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Above, Belmont village's new Mill Street starts just to the north of the public library (background) and winds in front of the historic mill. Before, the street connected to Main Street via path between the two buildings shown. That space now hosts a cement pad that will be home to the relocated historic bandstand. At right, a small pedestrian plaza now marks the intersection of Main Street and Center Stree. The mill is in the background. (Laconia Daily Sun photos/Ed Engler)

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Phase 1 of Belmont village improvements being readied for Memorial Day parade & ceremony

By GAIL OBER
 THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — A key portion of the village revitalization project is nearing completion as Main Street is close to looking like it will when the project is complete.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said that while Phase 1 of the projects also includes Sargent and Fuller Streets, she said aside from a few items, the Main Street are project is nearly complete.

She said the plantings and the grass will go in this week and she expects, weather permitting, the final top coat of asphalt to be put on by the end of the

week as well.

She said the sidewalk and some painting won't be completed by this weekend but Main Street will be ready for the Memorial Day ceremony planned for Monday.

The historic bandstand will be placed on a new round, cement pad located between the library and the now town-owned "bank" building, said Beaudin, who added the contractor who moved it for the town will be putting it in the new spot at some point and the Belmont Heritage Commission will begin the revitalization once it's on the new spot.

see next page

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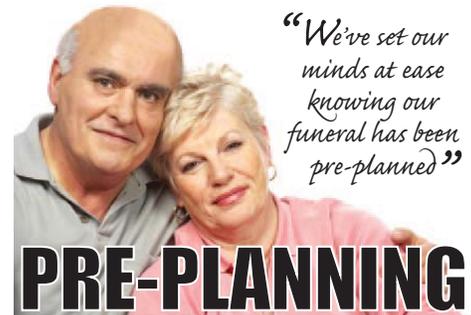
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Plymouth beats Hanover for Granite State Challenge title

DURHAM — With two friendly rivals in a fierce competition until the very end, Plymouth Regional High School emerged the victor over Hanover High School Sunday with a score of 535-515 in the Granite State Superchallenge season finale on New Hampshire Public Television.

The two teams see-sawed back and forth for the lead in seven intense rounds of fast-paced buzzers and twisty word-based challenges. Tying most of their rounds, Plymouth and Hanover answered tough math and history questions about famous N.H. politicians. But ultimately, Plymouth secured its victory with some help from Superman in the game's last seconds.

Plymouth Regional was represented by captain Kate Brownstein, Jordan Brownstein, Jade McLaughlin, and Aaron Scheinman, and led by coach Jay Fog-

arty. The Plymouth team also recently won the History Bowl National Small School Championship.

The Plymouth Regional team will compete against the winner of WGBH's High School Quiz Show in the first Granite State/Bay State Governor's Cup Challenge match on May 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The popular quiz contest began the season with 16 Granite State high school teams battling toward the coveted SuperChallenge title and brainy bragging rights. All GSC matches are available online to watch anytime.

Each of the four team members and the alternates of the winning Granite State SuperChallenge team will receive a \$1,000 award from the NHHEAF Network/ I Am College Bound.org program. The winning school also receives \$1,000 and a trophy, and the runner-up school receives \$500.

APPLE from page one

35 percent and ease the tax burden on money that U.S. companies make abroad. They say the move would encourage companies to invest at home.

Apple CEO Tim Cook, the company's chief financial officer and its tax chief are scheduled to testify and explain the company's tax strategy at a hearing by the subcommittee Tuesday.

The company refuted the subcommittee's assertions in testimony prepared for the hearing and released to the public Monday evening. Apple said it employs tens of thousands of Americans and pays "an extraordinary amount" in U.S. taxes, citing the roughly \$6 billion it paid in fiscal 2012.

Apple "complies fully with both the laws and the spirit of the laws," the testimony says. "And Apple pays all its required taxes, both in this country and abroad."

"Apple does not use tax gimmicks," the statement says. The company insisted that it does not, as the subcommittee asserts, move its intellectual property rights into offshore tax havens and use it to sell

products back into the U.S. to avoid taxes.

The company has made clear that given current U.S. tax rates, it has no intention of repatriating its overseas profits to the U.S. Apple reiterated in its testimony its support for comprehensive tax reform as a way to support economic growth and boost U.S. companies' competitiveness.

The subcommittee also has examined the tax strategies of Microsoft Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and other multinational companies, finding that they too have avoided billions in U.S. taxes by shifting profits offshore and exploiting weak, ambiguous sections of the tax code. Microsoft has used "aggressive" transactions to shift assets to subsidiaries in Puerto Rico, Ireland and Singapore, in part to avoid taxes. HP has used complex offshore loan transactions worth billions while using the money to run its U.S. operations, according to the panel.

The subcommittee's report estimates that Apple avoided at least \$3.5 billion in U.S. federal taxes in 2011 and \$9 billion in 2012 by using the strategy.

from preceding page

Mill Street is one way from the North Main Street entrance just north of the library by local ordinance and is two-way coming from the south, until Center Street. Center Street itself is one-way, from the Belmont Mill out to Main Street. According to information given at last night's selectman's meeting, Mill Street was already one-way by town ordinance so selectmen didn't need to vote.

She said the Veterans' Memorial that had been

built by Eagle Scout Alan Bartlett has been moved from near the Belmont Mill to a spot in front of the library and will be rededicated during the Memorial Day ceremonies by the the American Legion Post 58 following the Memorial Day parade that begins at 1 p.m. at the Belmont Middle School.

Beaudin said the contractor should begin working on the water lines for both Fuller and Sargent Streets shortly and she expects construction to be completed this summer.

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