Belmont’s GMI Asphalt opens its doors to Chamber members

GMI Co-owners Warren Celby (left) and Marc Bourgeois (right), with Neil Arruda (front), fleet maintenance manager, inspect their new highway-class paver outside their new garage at their facility on Route 106 in Belmont during last week’s Business After Hours event, hosted in conjunction with the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.

Belmont — GMI Asphalt owners opened their doors to the community Thursday, March 22, hosting their first Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours reception to celebrate the opening of their new centralized facility and the start of the 2012 paving season.

Warren Celby, general manager and co-owner, along with Marc Bourgeois, invited friends and fellow business owners from the surrounding community to tour GMI’s new office and garage on Route 106 in Belmont as the company prepares for what it hopes will be a busy summer season.

Celby explained that he and Bourgeois were excited about their new facility because they operated out of three separate locations. Now, he explained, the business operates out of one location. He said they began moving into their new facility about a year ago, and they were finally settled in and ready to get to work.

According to Celby, GMI employs about 17 workers for the season, and runs several crews. Working out of one location, he said, will help them coordinate and run more efficiently.

Celby said they have some large commercial projects, but the small residential jobs are what drive the company’s business.

“This is a great area, with great people,” said Celby, reflecting on the company’s years of service to the Lakes Region.

New owners take the helm at Annie’s Book Stop

LACONIA — The new owners of Annie’s Book Stop hosted a ribbon cutting Tuesday, March 20, to announce the opening of the bookshop under new ownership.

Though it has been open since 1985, Annie’s Book Stop unveiled new owners Simone and Keith Henderson at the helm.

Simone said she grew up in the Lakes Region and moved to Masse for about 20 years, where she met her husband Keith, who ran his own clean-up business. The couple moved back to the Lakes Region in 2007, and visited the bookshop frequently. She said her husband once mentioned to former owners Simone and Keith Henderson that they were interested in purchasing the shop, depending on condition. She explained that they offer new books for about $25,000 a year, and have an Associate’s degree in small business management and a BFA in writing.

According to Henderson, they have about 2,000 books in the shop, and have been around books all his life, and has been in library services for about 14 years, working in the New Hampshire State Library in Concord. Along with that experience, she has an Associate’s degree in small business management and a BFA in writing.

As a child, Henderson said she would rather be reading a good book than playing outside with her siblings, and now once again, Henderson finds herself surrounded by shelves of books.

According to Henderson, they offer new books for about 20 percent off the sticker price and about half off used books depending on condition. She said they also take trade-ins for store credit towards used books. She said she is trying to include more puzzles, games and children’s activities to the inventory. If one cannot find the right book, Henderson said she is always happy to put in a special order, as they get weekly deliveries.

Henderson said she is working with local authors to promote their work and organize book-signing events. They hosted author Jeff Mudgett Wednesday, March 28, signing his book “Bloodstains.” Mudgett is great grandson of Herman Webster Mudgett, born in Gilman, made infamous as the murderer H.H. Holmes in “The Devil and the White City.”

Henderson and her family are also hosting a poetry night open mic on Thursday, April 5 from 6 p.m. on with poet and fiddler Stacie Lufman.

Visit www.powersfirearmsinstruction.com for more information.

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Sunday Worship at 10 am
Sunday Worship at 10 am
Praise and Renewal Services held at Laconia High School Auditorium
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Finding Faith — Good Shepherd Church — Laconia New Hampshire
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