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& Individuals With
Opportunities to Succeed



Networks News

KEVIN SKRUPA – JUSTIN

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This issue of "Networks
News" was made possible
by the News Crew:

Richard
Justin
Jane
Matt
Billy
Mitchell
Eastman
Nate
Sara

On February 28th the News Crew had a special guest, Kevin Skrupa from WMUR. I have wanted to write an article about Kevin for a long time, so I was extremely happy when he came in to meet with our group. As soon as he sat down he was a part of our team. He brought in gifts for us from the TV station.

The first thing we started to talk about was our News Crew. He told us the way we work together on our newsletter is like how he works with his coworkers.

I asked Kevin about the Penguin Plunge. He became involved in this event to raise funds for the Special Olympics. At this event, Kevin plunges! He goes into the ice cold water up to his neck and then goes back to the shore and waits 4 minutes until the next plunge!

I was very interested in why Kevin became a weather man. He said that in 1978 there was a big blizzard and school was cancelled for days. When he saw all that snow, he became interested in how this crazy weather happens. He went to the library to read as much as he could about weather. When Kevin was 13 years old, he had a weather station in his back yard.

I asked Kevin how he predicts the weather. He told us that he looks at over 200 different maps of weather patterns, takes this information and then makes his

predictions about the
weather forecast.

After my interview with Kevin we showed him around our building. It was such a great day. Kevin even got to relax in our Snoozlen room. Thank you Kevin.





PAINTING SOME SPRING – BY NEWS CREW

In March the after hours event was Painting Planting Pots. First we painted the plant pots. Everyone was able to get a small pot and had lots of paint colors to choice from. The painting part was fun.

The week prior to the event, Alyssa took the time to plant seeds so they would sprout before our event. We placed soil in the pots and then planted the seeds. The seeds were so tiny we just used our finger to make a small hole and then placed the seed right in the hole. The seeds were daisy seeds.

With the help from a hairdryer, we were able to speed up the paint drying time for our painted pots. With the pots dried, we were able to take them home with us that night.

After we finished our plants, we could also paint on a canvas.

Thank you to the staff who volunteered their time to help make this event another huge success! We appreciate that we have these opportunities.

BINGO – BY MATT

Opportunity Networks had its very 1st Bingo Night for an after hours respite event. We had pizza for dinner and ice tea & lemonade for a beverage choice.

After we finished eating dinner and cleaned up, we started playing bingo. I was the bingo caller. My role was to call out the numbers. We used bingo cards and I picked from the stack to get the number to be called.



Then I played bingo as with everyone else. There were over 5 rounds of bingo. There was a different winner for each round. My favorite game was the coverall. We had to cover every number that was on our board to win.

Those who won a round received a prize. The prizes were different types of candy bars. This was an event enjoyed by all. Be on the lookout monthly for the after hour events. These events are a great way for everyone to get to know each other and to have interactions together outside of program hours.

LIVING WITH TECHNOLOGY — MITCHELL

As technology advances, the impact in day-to-day life becomes more significant. Dependence on technology and significant reliance on computers and devices comes into play, making it seem as though we cannot get through the day without the devices we use on a routine basis. Some of these devices play an essential role in communication, safety, aid in the treatment of medical conditions, and an amazing amount of things that many may not think of at first. With the increasing use and reliance on devices, have you ever wondered what would happen if they all went away?

For example, communication devices for those with disabilities play an essential part for day to day life. Not having software utilizing interactive symbols

and a synthesized voice would mean reverting back to symbol cards on a key ring. This step backwards alters what some may consider a part of their quality of life that technology helps contribute to.

To take a step back and wonder what would happen if these devices were not available to us for a few months or so is interesting. I wonder if many of us would be lost – or would know what to do or how to get by without them. I perceive that our day-to-day life would be very different without such devices. Would some struggle to communicate? Once devices and technology are available again, will we bounce back and use them or will we have once again become accustomed to getting by without them?



Richard has mastered going from his computer to his iPad.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY — BY RICHARD

Every year technology seems to change and it can be difficult to adjust to these changes. That is why I have decided to learn more about the different types of devices that use technology. While working with the News Crew, I work on a computer. I work really hard to learn how to turn it on, open my programs and work on my typing skills. Then one day, I dropped my computer while getting it out of my laptop bag and it broke!

While waiting for my computer to get fixed, I was introduced to an iPad. I have had an easier time adjusting to the iPad than I did to my computer. It was trial and error to learn how to use it. I was a little frustrated in the beginning. Whenever I pressed the screen too hard, my functions did not work as they should. A friend suggested I use a stylus pen and it became easier for me.

Trying new things can be very scary but with the help of friends it can make adjusting to it easier.

HALO REVIEW — BY NATE

Back in the day I went with my big brother Ronnie to a Game Stop. Ronnie and I saw Halo 3 on the shelf in the store. Ronnie asked if I wanted to play the game with him. I agreed then Ronnie walked up to the cash register to pay. We decided to split the cost in half. I paid half, and Ronnie paid the other half. To play Halo 3 you need an Xbox 360. Halo 3 is rated M for mature, and it's a first person shooter. Ronnie and I both play games only if the game has good ratings. Because the games that have bad ratings could have issues that we don't like to come across while gaming. If the game has issues playing the game could be stressful and not fun anymore. That's why we both check the ratings before purchasing. My brother Ronnie taught me that, and how to play video games so we could play together. Ronnie and I played the previous Halo games as well as Halo 3. In my opinion Halo 3 has better graphics, than the previous Halo games.

I got a couple good tips to help you play Halo 3. One good tip is to save your game often. From time to time there will be opportunity for you to save the game. When those times arrives make sure you save, so that the progress you made isn't gone. That can be stressful so save, save, save, and save. Second tip is



to reload your gun often. While under attack you don't want your gun to run out of ammo, because your character will die. To prevent that from happening reload as much as possible during your game play. Last tip is if u are playing multiplayer it's an awesome idea to cover your team mates back. When your team is being ambushed, and your team mates are in trouble to cover their back so they don't die. Team work makes the dream work. Also it makes it easier while under when both you and your team mates work together to destroy the enemy. Hopefully these tips help you play better because these tips help me.

Halo 3's opening scene starts off with Cortana talking about her research in trying to find the perfect Spartan soldier. There are two organizations in Halo 3. One is the good guys known as The Spartan Soldiers. They're apart of the organization called United Space Command a.k.a. U.N.S.C. The bad guys however are called The Flood. They're apart of the organization called The Covenant. The Flood in this game possessed the humans, turning them into zombies, and they unfortunately die. The Spartan Soldiers main mission is to stop The Flood, and save humanity.

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I love playing games about saving humanity from evil, would really enjoy playing this one.

Another main mission that the U.N.S.C. has to do is save the Five Halo Rings. Halo Rings are an explosive device that can reshape Earth and different universes, and can hold or house people so they can live. Halo Rings can also destroy all life. Master Chief already destroyed 2 Halo Rings in the previous game. Currently, Arbiter, Master Chief, Gilly Sparks discovered an arc with a new Halo Ring forming. Master Chief decides to activate the Halo Ring to eliminate The Flood, and sparing the galaxy from destruction. To activate the ring Master Chief rescues Cortana. Who has been inside the destroyed halo in the activation index from high clarity, and destroyed the city. Cortana arrives and warns Master Chief of The Flood trying to rebuild its self on the ark in the new ring. These 2 missions work together to stop The Flood from destroying all of humanity.

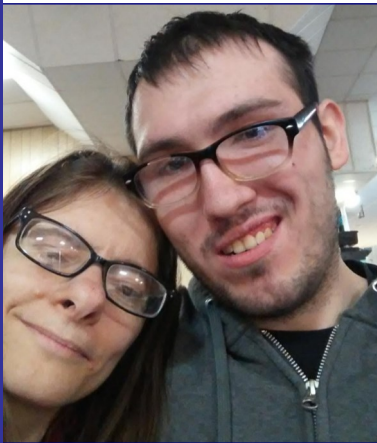
Halo 3 ends with Arbiter destroying the new Halo Ring with The Flood living in the ark. During this process Gilly Sparks turns out to be an evil character. Master Chiefs' Lieutenant Johnson kills Gilly sparks, and helps blow up the new Halo Ring. During the attack Johnson gets major injuries, and unfortunately dies from them. After the giant explosion occurred Master Chief attempted to flee to his ship named Dawn. Unfortunately Master Chief didn't get to the ship in time, and is stranded possibly dead in space. Arbiter lands on earth and is safe the explosion. Cortana is safe as well, and tries to warn of other evil plans coming. However she doesn't exactly know what's going on. The threat of The Flood is abolished, and humanity is saved. Halo 3 is an awesome game to play not only by your self, but with friends. On a scale of 1-5 I give this game a 5 out of 5. Make sure that you get permission before purchasing because this game is rate M for Mature. I recommend this game to anyone that likes saving humanity, and becoming the hero.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 12th ~ Amherst Village

Our first 5K Race! Details in our next issue of Network News

THE
ability    **5K**

enriching the lives of adults with disabilities in our community



Jane is such a special friend to me.

SPOT LIGHT ON JANE – BY BILLY & JANE

For this “Spot Light”, my special helper Billy will be interviewing me and writing this article. He thought it was a great way for you to get to know me a little more.

At home Jane spends her time coloring with pencils and making jewelry with beads. Making jewelry is a passion of Jane’s. Jane enjoys watching her favorite television shows; SpongeBob Square Pants and The Family Guy. These happen to be some of my favorite shows.

It’s not hard to figure out who Jane’s favorite singer is. If you spend any time with her, you will more than likely hear her singing Michael Jackson’s songs. She has a great singing voice.

Jane’s favorite colors are purple and pink. She loves drinking coffee and her favorite are from Cumberland Farms called (flavor?) Every morning she arrives to Opportunity Networks with a drink in hand.

Jane is very social and makes friends where ever she goes. I hope you enjoyed getting to know her a little more and can see why she is such a special friend to me.

TRIP TO KLEINFELDS – BY SARA



This past February, I went to Kleinfelds in Manhattan, New York. This is the bridal shop that began filming the reality television show “Say Yes to the Dress” in 2006!

I was there accompanying my future sister-in-law in hopes she would find “The Dress”. The store was beautiful and filled with thousands of designer wedding dresses. It was an awesome time and I wanted to capture my experience through my pictures and show them off to you.

Unfortunately, my future sister-in-law did not find “The Dress” but the experience we shared together is one I will cherish forever.

ASSOCIATING BEAUTY WITH KARATE — EASTMAN

“Do you ever go outside in the fall and see the leaves turn different colors?” “Or have you ever see the water glistening in the summer and flowers blooming in the spring and think of beauty?” To me the clearest form of beauty is karate.

Now that our first class is over, I have some feedback that I would like to share. My first and overall impression of Karate is that I like it, I would do it again, and it is worth trying. In karate I feel I

Fun Fact: *Your not finished ounce you achieve your black belt.*

am good at getting on guard, which means putting one foot in front of the other, putting your hands up in front of you with clenched fists. I know I need to practice my side and normal kicks. In karate I like getting to see and work with everyone. What I dislike is all the waiting. Everyone says patience is a virtue; well it is a very boring virtue. I will keep going and practicing though.

I asked some of my fellow students about their



Fun Fact: *10th degree black belt is considered the highest achievement.*

experiences with karate so far. Nick thinks he is best at high uppercuts. Matt says, “I could improve my stance.” Kevin shared that the best aspect of karate to him is the moves. Bubba states “I enjoys it and will keep going.”

Kim a current black belt, believes that karate is a beautiful form of art and is important to know how to use karate for self defense. The aspect of karate that Kim believes is her best is her forms. Kim enjoys having accurate positions and power in her forms. Her overall opinion is she likes learning and using proper skills.

In the end if you want to try karate, remember that karate starts and ends with respect. Always remember in karate to do your best and to achieve black belt excellent sir.



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8:30 am Shotgun Start (*rain or shine*)

Registration begins at 7:30

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- 6:30 AM** Driving Range w/free balls
- 7:30 AM** Sign In & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30** Tee Off - **4 Player Scramble**
- 11:00*** Bag Lunch on the Course
- 1:30 PM*** Catered Dinner
- 2:00 PM*** **LIVE AUCTION**

** approximate time*

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- 1st Place Women/Mixed Team*
- 2nd Place Team
- 10th Place Team

* Mixed Team requires a minimum of 2 women golfers

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OUR LIVE AUCTION WITH AUCTIONEER: STEVE DESMARAIS
Starting at approximately 2 pm

To Sign up go to: **www.opportunitynetworks.org**

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What a Blast!!

A Huge Thank You to Fiduciary Trust
of New England for Sponsoring our
3rd Annual Spring Fling Gala.



We would also like to thank Susan Drew and
The Milford United Methodist Church for the
lovely dresses for some of our lovely ladies,
Mickey Katz for altering the dresses
making them fit perfectly, and the
Milford High School and their Staff for letting us
use the best space to hold our PARTY!

Upcoming Events

Our Next Fundraising Events:

June 8th - 29th Annual Souhegan Valley Golf Classic

Please check out our website at www.opportunitynetworks.org,
for more information on our fundraising events and how you
can participate!!

Due to funding arrangements for Nonprofit Programming
providing services to individuals with disabilities, Opportunity
Networks continues to rely on the generous support of
individuals and businesses in our local community.

Program Locations

Administrative Office:

11 Caldwell Drive
Amherst, NH 03031
603-883-4402

Day Habilitation & Supported Employment Program

116A Perimeter Rd.
Nashua, NH 03060
603-889-0796

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Services

116C Perimeter Rd.
Nashua, NH 03060
(603) 402-1444

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