

Hampshire Dome set for 'fun day'

Parenting New Hampshire's annual Family Fun Fair – a day of activities, games and entertainment for the whole family – is Saturday, April 18, at the Hampshire Dome in Milford.

The event is open to the public from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, children ages 3 and younger are free, with a \$20 cap for families.

More than \$7,000 in prizes is being given away at this year's Family Fun Fair.

Parenting New Hampshire editor Melanie Hitchcock says the state's premier parenting magazine is excited about the giveaways at this year's Family Fun Fair.

"We have some amazing prizes to give away including a number of tickets from New Hampshire's best attractions."

Some of the prizes include a family four pack to some of New England's best attractions – Canobie Lake Park, Conway Scenic Railway, Six Gun City, Funtown Splashtown USA, Santa's Village or Six Flags New England.

Are you a sports fan? You could win tickets to the Manchester Monarchs, Manchester Wolves, a suite night for up to 18 guests at the Fisher Cats and other assorted sports memorabilia.

And make sure you buy a raffle ticket to win a Hampshire Hills' family membership for two adults and all children for one year, a prize valued at \$2,500, and a one-week family stay at Jellystone Park valued at more than \$500.

The event is being held in partnership with the Hampshire Dome, American Defenders, and Jump Around and is sponsored by CHaD, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, Hannaford, WMUR and WZLH, with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit organization Child and Family Services of New Hampshire.

The Family Fun Fair will also feature live performances by New Hampshire musicians Mango Groove and Steve Blunt, as well as activities ranging from Vertical Dreams Rock Climbing Wall, skateboarding demos by Rye Airfield, Guitar Hero, Tokyo Joe's martial arts, face painting, Backyard Adventures playset for climbing, bounce houses and slides, performances by N-Step Dance Center, Chuckles the Stiltwalker and more.

For more information on the Family Fun Fair and a \$1 off admission coupon, go to www.parentingnh.com.

Parenting New Hampshire is a publication of McLean Communications of Manchester, which also publishes New Hampshire Home, New Hampshire Business Review, New Hampshire Magazine, Boom! and NH.com.

Finding family



TOP: Resident Blanche Pelletier, who sits at the head of the table where the numbers are spit out by the bingo tumbler, marks her cards during a recent game.

LEFT: Paul Aubin checks in on friend and resident Bob Capelaro at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center and Nursing Home in Jaffrey. The 79-year-old Milford resident volunteers at the facility every week.

BELOW: Aubin takes his turn calling a few bingo games.

Photos by Annie Card

Orphaned as a child, Milford man learns about love later in life

By ANNIE CARD
Correspondent

JAFFREY – While volunteer Paul Aubin of Milford distributes bingo cards, residents shuffle or wheel themselves into the community room at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center and Nursing Home in Jaffrey. Some residents have been ready for 20 minutes and can't understand what's taking so long.

"They would play all day every day if they could," Aubin said. "They take it very seriously."

Some games pay 25 cents to the winner, others 50 cents or \$1.

"I'm a recycled teenager, I tell people, because I still act like one," Aubin said. He will be 80 in August. Trim and agile as a teenager, he wears slim-cut Levis and a satiny Red Sox jacket over a maroon sweater. His face is barely lined from eight decades of hard work and not always happy times. His blue eyes are clear and kind.

By 9:30 a.m., Aubin has helped 18 residents get ready for a recent big game. Men and women are seated in chairs and wheelchairs around the tables where they ate breakfast. The air is full of elec-

tricity as they huddle over their cards and plastic bowls of red chips, a few of them playing as many as six cards at a time.

Before the first numbers are called, Aubin walks a box of doughnuts around the room, making sure everyone gets their favorite.

"He's part of our family. Everyone knows Paul," said Herta Jean, an activity aide at Good Shepherd.

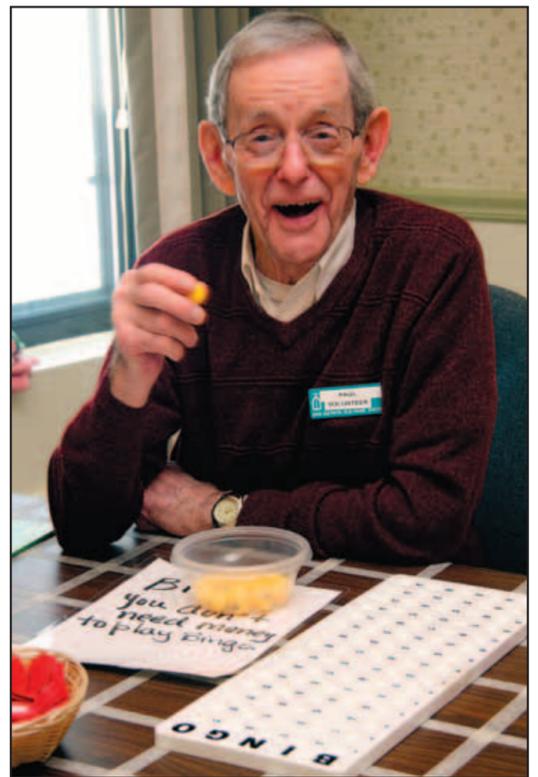
Aubin left his house in Milford at 7 a.m. to arrive at Good Shepherd at 7:40. He's come once a week, every week, spending the first hour or so visiting with the men over breakfast.

He started playing bingo here when his wife moved in.

"Helen had a stroke in 1999. After rehab, the doctors said she needed to go to a nursing home, but I told them I wanted her with me. I had the strength and ability to take care of her then. 'You're going home with me, baby. No one's going to take you from me,' I told her.

"It was 24/7. I didn't do it alone. It was me and Helen all the way. We worked hard to stay together as long as we could,"

VOLUNTEER Page 12



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Students look to spruce up Milford H.S. "tundra"

By **MORGAN MASON**
Special to The Cabinet

Tundra may be defined as a cold, treeless, usually lowland area of far northern regions.

It may also be defined as a courtyard directly in the center of Milford High School.

Both may also be described as barren, drab and secluded – but not for long. Recently, a group of outstanding students who are participating in the upcoming Social Entrepreneurial Student Leadership competition took on the challenge of renovating the "tundra" at Milford High.

In the SESL-NH High School Challenge, eighth- to 12th-grade student-led and student-based teams design and create solutions to community issues that are personally meaningful to them. The projects may fall into one of six categories: education, arts, environment, health, history/culture or wildcard.

This is a statewide challenge that has been issued to students all over New Hampshire. Students are required to design a project to better their community and present their idea with a 15-minute speech and PowerPoint presentation to a panel of judges. The PowerPoint includes ideas for marketing, financial information, resources and a timeline.

This year's team advisers are teachers Kim Snow and Tam Soddors. Team members include juniors Kristen Lake and Lindsey LaForge, sophomores Rhianna Sommers and Nakita

VanBiene, and freshman Ally LaForge.

The regional competition was held Tuesday. The top three teams will be eligible for the state competition on May 4.

"This is going to be a place where we can escape the intense economic environment, and it promotes school pride," Lake said.

Group members and other students attended a cleanup day on April 4. The group is planning to have at least one more cleanup day and a planting day in the near future.

Local businesses and the Milford Garden Club will sponsor the project, which will occur in five main phases: cleanup, planting, acquiring sponsors, decorating and unveiling.

After unveiling the new and improved tundra, the group hopes to hold a picnic for Milford's graduating seniors. Plans include benches, picnic tables, a small pond, shrubs, gardens, a mural and more.

"I'm just a sophomore and I haven't seen the tundra used at all," VanBiene said. "I'd really like to see it used by junior and senior year."

Members also hope to assign classes within the school a section of the tundra to maintain throughout the year.

The sky truly is the limit for these students and their dream of bettering their school.

Morgan Mason is a junior at Milford High School.

Volunteer grateful for Good Shepherd Nursing Home

From Page 7

he said.

But in 2003, Aubin was losing more and more weight and the doctors and Helen and he decided it was time for a nursing home. That was the beginning of bingo. Aubin helped Helen keep track of her cards and cover her numbers. He collected her quarters when she won.

Helen died in October 2007.

"Boy, that's when I really learned what love is. I miss her so much. I was with her when she died; I was helpless. Since then, I really have compassion for those who lose a loved one."

While the residents watch their cards like seagulls eyeing the last french fry, Aubin moves from one table to the next to see if anyone needs help and just to say hello. Then he jumps in for Jean, who has been calling the games for the past 45 minutes. Aubin calls three or four games before turning it back to Jean.

His easy smile and giant heart are not without their scars.

"I was born in Rhode Island during the Depression. Those were really hard times, but I didn't know that at the time. When you're a kid you don't know things, you have to learn from the adults around you."

He was 5 years old when his mother died. With his father unable to cope, the state placed Aubin and his five brothers and three sisters in orphanages. Aubin ended up in an orphanage in Pawtucket, R.I. – separated from his brothers and sisters.

"It's just the way they did things then," he said. After a brief silence, Aubin raises his eyes from his fidgeting hands. "I haven't talked about all this. I blocked out a lot in my past I think. I remember things here and there."

"When someone did adopt me, he was a policeman. Boy, was he a mean guy." Aubin doesn't remember how long he was with that family, but said, "It was bad. Real bad."

"Then a government case-worker took me to another house, and there I saw four of my brothers in the driveway. I lived there from 1938 until 1947."

After high school, Aubin enlisted in the Army. It was 1947.

"I had a 30-day leave after basic training and was excited to go back home to Rhode Island. I went to my house, but they just looked at me and told me never to come back again."

A man named Mr. Dion owned the neighborhood store, Whitey's. When the young man in uniform walked in and said he didn't know where to go, Dion offered him a place. He'd known Aubin since he was a small boy, and took him in for the rest of his life.

"They were a nice family. His daughter, well, I guess she fell in love with me; I don't know why. She wrote to me the whole time I was in the Army. Three years in Korea. Those were the only letters I ever got," he said.

"I was 18 years old and I still didn't know what love was. You don't just know love. You have to learn it like everything else, and



Paul Aubin brings a box of doughnuts around for residents to share, first taking care of David Vinal, the man at the number tumbler.

Annie Card photo

I never learned it – how to give love and how to accept it. It's the most important thing," Aubin said. "My childhood – it was nothing great. A lot of kids today are going through the same thing. They're not learning about love. How can they, if no one's loving them? I understand that."

Aubin talks freely about love, but said that's all recent. "I really understood it when Helen died. I'm so grateful we had each other," he said.

The couple raised four children, and were surrounded by all of them when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Good Shepherd Home shortly before Helen died.

Aubin then moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Jon Bossie. "They're terrific to me and I

try to help out," he said.

He loves his family, his friends at Good Shepherd, and misses Helen every day.

"I always look forward to my days at Good Shepherd. I feel good and I hope I make others feel good," he said. "I don't come here to sip coffee and eat doughnuts. I come here to make them laugh and show them they're loved. That's why I come because I love them and I know they love me. We make each other smile."

Aubin isn't bitter about his childhood.

"It's just the way it was. All the things I remember and those I don't – it was just part of the journey. Things happen. We may not want them to happen, but they do. What matters is how you handle these things."

Religious News

Amherst

Messiah Lutheran Church of Amherst ELCA

Messiah Lutheran Church of Amherst is at 303 Route 101E (next to the flower shop). Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m., with adult forum and Sunday School at 9 a.m. and fellowship at 10 a.m.

Pastor is Tom Teichmann. Call 673-2011 or visit www.messiahnh.org.

Amherst First Baptist Church

All are welcome to experience a Jewish Seder led by Rev. Israel Cohen of Chosen People Ministries, at 6 p.m. April 19. Please call the church at 673-4063 for more information or to reserve a place. Seating is limited.

■ On **Sundays**: Sunday school for all ages – 9:15 a.m.; morning worship service – 10:30 a.m.; Upper Room prayer – 6-7 p.m.

■ On **Wednesdays**: We invite your kids age 4-grade 4 to join every week from 6:15-7:45 p.m. for Pioneer Clubs, a fun-filled and diversified program designed to help kids learn interesting skills and Biblical truth. Club runs throughout the school year and we always welcome new kids to stop in anytime.

■ On **Thursdays**: Senior high youth group (grades 8-12) – 7 p.m. (Check online calendar for current information and location).

Our Web site and online calendar can be found at www.amherstfirstbaptist.com.

Souhegan Christian Church

Souhegan Christian Church is at 5 Route 101A, Unit 2, in Amherst. For more information on any of these programs, contact Dr. John Ritter at 672-6759, e-mail nhsec@myfairpoint.net or visit scofnh.org.

Sunday Morning Worship Service: Sunday School is at 9 a.m. (classes for all ages and nursery provided); Fellowship at 10 a.m.; worship service held at 10:30 a.m. (children's church

and nursery provided).

Women's Bible Study: A multi-generational group of dynamic women meets for Bible Study on **Wednesdays** from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pastry and coffee provided.

The Adventure Club for students meets **Wednesdays** from 4:30-6 p.m. A Christ-centered, Bible-based adventure for children grades 1-6; includes a potluck supper; teaching skits, small group activities, music and games.

The Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets from 6-7:30 p.m. on the **first and third Sunday** of each month. A Christ-centered, mission-based youth group featuring snacks, games, Bible study, mission trips and more.

Service of Healing Prayer is held 7-9 p.m. on the **second Sunday** of each month. A meditative time of personal prayer for physical, mental and emotional healing.

Town Hall for hope event

Souhegan Christian Church (SCC) is a host location for the Town Hall for Hope event, broadcast nationwide at 8 p.m. **April 23**, with financial expert Dave Ramsey.

Town Hall for Hope is your opportunity to sit down with people in your community for a nationwide town hall meeting led by Dave Ramsey. Thousands of venues across the country will host the event, broadcasting Ramsey's live presentation. In the opening half hour, Ramsey will offer straight talk about the economy, recession, foreclosures and more. He'll carefully explain where we've come from, where we are now, and what we should be doing with our money during this time. Then, Dave will spend an hour answering your questions live.

They will take questions by phone, email, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and more. Check out our Get Involved page to see all the ways in which you can join in the conversation.

This is a free event, and open to anyone wanting to know more about our

current economic crisis and what to do about it. Please contact the church if you are interested in attending: nhsec@myfairpoint.net or 672-6759

Lyndeborough

United Church of Lyndeborough

United Church of Lyndeborough services are held in the village at 9:30 a.m. on **Sundays**. There will be a coffee hour after the service.

Milford

Chamber choir Earth Day service and celebration

MILFORD – The Souhegan Valley Interfaith Council invites you to its first Earth Day service and celebration **Sunday, April 19** at 3 p.m., at the Milford United Methodist Church, 327 N. River Road. Guest speaker will be Jean Elizabeth Shockley, executive and program assistant of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, which was founded in 1993 by four major religious organizations and alliances: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, The National Council of Churches of Christ, The Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life and The Evangelical Environmental Network. Please join us for song and prayer as we celebrate Earth Day and commit ourselves to the stewardship of God's creation. For more information, please call John Bigl at 554-5620.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Our regular worship services are **Sunday** at 10:30 a.m. led by the Rev. Barbara McKusick Liscord. Child care is available and coffee hour and fellowship follows each service at 11:45 a.m. Children's programming has resumed.

Meditative Chant services are held every **second and fourth Sunday** at 8 p.m. These services are led by Amy Conley and Linda Goodman.

For more information, or to request transportation, call 673-1870 or e-mail

uucm1870@verizon.net. You may also visit www.uumilfordnh.org. For more information on Unitarian Universalism, visit www.uua.org.

Church of Our Saviour

Milford's Episcopal parish, the Church of Our Saviour, holds monthly Contemporary Eucharist at 5 p.m. on the **third Saturday** of each month.

The service is designed to provide an alternative form of worship, one that follows the layout of the Episcopal liturgy but with a more informal, flexible feel. There is upbeat music from a variety of sources and some storytelling. To help create an atmosphere that is deliberately "different" from Sunday morning, the service will be held in the church's Holder Room rather than in the Nave itself with its more confining architecture.

The Church of Our Saviour is located just off the Oval in Milford, directly across from the Rite Aid Pharmacy and the Milford Post Office. More information on any of the above programs may be obtained by calling the church office at 673-3309 or accessing the church web site: www.coosmilford.org.

First Baptist Church

Regular worship services and Children's Church are at 11 a.m. **Sundays**. Church School starts at 9:15 a.m. **Tuesday** Bible Study is at 7 p.m. **Thursday** Bible Study is at 10:30 p.m. Contact the church for Youth Group information.

First Baptist Church is at 65 West St. The Pastor is the Rev. Dr. Ronald Bouthillette.

Contact the church at 673-5191, e-mail info@fbcmilford.org or visit fbcmilford.org.

Mont Vernon

Mont Vernon Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday Worship services at Mont Vernon Congregational Church,

United Church of Christ, 4 South Main St., begin at 10:30 a.m. with fellowship hour at 11:45 a.m.

For further information, call the church office at 673-3500 on Tuesday or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Wilton

First Unitarian Congregational Society

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Wilton Center is located on Isaac Frye Highway. Minister is Rev. Jeanne Nieuwejaar. Church services are at 10:30 a.m. **Sunday** (except July and August) followed by coffee hour at "The Red House." Children join in the opening portion of the service and then have time for age-appropriate Sunday school programming. The Society also offers rentals of "The Red House."

Please send an e-mail request to admin@uuwilton.org or call Jack at 672-5747.

For more information, call 654-9518 or visit www.uuwilton.org.

The Epiphany Worship Dance Troupe, directed by Dance Ministry Director, Tanya T. Roberts, will hold their annual spring concert, "People Get Ready," at the Second Congregational Church, on **Saturday, April 18**, at 7 p.m.

Joining Epiphany is the Saving Grace Dance Ensemble directed by Robyn Goulette from The Household of Faith in Amherst, The Milford United Methodist Dance Troupe directed by Rebecca Hart, and the Second Congregational Church Choir will present "Dona Nobis Pacem."

Epiphany has performed in many worship services throughout the local church community and has been regarded as a wonderful expression of prayer through art.

Tickets are \$5 for reservations. Call Epiphany member, Stephanie Ouellette at 654-2282. Tickets also available at the door.

Call 654-9045 for more information.

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Observe and Report, 12:10, 2:20,
4:30, 6:50, 9:10 p.m.
Monsters vs. Aliens, PG, noon,
2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:15
State of Play, PG, 12:20, 3, 6:50,
9:30 p.m.
Fast & Furious, PG-13, 11:30 a.m.,
2:40, 7:20, 9:45 p.m.
Knowing, PG-13, 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7,
9:30 p.m.
Crank 2, R, noon, 2, 4:20, 7:20,
9:45 p.m.
The Haunting in Connecticut,
PG-13, noon, 2:15, 4:40, 7, 9:20 p.m.
I Love You Man, R, 11:45 a.m.,
2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 p.m.
17 Again, PG-13, 11:45 a.m., 2:10,
4:40, 7, 9:20 p.m.
Adventureland, R, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.
Duplicity, PG-13, 12:20, 3:10 p.m.

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Pinewood Derby

The Pinewood Derby for Pack 10 in Wilton/Lyndeborough was held at the Second Congregational Church in Wilton on March 22. Each boy has to build a car that weighs five ounces and races in a double-elimination tournament against his fellow Scouts. The Derby is the Cub Scouts biggest event of the year and had 35 Scouts competing to attend the Arrowhead District Pinewood Derby on April 18. Every Scout competing gets an award, and the top five racers get trophies and the chance to attend the District Derby. Our top five winners were (from fifth to first place) Corey Allenberg (Bear), Brandon Cote (Wolf), Sam Claire (Bear), Nicholas Kennedy (Wolf), and Colby Jenks (Tiger).

People's Choice Award winners are, from left, Nathan Duprey-Empey (Bear), Will Welch (Bear), and Jude Roberts (Tiger), with C.U. Bourn, Cubmaster.