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Two dozen supporters of the N.H. Rebellion march into North Conway village carrying American flags and holding signs saying "Money out of politics" and others with the likeness of Doris Haddock, also known as "Granny D," on their way to Concord Thursday. The group's 150 mile trek across New Hampshire is trying to raise awareness of what they say are the corrupting effects of money in politics. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

NH Rebellion comes to Conway

Marchers advocate campaign finance reform

By DAYMOND STEER
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — Over two dozen people from near and far walked with the New Hampshire Rebellion, which marched through North Conway Thursday afternoon.

The Rebellion's mission is to push campaign finance reform and make it an issue during the 2016 New Hampshire Presidential primary. The Rebellion is a program put on by a group

called Open Democracy. It was originally created by Harvard Professor Lawrence Lessig.

Participants were on the Rebellion's 150 mile journey from Dixville Notch to Concord. This is the Rebellion's second trip through the area. They walked from Dixville Notch to Nashua last year. On Thursday, walkers went from Pinkham Notch to the Gibson Center.

see REBELLION page 7

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Bartlett names Champlin as interim chief

Former Portsmouth Police captain has worked for Bartlett Police for more than two years

By LLOYD JONES
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

BARTLETT — Selectmen have appointed Janet Hadley Champlin as the interim police chief while the town goes through the process of hiring a new chief. Chief Hadley Champlin takes over for Timothy Connifey, who was chief for the past 12 years, working in a part-time basis since July.

Chief Champlin was sworn in Thursday morning by selectmen in a brief ceremony at Bartlett Town Hall. She has an extensive police resume, having worked for the department the past two and half years and serving as its prosecutor, a role she will continue to fill "for consistency" purposes she said Thursday.

see POLICE CHIEF page 8

Eagle Academy grads take 'different educational road'

By LLOYD JONES
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — Sixteen students graduated from Kennett High Eagle Academy in a ceremony last Thursday in the Loynd Auditorium before proud family members, friends and classmates. There were plenty of cheers, even a few tears along with lots of photographs — a few selfies — and tons of hugs and high-fives.

Members of Eagle Academy's 15th graduating class were Brittany Crouse, Colin Foster, Janey Hillard, Jedidiah Hounsell, Adam Hutchings, Mark Kemp-Libby, Katie Lane, Timothy Lane, Erin Porter, William Ranson, Anika Ryder, Dallas Savary, Dakota Smith, Jordan Stocker, Colt Taylor and Chris Tilton.

see GRADUATION page 10



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REBELLION from page one

"We had 26 people at various parts of the day," said Open Democracy Communications Director Xanni Brown. "That's a pretty great turn out."

She said many community members offered support along the way. People honked their horns and expressed their enthusiasm by shouting things like "We love Granny D."

Brown said Lessig was unable to speak in Conway this year.

The walks were inspired by the late activist Doris "Granny D" Had-dock, who, at around 90 years old, marched across the country for the same cause. The Rebellion encourages people to ask the presidential candidates this question: "How are you going to end the system of corruption in Washington, D.C.?"

Gabriel Grant, who splits his time between Toronto, Canada and San Francisco, Calif., was among the people who made the whole walk thus far. Grant also did the entire walk last year.

"I came here because New Hampshire is so important to this democracy," said Grant. "The way the political winds blow in New Hampshire is what will happen across the rest of the country."

Rod Forsman, of Conway, walked from the Scenic Vista to the Gibson Center, but wished he could have done more.

"I like to walk," said Forsman.

Forsman said the participants were "delightful people." Forsman said he was inspired to walk by his friend, fellow Conway resident Dick Pollock who is a volunteer organizer for the march.

"He's got his heart totally tied up in changing this crazy system of ours," said Forsman. "It's so corrupt."

Conway resident Joe Bagshaw would have liked to participate in the walk but the Rebellion was so far ahead of schedule that he didn't get the opportunity. Bagshaw caught up with the marchers at the Gibson Center. Bagshaw was a founder of the group We the People Mount Washington Valley, which also advocates for campaign finance reform.

"Once again this year, we have a statewide effort going on to pass resolutions in towns across the state calling for our state Legislature to support a constitutional amendment to say that the Constitution is for people only and that we the people have the right to regulate campaign spending," said Bagshaw.

Bagshaw said last year that resolution passed in 54 towns, including Eaton. Conway passed that resolution in 2013, said Bagshaw.

Former Carroll County Commissioner Dorothy Solomon, of Albany, also missed much of the walk because the marchers were so far ahead of schedule.

"We were expecting that it wouldn't be at the vista until 2:45 p.m. so we were just making our way up there now," said Solomon at the Gibson Center. "I would have liked to have walked a little more. It's good exercise."

Solomon believes there's too much money in politics.

"I came here because New Hampshire is so important to this democracy. The way the political winds blow in New Hampshire is what will happen across the rest of the country." — Gabriel Grant, who splits his time between Toronto, Canada and San Francisco, Calif., and has made the whole walk thus far.

"I find that as someone who runs for office, I hate asking for money," said Solomon. "I hate the fact that it cost so much to run for office."

Solomon said it isn't super expensive to run in county and state elections but it still costs money. She said other politicians tend to take money from the wrong places.

"I take it from the right places," said Solomon.

North Sandwich resident Katherine Thorndike walked with the group all the way from Dixville Notch to the Gibson Center.

"It was wonderful," said Thorndike. "This is a great group of people and I've enjoyed every day even in the cold."

Thorndike said organizers told people they should train for the march and so for the last few weeks, she began walking around the back roads of Sandwich and Tamworth so that she'd be in condition to do 10 to 15 miles in a day.

"I'm in good shape said Thorndike who endeavors to walk all the way to Concord.

Thorndike didn't do last winter's walk but she did march with the Rebellion on the seacoast last summer.

Thorndike is concerned about a lot of issues, like the environment and war.

"What I realized is money in politics was the root cause of a lot of these problems," said Thorndike. "I decided that until we started working towards changing the corruption in government that there was not going to be the change we need for other issues."

Rick Hubbard, of South Burlington, Vt., said he did the walk last year and he will do the whole thing this year. Hubbard said he's committed to doing whatever it takes to bring about change when it comes to fighting systemic corruption in government.

"Our country is in trouble," said Hubbard. "We have a government that is doing exactly what we founded our country to overcome. We have arrived at the point where, again, we have improper representation of the interest of the majority of all American citizens."

Hubbard believes decent people get elected to office but the system encourages them to behave in a way that's counter productive. He said the current system tips outcomes to favor those who fund campaigns.

Brown was impressed with the notches.

"It's been frigid the last couple days but the wilderness up here is so beautiful," said Brown.



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