

# The Conway Daily Sun

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FREE



Shopping tail-gate party: These women were part of a group that stayed at the White Mountain Hotel for a shopping and girls' weekend. (PHOTO COURTESY DOT SEYBOLD)

## Big harvest for valley retailers

Campaigns targeting women shoppers, Canadian tourists give November a boost

By CASEY CONLEY  
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — The leaves have fallen but the snow still hasn't. But what used to be one of the slowest times of year for retail in Mount Washington Valley has become one of the busiest in Mount Washington Valley.

The introduction of retail holidays like Harvest to Holiday and the "Bring a Friend" event last weekend at Settlers' Green have provided a jolt to the local economy and transformed a former slow period into a "multi-million-dollar weekend"

**"People are combining these shopping trips with a mini-vacation. People want to have fun, and North Conway is fun."**

in the valley.

"When Harvest to Holiday started it was totally geared toward building a shoulder season in the valley," said Marti Mayne, publicist for the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce. "But it has gained momentum ... and it does tend to be a great shopping time for

the valley."

Harvest to Holiday began as a chamber event in 2000 and focused almost exclusively on bolstering retail through marketing from late October through Thanksgiving. Since its inception, the event has grown and spread through other sectors of the tourism economy.

"It has a ripple effect," Mayne said. "It brings people in to shop, but they come and stay overnight so they are here for two days, eat in local restaurants, shop local stores and stay in local lodging."

see RETAIL page 13

## New fire chief 'a great fit'

Final duty for Wade is to welcome Steve Solomon

By LLOYD JONES  
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — Just before he retired Friday afternoon, one of Larry Wade's final duties as chief of the Conway Village Fire Department was to pass on his hat to new chief Steve Solomon, who has served as Tamworth's first full-time chief for the past two years. Solomon accepted the job earlier in the week, and starts full-time in Conway on Dec. 3.

see CHIEF page 12

## Precinct voters to act on water agreement for Birch Hill Wednesday

Voting starts at 7 p.m. at John Fuller School

By TOM EASTMAN  
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — Following months of discussion and negotiations, North Conway Water Precinct voters at a special meeting Nov. 14 will act on a proposed interconnectivity agreement that would enable commissioners to negotiate to provide water to the 204 homes of the troubled Birch Hill Water District.

see PRECINCT page 10

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The Soloman Family is looking forward to making the move to Conway where Steve Soloman (far right), who has been fire chief in Tamworth for a little over two years, has accepted the post at Conway Village Fire Chief succeeding Larry Wade, who retired Friday after 28 years of service. Members of the Soloman Family include Jamie, Steve's wife and their three daughters Allison, 9; Danielle, 6; and Christina, 4, along with Miss Softy, the family teddy. (LOYD JONES PHOTO)

# New Conway fire chief is from Tamworth

CHIEF from page one

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Soloman, who took a tour of the station with Jamie, his wife, and their three daughters Allison, 9; Danielle, 6; and Christina, 4, Friday afternoon.

The Soloman family will look for a home in Conway, but it may take a while. "The commissioners realize what the real estate market is like and are being very supportive," he said.

Soloman, who was hired as Tamworth's first full-time fire chief in September, 2005, moved there with his family from Hillsboro. He began his career in fire fighting and emergency medicine as a volunteer in Hillsboro, and trained as an EMT and paramedic and took all the courses required to become a paid fire fighter. He brings 17 years experience to Conway.

"Conway was very attractive to me," Soloman said. "I knew the people in the department and had seen the equipment. I think it was a combination of things that attracted me. I have a strong EMS (Emergency Medical Services) background, which is something we don't do in Tamworth, and I wanted to get back in where I can make some positive progress on the EMS and fire side."

Soloman said no replacement has been announced for the Tamworth job. It was posted Friday morning. He will continue to work for the department until Nov. 28.

Wade thinks Soloman is a good candidate to fill his shoes.

"This is a good guy and a great fit for this department," Larry Wade, outgoing chief said on his final day at the station Friday. "He's highly quali-

fied and way smarter than I am. He's excited. His family is excited and the guys in this department are excited. In the words (of former Conway Town Manager) Jim Somerville it's a win, win situation."

Soloman had equal praise for Wade, whom he met during his first week as chief in Tamworth and struck up not only a positive working relationship but a good friendship as well. "Larry is a great guy," he said. "We'd all love to see him stay but we'll congratulate him in his retirement, too. I think we're all a little bit envious of what he's going to do."

Friday marked Wade's last day on the force. Wade, who has served on the Conway Fire Department for 28 years, including the last 21 full-time and the past 17 as the fire chief, will pursue another passion — fishing — in Florida next week.

At 48, and in good health, Wade said the time is right to enter another facet of his life. He plans to move to a campground in Marathon, Fla., (located 40 miles from Key West), but will keep his house in Conway, where he wants to return every June and enjoy all this area has to offer.

At the campground, Wade will work as a bartender in a Tikki lounge. "It's right on the beach, five nights a week so I have all my days to fish or do whatever I'd like to do. I'm actually trying to get another job now working on a fishing boat two days a week to try to gain a little bit more experience. You can never have enough experience fishing. I'm finishing up my Coast Guard captain's license."

What will Wade miss the most? "The people, definitely the people," he said. "It's been a pretty good ride."

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NESTLE from page 5

Nestle representative Mark DuBois said Nestle is "looking forward to seeing the process through." Tuesday's decision, though, is unlikely to close the book on the water debate in

Fryeburg that has festered since the late 1990s.

One thing about Tuesday's vote is certain: the planning board's role in the process will be complete.

"With the conclusion of this issue it ends our remand," Heggie said.