

# View From The 45th Parallel

## High School Basketball

High school athletics are always a draw here in the North Country. While players and fans often battle the elements at the end of soccer season and the beginning of baseball/softball season, the one sport you can pretty nearly always count on being played regardless of the weather is basketball.

There's something about a high school basketball game on a wintry night that is welcoming. The sounds of squeaking sneakers, the sharpness of the buzzer, the cheers from the bleachers—such familiarity that tells you that you are among friends and neighbors who for roughly two hours don't care what is going on outside the gym. At that moment the game is everything.

Longtime local sports fans have seen a parade of players rise up through the ranks and team rivalries played out as each new generation has its moment in the spotlight. It's a hometown tradition that we look forward to attending whenever we can.

Let the games begin.

Charles J. Jordan

## Letters

### Letter to the Editor:

Customer feedback is important when you're running a business, but it seems like no one connected to "Ride the Wilds" is paying any attention to local feedback. Unfortunately, until the people in charge of this sport resolve the conflict of using town roads as trails versus the quality of life of local taxpayers who live on these roads, there will continue to be bad blood and unrest.

While it's nice that Polaris is spending \$100,000 on signage and education, this will do little or nothing to address the biggest

problem facing ATVing in the North Country.

Any money coming into the sport should first be spent on buying or leasing land in order to create a trail system that does not rely on town roads. Only then will peace and harmony return to the North Country.

If the powers that run the sport continue to ignore this problem, then perhaps some of that new signage should read "Ride the Milds" and "Ride the Roads to Drive the Locals Wild" in order to give our "guests" a

more accurate description of the trail system they are now riding.

George Jacques  
Colebrook

### Dear Editor:

The fall and winter can be a busy time full of fun activities and travel, but the same activities that bring joy can also negatively impact patients in need of lifesaving transfusions.

In fact right now the American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage and has issued an urgent call for eligible donors of all blood types to give now and avoid delays in medical care for patients. Right now blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in.

Volunteer blood drive sponsors are also critically needed to host drives in December, January and February to prevent the shortage from continuing throughout the winter. Fewer groups signing up to host blood drives in September and October coupled with the widespread cancellation of scheduled drives as a result of hurricanes Michael and Florence were key factors that contributed to the current shortage. Winter blood drive hosts can also play a key role in helping to end it.

There's a chance you may know someone who has been helped by a blood transfusion. Blood and platelet donations are often used in the treatment of those being treated for cancer or sickle cell disease, heart surgery and organ transplant recipients, and accident and burn victims.

On behalf of the Red Cross, I'm inviting you to roll up a sleeve and give the perfect gift—the gift

of life. Your gift could lead to a lifetime of holiday memories for patients in need. To make an appointment to donate and sign up to host a blood drive, I urge you to visit [RedCross Blood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

Maria Devlin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross  
New Hampshire and  
Vermont

## People



Officer Lt. Amy Zabel (right) of Island Pond, Vt., is joined by Chief Navy Counselor Isabel Guerrero, who are both assigned to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio addresses more than 80 future sailors, parents and supporters during an All-Female Delayed Entry Program and Key Influencer Meeting. U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer.

### ISLAND POND NATIVE AT FEMALE NAVY MEETING

Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio held its All-Female Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and Key Influencer Meeting at the Rosenberg Sky Room on the campus of the Uni-

versity of the Incarnate Word recently.

More than 80 female future sailors, parents and supporters attended the event where they heard from a panel of sailors ranging from a yeoman second class to a commander regarding

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Mark Belisle of Shelburne, Vt., sent us this photo taken by George A. Dudley of Colebrook. Mark writes: "Henry Hurd (1840-1928) owned a store on River Road in West Stewartstown. He was appointed Postmaster for a few years on May 6, 1897, so you can date the photo after that. I assume that's him sitting on the bench. His first wife was Areanna (Areannah) Heath (married 1861) and second wife was Josie Gleason (married 1880). Henry Hurd and Areanna were the grandparents of Perley Hurd the well known North Country riverman/lumberjack."

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