



THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

SERVING TILTON, NORTHFIELD, BELMONT & SANBORNTON, N.H.

FREE

Local business owner refutes accusations of animal cruelty

BY DONNA RHODES
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TILTON — Chuck Drew, the owner of Camaro Heaven Auto Recycling in Tilton, has been publicly criticized recently by Hillary Goldstein of Franklin, who feels his pet turtle is being mistreated. After her latest letter to the editor was published in another local paper on July 5, he is now speaking out in defense of Shellhe, the snapping turtle his family and business has loved over the past 18 years.

“From the sounds of her letter, one would

think that Shellhe was being kept in a five-gallon bucket. That’s not the case at all, and I want people to know that,” said Drew.

In fact, just as Goldstein’s letter hit the press earlier this month, Drew was already setting up yet another larger tank for his growing pet.

“He was in a 70-gallon tank for a while, but he’s gotten bigger so we bought him a new 125-gallon tank and just recently set it all up,” Drew said.

The controversy over Shellhe began about five



DONNA RHODES

Chuck Drew of Camaro Heaven in Tilton stands beside the new 125-gallon tank his pet snapping turtle, Shellhe, calls home.

years ago, when Goldstein first saw the turtle while picking up an automotive part from Camaro Heaven. She felt it was inhumane to keep such a turtle in captivity, and wrote a lengthy letter to Drew, stating her feelings and concerns.

He never responded, he said, because he just didn’t know what to say.

“If you don’t like dogs, don’t get a dog. If you don’t like turtles, don’t get a turtle. There’s not much more than that I could say, so I didn’t write back to her,” said Drew.

Not willing to lay the issue to rest on her end, however, Goldstein contacted New Hampshire Fish and Game, which sent Conservation Officer Christopher Brison out to inspect Shellhe’s environment and care.

“He didn’t find anything wrong with how I was taking care of the turtle, and said it isn’t illegal to own one,” Drew said. “This woman also said in her recent letter to the editor that the Fish and Game officer must be a friend of mine, and wasn’t doing his job. The truth is, he’s not a friend, and I would have never even met him if not for her complaint five years

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Sanbornton's Old Home Day promises family fun from dawn to dusk

BY DONNA RHODES
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SANBORNTON — From pancakes in the morning to a parade in the late afternoon, with plenty of fun in between, Sanbornton’s Old Home Day celebration this Saturday, July 23, will be a family-friendly day for folks of all ages.

The pancake breakfast at Lane Tavern will be served from 8-10:30 a.m. by members of the Sanbornton Historical Society as everyone gets ready for the day’s many activities.

After breakfast all are invited to visit the Art Show being held on the second floor of the tavern or shop for fruits and vegetables

from KREBS Farm, which will be located outdoors on the lawn.

The Currier Building across the street will also have much to explore. A “Sanbornton Votes” booth will be set up where voters will have the opportunity to get to know some of the candidates in the upcoming state elections, while in the field out back there will be chainsaw carving, fiber arts and blacksmithing demonstrations as well as a Ham Radio display.

Around the corner at the Sanbornton Life Safety Building other fun and informative activities are scheduled. From 11 a.m. until noon there will be a Balloon

Burst Booth and local Eagle Scout candidate Logan Morrison will be collecting nonperishable foods and cash donations for his Eagle Scout project to support the local food pantry. Sanbornton’s fire and police departments will be presenting demonstrations, a Touch-A-Truck event, and child finger printing, too.

Also at the safety building, Brad Crosby will be hosting a cribbage tournament at high noon, with gift cards from businesses such as Market Basket, Common Man and Dipsy Doodle available as prizes for the lucky winners. Pre-registration is requested by

calling Crosby at 286-8605 prior to Saturday’s start time.

Next door, on the lawn beside the Town Offices, people can explore a classic and vintage car show, one of many interesting stops during the day.

Sanbornton Public Library will host Memere’s Tales from 10-11:30 a.m. featuring not only her story telling but some fun related crafts for boys and

girls of all ages.

Outdoors there will be vendors set up in the field behind the library, along with booths from Laconia Indian Historical Association, local 4-H groups and scouting organizations.

The popular Cow Bingo is back again this year and from noon-1 p.m. Wildlife Encounters will present some of their spec-

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“Bridging Our Generations” at Belmont's Old Home Day

BELMONT — Belmont Old Home Day is less than a month away, and we’ve got an exciting line up of entertainment for you! With the theme of “Bridging Our Generations,” this would be a fantastic time to organize family unions and show your creativity by entering a float in the parade. Saturday, Aug. 13, will feature the live music of King Chrome on the bandstand and the B Street Bombers up at Bryant Field before the fireworks.

The First Baptist Church will host a delicious Pancake Breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. under the Tioga Pavilion on Mill Street. Be sure to cheer on the runners in the 10-mile road race as they go by on Main Street

to head out onto Route 140. We will also have the first runners of our three-person Cow Pie (10 Mile) Relay teams headed out in the opposite direction on Concord Street. All of the runners will appreciate the exuberant applause as they near the same finish line back on Main

Street just a short time later in the morning. If getting in a quick walk, jog or run around town is more appealing, then have the family lace up their sneakers for the Tioga Fun Run, which we refer to as a “country mile” in length. Registrations for all of

SEE **BELMONT**, PAGE A12



DONNA RHODES

Service that's truly refreshing

Nine-year-old John is a young entrepreneur whose lemonade stand is a really cool stop in Sanbornton this summer. John sells his refreshing drinks by the cup or half cup, and will even spruce it up with a sprig of mint for those who so desire. His business can be found at 591 Sanborn Rd., just up the street from the Sanbornton Town Offices.

Local gardens in full bloom for Sanbornton's first Garden Tour

BY DONNA RHODES
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SANBORNTON — Sanbornton’s first Garden Tour, a fundraiser for both the Harmony Grange and the Sanbornton Public Library, was truly a “blooming” success last Sunday after an overnight rain spruced up the gardens and the prevailing sunshine provided a perfect day



DONNA RHODES

Linda Presby’s perennial gardens, highlighted by a beautiful arbor draped with Dutchman’s Pipe, was one of five fabulous stops along the Sanbornton Garden Tour last Sunday.

for strolling the five varied gardens on the tour.

Organizers were very pleased with the large number of people from all over the Lakes Region and beyond who purchased tickets and maps for the tour, then traveled all across the town to admire the gardens and learn about floriculture and

SEE **GARDEN**, PAGE A12

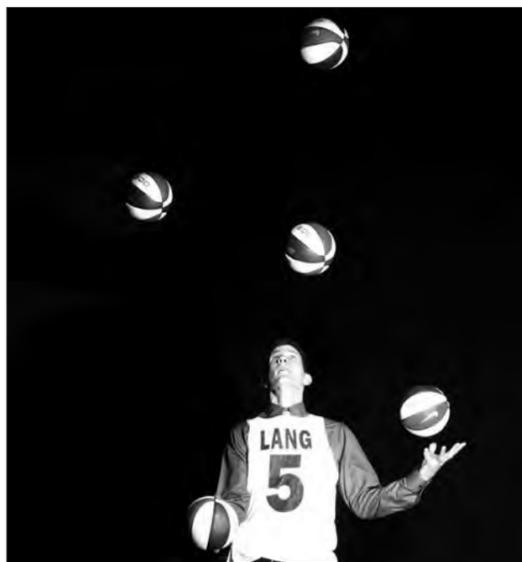
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Juggler Bryson Lang to appear at Belmont Public Library

BELMONT — The Belmont Public Library is pleased to present Bryson Lang's family-friendly comedy-juggling show on Friday, Aug. 5. Join us at the Corner Meeting House at 11am. The show will be the capstone to a summer of exciting, interesting and educational events celebrating this year's "Get in the Game—READ!" theme.

Bryson Lang uses ball-spinning, object manipulation, original comedy, and audience participation to create



a unique and highly visual performance experience. He combines performing to music and audience assisted comedy routines to create an exciting, interactive show.

A camp director said of a recent performance: "Bryson captivated our campers and kept them engaged throughout the performance. The kids loved the show and I saw a lot of smiling faces!"

The Belmont Public Library is able to offer this program through the gracious sponsor-

ship of the Kids, Books, and the Art grant administered by the New Hampshire State Library and provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Funding is provided by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, the Children's Librarians Section of the New Hampshire Library Association, the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, and supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ready to go somewhere? The library offers discounted or free admission to the Squam Lakes Science Center, the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, the Wright Museum of WWII, and the SEE Science Center.

The Belmont Public Library is open six days a week and any time at www.belmontpubliclibrary.org, serving the community with books, digital resources, and cultural programming. For more information, contact:

LEADERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A9

rey Gately, Emily Clement, Lori Haney, Corey McKeon Hoyt, Danielle

Cyr, Brenda Kean, Caitlin Meaney, Sharon de la Vergne, Kevin LaChapelle, Liz Powell, Jenifer Williams, Katie Reid, Carlene Rose, Scott Stirling, Donna

Toomey, Patrick Tierney and Chad Vaillancourt. The Board of Directors of Leadership Lakes Region congratulates its recent graduates and expresses

its thanks to the Bank of New Hampshire for their sponsorship of the event. Leadership Lakes Region is currently accepting applications for its next class

which begins in October. Applications and additional information are available on the website at www.leadershiplakesregion.org. Any business interest-

ed in sponsoring a 2017 Leadership Lakes Program Day or event may contact the Program Coordinator, Jennifer McLean, at info@leadershiplakesregion.org.

DONATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A8

House, Genesis Behavioral Health, Granite United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Laconia Area Community Land Trust, New Beginnings, New Hampshire Food Bank, New Hampshire

Humane Society, Pope Memorial SPCA, Red Cross, Riverbend Community Mental Health, Salvation Army and Second Start.

Founded in 1967, Lakes Region Child Care Service offers high quality and affordable childcare services for children, from 6 weeks

to 14 years, of low- to moderate-income families. LRCCS programs offer developmentally appropriate pre-academic, enrichment activities, and promotes healthy eating and active living by serving nutritious meals and snacks in all programs. Currently, more than

400 children from 28 towns within the Lakes Region are enrolled in LRCCS programs. For more information about LRCCS, visit lrhillcare.org.

New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp, a mutual holding company, was formed in 2013 when two New Hamp-

shire-based community banks, Meredith Village Savings Bank and Merrimack County Savings Bank, formally affiliated – the first relationship of its kind in New Hampshire. This strategic partnership has positioned the Banks to leverage each other's strengths as they work

together to advance a shared vision of maintaining and enhancing their community banking standards and values. MillRiver Wealth Management joined as a third subsidiary of NHMB in 2015, combining the financial advisory divisions of MVSB and The Merrimack.

WOW TRAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

linking neighboring communities together and showcasing our three beautiful lakes

will fast become one of the Lakes Region's best amenities, drawing vacationing families back year after year and enhancing the quality of life for those of us fortunate to call this place

home. It's going to be spectacular. Thank you for coming along for the ride.

**A limited amount of granite pavers (12"x36") will be placed

along Phase 2 behind the downtown Laconia train station. If you'd like to permanently commemorate your business, family, or remember a loved one on the trail, these can

be purchased with a \$1,000 donation and will be engraved with your business name, logo, or special message. To reserve a commemorative \$1,000 granite paver, please send your dona-

tion to WOW Trail, PO Box 6832, Laconia, NH 03246.**

Gretchen Gandini is the Executive Director of the WOW Trail. She can be reached at info@wowtrail.org.

DREW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ago."

Brison is definitely doing his job, and to insinuate otherwise is wrong, Drew added. In fact, he said, the officer still stops by periodically to make sure the turtle is okay.

Drew first found the turtle when Camaro Heaven was located in Rochester. While driving along a river in that town, he came across newly hatched snapping turtles trying to make their way to the other side of the road.

"His sisters and brothers were all getting run over by cars and killed. I felt bad, so I stopped and rescued this one," he said.

The rest was history as his children fell in love with the tiny creature, only the size of a quarter at the time, and named him Shellhe once they learned it was a male snapper.

When Camaro Heaven and the Drew family moved to Tilton, Shellhe came along with them and has become a beloved mascot at the shop. Employees even pitch in to help care for the turtle, to help nearly a foot long.

"If we're fishing and get trout, we'll bring one back to feed to him, and other people drop by to bring shiners or worms they had for bait but didn't use," said Drew. "One of our employees

even brings him crab legs and tilapia. Believe me, he eats very well."

While Goldstein and others may feel Shellhe should be returned to the wild, Drew has been told that would not be a good idea. The turtle is acclimated to his lifestyle and would most likely not survive if he had to search for food on his own. He is healthier than most snapping turtles as well, having lived in filtered water that has prevented algae growth on his shell and kept him from illnesses and dangers he would encounter in the wild.

Another of Goldstein's concerns was that the turtle was kept in the tank with no way out. As a snapping turtle, Shellhe is able to live comfortably in the water. Other turtle species, known generally as basking turtles, need to leave the water from time to time but snapping turtles generally only leave the water to travel from one body of water to another as need be. When he needs a breath of fresh air, he simply sticks his nose above the waterline.

A representative of PetCo also stopped by Camaro Heaven recently to check on Shellhe's living conditions, and praised Drew for the care he has given him over the years.

"He's a turtle specialist for the store, and said I was using the proper filtration system and doing everything right.

He also offered to help me if I needed anything in the future and I really appreciated that," Drew said. "I want people to know we're not torturing this turtle. That gets me really upset; it's not in our nature. We love him and everyone here and in my family is involved with his care."

Camaro Heaven is located at 112 Clark Rd. in Tilton, where people are welcome to stop by to visit Shellhe during regular business hours.

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