Covered pedestrian bridge delivered to new home in Belmont

BELMONT — A 50-foot-long section of a wooden pedestrian bridge that will eventually span the Tioga River arrived in town yesterday and was lifted by crane to its temporary resting place near the town’s Public Works Garage, where it joined three roof sections of the bridge which have already arrived.

Two more sections of see BRIDGE page 10

‘Inherit the Wind’: Theory of Evolution on trial in LHS auditorium

Mr Bannister (Lindsay Humphreys) and Matthew Harrison Brady (Evelyn Gagne) participate in the jury selection scene from Laconia High School Theatre Arts production of “Inherit the Wind”. A fictionalized telling of the events surrounding the famous “Scopes Monkey Trial” in Tennessee in 1925, the play deals with the teaching of James Darwin’s theory of evolution in a rural culture that was very much Bible centered. Performances in the school’s auditorium will be Thursday and Friday nights at 7 and a matinee on Saturday afternoon at 2. Tickets, priced at $7 for adults and $5 for seniors and students, will be available at the door. The play is directed by Bernie Campbell.

Medicaid patients will still not have access to LRGHealthcare’s primary care doctors

LACONIA — Although LRGHealthcare is participating in all three medical plans now being offered to New Hampshire residents who use Medicaid to pay for health care, adults in the area will still have to use a non-LRGHealthcare physician for their primary care. Medicaid users must enroll in one of the plans before November 1 as part of a switch to a managed care program.

Cormier authors bill to eliminate regional planning commissions

CONCORD — Representative Jane Cormier (R-Alton) has introduced legislation that would do away with the state’s nine regional planning commissions by 2015. The intent of the bill, she said, is not only to repeal the commissions by authorizing cities and towns to enter cooperative and collaborative arrangements at their discretion.

The regional planning commissions have been a frequent target of Cormier’s weekly column in “The Weirs Times” since the advent of the Granite State Future initiative, a three-year project aimed at developing regional master plans that would be melded into a statewide plan. The project is funded by a $3.37-million grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congratulations, Cormier is among those who believe that the regional planning commissions are the stalking horses of a federal effort, pursued under the aegis of Granite State Future, to promote “Smart Growth” and “sustainable living” at the expense of Cormier see page 10

CORMIER
The commission is currently looking for ways to raise funds for the cost of putting the bridges in place, as well as for a trail system which will be built for the spur line. Knowlton said that one 50 foot span will cross the river just north of the Belmont Mill parallel to the Rte. 140 bridge over the Tioga River and that the other two spans, which will total 100 feet, will be put over the river about a half mile to the west.

He said that the first bridge will be located at what was once the terminus of the Belmont Spur Line, which brought trains to the Belmont Village area, and that the longer bridge which cross the river at a point where there was once a bridge for the spur line.

The commission is currently looking for ways to raise funds for the cost of putting the bridges in place, as well as for a trail system which will be built along the right of way of the former Belmont Spur rail corridor, which is widely used by snowmobilers.

The commission earlier this month voted to spend $5,500 to have Hoyle, Tanner and Associates evaluate the bridge for use at those two river crossings. Knowlton said that the commission is looking for grants and donations in order to complete the project and is hoping to be able to start work on the first part of the project next summer. — Roger Amsden

CORMIER from page one of local control of land use decisions and private property rights. “I’m all for good stewardship,” she declared, “but this is about private property rights guaranteed by our Constitution.” Cormier points to the budget of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, which includes $123,521 in revenue from the 30 member communities in a $572,500 budget. Noting that salaries represent $369,548, excluding an estimated $100,000 for benefits, she asks “what money is actually left for projects?” She points out that vice president of local control of land use decisions and private property rights, she asks “where does their loyalty lie, with the federal government or the taxpayers of our communities?” More importantly, she asks “what money is actually left for social service agencies?”

The facts are the facts.” “NH Regional Planning Commissions,” Cormier recently wrote, “are a scam, fueled by the feds, to reach the goals of sustainable ‘smart growth’ in our Live Free or Die state.” Cormier said that her bill would provide that once the regional planning commissions are shuttered, any remaining fund balances would be distributed among the member municipalities according to an equitable formula. 

see next page

Ken Knowlton, Mark Roberts and Woody Fogg maneuver a section of a covered bridge which will eventually span the Tioga River onto supports. The bridge, which was bought by the Belmont Conservation Commission from Dover for $1, is being brought to Belmont in sections. (Roger Amsden / The Laconia Daily Sun)