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January 2026

MONTHLY

Not Your Grandma's Scrabble

This local Scrabble® club is catching on

EAST KINGSTON — Every Monday in East Kingston, the group of word nerds that make up the Seacoast New Hampshire Scrabble Club come together to celebrate the game they love. Some are locals, while some travel from Massachusetts and Maine. Some are tournament experts that have played the game competitively for twenty or even 30+ years, while others are novices who've decided to take the game beyond their dining room tables.

What, you might ask, is the fascination with this family table game that's been around since its invention by Alfred Mosher Butts in 1938?

Club Director Ed Liebfried sees it as much more

than a simple word game. "It's really a math and strategy game, kind of a cross between chess and poker. The element of chance makes every game unique, and the luck of the draw makes it possible for players with less skill to sometimes beat the experts. The game becomes more fascinating as the skill level increases, and it can be very addicting."

Most weeks about ten players attend the club, with a solid core group of nine and numerous others who drop in from time to time. There are college students, retirees and those in between. The common love of the game seems to transcend generations by fostering friendships regardless of age.

In truth, every player has a unique view on why the game is special. Perhaps it's competitive fire; here's

a game in which, with reasonable skill, you can pose a challenge to even the best players in the world. Try racing an Olympic sprinter or hitting a big-league curveball sometime and you'll get the point. For some it may be learning new words. Perhaps it's about keeping the mind sharp. Maybe it's the element of chance. For a few it's a personal quest for excellence. All participants agree that a big part of it is the camaraderie and a bit of social time each week.

Louise McEwan, a freelance writer and casual player in Alberta, Canada, summed it up a few years ago in an article in the *Medicine Hat News* with the answer her husband gave: "Why do we play this game? Because we are hopeful people. Like a new day, every Scrabble game represents a new beginning,

another opportunity to face challenges, successes and failures with grace."

Indeed, even within a game, every new rack of letters is yet another puzzle, a present to be unwrapped and explored.

Ed started the club "to give something back" to the Scrabble community. The goals are to have fun, to grow the game and to be very welcoming to new players. He grew up in Exeter, where he started a club nearly twenty years ago. He was introduced to organized Scrabble at the Manchester, NH club — which still exists. Ed and Manchester's director Don Finkey are regulars at each other's sessions.

A network of clubs and tournaments extends all over North America. Tournaments are frequent in the northeast, with events being held locally in



An introduction to Scrabble will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at Harvey Mitchell Memorial Library, 151 Main St., Epping. All are welcome.

Epping, several times each year. There are even championship events lasting several days. Most tournaments have several divisions based on skill level (with ratings based on previous results.)

Perhaps you love the games of Scrabble you enjoy with your family. Maybe you play online. Maybe you're looking for

a new activity as we hunker down for the winter. Regardless of your reason, you're welcome to join the fun. There will be an introduction night from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Harvey-Mitchell Memorial Library in Epping, or you might want to join for a club session some Monday. For additional details, email ed.liebfried@gmail.com.

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Ice Castles brings winter magic to New Hampshire

» Looking for something to do outside the immediate area? Check out the following upcoming events.

NORTH WOODSTOCK: Ice Castles

» January & February (weather permitting)
» Explore ice caverns, squeeze through passageways, wander beneath icy archways, race down ice slides, and feel like royalty upon frozen thrones. Spots are limited; advance tickets recommended.
» 30-minute booking windows, 24 Clark Farm Road
» Cost: Peak: \$23 to \$32 / Off-Peak: \$15 to \$21
» Info/tickets: icecastles.com

CONCORD: 15th Annual Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament

» Friday, Jan. 23 to Sunday, Jan. 25
» The event hosts 60+

teams and close to 420 hockey players that participate in the tournament. The event also provides a wide array of family activities which include interactive games, rock wall, bonfires, live entertainment, fireworks, food trucks and ice and snow sculptures.
» Hours: Friday, 8 a.m. — 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. — 8 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. — 12 p.m.
» @ White Park, The Merrimac Lodge, 3 White Street
» Info: www.blackicepond-hockey.com

CONCORD: Winter Festival

» Saturday, Jan. 24
» Featuring a jaw-dropping ice carving competition in front of the State House, food trucks, and more. Dress for the weather.
» 11 a.m. — 4 p.m., downtown, Main Street
» Info: www.intownconcord.org

JACKSON: Snow Sculpting Competition

» Friday, Jan. 30 through Sunday, Feb. 1
» Talk to the sculptors and get a feel for what the process is to create and convert 8 foot high by 4 foot wide cylinders of snow into art. Entry to the sculpting area is free.
» Sculpting starts on Friday at 12 p.m. and continues through Sunday at 12 p.m.
» @ Great Glen Trails, 1 Mount Washington Road
» Info: <https://shorturl.at/ctVnK>
» Questions? 978-580-0905

LEBANON: Full Moon Fiesta

» Saturday, Jan. 31
» Local sponsoring restaurants will offer light food and hot beverages as you get out and enjoy the snow and some delicious food. This is an eco-friendly event — please help reduce waste by bringing your own mug, spoon and bowl.
» 6-8 p.m., Storrs Hill Ski Lodge, 60 Spring Street
» Cost: \$10 for ages 13+, \$5 for ages 6-12, \$30 for a family pass; ages 5 and under are free
» Info/register: LebanonNH.gov/Register

MARLBOROUGH, MA: New England Fishing Expo

» Friday, Jan. 31 to Sunday, Feb. 1
» Discover the latest fishing gear, equipment, and accessories from top brands. Get expert advice from experienced fishermen who know their stuff. You can also explore a wide range of fishing techniques, from fly



COURTESY PHOTO

Ice Castles is built using hundreds of thousands of icicles hand-placed by professional ice artists. The castles include breathtaking LED-lit sculptures, frozen thrones, ice-carved tunnels, slides, fountains and much more.

fishing to deep-sea angling. There will be interactive workshops and demos that will help you hone your skills and improve your catch.

» Hours: Friday, 12-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
» @ Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road
» Cost: \$17.85 per person (incl. \$2.85 fee)
» Info/tickets: www.nefishingexpo.com

MANCHESTER: Vinyl-Era Classic Rock Tribute: Fortune

» Saturday, Jan. 31
» Witness vinyl-era classic rock like you've never seen it before. The Who, Boston, Led Zeppelin, Journey, Foreigner — an endless list of unforgettable songs by rock's greatest bands that you'll find all at a Fortune show.
» 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St.
» Cost: \$34 per person

» Info/tickets: 603-668-5588 / www.rextheatre.org

HANOVER: Winter Carnival

» Thursday, Feb. 5 to Sunday, Feb. 8
» The annual event features ice sculptures, skiing competitions, and outdoor fun for all ages. This year's theme is "The Blizzard of Oz: Wicked Cold".
» Held at Dartmouth College
» Info: <https://shorturl.at/UbktO>

KEENE: Keene Ice & Snow Festival

» Saturday, Feb. 7
» An entirely free day of family-friendly fun featuring professional ice carvers, children's train ride, pony rides, roaming circus acts and buskers, s'mores, scavenger hunt, and much more.
» 11 a.m. — 5 p.m., Central Square
» Info: <https://shorturl.at/UUWvS>

MARLOW: Winterfest

» Saturday, Feb. 7
» Experience the magic of winter on this fun, festive and adventurous day featuring skiing, skating, sledding, and fun. Free and open to the public. Hot lunch and dessert will be available to purchase.
» 10:30 a.m. — 3 p.m., Krokka Expeditions, 767 Forest Road
» RSVP: www.krokka.org
» Questions? 603-835-9087

NORTHWOOD: Ice Racing

» Saturdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7
» Spectators welcome. Northwood Lake Ice Racing is a non-profit club established to benefit Camp Pride, a special needs camp for children.
» Racer registration at 10 a.m., racing starts at 11 a.m., Northwood Beach, off Lakeshore Drive
» Note: Race dates may be changed or canceled due to ice thickness
» Updates/questions: 603-303-4049
» Info: <https://nlira.weebly.com/>

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VETERANS CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Atkinson Veterans Club convened its January meeting to conduct official business with the 2026 officers present. Pictured, from left, Secretary Chris Witteveld, Commander Jack Costigan, Vice-Commander John Sobutka, and Librarian Dick Magoon. Regular meetings of the Atkinson Veterans Club are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m., at the Atkinson Community Center, located at 4 Main St., Atkinson. Veterans from neighboring cities and towns are cordially invited to participate. The Club does not require any membership fees or dues. Participation offers an opportunity for fellowship and mutual support among veterans.

Eat Local Burger Bowl

EXETER — The Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to bring back the Eat Local Burger Bowl, returning Jan. 23 through Feb. 1.

Now entering its fourth year, this popular event showcases the creativity, flavor, and talent of restaurants throughout the Exeter Chamber area—all in the name of answering one very important question: who makes the best burger around?

During the event, community members are encouraged to visit as many participating restaurants as they can, sample the featured burgers, and cast their votes using a convenient QR code system.

“Some of the region’s best burgers are found right here in the Exeter area,” said Jennifer Wheeler, President of the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce. “We’re proud of our incredible restaurant

community and love seeing people get out, explore local dining, and support our businesses.”

For event details and a full list of participating restaurants, visit www.exeterarea.org.

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NH DMV opens new branch in Raymond, closes Epping location

NH DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

RAYMOND — The New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announces the opening of a new branch in Raymond, within the Raymond Shopping Center, at 17 Freetown Road.

The new Raymond location, which opened for business Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, is replacing the Epping office at 315 Calef Highway. All services and operations at the Epping branch ended at the close of business on Jan. 9, 2026.

“Continually improving customer service and access to services is a top priority at the DMV,” said New Hampshire Department of Safety

Commissioner Robert L. Quinn. “This new, modern location will improve the customer experience by reducing overcrowding, improving workflow, and creating a more efficient and welcoming environment.”

“This new facility offers more counter space to support our expanding operations, provides improved customer access with enhanced parking, and increases safety for licensing tests conducted by our road examiners,” said DMV Director John C. Marasco.

The new Raymond location will be a full-service branch and operate from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with

extended hours until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The DMV conducts over 425,000 in-person transactions at 14 locations around the state each year. As of November 2025, all DMV branches operate on an appointment-only basis. A limited block of same-day appointments is made available each day

for customers with urgent transactions. Customers can find appointment availability on the DMV website, where they can select “Make an Appointment” on the homepage. Staff will also assist walk-in customers with finding appointments, including at other DMV locations if necessary.

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Timberlane Middle School Spelling Bee winners

PLAISTOW — Timberlane Regional Middle School held their 41st annual Spelling Bee on Friday, Dec. 12. Eleven students participated in the final Middle School Event sponsored by the Atkinson Lions. It was an exciting event that lasted fifteen rounds with 8th grader Lukas Szczapa spelling “cavorting” correctly to become the winner.

Lukas will compete in the New Hampshire State Spelling Bee in Concord in early 2026. Placing second was 6th grader George Comeau. Third place went to 7th grader Marlena Wagg. Each of these contestants received a beautiful trophy for their accomplishment.

Other finalists were Fiona Simonin, Dylan Groves, Abigail Lohnes, Aiden Coddens, Landon Chaput, Zac Spero, Caden

Liu, Jack Scarlett and Finn Coveney. They each received a plaque for their accomplishment.

Coordinating the Event from Timberlane was Ms. Ashlee Sarnie. The Moderator was Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis. And, the three Judges were Julie Hazelton, Elise Solloway and Kelley Binette. Needless to say, they did a great job.

Atkinson Lions making the award presentations were Atkinson Lion Veteran Dick Magoon, and Atkinson Lions President Robert Gustafson. The Lions provided the trophies and plaques. Best of luck to Lukas as he advances in the Spelling Bee competition. The winner of the New Hampshire State Spelling Bee in Concord will represent the State at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is scheduled for May 26-28, 2026.



COURTESY PHOTO

Timberlane Regional Middle School held their 41st annual Spelling Bee on Friday, Dec. 12. From left, front row: George Comeau, Lucas Szczapa, Marlena Wagg, Zack Spero, Jack Scarlett, Fiona Simonin, Abigail Lohnes, Landon Chaput, Dylan Groves, Caden Liu and Finn Coveney; back row: Julie Hazelton, Ashlee Sarnie, Elizabeth Ellis, Elise Solloway, Kelley Binette, Lion Dick Magoon and Lion President Robert Gustafson.

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learn more



Celebrate winter at Colby Library

Ann Massoth, director

DANVILLE — Winter is upon us, and it is harder to stay connected with our community when temperatures drop into the teens and roads are ice covered but we are busy with our new Chess Club, organizing seeds for our seed library, hosting the new Danville Amateur Astronomer's Club first meeting, launching an adult Nature Journaling Club and getting ready for two favorite February events. Our Annual Snowman Contest and Blind Dates with a Book both take place during the month of February!

The Colby Memorial Library's February Snowman Challenge is a month-long contest open to all Danville residents including children, teens, families, and neighborhood groups. Get creative and build an animal, sculpture, or favorite storybook character. Feel free to accessorize your creation.

Prizes — gift certificates to area businesses — will be awarded for

Best Traditional, Most Creative, and Best Overall Creation.

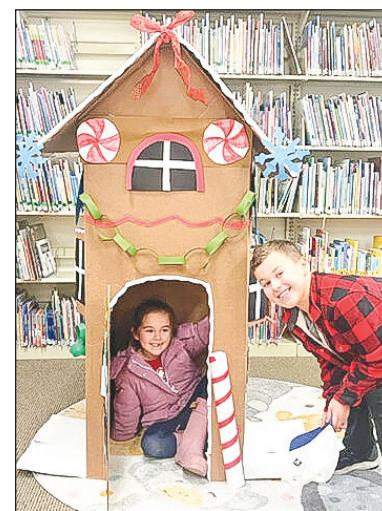
Snow creatures must be made during the month of February only.

Photos must be sent by Sunday, March 1 to childrensroom@colbymemoriallibrary.org. Photos will be posted on our Facebook page during the month of February so be sure to list the names of everyone as you wish them to appear. (Submission also grants us permission to use the photos on Facebook and in other library promotional materials.)

Let it snow!

February is the love month. Are you looking for the perfect match? Go on a "blind date with a book" and maybe you'll meet a new favorite character or author or even discover a new kind of book. Come by during the month of February and take a chance on a wrapped book and then, after you've read it, rate your date.

Stop by to check out our new



COURTESY PHOTO

A gingerbread house, created by Librarian Carolyn Killian, being visited by young patrons G'anni and Celia.

Teen Area with cozy chairs and a cool whiteboard worktable. While here, you can take or leave a puzzle at our Puzzle Swap, peruse the

Friend's Used Book Sale, and start dreaming of spring with packets from our Seed Library!

Other Winter Happenings

Danville Amateur Astronomer's Club: There has been a lot of interest in a new astronomy club created by Danville resident Al Daneau. We are happy to host the group's first meeting and collaborate with the group on future night sky events. Pete Smith of the NH Astronomical Society's Library Telescope Program will be on hand to discuss our telescope and others at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

Kid's Paint and Sip Hot Cocoa Party: Join us for a winter celebration at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 as we paint small canvases and enjoy hot cocoa.

February Shadow Activities: Will the groundhog see his shadow on February 2? We will be doing shadow and solar activities during the month of February. We'll have a suns poster, mini "sunoculars" and flashlights to use in the

library. (These items will not be available to borrow.) Be sure to ask us if you would like to see the sun or make shadows with the equipment.

Nature Reading and Journaling Club: Join us for our first of four seasonal meetings at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. We will read throughout the year classic and contemporary books about nature and keep our own journals of observations, drawings and more. We will share from our journals and discuss books at a spring, summer, and fall meeting. We'll also go on hikes and nature walks. For more information or to register, call Ann at 603-382-6733.

Early Release Crafts: Come to the library after an early dismissal from school to let off some STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. We will be making heart-themed projects. Challenge: What can you make with hearts?

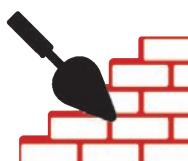
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22 Knightland Rd: Nathan W. and Stephanie C. Walker to Jacob Heckman and Sarah Padellaro, \$678,533

Lakeside Dr: Ljw Rt and Melissa J. Tremblay to Judy L. Runciman, \$434,000

1 Longview Dr Unit 3301: Lewis Builders Dev Inc to David T. and Lisa S. Beatson, \$696,400

27 Village Dr: John Doherty to Jeffrey and Taylor E. Walch, \$812,000

5 Amberwood Dr: Kimberly R. Calabro and Joshua C. Butterworth to Mark L. and Lori B. Bernier, \$681,000

132 Maple Ave: Jason Solbeck to Erika Halaby and Domenic Larosa, \$565,000

Old Coach Rd: Bakalyar Rt and Lea P. Bakalyar to Paul and Mary-Ellen Soucy, \$555,000

Sawyer Ave: Philip A. Paglierani RET and Frances L. Girenti to Bear Brothers Realty LLC, \$620,000

11 Sleepy Hollow Rd: Michele Hooper T and Michele Hooper to Michael C. Fay and Madison McCarthy, \$602,000

52 Academy Ave: Harty T2018 and Suzanne Harty to Jessica L. and Barry R. Hamilton, \$450,000

East Rd: Nancy P. Louiselle

to Sevigny Ft 2020 and Joanne M. Sevigny, \$535,000

DANVILLE

5 Coburn Hill Rd: New England Hm Buyers LLC to David and Erin Ford, \$450,000

72 Johnson Rd: C & L Estates LLC to Jordan R. Pynn, \$561,000

143 Colby Rd: Kevin W. and Diane S. Kelley to Glenn Kallery, \$590,000

31 Creek Hill Dr: Riley Ft and Paul Riley to Adam L. Castles, \$899,933

Kingston Rd: Verrill Management LLC to Inm Properties LLC, \$1,600,000

EAST KINGSTON

139 North Rd: Robert R Seally LLC to Todd B Bates RET and Todd B. Bates, \$1,110,000

HAMPSTEAD

185 Buttrick Rd: Terrile Michael J Est and Anthony R. Terrile to Angela Miller and Brian Fanning, \$700,000

Main St: Janet A. and Steven J. Farley to Frangipane Ft and Mary C. Frangipane, \$455,000

6 Russett Ln: Logan A. Russell to Carl Berube, \$575,000

12 Stage Rd: Stephanie R. Williams Lt and Stephanie R. Williams to Steven Lamb, \$945,000

Kelly Brook Ln: Helia M. and Michael J. Fredericks to

Shelby L. and Christopher P. Coplen, \$620,000

KINGSTON

11 Bass Ln: Kimberly J. Nicholson to Kaila Nicholson, \$160,000

Boston Rd: Kim S. and Cindy M. Wiles to John and Karen Pereira, \$425,000

10 Folly Brook Ter: Richard A. and Kristen Schrempf to Trevor Coish, \$560,000

River St: John F. and Mary A. Healey to Robert Banta, \$150,000

N/A: David H. Payson to Doreen J. and Mark A. Crandall, \$203,000

7 Coopers Grove Rd: Krystle Morgado to Erick W. Thiemke, \$934,000

2 Frontage Rd: 2 Frontage Road LLC to C & H Properties LLC, \$260,000

W Shore Park Rd: Tyler J. and Leigh-Ellen Magalei to William B. and Pamela M. Osullivan, \$715,000

NEWTON

Route 108: Michael R. and Bonnie J. Gomez to Michael A. Brandolini, \$500,000

PLAISTOW

135 Forrest St Unit 10: Daniel and Monique R. Swanson to Devan and Mary Jones, \$357,000

17 Horizon Way: Fgf Development LLC to Victoria Quirk and Jacob Stclair, \$799,000

18 Horizon Way: Fgf

Development LLC to Ariana and Stephen Panetta, \$799,933

Lukes Way Unit 1: Lukes Way LLC to Rwr Rt and Richard W. Rooney, \$620,000

25 Cottonwood Rd: James R. Ladd to Charles E. and Jacilyn Costa, \$682,000

15 Culver St Unit 23: Madison P. McCarthy and Michael C. Fay to Shannon E. Landry, \$349,933

116 Main St: Francis J. and Charlene J. Berube to Milestone Funeral Sertvic, \$1,500,000

118 Main St: Francis J. and Charlene J. Berube to Milestone Funeral Sertvic, \$1,500,000

31 Plaistow Rd: Bank Of America Na to 31 Plaistow Road Rt and Steven M. Lambrou, \$827,000

SANDOWN

156 Little Mill Rd Unit A: Jake and Alyssa Arigno to Kristy Marr, \$480,000

Main St: Codruta A. Lavalierre and Leandro A. Pidone to Moira A. Racich and Matthew M. Papi, \$645,000

26 Main St: Christine M. and Ronald S. Broadhead to Ryan and Samantha Beaudin, \$425,000

15 Brightstone Way Unit 15: Ferguson Lane Dev LLC to Jo A. Miller, \$649,000

61 Sargent Rd: Ljeb LLC to Tammy R. and Thomas C. Prinzo, \$613,000

Year End 2025 Housing Market Report released

NH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

New Hampshire's housing market continued to show resilience in 2025, with the median price of a single-family home reaching a record \$535,000, a 3.9 percent increase over 2024. While prices continued to climb, the pace of growth slowed significantly, marking the smallest annual increase in statewide median price in the past decade.

A total of 12,529 single-family homes closed in 2025, representing a 4.5 percent increase in sales compared to the prior year. Despite increased activity, affordability remains a major challenge for Granite State homebuyers. The year tied New Hampshire's lowest affordability level on record.

"It was a mixed bag for buyers in 2025," said 2026 NHAR President Josh Greenwald. "We are seeing more homes on the market than in recent years, but prices continue to rise. We still don't have nearly the inventory needed to make meaningful progress toward a balanced market, where buyers and sellers are on more equal footing."

Over the past decade, New Hampshire's statewide median sale price increased at an average annual rate of 8.5 percent. By comparison, prices rose just 3.9 percent in 2025, signaling a notable slowdown. However, market conditions varied widely by region. Carroll, Grafton, and Merrimack counties experienced price increases exceeding 6 percent, while Coos and Sullivan counties saw modest price declines.

"New Hampshire home prices are still rising faster than inflation, but we're beginning to see evidence that the rate of increase is slowing," Greenwald said. "That said, the affordability challenge remains severe. The median-priced home in Rockingham County was \$670,000 last year. Even with a 10 percent down payment, a family would need an income of roughly \$190,000 to purchase that home. That's an unrealistic threshold for most working families."



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⁸ Art, music,
Scrabble and more
at Epping Library

EPPING — Harvey Mitchell Memorial Library, 151 Main St., will offer the following upcoming programs in February.

An art exhibition by Gene Markey is on display during January and February.

Join at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 for a Valentine-themed story time.

Like to play Scrabble? Did you know there's a network of clubs and tournaments all across North America? The Seacoast NH Scrabble Club will host "Not Your Grandma's Scrabble" from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Join for an evening of information and play. Registration is required. Call 603-679-5944 or email hmmllyouth@gmail.com if interested.

The Fretbenders (Diane Kordas and Bob Kordas) will perform Americana, folk, blues, and original songs at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. All are welcome.

For additional information on upcoming programs, call 603-679-5944 or go to www.eppinglibrary.org.

Friends of Kimball Library honored



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Marnie Finn, Ellen Witherell, Hedi Shykes, Cinda Gregorio (presenter), Nina Grayand, Linda Jette. Not pictured: Chris Barney, Carolyn Birr, Kathy Casey, Kay Galloway, Dorothy Kantola, Penny Kelley, Shirley Reed, Judy Sirois and Marilyn Talbot.

ATKINSON — In December, the Friends of Kimball Library in Atkinson honored thirteen members who have served the organization for ten or more years. These women have contributed countless hours, ideas and hard work to support their Library. Some have served as officers, were involved in the new library built in 2008 and some have served or are serving as Trustees of the Library.

The Friends of Kimball Library are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the mission of the Kimball Library through financial support and services to enhance programs and materials available to library patrons of all ages. Over the course of almost fifty years, the Friends have worked diligently to provide funding for the Library which has been transformative. In 2018, the Friends were awarded the Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" Group presented by the NH Library Trustee Association.

The Friends meet on the third Wednesday of most months in the community room of the Kimball Library, 5 Academy Ave. Refreshments are served at 9:45 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. Questions can be directed to Marianne at maebert@comcast.com.



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Successful Mealey's Meals Winter Sendoff at Timberlane

PLAISTOW — On Dec. 23, 2025, Timberlane Regional High School sent students off to winter break with their annual Mealey's Meals Winter Sendoff. Mealey's Meals, established in 1980 and named after former Principal William Mealey, has provided help to families in need within the Timberlane Community. The money collected from the Winter Sendoff helps supply gift cards to those families in need during the holiday season.

Students were able to choose from multiple events. The annual student

vs. staff basketball game ended with another staff win, holding their undefeated title. The HS Milkmen Improv show was a holiday whodunit, where students and staff participated in finding the "culprit" of who un-decked the halls. Other students spent time together and were treated to holiday baked goods in the cafeteria where they participated in holiday fun and games.

Thank you to the students, staff, and community who helped raise money this season for Timberlane families in need.

» Students On the Rise

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following local students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's and Dean's List. PRESIDENT'S LIST: **Sandown:** Alexander Donnellan, Miles Meehan, Adam Newman, Rebekah Diem, Lance Cayabyab; **Plaistow:** Ella Lampron, Benjamin Comeau, Alyssa Lynch, Cameron Bonfiglio, Jack Keogh; **Newton:** Evan Riggie, Gavin O'Connell; **Kingston:** Jessica Evans, Matthew Lynch, Amanda quince, Kaylee Elliott, Mackenzie Howland, Cassidy Fresia; **Hampstead:** John Solano, Megan Howard, Leah Bunaskavich, Ryan Semenetz, Gabrielle Pothier, Megan Proulx; **Brentwood:** Charlotte Sullivan, Beck Silva Miller, Jack Delea, Justin Mailhot, Dylan Aviles, Timothy Carey; **Kensington:** Camden Quinn, Melissa Chessa; **East Kingston:** Dylan Senter, Tavian Renzi, Jessica Boland; **East Hampstead:** Nicholas Harrington, Taylor Curran;

Danville: Kylee Whitmore, Olivia Matarazzo, Kristen Regis-McGee, Joseph Bozek, Melissa Goncalves; **Atkinson:** Luke Downing, Morgan Richard, Laurice Touma, MJ Bruso, Gabriela Dias, Maxwell Sciola, Piper Knowlton, Ava Coppeta, Paul Forkus, Abigail Griffin, Willard Farrell; **DEAN'S LIST:** **Sandown:** Adam Horrocks, Kaylee Bloomfield, Adam Sheridan, Joseph Lafond; **Plaistow:** Ashley DiVito, Benjamin Sargent; **Newton:** Layla Uguz; **Kingston:** Ashley Thomas, Connor Quinn, Mergeline Gabrius; **Hampstead:** Jacob Robinson, Olivia Millette, Brady Lang; **Brentwood:** Sydney Hill; **East Kingston:** Brennan Bourassa, Michelle Hughes; **Atkinson:** Taylor Park.

Tyler Chiccino, a student from **Newton**, began their first semester in the Fall of 2025 at Lasell University.

Rachel LeBlanc of **Kingston** was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's

oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at MCPHS University.

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced that **Elias Duff** of **Sandown**, has been named to the President's List for the fall 2025 semester.

Lasell University announces the following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester: **Erika Murawski** of **East Hampstead**, **Adam Devaney** of **Atkinson**, **Cole Mackin** of **East Hampstead**, **Lila Meuse** of **Newton**.

Rivier University recognized 432 full-time undergraduate students on the Fall 2025 Dean's List. Local students honored include: **Sandown:**

Samantha Driend; **Newton:** **Olivia Hanson**, **Jaclin Jillson**, **Lily Papatola**; **Plaistow:** **Cameron Ingram**, **Leah Morrier**, **Melanie Wallis**; **Atkinson:** **Ryan Liberatore**; **Hampstead:** **Emily White**.

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10 Wreaths Across America 'Keep Moving Forward'

EAST KINGSTON — Wreaths Across America is an American nonprofit organization established in 2007 by wreath producer Morrill Worcester, assisted by veterans and truckers. Its primary activity is distributing wreaths for placement on veterans' graves in military cemeteries. Since December 2008, the United States Senate has designated the second or third Saturday of December as Wreaths Across America Day.

The theme in 2025 is "Keep Moving Forward." This is inspired by the last words of Army Captain Joshua Byers, Killed in Action in Fallujah, Iraq on July 23, 2003. An IED struck his Humvee. As he was dying, he gave his driver a last command, "Keep moving forward." Although Josh died, this command saved lives and became the battle cry for his unit for his family.

Principal speaker in East Kingston was State Representative and Air Force Major (Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary) Mark Pearson. East Kingston Selectman Joseph Cacciatore and Town Republican Committee Chairman and former Navy Chief Petty Officer Second Class Ted Lloyd also spoke.

Raising and Retiring of the Colors, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Singing the National Anthem and Taps was East Kingston Girl Scout Troop 59300, led by Karen Cumings and Robyn Carroll.



COURTESY PHOTO

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Fundraiser to benefit Heaven's Kitchen

HAMPSTEAD — Heaven's Kitchen will host a wine-paired Italian fundraising dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at St. Anne Parish, 26 Emerson Ave., to raise funds for the nonprofit.

The evening will feature a curated selection of exceptional Italian wines, thoughtfully paired by Domenico Staniscia of Highland Wine Company, with a multi-course menu inspired by Italy's rich culinary traditions.

A welcome reception will kick off the evening with whipped ricotta crostini with honeycomb and wild boar and mushroom bruschetta followed by appetizers, to include prosciutto and salumi, Parmigiano Reggiano with balsamic, marinated olives and roasted peppers, fresh mozzarella with hot house

tomatoes, fresh basil and balsamic vinaigrette, and rustic Italian bread with olive oil.

Soups, pasta dishes and the main courses will feature pasta fagioli, risotto alla Milanese, rigatoni alla Carbonara and braised beef with rosemary potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Patrons will end the evening with two dessert options; olive oil cake with fresh berries or biscotti, served with coffee.

All wine pairings are to be determined.

Tickets are on sale now for \$150 per person or \$750 per table. Seats are limited.

Proceeds from the evening will help feed residents and neighbors through the nonprofit's meals programs.

To purchase tickets, contact the church office at 603-329-5886 or Jim Carey at 603-339-3731.

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» Timberlane Regional High School Honor Roll

PLAISTOW — The Principal of Timberlane Regional High School is pleased to announce the Honor Roll for the first quarter 2025/26 school year.

Grade 12: HONORS WITH DISTINCTION: Ella Allen, Americo Alvarado, Samuel Anderson, Emerson Aprile, Kristen Baier, Adam Barnes, Charlotte Beau-doin, Tristan Bennett, Giuseppe Bordonaro, Sarah Boucher, Giada Bourassa, Gabriella Bourque, Lacie Bowman, Michael Chien, Audrina Cordeiro, Aladin Crnolic, Kiley Delt-was, Natalia Demir, Nora Devine, Jayden Diaz, Ailey Dowie, Alexandria Dow-ling, Dylan Durkee, Lila Fitzgerald, Matthew Fitzgerald, Brianna Flavin, Abigail Fowler, Lillian Free-man, Kaitlyn Fritsch, Jacob Fuller, Grace Gerhard, Allison Gonthier, Angel Gonzalez, Dylan Hagerty, Alexander Hammond,

Hailey Hannaford, Alli-son Harb, Maison Herbert, Ella Hill, Courtney Husson, Isabella Johnson, Tucker Kerem, Isabella Kim-ball, Austin Krotz, Tyler Kuchar, Dylan Kudym, Noah Kudym, Jack LaCreta, Kai LaFleur, Sean Landry, Brooke Langlois, Punna-thad Leemangkul, Kyle Lindblad, Kaden Linehan, Holly Malkin, Rory Mat-tison, Vincent McGravey, MiaRose Morrier, Noah Motard, Sabrina Nazarian, Sean O'Hearn, Adele Patrie, Ava Paul, Carter Peabody, Cassie Pepin, Maiya Per-reault, Sophia Perron, Landon Petry, Torri Pot-tie, Rocco Psareas, Hayden Quaratiello, Joseph Ray mond, Cole Rego, Nils Richardson, Abigail Rob-inson, Asia Rosati, Brady Ross, Haley Runnals, Ash lee Salafia, Alana Santos, Joel Santos, Michael San-tosuoso, Ava Sawyer, Emily Sawyer, Jude Sea-ger, Faith Septimo, Soha

Shah, Meredith Sheely, Gabrielle Sierra, Avery Simmons, Riley Smith, Cameron Stack, Owen Stevens, Luke Swanney, Hailey Taylor, Taylor Towse, Ariel Tripp, Elizabeth Wagnitz, Brooke White, Candace Wyman; **HONORS:** Emily Agneta, Taylor Alperin, Matthew Angiuoni, Rosalia Aquino, Carlie Ballard, Brodie Biros, Anna Bolduc, Matthew Boucher, Brooke Burnett, Kyleigh Call-ery, Kasidee Castro, Chase Dempsey, James DeRoche, Elliott Diem, Sam Domke, Sylvia Gignac, Lucas Guide, Alexandria Havey, Owen Hayes, Emilie Lemieux, Madison Leonard, Timothy Lewis, Ryan Lueders, Lillian McGonagle, Ayden Meranda, Elizabeth Nick-erson, Spencer O'Con-nell, Ava Ommen, Zachary Patti, Cameron Pettengill, Christopher Rabuska, Reid Robinson, Jackson Rose, Brock Shamlan, Ryan Sigillo, Rowan St. George,

Brooke Stasio, Sophie Stel-zer, Aiden Sutliff, Juli-ana Troisi, Dylan Webster, Abigail West, Ashley Whittaker.

Grade 11: HONORS WITH DISTINCTION: Emilienne Acerra, Jared Adams, Kayla Apitz, Emma Arboleda, Julia Aubrey, Leila Aureli, Matthew Bartholomew, Danielle Bates, Logan Beau-det, Kylie Beaudoin, Jack Bettez, Ethan Bilobram, Tevin Boucher, Brooke Bra-ley, Ryan Chartier, Austyn Cocoza, Camryn Currier, Jonathan Deming, Cole Dolloff, Rylee Donahue, Alexandra Dorow, Gaven Dubois, Grace Farrell, Aubrey Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, Kasey Fitzgerald, Vivianna Fortin, Trevor Gamez, Colleen Gannon, Eliya Gitterman, Anthony Gonzalez, Bryan Goudreau, Karolina Gromyko, Charles Hawkes, Maeve Hayes, Sarah Hayes, Lilah Hein-rich, Ian Hornsby, Shaun Ingram, Avery Jewett, Julia

Johnson, Skyler Kinkaid, Avery Labatte, Jailynn LaC-roix, Kieran Lamb, Tay-lan Lander, Aria Lobao, Rachael Malak, Joshua Maranian, Jacob Marcotte, Kellen McCarthy, Jacob McManus, Isabella Mercier, Olivia Miller, Logan Mot-tram, Emily Murphy, Keira Naimo, Bella Nunez, Bode O'Connor, Asia Ormond, Cole Ouellette, Dagny Ouellette, Indie Pease, Alexa Ring, Emma Scanlan, Logan Sharpe, Maddison Shute, Quinn Silva, Joseph Smith, Michael Smith, Mark St. Jean, Leland Tilton, Estelle Tovar, Grady Travers, Artem Tumbusov, Nicholas Vaccarezza, Ali-yah Wyatt; **HONORS:** Travis Barker, Mason Beckler, Colten Butterworth, Francisco Carrasquillo, Nora Casey, Benjamin Coveney, Lil-ian Currier, Connor Daw-idowicz, Saniya Delia, Ava Duszak, Zoe Ferland, Olivia Fernandez, Shaun Finto-nis, Colin Flynn, Samantha

Hackett, Ayla Hill, Syd-ney Kitchings, Aubrey Kittredge, Chloe Kittredge, Mackenzie Laschi, Sianna Lee, Lindsey Liszewski, Thomas MacKeen, Annalise Marcotte, Esnaidher Mar-tinez, Joseph Murray, Jason O'Brien, Breckin O'Connor, Noah Paquette, Ian Para-dise, Emery Pitman, Kyah Ramsdell, Jeremy Randall, Yuan Rivero, Brandon Roy, Phineas Ryder, Jacob Shaw, Gage Silva, Cameron Ste-vens, Maximus Theodore, Dylan Trepaney, Macie Tyler, Avery Vadebon-coeur, Joshua Varney, Dylan Walker, Landon West.

Grade 10: HONORS WITH DISTINCTION: Elijah Agyeman, Hannah Ahern, Natalie Babineau, Joshua Bard, Nolan Barry, Syd-ney Battis, Andrew Benas, Olivya Blair, Emma Bonfiglio, Trent Bouchard, Ella Bowler, Jaeden Bradstreet, Luke Broadhurst, Emily

See **HONOR ROLL**, Page 12



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Continued from Page 11

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Emily Magoon, Phiona Maloney, Natalie Maran-nian, Lukas Markiewicz, Jillian McCormick, Lucas Miguel, David Moniz, Han-nah Morel, Joshua Mose, Sabrina Muller, Samantha Murray, Adriana Nadeau, Garrett O'Brien, Alexa-ndra Oakley, Olaoluwa-kin-tan Ogunyankin, Benjamin Ouellette, Layla Patrick, Quinn Phillips, Hayley Piatti, Julius Pimentel, Emma Popa, Abigail Rick-ard, Vince Rigattieri, Hazel Russell, Matthew Santososso, Brooke Sargent, Lucas Sawyer, Abigail Sayre, Ava Schroeder, Taelynn Senter, Julieann Sheffield, Mya Sheffield, Delaney Sig-illo, Joshua Smith, Logan Spera, Abigail Stewart, Reece Stewart, Wyatt Sul-livan, Declan Sutliff, Con-nor Taylor, Emmett Tilton, Addison Travers, Andrew Vaccarezza, Ella Varney, Declan Whelan, Julian Whynot, Olivia Woessner; **HONORS:** Mryam Abdel-hadi, Stephanie Acierno, Matthew Agneta, Nicholas

Bourque, Ryan Cairns, Lena Canales, Anthony Cerasuolo, Natalie Charette, Lillian Clement, Noah DaSilva, Molly Devine, Cooper-Jayden Dorisca, Aidan Drew, Alexis Dro-han, Ava Dube, Khaliyah Francis, Ryan Francis, Josieh German, Veston Gordon, Joshua Hammer, John Kemp, Justin Keogh, Tristan Kimball, Shelby Kittredge, Caliryan Krisko, Jackson Lee, Jackson Lewis, Tayla Lopes, Anja Mack, Rylee Marino, Alanna McCarthy, Olivia McKeeman, Connor Murphy, Pat-rick Nugent, Wyatt O'Brien, Rylee O'Connor, Connor Philbrook, Ava Raymond, Brayden Rosati, Sophie Salovitch, Amy Scally, Paige Seuss, Christopher Sheehy, Finn Simmons, Alexandria Sims, Anthony Smithell, Dylan Stasio, Paul Staska, Lucas Stelzer, Nathan Stuckart, Danica Travers, Capri Walfield, Coralee Wentzell, Kathryn Whitney.

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New Hampshire Center for Photography's art exhibit and sale

EXETER — The New Hampshire Center for Photography will hold its 26th annual exhibit and sale Jan. 3 — Feb. 1 at the Exeter Town Hall Gallery located at 10 Front St. The exhibit will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Many of the participating photographers will be available to answer questions about their work during the Opening Reception from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday Jan. 3.

Forty-eight fine art photographers, displaying nearly 100 original works, have combined their styles and techniques to create a unique representation of old as well as new methods in the field. Black and white gelatin silver prints, conventional color prints, historically inspired hand made contact prints, as well as "state of the art" digital images printed on archival papers are among the many photographic methods traditionally exhibited.

This year's featured image is an archival pigment print by Michael Goodman titled, "Ice Cave, Iceland."

"Each year, we invite our 150+



"Ice Cave, Iceland" by Michael Goodman.

members to take part in this exhibition. These photographers, located throughout NH, are the

'best of the best,' and each year they exhibit their work in Exeter," said NH Center for Photography

president Gary Samson.

"When speaking with the photographers, you will find that

there is always a very interesting story behind each image and there are often various techniques and materials used to create the photograph," added Samson.

The name of the organization was changed from "The NH Society of Photographic Artists" to the "NH Center for Photography" last year, after a majority of the membership voted in support of the change. It was done to broaden the scope of the organization, to better fit their mission statement of education and outreach, and to encompass a wider range of programs. The group focuses on the education and artistic development of its members and the community by providing exhibitions, publications and educational events.

For more information, check the NH Center for Photography Facebook page: www.facebook.com/newhampshireforphotography and the www.nhcp.org website calendar page. The Exeter Town Hall Gallery is handicap accessible via an elevator inside the side door, adjacent to the parking area. Admission is free.

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Food and fun with Sandown Recreation

SANDOWN — Sandown Recreation announces the following upcoming programs and events at the Edward C. Garvey Recreation Center, 25 Pheasant Run Drive. Unless otherwise noted, register online at <https://shorturl.at/kVKTl>.

Unplugged Game Lunch: Take a break from screens and join for a fun-filled afternoon from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26. Enjoy sandwiches, snacks, and plenty of games for all ages. Bring the family, unplug for a bit, and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun together. Sign up through the Sandown Library to reserve your spot at www.sandownlibrary.us.

Monthly Murder Mystery: Think you've got what it takes to solve a mystery? Pick up your Murder at Maplewood Manor packet at the Rec Center before Jan. 29, spend the

month reading and investigating, then come back and share your theories. Join to unravel clues and see who can crack the case from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.

Half-Day Fun at Chuck E. Cheese: Get ready for two hours of non-stop fun. Join for games, pizza, drinks, friends, and unlimited play at Chuck E. Cheese from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. The cost is \$10 per child. A perfect way to spend a half-day—bring your energy and let the fun begin.

Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating: Whether you're bringing friends or a special someone, join for a hands-on cookie decorating class from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. A professional baker from Baked with Love will guide you in decorating 5-6 gorgeous cookies that are almost too pretty to eat.

The cost is \$60 per person.

Trivia & Tacos: Think you've got what it takes to be the ultimate smarty pants? Join for yummy tacos and some friendly trivia competition from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23. This family-friendly event is perfect for everyone—bring the whole crew and put your brains (and appetites) to the test. Sign up through the Sandown Library to reserve your spot at www.sandownlibrary.us.

Breakfast & Bingo: What's better than food and prizes? Join for a family-friendly morning of donuts, drinks, and bingo fun from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 26. The cost is \$5 per person. Bring the whole family and see who will shout "BINGO!" first.

For additional information, email recreation@sandown.us.

HOLIDAY MUSICAL RAISES \$500 FOR MEALEY'S MEALS



COURTESY PHOTO

From broken bunk beds to bats, tree fires to empty stockings, guest appearances from the Timberlane Fiddlers and Krampus, Timberlane's Milkmen Improv's Holiday Musical had everything from holiday cheer to festive fear. Most importantly, they helped raise \$500 for Mealey's Meals.



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The Hawk and the Rabbit

To the editor:

In the peak of the afternoon I saw her and so did the rabbit below.

Circling death, slowly around, there was a greeting it would bestow.

The rabbit dared not to blink nor to run, for terror had slammed into its heart.

The hawk glided up there in large silent circles timing when the race was to start.

The bark of a dog at the end of the field, and the rabbit knew it was time.

In silence it bolted, a desperate cadence, a beat of primordial rhyme.

It caught sight of a thicket not far away, and that's where it thought to survive.

But the hawk's dark shadow betrayed its descent, so the rabbit dodged still alive.

With nothing for refuge the rabbit's mind dissolved into chaos and fear.

Thinking only escape, in panic it ran, as death was chasing so near.

The rabbit was pierced by talons that grabbed it, and its life was taken away.



WAYNE TREBBIN

Nothing now moved in that field of brief struggle. Nothing else happened that day.

And though it seemed sad, the bird had to feed. It too had a mandate to live.

The universe takes its toll on the way, but also it's able to give.

In an absolute way the world, as a whole, seems neutral as far as we see,

But I make a choice, I choose to interpret that which I hope it might be.

Wayne Trebbin
Newton

Wishing all a Happy Valentines Day & Ground Hog Day

from all of us
at The
Carriage Town News

Carriage Towne News

Who should decide what you read?

To the editor:

Our community's right to read freely is facing an unprecedented threat. The New Hampshire Constitution (RSA 202-A) established independent library trustees for a reason: to safeguard intellectual freedom and ensure that our library's collections and services remain protected from political or ideological interference. The goal is simple but critical—to have decisions about library materials made by qualified professionals, not by shifting political winds or personal agendas.

Consider the alternative. Imagine a world where your next favorite book doesn't make it onto the library shelf, not because it failed to meet professional standards, but because a budget committee decided it wasn't worth funding. Unfortunately, this

scenario is no longer hypothetical. The Atkinson Budget Committee has set its sights on the Kimball Library—not because

of overspending or mismanagement, but in a bid to exert control over what you and your family can read and whether it can maintain its programs and hours of operation. Disguised as fiscal responsibility, their proposal to slash the library's requested operating budget is not just a matter of dollars—it is a fundamental attack on our right to access diverse information and ideas.

This is about more than numbers. It is a direct challenge to the principles enshrined in our state constitution, which empowered library trustees to defend our freedom to read without interference from political bodies. If we allow these drastic cuts, we risk losing the ability to choose our own reading material, placing that power in the hands of those more interested in control than with the community's interests.

As you consider what matters most to you and your family's reading choices and library

services, ask yourself: Should trusted library professionals—guided by expertise and a commitment to intellectual freedom—be responsible for selecting our reading materials and programs? Or do we want that authority turned over to a committee with their own agendas? If you have questions about the library, plan a visit, ask questions about the available books and determine what is fact or rumor.

The future of our library—and our freedom to choose what we read—is in jeopardy. I strongly encourage every resident to act. Speak up with your voice and your vote and show your support for keeping the Kimball Library independent. By doing so, we can make sure our library continues to be a welcoming place where people can discover new ideas, rather than a place where information is restricted or censored.

Tom Kelley
Former Atkinson Library
Trustee Chair

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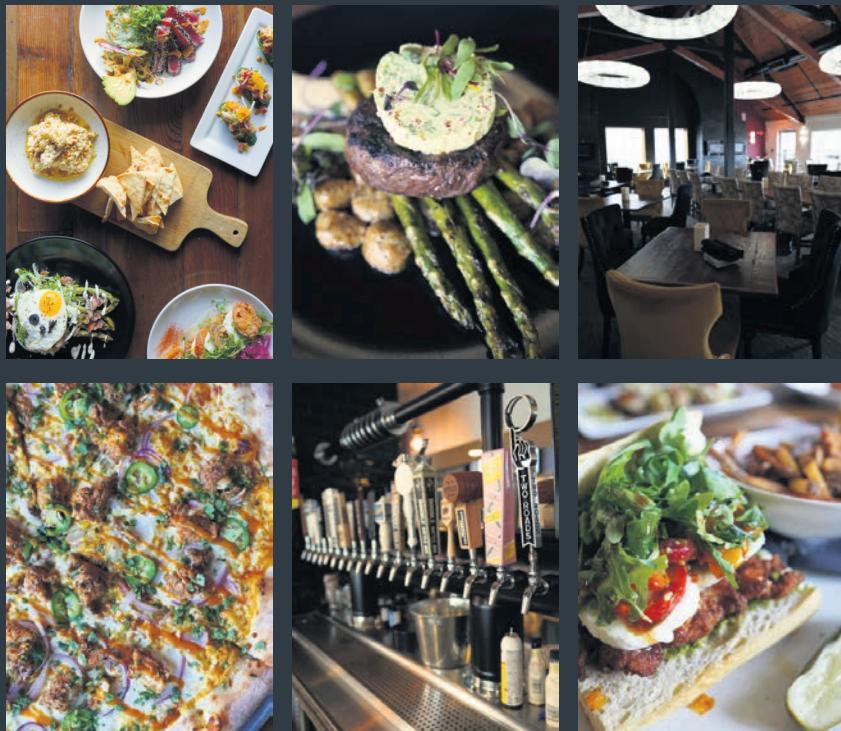


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Embroidery for all levels at Stitching Day Feb. 7

Embroiderers' Guild of America

EAST KINGSTON — Stitchers of all levels are invited to join the Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA) National Stitch-in-Public Day from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the East Kingston Public Library, 47 Maplevale Road.

Discover calm, creativity and connection with hand embroidery.

Beginners will have the opportunity to:

- Ask local embroiderer Vicki Brown about stitching;
- Learn at least one basic stitch;
- Take home a complete embroidery kit (while supplies last).

All participants will:

- View embroidery projects, both UFOs (unfinished objects) and finished work;
- See demonstrations of stitches and techniques;
- Connect with other needlework enthusiasts.

Whether you are multi-craftual, saw Cora do needlework on Downtown Abbey, want a mindful creative outlet, or became interested in stitching during COVID, come see why hand embroidery is a great way to cope with stress, isolation, and anxiety.

Stitch-in-Public Day is an annual,



COURTESY PHOTO

Local embroiderer Vicki Brown will host National Stitch-in-Public Day from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the East Kingston Public Library, 47 Maplevale Road. All levels of stitchers are welcome.

nation-wide event, celebrated by the Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA) on the first Saturday of February (also National Embroidery Month), where needlework enthusiasts gather in public spaces to share their craft, and introduce others to fiber arts like knitting, crocheting, embroidery, and quilting.

See <https://somega.org/> for local chapter activities and resources and sign up for a free monthly newsletter at <https://shorturl.at/5xzAI>.

Free fitness class in Newton

NEWTON — Senior Fitness classes are offered at 9 a.m. on Thursdays, upstairs in the Town Hall, 2 Town Hall Road. Classes are free, and all area town residents are invited.

These classes are low impact, low cardio exercises that are designed to improve, balance, flexibility, strength and stamina, some of which are performed seated in a chair. Light weights, resistance bands, and exercise balls are sometimes incorporated into the curriculum.

This program is beginner-friendly and is not just for Seniors. If you are returning from a long period with no workout regimen, or injury has required you to tone down the intensity of your previous workouts, this



COURTESY PHOTO

class may be for you. Classes are one hour with warmups and stretching to reduce the chance of injury.

The instructor is Jim Ryan, a retired LT from Newton Fire Dept. He has

been teaching group exercise classes since 1997. Wear some comfortable shoes and loose clothing. All are welcome. If you have questions, contact recreation@newtonnh.net.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jess Georato Gibb and Amy Gauthier during interview.

Ellis School teachers get a 'Power-Up' in new community-driven makeover video

FREMONT — A new short documentary from Teachers in Their Power, a teacher storytelling project, is shining a spotlight on two educators at Ellis School in Fremont and showing what it looks like when teachers are truly supported.

The video, titled "The Great Teacher Power-Up," follows a "Queer Eye-style" makeover experience designed specifically for teachers. The team surprised two Ellis School teachers with a full Power-Up that included classroom enhancements, curriculum support, and wellness care, all tailored to what teachers said they needed most.

"We talk a lot about supporting students, but that support starts with the

adults in the room," said Kat Clark, founder of Teachers in Their Power. "Communities thrive when the people who care for our children feel seen, valued, and supported."

Fremont is a close-knit community in southeastern New Hampshire where educators often go above and beyond with limited resources.

"We live in our classrooms, so it's our second home," said Jess Georato Gibb, one of the two fourth grade teachers who was chosen for the Power-Up.

"You want to make it feel like students' home too," said fellow fourth grade teacher Amy Gauthier. "Neither of us was able to put into words how much this has meant to us. It truly

changed us."

This project was supported by donations and local community members, including classroom rugs (Company C), fourth grade books (Water Street Bookstore), a staff pizza lunch (Fremont Pizzeria & Restaurant), and teacher wellness gifts/experiences from The Anchor & Bird, Children's Dentistry, Lovebirds Craft Donuts & Coffee, Lucas Salon, Modern Classrooms Project, Plymouth Soapworks, and VAIN Medi Spa.

The Great Teacher Power-Up is part of Teachers in Their Power's broader mission to elevate teacher voice and humanize the profession through storytelling. The video is now live and available to view at: greatteachersintheirpower.com

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18 East Kingston Library offers something for everyone

Sherry Castle, assistant director

EAST KINGSTON — The Friends of the East Kingston Library are having their annual Winter Social from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. The event is open to the public. All ages are invited.

It's Election Season and East Kingston has several open positions on the March 11 ballot. We're planning a Candidates Night at the Library in late February or early March. Keep your eyes on our website for details.

New Hampshire School Winter Break is the last week of February, and the library offers something for everyone.

Bring your toddlers and preschoolers to the Sensory Play Date at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23. We provide a couple of themed sensory bins. What happens next is dependent on what the kids want. Sometimes we sing or read a book but mostly the kids just play. Also, at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb.

23 is our monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting. Join in person or online; check our website for Zoom access.

Join one of our book clubs during school vacation week. We have Magic Tree House Book Club for the kids at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. We're on MTH Book #20: "Dingoes at Dinner-time". Adults are invited to our monthly East Kingston Book Club at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 where the group will discuss the non-fiction selection, "Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit" by Michael Finkel. Come pick up your copy at the library and get reading!

We have 3D Print Club at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 and a Felt Craft at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Lastly is a family favorite — Movie Night at the library at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

For updates or additional information, visit www.eastkingstonlibrary.org or call 603-642-8333.

More than just books at Kimball Library

Kathleen J. Watson, assistant director/youth services director

ATKINSON — We have so many options! This is just a smattering of what lies ahead. Take a look at our website for more details.

In-person: Michael Barson will present another fascinating look at historic Pop Culture as he discusses his book, "The Red Menace", a study of how anti-communism was reflected in popular culture at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26.

Online: Author Victoria Pruitt will talk about her book "Creating a Modern Homestead: Traditional Skills for Real, Everyday Life" via Zoom, at 7 p.m. Jan. 26.

Online: Attention history buffs! Join authors and historians Joanne Paul and Nicola Clark as they discuss their books, "The House of Dudley" and "The Waiting Game: The Untold Story of the Women Who Served the Tudor Queens" via Zoom, at 10 a.m. Thursday,

Jan. 29. Stop by and pick up a copy of "The House of Dudley" located at the main circulation desk on the book club shelf or find copies online through Hoopla.

Movie Mavericks: Filmmakers Who Challenge the Hollywood System will be presented by Patrick Anderson (NH Humanities) at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.

The presentation focuses on contemporary film directors and screenwriters in the United States whose originality, independence and unconventional approaches to the medium have contributed to the evolution of the industry. Among the filmmakers to be examined are Steven Soderbergh, David Lynch, John Sayles, Spike Lee, Quentin Tarantino, the Coen brothers, Wes Anderson, Sofia Coppola, P.T. Anderson, Jim Jarmusch and Charlie Kaufman.

Little Groove (Babies to Age 5): Little Groove Music will visit Kimball Library to introduce your little ones to music and instruments with this very

special program at 10:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6.

Bite Club (Grades 1-4): Join for a fun, hands-on cooking program at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Designed to teach essential kitchen skills, food safety, and nutrition basics, this program gives young chefs the tools they need to cook with confidence.

PAWS to Read with Laddie: Laddie, the newly certified Golden Retriever therapy dog and her handler Kate are here to provide a "judgment free" zone for children to practice their reading skills from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (by appointment only). Whether your child is an emerging or fluent reader doesn't matter to Laddie. He is excited to sit and listen to your child read their favorite books. Appointments with Laddie are for ten minutes.

Registration is often required for many of our events. Please visit www.kimballlibrary.com online calendar for details and register or call us at 603-362-5234.



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Seacoast Classical Academy Continues to Grow in Newton

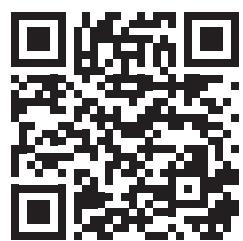
Seacoast Classical Academy Chartered Public School, now in its second year of operation, offers a traditional, classical education tuition-free for children residing in New Hampshire. Each day nearly 200 scholars in grades K - 9 bring energy and life to the renovated SCA schoolhouse on the grounds of the former Sanborn middle school in Newton, NH. The Academy offers a rigorous, content-rich curriculum designed to foster academic excellence while respecting and upholding the fundamental rights of families as primary educators.

Seacoast Classical Academy is part of a growing classical education movement both in New Hampshire and nationwide. At a time when many families are seeking an alternative to constantly shifting educational trends and digital distractions, classical education has gained renewed interest for its time-tested approach. Rooted in the study of great books, classical languages, history, logic, and rhetoric, the classical model emphasizes thoughtful inquiry, clear communication, civic virtue formation, and a deep and enduring love of learning.

Community response to the Academy has been strong, reflecting a broader desire for schools that cultivate intellectual virtue, civic responsibility, and academic depth. By blending these classical principles with the accessibility of public education, Seacoast Classical Academy aims to prepare scholars for academic success and meaningful participation in their communities.

There are limited spots available for rolling, immediate enrollment in all grades except for 1 and 2. In addition, the Academy is currently accepting applications for the 2026-27 school year for grades K-10. Families interested in applying may do so at <https://seacoastclassical.org/admission/>. Completed 2026-27 applications for each new scholar are due by February 15, 2026 for inclusion in the March 7th lottery.

For more information about Seacoast Classical Academy, families are encouraged to visit the Academy's website or attend one of its upcoming informational events, seacoastclassical.org.



Sandown Library News

Brittney Bergholm, director

SANDOWN — Stop by Sandown Public Library, 305 Main St., is pleased to offer the following upcoming programs.

Monday, January 26

Unplug & Play Luncheon: Join us for a screen-free afternoon of unplugged fun from noon to 2 p.m. Families are invited to play classic board games, card games, trivia and tabletop favorites together while enjoying a make-your-own sandwich luncheon.

Where Dragons Dream Book Club: Join the ultimate fantasy book club from 6 to 7 p.m. for readers who crave magic, mythical beasts, and richly woven worlds. This month's book is "The House in the Cerulean Sea" by TJ Klune.

Tuesday, January 27

Story Time (Ages 3+): Come join the fun with stories, songs, puppets and more from 10 to 11 a.m. Group size is limited to 12 children ages 3 and older with their parent/caregivers.

Wednesday, January 28

Cribbage: Join us any Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. for a casual

game of Cribbage. All skill levels are welcome. Cribbage boards and cards are provided; you provide the fun!

STEAM Explorers: Calling all curious minds! Join us from 1 to 2 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for an exciting program where kids dive into the fascinating world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

Thursday, January 29

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: Toddler Tales: Thursdays just got more exciting! Join us for Toddler Tales, a delightful program packed with fun and learning for your little ones from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Each session features toe-tapping songs, lively dancing, engaging stories, and a creative art project.

Mahjong – Drop In: This Mahjong group meets every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Come play this fun and ever challenging game played with tiles. New players are always welcome.

Monday, February 2

Monday Morning Mystery Book Club: Join fellow mystery lovers the

first Monday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for lively discussions of whodunits, thrillers, and suspenseful reads. This month's book is "Bellevue" by Robin Cook.

Fiber Fest: Come share your fiber crafts at the library from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Knitting, cross-stitching, crocheting, latch hook, or anything else you are working on. Chat with fellow crafters, bounce ideas off each other and maybe learn something new!

Lego League: Unleash your creativity and join us on the first Monday of every month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for Lego League. Kids will engage in exciting seasonal building challenges and enjoy free-build time to explore their imaginations.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: Monday Movies: This is a great program to get together with friends. Tonight's movie is "The Way We Were" (1973).

Tuesday, February 3

Story Time (3+): Come join the fun with stories, songs, puppets and more from 10 to 11 a.m. Group size is limited to 12 children ages 3 and older with their parent/caregivers.

Wednesday, February 4

Cribbage: Join us any

Wednesday at the Library for a casual game of Cribbage from 10 to 11 a.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Thursday, February 5

Mahjong – Drop In: This Mahjong group meets every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Come play this fun and ever challenging game played with tiles. New players are always welcome.

Toddler Tales: Thursdays just got more exciting! Join us for Toddler Tales, a delightful program packed with fun and learning for your little ones from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Each session features toe-tapping songs, lively dancing, engaging stories, and a creative art project.

Saturday, February 7

Cookie Bites & Canvas: Join Michelle the Painter from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as she guides us through a paint project and we enjoy a new cookie treat during each program. All materials and snacks will be provided.

Monday, February 9

Messy Monday: Looking for something fun to do with your child? Join us for child-centered, creative exploration from 10 to 11 a.m. Art, science and crafts will all be incorporated into this

program, and you can leave the mess to us.

Food For Thought: Food for Thought meets on the second Monday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Every month we each pick a recipe from the theme, prepare the food and meet together to taste and critique.

Tuesday, February 10

Story Time (3+): Come join the fun with stories, songs, puppets and more from 10 to 11 a.m. Group size is limited to 12 children ages 3 and older with their parent/caregivers.

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Cribbage: Join us any Wednesday at the Library for a casual game of Cribbage from 10 to 11 a.m. All skill levels are welcome. Cribbage boards and cards are provided; you provide the fun.

Thursday, February 12

Mahjong – Drop In: This Mahjong group meets every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. New players are always welcome.

Toddler Tales: Each session features toe-tapping songs, lively dancing, engaging stories, and a creative art project. Come share the joy of discovery and learning from 10 to 10:45 a.m.



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Vendors and businesses needed for Health and Wellness Fair

PLAISTOW — The Timberlane Regional High School Wellness Committee will hold its 3rd annual Health and Wellness Fair as part of the Mental Health Awareness Week from 2:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Timberlane Regional High School, 36 Greenough Road. The fair is free and open to the public.

Vendors are needed in all aspects of health and wellness for all ages from infants to senior citizens. Local businesses are also needed to support the special activities planned with these events. Your support can be in the form of a monetary donation, gift card, raffle basket, or gift certificate for goods/services. These donations may be used for, but not limited to: resources handed to students, participation incentives, ice cream social, wellness fair supplies, 5K prizes, and more. Please consider donating.

If you have any questions or wish to participate as vendor or business, email taylor.donovan@timberlane.net or call 603-382-6541, ext 3900.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vendors and businesses are needed for the third annual Health and Wellness Fair to be held from 2:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Timberlane Regional High School, 36 Greenough Road, Plaistow.

Free community events at Etz Hayim Synagogue

DERRY — The public is welcome to attend the following free community events at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road. For more information, visit www.etzhayim.org.

Free Tu B'Shevat Seder: Join to celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees. All ages are invited to decorate pots and plant parsley for Passover and have a "fruit" seder at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 1.

Family Pizza Shabbat: All generations are invited to a free pizza dinner followed by an intergenerational service at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6. here will be kids' activities while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. Bring a nosh for the pot-luck oneg. Join to share in

the mitzvah of L'Dor V'Dor, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations. RSVP by Feb. 5 to office@etzhayim.org if you are joining for pizza.

Sunday Family Camp: Children ages 4-6 will learn about Purim story and how this fun holiday is celebrated from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Feb. 8. RSVP to sarajohnplater@aol.com by Feb. 6 to ensure they have enough materials.

Scams and Identity Theft: Learn the most common scams and how to avoid them from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. For more information, contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

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WK 3: 7/27-30 CHRISTMAS IN JULY
WK 4: 8/3-6 GREAT OUTDOORS
WK 5: 8/17-20 KINDNESS

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Friday the 13th with Comedian Juston McKinney

EPPING — Join Comedian Juston McKinney for lots of laughs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13 at Epping Playhouse, 38 Ladds Lane.

With multiple appearances on "The Tonight Show", one-hour specials on "Comedy Central", and "Amazon Prime", including "Parentally Challenged" and "On Mid-Life Support", Juston is at the top of his game. He just released his 5th stand-up special, "On the Bright Side", currently streaming on his YouTube channel.

Tickets are \$35 per person. For tickets, go to www.eppingtheater.org.

Child Find info session

A Child Find information session for Sanborn and Timberlane school districts and Hampstead public schools



Comedian Juston McKinney will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13 at Epping Playhouse, 38 Ladds Lane.

at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Get On Board LLC, 265 East Main St. #2, East Hampstead.

Child Find is a federal mandate that requires all school districts to identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may have a disability.

Come meet with staff from each district to find out more about Child Find. Registration is not required.

For more information, contact Karen Radjavitch,

603-887-3648, ext. 5812.

Movie Mavericks presentation

ATKINSON — Atkinson Historical Society will host a presentation on Movie Mavericks, filmmakers who challenged the Hollywood System, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at Kimball Public Library, 5 Academy Ave.

You will be treated to great

stories about contemporary film directors and screen-writers in the United States whose originality, independence and unconventional approaches to the medium have contributed to the evolution of the industry.

The presenter, Patrick Anderson, is a Gibney distinguished professor at Colby-Sawyer College and is a cultural historian who teaches American studies, film and Native American studies.

The presentation is free to the public. Refreshments will be provided. To register, go to the events calendar at www.kimballlibrary.com.

Prevention Showcase at Sanborn High School

KINGSTON — Sanborn

School District will hold their first annual Prevention Showcase at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Sanborn Regional High School, 17 Danville Road.

Come experience highlights of important prevention efforts as presented by Sanborn Middle and High School students. This is a great resource for families (parents and children) promoting healthy decisions and addressing the risk behaviors that were identified in the youth risk behavior survey.

Dinner and childcare provided. All are welcome.

For more information, visit <https://shorturl.at/goCln>.

Calling all Amateur Photographers

ATKINSON — The Photo

Show is back! Amateur photographers are invited to submit photos for the chance to have them hang in the Meeting Room at Kimball Library in Atkinson and possibly win a ribbon. Residents of all towns are invited to participate.

Photo submission forms will be available from Jan. 6 to Jan. 31, 2026 on the Atkinson Women's Civic Club website www.awcc-nh.org.

Judging will be in February with the selected photos to hang in Kimball Library in March.

An Artist's Reception and reveal of ribbon winners will be held at Kimball Library on Saturday, March 21.

Go through your photo roll or box of prints to select

See MINUTE, Page 28



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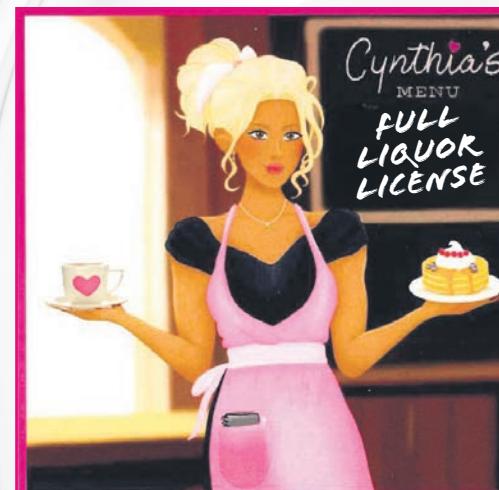
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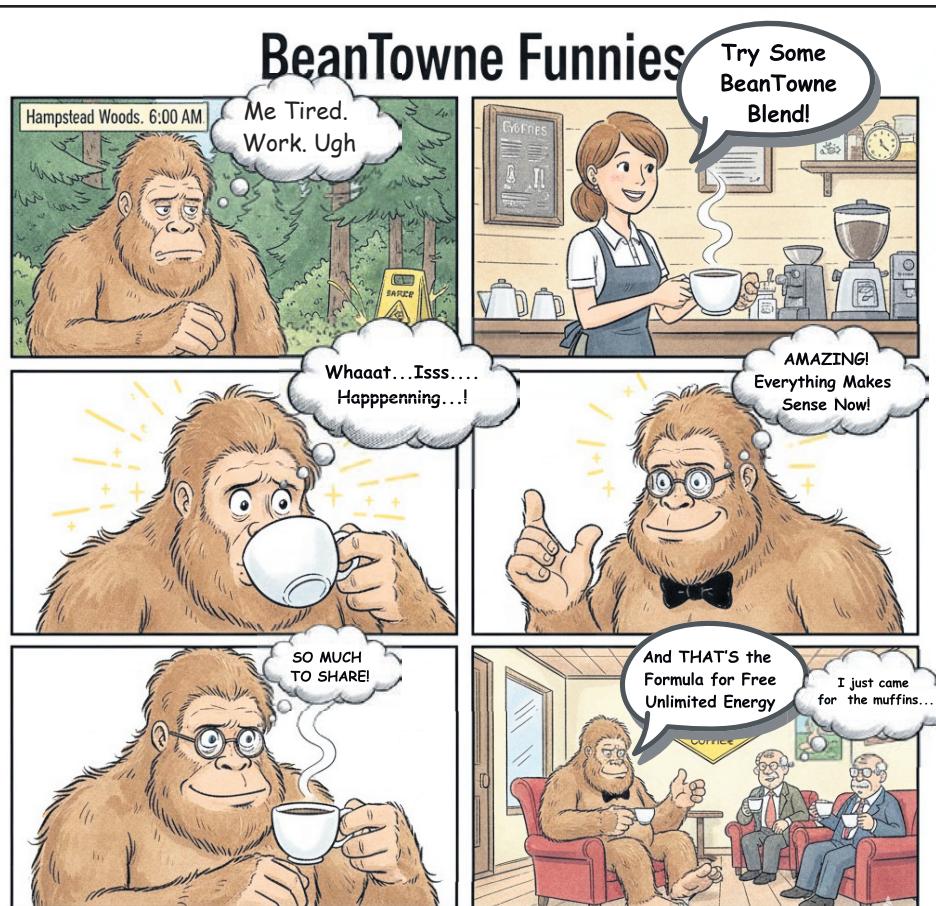
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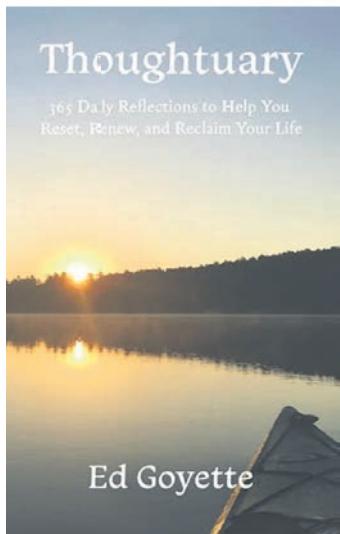


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Financial Self-Love Starts With Tracking

By Krista McLellan

February is the month of love. Roses. Chocolates. Special date-night menus that cost more than your car payment. Everywhere you look, someone's talking about romance. I want to talk about a different kind of love this month.

Financial self-love. Not the cute kind with heart emojis. The real kind, where you stop guessing about your money and actually see where you stand. And no, it doesn't start with a budget.

After everything I've lived through and after working with hundreds of business owners and everyday families, I can tell you this: the most important first step with money is tracking.

When my first husband died from cancer, I became a single mom overnight. I was overwhelmed, grieving, and completely unprepared to manage money on my own. Bills showed up whether I was ready or not. I avoided looking because I was afraid of what I'd see.

What I didn't understand then, but understand deeply now, is that avoidance keeps you stuck. Tracking sets you free. You can't make a plan if you don't know what you're working with. And you definitely can't feel calm about money if you're guessing. If you're feeling overwhelmed, here are the three things I recommend starting this month. No spreadsheets. No perfection required.

1. What you actually bring home in a month. Not your hourly rate. Not your salary before taxes. The money that actually lands in your bank account. If your income changes, a rough average is fine. This number is your starting point, not a judgment.
2. Your must-pay bills. These are the basics that keep your life running: housing, utilities, car expenses, groceries. Ballpark numbers are okay. This is not your "dream life" number. It's your keep-your-life-running number.
3. Where your money lives. Make a simple list of your bank accounts and credit cards. No balances yet. Just names. That's it. This step matters more than people realize. You can't track what you don't know exists. Just knowing where to look is progress.

Why This Matters

Tracking isn't about catching yourself doing something wrong. It's about finally seeing the full picture so you can make better decisions later. Every strong financial plan, personal or business, starts with awareness. The people who feel confident about money aren't magic. They're informed.

And here's the bonus: If tax forms have already started arriving in your mailbox or inbox, this is the perfect time to get organized. Create a simple tax folder, paper or digital, and drop everything in there as it comes in. If you want help, I have a free tax organizer on my website <https://embookkeeping.com/resources> No sign-up, no strings attached. It's there to make this easier, not harder.

This month isn't about doing everything. It's about starting. Over the next few months, I'll walk you through how to use this information, how to track spending in a simple way, how to spot leaks, and how to build a plan that actually fits your life.

But for now, just begin. Roses are nice. But imagine giving Future You the gift of not stressing out about money.

That's real self-love.

your favorites. Photo categories and details for submitting will be announced early in January on www.AWCC-NH.org. There will be both Youth and Adult divisions.

This is an Atkinson Women's Civic Club fundraiser, hosted by the Kimball Library.

Charitable gaming to benefit Children's Center

KINGSTON — Kingston Children's Center is one of the sponsored charities at The Brook Casino in January.

A percentage of the profits from The Brook will be donated to Kingston Children's Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 through Sunday, January 25.

The Brook Casino is located at 319 New Zealand Road, Seabrook.

Women's Bible Study in Kingston

KINGSTON — The Women's Bible Study, long a gathering for non-denominational study of the

Bible, is held nearly every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at "The Meeting House," the yellow building on the campus of Trinity Church and New Creation Healing Center, 80 Route 125, Kingston.

For several years women have gathered to see what God's Word is saying to them. Some are experiences Bible readers, others have not opened the Bible in years, if ever.

People are encouraged to bring their own Bibles to the Women's Bible Study, but for those without a Bible, one will be provided to you.

The leader of The Women's Bible Study is Veronica "Ronnie" Nightingale. For more information, call Ronnie at 603-401-1209.

Gardening workshop

SANDOWN — Sandown Garden Club and The Laurels Farm have partnered to present five community-based gardening workshops.

The second fun and informative session will be held at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at The Laurels Farm, 127 Odell Road. The workshop will focus on important factors related to soil health and preparation before planting begins.

The cost is \$5 per person. Proceeds benefit Sandown Food Pantry.

To register, go to <https://shorturl.at/HTlnP>.

Save the date: The Milkmen Improv

PLAISTOW — Timberlane students perform each month at the Performing Art Center, 40 Greenough Road. The Milkmen Improv will be bringing you six new shows in the New Year.

Save the date for lots of laughs. Performances will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, Thursday, Feb. 19, Thursday, March 19, Thursday, April 23, Thursday, May 21 and Thursday, June 18.

The students donate the proceeds to several TRHS club/groups.

For updates, call 603-382-6541 ext. 3980 or visit www.timberlane.net/pac/calendars.

Spring Fling to benefit Make-A-Wish

HAMPSTEAD — Hampstead Lions Club will host their annual 2026 fundraiser for the NH Make-A-Wish organization. This year's Spring Fling event will take place

from 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at Castleton Banquet and Conference Center, 58 Enterprise Drive, Windham. Along with a scrumptious 4-course dinner buffet, the Spring Fling event will feature entertainment by World Gone Crazy Comedy, a DJ from Get Down Tonight, live auction, and so many raffles for tempting gift baskets and other prizes.

Tickets are available now for just \$65 each, and 100% of the funds raised will go towards fulfilling the wish of a very special NH child with cancer. Last year the club raised nearly \$50,000 for NH Make-A-Wish, and with your help, they can beat that number in 2026.

For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://shorturl.at/EPEVA>. To order tickets or to donate, contact Lions Club member Berny Longbook at 603-329-5603.

Call for crafters

ATKINSON — The Atkinson Women's Civic Center is looking for homemade craft vendors to be part of its spring market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 13 at the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main St.

There will be homemade arts,

crafts and food for sale.

For the complete details and the application process, visit www.awcc-nh.org or contact Rose at rcavalear@awcc-nh.org or Noriko at nytravers@awcc-nh.org.

Brothers Doobie benefit concert

ATKINSON — The Atkinson Lions will sponsor a Brothers Doobie concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center on 40 Greenough Road, Plaistow. The general admission tickets are only \$50 and can be purchased by calling the ticket office at 603-257-5257 or online at <https://shorturl.at/sh5Mw>. These tickets would make great gifts too.

The Brothers Doobie stand out as the #1 tribute band to the legendary Doobie Brothers. The Brothers Doobie will play many of the classic hits from the 1970's and 1980's such as "Listen to the Music", "Black Water" and "Listen to the Music". This is classic rock that you've always appreciated.

The Atkinson Lions will also have a Silent Auction and a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds from the concert will go to help the local community.

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Celebrate the 'Joy of Birding' with NH Audubon



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NH AUDUBON

CONCORD — Birders across New Hampshire have something new to celebrate. NH Audubon has officially launched the *Joy of Birding*, an online publication dedicated to birds, birding, and the vibrant community that brings these stories to life. The website is the new digital home of New Hampshire Bird Records, a publication with more than forty years of history documenting the state's birdlife.

After four decades in print, the beloved journal is entering a new era—one designed to expand access, share stories in near real time, and welcome new birders at every experience level. The site features timely rare bird reports,

monthly birding tips, interactive photo quizzes, and field notes from across the state. Highlights range from expert insights to quirky observations (like a tailless Red-winged Blackbird named Bob) capturing the wonder and excitement of birding in New Hampshire.

"We are thrilled to bring this resource to birders across New Hampshire," said Grace McCulloch, Community Science Project Leader at NH Audubon. "Making this content freely accessible supports our mission by inspiring people to engage with nature and contribute to the science that helps protect New Hampshire's birds. Whether you watch birds at your feeder or spend every weekend in the field, there's something here for you."

The site includes pieces from long-time volunteers and seasoned experts. Visitors are encouraged to sign

up for email updates via the homepage to receive new articles as they are published.

The *Joy of Birding* invites you to discover the stories that make birding in New Hampshire so much fun. Visit joyofbirding.nhaudubon.org and join the growing community of New Hampshire birders.

NH Audubon is a nonprofit statewide membership organization dedicated to the protection of New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people. Independent of the National Audubon Society, NH Audubon has offered programs in wildlife conservation, land protection, environmental policy, and environmental education since 1914. For information on NH Audubon, including membership, volunteering, programs, sanctuaries, and publications, call 603-224-9909, or visit www.nhaudubon.org.

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In Service to the Community: A History of the Kimball House

Now in its 71st year, the Atkinson Historical Society is located at 3 Academy Ave. in the historic Kimball House. Listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, the building also is the home of the Kimball House Museum. This landmark's service to the community and beyond is nothing new, having opened its doors in myriad ways for the past 250 years.

The house was built circa 1772 by Reverend Stephen Peabody, the town's first Congregational minister and subsequent cofounder of Atkinson Academy in 1787. The Peabody House, as it was known back then, was not only home to Stephen and his first wife, Mary Haseltine Peabody, and their two children, but also the parsonage. Additionally, with the inception of Atkinson Academy, and for the next three decades, the house boarded Academy students. During Stephen's marriage to his second wife, Elizabeth Smith Shaw Peabody, six grandchildren of President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, boarded as Academy students with the Peabodys at various times. Elizabeth was the sister of First Lady Abigail Adams. The house hosted a visit by Abigail in 1797 and welcomed both Abigail and President John Adams in 1807.

Following the death of Reverend Peabody in 1819, the property was acquired by physician Isaac Burnham Hovey. Over the next five decades, Dr. Hovey practiced from the house, thus the building again serving the community. The house continued its ongoing service to Atkinson beginning in 1907, when philanthropist Reverend Joseph Kimball purchased the property and, under the formation of the Kimball Trust, donated the building to the town for use as a public library and museum. Rebranded the "Kimball House," the landmark property would function as the town's public library for the next 101 years until the opening of the new Kimball Library in 2008.

Today, the Kimball House remains serving Atkinson as a museum, educating, and keeping the town's rich history alive. The museum is open to the public each Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. and on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-12 noon. More information is available at www.atkinsonhistoricalsociety.org.

Hampstead Ski Club History

Recently, I was asked if I could start writing some small articles about the history of Hampstead for the paper. Hampstead, like most surrounding towns, is rich in history and it is difficult to know where to start. As I was thinking about a topic to write about, I immediately thought about starting at the beginning of Hampstead by writing about our very early history. Then I thought about something that was more seasonal and not necessarily early history, maybe something that we could better relate to, after all, history really includes everything in the past. Anyway, I thought that I would tell a little about what was known as the Hampstead Ski Club.

To put this in perspective, Skiing as a sport, really gained momentum after World War II. Route 93 had not been built yet and many ski areas up North in the mountains had not been built yet either. We didn't have as many activities for the local kids, especially in the winter. Back in the 1950's a group of people got together and started a small rope tow for skiing on what was known as "Garlands Hill" off of present-day East Road. This rope tow ran for many years and was enjoyed by all that used it. During this time, many other local towns also installed rope tows and thus, you didn't have to travel very far to enjoy the sport of skiing.

In 1963 it was decided to move the rope tow to a larger hill located in "West Hampstead". I never really thought about it, but it was located just adjacent to the West Hampstead Cemetery. Anyway, the Hampstead Ski Club was formed and the new rope tow opened in January of 1963. The cost to join the club was \$5.00 for a whole family for the entire season. That did assume that you would also volunteer to attend work days and also run the lift from time to time. It is hard to imagine that, given the cost to ski today. The lift was open Saturdays and Sundays as well as school vacation weeks. In the early days, the rope was simply run through the rear rim of an old car but over time, lights were installed and a warm up hut was built. This hut now included the engine which was also used as a heat source.

The schedule now also included Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. Saturdays also included ski lessons with two ski instructors. In those days it was really amazing how many kids and adults showed up skiing, especially on nice days. The Ski Club continued to run the rope tow up until the late 1970's when the lack of snow and soaring insurance costs forced its closure. I can't tell you how many Hampstead kids learned to ski on that hill. All that remains of it today is a couple of poles still standing along the lift line and lots of great memories.

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