

Winnisquam Echo

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

FREE

The Year in Review: 2013

BY DONNA RHODES
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REGION — The year 2013 was a positive one in the Winnisquam region, filled with community spirit and many people working toward an even brighter future.

Belmont saw the completion of their downtown revitalization project that brought many new changes to the village. New banners celebrating landmarks and civic groups, new traffic patterns and parking, and

the relocation of both the historic bandstand and a patriotic Boy Scout project gave the area a fresh new look.

The town celebrated with a huge Old Home Day celebration that was centered around "Belmont Pride." A marketplace filled with vendors and many activities surrounded the new common this year and everyone enjoyed the parade, chicken barbecue, and games during the day, along with music and spectacular fireworks in the evening hours.

Work also continued throughout the year on other changes that will attract residents and visitors to the town. Included in that work was the purchase of a covered bridge from Dover that will bring easy access to both sides of the Tioga River and allow for more recreational opportunities. The Conservation Commission, which is heading the project, said they hope to have everything in place in the year to come through the great spirit of volunteerism already shown in Belmont.

"Pennstock Park is a good example of volunteerism in this community that didn't cost much at all in taxpayer dollars. This bridge is going to be an attractive asset to the town and a route for people to use on a myriad of levels," said Commission member Ken Knowlton.

Deck the Village also returned to the common this year. On Dec. 1, residents gathered to enjoy crafts, food and a beautiful holiday concert at the bandstand, which featured the Belmont



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In September, Northfield students and town officials took part in the birthday party of the year for 90-year-old Bert Southwick, and also dedicated a new pavilion built by local Boy Scout Dylan that displays the famed horse drawn egg cart Southwick gave to the school.

Elementary School Vocal Ensemble, the high school band and a special performance by the Dickens Carolers.

Northfield saw many internal changes this year, including a new selectman, Kevin Waldron, a new police chief, John Raffaelly, and they recently welcomed a new Highway Superintendent, Johnny Van Tassel.

They also hosted another great Old Home Day with the most appropriate theme of "There's No Place Like Home." As a joint celebration with the Town of Tilton, there was plenty for all to enjoy at The Pines, including great foods, crafts, horse pulling competitions, games, and a huge parade filled with Wicked Witches, Munchkins, and other familiar characters from the Wizard of Oz. The day-long celebration ended with their famed chicken barbecue and fireworks over the Winnepesaukee River.

Another celebration in Northfield saw hundreds of school children, residents and town officials joining together to wish their beloved "Egg Man" Bert Southwick a happy 90th birthday.

Southwick, who provided the land where South-

wick Elementary School now sits, also donated his famous horse drawn egg cart to the school. Local Boy Scout Dylan Hoffman made it his Eagle Scout Project to build a permanent display area for the cart on the grounds of the school. On Southwick's birthday, Hoffman gave a presentation on his legacy in the town before dedicating the new pavilion to him. With everyone gathered in front of the structure, the school and community then celebrated Southwick's birthday with balloons, songs and a cake.

"It's just a magnificent way to integrate his life with all he's given to the district and the community as a whole," said Winnisquam Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Tammy Davis.

Sanbornton was a busy town in 2013, as work continued on road and bridge improvements. Black Brook Road was topped with a layer of fresh pavement, competing work that included drainage repairs and bridge work done. The decking of the bridge on Lower Bay Road was also replaced and the wing walls along it were repaired and paving and drainage on Steel Hill Road and the "Y Project" was also completed.

Sanbornton welcomed some new employees to the town as well. Marcia Haigh was named the new Library Director this fall, and Peggy Petraszewski joined the crew at the Sanbornton Town Office to take over the Finance Officer position that was vacated with the retirement of Curt McGee.

The Conservation Commission also had a productive year. In June they dedicated two trails in the town's Virginia Hutton Forest to long time commission members Wayne Elliot and Hal Graham.

"There's a lot of history with these two guys. They were working toward all of this before the town forest had anything there," said

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New director takes the reins at Belmont Public Library

BY DONNA RHODES
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BELMONT — In October, Belmont Library Trustees were pleased to welcome Rebecca Albert as the new director for their historic public library on Main Street.

Albert, who resides in Tilton, had previously worked at the New Hampshire State Library, and more recently was director of the Tilton School library.

"It was always my assumption that I would end up as a public librarian but I took a few detours along the way. Now I'm where I want to be," said Albert.

She earned her Bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southern Maine, and then, with the support and encouragement of friends, moved on to the University of Kentucky, where she obtained her Masters of Library Science degree.

While she enjoyed the south, Albert hails from Maine, and said she was anxious to return to New England after graduation. She took on her first job as a member of the staff for the New Hampshire State Library in Concord.

Albert remained with the state for 13 years, serving as a library consultant, coordinating and working with adult literacy programs. She also did one-on-one tutoring, along with many other job responsibilities throughout that time.

When an opening at Tilton School came to her



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Rebecca (Becky) Albert is the new Library Director for the Town of Belmont, and after many years in the state and private library field, she is enjoying what she said has always been her ultimate destiny — to be a public librarian.

attention, Albert took her experience to the campus of the private school, where she spent yet another 13 years working with high school students and the faculty.

"I live right up the road from the school, so it was a lot closer than driving to Concord every day, and it was really a nice change for me at the time. I really liked working there," she

said.

But Albert's passion for working in a public library stayed with her over all those years, and she said she is glad to finally be working with a broad range of people and tackling more responsibilities along the way.

The Belmont Library sees approximately 200 patrons a week coming through their doors. That in itself has allowed Albert the chance to meet and engage with many new friends over the past few months. Her patrons range from toddlers to seniors and she enjoys the variety of needs and requirements they bring to her day.

"This is a great town. There's a really strong community of library users who come in multiple times in a week so I'm already getting to know a lot of people's names," she said.

Albert said she is not a

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Locals share holiday traditions

BY DONNA RHODES
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REGION — The holidays are a time steeped in tradition, from hanging stockings by the fire to decorating the tree.

Christmas trees have been a tradition around the world for hundreds of years, and were first sold in the United States in 1850. It is reported that the first person to ever decorate a Christmas tree was Protestant reformist leader Martin Luther, who lived



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Christmas lights are one of many holiday traditions, and each year, the Inn on Newfound Lake lights up the night sky with their spectacular display.

next week has been moved up 48 hours, to Thursday, Dec. 26 at 4 p.m. Any submissions not of an urgent nature received after 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon will be held for publication on Jan. 9.

For information on deadlines for display advertising, please call 279-4516, ext. 120.

For information on the deadlines for classified and Help Wanted ads, please call 279-4516, ext. 163.

The staff of the Winnisquam Echo would like to wish our readers a very safe and happy New Year.

from 1483-1546. Moved by the beauty of stars shining through the boughs of a fir tree, he brought one home and decorated it with candles so his children could enjoy the vision as well.

Some believe it was New Hampshire's own President Franklin Pierce who started the tradition of erecting a Christmas tree in the White House back in 1856, but conflicting reports state it was actually Benjamin Harrison in 1889.

The earliest Christmas tree ornaments, another popular holiday tradition, are said to have been ap-

ples. Over time people began crafting strands of berries and popcorn to decorate their tree and soon other ornaments began to appear on the pine boughs.

Today, Christmas is a much loved time of year, not only one of religious significance, but also one of social importance as it brings families together each year.

As a country populated by people of many nationalities and religious beliefs, the Christmas tree may be one of the few commonalities in family celebrations however.

Each family has their

own favorite songs, decorations, "must do" activities, or rituals and over the past week, it was fun to hear how some local residents celebrate the holidays.

Many said cutting their own Christmas tree was a top holiday tradition. A Northfield family said they even place a small Christmas tree in each child's room for Santa to leave a gift beneath each year.

Other families spoke of ornaments that are special in their households. Some treasure their homemade decorations while others

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'Tis the season...for early deadlines

MEREDITH — The offices of the Winnisquam Echo, located at 5 Water St. in Meredith, will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and will remain closed until Thursday, Jan. 2 at 8 a.m. in order to give our staff an opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with their loved ones.

In order to ensure that the production of our Jan. 2 edition runs smoothly despite the holiday break, the submission deadline for any press releases, letters to the editor, and obituaries intended for publication

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ALBERT

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“snob” in her own personal taste in reading, and loves all types of literature, including children’s books. The Harry Potter series, she said, was the best thing to happen to the literary world in 20 years.

“Those books got kids back into reading,” she said.

Libraries today, she said, have made a 180-degree turn from the place where people once only came to find books. Today, there are computers, videos, special presentations and programs, and many other means for people to gain information. Albert said she really enjoys assisting the public in their interactions with both words and new ideas.

She is also happy to be working with the inter-library loan system in New Hampshire that allows her to get titles for her patrons that are not generally found

on the shelves in Belmont.

“Individual libraries here in this state are incredibly cooperative about sharing with each other, and that enables us to give people access to books and other information we might not have here all the time,” Albert said.

Belmont Public Library also offers story times for children, knitting groups, a monthly crafting program and other activities. She said there is so much that goes on at Belmont’s library that it is almost like running a mini-business, and that, she added, is part of what makes her new job so gratifying.

“People should come to a public library for all of their needs, whether it be a movie, a book in their hands, magazines, or to sit and use a computer,” said Albert. “We have a great library and a great staff. I want to make people aware that this place is a wonderful resource. A library is a town’s best kept secret!”

TRADITIONS

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ers have made memories through new ornaments each year.

“I always bought my kids a Christmas ornament every year from different places. Sometimes, I would let them choose. When they became adults they had their own set to use on their tree,” recalled one Lakes Region resident.

Another family enjoys hiding a traditional German pickle ornament on their tree.

“Whoever finds it has good luck for a year,” they said.

Some shared nostalgic memories of childhood traditions, too. One Tilton resident wrote in to say, “Christmas Eve was a special family night with our grandparents. We all hung around the piano (in between meals) while Grandpa played his favorite songs. It was a very special tradition.”

Many people love the holiday lights and besides decorating their own homes, they consider nighttime rides through the villages and towns a “must.”

Christmas music also ranked high with many folks, as did watching their favorite Christmas movies and special television shows, such as the annual CBS broadcast of “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” a musical take on the classic tale created by stop-motion animators Arthur Rankin and Jules Bass that first aired in 1964.

“It wouldn’t be Christmas if I didn’t see ‘Rudolph’ each year,” one person commented.

For others, food plays a big role each year, from baking special cookies to making old-fashioned meat pies and other once-a-year treats. For others, practicality also comes into play for their Christmas meal as they dine out or, in some cases, dine in.

“We always have Chinese food on paper plates,” one gentleman said. “No one gets stuck in the kitchen, and everyone sits around the tree together.”

Others love to have a

YEAR

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commissioner John Earley at a special ceremony held in honor of the two men.

The Conservation Commission was also happy to see 41 acres of land off Hunkins Pond Road placed into a conservation easement by David and Elaine Swain. As a result of that easement, the open farmland land will be preserved and will protect the historic horizon of the town’s three most well-known buildings, the Old Town Hall, the Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC and the library.

Tilton bid a loving farewell to Normand Boudreau in 2013, when he lost his battle with melanoma on August 13 at the age of 58. Boudreau served as selectman for Tilton, and was a member of many committees, boards and civic organizations. Tilton Select Board Chairman Pat Consentino was greatly saddened by the news and said at the time, saying “What can you say other than it is a profound

loss? (Norm) was a very deep, compassionate man who served in the community for years and years and years.”

Compassion and community spirit was evident through the actions of others throughout the year, however, who stepped up to help their neighbors and friends. The Tilton Senior Center saw businesses and volunteers pitch in to construct a new patio for facility, donations were made to help provide medically necessary air conditioners for some of the town’s elderly residents, and Jane Alden was honored with the state’s prestigious Vaughn Award for her dedication to the well-being of senior citizens.

The town also rallied when it was learned that Tilton police officer Nate Morrison was in need of a kidney transplant. Hundreds of people stepped forward to see if they were the match to help save the officer. TPD Chief Robert Cormier and his officers were thrilled when the first



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“Belmont Pride” was evident during the 2013 Old Home Day celebration that took place in the newly renovated Belmont Village District. Girl Scouts took top honors in the parade for their float that showcased the town’s historic buildings and structures, including the Province Road Meeting House, the Gale School, the Belmont Bandstand and the Belmont Mill building.

person tested proved to be a match and Morrison will hopefully have the transplant in the near future.

Finally, the biggest story for 2013 in Tilton was perhaps the implementation of mandatory recycling and Pay As You Throw household waste disposal. The town supplied recycling bins for glass, cardboard, paper, plastic, and metals, and residents were given several locations where they could purchase special trash bags for other house-

hold waste. The concept that triggered the move was that residents would have less trash to dispose of if they recycle, and therefore need fewer garbage bags. Those who did not recycle would pay more to dispose of their trash.

Selectman and Recycling Committee member Joe Jesseman said that the end result will be lower costs for the town in transportation and tipping fees for trash at the regional incinerator in Penacook.

We Couldn't Have Done it Without You...

Well, the Holidays are here again and a New Year is right around the corner. All of us here at North Country Dental want to say “Thank You” to all of you – our patients, our family, our friends – the wonderful people who’ve made us what we are today.

We want you to know how much we value your support and your trust. How much it means to us to be the one you turn to in caring for your precious smile. We look forward to bringing you more of what you’ve come to expect from NCD – advanced technology in a caring, relaxed, fun environment.

Here's to a great New Year!

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Lisa *Janice*

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MISSING TWO DOGS!
 Ossipee, NH

“Harley”
 brown w/white on feet,
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“Terra”
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 female, 100 pounds

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