

Winnisquam Echo

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

FREE



PHOTOS DONNA RHODES

During a special Veterans Day tribute last Wednesday, Army Staff Sgt. Rob Mingolla raised the American flag outside Union Sanborn School as Marine Cpl. David Drinkwine, National Guard Capt. Tricia Thompson and Army Pvt. Joe Bonanno stood at attention. All four are parents of students at the school.

Union Sanborn School students pay moving tribute to American servicemen

BY DONNA RHODES
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NORTHFIELD — Most Americans can agree that any day is a good day to honor America's heroes.

The students of Union-Sanborn School not only saluted veterans of their community last Wednesday, but they also got to spend time with some very special visitors whom they also honored in their Veterans Day tribute.

"We're going to go to Google Earth now. We're going to start here (at Union Sanborn School) and take a trip, and on this trip, we'll have a visitor," said second grade teacher Carmel Lunt

at the start of the school wide assembly.

Winnisquam Regional School District's technology specialist, Kevin Sousa, then projected the internet satellite site on to a large screen, spotlighting the school in Northfield. Zooming around the globe, he eventually landed the students in an undisclosed location in far away Afghanistan.

Through Skype's live technology capabilities, five U.S. Air Force servicemen were excited when the satellite connection was made and they were able to see the boys and girls in Northfield as Sousa spanned the room with his Web camera.

After greeting the boys and girls with big smiles and lots of waves, the men huddled before their own Web camera and agreed to answer questions from the students.

Several children from the school who have parents in the service had plenty of things to ask as they lined up in front of the web camera.

One wondered how the weather was in Afghanistan, and learned that the climate is much like the desert area around Las Vegas.

"It's cold here at night, but hot in the day, and

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All In Fitness owners set out to prove that workouts can be fun

BY DONNA RHODES
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TILTON — Workouts can indeed be fun, and that is one goal of Jamie and Mike Dolpies with their new business, All In Fitness, located on the corner of Main and School Streets in Tilton, where people of all ages and levels can come to experience a healthy activity in a positive atmosphere.

"We want to make this a welcoming place where people can come and work out. The important part is, it needs to be fun but it needs to be effective, too," said Jamie Dolpies.

The Dolpies have been involved in fitness and dance for many years. Jamie grew up in the New York City area, and besides her extensive professional background in dance, she taught fitness classes locally at Creative Steps in Franklin prior to opening All In Fitness. Her husband Mike has dedicated himself

to martial arts, Tae Kwon Do and kickboxing for most of his life. Between the two of them, Jaime said their new studio has a lot to offer.

In order to meet their goal of combining fun with fitness, she has put together a number of programs from Zumba, Zumba Kids and Zumba toning to classes like CardioKick, Body Shaping, Core Ball Build, Boot Camp, and Abs, Butts and Thighs.

Classes incorporate different means of strengthening and toning the body. Through the each class she uses a variety of methods that can include the use of weights, exercise balls and bands, or simply just a number of fun yet effective moves.

The idea, she said, is to challenge different muscle groups, but not all at the same time.

Since opening the fitness center last month, Dolpies said she has already received a lot of very positive feedback on a new dance



fitness style she herself developed, called Salsatude. The idea for the class came to her through several years as a member of a professional salsa dance team that traveled the world and even performed for the Latin Grammy Awards.

"Salsatude is growing fast and becoming my most popular class. It's learning how to salsa dance in a different way," said Dolpies. "I teach them three or four new moves they've never

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Deck the Village returns to Belmont December 1

BELMONT — Continuing old traditions and integrating new, Deck the Village is returning to the Town of Belmont on Dec. 1 from noon to 2 p.m.

The festivities begin with a musical salute to the season, a first performance at the historic bandstand in its new location. Sure to charm and engage, the Belmont Elementary School Vocal Ensemble, directed by Jennifer Shaw will open the concert. The Belmont High School Band, conducted by Lauren Fountain, Director of Belmont Middle School & High School Bands, join the festivities again, bringing instrumental holiday cheer. Just Love to Sing: The Dickens Carolers, Artistic Director and Founder Jane Cormier and Music Director Carlos Martinez, conclude the performance with their classical Christmas carols. These performances are made possible by the generous support of the John M. Sargent Fund and Heritage Commission sponsorship.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their grand appearance after the performances and stay throughout the festivities for pictures in the Belmont Library. Attendees are asked to bring their own cameras to capture these memories. Other ongoing activities include: cookie decorating at the Sweet Shop located on the first floor of the Corner Meeting House, crafts and card making at Santa's Workshop in the Senior Center of the Belmont Mill and holiday story time located in the Belmont Parks and Recreation room of the Belmont Mill.

In order to provide a more magical holiday season for others, there will be collection areas throughout the Village for donations of non-perishable food items for St. Joseph's Church Food Bank. There will also be a Belmont Police Department patrol car parked outside the Belmont Mill collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Belmont Police Relief Association toy drive. The official "decking" of

the Village will take place on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to take part in decorating indoors and out at various Village locations.

Deck the Village would not be possible without the continued support of many volunteers, community organizations, school groups and Town of Belmont employees:

BEST—Belmont Elementary Support Team, Belmont Elementary School, Belmont High School, Belmont Rotary, Belmont Senior Center, Timothy Hayes Landscaping, Town of Belmont: Administrative, Fire, Heritage Commission, Library, Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works and Selectmen; and St. Joseph's Church.

For more information or to volunteer for this free event, please contact the Town of Belmont's Special Event Coordinator at 998-3525 or events@belmontnh.org. In the case of severe weather, this event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8.



PHOTO COURTESY

Charlie LaPierre shows off his plate with Chief Duval, right, and other member of the Concord Police Department who came to the home for the event.

Veterans Home pays tribute to oldest resident

TILTON — The New Hampshire Veterans Home paid tribute to its oldest resident during a special celebration held recently.

Charles "Charlie" LaPierre, a longtime Concord resident who served his country during World War II and spent many years on the Concord Police Department, is currently the oldest resident of the New Hampshire Veterans Home. He will turn 100 on Nov. 30.

LaPierre was honored with a special party at the Veterans Home, including a visit by several current members of the Concord Police Department who delivered a letter of congratulations from Gov. Maggie Hassan and a special license plate numbered "100," which was signed by Hassan.

LaPierre grew up in Concord and went to school there, then worked in lumber camps and the family's quarry before going into the Army in 1942 at age of

29. Most of his service was in France and Germany; he was a truck driver and a welder who worked with a small unit behind the lines repairing and salvaging P-38's, the twin-engine fighter-bombers that were the workhorse of the air war in Europe. At the Battle of the Bulge, his unit was just a couple of miles from the front lines, and, as he described in an oral-history interview a few years ago, they could feel the ground going up and down like an earthquake all day from the heavy bombardment.

After the victory in Europe, he was on a troop ship headed for the Pacific when the Japanese surrender was announced. He returned to Concord and settled down with his wife, Clara, known as "Sandy," who he had married in 1943, and joined the police force.

He served from 1946 to 1971. He walked the beat on the midnight shift for many years before moving

into a patrol car. In his time off, he and another patrolman, Andy Martel, also ran a carpentry and remodeling business known for the quality of its work. After "retiring" from police work, he went to work in maintenance department at the State House and finally retired from there in 1983 at age 70.

His wife passed away in 1992. After that, he lived with his daughter, Sandra Cron, in Lancaster until coming to NHVH in 2006.

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