

Tractor Trailer Takes Out Poles, Methuen and Salem Residents Lose Power

by Andrea Ganley-Dannewitz

A tractor-trailer unit attempting to turn around on Hampshire Road early Monday morning caused quite a ruckus, but it was accidental.

The truck, registered to Best Way Moving Company out of Charlotte, NC, attempted the turn at Hampshire Road and Garabedian Drive. While making the attempt to turn around, the driver had missed the driveway, snagged a wire, and took down three utility poles and about 400 feet of wire. The driver said he was looking for Capital Lighting on Garabedian Drive to make a delivery.

The accident occurred at 5:40 a.m. on Monday, and led to a day-long project of clean-up and replacing utility poles and wires. Hampshire Road was closed all day into the late-night hours while crews worked. About 600 National Grid customers in Salem and Methuen, MA, were left without power for the day. New Hampshire State Trooper Jason Lewis said the unidentified driver is not facing charges, and that the incident was merely just an accident.

Health Insurance Scam Ordered to Cease

submitted by NH Insurance Department

New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny has issued a cease and desist order barring several companies and individuals from illegally selling health insurance products in New Hampshire. "With the decline of the national economy, we have seen an increase in insurance fraud," said Sevigny. "It is outrageous that hardworking New Hampshire citizens, in their time of need, are being preyed upon by scam artists who purport to offer legitimate health insurance."

The company, American Trade Association (ATA), and its various affiliated organizations, are under investigation in at least 20 other states for selling insurance products without a license and for failing to pay claims.

Sevigny said ATA and its unlicensed third-party administrator, Smart Data Solutions, fax unsolicited advertisements and use unlicensed agents and the Internet to market their unlicensed products to potential customers throughout the United States. ATA also falsely claims affiliations with licensed insurance companies in its solicitations.

One New Hampshire woman, Mari Godzyk, who has custody of a disabled grandson, had been sending hundreds of dollars to the company each month only to learn, after she had surgery and her bills were mounting, that her insurance policy was fake. "The insurance I bought from ATA was expensive enough that I thought it was real," Godzyk said.

"People need to do a little research before they buy insurance from companies they haven't done business with before."

The New Hampshire Insurance Department encourages all consumers to call or visit the New Hampshire Insurance Department Website (www.nh.gov/insurance) to confirm that any company offering insurance or insurance-like products is properly licensed to do business in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Insurance Department toll-free consumer hotline is 1-800-852-3416.

Here are some tips to help you protect yourself from health insurance scams:

- Be wary of anyone who calls or comes to your home uninvited offering to sell you health insurance. The only federal employees who might come to your home are Census workers.
- Be wary of anyone who tries to pressure you into signing anything, or says there is a limited enrollment period.
- Do not give bank account numbers, social security numbers, Medicare numbers, or other personal information to someone you don't know.
- Call the Insurance Department toll-free at (800) 852-3416 to make sure the person or company is licensed before doing business with them.

First-Ever Farmer's Market Officially Coming

by Andrea Ganley-Dannewitz

Fresh produce, honey, and cheese will be available for anyone to purchase at the new Farmer's Market opening Wednesday, July 21, at Hedgehog Park. A Farmer's Market in Salem has never been hosted before, making this a first for Salem. Farmer's Markets in local towns near Salem have been very successful every year, and it simply makes sense for Salem to have one.

Many years ago before Salem became bustling with retail, it was farmland. Farmers thrived here, but now we see very few in town. Having a Farmer's Market in one convenient location is good for everyone—the consumer, the community, and the farming businesses alike for bringing their produce to a convenient location.

Jane Lang, Salem resident and Market Manager for the project, had the idea of a farmer's market, but didn't realize that Salem had never had one. She pulled some strings, made some calls, and before she knew it, she spearheaded an effort that the community really wanted to see happen.

"This is a great community project and it's great for families. This Farmer's Market has been listed with the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, and is also available to families in need through the New Hampshire WIC Grow Healthy Program as well as Rockingham Community Action. Through these organizations, families who qualify will receive vouchers to purchase fresh foods they otherwise couldn't afford," said Lang.

Lang has worked diligently on this project from the start, which will surely make it nothing less than a complete success when the season ends in October. Many local farms have committed to becoming involved, and the Farmer's Market will also feature a local non-profit group once a week. Also, there will be an open mic at the Farmer's Market to entertain the shoppers (acoustic only).

"Right now, there is still a lot of outreach going on. There is a Website and a Facebook fan page that will hopefully help to get the word out. One of our goals with this project is also to collect non-perishable food items for the food pantries in Salem. Every week, there will be a collection bin available for people to make donations into," said Lang.

For more information, visit www.salemfirstfarmersmarket.com. The market will be held at Hedgehog Park, located on Route 38 in Salem, every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m., and as of Saturday, September 4, the market will also be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. until the end of October.

Pentucket Bank Awarded Five-Star Rating by Bauer Financial

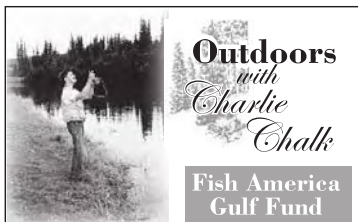
submitted by Isanne Eastman

Pentucket Bank is proud to announce that it has been given a Five-Star Rating, the highest rating, for strength and stability by Bauer Financial Inc., the nation's leading independent bank and credit union rating and research firm since 1983. This rating is based upon areas such as capital adequacy, delinquent loan levels, and profitability, putting Pentucket Bank in the elite seven percent of the nation's banks who have earned this rating for 73 consecutive quarters.

Pentucket Bank has been serving the needs of the greater Haverhill community since 1891 and expanded to a southern New Hampshire market in 2006. Pentucket Bank provides a high level of personalized service to our customers, and ensures stability and support to the community through five conveniently located offices in Haverhill, MA, Hampstead, and Salem. President/CEO Scott D. Cote says, "The Bank is financially sound with a level of capital that far exceeds minimum regulatory standards. We have a dedicated and knowledgeable staff and their primary focus is to provide our customers with exceptional service and solutions to meet all of their financial needs. All of these things are what make us great, we are pleased Bauer Financial continues to recognize our strengths and award us this top rating."

"With a full 10 percent of the nation's banks, now on the FDIC's 'problem' list and even more on ours," remarks Karen L. Dorway, president of Bauer Financial, "the fact that Pentucket Bank continues to not just withstand the pressures, but even excel in this environment, indicates its management is doing things right... Pentucket Bank has earned this prestigious rating that sets it well above the competition." Bauer Financial is an independent firm, and no institution pays Bauer Financial to neither rate it, nor can any choose to be excluded.

For further information on Pentucket Bank and all of our products and services, visit us online at www.pentucketbank.com.



Outdoors with Charlie Chalk

Fish America Gulf Fund

According to a 2008 NOAA Fisheries report, the Gulf of Mexico is one of the most popular areas for recreational fishing in the United States, with nearly six million saltwater anglers taking over 45 million fishing trips each year. Recreational fishing serves as the economic backbone for many coastal communities surrounding the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill has the potential to impact the nearly 2,300 tackle shops in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida's West Coast.

"Although no one is certain of the long-term impacts of the oil spill, the Fish America Foundation is prepared to step up and assist local groups with funding to restore sport fisheries and their habitat once the restoration efforts begin," said Fish America Foundation Executive Director Johanna Laderman. The foundation will work with state and federal natural resource agencies and community conservation groups to identify and prioritize projects such as wetland creation and restoration, aquatic vegetation planting, rebuilding angler access, and reestablishing fish passage in the Gulf Region.

For additional information and to support the Fish America Gulf Fund, visit www.fishamerica.org or contact Johanna Laderman, executive director, Fish America Foundation, jladerman@safishing.org, or (703) 519-9691, ext. 245.

Charlie Chalk can be reached at outdoorswithcharlie@arcanevgroup.com

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Northeast Rehab Establishes AMBUCS Chapter

submitted by Naomi Gardner

After learning to walk and run, the next skill young children love to conquer is riding a bicycle. Many, however, are unable to experience the joy of riding their first tricycle because of disabilities. This is where AMBUCS steps into the picture.

AMBUCS, a national non-profit organization, was established to improve the mobility of people with disabilities, especially children. They distribute tricycles adapted and equipped for special needs. AMBUCS also raises money to provide financial assistance, so this should not be an obstacle to a child playing outdoors. Northeast Rehab, 70 Butler Street, Salem, is an official site where children and adults can come to be fitted for their own adaptive tricycle. Aside from the enjoyment of bike riding, the tricycles also help improve strength and coordination, boost self-confidence, and increase social interaction and communication skills.

AMBUCS has distributed nearly 10,000 of these special-needs tricycles (AmTrikes) around the world, including many right here in the Merrimack Valley. On May 24, the "Northeast Chapter" of AMBUCS was officially established at Northeast Rehab, Salem. The officers of the Board of Directors, all of whom are Northeast Rehab employees, are as follows: Lory Grenier, President; John Greenwood, Vice President; Jennifer Kelley, Secretary; Deb Dine, Treasurer; and Gerriann Samowski, member at large.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this exciting organization should call Northeast Rehab at 893-2900, ext. 3594 or 3230. Donations can also be made to the WISH list to help families obtain these special tricycles.

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