



# The GRANITE STATE NEWS

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## Nelson requests all personnel discussions be in open public session

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — As his battle to retain his position as the boys'

varsity soccer coach at Kingswood Regional High School continues, Dr. Erik Nelson has requested that all person-

nel matters regarding his situation be done in an open public session of the school board.

"In accordance with RSA 91-A, I am requesting all personnel matters pertaining to my contract non-renewal to be discussed in "open public session" of the school board," Nelson wrote in

an e-mail to the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board members. "Actions taken against me and the subsequent suspicions, rumors and speculation, directly or indirectly resulting from those actions, have already adversely affected my reputation as a coach and naturopathic doctor

in our community.

"Moreover, insinuations made by certain individuals to parents that it would be in the best interest for me to be monitored around student-athletes further defamed my character," the e-mail continued.

In e-mail communication provided to the

Granite State News, the NHIAA took responsibility for the ball issues that prompted the original letter to the NHIAA that was given to Nelson as the reason for his contract not being renewed.

NHIAA Executive Director Jeff Collins, in an e-mail to Kingswood  
SEE NELSON PAGE A16

### DRA ruling puts brakes on spending

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE  
Contributing Writer

WOLFEBORO — Town Manager Jim Pineo has put a freeze on spending and informed department heads of the necessity of budget cuts as 2023 comes to a close. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) gave notice around the start of the Thanksgiving holiday that the town is disallowed from spending \$547,763 in the operating budget approved by voters.

The department specified that the unassigned fund balance was insufficient on Dec. 31, 2022 to pay for the 2023 Town Roads Upgrade warrant article for \$850,000 from unassigned fund balance. The DRA's accounting formula does not allow the town to apply the

anticipated revenues which came in as predicted in 2023. According to Pineo, the town is on solid financial footing, which will be evidenced in the 2023 audit, just as in the 2022 audit. He described it as a timing issue.

According to Pineo, there currently is \$78,712 unexpended and uncommitted for the road article, which leaves a shortfall of \$469,051. Three options for dealing with the shortfall will be discussed at the Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. BOS meeting.

Of note, the funding in the Road Upgrade warrant article was used as authorized by the voters for identified road improvement projects and for emergency work required in North Wolfeboro following this year's intense storms.



ELISSA PAQUETTE

### Here comes Santa Claus

Santa Claus smiles and waves for the camera as he arrives on Main Street during Wolfeboro's annual Christmas Parade last weekend. More photos from the festive event can be found inside this week's edition.

## From Germany to Wolfeboro, with love

Historic 1929 Allgäu skis to be donated to town in Saturday afternoon ceremony

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING  
Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — Back in 2014, Wolfeboro's Abenaki Ski Area was touted as the most important ski area in the country by Powder Magazine.

In a time when small local hills were closing, town-owned Abenaki was bucking the trend, as a dedicated group of volunteers put in countless hours of work to raise money, install snowmaking and continue to add improvements over the years to keep the area viable and profitable.



COURTESY

Hermann Schütze skis in the Bavarian Alps before he was summoned to fight in World War II and never returned.

Indeed, Abenaki was the most important ski area in the country. And it just so happened that Dr. Steven Reinfurt found himself in

the new lodge at Abenaki in the summer of 2018 and realized that the most important ski area in the country was the perfect final destination for a task that had taken him on a search around the world for the past decade.

"I looked at the beautiful empty spot (above the Abenaki fireplace) and knew I had found the home for the skis after 10 years," Reinfurt said.

The skis in reference

have a history that goes back as far as the history of the ski area and reaches all the way to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean to a family that was torn apart by the horror of war and yet persevered through it all.

### The family

Twins Hilla and Manfred Schütze were born in December of 1938 to Dr. Hermann and Wilfrud Schütze. They moved to

SEE SKIS PAGE A12

### Convenience store part of Effingham ZBA appeal

BY DAVID L. SMITH  
OSSIPPE LAKE ALLIANCE

EFFINGHAM—Two issues will be on the table when Effingham's ZBA meets on Wednesday, Dec. 6, to take up an appeal of the Planning Board's approval of a gas station at the former Boyle's Market convenience store.

Ossipee residents Tammy McPherson and Bill Bartoswicz say the Planning Board's approval of new structures on the property violates the zoning ordinance's 50-foot property line setback requirement.



COURTESY

The former Boyle's Market store was closed to the public and fenced off when its new owner began building a gas station without an approved site plan in 2021. The store is one of the subjects of a ZBA appeal to be heard on Dec. 6.

The setback issue likely stems from repeated changes that develop-

er Meena LLC made to the site plan during the past year as it addressed

problems identified by Planning Board consultants.  
SEE ZBA PAGE A16

### Holiday season brings early deadlines

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

The deadline for next week's edition (Dec. 7), Tuesday at noon, will mark the conclusion of business as usual for the remainder of the year.

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 Tuesday, 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](mailto: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.

# Public input sought on Central Park project

TUFTONBORO — Tuftonboro residents are invited to a Special Open Meeting of the Tuftonboro P&R Commission in which Andrew Lester will be the featured presenter. He will be sharing our re-focused “Central Park Project” located on the more than 80 acre underused lot with the original Hiking Trail, located next to the

Tuftonboro Fire Station on 109A - making it a very safe location for the newly proposed “Central Park” for kids of all ages.

The new Central Park would include a Kid-centered Skills Training Bike Area with a bal-



(Right) Andrew Lester, Bella Terra Design, Joyce Lake, P&R Commission, Sarah Warner, P&R Commission and son, Edward Warner.

ance bike Pump Track, a “Senior Mile” paved walkway around Central Park, with walking paths & benches, appropriate lighting, signage, landscaping, with 30 minute turn-on solar lighting, (for early night time usage) and a Pre-School playground, a dog Bark Park, and a new Facilities Building with bathrooms, kitchen, storage

room & meeting rooms, along with parking spaces and fresh landscaping that could be done in stages as Phase 1, Phase 2, etc.

The Tuftonboro P&R Commission seeks your input and advice as we move forward on this exciting and much needed project right here in the Heart of our Fine Town of Tuftonboro.

## SKIS

FROM PAGE A1

Bad Kissingen, Germany, where Hermann Schütze took over his father’s medical practice.

However, the happy life for the young family was torn apart by the advent of World War II. A time when all civil servants in Germany were forced to join the Nazi Party or suffer a severe punishment if they did not comply. Not everyone believed in the practices or beliefs of this political regime at that time.

In 1939, Hilla and Manfred’s father received a formal letter that he was conscripted into military duty as a physician with the Rank of Captain for the German Luftwaffe (Air Force). Refusal was not an option. He closed his family’s clinic and complied so as not to cause harm to his family. He left, hoping to return soon.

Furthermore, his father did not believe in the politics of the day as he had to serve as a doctor in WWI. In an underground movement, Hermann’s father-built cigar box radios, which were illegal, so that others could keep abreast of the real news and not just the propaganda of the day. Reinfurt’s family would see and hear one Manfred cherished. It still worked perfectly.

Dr. Schütze was stationed first duty station was Paris. However, due to his political views becoming known, he was moved numerous times to less attractive assignments and was finally sent to the Eastern Front.

Sadly, Wilfrud passed away of a rare blood disease during the summer of 1943 at 27 years old, leaving her five-year-old twins. However, family members have said her passing was truly from a loving young wife’s broken heart.

Hermann’s final letter to his mother was dated June 23, 1944, stating his love for family and that he was being sent to the Russian Front. Another letter arrived two months later by the way of a fellow soldier who contacted the twins’ grandmother. He stated that Hermann had been seen on Aug. 20, 1944, with other soldiers entering a wooded area near Wilna (now Vilnius). This was the last known sighting of Hermann Schütze.

The charge of the young twins fell to their grandmother, who would truly become a hero in the family’s fateful history.

The family’s villa/clinic was commandeered by the United States Armed Forces in May 1945, with the twins and their grandmother forced to find another refuge. Initially they lived in a friend’s cold basement with no money, food or fuel. The rats were equally as hungry. They moved numer-

ous times as the grandmother did all she could to protect the kids.

It was 11 years later in the winter of 1956 that the Schütze family would get back their property from the American government empty and in poor condition. The grandmother continued to hold out hope that her only son would return until she died in 1957. Prior to her passing she started her son’s missing in action paperwork which is still a German military archive open case in 2023.

She had survived WWI as a young mother, saw her husband back from war as a nursing case from battle related issues until he died in 1938 and had done uncommon things to help her two grandchildren survive the horror of WWII.

Hilla and Manfred inherited the clinic and turned it into four family apartments. They lived in the home where they grew up. Neither twin married, had children, became doctors or learned to ski. The twins chose to support and care for each other all their life. Manfred passed away in 2004. Hilla would sell the villa in 2016 and live in a modest apartment in Bad Kissingen.

### The skis

The first patented steel-edge Allgäu skis came about in 1926 from Rudolf Lettner of Bavaria, changing the recreational ski industry dramatically. The skis made their debut at the 1930 Winter Games in Davos, Switzerland, where Austrian skiers turned many heads with their razor-sharp turns.

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.

At this time, there are more than 600 major ski resorts in the European Alps in addition to the small local areas.

Hermann Schütze’s skis made the move with him to the family home/clinic in Bad Kissingen, where they remained, bound in a corner waiting for another adventure. Sadly, that adventure with Hermann would never come.

While their father was at war, 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



COURTESY

Skis dating to 1929 belonging to Hermann Schütze (pictured) will be donated to the town of Wolfboro at a ceremony on Saturday at the Kingswood Arts Center.

Other objects would be burned, but the skis were never an option.

During the war, the grandmother also sold Hermann’s motorcycle and camera and traded the ski boots for food that had belonged to Hermann to help keep the family alive. The twins remember playing in the boots more than once with little feet in big boots.

“The years after the war were very difficult,” Hilla Schütze said. “To feed us, our grandmother painted traditional Bavarian Folk Art on wooden plates and boxes and sold it to American soldiers as souvenirs.

“But other belongings of our father, for instance, the skis, were kept in remembrance,” Hilla said.

The skis stood as a memory of their father, who they saw for the final time when they were five years old.

“I can’t remember my father, because we were too little and he only came home for a seven-day holiday from time to time,” Hilla said. “We only had the photograph albums of our father, filled with skiing pictures from the Bavarian Alps.

“We never could ask him, but I am sure he had a great time there with his friends,” she continued. “I am sure, later, he would have taken us skiing too, but we were only five years old when we saw him for the last time.”

The original photo album will be placed with the grandmother’s book and articles related to this story in a shadow box on the wall by the skis at Abenaki to serve as a time capsule.

When the American Armed Forces took over the family’s home in 1945, the family hid various items that they hoped to not lose, including the Allgäu skis and poles. Eleven years later, the family returned to an empty home, but the skis and other items they had hid were still there.

And they remained, bound in their original position, just as their father had left them, in that home over the years. They served as a remind-

er to the twins of the man that had left them during WWII.

### The war

Hilla Schütze remembers much about what they called the “American time in Bad Kissingen, including a touching story involving an American soldier.

“Once, when we went up a hill for a walk with our grandmother, we met an American soldier,” she relayed. “He told us that he would often come to this spot, which reminds him of his home.

“Seeing us coming along, his first thought was seeing his wife and children,” Hilla said. “This moment was touching for all of use, because we knew how he felt.”

She recalls a daily meal at school made of hot milk from American milk powder and then the occasional highlight of a small Army box filled with biscuits and chocolate along with a small toothpaste.

“This toothpaste was pink and tasted like raspberry,” Hilla recalls. “So, most children licked it instead of using it as toothpaste.”

She also remembers each student getting a copybook, made of smooth, white paper, which differed from their usual copybooks made of grey, rough paper. The cover said, “Gift from the American children to the German children.”

And there’s one memory that anyone living near a local bakery might also identify with.

“My best remembrance is the taste and smell of fresh-baked American donuts, which we had once or twice, just wonderful,” Hilla said.

### The American

In the summer of 1990, Hilla and Manfred welcomed Reinfurt and his German American family to live in one of the villa’s apartments, which had been created in the space formerly occupied by the Schütze family’s medical clinic.

Reinfurt’s passion for skiing and professional mountaineering rescue work spanned almost five decades, including being a certified moun-

tain guide and member of the esteemed German Bergwacht and Skiwacht alpine rescue/helicopter organizations over the course of 25 years in the Bavarian Alps.

Knowing his love of the sport and his knowledge of resorts around the world, Hilla approached Reinfurt in 2008 with the possibility of finding a worthy forever home for her father’s skis.

Reinfurt took the responsibility seriously and explored numerous international options until his visit to Abenaki in 2018.

“The spirit of the family is the spirit I feel here,” Reinfurt said of Abenaki. Upon hearing, Hilla Schütze immediately liked her friend’s idea of bringing the skis to Wolfboro.

“From the first moment, I liked Steve Reinfurt’s idea to present the skis to Wolfboro’s ski area,” she said. “It is such a traditional place for ski sports, founded exactly during the time when my father used these skis.

“I think my father will be honored by the exhibition of the skis as a young sportsman, who’s fate was the war,” she added.

One morning in the home they shared, Reinfurt asked Hilla why she and Manfred were so welcoming to his family after the Americans had commandeered their home for 11 years. He always will remember her response.

“The Americans only took our home at the end of the war, but finally gave it respectfully back,” she told him. “My country took our father and due to his political views would never give him back. He was an exceptional man, son, husband, father and physician who we shall never forget.”

“On that day, (I) saw her proud father shining through his daughter’s gentle eyes,” Reinfurt said.

**The ski area**  
Reinfurt got permission from the Wolfboro Board of Selectmen and support from the Friends of Abenaki to make the gift donation of the 1929 Allgäu skis that have survived through the years thanks to the love of the Schütze family.

“The Abenaki Ski Area was founded in 1936, that was the year of the Winter Olympic Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen,” Hilla said. “And it was the time when my father used his skis.

“One of our uncles staked the slalom at the Olympic Games,” she continued. “And the skiers used successfully what in our day now are so simple-looking skis.”

Reinfurt has been approved to mount the skis over Abenaki Lodge’s fireplace mantle. Recently after inspecting, he and others believe they will keep them bound in a vertical position standing watch from the fireplace

mantel. The ski poles will be crossed at the binding center to be separate holders for an American Flag on left and German Flag on right.

This experience also led to Reinfurt writing a children’s story entitled “Flow with the Tow,” a realistic fiction book about a young boy who learns from his parents four things from a ski rope tow on how to be successful in life. Presently, it is under review with a children’s book publisher. It would be dedicated to The Schütze Family with proceeds going to Hermann’s Learn to Ski Scholarships.

Reinfurt feels the energy from the small community ski area. “Its palpable energy is available to anyone that takes the time to experience this community’s rare little hill with an exceptionally big heart,” he said. “Of all the places I’ve looked at, in all the lodges, this one had the best presence of genuine community.”

For her part, Hilla is hopeful that lessons can come away from the story of her father’s skis.

“My brother and me never learned how it feels to grow up with father and mother,” she said. “I am sure our parents would have taken us out for skiing in the mountains near our home and would have done many other wonderful things with us children, which was my dream.

“And of course, take time to enjoy the beautiful nature and enjoy time together with your family and friends, as long and whenever you can,” Hilla said. “It frees the soul and heart.”

And as anyone who takes the time to visit Abenaki knows, it is a place full of soul and heart.

And soon it will be the fitting ending spot for an incredible story that spans generations, international borders and the horrors of war.

After a delay due to the COVID pandemic, the Schütze family’s ski gift will finally be publicly commemorated at a free event on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Kingswood Arts Center in Wolfboro. The scope of the program will include a live stream nationally to the United States and Germany, a presentation of colors to include the German flag and brief remarks by a few guest dignitaries. One speaker being a German Commander from the Navy War College in Rhode Island approved to represent his country. A historic presentation will transfer the ski’s story and acceptance of the gift of skis to Wolfboro’s community and government representation from the state.

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