



HARRISON HAAS/CITIZEN

MEREDITH LIONS CLUB holds its 21st annual rubber duckie race on Wednesday afternoon in downtown Meredith.

Meredith resident wins rubber duckie race

By HARRISON HAAS
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MEREDITH — Ducks by the dozen raced down the falls in Meredith on Wednesday afternoon, with hundreds of spectators waiting to hear their number called during the 21st annual Meredith Lions Club Rubber Duckie Race at the Mill Falls Marketplace.

People from all over New England, including a padding of Mallard ducks, stood at the shore of Meredith Bay to see which duck was the fastest.

Swimming past the finish line first was duck No. 2842, which belonged to

John Buletti of Meredith who earned the \$1,000 grand prize.

This year, a total of 3,262 ducks went down the falls. The record year was in 2003 when exactly 3,900 ducks toppled down and into the bay.

Runner-up this year was Vickie Carty of Meredith, who took home \$500 donated by Mill Falls Inn and Marketplace and Elan Publishing. Third place, a \$300 check from Hearing Enhancement, went to Lynn Sanford of Moultonborough. Fourth place, a \$200 check from Chris Williams Architect and Ameriprise Financial, went to Stephen and GERALYNN Fountain of

Meredith. The \$200 fifth place prize from Remcon North and Ambrose Brothers went to Cindy and Gary Kuns of Moultonborough.

President Marie Valliere of the Meredith Lions Club said this is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the organization. The event originally was set up as a cooperative event with David's House, a facility near Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon that provides a home-away-from-home and supports families and their children who are receiving

See Duckie, A5

Man faces felony threatening charge

LACONIA — Police have charged a Sheridan Street resident with felonious criminal threatening and criminal trespass following an incident Tuesday on White Oaks Road.

Police say Ralph C. Alexander Jr., 54, of 169 Sheridan St., Laconia, threatened another person with a gun following a verbal argument in which the alleged victim asked

Alexander to leave the premises. Police charge that Alexander pulled a small-caliber handgun and pointed it directly at the victim's head, threatening to kill him.

There were several other people at the residence at the time, including several young children, police say.

Police arrested Alexander a short time later, recovering the handgun alleged

to have been involved in the incident.

Alexander refused bail and is being held at the Belknap County jail pending arraignment in the Fourth Circuit District Court-Laconia Division.



ALEXANDER

Police charge man in underage drinking party

LACONIA — Police have charged a local man with facilitating an underage drinking party Tuesday night.

Damir Seifija, 24, of 718 North Endicott St., Laconia, allegedly held a party where alcohol was consumed, with several participants under age 21. When police arrived in response to a loud music complaint, Seifija allegedly told the under-age people to

hide in the basement.

Additional officers were called to the scene to assist with the large number of party-goers, with two officers from the Meredith Police Department also helping out. They charged 12 individuals, ranging in age from 17 to 20 years, with unlawful, internal possession of alcohol.

Police charged Garret R.

Dunlap, 20, of Sandwich with internal possession of alcohol, resisting arrest, and obstructing governmental operations, and detained him at the Belknap County jail in lieu of \$2,000 cash bail, pending his arraignment on July 6 in the Fourth Circuit Court-Laconia Division.

Seifija's arraignment is scheduled Aug. 9.

Police chiefs association warns of telemarketing scam

CONCORD — Salem Police Chief Paul Donovan has learned of a telemarketing company that has been soliciting funds, claiming to be act-

ing on behalf of the NH Association of Chiefs of Police. The association warns that it is a fraudulent call.

In a statement, the NH As-

sociation of Chiefs of Police said it believes fundraising is an important vehicle in help-

See Scam, A5

Intimate view of 'On Golden Pond'

I do recommend that you get tickets for "On Golden Pond," now playing at Pitman's Freight Room through Aug. 12.

Wednesday's matinee performance, one of two complimentary shows for people of the Lakes Region, saw a full house — around 150 people — who sat entranced throughout the 2 1/2-hour running time and gave the cast a standing ovation at the end.

Frank Wells as Norman Thayer Jr. and Vinette Cotter as Ethel Thayer are an instance of perfect casting. Both have been involved in multiple productions of this play and both have extensive backgrounds in regional and other theater.

The rest of the cast is outstanding as well.

Fourteen-year-old Jordan Puzzo deservedly captured hearts in the role of 13-year-old Billy Ray Jr. Jordan is making his theatrical debut but has numerous film, commercial, television, and voice-over credits.

Lori Gigliotti Murphy — stepping out from her role as

Warren D. Huse
An Occasional Opinion*



Like this past winter's production of "Political Suicide" — also by Thompson — sound and lighting were thoroughly professional. The rather sparse but still-effective lighting of the former has blossomed into a bank of LEKOs to accommodate the larger space used for "On Golden Pond."

The program says this is the "only production of this American classic play ever directed by the Academy

See View, A5

co-producer — portrays Chelsea Thayer convincingly and with flair. Keeping it in the family, Morgan Murphy — also co-producer — plays Chelsea's love interest and father of young Billy to fine effect.

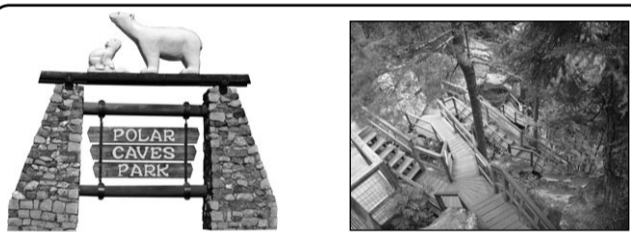
Ernest Thompson, playwright, plays Charlie the Mailman as only Thompson can enliven a character, and Charlie is, indeed, a character.

Streetcar Company's own Patte Sarausky has the off-stage cameo role of a telephone operator — with the full measure of New England accent and temperament.

As playwright Thompson said in his opening curtain speech, the interior of the building certainly lends itself to portraying a summer cottage on a lake — and the large paintings of Stephen

Hodecker add the finishing touch.

Thompson, composer Joe Deleault, Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster, and singer-songwriter Carly Simon provide appropriate and moving music.



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Performance & Safety Critical for Retiring In Today's Turbulent Times

Today is the day you're going to start to make the right choices with your retirement assets. At this stage in your life, 60 plus, making your choices impacts the way you're going to live out the rest of your days. On one hand, the long term rising costs of living can reduce the buying power of a fixed income, but on the other hand, market volatility can dramatically impact the performance of your retirement portfolio.

Solution

In today's market, an annuity is the only personal financial vehicle that can offer you both the growth potential and the security of guaranteed income payments.

In 2008 Mass Mutual Financial Group released an updated study in which a portfolio incorporating stocks, bonds, and incremental purchases of an annuity, produces more guaranteed lifetime income, develops more liquidity to address other retirement needs, and builds more long-term wealth than other commonly adopted retirement income strategies.

"Incorporating a fixed income annuity in a retirement income account yielded greater long-term wealth for an investor — along with more income security than a portfolio of equity and bond investments alone, even in an 'up' market."

Source: Mass Mutual Financial Group, study of retirement income account allocation among equities, bonds and fixed income annuities, (updated May 2008).

The study, which tested four strategies for managing a retirement income account over 181 time periods (referred to as cases) between 1965 and 2006, found that the three strategies involving an income annuity, whether purchased all at once or over time, generally outperformed the stock and bond only strategy, regardless of market conditions at the time. In fact, the investment only approach, even during strong equity and bond markets, ran out of money in 25% of the cases. In contrast, the strategy of laddering into a life annuity matched the income goal in 100% of the cases tested.

While the stock and bond only strategy preserved the original deposit in 45% of the cases tested, the laddered life annuity strategy preserved the original deposit in 93% of the cases tested.

- For the 45% of the stock and bond only cases the average liquid value of the laddered life annuity strategy was 66% higher.
- In every case, the laddered life annuity strategy matched the income of a life and 20 year certain annuity (which offered no liquidity) utilizing 100% of the deposit, and on average more than tripled the original deposit at the end of the period.
- In contrast to a strategy of living off interest and preserving the original deposit, the laddered life annuity strategy matched the income in every case and on average resulted in more than 5 times the original deposit.

Retirement income distribution is critical for insuring that you and your spouse never run out of monies. Naturally there is a place for equities and I'm not suggesting to rid yourself of your investments. However, a smart choice with "some of your monies" is going to protect your way of life with annuities and the benefits of laddering.

