



The GRANITE STATE NEWS

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Historic skis officially donated to town of Wolfeboro

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — A journey more than 90

years in the making came to a satisfying conclusion on Saturday, as Dr. Steve Reinfurt offi-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The 1929 Allgäu skis donated to the town of Wolfeboro by Hilla Schütze, which belonged to her late father, now hang over the fireplace in the Abenaki Ski Area Lodge.

cially donated a pair of 1929 Allgäu skis that he had been charged with finding a home for more than a decade earlier.

In a ceremony at the Kingswood Arts Center on Saturday afternoon that was streamed to Germany and recorded for future broadcast on Wolfeboro Community Television and for broadcast in Germany, the skis officially became property of the town of Wolfeboro and now hang above the fireplace at the Abenaki Ski Area lodge.

The first patented steel-edge Allgäu skis came about in 1926 from Rudolf Lettner of Bavaria, changing the recreational ski industry dramatically. Dr. Hermann Schütze saw the safety advantages and racing abilities of the Allgäu skis and purchased a pair in 1929. On breaks from school, where he was studying to be a doctor, he skied often with friends in the Bavarian Alps. At this time, most of the skiing was done by hiking up a hill and

skiing down while a few locations were establishing surface lifts. In the winter of 1933, Hermann won first place in the Allgäu Ski Association Slalom with these skis.

While their father was at war after being called into the German Air Force, Schütze's twins, Hilla and Manfred were regaled with conversations of hope surrounding the skis, the wooden persona of their absent father watching over them. The skis were sacred objects for the family, even when wood for heating and cooking was rare during the war time. Other objects would be burned, but the skis were never an option.

Hilla Schütze charged Reinfurt, a decorated ski patroller who has worked all around the world with finding a fitting home for the skis back in 2008 and a decade later he found himself in the lodge at Abenaki and realized that he had found the perfect spot.

In a video message delivered to those assembled at Kingswood on Saturday, Hilla Schütze was thankful to Reinfurt for finding the home.

"I know the journey has been real to find the right home to make sure the ski history is not forgotten," she said. "Thank you for honoring

my father and we wish Wolfeboro and Abenaki Ski Area many happy and successful winters with many enthusiastic skiers."

Commander Daniel Laezer of the German Navy also made the trip to Wolfeboro and spoke to the audience.

"These skis are important to many German families, who suffered a similar fate," he said. "The acts of Hilla and Steve are helping to make sure a light is around from the past into the future and the skis will endure from the past into the future."

"It's important that this is a community ski area, there are generations skiing together," said State Rep. Glenn Cordelli. "Communities provide a sense of belonging."

He noted that it is a touching story of family, friendship and of war and how that war brought those people together.

Both Cordelli and Executive Councilor Joe Kenney brought up the name of Hannes Schneider, who also came from Eastern Europe and helped turn North Conway into one of the premier ski towns in the country. Kenney also touted Friends of Abenaki's work in keep-

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Effingham planners say gas station conditions have been met

BY DAVID L. SMITH
OSSISPEE LAKE ALLIANCE

EFFINGHAM—At a sparsely attended meeting last Thursday night, Effingham's Planning Board voted that Conway developer Meena LLC had met the seven conditions the board established in July and may proceed with the development of a gas station at the former Boyle's Market.

Since nothing was signed, however, the effective date of the approval is uncertain, and an appeal of the underlying July decision, scheduled to be heard by the ZBA this week, could complicate matters. Meena was not represented at Thursday's meeting to comment on its next steps.

As has so often been the case with the Planning Board's gas station meetings, the latest meeting was not without controversy, as members of the audience criticized the process leading up to the meeting, and pointed to issues they said the board has not

resolved.

The plan to hold a meeting on Nov. 30 took shape at a board work session on Nov. 16, when Board Chair George Bull said he believed Meena had met the seven conditions, which included revising the location of the diesel pumps, adding new spot elevations and the like.

Bull recommended holding a "special meeting" on Nov. 30 "to sign the paperwork," according to Ossipee resident Rich Fahy, an advocate for Meena abutting property owner Bill Bartoswicz, and the only member of the public in attendance that night.

The board agreed to do so, but the town posted the meeting on its Web site without stating that the gas station would be on the agenda, or that the board would be reviewing the final materials and voting. Moreover, the materials the board planned to vote on had not been made available to the public.

SEE EFFINGHAM PAGE A16

Great Waters announces spectacular 2024 Summer Performance Season

WOLFEBORO — Great Waters is thrilled to announce that tickets for its 2024 Summer Performance Season will go on sale on-line shortly. 2023 Season Ticket hold-

ers only will be able to renew or change their seats beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 29. On Dec. 13, tickets for both season and individual performances will go on sale to the gen-

eral public.

This year's Concerts in Town series which is held on the beautiful campus of Brewster Academy will feature three outstanding perfor-

mances. On Wednesday, July 20, the popular Empire Trio will return with their newest show "You Raise Me Up," which will feature the music made popular by Josh Grobin

and his contemporaries Andrea Bocelli, Celine Dion and Sarah Brightman. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, Broadway actress and cabaret artist Rebecca Robbins will perform Oscar winning songs from the Oscar Songbook and on Saturday, Aug. 24, the Toomai String Quintet will perform a repertoire from both classical and contemporary genres while exploring and arranging music from around the world.

The Concerts in the Clouds Series held in the Great Waters acoustic tent on the grounds of the Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough will kick-off a series of six

performances beginning with a performance by Foreigners Journey on Saturday, July 13. This electrifying show will include both the classic hits of Foreigner and Journey, two of rock's greatest bands of the '80's. The following Saturday, you won't want to miss a show stopping performance of your favorite soft rock music of the 70's and 80's by The Docksiders Yacht Rock Experience and on the last Saturday in July, enjoy 20 Ride who have been taking audiences by storm as they perform a Zac Brown Tribute. Its country music at its finest with rhythm, great

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Tuftonboro FD reports on November activity

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE
Contributing Writer

TUFTONBORO — On Nov. 27, Tuftonboro Fire and Rescue Department Chief Adam Thompson reported increases in the 2023 call and inspection statistics to date when compared to the same time in 2022. Personnel have received 525 calls so far in 2023: Fire 171; EMS 225; Service 115; and Spe-

cial Details 14. The 2022 combined total was 516. Inspections of gas furnaces, oil burners, wood/pellet stoves and life safety came to 115, compared to 103 in 2022.

Activity included a call on Oct. 23 to Chase Point for possible explosive disposal. On Nov. 2, Capt. Pike attended a Governor Wentworth Regional School District

and MSD Safety and Security task force meeting in the Kingswood Regional High School lecture hall. On Nov. 9, members reported to Thomas Point Road in response to a fire alarm/furnace issue.

They responded with an ambulance to a call reporting injuries from a fall on Sawyer Road on Nov. 15. On Nov. 20, Thompson checked out

a non permitted outside fire on the Gov. Wentworth Hwy, Melvin Village. The department sent its ambulance along with Stewart's Ambulance to a fall with injuries on Middle Road on Nov. 21. The next day, rescue personnel responded to a car collision with a tree on the Governor Wentworth Highway and Wawbeek Road.



COURTESY

Ring in 2024 with Last Night Wolfeboro

Save the date: Dec. 31 marks Last Night Wolfeboro, with free events starting with games, crafts and more at 11 a.m. at Town Hall, Great Hall. Events include Just Bob and Marla- puppets, stories, songs; Concerts by Peter Heimlich and the Unusual Suspects and The Carolyn Ramsay Band; Wildlife Encounters live animal show and ice skating at the Brewster rink. The First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro hosts a family supper (\$); tickets at the door. Fireworks at 6 p.m. (weather permitting.) Event listings and generous sponsors on Facebook @LastNightWolfeboro. Thank you premiere sponsors: Piscataqua Landscaping, Hunter's Shop 'n Save and Black's Paper Store.

Holiday season brings early deadlines

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it an accelerated press schedule for your local weekly newspaper.

The submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in the Dec. 14 edition of The Granite State News will be Thursday, Dec. 7 at noon.

For the following week (Dec. 21), the submission deadline will be Thursday, Dec. 14 at noon.

For publication on Dec. 28, submissions must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The deadline for our first edition of 2024, Jan. 4, will return to normal, Tuesday, Jan. 1 at noon.

As always, submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@salmonpress.news.

The Granite State News thanks our readers for their cooperation with our accelerated schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

Lakes Region Art Association decorates at Castle In The Clouds

MOULTONBOROUGH — It was an honor to be asked to help decorate the Museum for the "Christmas Gala" at Castle In The Clouds in Moultonborough. The Upper Hallway was filled with over 200 ornaments handmade by the artists from the Lakes Region Art Gallery. The decorators designed and created beautiful garlands and a

gorgeous floral arrangement. Artwork from the Gallery was hung in the hallways of the Castle. More than 2,700 guests were greeted by the "docs" and staff of the Castle. It was a "Winter Woodland" of beautiful creations.

Mary Logsdon, Pam Gram, Deanna Roe, Pat Edsall Lynn Casey & Terry Calder all worked

creating the garlands and decorations. Lynn Casey created the floral arrangement.

To see all the decorations, floral arrangement and beautiful ornaments visit the Lakes Region Art Gallery, Suite #300, Tanger Outlet, Tilton, NH Artwork and ornaments are for sale and now decorate the tree and walls of the Gallery.



For more information about the Gallery, visit our Web site, www.LRAANH.org.

The Lakes Region Art Association Gallery is located at 120 Laconia Rd. (Tanger Outlets),

Suite 300, Tilton. Gallery Hours: Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

EFFINGHAM

FROM PAGE A1

Ossipee Lake Alliance said its repeated requests for the documents since mid-October were unanswered until the day before the meeting, at which time Board Chair Bull wrote to say "If you would like to see what the Board is reviewing, I suggest you attend the meeting."

In addition to not having the materials, those planning to attend Thursday's session were left scrambling after the board switched the meeting time from 6:30 to 6 p.m. at some point during the day of the meeting.

Five members of the public, along with board members Gary Jewell and Bridget Perry, arrived in advance of the original 6:30 start time to find the meeting was already in progress.

After approximately 45 minutes of discussion, the Planning Board voted that the seven conditions had been met. But members of the public said there was more to discuss.

Spill prevention plan at issue

The board was asked about the most recent Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC), one of two key documents the ZBA required when it granted a variance for the gas station in 2021.

Board Chair Bull said he had just received the plan "yesterday," meaning neither the board nor the public had read it. It was also unclear whether the board's technical advisor, North Point Engineering, had reviewed the document in light of the changes made to the site plan in August.

The gist of the SPCC plan, which is required by the zoning ordinance, is that the Fire Chief "shall determine whether the plan will prevent, contain, and minimize releases from ordinary or catastrophic events such as spills, floods or fires that may cause large releases of regulated substances."

Ossipee resident Fahy said he became concerned after learning at the November 16 work session that the board did not plan to require the Fire Chief's approval, something board advisor North Point had repeatedly said was a required step. Fahy submitted a letter to the board asking it to reconsider, saying it was essential for the Fire Chief to reassure the public.

Fahy's letter cited

emails obtained through a Freedom of Information Act in which the Fire Chief appeared to be uncertain about what to do with the SPCC document, which was prepared by Meena agent Horizons Engineering to meet the zoning requirement.

The Fire Chief told Horizons by email that he would review the document "in coordination with DES." But a subsequent email to the Chief from DES said the state had "no jurisdiction" in the matter.

Stormwater modeling in error

A letter submitted to the board two days before the meeting claimed that the revised technical information the applicant was required to submit as a condition of the approval confirmed that the stormwater modeling in the plan is flawed.

The letter was sent by geoscientist Dr. Robert Newton, the only person outside of the Planning Board known to have received Meena's revised technical documents.

Newton's company, Geoscience Solutions LLC, is advising Ossipee residents Tammy McPherson and Bill Bartoswicz, who appealed the board's conditional approval of the development and obtained the materials through their attorney.

Newton wrote to the board in June to say he believed Meena's stormwater modeling was incorrect. He recommended that the board require additional "spot elevations and flow direction arrows" as Horizon's hydrologic model did not conform with Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data published by the state.

The board agreed to the recommendation and made it a condition of its July 11 approval of the site plan. Meena provided the additional material, and at last week's meeting the board voted that the condition had been satisfied by the submission. But the board did not discuss what the new data meant.

What it means, Newton said in his two-page letter, is that "The error in the plan is significant."

In essence, he wrote, the lack of detailed elevation data had created inaccurate "subcatchment delineations," which are the key measurements determining whether the stormwater system can handle the highest expected stormwater flows.

As an example, he said the modeled area of one

of the subcatchment basins was 6,781 square feet, when it should have been 10,346 square feet. That's an error of more than 50 percent, he said, meaning the model estimates approved by the board in July are approximately 50 percent too low.

"The stormwater system must be designed to handle the highest expected flows," Newton wrote. "The underestimation of [stormwater] flow in the model means the stormwater system may not be designed to handle the actual flows."

Newton told the board it would be unfortunate if the knowledge gained from data collected as part of the precondition process was ignored, and the system were to undergo a failure at some future date that led to the contamination of the aquifer.

Newton's letter was neither acknowledged nor discussed at the meeting.

Appeals likely to continue

Abutting property owners McPherson and Bartoswicz appealed the Planning Board's conditional approval of the gas station to Superior Court on Aug. 10, but withdrew the action when it was clear it would take substantial time for the board to rule on the whether the conditions could be met.

The court approved the withdrawal "without prejudice," meaning an appeal can be filed again.

The appellants filed a separate appeal to the ZBA on Sept. 13. The appeal claimed the Planning Board's approval violated the zoning ordinance's setback requirements as well as Article 8 of the town's Site Plan Review Regulations, which requires site plans to comply "in all respects" with town ordinances and regulations in order to be approved.

An October hearing on the ZBA appeal was continued to December 6 after the board ruled the matter had regional impact and required the notification of Lakes Region Planning Commission and nine communities in addition to Effingham.

The town has not responded to requests for a copy of the notification letter and copies of the recipient receipts. As of Friday, Dec. 1, half of the ten affected towns reported they had not received a notification.

The Web page <https://bit.ly/meenagas> has a chronology of the gas station case and access to all case documents.

SKIS

FROM PAGE A1

ing the ski area opening and continuing to make improvements.

"Small ski areas are important to our state and Friends of Abenaki have done a tremendous job keeping it open for local families and visitors," Kenney said. "The donation of these skis is a testament of Hilla Schütze's love and memory of her father."

Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Chris Pappas also sent their congratulations on the celebration of the donation.

Reinfurt also put together a presentation that showed many photos from the history of the Schütze family and spoke lovingly about his German friends.

The ceremony also included an honor guard from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, playing of the national anthems of both Germany and the



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Dr. Steve Reinfurt speaks to the crowd assembled during a ceremony at the Kingswood Arts Center on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Commander Daniel Laezer of the German Navy was the featured speaker at the dedication ceremony for the 1929 Allgäu that were donated to the town.

United States and Captain Anselm T.W. Richards (retired) serving as master of ceremonies.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

GREAT WATERS

FROM PAGE A1

harmonies and tight musicianship.

The month of August will bring even more exciting performances beginning with the legendary Judy Collins. Collins is a Grammy award winning artist who has had several top ten gold and platinum albums during her years as a performer of both folk and traditional music. She will be followed a week later by The

Greatest Love of All: The Whitney Houston Tribute Show starring Belinda Davids. Davids, a native of South Africa, grew up in a musical family of seven in and has idolized Houston since she was a young girl. The Concert in the Clouds series will close on Aug. 21 with David Brighton's Space Oddity – the quintessential David Bowie Concert.

To learn more about Great Waters and for answers to any of your

questions regarding purchasing tickets, please refer to the Great Waters Web site at www.greatwaters.org. There you will find more in-depth information about each of the performers as well as a link to some of their music. Great Waters is a non profit organization devoted to bringing outstanding musical talent to those living in and visiting the Lakes Region of New Hampshire during the summer months.



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