, organizations or individuals, who donate bandwidth in exchange for promotional or technical services. Agreements are for three years.

Three hosts have already been confirmed:

— Vickie Wyman/Atlantic Real Estate, 147 Central St., one antenna

— Mike and Brie Choate/Mikes Garage, 26 Central St., two antennas

— Bob Welsh/Welsh Property Apartments, 143 Central St., two antennas

The town is also in talks with Jeff Elliot of Bossman Outdoors (24 Railroad St.) to host two antennas. That location would be at the center

See **News Briefs**, Page 14

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Littleton First Friday Returns July 2

LITTLETON, N.H. — Littleton's First Friday Arts series continues Friday, July 2.

This month's event takes place in downtown Littleton, Remich Park and Riverfront Commons (the end of Riverglen Ln.). Downtown will feature 21 businesses teamed up with 21 artists, 12 musicians/groups, four pop-up shops, and nine food vendors.

Hosted by the Littleton Cultural Arts Commission (LCAC), the vision for Littleton First Friday Arts is a town-wide, grassroots approach where participants are encouraged to collaborate. "It is an event in which Littleton businesses, restaurants, shops, galleries, artists' studios, and non-profit organizations open their doors and activate public spaces on the first Friday evening of each month for the community's enjoyment," says the LCAC's Jason Tors. "The result is a dramatic increase in foot traffic and economic activity as well as meaningful community engagement with the arts."

During the kickoff First Friday Arts event in June, "it became clear that something special was happening. It was a community coming together in support and shared appreciation of the arts," Tors noted. "It was a reunion of friends that got in the habit of isolation and were excited to engage in

chance encounters with folks that they haven't seen in over a year. Many didn't even know that there was an event going on and were pleasantly surprised at the amount of things happening on Main Street and surrounding areas as well as across the covered bridge in the Riverfront Commons."

Starting at 5 p.m. July 2, participating downtown businesses will be open featuring artists, musicians, food vendors, and non-profit organizations. People are encouraged to meander around town and "discover the amazing array of local talent that is currently blossoming in the North Country," Tors said.

At Remich Park at 6 p.m., Littleton Parks & Rec will feature music from the Barnyard Pimps, and have a food truck on site. Starting at 8 p.m. across the river at Riverfront Commons, Littleton Main Street and Littleton Cultural Commission will feature live music from local legendary musician Morris Manning. His band, Valhalla Taxi, features Linda Warnaar on trumpet and percussion, Steve McBrian on bass and vocals, Micah Carbonneau on drums, Morris Manning on guitar and vocals, Jim McLaughlin on keyboards, and Andrew on saxophone. The festive day will conclude at sundown with fireworks.

Events Calendar

Have an arts, entertainment & culture event you'd like to see here? Email the date, time, and details to Record.Events@outlook.com.

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

Tuesday, June 29 PERFORMANCE

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

Buyer and Cellar: Outrageous comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things, and the oddest of odd jobs. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

Wednesday, June 30 MUSIC

Heiland Consort: Classical chamber music inspired by the natural world. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. York Street Meeting House, 153 York St., Lyndon, Vt. Admission by donation.

Thursday, July 1 MUSIC

Holly Furlone: Singer-songwriter. 5 to 7:30 p.m. Iron Furnace Brewing, 115 Main St., Franconia, N.H.

EVENTS

Harold & Maude: 50th anniversary screening of cult classic Harold & Maude. 8:30 p.m. Dow Field, Franconia, N.H. Free admission, registration required. For more information or to register visit bethlehemcolonial.org

PERFORMANCE

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

Friday, July 2 MUSIC

Vermont Symphony Orchestra Home & Gardens Tour: A woodwind Quartet (flute/oboe/clarinet/bassoon) takes the audience through 120 years of American music from

Tin Pan Alley to Carnegie Hall. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, Vt. Admission is free but registration is suggested and pre-ordering dinner is encouraged. For more info visit highlandartsvt.org

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

Spruce Peak Summer Concert Series: KT Tunstall with Jason Spooner. 6 p.m. Spruce Peak, 7412 Mountain Rd., Stowe, Vt. For more info visit sprucepeak.com/concerts. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

PERFORMANCE

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

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

EVENTS

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

Saturday, July 3 MUSIC

Bandemic, Beer & Music Festival: Two-day music festival featuring headliners Zeme Libre (Saturday) and The Blind Owl Band (Sunday). 2 to 9:15 p.m. Rek-Lis Brewing, 2085 Main St., Bethlehem, N.H. Tickets available at the door. For more information or to register visit bethlehemcolonial.org or reklibrewing.com/4th-of-july. \$\$

Holly Furlone: Singer-song-

See **Events**, Page 13

WREN Summer Block Party Set For July 2

BETHLEHEM, N.H. — The Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) is hosting a summer block party July 2.

From the opening of WREN's latest exhibition, Nomadic Threads, to the official "Welcome to Bethlehem" mural unveiling, there's a lot of fun, free events at the block party. Area favorites including North Country Community Radio, Bitchin' Kitchen food truck, NOCO Mural Project, and more will be in attendance for this kickoff to the summer season.

The majority of July 2's events will take place in the freshly-landscaped pocket park adjacent to Local Works Marketplace, but Nomadic Threads makes its premiere within the Gallery at WREN.

Nomadic Threads is an ode to the natural landscapes and enduring heritage depicted in the visually sublime documentary The Eagle Huntress (which chronicles Aisholpan, a 13-year-old nomadic Mongolian girl who trains to become the first female eagle hunter in 12 generations of her Kazakh family). Through a globally rich palette of textiles and photographs, visitors will take part in a luminous journey across the soaring expanses of Mongolia.

Nomadic Threads features the work of two WREN member artists, Doug Weisman and Doug Masury.

Photographer Doug Weisman has a gift for capturing compelling characters through his camera lens. After a viewing of "The Eagle Huntress" several years ago, Weisman and his wife Julie were compelled to make their own pilgrimage across Mongolia to attend The Golden Eagle Festival, and

capture the landscapes and locals along the way. The resulting photographs are a testament to long, evocative travels into the unknown.

The work of fiber artist (and juried League of NH Craftsmen member) Doug Masury serves as a perfect complement to Weisman's portfolio. As a self-taught fiber artist, Masury has spent the last three decades capturing his passion for travel, music, color, and pattern through his woven work. Pieces range in scale from miniature to larger than life, and every work is imbued with a rich history of hand-painted fibers and hand-gathered beads, porcelain, and wood.

Event Details

Location: 2011 Main St., Bethlehem

Admission: Free

Schedule of Events

3 p.m.: Shop local (and outside!) with pop up booths from WREN's vendors, members, and partners

4 p.m.: Community – Super WREN members are invited to explore "Nomadic Threads" before the exhibition opens to the public

5 p.m.: The Gallery at WREN opens to the public

6 p.m.: "Welcome to Bethlehem" mural unveiling and official dedication

7 p.m.: WREN's Summer Block Party wraps up

Additional event details available at bethlehemcolonial.org.

Rek-Lis, Colonial Theatre Hosting 'Bandemic'

BETHLEHEM, N.H. — This is "Bandemic" weekend in downtown Bethlehem as the Colonial Theatre hosts the Bandemic Music Festival, a two-day outdoor beer and music festival in partnership with Rek'-Lis Brewery.

This celebration of music, beer, and community will showcase local artists and regional headliners July 3-4 on the Rek'-Lis green in downtown Bethlehem.

"We have an exciting slate of artists lined up," said Christine Kelly, Colonial executive director. "And we are beyond thrilled to once again share live music with our community." The Bandemic line-up on July 3 includes The Barnyard Incident, Poise, Modern Fools, and Zeme Libre. Independence Day, July 4 brings Sly Richard, Adam Reczek Band, The Jason Spooner Band, and The Blind Owl Band. The Colonial encourages festival attendees to bring a chair, blanket, or cushion.

Bandemic is sponsored by Nancy & Geoffrey Fages, Amoskeag Beverages, The Lawton Company, Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, Northern Lights Music, and North Country Climbing Center. Tickets are available at the door on both days. Space is limited; tickets are sold on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information visit the Colonial website at BethlehemColonial.org.

JULY 4th WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Burke: Burke Mountain hosts its annual Independence Day celebration at the Sherburne Base Lodge from 5 to 10 p.m. Scenic chairlift rides, bounce house for kids, food and more. Fireworks at dusk.

Island Pond: Independence Day weekend celebration kicks off with Evansville Transit Authority playing the pavilion stage at Lakeside Park at 7 p.m.

Jefferson: Jefferson will hold its Independence Day weekend fireworks display at Couture Field (behind the town garage) at dusk.

Littleton: Fourth of July Celebration. Activities, food, games, and more at Remich Park. Live music by the Barnyard Pimps starting at 6 p.m. Fireworks at dusk.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Island Pond: Independence Day weekend celebration continues. Parade at 11 a.m. (followed by chicken BBQ), Great Island Pond Scavenger Hunt at 1 p.m., Kats Rock n' Kountry at 6 p.m., fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Danville: Joe's Pond in Danville hosts fireworks at dusk.

Derby: Independence Day parade in Derby, at 10 a.m. To join contact (802) 766-4906.

Stratford: North Country ATV parade, flag raising and cookout. Parade begins at Burns Truck Stop, 1852 Route 3 at 10 a.m. followed by ride out to Cree Notch for flag raising. Cookout atop Cree Notch at 12:30 p.m. For more info visit www.northcountry-atv.com

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Bretton Woods: Fireworks. 9:30 p.m. Omni Mt. Washington Resort. Open to resort guests only.

Colebrook: Fireworks at the athletic fields at

dusk. American Legion Pancake Breakfast (7 to 10 a.m.), fishing derby (8 a.m. start) and Independence Day Parade (11 a.m., theme "Things You Missed Last Year") on July 5.

Franconia: Read-aloud of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution at 11 a.m., Squam Lake Science Center; live animal program, music by the North Country Chamber Players and more. Abbie Greenleaf Library, 439 Main St. For more info visit www.abbielibrary.org

Haverhill: The Woodsville/Wells River Fourth of July Celebration. Parade from Woodsville Elementary School to Wells River's Main Street, starts at 11 a.m., followed by live music, games, food and vendors on Woodsville Community Field from 1 to 10 p.m. Fireworks at 10 p.m.

Jefferson: Parade with the theme "Jefferson Strong" begins at 10 a.m. (Route from Hillside Cemetery to Town Office parking lot, following Meadows Road and Route 2). For more info visit facebook.com/JeffersonFestival

Lancaster: July 4th Parade. 10 a.m. Theme "Free From Quarantine." Begins at the Lancaster Elementary School and proceeds through the downtown area.

Lyman: Fireworks at 9 p.m. Ogontz Resort & Venue, 14 Ogontz Rd. Free. For more info visit ogontzwhitemountains.com

Newport: Harry Corrow Freedom Run (5K, 10K, 1 mile, or 10 mile) at North Country Hospital at 8:30 a.m. Concessions and food trucks at the Gardner Park causeway from 5 to 10 p.m. Fireworks on Lake Memphremagog at 9:30 p.m. For more info visit newportrecreation.org/july4

Danville: The North Danville 72nd Annual Fourth of July Celebration. Bake sale/coin drive 10 a.m. to noon in North Danville Village. Dickie Vance Memorial Run at noon. Outdoor cookout starting at 6 p.m. and fireworks at 9 p.m. For more info visit [the event page](#) on Facebook.

urday) and The Blind Owl Band (Sunday). 2 to 9:15 p.m. Rek-Lis Brewing, 2085 Main St., Bethlehem, N.H. Tickets available at the door. For more information or to register visit bethlehemcolonial.org or rek-librewing.com/4th-of-july. \$\$

Old Dominion: Country music. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion.com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Monday, July 5 MUSIC

Old Dominion: Country music. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion.com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

PERFORMANCE

Hello, Dolly!: Iconic Broadway musical about a strong-willed matchmaker who travels to Yonkers, N.Y., in order to find a match for a miserly half-millionaire. Bursting

with humor, romance and high-energy dancing. 7:30 p.m. Weathervane Theatre, 389 Lancaster Rd., Whitefield, N.H. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$\$-\$\$\$

Tuesday, July 6

PERFORMANCE

Born To Entertain: Family-friendly, kid-centric show presented by the Patchwork Players. 11 a.m. Live streamed. For more info visit www.weathervanenh.org. \$

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

CLOSE TO HOME

The Beautiful Game



BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY MCPHAUL

When my kids were in kindergarten, I started coaching their soccer teams through the local recreation department. I love soccer. Loved playing it as a kid, then in college, then out in Colorado, and for one summer on a rag-tag team of women from teenaged to middle-aged in Ireland. So of course I loved coaching it, too. It was gratifying to see the kids – my own and their classmates – progress from kindergarten all the way through elementary school, at which point I moved to the spectating side of the field.

It was a bit of a bummer last fall when my youngest and her classmates missed out on their last year of rec soccer – and their last chance to vie for the coveted Halloween Cup, that annual end-of-the-season tournament, played on the home field, right next to the playground they've all been swinging and sliding and climbing through since they were toddlers. My friend Mike and I still got to coach the kids in practices and intrateam scrimmages, but it wasn't quite the same without the competition of playing against other teams. And while I sympathized with the kids, I also felt a twinge of my own remorse for missing out on this last year of coaching.

Still, I hesitated this spring when I was asked to help with my youngest daughter's club team. Just having two of my kids playing spring soccer was a big time commitment, and I wasn't sure I wanted to add one more thing to my plate. But in the end, I figured if I was going to be sitting at practices and driving to games anyway, I may as well help out – as long as I didn't have to be in charge of planning practices or any of the administrative stuff. Basically, I agreed to be there to follow someone else's lead.

In all the years I've coached (both soccer and skiing) I've been lucky to have some strong leads to follow. I've learned from the people I've coached with – and from watching many of the coaches who have guided my kids' athletic endeavors when I'm on the other side of the field (or the ski slope) with the spectators.

This spring's coaching experience was different than coaching fall soccer. Many of the kids, I met for the first time in April, when we started

kicking the ball around inside. Some of them I knew from two years ago – pre Covid – when they'd first played on the same team with my daughter. The only one I'd known since kindergarten was my own.

One of the perks of coaching is that you get to know the kids differently than when you're a parent on the sideline. And this group of girls was super

fun to get to know. They are silly while still being competitive. Smart. Sometimes a little sassy. Tough. And supremely coachable.

Scott, whose lead I got to follow this spring, is one of those coaches who has an innate ability to connect with players. If you've ever had a good coach, you'll know what I mean here. They exude good energy. They're almost always positive. They expect you to play to your potential and will tell you – in a constructive way – when you can do better. When you have a coach like that, you always try your hardest, always want to play more, play better.

These girls worked hard and had fun through the season, whether it was 90 degrees and oppressively humid or 45 and raining. Girls who early in the season told me they simply couldn't kick the ball with their left foot were, by June, making defensive clears, attacking crosses, and even a goal or two – with that left foot. Girls who had been timid during the first games became confident. Girls who hardly knew each other off the field somehow connected on it – learning which passes to send and which runs to make and how to work together.

Sometimes, on the sidelines during games, we coaches meted out tactical advice. Often, we just watched the girls play and relished their love of the game. Who knows where soccer might lead them? Onto a high school team, maybe, or even college. To a team in a Colorado ski town, or a village in the west of Ireland. Perhaps, someday, these girls will be on the coaching side of the field, guiding the next group of youngsters through the beautiful game.

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

Events

Continued from Page 12

writer. Noon to 3 p.m. Schilling Beer Co., 18 Mill St., Littleton, N.H.

Old Dominion: Country music. Bank of New Hampshire Pavillion. For more info visit banknhpavilion.com. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

EVENTS

Burklyn Arts Summer Fair: Music, food, artisan craft vendors, children's activities and a raffle. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lyndonville Bandstand Park, 50 Main St., Lyndonville, Vt. Free admission. For more info visit burklyn-arts.org/j

Sunday, July 4

MUSIC

Bandemic, Beer & Music Festival: Two-day music festival featuring headliners Zeme Libre (Sat-

Lancaster Motel Offering July 3-4 Cigar Sampling

LANCASTER, N.H. — As part of Lancaster's Fourth of July weekend, the Lancaster Motel is hosting a Fourth of July cigar-sampling celebration. It's the first-ever Lancaster cigar event, and is being hosted by the De León family, the makers of Monte De León cigars.

The fun and festivities happen July 3-4. Here's the scoop:

Saturday, July 3, noon-5 p.m., visit the DeLeón's mobile cigar lounge and enjoy cigar samples, craft cocktail tastings, trivia and plenty of SWAG. Watch a cigar-rolling demo with Gabriel Cruz-Ayala, cigar roller and owner of La Hoja del Chan, who's coming all the way from Puerto Rico to show patrons how to roll.

America's Got Talent finalist and Army veteran Sal Gonzalez

will play a set of live music from 7-10 p.m. Live music to accompany the evening cocktail bar and cigar lounge festivities.

Sunday, July 4, 8:30-11 a.m., watch the town's Fourth of July parade from the huge front patio of the Lancaster Motel while sampling a Bloody Mary, Mimosa, Boozy Coffee, or other classic cocktails accompanied by a tasty "breakfast" cigar.

4-5 p.m., Cigar and Cocktail Happy Hour with discounts. Learn how to make a proper cocktail with The Compass Rose mixologist Charles LaFond. Starts promptly at 4 p.m.

For more info on this holiday weekend event, call the Lancaster Motel at (603) 788-4921, or email cigars@thelancastermotel.com.

Rockin' The Park Returns To Centennial Park in Lancaster

LANCASTER — After taking 2020 off due to the pandemic, Rockin' the Park, a weekly concert series that celebrates local music and community, returns to Lancaster for its fourth year.

It takes place in Centennial Park on four Friday nights, July 9-30, starting at 7 p.m. Patrons can bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy the music with friends and neighbors in the heart of town. Rockin' the Park is sponsored this year by the Noyes Lecture Fund, a fund set up in the 1800s to bring arts and cultural events to Lancaster. The band schedule is as follows:

July 9: The Adam Reczek band – a danceable folk/rock fusion quartet

July 16: Ericka Cushing & Friends – soulful covers and enchanting originals; a voice that will blow you away

July 23: The Brothers Grateful Blues Band – Allman Brothers, Grateful Dead, and other blues and rock classics

July 30: The Barnyard Incident – eclectic mix of rock, jazz, bluegrass, and country; instrumentation includes electric guitar, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, and standup bass

There are a couple of changes in the format this year. Due to a lack of vendors, there won't be a food truck set up. Also, Rockin' the Park's longtime organizer, Taproot, has passed the baton to a small group dedicated to bringing live music to Lancaster. However, this year the concerts will be used as a hat-passing fundraiser for Taproot's Food Access programs, which include a gleaning program that gathers unused food from farms and backyard gardeners to distribute to food pantries and similar organizations.

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News Briefs

Continued from Page 11

of the proposed network.

It falls short of the 8-antenna, mile-and-a-half mesh network proposed last year.

During the discussion, some Select Board members questioned the piecemeal approach to the project.

"If you're going to do something, do it right or don't do it at all," said Select Board member Howard Hatch.

Others said action was needed.

"I don't believe there's a 'do it right' or 'do it wrong.' I think it we get it started, people will see what's going on, and they will jump on board," said Chairman Fred Garofalo.

Hatch, who cast the lone vote against, worried the mesh network would be wasted money, with larger broadband expansion efforts underway.

However, Town Manager Brigitte Codling, who sits on the Grafton County Broadband Committee, said broadband expansion was "years away."

Finding hosts, who are willing to install antennas and share bandwidth, remains the biggest challenge to the mesh network.

Select Board member Steve Robbins said without Elliott's participation, the mesh network's reach would be fragmented and limited.

"As far as I can see, without him, this isn't worth doing," he said.

However, if Elliott declined, Robbins (who lives on Locust Street behind Bossman Outdoors) offered to donate a portion of his bandwidth. He noted there were logistical challenges.

"I'm hidden [from Central Street] but maybe we could install a free-standing antenna with a line of sight?" he said.

Ultimately the majority of board members decided to proceed with the mesh network.

They follow other local, rural communities including St Johnsbury, Lyndonville and Littleton.

"People who supply internet service don't want to do it here because there's not the population, so we've got to do something else to help the town grow," Garofalo said. "Otherwise we're going to sit here and stagnate."

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Lunenburg Open Mic Night Returns

Music is back on the common with the return of the monthly Lunenburg Open Mic.

The first Open Mic of the season will be held on Saturday, July 10 at 6 p.m. It will be held at the Old Congregational Church at the top of the Lunenburg Common on Rt. 2 in the center of town. Music lovers will find a family-friendly, relaxed, small-town atmosphere. Bring instruments, voices, and dancing feet or plan to sit and enjoy the evening in the beautiful historical setting. Bring a finger food to share; beverages will be provided. Adults \$3, free for performers as well as kids accompanied by an adult. A door prize drawing will take place during the evening. Proceeds benefit the restoration project of the Top of the Common Committee.

For more Open Mic information e-mail questions@topofthecommon.org or call Chris, 802-892-6654. Other Lunenburg events can be found online at topofthecommon.org

Whitefield Library Slates July 23 And 30 Events

As part of Whitefield Public Library's Tails and Tales summer reading program, the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, a non-profit organization out of Portsmouth, N.H., will offer a virtual program for kids on July 23 at 2 p.m. about one of Earth's most amazing creatures: whales. Children will learn about one of the Blue Ocean Society's favorite humpback whales, Nile, who was born in 1987 and has remained a friend to sightseers over the past three decades. Kids will also have the chance to "virtually" go inside a life-sized model of Nile to hear about how humans and whales are similar. All, not just residents of Whitefield, are welcome to this informative, fun event.

Magic Show for Muggles: Also as part of the summer reading program, the library invites families to watch Magic Fred, a professional magician who specializes in children's shows, in a July 30 performance at the White Mountain Regional gym. This event is also free and open to everyone. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling (603) 837-2030, or visiting the library.

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