

Princess Sunrise

Verse tales for wise children and gentle grownups

Written and illustrated by Esther M. Leiper-Estabrooks

JEST, THE JESTER

I am a fool for Miss Sunrise!
She gestures: I must heed her call.
I caper and jape for Miss Sunrise
Yet she barely heeds me at all!

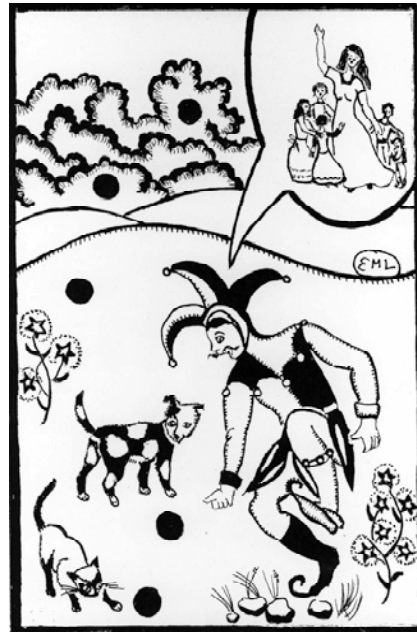
Cap and bells donned for her pleasure;
I somersault end over end.
What does she do with her leisure
In the moments I falt and bend?

My life holds a wife and five children
Yet I never wish them to see

By her idle command I am busied
Manufacturing pratfalls and glee.

They needn't know how I worry;
With middle-aged knees getting sore.
She summons my presence; I hurry:
But when I can't work anymore?

Will Sunrise arrange me a sunset;
Some graceful retreat as I age?
And how shall I fill up my hours
When I no longer play center-stage?



— Comments and questions about Princess Sunrise weekly serial may be shared by writing Esther M. Leiper-Estabrooks, P.O. Box 87, Jefferson, NH 03583; or clo Great Northwoods Journal, 76 Mechanic Street, Lancaster, NH 03584, or by email: editor@greatnorthwoodsjournal.com. (Note, Esther is the Poet Laureate, White Mountains Region and resides locally at 747 Presidential Highway in the Jefferson Hill Village.)

Letters to the Editor

Offers a balance picture of Stratford Public School and students

To the Editor,

Tom Allin has written several letters lately about his desire to send Stratford Public School (SPS) students in grades seven through 12 to other schools. While I respect Mr. Allin's right to his passionate view, I think everyone is entitled to a balanced picture of Stratford Public School and its students. I'd like to present some other information I think should be of interest to the Stratford community. I'm not going to compare Stratford with other schools because everyone likes to think their school is "the best". I'm not interested in pitting one school against the other, I simply want to state the facts about Stratford Public School.

According to N.H. State Department of Education records, Stratford Public School has made Acceptable Yearly Progress every year since testing has started. Those same records indicate there have been no dropouts at Stratford Public School in the last several years. According to the US & News World Report Stratford Public School was a 2008 Bronze Gold Award School.

Since 2006, seventy-five percent of Stratford Public School graduates have gone on to a four-year college, two-year college, trade school, or entered into the military. Schools Stratford students have attended have included Cornell, St. Anselm, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, University of New England, Norwich, UNH, UMass, and UVM. Many have excelled at those colleges. This year, two seniors have already received \$130,000 in scholarships to St. Anselm.

Our students have four running start courses available this year. One of our teachers also worked with students who wanted to take a CLEP test to get college credit for one college course. We have a student taking a college course on line this year. Students heading to college next fall could have one semester of college work completed before they even start college. The cost of one semester at a community college would range from \$4,000 - \$5,000. That is a big potential savings to our college bound students. We are already working on next year's Program of Studies. We

have included correspondence courses and distance learning courses, which expand the availability of electives. Some of these courses also include Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

The Stratford Public School students have also excelled. Last year the Granite State Challenge Team won its first two matches and lost a quarter-final match to Philips Exeter (exclusive 1,000 student private school). They were then invited to a national competition in Washington, D.C. While they didn't win, the smallest school they competed against had 700 students enrolled. We had a team compete in a robotics competition in Connecticut in November 2009. There were 26 teams competing and we placed sixth. Our coach was cited as one of the two outstanding coaches at the meet. One of our students who attended the vocational program at Littleton Vocational School (we do provide vocational opportunities for our students) won the state competition in one category and another placed third in a different category. The one who placed first competed in national competition. Also, each year SPS has two students selected for the prestigious St. Paul's School.

The students at SPS have many school activities available. In addition to the programs already mentioned, our Youth and Government program has put two of our students in leadership positions in the state. We have a National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society who work on numerous community related projects. Our drama and music program is being resurrected. Even students in our elementary school have participated in drama and 33 students are currently taking music lessons. As these students gain more experience, a solid high school band is on the horizon.

Stratford Public School was awarded the 2009 Softball New Hampshire School Athletic Association (NHIAA) Class S Sportsmanship Banner. NHIAA also recognized Stratford School for sportsmanship in both Class S Boy's and Girl's Cross Country in 2009. By the way, in 2003 we also won the NHIAA Sportsmanship Award and in

2002 we won the Granite State Conference Girls Cross-Country Championship. Student athletes at SPS also now are allowed to play sports for one of the most competitive schools in our class through our cooperative team agreement with Groveton High School.

Our students are also vested in their school and community. Students have supported the senior meals program both with food and entertainment for several years. Last spring the students spent one half day working around the school to improve its appearance and show pride in their school.

Humility prevents me from bringing up more positives, but I believe I need to make two more brief points.

The real testament to the

effectiveness of a public school may be its alumni. Although I

Stratford -----
(Continued on Page 8)

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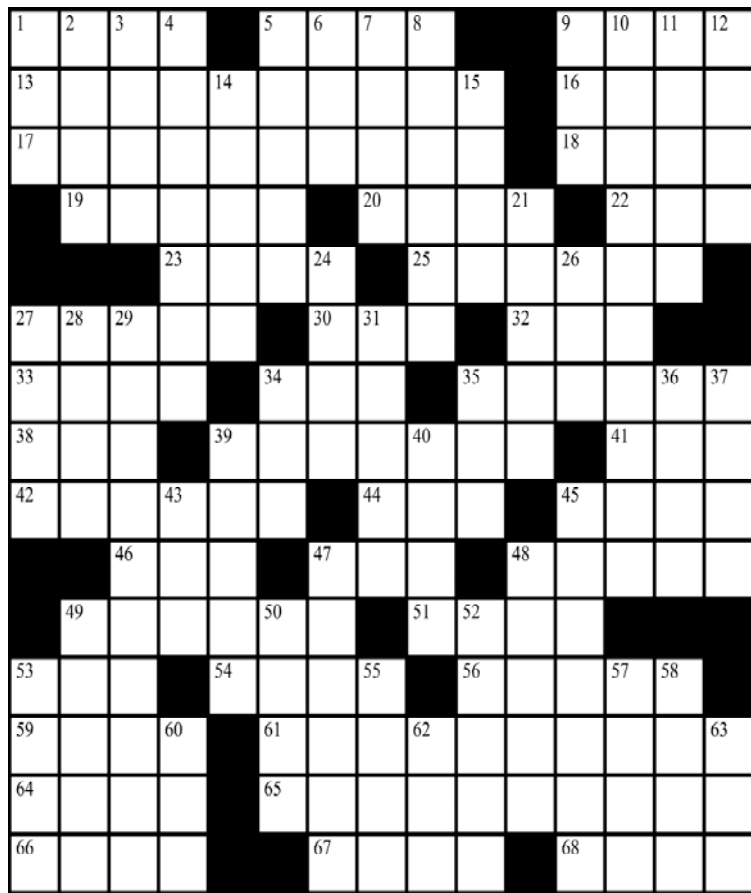
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Fun things to do

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. Get better
- 5. Again
- 9. Boris Godunov, for one
- 13. Not rated
- 16. Eardrum projection
- 17. Italian educator Maria ___
- 18. Checks
- 19. Pigeon's perch
- 20. Arid
- 22. "Malcolm X" director
- 23. Ballpark figure
- 25. Orderly
- 27. Bloodhound's fleshy upper lip
- 30. Columbus Day mo.
- 32. Neon, e.g.
- 33. Boston suburb
- 34. Fifth note on scale
- 35. Quip, part 4
- 38. Parenthesis, essentially
- 39. Stocked hotel fridge
- 41. "___ we having fun yet?"
- 42. Elm trees
- 44. Cashew, e.g.
- 45. Lento
- 46. Astern
- 47. Big wine holder
- 48. Correct, as text
- 49. Aggregate
- 51. By way of, briefly
- 53. Atlanta-based station
- 54. Certain Scandinavian
- 56. Club publication
- 59. Condo, e.g.

- 61. Earth tremor record
- 64. Air
- 65. Divider
- 66. Communicate silently
- 67. Beams
- 68. "___ of Eden"

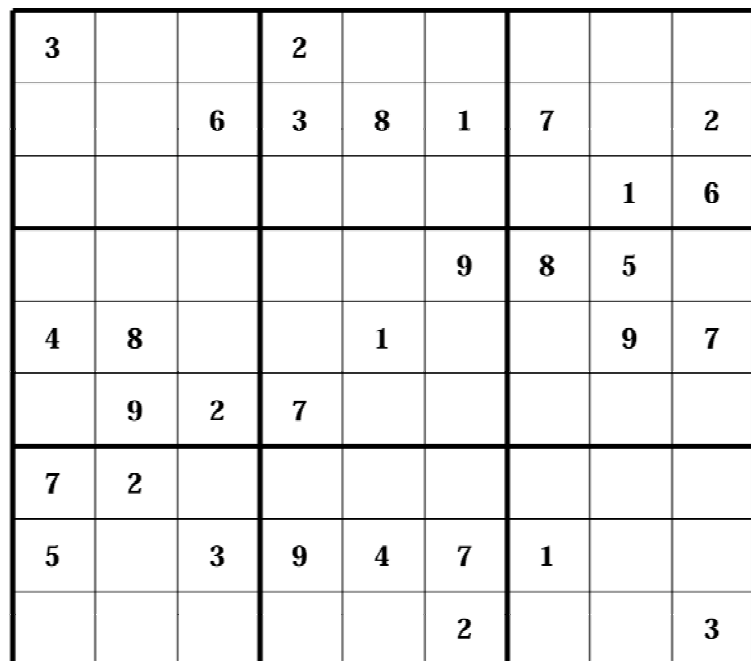
- 27. Blemish
- 28. Vega's constellation
- 29. Charming
- 31. Fine dinnerware
- 34. "___ boom bah!"
- 35. Congratulations, of a sort
- 36. "Pumping ___"
- 37. Bawdy
- 39. Recurring theme
- 40. Ram
- 43. "How ___ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem)
- 45. Run
- 47. Plywood layer
- 48. Overthrow, e.g.
- 49. Boredom
- 50. Type of computer
- 52. Development developments
- 53. Sounds of reproof
- 55. Babylonian water goddess
- 57. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- 58. Neuromodulation group
- 60. Big ___ Conference
- 62. Chester White's home
- 63. Big Apple attraction, with "the"

Down

- 1. Be busy
- 2. Carbon compound
- 3. Bad marks
- 4. Anticlimax
- 5. Money in the bank, say
- 6. Discouraging words
- 7. "Aeneid" figure
- 8. Were not
- 9. "For shame!"
- 10. Modest
- 11. Monastery
- 12. Gift on "The Bachelor"
- 14. Beverage
- 15. Acute
- 21. Avid
- 24. Sometime today, say
- 26. "The Joy Luck Club" author

Crossword answers on Page 8

Sudoku



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 thru 9.

Difficulty: **EASY**

Sudoku answers on Page 8

Word Search



- Afford
- Annoy
- Ant
- As
- Aunt
- Bad
- Bed
- Bee
- Belts
- Copies
- Cry
- Dim
- Ear
- Eat
- Egg
- Ends
- Failure
- Few
- Fox
- Go
- Greek
- Hadn't
- He
- Hum
- If
- Ill
- Is
- Jerked
- Kid
- Land
- Law
- Lines
- Mans
- Manufacturing
- Metal
- Modern
- My
- Nap
- Native
- Natures
- Newer
- Obey
- Of
- On
- Own
- Paw
- Plait
- Planes
- Pop
- Ram
- Ran
- Rat
- Raw
- Rely
- Royal
- Sea
- Sex
- Shy
- Size
- Sweeps
- Tail
- Tea
- Tell
- Timber
- Top
- Uncle
- Up
- Us
- Van
- Vet
- Ways
- Wide
- Win

Answers on Page 8

HOROSCOPES

March 2009 — Week 1

CAPRICORN
December 22–January 19

Heaps of gratitude are headed your way, Capricorn. Enjoy the accolades. It may be a while before another golden moment occurs. A friend accepts your invitation.

ARIES
March 21–April 19

A friend finally turns the corner financially. Have them over and learn some of their tips and tricks, Aries. It will pay off. Travels over the weekend result in a rare find.

CANCER
June 22–July 22

The tricks of the trade are yours for the taking, Cancer. Use them to your advantage. A relationship deepens with a mini getaway to someplace special.

LIBRA
September 23–October 22

You're burning the candle at both ends, Libra, and if you aren't careful, your flame is going to go out. Carve out some time to yourself to rest and relax. You deserve it.

AQUARIUS
January 20–February 18

You catch on to a ruse. Don't spill the beans and spoil the fun, Aquarius. An old flame returns bearing gifts. Welcome them into the fold.

TAURUS
April 20–May 20

A twist of fate brings you rewards like no other. Thank your lucky stars, Taurus. No news from home really is good news. Don't rock the boat.

LEO
July 23–August 22

A turn of events puts you on high alert. Be cautious, Leo, but don't go overboard. A financial burden is lifted, and you have more to share with those close to you.

SCORPIO
October 23–November 21

You knew better, Scorpio, but your desires got the best of you. Now it's time to pay the piper. A memo brings an issue to light. Dig deep for the solution.

PISCES
February 19–March 20

You're tops on someone's list, Pisces, and they aim to show you. Reciprocate the gesture, and you'll have a friend for life. A little one needs some help.

GEMINI
May 21–June 21

The pieces to a puzzle at work begin to come together and what you learn astounds you, Gemini. An announcement brings you some much-needed peace.

VIRGO
August 23–September 22

A family member puts you on the spot. Don't be afraid to say no or keep the information to yourself, Virgo. A long-lost heirloom returns.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22–December 21

Sharp words catch you off guard, Sagittarius. Try not to get too upset. There is something for you to learn. A financial endeavor requires a leap of faith.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

RUMORS, RAMBLINGS & RACING

with Steve Poulin



• Jimmie Johnson, who seems hell-bent to win a fifth straight Sprint cup championship played possum Sunday at Las Vegas Speedway passing teammate Jeff Gordon with just 16 laps to go and win the Shelby American Sprint Cup race. It was the seventh time that Johnson has won back-to-back races in his career and had told members of the media leading up to Sunday's race he could care less about people who think he's tainting NASCAR racing with his dominance. "You compete to win. I'm not gonna apologize for winning," the four time champion said. "I want to win every race." While Johnson drove away from the pack, current point leader Kevin Harvick slipped past Gordon for the second spot. Gordon, who led 210 laps of the 276-lap event finished third, ahead of another Rick Hendrick Racing teammate Mark Martin. Matt Kenseth edged upstart Joey Logano at the line for fifth. The win was No. 49 in the NASCAR history books for Johnson and broke a three way tie for most wins on a 1-1/2-mile speedway with Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt. Johnson now has 15 victories on the cookie-cutter tracks to 14 each for former Cup champions Gordon and Earnhardt.

• The best car in the field finally worked its way back to the top in Saturday's Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas Speedway, just in time to win the race. Beset and frustrated by poor stops on pit road and a variety of different tire strategies by other competitors, Kevin Harvick passed Denny Hamlin for the lead with 25 laps to go and pulled away to beat Hamlin by 1.361 seconds, taking the rain-delayed Nationwide Series event. The victory was Harvick's first of the new season and the 35th of his career, second best all-time in the series. Carl Edwards ran third, polesitter Brad Keselowski fourth and Brian Vickers fifth. Again the focus of the race was Danica Patrick. The open wheel star was a victim of an errant move by Michael McDowell (who took full responsibility for the incident) on Lap 83 and finished in a disappointing 36th-place in her last race before her scheduled return to open wheel racing. Patrick will return to the series in June at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Fortunately for Harvick, his No. 33 Chevrolet had enough muscle and the driver enough presence of mind to overcome what crew chief Ernie Cope termed the team's "worst day ever" on pit road. Harvick lost spots and therefore track position on every exchange of pit stops the entire race. "The car was really fast", said the owner/driver, who led a

race-high 82 laps, most of them early in the event before getting burned by lackluster work on pit road. "We've definitely got some work to do on pit road, but, fortunately the car was fast enough. I get mad, and they (the crew) know how I am and what I expect of them...But you can only gripe about it so long...and then you have to go back and drive the car."

• NASCAR has lost one of its first real 'hero' crew members with the passing of J.C. Elder, better known as "Suitcase Jake" at the age of 73. Jake Elder's long tenure as a crew chief affected the career of Cup stars like David Pearson, Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Darrell Waltrip. Elder was the crew chief for Pearson's 1968 and 1969 Cup Championship runs and directed Earnhardt to his first Cup victory in 1979 at Bristol. "He was one of the first crew chiefs in NASCAR to achieve celebrity status with our fans," NASCAR said in a statement last week. "He was a pioneer in that regard, and the celebrity was well deserved. He was truly one of the greatest crew chiefs of all time...our sport has lost one of its legends." Elder dropped out of grade school and could neither read nor write. "I never knew that for a long time," Darrell Waltrip said. "He was so smart and knew so much about cars that you never even considered he couldn't read or write; he just kept it all in his head." His moniker "Suitcase Jake" came because he frequently switched teams during mid season. "He'd get mad and just pick up his stuff and leave and go work someplace else," said Waltrip. "And he was so good, people would take him. He was my crew chief about 10 different times. He helped me, he helped Dale Earnhardt, he helped Terry Labonte—every young driver that came along. Jake made winners out of them because he gave you a car and taught you what a car is supposed to feel like." Elder worked with over 30 drivers, including Lee and Richard Petty, Sterling Marlin, Bobby and Davey Allison and Benny Parsons.

• **Garage Garble** •

• Congratulations are out to the Olympic Gold Medal winning, U.S. four-man bobsled team. The gold was the first for US bobsled team since 1948 and came in a sled designed by former Daytona 500 winner Geoff Bodine and built in the U.S. by Chassis Dynamics, a race car fabrication shop.

• Canaan Fair Speedway has announced the 1/3-mile asphalt track will be hosting a guaranteed starter qualifying event for the \$5,000 to win, Clash of the Titans 150, scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 15, at Riverside

Speedway in Groveton. The Clash in its second year of existence, is a special high-paying event for Late Model cars. Wayne Helliwell Jr., captured the initial Clash and top-prize of \$5,000 in 2009 on what had to be the hottest day of the season baking drivers and fans alike. The qualifying event will be held on Saturday, June 12th.

• NASCAR is taking a hard look at the start and park cars and the resulting affects on unqualified teams that go home and who possibly would have run the entire event. As Dave Blaney headed for the garage at Fontana after 43 laps with a supposed blown engine, NASCAR officials were waiting to confiscate the car for inspection. Why a team out of the top 35. Because they can and according to John Darby, Sprint Cup Series Director, because "the randomness of inspection covers everyone in the field. The 66 was a car that was very competitive. Yes, he was outside of the top 35, but he was the fastest of the group. He was fifth overall qualifying and he led the race today (five laps)." NASCAR hasn't been able to outguess the teams to determine who will start and park but a straight up qualifying procedure, doing away with the top 35 guaranteed spots, might give underfinanced teams the means to qualify and run the entire events without having to keep an escrow account available because of the fear of not making the race hanging over their heads.

• Sometimes sponsors come out of the woodwork. In Jamie McMurray's case, it was as a



Kevin Harvick stretched his Sprint Cup point lead with a strong second place showing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday.

(Photo by Steve Poulin)

result of a statement in victory lane after winning the Daytona 500. McMurray during Daytona 500 victory lane celebrations joked, "After we won Talladega (last fall) we went to McDonald's. I think tonight we will have a Big Mac." Last weekend at Las Vegas Motor Speedway McMurray's No. 1 Earnhardt Ganassi Racing Chevrolet carried the McDonald's logo and according to sources, could feature the Golden Arches for 10 additional races this season. McDonald's first NASCAR affiliation came with Junior Johnson and driver Hut Stricklin in 1993. McMurray, 33, is in his seventh season of Cup competition and has four career cup wins. I think it flows, and now introducing

'Jamie "Big Mac" McMurray.'

• **Quote of the Week** •

• "Yes...we were lucky today, but you don't get lucky and win four championships and 48 races." Jimmie Johnson after earning his 48th Sprint Cup win at Auto Club Speedway.

• **Next Lap** •

• Kurt Busch is the defending champion of this week's Kobalt Tool 500, a 500-mile, 325-lap event (Sunday, March 7) at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Last year's Atlanta victory was the first of Busch's two wins in 2009. Dale Earnhardt leads all drivers with nine career wins at Atlanta. Ryan Newman is tied with Buddy Baker for the most career poles (seven) at the super fast track. Fox has the broadcast, beginning at noon ET, followed by the Kobalt 500 green flag at 1 p.m.

• Canaan Fair Speedway will hold a crate engine informational meeting on March 6th at 1:30 p.m. at the speedway. Rick Paya, owner of RPM Racing Engines in Georgia, Vt., will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the benefit of having a properly sealed crate motor. Anyone interested in purchasing or who already owns a crate engine, is urged to attend. Crate Engines were first introduced in the northeast by the American-Canadian Tour. The relatively less expensive program has become the mainstay of Late Model racing in New England and eastern Canada.

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Constituent service is #1 with John Tholl

To the editor,
In my nearly 30 years of public service to the people of Coös County I have always made constituent service my number one priority. When endorsing a candidate I look for the same quality and I have found that in State Representative Special Election Candidate John Tholl. John is a dedicated public servant. Having served as a State Representative in the past, John has always fought for the people of Coös District 2. He will do

what he can to insure that state obligations are NOT passed on to county and local government. As state police officer and local police chief, John Tholl has protected our families and our children from wrongdoers. I ask all voters in Coös District 2 to join me supporting John Tholl for State on Tuesday, March 9th.

Ray Burton
Executive Councilor –
District 1
Bath

Join in supporting the tax fighter, John Tholl

To the Editor,
Voters of Coös County District 2 have a chance to help change the course of reckless spending and higher taxes by electing John Tholl, a proven

tax fighter, in the Special Election being held on Tuesday, March 9th. John has a proven record of fighting against higher taxes and spending. As a former State Representative John Tholl

has always stood up against a sales or income tax. If he is returned to Concord, he will continue that fight. John's passion for public service, support for eliminating the job killing LLC tax, as well as wanting to see a better Coös County through stronger economic growth and job creation, is why he is the best choice for State Representative on Tuesday, March 9th. Help fight the 40 new taxes and fees being imposed by Concord by joining with me in supporting the tax fighter John Tholl.

Senator John Gallus
Berlin

Stratford-----

(Continued from Page 5)

could mention many outstanding Stratford alumni, I think Tom Allin is a great example. I think the school should be proud to have graduated someone like Tom Allin that can clearly articulate an issue and has the courage and intestinal fortitude to pursue his convictions. Tom, you are probably one of the best examples of a quality Stratford student and a testament to keep the entire school operational.

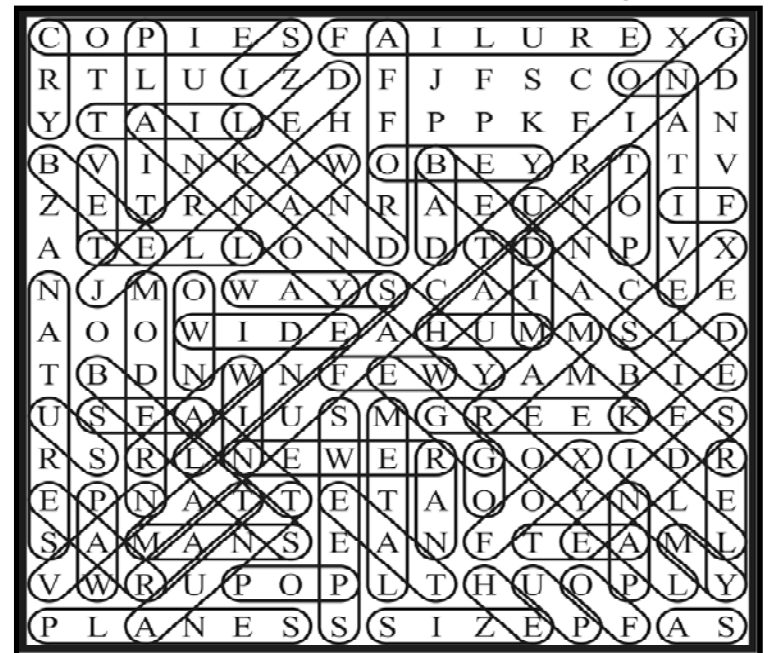
I know the debate of keeping the school open has continued for many years. That debate has cost us quality staff, probably some good students, and revenue. It would be nice if this school district meeting established a mandate. If community members vote to tuition students, let it happen. If not, drop the subject for at least three years. According to current numbers, we will have 42 students in Stratford Public High School then. I don't think the real issue is about taxes, the quality of education our students receive, or the opportunities available to the students. I

heard the impassioned speeches from community members at the last school district meeting. The community is proud of their school. I'm proud of our school. Tom, I even bet you are proud of your Alma Mata. I think the vast majority of community members wants to keep their school.

Long live the Stratford Lions,
Hoorah!
James D. Shallow, Principal
Stratford Public School



Word Search answers from Page 6



Sudoku answers from Page 6

3	1	4	2	7	6	9	8	5
9	5	6	3	8	1	7	4	2
2	7	8	5	9	4	3	1	6
6	3	7	4	2	9	8	5	1
4	8	5	6	1	3	2	9	7
1	9	2	7	5	8	6	3	4
7	2	1	8	3	5	4	6	9
5	6	3	9	4	7	1	2	8
8	4	9	1	6	2	5	7	3

Crossword answers from Page 6

1	H	2	E	3	A	4	L	5	A	6	N	7	E	8	W	9	T	10	11	12	R
13	U	N	C	14	E	15	N	S	O	R	E	16	U	M	B	O					
17	M	O	N	T	E	S	S	O	R	I		18	T	A	B	S					
	19	L	E	D	G	E		20	S	E	R	21		22	L	E	E				
		23	O	U	T	24	S		25	N	E	26	A	T	L	Y					
27	F	L	E	W	S		30	O	C	T		32	G	A	S						
33	L	Y	N	N		34	S	O	H		35	P	E	N	C	I	L				
38	A	R	C		39	M	I	N	I	40	B	A	R		41	A	R	E			
42	W	A	H	43	O	O	S		44	N	U	T		45	S	L	O	W			
		46	A	F	T		47	V	A	T		48	E	M	E	N	D				
	49	E	N	T	I	50	R	E		51	T	H	R	U							
53	T	N	T		54	F	I	N	55	N		56	O	R	G	57	A	58	N		
59	U	N	I	60	T		61	S	E	I	62	S	M	O	G	R	A	63	M		
64	T	U	N	E		65	C	E	N	T	E	R	L	I	N	E					
66	S	I	G	N		67	R	A	Y	S		68	E	A	S	T					

Rocker-----

(Continued from Page 4)

still have a lot of living to do. Our country is teeming with grandparents raising grandchildren; elders (I like the word because it used to mean wisdom) are producing wonderful music (yup, even some maps; why not make money??), art, literature, architecture and a whopping amount of much needed common sense (just, for crying out loud, listen). We have a lot to give and a lot to teach (if you don't "know it all"). I read somewhere that, "The beginning of knowledge is when you realize how much you do NOT know". Pretty wise words when you give them some thought.

To "get off your rocker" is of course, a metaphor. It means stay mentally and physically active and show what you can and are doing. It does not actually mean staying off seats. It does not mean you are loco!

We don't (or shouldn't) retire to moulder away; we retire, gratefully, to at last realize dreams of doing what we never had time to do when we were working and providing for the next generation of wise and sage elders.

Okay, so the club has been formed. There are no meetings (except this column) and no dues or driving in bad weather. To be a member, simply share your "off the rocker" thoughts, deeds and doings and, mostly especially, humor, for future columns (meetings) and God, please bless us all.

— Comments may be shared by writing to Corinne Comeau at 191 Portland Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 or c/o Great Northwoods Journal, 76 Mechanic Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 or by email to editor@greatnorthwoodsjournal.net

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