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tions by adopting a civil union law; repealing legislation that restricted a woman's right to choose; and prohibiting New Hampshire from joining the federal Real ID program, which clearly violates privacy protections without providing a real improvement in our security.

I want to continue my efforts to affect positive change in Concord while preserving the best of what we have. To me, that means working to ensure that all our children have access to health care and a world-class education, no matter where they live or what their family's status. It means assuring that working families and our senior citizens can afford to live here. It means providing economic opportunity that will allow our children to remain and thrive here.

Still, New Hampshire faces serious challenges. We are not immune from the national economic downturn, and home heating fuel prices have the potential to create a real crisis this winter. Tougher economic times also make it clear that our increasing reliance on property taxes has become more burdensome for more families. These are issues that must be addressed. And, as your representative, I want to address

THE 15TH!!!!
Please have everything to the Beacon by the 15th of each month!

your issues.

My constituents in Sullivan District One will tell you that I have been an accessible and responsive legislator, who listens to their concerns and ideas. I want you to have the same experience, so please feel free to contact me at MatthewHoude@yahoo.com. And if you want more information on my record and my background, please visit my Web site, MatthewHoude.com.

Enjoy the summer, and thank you for your support.

Regards,

Matthew Houde

Corrections

Last month, we didn't get the story about Frank Haley's award exactly right. Frank was the top individual earner in each of the four years he walked in the Blind Awareness Walk, The New Hampshire Association for the Blind has only given awards for the past two years to the top group earners and the top individual earner. Frank has received the top individual earner award both years.

We left Abigail Plummer out of the page of photos of area Proctor graduates. There's a photo of her in this month's issue on page 47.

We got Sam Mishcon's major wrong in the last issue. Sam is at the University of Vermont where he is studying Japanese and Russian.

We apologize for the errors!

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Speaking of people, it was the largest attendance in recent years.

Our parade this year featured two bands. We welcomed back the Bektash Drum and Bugle Corps. They are such a colorful group, and their music is perfect for a parade. I love the beat of the drums.

The Northeast Air National Guard Band made their first appearance in the Andover parade. They are one of the most requested units in the Air National Guard and have played throughout New England, and New York They are a sharp-looking group, and their music is fantastic. After our parade they went to North Conway for a concert.

Of course Uncle Sam (a.k.a. Charlie Darling) led off the parade, followed by the Franklin VFW Color Guard and Auxilliary. Irene Jewett was this year's Gold Star Mother. The Air National Guard Band always follows the colors, and the Boy Scouts were next.

Leapin' Lena was back with us this year. Bill Hoyt has recovered from his broken leg.

The Lion's Concord Coach made an appearance, as they were able to get a team of horses to pull it. It looked like some of the members were riding shotgun.

Captain Morrill and his Cannon Crew added a little "spark" to the festivities.

There were a number of equestrian entries this year. Our thanks to Joyce Egge of Equine Homes Real Estate for providing the prize money. The winners were:

- 1st Place: Patriotic Horse and Sulky Horse – Just Plain Andy – Drivers: Alicia Barry, Monica Newton, and Sarah Keniston.
- 2nd Place: Lynn McLaughlin and friends on Taz, Shiloh, and Spooner
- 3rd Place: MaryAnn Guaraldi on Bo-Bo
- 4th Place: Team of Tiffany Cory on Saint and Tracy Molinari on Stormy

Judges were Mary Romano and Rich Egge.

Winners in the Float category:

- 1st Place: Girl Scouts
- 2nd Place: Lake Sunapee Bank – Nice Little Caboose
- 3rd Place: East Andover Village Preschool – Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends
- 4th Place: Racing Divas
- Best Costumes: The Fortnightly Club – Hobo Days
- Most Decorated: The Little Engine
- Most Unique: Andover Historical Society – Pump Away
- Most Patriotic: Josie Martin – Red Neck Railroad

Judges were Jackie and Josh Watkins

The antique vehicles were out in full force, and they were all winners.

- 1st Place: Best of the Teens 1919 Model T – Percy Ordway
- 2nd Place: Best Work in Progress 1955 Chevy
- 1st Place: 1930 Model A Ford – Tricia and Steven Rosen
- 2nd Place: 1930 Model A Ford – Paul Fenton
- 1st Place: Best of the 30s 1933 Plymouth 4 door sedan – Shirley and Clyde Currier
- 2nd Place: Best of the 30s 1931 Ford Roadster – Ken Blevens
- 1st Place: 1955 Chevy Hot Rod – Harold Knott
- 2nd Place: Street Rod 1936 Pontiac Coupe – Richard Gallagher
- 1st Place: Best of The 40s 1948 Plymouth Special Deluxe – Joe La-Quire
- 1st Place: Best of the 60s – Roger Gross
- 2nd Place: Best of The 60s – Cherry Fenton
- 1st Place: Best of the 70s 1976 Ford Taurus – Chris Bengivengo
- 2nd Place: Best of the 70s 1979 Chevy Short Box Step Side – Pat Patten
- 1st Place: Best Motorcycle 1969 BMW R 69S Motorcycle – Barton Green
- 2nd Place: Simplicity Sovereign 1471 Tractor and Trailer – Jace Downs
- 1st Place: 1951 Ford 8N Tractor – DJ Hanes
- 2nd Place: 1964 Jacobson Garden Tractor – Charles Burley
- 1st Place: Best Truck 1998 Tahoe with train horns – Jack Speaker
- 2nd Place: Best Truck 1987 S10 – Smith Auto

Judges were Darcy Lowe and John Beaudoin

It wouldn't be a parade without the fire engines. We had Wilmot Fire (Tanker) and Rescue, New London Fire Department, Danbury Volunteer Fire Department, Andover Fire Department, East Andover Fire Department, and Andover Rescue Squad.

Finally, the fireworks – the biggest and best display we've ever had. Atlas outdid themselves. For at least a half an hour the sky was lit up with beautiful colors and designs and the inevitable boom. A perfect ending to a perfect day.

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James Danforth
candidate for
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New Hampshire is a great state and has many advantages and opportunities not found in neighboring states. Our current tax policies bring new businesses into to our state and drive the economies in our border cities and towns. Our funding of educational institutions is flawed and needs to be fixed, starting with special education and busing. Our state needs to be fiscally sound and able to balance its budget. We need policies that expand high speed internet access and empower local government and school boards to improve and enhance their towns and schools. Please visit my web site at

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