

## A stirring night of good sports



Photos by HANNAH SCHROEDER / Sentinel Staff

Winners of The Keene Sentinel Player of the Week awards pose for a photo after receiving their certificates at the Keene Country Club, during the inaugural Sentinel Players of the Year Awards Banquet Thursday evening. Back row: Luke Gay, Phoebe Rigg, Jason Foster, Austin Morris, Emma Tenters, Jake Daniels. Front row: Makenzie Anderson, Kendall Sullivan, Avery Moore, Bailee Soucia, Madi Testo. Below, Tom Ewing, owner and publisher of The Keene Sentinel, calls up former executive editor Paul Miller to speak about and hand out The Paul Miller Sports Citizenship Award. It was presented to Steven Goff, longtime soccer writer for The Washington Post and a Keene High graduate. For more, see Sports, B1, and a special section in today's paper, "2022 Sentinel Players of the Year."



# Heads up: Work zone ahead

## Construction on new Winchester Street roundabout in Keene to start this month

By HUNTER OBERST  
Sentinel Staff

Work on a new roundabout at Winchester Street and Key Road in Keene is slated to start this month and is expected to last until November, according to City Engineer Donald Lussier.

Traffic along that area of Winchester Street will be reduced to one lane during construction, Lussier said.

"People will still be

able to get where they're going, businesses will be able to get their customers in and out," Lussier said Thursday. "Our hope is that people not actually going to businesses at Key Road or at Riverside Plaza will find a different way around rather than go through that corridor. So hopefully that will alleviate some of the traffic."

The roundabout to replace the signalized intersection is one of two being planned for Winchester Street. The other will be at the intersection of Island and Pearl streets, and Lussier said construction is expected to begin next



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO BY MIA SUMMERSON

The signalized intersection of Winchester Street and Key Road in Keene.

spring. Estimated at about \$10.7 million, and also including the reconstruction of the Island Street Bridge, the N.H. Department of Transportation will fund about 80 percent of the project, with the city covering the remaining costs.

Lussier said work on the first roundabout will start June 20 or June 27.

The project's commencement comes after the city won an eminent-domain case in April against Sandri Companies, which owns the Sunoco gas station at that

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intersection.

Keene officials had sought to negotiate the purchase of about 1,000 square feet of Sandri's property for the roundabout. But when it became clear the company wouldn't sell the property, the City Council initiated

eminent-domain proceedings in January 2021.

Under eminent domain, a government can take private property by force if it will be put to public use and as long as the landowner receives just compensation.

Sandri expressed concern about the impact the roundabout will have on the gas

station, since one of the two entrances to the business off Winchester Street will need to be removed to accommodate the project.

"This is a very profitable business venture for the [Sandri] family; it consists of a gasoline station as well as a convenience store," Michael Hanley, an attorney

representing Sandri Companies, said in a public hearing before the City Council in December 2020. "The impact of the proposal will be to turn the convenience store into an inconvenience store."

The city had argued the roundabout will decrease traffic delays at the

intersection from an average of about 54.8 seconds on weekday evenings and 81 seconds on Saturdays at midday to about 16.7 seconds and 23.8 seconds, respectively.

Judge Elizabeth Leonard of Cheshire County Superior Court ruled that the potential harm to Sandri was

outweighed by the benefits.

Anyone who wishes to receive updates on the roundabout's construction can sign up to do so on the city's website.

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