

Local figure skaters strut their stuff at Magic Blades recital

BY DONNIA RHODES
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TILTON — Members of Magic Blades Figure Skating Club warmed the hearts of spectators at their 15th annual Magic on Ice recital when they glided, leapt and spun their way across the icy surface of the Tilton Ice Arena last weekend.

More than 30 skaters of all ages have been working hard since last September to learn or better their skills in figure skating, and were eager to show just how much they had learned last Saturday.

From the finger-snapping tunes of Michael Jackson to the peaceful melodies of quieter classics, they each took a turn on the ice before a full house of parents, family members and friends.

Youngsters Daisy Aucoin, Marshall Gallant, Elizabeth Johnson, Glidden Martin, Lai Monticello and Vinny Paratore may have been the youngest participants in the Magic Blades Figure Skating Club's "Magic on Ice" recital last Saturday, but they demonstrated their skills, grace and musicality in fine style, even as they slid to a close for their performance to the song, "Moves Like Jagger."



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Vinny Paratore momentarily stole the show with their group routine, performed to the song, "Moves Like Jagger." The smallest of the club members, they each

carefully executed all of their moves, and wowed the crowd with their expertise at such a young age.

Among the more than two dozen other performances



The hit song "Firework" brought all members of the Magic Blades Figure Skating Club to the ice for their final bows last Saturday, as they wrapped up another successful season with a recital at the Tilton School Ice Arena.

in the recital, Mallory Rocca might have been the most bittersweet about her final solo skate with the club.

"Mallory is packing up her skates after seven years with Magic Blades, and mov-

ing to Massachusetts. She wanted to dedicate this performance to her mother, who has supported her over the years," said the announcer as Rocca took to the ice.

Other memorable solos were presented by Colleen Harriman, coach Rose Marie Marinace, Maggie Devoy, Olivia Maclean and Meaghan Colligan. Nicole Cochrane, also a coach for the club, touched many a heart as well with her skills, as she opened the show skating to "You Raise Me Up" and later glided majestically across the ice to the classic, "Hallelujah."

Cochrane said she began skating at the age of four, and has loved the sport ever

since.

"I just like that feeling you get when you get out on the ice and perform. It's so graceful. I love how you can express yourself through figure skating," she said.

Cheyenne Neider understood exactly what Cochrane meant, even though the Southwick School student doesn't have quite as many years on the ice as her older mentor. Skating in her first solo this year, she was thrilled with the recital and the reception she received.

"It's so fun to just get out there and skate. I've come a long way," said Neider.

The entire ensemble took to the ice for one glittery last trip around the arena to the pop hit "Firework" before taking their final bows.

Magic Blades is a community-based figure skating club for both boys and girls, as well as adults, and is an official member of the learn-to skate program of the National Governing Body for figure skating. The group meets from September to February at the Tilton Ice Arena, but those interested in continuing their skating lessons are welcome to join them at Plymouth State University throughout the spring and summer months. For more information on the club and its offerings, please visit www.magicblades.org.

Local business profiled on "NH Chronicle"

BELMONT — On Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., WMUR's "New Hampshire Chronicle" will feature the Children's Couture Showroom & MacCouture Fabric Shop, and the work of Belmont apparel designer and master craftsman, Mary-Alice Dalton.

Her award-winning line of apparel and accessories for infants to preteen girls features distinctive dresses, ensembles, tops, pants or capris, handbags and hats. In addition, her Showroom offers a vast selection of premium 100 percent cotton fabrics to quilters and home-sewers alike.

"I am fortunate to have this glorious space to work in and welcome the public," said Dalton. "Customers always find the showroom to be a 'magical' place, and realize my children's collections and fabric selections to be very unique from all other retail offerings. So I am honored to have 'New Hampshire Chronicle' spend some time with me at the showroom and present my work to the state."

After 25 years of working

in women's clothing, Dalton turned her attention to children's clothing and accessories. This gave her creative freedom to design and work with color and fabric. Each piece Dalton creates includes details and a level of craftsmanship not found in any other retail label. Tiny pintucks, ruffled piping, fabric-covered buttons, hand-work, fabulous fabrics and Dalton's design style are the unmistakable signatures of the Children's Couture line. And in response to the frequently-asked question, "Where do you find your fabrics?" Dalton is now offering the cotton prints and solids she uses in her work to the public.

"Today, couture methods of construction are widely ignored and misunderstood. They are not tedious and time-consuming, as some would have you believe. Rather, these time-honored techniques are a satisfying skill of hand and eye which result in a piece to be truly admired from the inside, as well as the outside," said Dalton.

"All of my pieces are designed and constructed to stand the test of time, and I know that the public recognizes, respects and admires this. Quality, in terms of design and construction are not often seen in retail these days but it is a very desirable feature, be it in the clothing I make or the fabrics I sell."

Children's Couture apparel and accessories and Mac-

Couture fabrics can be ordered directly through the designer's website www.mad-couture.com, by phone at 524-8801, or by visiting the Belmont Showroom and Design Studio at 445 Province Rd. Hours of operation are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and always by appointment to fit busy schedules.

Tilton-Northfield UMC supports Habitat for Humanity

TILTON — The Tilton-Northfield United Methodist Church (TN-UMC) recently held a benefit dinner which raised \$556 to support the efforts of Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity (LRHFH).

TN-UMC has a long history of providing support for LR Habitat - participating in its annual Walk-a-Thon, providing meeting space for committees, hosting work groups, as well as providing miscellaneous labor for various building projects in the area.

TN-UMC is involved in nu-

merous mission projects. At the local level, it is actively involved in the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry, Bread & Roses Soup Kitchen, and supports the Northfield-Tilton Food Pantry with weekly donations. On the International level, it will send a mission team in April to assist with re-building efforts in Haiti (its third such mission in three years). It also provides financial support for the Wilkos family - missionaries serving in Guinea, West Africa. For more information on TN-

UMC and its active mission efforts, please visit its Web site (www.tiltonumc.org) or contact Pastor Preston Fuller at 286-4443.

Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 30th year of providing decent, affordable homes for those in need in the Lakes Region. Homes are built/rehabbed using volunteer labor and provided at cost to selected partner families with a no-interest mortgage. Most recently, these efforts have been related to the rehabilitation of a

home in Franklin (LRHFH's 30th) for the Breton family of Belmont. Partner families are required to attend first-time home buyer and financial fitness classes as well as commit to 500 hours of "sweat equity" associated with the building of their home-to-be. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity, please contact Marilyn Deschenes, President at 279-4820, find them on Facebook, or visit their Web site (www.lrhhabitat.org).

TILTON POLICE LOG

TILTON — The week of Feb. 13-19, the Tilton police department handled 180 calls for service.

The following people were arrested:

Michael Hinckley, 41, Manchester, for possession of a controlled drug.

Sarah Aponte, 28, Concord, for driving after suspension.

Gabriel Chaisson, 29, Campton, was arrested for forgery.

Gregory Potter, 30, Gilford, failure to appear (warrant).

Brittany Silvator, 23, Tilton, driving after suspension.

Carrie Ladd, 23, Concord, willful concealment at Walmart.

Judy Hilliard, 62, Loudon, willful concealment at Market Basket.

Christie Fields, 37, Grotton, willful concealment at Market Basket.

Stacy Champagne, 46, Loudon, willful concealment at Market Basket.

Melissa Boynton, 22, Penacook, receiving stolen property.

Kristen Murphy, 22, Sanbornton, simple assault.

Brandon Dil, 30, Tilton, receiving stolen property.

Chad Elliot, 33, Sanbornton, simple assault.

Other calls handled included theft, domestics, criminal threatening, bad checks, and seven car crashes.

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Tilton police warn of contractor scams

TILTON — On Saturday, Feb. 18, some of Tilton's senior residents reported a light colored pick-up truck with two men claiming to be contractors "that happened to be in the area for another job," and were now going door to door offering a special on pointing seniors' chimneys.

The offer was to point their chimney for \$400 when normally, the price would be \$825. When one woman called police, the men jumped in the

truck and took off. The caller reported the suspects claimed to be from Alton area.

Police are asking residents to be extremely cautious and suspicious of door to door contractors with offers that are made to seem to be "too good to be true." These are typically scams, and mostly prey on seniors. The scams are usually offering cheap roofing, driveway sealing or chimney repairs.

When in doubt, please contact the police for advice when they show up at your door. Getting the vehicle registration and descriptions of the suspects is always helpful. Belmont Police reported something similar with a black van.

Tilton Police have a safe contractors list which residents can use to be sure they are getting reputable contractors when they need work. We want everyone to

be proactive, alert and help us protect each other, especially senior citizens from these types of scams. On small fixed incomes, these types of scams can cause stress and financial trouble for seniors that they don't need. We will also prosecute any suspects committing these types of crimes.

For any information or tips on this, please contact the Tilton Police Department at 286-4442.

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