



September 29 - October 6, 2019
8 Full Days
Sunday to Sunday



Photo by
Rachel
Andrews
Damon



Photo by
Ellen Guilford

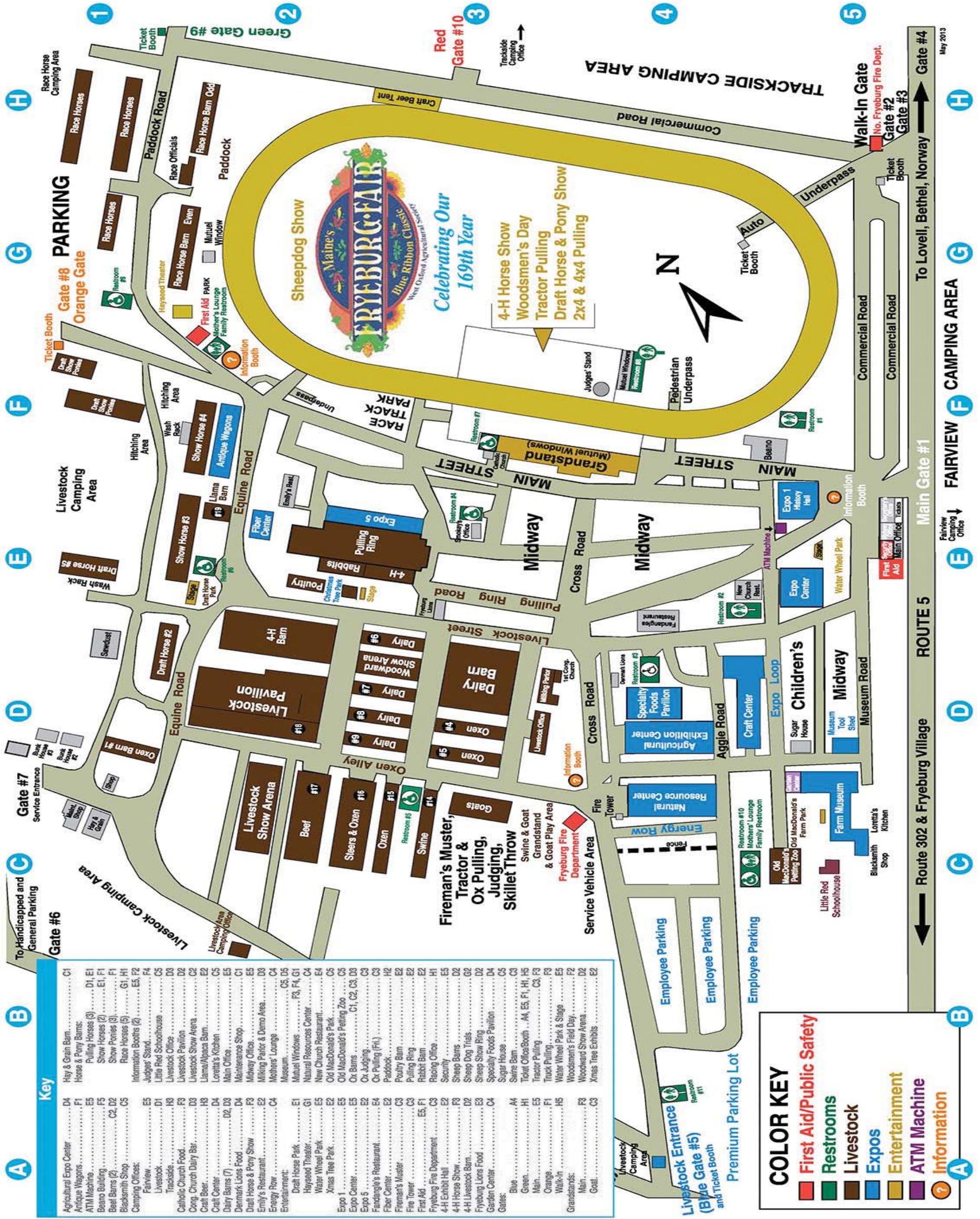


Photo by
Ed Kinney

Agriculture & Livestock
Woodsmen's Field Day
Exhibitions & Museums
Tractor & 4WD pulls
Harness racing
Night Shows & Fireworks
Grand Parade
Spectacular food
Midway & Rides
Campsites



www.fryeburgfair.org



Key

Agricultural Expo Center	D4	Hay & Grain Barn	C1
Antique Wagons	F1	Horse & Pony Barns:	
ATM Machine	E5	Pulling Horses (3)	D1, E1
Beano Building	F5	Show Horses (2)	E1, F1
Beef Barns (2)	C2, D2	Show Ponies (2)	F1
Blacksmith Shop	C5	Race Horses (5)	G1, H1
Camping Offices:		Information Booths (2)	E5, F2
Fairview	E5	Judges' Stand	F4
Livestock	D1	Little Red Schoolhouse	C5
Trackside	H3	Livestock Office	D3
Catholic Church Food	F3	Livestock Pavilion	D2
Cong. Church Dairy Bar	D3	Livestock Show Arena	C2
Craft Beer	H3	Llama/Alpaca Barn	E2
Craft Center	D4	Loretta's Kitchen	C5
Dairy Barns (7)	D2, D3	Main Offices	E5
Denmark Lions Food	D4	Maintenance Shop	C1
Draft Horse & Pony Show	F3	Midway Office	E5
Emily's Restaurant	E2	Mixing Pellet & Demo Area	D3
Energy Row	C4	Mothers' Lounge	C4
Entertainment:		Museum	C5, D5
Draft Horse Park	E1	Mutuel Windows	F3, F4, G4
Hayseed Theater	G1	Natural Resources Center	C4
Water Wheel Park	E5	New Church Restaurant	E4
Xmas Tree Park	E2	Old MacDonald's Park	C5
Expo 1	E5	Ox Barns	C5
Expo Center	E5	Ox Judging	C1, C2, C3, D3
Expo 5	E2	Ox Pulling (Fri.)	C3
Frandange's Restaurant	E4	Paddock	H2
Fryeburg's Restaurant	E2	Poultry Barn	E2
Fryeburg's Muster	C3	Pulling Ring	E2
Fire Tower	E5, F1	Rabbit Barn	E2
First Aid	C3	Racing Office	H1
Fryeburg Fire Department	C3	Security	E5
4-H Exhibit Hall	E2	Swine Barn	D2
4-H Horse Show	F3	Ticket Office/Booth	A4, E5, F1, H1, H5
4-H Livestock Barn	D2	Tractor Pulling	C3, F3
Fryeburg Lions Food	E3	Truck Pulling	F3
Garden Center	C4	Water Wheel Park & Slag	E5
Gates:		Woodsmen's Field Day	F2
Blue	A4	Woodward Show Arena	D2
Green	H1	Xmas Tree Exhibits	E2
Main	E5		
Orange	F1		
Walk-in	H5		
Grandstands:			
Main	F3		
Goat	C3		

COLOR KEY

Red	First Aid/Public Safety
Green	Restrooms
Brown	Livestock
Blue	Expos
Yellow	Entertainment
Purple	ATM Machine
Orange	Information

May 2013



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 9:45 am Speaker - American Farm Bureau - RG
- 10:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- Grand Parade - Trophy Presentations - RG
- 11:00 am Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
- 4-H Swine Show - SGG
- 12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- 4-H Sheep Show Class - LP
- 1:00 pm Ox Pulling 2900 lbs. and under - 6' Elim. - PR
- 4-H Dairy Show - WSA
- Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
- 1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
- 4-H Beef Heifer Show - LSA
- 2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1 - LP
- Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
- 4-H Showmanship - Working Steer
- 3:00 pm Horse Pulling - 3400 lbs - Distance - PR
- 4:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
- 5:00 pm Ox Pulling 3300 & under - 6' Elim. - PR
- 7:00 pm Horse Pulling, 3400 lbs - 12' Elim. - PR
- 4-H Sheep Lead Line - LP
- 8:00 pm Night Show - CLARK HILL



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 8:30 am Church Service - Hayseed Theater
- 8:30 am 4-H Working Steers
- Scooting Contest - SGG
- 9:00 am 4-H Sheep Breed Classes - LP
- 4-H Beef Heifer Show - LSA
- 4-H Dairy Show - WSA
- 10:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- 10:30 am Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 8-10)
- Entries Close at 9:30 am (Drawing)
- 11:00 am Catholic Mass - Hayseed Theater
- Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
- 12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- 12:30 pm Scooting Contest - SGG
- Horse Pulling, Grand Sweepstakes - 12' Elim. - Trophy - PR
- 1:00 pm Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
- 1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
- 2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
- Horse Pulling - 2 lbs. of rock per pound of horse
- Distance - Trophy - PR
- 4:00 pm Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
- 5:00 pm Following Races is 4WD Pull - RG
- (Grandstand seats reserved until racing ends) - Infield Area

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 Fiber Demonstrations 9 am - 9 pm;
 Last Sunday 9 am - 6 pm only

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM UPDATES
www.fryeburgfair.org
 1154 Main Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037



Fryeburg Fair President Roy Andrews dedicates the Mountain View Pavilion on Tuesday in front of Fryeburg Fair and Maine fair industry officials. The new beef cattle and sheep barn is the largest and tallest building on the fairgrounds. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTO)

Fryeburg Fair dedicates building

BY RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
 SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Representatives of Fryeburg Fair were joined by agricultural fair colleagues in a dedication of the new Mountain View Pavilion at Fryeburg Fair on Tuesday.

The Mountain View Pavilion replaced two barns

destroyed in a fire in July of 2018.

The building is 120 feet by 240 feet and is the largest on the fairgrounds.

It's designed to hold over 500 sheep and cattle with a 1,000 person capacity.

The building was dedicated to 169 years' worth of

see **DEDICATION** page 4

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The new Mountain View Pavillion cattle and sheep barn was formally dedicated on Tuesday at 1 p.m. but opened its doors on Sept. 29, the first day of fair week. (BRETT GUERRINGUE PHOTO)

DEDICATION from page 3

livestock exhibitors who have made Fryeburg Fair the Blue Ribbon Classic for which it is known.

Participants in the dedication included Fryeburg Fair Finance Committee member Glenn Zaidman; General Superintendent David Andrews; Finance Committee member Jack Wadsworth; Marla Calico, president and CEO of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions; Nancy McBrady, director of the Maine Bureau of Agriculture; Kathryn Hunter, president of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs; George Weston, second vice president and finance committee member; 2019 American Honey Queen Hannah Sjostrom; David Hastings, first vice president and finance committee member; Beef Superintendent Randy Hall; Barry Norris, Executive Director of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs; Sheep Superintendent Rob Cameron and Fryeburg Fair President Roy Andrews.

The dedication was followed by a demonstration of sheep shearing.



William Weston shears a sheep with 10 pounds of wool at the Fryeburg Fair's Mountain View Pavillion dedication on Tuesday. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTO)



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Fire claimed the historic sheep and beef cattle barns in July 2018. The blaze was so hot, six other buildings suffered heat damage. (ROY ANDREWS PHOTO)

Tom's Jumbo Donuts announces retirement after 28 years of service

By RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Tom Milianes of Beverly, Mass., the soft-spoken and kind-hearted creator of Tom's Jumbo Donuts has announced his retirement, bringing to a close one of Fryeburg Fair's most popular food options.

At 67 years old, Tom's wife, Deborah, a geriatric nurse practitioner, along with family and friends strongly suggested that he call it quits. The 17-hour days that his incredibly successful doughnut business required were wearing him out.

"Friends were commenting on my exhausted appearance. They all thought I was going to work myself to death. So it's just time. It's back-breaking work, and I've been doing it since I was 16. I decided to go out while I'm still feeling good," he said.

Milianes continues to work as a pastry chef with Central Bakery in Peabody, Mass., where he manages their pastry line. The business specializes in Portuguese breads and is a major supplier to supermarkets.

"I've never made a doughnut at Central Bakery. They make doughnuts, but that's not my area." Tom said.



Tom Milianes, owner of Tom's Jumbo Donuts, retired this year after serving jumbo-sized donuts for 28 years at the Fryeburg Fair. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTO)

Milianes works part-time at Central Bakery and "whatever time it takes to get the job done" during the busy holidays.

Tom's Jumbo Donuts will be hugely missed at Fryeburg Fair,

see **RETIREMENT** page 6

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RETIREMENT from page 5

having served their doughnuts to fairgoers for 28 years.

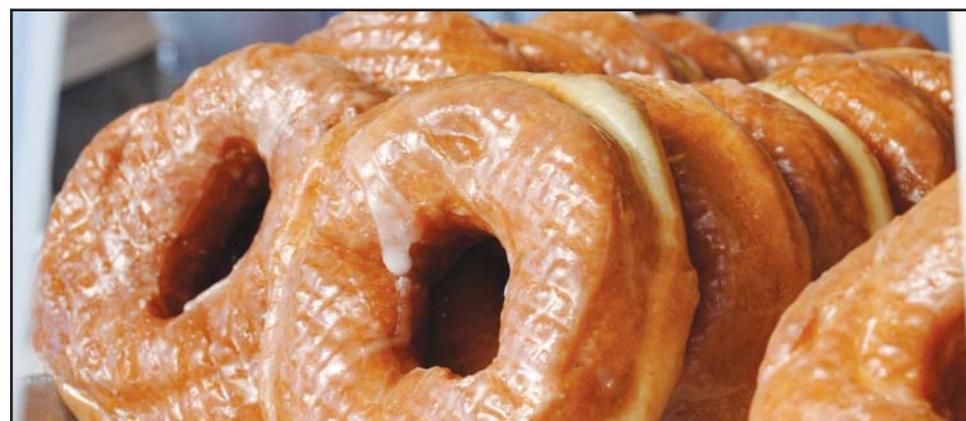
“The key to a great doughnut is to serve a hot one,” Tom said. “It’s been a long, great run, and I’ve never had a bad customer. The best time of every day was having 150 people for breakfast, and they all stayed around our area and were happy and smiling. I’m really going to miss them all.”

Tom’s one concession to his doughnut-loving customers — he will come out of retirement for 2½ days a year to work from his customized Tom’s Jumbo Donut building at Deerfield Fair in New Hampshire.

Fryeburg Fair’s Dean Baker, Superintendent of the independent midway vendors, said, “Tom’s Jumbo Donuts were outstanding and Tom was a pleasure to work with. People would stand in a very long line for his doughnuts — they were that good. Tom and his doughnuts will be hugely missed!”



ABOVE: John Blunda from WCSH enjoying a Tom’s Jumbo Donut at Fryeburg Fair in 2018. BELOW: Tom’s popular glazed variety. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTOS)



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The Fryeburg Fair holds free nightly concerts at 8 p.m. at the Grandstand. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Clark Hill to perform last night show at fair

Rounding out the Fryeburg Fair's 2019 nightly music concert series is northern Florida native Clark Hill for a last music hurrah on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. at the Grandstand.

The country singer, songwriter and recording artist is best known for his hit song and Music Row's Top 100 charting single "Perfect To Me."

After two years of blood, sweat and tears, Hill released his debut album titled "People Like Me."

It's a varied package, with tracks that rock hard like they do it in the South ("Stage Song"), honor the love of his life ("Swerve"), celebrate (the reggae-flavored "Don't You Worry Bout' Me") and mourn, ("I Hate That Car") a romantic breakup, testify with dignity and deep emotion ("How Great Thou Art") and proudly proclaim the small-town virtues that define who Hill

see **CONCERT** page 9

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Rustic Taps joins Fryeburg Fair this year with craft beer, wood-fired pizza and antique trucks

By RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

If you're a craft beer aficionado, a lover of wood-fired pizza or a nostalgic antique vehicle buff, you will love the addition of Rustic Taps Catering from Gorham, Maine, at Fryeburg Fair. Dave and Jessica Golden, the owners of Rustic Taps, and 15 other employees, are hosting craft beer, wine and pizza at their new location on the north trackside at Fryeburg Fair in 2019. It promises to be a fun and enjoyable destination for fairgoers. The Golden's are fun people and their product is exceptional.

Rustic Taps has been a labor of love for the Golden's. They are an impressive couple with an energy level that doesn't quit. Dave met Jessica in The Forks when he was a white water rafting guide on the Kennebec River. Jessica was wondering where to

sit in the boat and Dave suggested she sit right next to him. They have been married since 2006. Dave has been a technology consultant for 24 years and with Xerox for the past 14 years. Jessica is a math and science teacher in Windham, Maine. They have two children ages 6 and 8.

Dave has a culinary background as well and came up with the idea of catering after being a guest at his neighbor's daughter's graduation party. He saw an opportunity and made it happen. The Golden's traveled to California to purchase the perfect Italian-made wood-fired ovens for their business. They traveled the Napa Valley to find the right wines to serve.

Rustic Taps pizza uses all-organic produce and most comes from local Maine farms. Bumblefoot Farm in Windham, Olivia's Garden in New Gloucester, Maine, Backyard Farms in Madison, Maine, a specialty tomato farm — all provide ingredients.

The success of Rustic Taps comes from the Golden's commitment to providing a customer-centric experience. They know people can drink beer anywhere. Their vintage and classic approach to serving customers high quality products promises to be a great addition to Fryeburg Fair. Wait until you see their retrofitted 1947 GMC, 1939 Ford truck and 1954 Chevy.

Rustic Taps provides catering and mobile bar services that range from corporate gatherings to wed-



Rustic Taps Catering can be found on the north trackside at the Fryeburg Fair. (COURTESY PHOTO)

dings and fundraisers. They are particularly fond of helping non-profits like the Eastern Trails Alliance, Make-A-Wish and the Travis Mills Foundation. A portion of all beer sales at Fryeburg Fair will be donated to the Travis Mills Foundation serving veterans and their families.

For more information on Rustic Taps go to rustictaps.com

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Rustic Taps Catering has a collection of retrofitted antique trucks out of which they sell local craft beer and wood-fired pizza, including a 1947 GMC (left), a 1939 Ford truck and a 1954 Chevy (right). (COURTESY PHOTOS)



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CONCERT from page 7

is musically and personally (“Those Were The Days”).

In 2018, Hill said “The album touches on every element of who I am. Up until just a few years ago, I hadn’t really found myself. I was a young parent with two kids and a wife. ... But even then I knew what it meant to leave your mark on the world. ... So I kept searching for something I could achieve, some mark I could leave. That would be the greatest thing I could do for my kids. I know it sounds selfish but

I’ve always wanted to leave a legacy.”

All night shows have free admission and are at 8 p.m. at the Grandstand on the fair’s Main Street.

This fair season, Hill follows performances by Ragged Jack on Sept. 30, Church of Cash on Oct. 1, Rodney Atkins on Oct. 2, Maddie & Tae on Oct. 3, Michael Delguidice & Big Shot on Oct. 4.

Past shows over the last couple years have included stars Clint Black, Joe Diffie, The Swon Brothers, Lady Antebellum, Diamond Rio and Jana Kramer.



Country singer Clark Hill is scheduled to play Saturday at the Fryeburg Fair. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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Trotters head down the front stretch at the Fryeburg Fair in 2013. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Harness racing about more than just betting

Horse racing with parimutuel betting has been one of the principal features of agricultural fairs in the state of Maine since 1935.

Fryeburg Fair, being held annually in the first week in October, is fortunate in getting many of the better horses in New England because of lack of competition from other tracks at this time of year.

It is noteworthy to acknowledge

that the money handle at Fryeburg Fair surpasses the per-race handle anywhere in the state. The total bet was over a million dollars for the week in 1992 through 1994. Some years Fryeburg Fair handles close to 10 percent of the entire live handle for the year in the state in just six days with a total of 60 races.

see **RACING** page 11

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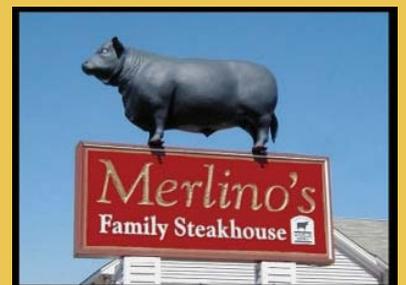
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RACING from page 10

Regarding betting, Paul Lusky, consultant for the racing division at the Fryeburg Fair, said, "The basic bet, which is a \$2 bet, hasn't changed in my time, and it probably goes back even further than that. It is not reflective of inflation. I mean a \$2 bet today compared to say 40 years ago, you are not even beginning to talk the same thing. Naturally you are not limited to betting \$2, but the basic bet and return on it for the amount of time (if you wish to bet \$2 on an odds-on favorite horse), you might get back \$2.40 or \$2.60. So, you'd better be getting enjoyment other than what you are receiving for your money. You've got to be getting your entertainment enjoyment, which, as I alluded to earlier, is a love of the animal, a love of the sport, everything that goes along with pageantry, if you would, the ambiance, friendship."

It is a lot more than just making money. If you want to make money, you can put your quarter in a slot machine and have instant gratification."

A commercial racetrack has basically one source of revenue, and that is the revenue from the parimutuel wagering, and their cut from that wagering.

The fair gets its revenue from many different sources. Racing is getting to be just a minor part of it. It used to be about the third: there was always the midway, then ticket sales and there was racing. Well, guess what: Campers have pulled in, and now racing is



A man with his horse and buggy are seen at the Fryeburg Fair. This photo was taken around 1885 and shows the original judge's stand. (MAINEMEMORY.NET/FRYEBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

fourth, I guess, as far as amount of income it brings in."

Over the entire week, how many horses do you need?

"If we were to have an ideal situation," said Lusky, "running 60 races in a week, eight horses for each race, 10 races a day for six days, we would need 480 horses. Now, because the fair runs for six days, some horses that race on the first day may come back and race again."

Where do the horses come from?

"They come from the Maritime Provinces in Canada, New Brunswick in

particular, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. They come from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York State and there will be a certain amount of ownership that goes farther away. Of course, with our stabling facility, we are able to move some in. The ones that come down from Montreal are coming in just for us. It would be impossible to operate without our stabling system, and each year it becomes more and more imperative that we are able to get facilities for these people who want to come."

Lusky has become a racing leader

in the state of Maine, representing the fair, particularly as far as dealing with the Maine Harness Racing Commission. He said that if you do anything long enough that you'll become better qualified. Could he give advice to other fairs?

"I try to be careful. Fryeburg Fair is not similar to other fairs. Other fairs have problems that we can only guess about. There are many ways we can help the other fairs without giving them advice. I can point to historical fact within legislation (how-did-we-get-here-from-there type of thing), and have had the privilege of learning from people who were experts and very knowledgeable in their day."

Over a 20-year period, a lot rubs off on you. I try to use very strong business practices. The racing industry historically has been the most loosely managed industry that you can imagine. I think Fryeburg Fair has been on the forefront with commonly accepted business practices," he said.

After the size of the grandstand was doubled and the betting facilities improved, Wilbur Hammond Jr. went to considerable effort to get other fairs interested enough to make it attractive to a computerized betting company to move to the area with betting machines and a tote board. This was accomplished in 1986 with a signed contract, and since then all betting facilities after a trial period have changed to computerized betting.

see **RACING** page 15

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Scenes from the Fryeburg Fair



LEFT: Fair-goers have fun on a ride at the Fryeburg Fair on Tuesday. ABOVE: Sorting cranberries at the Sugar Hill Cranberry Co. booth. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTOS)



TOP LEFT: Ten-year-old Kyden Moore's 160-pound pumpkin wins a blue ribbon. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO) BOTTOM LEFT: A bowl of turkey stew with a side of pickles, biscuit and saltines at Emily's Restaurant, a fair staple. ABOVE: Diners line up at Emily's on Sunday. (MARK GUERRINGUE PHOTOS)



LEFT: A display of tools at the Farm Museum at the Fryeburg Fair is seen Tuesday. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO) ABOVE: Bobby, owned by Olivia and Victoria Briggs of Briggs Girls Livestock of Sullivan, N.H., says hello in the Swine Building. (MARGARET MCKENZIE PHOTO)

RIGHT: A youngster handles her milking cow while showing at the Fryeburg Fair on Tuesday. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)



FAR RIGHT: A couple of fair-goers enjoy the friendliness of a goat. (MYFANWY PHILLIPS PHOTO)



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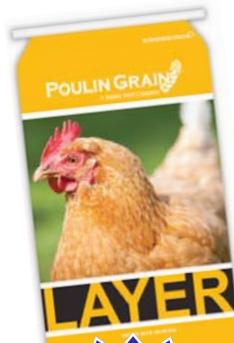
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History of the Fryeburg Fair: How it all began

FRYEBURG, Maine — It was a chilly day in March 1851 when a few local farmers and merchants got together and decided to show off their produce, cattle and wares to the community.

Since those humble beginnings, Fryeburg Fair has grown to become Maine's largest agricultural fair, with harness racing, a farm museum second to none, the world's largest steer and oxen show and a reputation known throughout North America.

The eight-day "Blue Ribbon Classic" has flourished since that first fair when William Walker of Lovell, Maine, won \$3 for the best acre of corn, and William Spring of Brownfield, earned \$1 for the best seed wheat.

Today, the early-October fair boasts nearly 100 buildings on 185 acres in the Saco River Valley. Attracting more than 300,000 people annually, it is Maine's largest fair, second only in size in New England to the Eastern State Exposition in Springfield, Mass.

The original history of the fair emerged in the mid-1980s, thanks to surprisingly well-documented records discovered by longtime fair trustee Donald Buzzell of Fryeburg. Two yellowing books, one of secretary reports and the other a membership listing, were located in a shed cupboard at the Buzzell farmhouse, purchased by Don's late father in 1884.

Signing the original documents for the society formed "for the improvement of agriculture and horticulture" were Gen. Pegleg Wadsworth of Hiram, president; David R. Hastings, a Lovell lawyer who served the original board as vice president; Thomas Souther of Frye-



The cattle barns and the ox teams at the Fryeburg fair in 1900. (MAINEMEMORY.NET/FRYEBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

burg, recording secretary; and Isaac Spring of Brownfield, corresponding secretary and librarian.

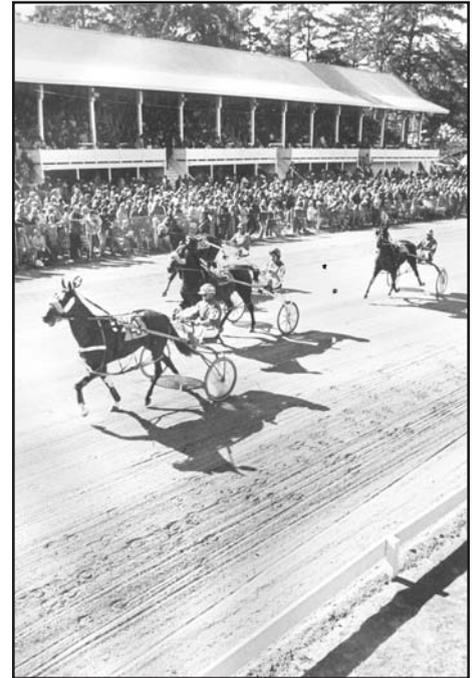
To consider the "expediency of forming an agricultural society," several men from Fryeburg, Brownfield and Hiram met at Sam Stickney's Inn in Brownfield on March 22, 1851. It was there that Wadsworth was chosen president and named, along with Souther and Col. Edward S. Osgood, to a committee to report on a constitution and bylaws, according to the original secretary's report.

Enthusiasm for the idea spread quickly through the original incorporating towns of Fryeburg, Hiram,

Brownfield, Lovell, Denmark, Porter, Sweden, Waterford, Stow and Stoneham. Any resident of those towns could join by paying \$1 per year, and a lifetime membership was available to the affluent for \$10.

The 31st Maine Legislature passed a special act incorporating the society, and the charter was officially accepted Oct. 31, 1851. The following Friday, the first fair was held in Brownfield, and it rotated towns each year until today's permanent location was found in 1856. It took two years to purchase the land near the old Portland-Ogdensburg Railroad depot.

In 1884 and 1885, the fair sold its



The Racing Grandstand was built in 1894. (FRYEBURG FAIR PHOTO)

railroad land for \$2,145, and in 1895 purchased 25 acres, the first of several parcels at the present site along the Fryeburg-Lovell Road for \$135. The last expansion came in 1995, when 10 acres were purchased on the east side of Route 5.

While the fair was the creation of a group of Maine men, they quickly realized they could not go it alone. They voted to allow women into the membership in 1859 on payment of 25 cents annually.

In 1861, when fighting broke out during the Civil War, optimistic officials

see HISTORY page 15



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HISTORY from page 14

had already increased the annual exhibition from one to three days. With membership rolls from Maine down during the war, premiums were added to attract New Hampshire residents, although it would be another 40 years before they would officially be voted into society membership.

Fryeburg boasts many superlatives, including the oldest continuous 4-H baby beef sale in New England.

Fryeburg officials pressed on with their sale during World War II, while Eastern States (the Big E) curtailed its sale until after the war. A former president emeritus and Maine legislator, the late Francis Buzzell, chaired the first baby beef program, which this year will celebrate its 75th anniversary. He served on the original committee, along with Phil Andrews, Donald Buzzell and John Weston.

Andrews, a finance committee member for four decades, was elected president in 1991, when Francis Buzzell's health forced him to step down. Andrews passed away in 2002, and longtime friend David Hastings II succeeded him as president.

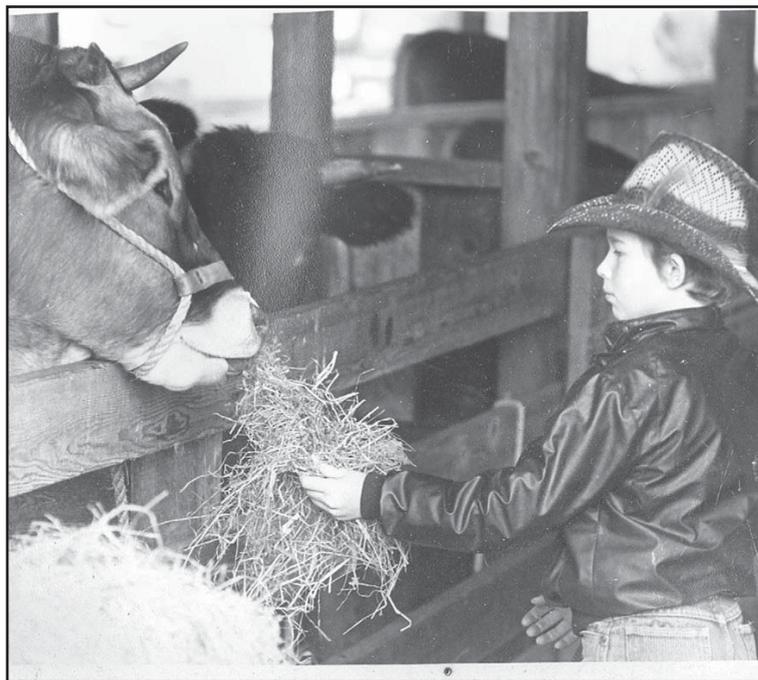
The fair's growth to eight days was a gradual one. Trustees voted to expand the fair to four days in 1941, but World War II stalled the expansion until 1945. The fair swelled to five days in 1954, seven days a few years later, and eight days in 1981, when the second Sunday was added. While the fair continues to grow in popularity, officials say they are satisfied with keeping the event at eight days.

The history of the Fryeburg Fair is chronicled in words and photographs in the History Hall, located just outside Expo 1 near the front gate.

This article originally appeared in The Conway Daily Sun in 2003.



TOP: The 1999 4-H Baby Beef Grand Champion. **BOTTOM:** The Fryeburg Fair has the world's largest steer and oxen show and a reputation known throughout North America. (FRYEBURG FAIR PHOTOS)



A rider warms up her horse as the track and the crowd is readied for harness racing at the Fryeburg Fair in 2005. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

RACING from page 11

"I look at racing," said Lusky, "and I think the fair does also, as a source of income, but it's also a source of entertainment. We pay dearly for night shows as far as entertainment, and if we can entertain these people and keep our expenses to a minimum, this is why racing is going to go on at the fairs. It's playing to a good crowd and playing for the majority of the people there. It still serves a very, very valuable function for the fair as entertainment."

Fryeburg Fair was selected as a "Blue Ribbon Fair" by the readers of Hoof Beats Magazine in 1996. In November, Fred Noe, executive vice president of the United States Trotting Association, wrote a column asking readers to nominate the fairs with the best harness racing programs. He received an overwhelming response, and one of 80 fairs nominated, the Fryeburg Fair was one of the three most supported fairs from readers of Hoof Beats.

This article originally appeared in The Conway Daily Sun in 2007.

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The Sandwich Fair will host horse pulling ring shows among other animal events on Sunday, Oct. 13, in Center Sandwich. (SANDWICH FAIR PHOTO)

Sandwich Fair begins this Columbus Day weekend

SANDWICH — The 109th Sandwich Fair held annually on Columbus Day weekend in Center Sandwich, runs from Oct. 12-14, with a midway sneak preview Friday night.

This 3½-day event has something for everyone, from animal competitions, antique tractor pulls, a truck pull (Monday), lawn tractor pulls (Monday) to a traditional farmers' market, helicopter rides (weather permitting) and a full midway. Numerous expo buildings

are filled with crafts, flowers, vegetables, photos and baked goods.

The fair has a very popular crafts building, where vendors demonstrate what they sell. The stage shows feature music and variety acts throughout the day and are included with a general admission ticket.

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see SANDWICH FAIR page 17



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SANDWICH FAIR from page 16

fair. The fair has daily animal shows and competitions happening along with "4H Fence Talks."

The Fence Talks are new in the past couple of years and have been very well received. Youths give a 15- to 20-minute talk about the responsibilities and rewards of raising, breeding and showing animals.

The fair has several show rings that have some type of event going on simultaneously throughout each day. Saturday rings feature Granite State Frisbee Dogs performing four shows, a children's pedal tractor pull, ox steering and skidding, farmer's hitch and pig handling.

Sunday's ring shows feature are FFA Woodman's Field Event, children's pedal tractor pull, horse pulling, open swine show, and oxen and dairy shows. Monday ring shows feature the very popular women's skillet toss, keg toss, ox pulling, and oxen shows.

Friday night is the ride preview night, where you can pay one price and ride all you want from 4-9 p.m. Rides, games and food are available. All other exhibits are closed until Saturday morning.

Saturday features an antique auto show that begins at 8 a.m. and concludes with a parade at 1 p.m. It promises to be a great day



The Women's Skillet Toss and Gentlemen's Keg Toss are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 14, at the Sandwich Fair in Center Sandwich. (SANDWICH FAIR PHOTO)

of acts on the stage as well, with country singer Lexi James, Fred the Magician and juggler/comedian Michael Menese. Each will each perform two shows. There will also be one performance by Carroll Brown, Solitary Man Band.

Sunday's big feature is the Grand Street Parade that kicks off at 1 p.m. The theme of the parade this year is "Women of Sandwich Past," and pays tribute to women that are no longer with us who have had a huge impact on the town of Sandwich and the community.

People should plan to arrive in town early on the day of the

parade, as traffic gets congested by late morning. Entertainment for the day features Bel Aires vocal group, mentalist and sword swallower Roderick Russell and The Don Campbell Band.

Monday is packed full of great things. The Women's Skillet Toss, the Gentlemen's Keg Toss and oxen pulling are a few highlights.

And don't forget the baked goods auction at 3:30 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to a local food pantry.

Monday is also 4-H Day. There will be numerous animal com-

see SANDWICH FAIR page 19

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Tony Martineau (left) and Jon Bliss head up entertainment at Fryeburg Fair. (RACHEL DAMON PHOTO)

Nightly fair entertainment includes meet-and-greets

By RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Fryeburg Fair, established in 1851, has long mixed talent and entertainment of all kinds with their agricultural mission. Rudy Vallee, Tammy Wynette, Jeannie C. Riley, The Mamas & The Papas, Tiny Tim, Chubby Checker, Lady Antebellum and Jamey Johnson are just a few of the long list of performers that have headlined the Night Show at Fryeburg Fair.

Jon Bliss, of Lovell, Maine, and Tony Martineau, of Fryeburg, Maine, have

been the guys behind the fair's music and entertainment scene for several years. Martineau started working at the fair in 1999 joining entertainment directors Kevin Muse and David Hastings III, both of Fryeburg. Now in his 20th year; Martineau replaced Muse in 2004 when he tragically passed. Bliss joined the fair in 2004 replacing Hastings when he moved to the Fair's finance committee. Martineau and Bliss have shared all talent

see ENTERTAINMENT page 20

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SANDWICH from page 17

petitions going on in the rings throughout the day. Visitors will be amazed at the hard work and dedication of these 4-Hers.

Also on Monday, admission is free for veterans and active duty military service members with proper ID and the price of admission is reduced for anyone age 60 or older.

Entertainment for the day will feature Professor Paddy Whack and Joe Howard, The Red Hat Band and Annie and the Orphans.

For a full listing of activities and events for each day, go to thesandwichfair.com.

Pricing: Ages 12 and up \$12; under 12 free.

Monday: Senior Day half price admission, \$6

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SaturdayRide Special, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., \$20, all rides with band.

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ENTERTAINMENT from page 18

responsibilities since. A.O. Pike, of Fryeburg, who began working with the fair in 1967, held the entertainment reins in the late 1960s and '70s.

"Back then our budget was \$500 and our most regular act was the Fryeburg Fair Boys, two talented blind men from northern Maine who were a big draw," Pike said.

Much has evolved in country fair entertainment since then, leaving behind daredevil motorcycle acts, polesitters and "girly shows."

Today, Bliss and Martineau work closely with talent agent Diana Ammon of Atlantic Music Productions from Newton to book night show entertainers.

"Diana knows when a performer or group is just about to hit it big and often we can snag them for a show. She has the ability to identify up-and-coming stars. We've been very fortunate to contract with a few right before they hit the big-time like Lady Antebellum, Jamey Johnson and Phil Vassar. We pretty much stick with country music but some diversity is good for the fairgoers as long as we don't stray too far," Bliss said. "We tried rap and that's not going to happen again."

"And we probably won't do comedy," Martineau added, "comedians are best in a small setting and it doesn't translate as well in the great outdoors."

The Fryeburg Fair built a much-needed new performance stage on wheels 12 years ago. The fair's year-round maintenance crew is charged with rolling it out as soon as the space becomes available. The stage sits on the fair's half-mile horseracing track. Set up begins right after the last horse crosses the finish line. A local group of seasonal hires



Tammy Wynette was the Night Show headliner in 1983. Wynette's photo, along with many others, hangs in the fair's Entertainment Office. (FRYEBURG FAIR PHOTO)

makes up a strong and fast-moving stage crew.

They populate the stage with music, sound and light equipment set up to the artist's specifications. New England Audio Tech's Rainbow Productions from Atkinson has been the fair's sound company for over 20 years. It's high pressure and time-sensitive to seamlessly finalize the process by showtime, always at 8 p.m.

Before most shows start, Martineau's wife, Gail, manages the "Meet and Greets."

Lasting an hour or less, the "Meet and Greets" give a few lucky members of the public an opportunity for a brief visit and photos with their favorite entertainers.

Unadvertised and by word-of-mouth, these informal gatherings are popular. It's up to each artist to determine if they want to do the meet and greet and decide how many people are allowed to attend.

Bliss and Martineau enjoy the

see ENTERTAINMENT page 21



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Since 1988, Roger Haine, owner of Roger's tunes, has been the Valley's leading installer of mobile electronic equipment.

ENTERTAINMENT from page 20

excitement of each show. They alternate as emcees and introduce the performers to excited fairgoers. Martineau says, "We pride ourselves on being on time. We have lots of things that need to go right — especially the lights and sound."

Fryeburg Fair History: Tammy Wynette (1942-1998) was the Night Show headliner in 1983. Wynette's photo, along with many others, hangs in the fair's entertainment office.

Tony Martineau and Jon Bliss, the heads of entertainment at the Fryeburg Fair Martineau added, "It takes a bit for the performers to dial in on the soundboard. We can breathe a sigh of relief right around the second song. That's about enough time to feel confident that all is well!"

One challenge is the ever-changing weather of Maine's October nights.

"The weather is huge for our night shows." Martineau said.

"But the show must go on as they say! It absolutely poured during Michael Delguidice's 2014 Saturday night show and it was windy too. He was fantastic just the same. A truly great performer. The weather didn't matter to him but the crowd was small." Bliss added.

Shortly after his appearance, Delguidice hit the big-time becoming a permanent member of Billy Joel's band. Martineau's favorite talent act was Lady Antebellum.

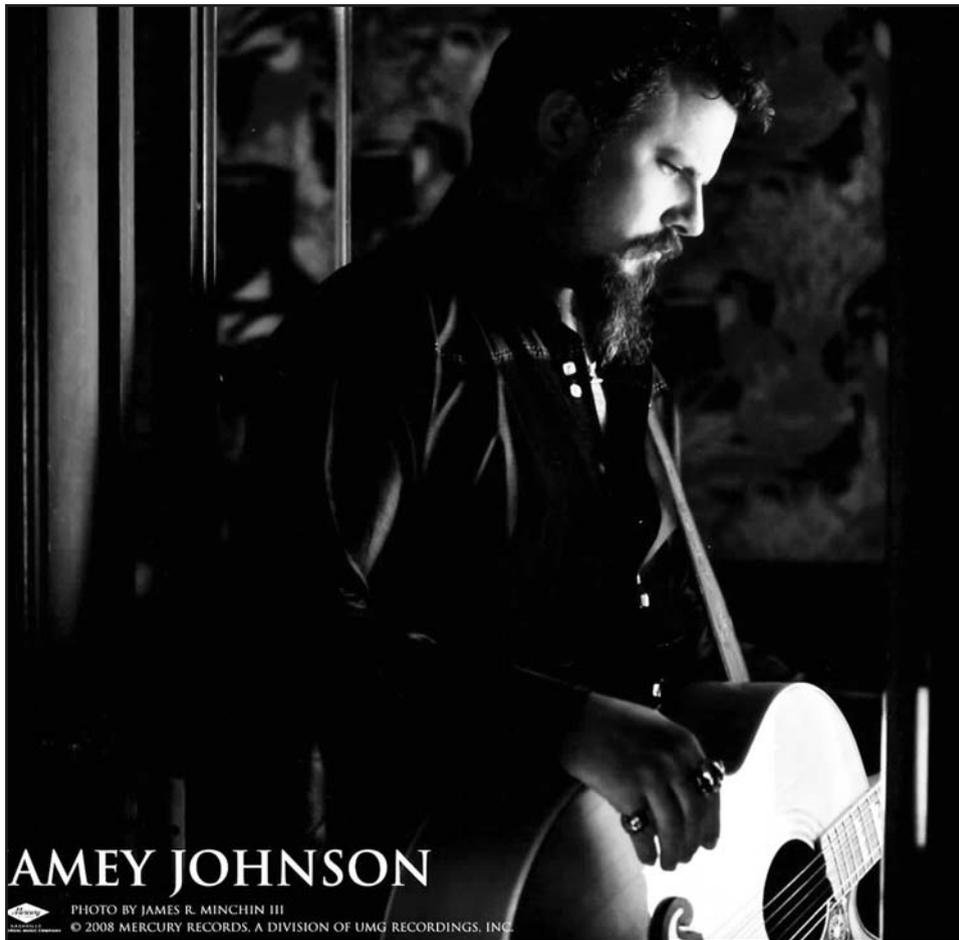
"Boxcar Willie was probably the best hit we ever made in the 80s. His show was great." Pike said.

"Clint Black did a super job. It was one of the best shows we've ever had here. We figure we had 10-12,000 people in attendance." Bliss said.

The fair's grandstand holds approximately 3,200 people.

The team of Bliss and Martineau are constantly asked why they don't book huge country music legends like George Strait, Garth Brooks and Willie Nelson.

"Our roads could not accommodate



Jamey Johnson performed Fryeburg Fair's Night Show in 2009. He has received nine Grammy nominations and has won multiple country music awards. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTO)

the traffic," said Bliss. "We don't have enough restrooms, seating or parking. We don't want to do more harm than good and have people get stuck everywhere. Lots of our current acts max out our grandstand. There are times when we have to have security open up paths through the crowds. If someone needed medical attention, we have to be able to get to them."

Pike notes that Martineau and Bliss have made the fair's entertainment offerings much more professional and the shows just keep getting better.

"We want entertainment to be part of the Fryeburg Fair experience," Bliss said. "But we don't want to overwhelm our agricultural mission. We also take pride in the fact that the night shows

come with the price of admission at Fryeburg and it's affordable. Lots of fairs charge separately for big name entertainment."

Besides the Night Shows, booking approximately 132 daily entertainment gigs is a huge aspect of Martineau and Bliss's work. They spend most of May, June and July booking and confirming entertainers. Shows in five parks run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

What do Bliss and Martineau look for in an act?

"We look for genuine talent and performers that enjoy being on stage with each other because that translates to our fairgoers," said Martineau.

"Denny Breau is a great example of an entertainer who loves performing.

You can't help but have a good time with him. He's smiling and happy, he's incredibly talented and he connects with the audience. Everyone has a great time," Bliss added.

"We have hundreds of inquiries about performing at the fair. Our entertainers want to be here. They love the fair as much as we do. For every stage we have filled, we have ten other acts that would love to get that spot. We have some incredible talent in Maine and many of them are at the fair every year. Kismet Strolling Quartet, Jon Sarty, Linwood Cash, Heather Pierson, Nancy & Jeff Ray, Junco and so many more. All excellent. We make an effort to bring in new entertainment each year. But we have many regulars who are incredibly popular. Jose Duddy is 'the man!' He draws the largest crowd for sure." Bliss said.

Martineau noted, "He's got silver hair, a cowboy hat, tight pants and a great voice. It's a sea of women in his audience!"

Post-Fryeburg Fair, Martineau's year-round job is in sales at Fryeburg's Green Thumb Farms. He works promoting and selling the company's many varieties of local potatoes and dried heirloom beans. Jon owns Bliss & Associates in Lovell, a land surveying company and is also a talented drummer. The Martineaus have two children, daughter, Erica Martineau Maguire and wife, Dr. Chris Maquire, grandson, Ryan, and son, Tim Martineau. Bliss and wife, Pam, have one son, Django, and wife, Cherie.

Pam Bliss is in charge of all the information booths at Fryeburg Fair.

When asked about retiring, both men agree, "We love our jobs at the Fair. We're going to do it for as long as we're able. It's very entertaining!"

"Wicked!" said Martineau.

For more information on the Fryeburg Fair entertainment, go to fryeburgfair.org.

This article was originally written in 2017.

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Rediscovering Fryeburg's granite Jockey Cap

By ED PARSONS

SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

One day, I was having an early lunch with a good friend at Quinn's Jockey Cap Store on Route 302 in Fryeburg, Maine. As I broke the crust of one of their delicious personal-sized chicken pies, it occurred to me that I could write a column on Jockey Cap (600 feet above the sea), the well-known granite dome rising behind the store.

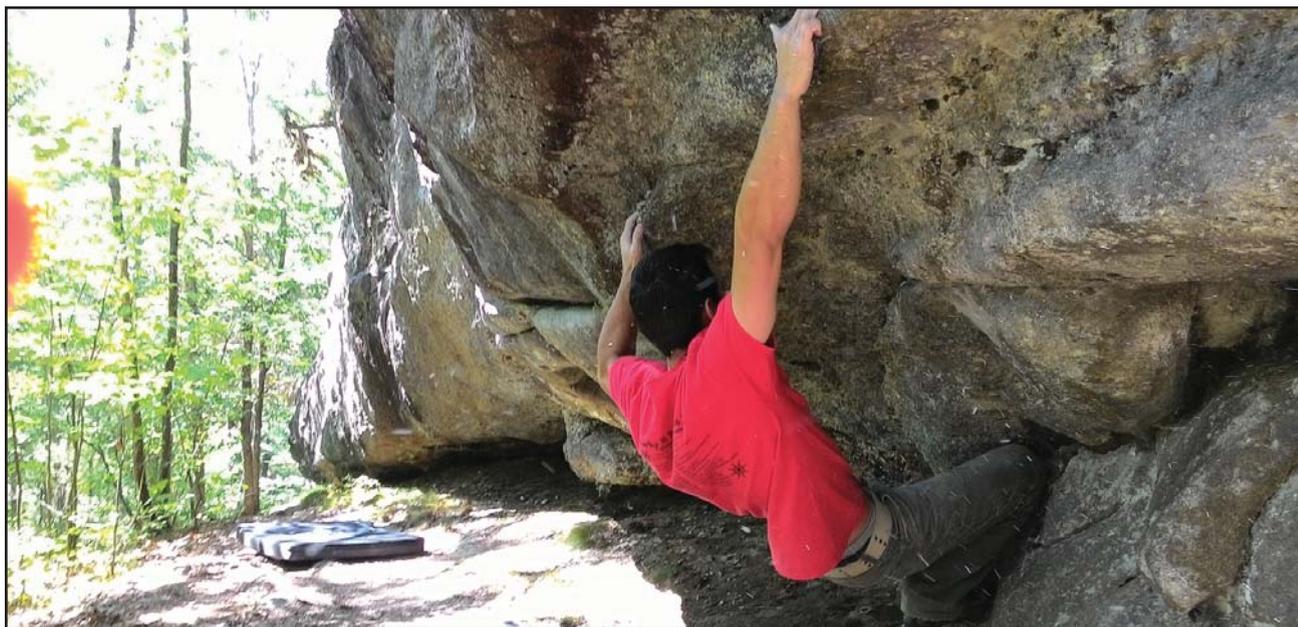
I had done a few recent long hikes and had plenty to write about. But the first hiking column I ever wrote was about Jockey Cap, back in the mid-1980s. It was published in the Northern Light. It would be fun to revisit the hike and note what the changing times had wrought there.

I bid adieu to my friend, went to my car to change my footwear and grab my fanny pack and headed out.

Part of my curiosity was the new trailhead. The old Quinn's Jockey Cap Store and Motel had a trailhead to the right of a tiny motel. In 2015, a new Dollar General was built next to the store. The motel was gone.

Development always gives hikers the creeps when a trailhead is obliterated. But I walked to the new trailhead, located behind a small parking lot to the left of the store. It was well laid out. Passing a green lawn and trail sign was a pleasant start. In the pine forest the wide trail swung around east and connected with the old trail where it had begun. Visual confrontation with the bargain corporate presence was minimal, and I left it all behind as I walked up the old trail.

Nearing the bulk of Jockey Cap, I spied Molly



Climber Bill Shields climbing Jockey Cap IN 2015. (ED PARSONS PHOTO)

Ockett's Cave on the left, a dark gap beneath large boulders where this noted ative American woman herbalist and healer is said to have occasionally spent the night when in Fryeburg. She lived from 1740 to 1816.

Before reaching it, I saw a new lightly traveled path to the right off the main trail. Curious, I took it. As I approached the steep south face of Jockey Cap, this trail wound between giant boulders. The biggest of these boulders had a substantial face about 15 feet high, and climbing chalk was plastered to small irregularities on it.

Bouldering, a form of rock climbing that is performed without the use of ropes or harnesses, has reached new heights of popularity among climbers. At Jockey Cap, not only the boulders below it, but many of the routes and traverses on Jockey Cap itself could be classified as boulder problems — the path that a climber takes in order to complete the climb. These are usually less than 20 feet tall.

Those nearer the ground are usually done unroped and the harder ones done with cloth-covered foam "crash pads" placed strategically on the ground below. On a website called climbingandbouldering.com, it says of Jockey Cap: "The bouldering scene here is what a lot of climbers travel to."

It hadn't taken me long on the hike to find a new aspect of Jockey Cap, different from what I wrote about in the mid-1980s. I continued up this climber's trail. In the recent past, there was no obvious loop hike around Jockey Cap, but there is now with this access trail.

Soon to my left was the overhanging south face of Jockey Cap. I continued upward and spotted someone ahead on the trail next to the shady vertical granite of the east side, which rose up into the trees below the top. It was a lone climber. He had two crash pads on the ground.

We talked and I lingered. He was Bill Shields, 30, of Madison. He was working on a boulder problem on the east side called the Gorilla Traverse. It was his second time working on it. He expected it to take four or five returns to master all the moves — many overhanging — and complete it. He was doing it alone.

He started up an especially hard overhanging section only a couple feet above a crash pad, and I snapped a photo. After a couple moves he paused on the ground to talk and I thanked him. I left him to his strong effort in delicious solitude.

Soon, I reached the back end of the east side and

see **JOCKEY CAP** page 23

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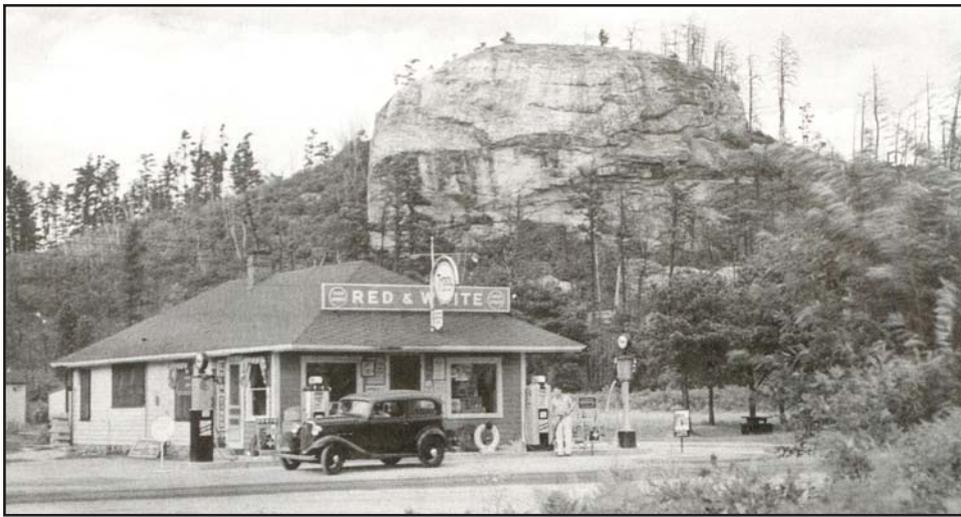
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Jockey Cap in 1938. The granite outcropping rises 200 feet above the ground. (COURTESY PHOTO)

JOCKEY CAP from page 22

scrambled to the top, walking out into the open air. Two couples were up there, and just heading down on the main trail on the west side. The primary use of Jockey Cap by hikers and tourists has remained and will remain.

On top, I passed the familiar and striking polished granite column with a bronze cap on it. The cap had a 360-degree mountain profile of the surrounding peaks as seen from the summit. Such a profile had been drawn by a young Richard Perry, later "discoverer" of the North Pole. He had lived in Fryeburg in 1878-79 after graduating from Bowdoin College. The memorial was placed on the summit in memory of Admiral Perry by a friend soon after his death.

I walked south towards the top of the invisible overhang below. The surface of nearby Lovewell Pond was glassy.

The prodigal view from the top of Jockey Cap reaffirms that it is a valuable landmark. But what geological process formed it?

For years, it was thought to be one of the largest known glacial erratic boulders, separate from the bedrock below.

But it isn't. It is composed of a granite pegmatite, or very large grained granite, and is part of the Sebago Pluton. This granite dome rose as magma and cooled beneath the surface, covering a large area of south-

west Maine.

Why does Jockey Cap protrude as it does? Part of the answer is the resistance of its bedrock material to erosion, as opposed to surrounding softer material. It is also likely that the glacier coming from the northwest plastered till on the north side of Jockey Cap, protecting it from its erosive ice.

Looking west from the summit, you can see directly down to Molly Ockett Middle School and the new elementary school next to it.

The new and the old. I headed down the old main trail on the west side. Jockey Cap would remain a peaceful park-like spot for future recreationists, as it has been. The land was purchased by Maj. Clayton Pike around 1912. A popular ski area with rope tow was on its gradual east slope in the 1930s before Mount Cranmore became popular. Today, the ownership of 14 acres on Jockey Cap is shared 50/50 between the Town of Fryeburg and the grandson of Clayton Pike, Arizona Zipper.

In another 30 years, I should go back and do another column on Jockey Cap, and see what recreational changes have occurred, though this knob of granite that looks like the cap of a harness racer at the Fryeburg Fair won't change much.

This story by Ed Parsons originally appeared in The Conway Daily Sun in September of 2015.

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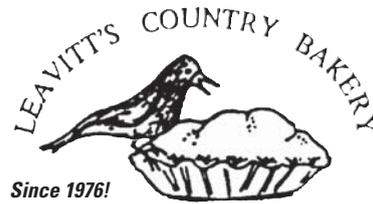


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