



FORMER 95-01

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THE WEIRS PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
Post Office Box 5458, The Weirs, New Hampshire
Telephone: 603-366-TIMES Fax: 603-366-7301
www.TheWeirsTimes.com • info@weirs.com

Published Weekly on Thursday at Route 3, The Weirs, New Hampshire 03247-5458

THE WEIRS TIMES & TOURISTS' GAZETTE

Re-established in 1992 in the tradition of the original Calvert's Weirs times and Tourists' Gazette published in 1883-1902

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A **F.O.O.L.** ^{*}
in **NEW HAMPSHIRE**
*A FLATLANDER'S OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE



TWO TALES

cursing the pine needles that are now everywhere from the living room to wrapping paper alone. Will you please take care of it while I am at the

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Paul Erickson of Epsom with General and Pudgy. The Ericksons, who had already adopted Pudgy, came back to the New Hampshire Humane Society for General when they heard their forlorn feline was missing his old canine companion.

BRENDAN SMITH PHOTO

REUNITED FOR CHRISTMAS

Wendy Gorham
Director, NH Humane Society

Paul and General enjoyed a quiet life and years of cohabitation with an owner who loved them. Sadly, their owner passed away, leaving these friends alone in the world. They travelled to the Meredith Center Road veterinary, depressed and in need of medical intervention to cope with the loss of their lives.

Animals form bonds of friendship as strong as any human, and they experience the emotional pain of loss – grieving the absence of beloved humans. At the NH Humane Society, a shelter where all adoptable animals find safe harbor, care and comfort until adoption day, we shaved Pudgy's matted coat and started him on medicated baths. General exhibited the most obvious stress, he wouldn't eat, didn't attend to grooming, pulled out his fur, and

cried constantly. In an effort to help General acclimate to shelter life, never an easy thing, it's not the home you were used to, he was moved to our administrative offices where he could enjoy a window seat, daily grooming and pick from a veritable smorgasbord of feline foods.

Meanwhile Pudgy fared a little better. His coat began to grow back, he participated in our Pet Therapy program visiting area nursing

See **REUNITED** on 18

AN OPEN LETTER TO MITT ROMNEY

It is no secret that you are a favorite in Republican circles for another run for president. This certainly isn't a surprise to me. I knew, as did millions of other Americans, that you were our best hope in stopping Pres-



ident Obama's dangerous agenda for a second term. Sitting presidents are rarely defeated and President Obama was no exception.

So now, here we all are, hoping to make it through the last two years of his term. With a still very shaky economy and the increasing shadow of government over our day to day lives, polls have shown that many voters from 2012 now have buyer's remorse and would vote differently if that same election were held today. This has been clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming Republican victories in the house and senate and across the country in the midterm elections.

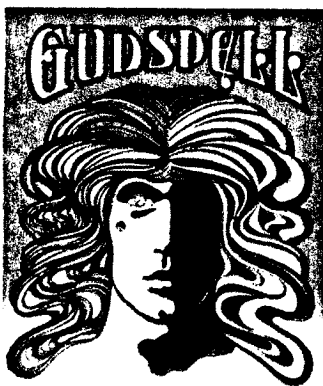
The presidential election of 2016 seems far away but will be here before we know it. The field of potential candidates is crowded with many good men and women who I am sure are strong in their commitment to bring back America. Early polls show that you are finishing in a strong first place among Republican voters indicating that you are still considered by many to be the best person for the job.

Of course, I could never even pretend to understand the pressure and strain that your last campaign put on you and your family but I can understand what a commitment to run again would mean for you and them. I see your close family ties, something that is, unfortunately, rarer and rarer in America these days, and I know that any decision you make would depend strongly on their blessing. It is a decision of great magnitude to both family and country.

That is why I am asking you, Mitt, not to dismiss the notion of running for president again.

I knew, after meeting See **ROMNEY** on 22

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ROMNEY from 1 with you in your first editorial board review you gave at the Weirs Times office after announcing your candidacy in 2011, that you genuinely wanted to help the country; that you weren't in it for the power, prestige and money. Your expertise as a successful businessman, your understanding of economics and your administrative skills as Governor of Massachusetts and savior of the 2002 Winter Olympics, proved your capability for the highest office in the land.

This upcoming election we will elect a president who will have one of two directions to go: continue on the frightening path we are on now or take the reins and lead us out of the wilderness and back to American Exceptionalism.

Whoever gets the job, I hope they will choose the latter path. It won't be easy, but we will need a person of experience and willpower. You would definitely be at the top of that list.

As you know, getting there is never easy. The hills and valleys of a campaign are filled with detours and muddy roads. But you have been there. You have introduced yourself to the people and they have responded. Thousands of loyal, dedicated volunteers across the country would urge you to run again. You have the experience and the resources needed to build a path to a successful presidential campaign.

I know there is so much to consider. Not many of us would want to make that journey twice, never mind three times. It has only been done by a few. Most recently Ronald Reagan, who, coincidentally, was your age when he was elected president in his third try.

Whatever you and your family decide, you have my utmost respect. It will ultimately be an extremely tough decision to make. I hope that you will give it the careful consideration that it deserves.

Sincerely,
Bob Lawton
Founder and Publisher of
The Weirs Times
and Cochecho Times
bob@weirs.com

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All of Dr. Hymans suggestions have merit and can help you to break that bad habit and lead a healthier lifestyle. As

we prepare for the Holidays and are tempted by many treats at this time of year these healthy tips can help save us and our waistline.

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