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The Laconia Daily Sun

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FREE

FRIDAY

New furnace but old chimney leads to CO crises in downtown apartment building

By GAIL OBER
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

LACONIA — Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide forced the evacuation of a 3-story, 12-apartment building at 12 Pleasant Street Wednesday night.

Fire Chief Ken Erickson said firefighters were called to the apartment building by tenant Sherry Roderick, who said she had noticed smelled something all day and knew someone had been working on the furnace earlier that day.

Firefighters entered the building with a multi-gas meter and while climbing the stairs to the second floor readings indicated the carbon monoxide level was 30 parts-per-million — a level considered unsafe for long-term exposure.

Lt. Chris Shipp evacuated the building and requested an ambulance to be on the safe side.

At some point, see CO page 10

Gale School question back on Shaker/Belmont radar screen

By GAIL OBER
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — After a lengthy discussion, members of the Shaker Regional School District asked Interim Superintendent Maria Dreyer to contact a specialty realtor to get an estimate on how much value the unoccupied Gale School building has.

Dreyer offered her services after telling the members she has contacts with a company that specializes in selling old schools

after working with the company in a previous school district.

"It's a wonderful building," said Belmont School Board member Donna Cilly. "Everyone wants to keep it but nobody has any money."

She said that every year that goes by, the historic building deteriorates and becomes more and more of a liability to the school district.

Cilly put into words the conundrum faced

by the Shaker Board — no one wants to see the Gale School destroyed but when school district taxpayer see the price tag for relocating it, the will to do it just isn't there.

Belmont member Rich Bryant suggested a non-binding warrant article to take the temperature of the district's voters. Sean Embree, also of Belmont, said a warrant article would provide the board with the feelings of the voters but he was for a strong see GALE page 10

N.H. Ball Bearings contributes \$10k to LHS fund drive

By ADAM DRAPCHO
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN



Gary Groleau, at left, of New Hampshire Ball Bearings, presents a check for \$10,000 to the Laconia School District's capital campaign. Also shown are Scott Davis, at center, director of the Huot Technical Center, and Laconia Superintendent Bob Champlin. (Laconia Daily Sun photo/Adam Drapcho)

LACONIA — While much attention has been paid to the new athletic stadium currently being constructed as part of a \$16.8-million building project at the High School, Gary Groleau's attention is drawn to the renovations to the Huot Regional Technical Education Center, especially the investments made in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, collectively referred to as STEM.

Groleau, a graduate of LHS, is a recent appointee to the N.H. State Board of Education. He's also the corporal manager of organizational development at New Hampshire Ball Bearings and is a trustee of that corporation's charitable foundation. Groleau visited the Huot Center yesterday afternoon to see NHBB page 11

Not a banner year but Belknap Co. still more Republican than most

By MICHAEL KITCH
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

LACONIA — As one of just five counties — three of them in New Hampshire — among the 65 counties in the six New England states carried by the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in this week's presidential election, Belknap County again showed

itself as one of the strongest — if not the strongest — redoubts of the GOP in the state.

Belknap County joined Carroll and Rockingham counties in New Hampshire, Piscataquis County in Maine and Litchfield County in Connecticut to deny President Obama a majority of the vote. Romney carried eight of the 10 towns in the

county — Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Meredith and Sanbornton — while President Obama prevailed in the city of Laconia, where he swept four of the six wards, as well as in New Hampton and Tilton.

Obama lost the county to Romney by 1,681 votes after edging John McCain by 394

votes four years ago.

In the redrawn 1st Congressional District, which includes the city of Laconia and nine towns in Belknap County, where Democrat Carol Shear Porter took back the seat she lost to Republican Frank Guinta in 2010, Guinta carried the county, but by a much thin see GOP page 12

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GALE from page one

ger one that would offer the school for sale for one year and, if it didn't sell, to allow the district to tear it down.

Chair Preston Tuthill recalled the last time the school district brought forward a warrant article that called for selling the school for \$1 with the district paying for the relocation.

"It never made it to annual meeting. We got crucified at the public hearing," he said.

According to the Belmont Heritage Committee Website, the Gale School was built in 1894. After construction it was named after Napoleon B. Gale who left \$10,000 to the town. The remainder of Mr. Gale's estate was left to the city of Laconia and used to construct and fund the Gale Memorial Library. Mr. Gale represented Belmont residents in the N.H. State Legislature during 1867 and 1868.

The school sits on the hill behind the Middle School, at the western edge of Bryant Field. According to Tuthill, the insides have been re-mediated for hazardous waste.

Tuthill said the estimated cost to move and refurbish the Gale School was about \$1 million at least four or five years ago. He said it would cost about \$250,000 to tear it down and remove the debris.

Vice Chair Heidi Hutchinson of Canterbury said she doesn't want to see the building destroyed but does want the district voters to know that the board is still considering its options.

Dreyer said she thought she could get the information from the specialty realtor before the December 6 school board meeting.

Tuthill added the Gale School to the next meeting agenda.

CO from page one

Erickson said owner Dwight Barton came to the building and, without telling firefighters, went into the basement and turned off the furnace.

When firefighters entered the basement, they found carbon monoxide levels to be 160 parts-per-million — a level that can cause immediate vomiting and dizziness and is fatal after about an hour.

With the furnace shut down, firefighters were able to ventilate the building and, after an hour, residents were allowed to return.

Deputy Fire Chief Charles Roffo inspected the heating system yesterday morning and determined the new

furnace had been set on high-heat but the old chimney was inadequate to handle the pressure and a seal blew out causing the furnace to partially vent into the basement.

Erickson said Barton is working with fire officials to remedy the situation. Erickson added that as of January 2013, all multi-family buildings in New Hampshire will be required to have carbon-monoxide detectors.

Shipp said he wanted to thank Rodrick for alerting the fire department, saying the carbon monoxide levels would likely have risen through the night and had she not notified the fire department, there could have been a more serious outcome.

PLANE from page 2

facility. Ten minutes later, he made a 180-degree turn. Air traffic control tried to contact Hassinger several

times, but there was no response.

An examination of the plane afterward showed the landing gear wasn't down.

LETTER from page 8

brave Americans who were slaughtered at our consulate in Libya received the help they needed, right?

I can't wait to hear Michelle Obama say how, for "second time" in her life, she can be proud to be an American. In addition, their friend and reverend of 20 years can once again say "God

Bless America" instead of "God ***" America."

Remember the liberal way, it's not "what you can do for your country", it's "what your country can do for you", just ask Obama.

Linda Dupere
Campton

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