Key Leader Weekend

From September 26 to September 28, 2014, the Hermon High School Key Club and other Hermon club and class Officers attended this year’s Key Leader Event at Camp Calumet, in West Ossipee, New Hampshire. Key Leader is a leadership training retreat where you learn more about yourself, how to be a better leader, how to improve your school and community, and how to be a better citizen and member of society.

The location for the event is stunning. The camp consists of thirty or so tiny cabins nestled against the pristine Ossipee Lake, being separated by a thin, warm sandy beach. Several other larger facilities comprise of the dining hall, bathrooms and showers, and the main lodge where our group discussions and activities were held.

Upon arriving to the camp that Friday, we instantly broke out of our shells and began meeting new people. People who are normally shy were leading the group discussions and sharing their personal experiences and life stories. They amazed us and inspired us. By Sunday, no one was left out or felt excluded, and we were like one big supportive family. It was an incredible experience.

This having been my second year attending the event, and being a student facilitator, I am very pleased with how it went. I enjoyed the weekend so much last year that I applied to be a facilitator so I could help others have the same great experience, as I did. I realized that when you think you know someone, you can be completely in the dark about them. They can completely turn your vision of them upside down.

This weekend was also a time of self-discovery. We learned about our personality types and characters, and recognized our strengths and weaknesses, and how we can better interact with others. I also gained confidence in my public speaking, and feel more confident in leadership positions.

Overall, everyone was impacted by the weekend. We learned a lot, made unforgettable memories, and established friendships that would last a lifetime. Key Leader changed us, and now we will change the world. We will better our homes, school, and community, and keep the spirit of Key Leader alive.
From the Office of the Town Manager

By: Roger Raymond, Town Manager

2015-2016 CIP and Budget

As we approach 2015, the process to update the 2015 Capital Improvement Plan and to develop the operating budget will soon begin. As each new fiscal year comes upon us, the challenges we face seem to increase. Efforts to present a budget which is affordable for the taxpayers and meets the needs of the community can be difficult at times. In recent years, the process has been exasperated by the State Legislature and Executive Branch. It seems 2015 will be no different. The Town has already been informed our Governor will be proposing legislation which will require all excise tax collected by communities to be used for road improvements and maintenance. For the Town of Hermon this will be devastating if approved by the Legislature. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the town collected over $2.5 million dollars in excise tax. During the same period approximately $1,000,000 was expended for roads and the remaining $1.5 million used to offset the overall budget. Had this legislation existed at the time, the effect would have resulted in having to increase funding for roads by $1.5 million and increasing the tax rate by 3 mils or a 25% in order to offset the amount used to reduce the overall general operating budget including education. In addition, it is not expected previous losses in Maine Revenue Sharing will be restored or current levels of funding retained. Considerable effort will have to be made to defend the current status of the excise tax and revenue sharing programs if a stable mill rate is to be retained in the coming years.

Route 2 Intersection and Road Improvements

After five years of planning, funding for the Route 2 intersection and sidewalk projects has been finalized. The overall cost is estimated at $2,626,349. Total federal and state funding is set at $2,116,183 while the local share has been authorized at $510,600. The local share will be paid for from Tax Incremental Financing Revenues. The project will include reconstruction of the Route 2/Billings Road intersection and a new sidewalk, curbing, storm drain system, pedestrian crosswalk signal light, four cross walks, shoulder improvements and new pavement extending along Route 2 from the easterly entrance to the Plaza a distance of 2,960’ to the Billings Road. The intersection project is scheduled to go out to bid this spring with completion scheduled for October while the sidewalk project and Route 2 improvements are scheduled to go out to bid in August 2015 and completed by June 30, 2016.

Staffing Assessor Office

After twenty years of service to the City of Bangor, Ben Birch will be the new Hermon assessor beginning January 2, 2015. Ben will work sixteen hours per week while Lillian Smith, a certified assessor, will assist Ben and will work twenty hours per week. An additional twenty-six hours weekly of assessing services will be obtained from a qualified assessor to undertake the field work necessary to update the assessing records and to complete the neighborhood market studies. As activities develop within the office, the members of the Town Council and citizens will be updated by monthly reports submitted to the Town Council, posted on the town’s website and reported to you in future editions of the Hermon Connection.

Bicentennial Celebration

During the December 18th town council meeting, the Bicentennial time capsule was filled with community related items of historic interest. The time capsule will be retained for the next year at the town office and will then hopefully be turned over to the members of the Hermon Historical Society for safe keeping. The time capsule will be opened anytime after January 1, 2064. The capsule contains many pictures and artifacts relating to the history of Hermon and its 200th year celebration. The final activities that will end the celebration include an update of the Town’s history for the period from 1964 to 2014 and the printing of the 2013-2014 Town Report. Both documents should be ready for print during the next few weeks and will be made available to the citizens by the 1st of February and copies of both will be included in the time capsule. At this time, I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Bicentennial Committee who spent many hours planning and implementing the program. The members of the committee include Scott Perkins, Chairman; Mischelle Adams, Vice Chairman and Secretary; Michelle Thayer; Anne Freeman; Rev. Garnett Chute; Marvin Overlock; Steve Dyer and Ed Drake. Special thanks are also extended to Senator Gratwick for having sponsored the Bicentennial Proclamation to the Maine Senate for approval.

Continued on page 3
**Contract Awards**

Recent contracts were awarded to Alan Dorr Construction to complete approximately 3,300 feet of ditching along the Pine Tree Road and shoulder improvements on a section of the Newburgh Road. These two projects will be completed by the end of May 2015. A contract to complete improvements at the transfer station was awarded to Eastman Construction and will also be completed by May 2015. The improvements include a new retaining wall and road improvements to allow for the placement of roll-off containers to collect demolition debris and metal items. A composting area for leaves and grass clippings will also be completed as part of the project. Bids will be solicited in March for an equipment storage facility for the Public Works Department, a storage building at the Elementary School for the recreation program, ditching project for the 2015 construction season and improvements at Jackson Beach Boat Landing Facility. If anyone has interest bidding on any of the mentioned projects, feel free to contact the Town Clerk and ask to be provided bid specifications when the projects become available for bid.

**Wireless Internet Service**

Several weeks ago the Town Council voted to no longer fund wireless internet services for private homes in the community. The Town Council initiated this decision in July of 2012 when it was voted to notify Red Zone the Town was no longer going to provide funds to the company to provide high speed internet services to homes and businesses in Hermon. The Town Council did agree to provide bandwidth service for three years after the contract was terminated which ends on July 27, 2015. The Town Council took this position because they felt it was wrong to utilize public funds to provide private services especially when other companies are available to do the same with no public assistance. For the above reason, it is expected that Red Zone may be contacting the current users in Hermon to provide information regarding the Town Council’s decision. If you have any question regarding this matter please feel free to contact my office at 848-1015.

**Law Enforcement Survey Results**

A survey was conducted during the annual election to determine the perception of law enforcement services in Hermon. Over 500 citizens responded to the survey. On behalf of the Town Council and the Sheriff’s Office, we would like to extend our appreciation to the citizens who took the time to complete the survey. The results can be summarized as follows:

- 96.6% of the respondents felt the services rendered were good to excellent
- 88% of the respondents would support an increase in funding for an increase in service
- 75% of the respondents indicated a prompt response time was most important
- 55% of the respondents indicated that the 911 house numbering services was most important
- 46% of the respondents indicated a support for police presence in the schools was most important
- 118 respondents indicated the most significant issue was speeding vehicles
- 94 respondents indicated the most significant issue was inadequate street lighting
- 49 respondents indicated the most significant issue was stray, barking and aggressive dogs
- 47 respondents indicated the most significant issue was illegal dumping/littering
- 45 respondents indicated the most significant issue was visible drug possession and use

If you would like the see all of the results of the survey, please go to the Town’s website at www.hermon.net.

**New Fire Truck**

The purchase of a new fire truck as approved by the voters at the November polls is being negotiated under the direction of the Town Council and members of the Fire Department. The process should be completed no later than December 31, 2014. Currently the cost of the new truck has been proposed at $275,563 which is almost $25,000 less than authorized and almost $40,000 less than what a neighboring community paid for a similar truck. Credit goes to the members of the Fire Department and the Town Council for working hard to deliver the best truck possible at the most affordable cost to the taxpayers. The truck will be a 2016 Freightliner equipped with a Midwest fire body consisting of a 3,000 gallon tank and a 1,250 gallon per minute Hale pump. The new truck will serve dual proposes as a tanker and pumper. The new vehicle will replace a 1989 tanker and a 1990 pumper scheduled for replacement in 2015 and 2020 respectively. The new fire truck should be delivered to Hermon sometime in the fall of 2015.

*Continued on page 4*
Your State Representatives Corner

By: Roger Reed
District 103, Hermon, Carmel & Etna (part)

I would like to thank the people of Hermon for electing me to serve them for another term in the Maine House of Representatives. The first term was a time of excitement and learning, but much was accomplished. This past election Maine people spoke about what they wanted from their state government and the direction they would like to see it move. I work for all the people of Hermon and Maine in Augusta and I have heard loud and clear that citizens want the Legislature to continue to reform state government where it should. The size of government should not be a burden to working families. A government that is too big takes away money from families and discourages job creation. I have worked to right-size our government and will continue to do so.

The people of Hermon and Maine have told me that they want common-sense welfare reforms. Last session there was legislation that would have asked welfare applicants to apply for three jobs before receiving benefits, eliminated loopholes in the work search requirement for current beneficiaries, prohibited the use of benefits out of state, and banned welfare expenditures on alcohol, tobacco, lottery tickets, and bail. These common sense reforms were rejected. Mainers and business owners want a state government that spends their money carefully and supports the neediest among us. I will use that as my guide when it comes to welfare reform.

Hermon has made itself business friendly and I take my hat off to the town for their long range planning as they have done an excellent job for the citizens of Hermon and Maine’s economy by welcoming businesses to Hermon. But there are elephants in the room and it’s the cost of energy and Maine’s tax burden. It is not a coincidence that states with the biggest growth are those with the lowest tax burdens and lowest energy costs. The cost of doing business in Maine MUST be competitive with other states if we are to attract good-paying jobs that will encourage young people and families to call Hermon and Maine their home. I will continue to address these issues in Augusta this session. Please contact me with your ideas or concerns in these areas.

Please take a moment to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about your state government. My email address is Roger.Reed@legislature.maine.gov or call me in Augusta at 287-1440.

Recycling

Numerous citizens participate in the No-Sort Recycling Program sponsored by the Town. The recycling containers are located at the town office off the Billings Road and are available for disposal of recyclable items seven days a week 24 hours a day. During the early part of September it became necessary to have the contractor service the containers bi-weekly. The contractor empties the containers every Monday and Thursday. This has alleviated many issues including making it easier for citizens to dispose of their items. We continue to encourage recycling and invite every household to participate. As we approach 2018 when the PERC facility may no longer be operating, it is becoming apparent more emphasis will be placed on recycling. If you have any questions regarding the program, you may contact the town office at 848-1010 during normal business hours and request an informational sheet outlining the details of the program. There is a sign displayed at the disposal site which provides information as well. We appreciate your recycling efforts and look forward to your continued support in the future.

Notice – Report Street Light Outages

There are numerous street lights located within the limits of the public ways in Hermon that are paid for by the taxpayers in order to have safe streets and intersections. On occasion a light may not work. Because the lights are spread throughout the community, it is difficult for town personnel to determine if they are all working. If at any time you notice a street light is not working in your area, please feel free to call the Town Office and let the Code Enforcement Officer know the pole number and general location of the utility pole the light fixture is attached to. The CEO will immediately report it to the power company. We appreciate your assistance regarding this matter. The number to call is 848-1010.

On behalf of the members of the Town Council and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family happiness and good health this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of my report, please feel free to contact me at 848-1015 or 356-2914.
Interim Economic and Community Development Report

Article By: Scott Perkins

Activity in Economic and Community Development has remained steady since the last report. Inquiries have been equal between Hermon businesses attempting to expand and new business ventures trying to locate in our area. At this time, my office assists the Town Manager with economic development items and community development projects part-time.

The key goal currently for the town’s economic and community development program consists of assisting business with their immediate development needs. In the future, Hermon could add goals such as workforce development by training and connecting human resources with educational outlets specific to our development plans. We could consider creating technology “hot spots” to bring a more diverse business mixture like administrative health care offices, banking/calling centers and advanced computer graphic providers to our business parks. Hermon could also market our trucking and construction business identity to other New England states and beyond by aggressively encouraging the growth of our local supply chain businesses that compliment these leading economic categories for the Town.

Hermon is poised to take on these challenges and succeed regionally because of our strategic positioning and friendly business approach.

The following is a partial list of activity my office has managed with town manager's support over the last couple of months:

- Secured Council approval for two new business incentive programs capturing 3.1 million dollars in anticipated value
- Worked on a improvement plan with the Hermon Plaza owners to advance a solution for water quality that is attainable
- Represented Hermon at Bangor Area Community Transportation System meetings in order to take advantage of federal highway funding when available
- Assisted Greenway Equipment with its project at the former “Maine Trailer building” by connecting them with the Town of Hermon assessing services, security based technology opportunities and also by gaining approval for them to join our Omnibus Development District as a TIF site per Council vote
- Met with Camden National Bank representatives and co-op owners of a commercial kitchen building a 2.5 million dollar business in Freedom Park to assist in utility supply, TIF agreement development and adding their business to our Omnibus Development District as a TIF site
- Communicated with Bangor Gas, Bangor Water District, Emera Maine and Bangor Wastewater concerning gas supplies, water line extensions, 3 phase power installations and sewer extension projects for businesses expanding and building new projects in Freedom Park and Liberty Park
- Met with the Town Manager, MDOT representatives, Town of Hermon Engineer, Ellis Properties and other stakeholders concerning Route 2 intersection project and sidewalk connection to Plaza from Hermon Corner
- Attended BRDA meetings to discuss multi-level marketing plan for the region by using data review to identify leading economic sectors in our region
- Attended the Maine Harvest Festival at the Cross Insurance Center to support local Hermon Business and to develop new leads with people seeking alternative sites for expansion

Questions or comments concerning Economic and Community Development can be directed to Scott Perkins at 848-1010(office); or SPerkins@Hermon.net
Family owned and operated, Bangor Glass is Maine’s hometown auto glass specialist. Bangor Glass is owned and operated by Stephen and Jeanette Roberts. Since the store opened in July 2013 they have worked to bring quality service to their auto glass customers. Bangor Glass may be new to Hermon and the central Maine region, but owner Stephen Roberts Sr. has been working in the auto glass industry for twenty years!

Stephen and Jeanette live in Hermon with their two children, Stephen Jr. and Miranda. Both Stephen Jr. and Miranda graduated from Hermon High School and were heavily involved in community activities. Being a family oriented business Stephen works alongside his daughter, Miranda, in the office, and his son, Stephen Jr., helps as an assistant technician.

Bangor Glass applies the values of community service to their personal and business life. They have several stone chip repair clinics a year, where they team up with local insurance agents and donate financially to local charities or a selected organization. They donate $10.00 of each stone chip repair to the organization or charity of the agent’s choice. Recently, they have donated to both the Bangor Humane Society and Spruce Run.

Bangor Glass ensures quality installations are completed efficiently. When it comes to your vehicle and safety, they choose to employ certified technicians with over twenty years of experience. Bangor Glass uses the best quality products and tools to guarantee that one of the most important safety features in your vehicle is replaced or repaired to factory standards. They use adhesive that has a forty-five minute safe drive away time, and strong bond repair resin to fill stone chips. These differences are what make them the business to use for your auto glass needs! Bangor Glass also offers in shop service, as well as free mobile service to your home, work, or wherever it’s most convenient for you.

They are an approved vendor with insurance companies and can assist with setting up glass claims with just one call. Bangor Glass also is an approved vendor for many of the fleet and leasing companies in the area. They can replace anything from your windshield to your back glass...even your vehicle’s broken mirrors can be replaced by Stephen and the technicians. Visit this Hermon business today in Freedom Park or check out BangorGlass.com on the web!
Introducing a new Hermon business....

Article & Photo By: Scott Perkins

2477 Route 2, Hermon, Maine

Hermon seems to be attracting businesses with a “Family Owned and Operated” theme lately! If you haven’t seen the television ads with Halle, Jackson and Addison introducing Valley Satellite products and services recently, then you have missed the news about this new Hermon business adding Fujitsu heat pumps to the list of items they sell and service!

Well known for quality satellite servicing and installation for over 32 years in central Maine, Valley Satellite and Heat Pumps has installed over 500 Fujitsu units during the course of their first year selling this new product!

The new business location near Hermon corner on Route 2 will bring two new jobs to our area. The renovation will create a showroom capable of viewing their newest product line of heat pumps, while customers will still be able to connect with the region’s top service provider for satellite dish installations. Valley Satellite and Heat Pumps can tailor your specific programming package needs because they offer more than just one television provider to choose from! On the new heat pump side of the business, two certified technicians can answer questions you have about owning and operating a Fujitsu unit including what qualifies for Efficiency Maine rebates and what your potential cost recovery might be based on calculations for your particular home or business situation.

Hermon offers a warm welcome to this new business providing excellent home and business products to central Maine. Visit or call today and you will find friendly and knowledgeable owners working as front line contacts each step of the way during your experience!

Visit: ValleyDish.com for more information

Pictured in photo above: Halle, Addison and Jackson
Maine’s 2014 Jump Rope For Heart Outstanding Coordinator

Article By: Barbara Libby HES Principal

Hermon Elementary School physical education teacher Debra Aucoin was selected as Maine’s 2014 Jump Rope For Heart Outstanding Coordinator of the Year by the MAPHERD (Maine Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Association).

In February 2014, Hermon Elementary students raised over $15,000 for the American Heart Association, an effort that was solidly accompanied by learning about the cardiovascular system and healthy habits. Mrs. Aucoin was honored at the banquet during the annual MAPHERD Conference on November 3rd-4th in Rockport.

"Make a Difference Day"

Article by: Gaynor Reynolds

On October 25, 2014, Cadettes, Brownies and Daisies from Hermon Troops #1285 and #1340 volunteered at Ecotat Gardens. The girls, leaders and parents spent the morning raking, raking, raking, loading wheelbarrows with the gathered leaves and pine needles and moving them to the compost pile. Ecotat trustees, members and volunteers wish to thank the Scouts for their help to ready the gardens for winter.

They did "Make a Difference."

The Hermon JROTC program, despite planning on waiting until the Fall of 2016 to attend once again, certainly hopes on returning to the river in the future.
**Property Tax Exemptions**

*From The Assessing Department*

**Homestead Exemption** - This program provides a measure of property tax relief for certain individuals that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least twelve months and make the property they occupy on April 1st their permanent residence. Property owners would receive an exemption of $10,000. Applications may be accessed at: [maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homesteadapp.pdf](http://maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homesteadapp.pdf)

**Veteran or Widow Exemption** - A veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 years or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or, became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a $6,000 exemption. Veterans must be 62 years of age by April 1st. Applications will list the dates of the recognized war time periods and may be accessed at: [maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranapp.pdf](http://maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranapp.pdf) or [maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranwidowapp.pdf](http://maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranwidowapp.pdf)

**Paraplegic Veteran** - A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive a $50,000 exemption. Applications may be accessed at: [maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranapp.pdf](http://maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/veteranapp.pdf)

**Blind Exemption** - An individual who is determined to be legally blind by the Dept. of Human Services is eligible to receive a $4,000 exemption. Applications may be accessed at: [maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/blindapp.pdf](http://maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/blindapp.pdf)

All of the above exemptions require completion of an application to the local town office where the property is located and legal residency is established. Exemption claims may require additional information to support the claim for exemption, and must be delivered to the Assessor’s office no later than April 1st. Application forms are also available in the town office.

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**Hermon Student Places in Cole Essay Contest**

*Article & Photo By: Kendra Raymond*

Neily Raymond, a 7th grade student at Hermon Middle School recently achieved the distinction of placing second in the Cole Land Transportation Museum Veteran Interview Contest. As a 6th grade student of Mrs. Chelsea Pinette, Neily and other HMS students visited the museum last spring and had the monumental opportunity to interview local veterans. Neily was lucky enough to be assigned to WW II veteran, Mr. Paul Wilbur of Hermon!

Five thousand students representing ninety three schools from Kittery to Fort Kent and Farmington to Lubec participated in the veteran interviews, submitting a record number of essays. The top three high school and middle school students were invited to read their essays on Veteran’s Day at the museum, in the presence of veterans, family, and friends.

The students were asked to write on the topic, “What freedom means to me after interviewing a veteran.” Neily’s essay, “Freedom is not Free”, chronicled the life experiences of Mr. Wilbur and focused on his bravery and sacrifices. Neily also incorporated into her essay the story of her great Uncle Ron, who sailed aboard the U.S.S. Franklin CV-13 during WW II, and his harrowing experience of swinging from a rope off the burning aircraft carrier to the safety of the Santa Fe. Paul Wilbur and Ronald Noyes stood proudly by her side as Neily read the essay. Neily and her uncle were interviewed by WABI TV5 for a news story, which can be viewed on the station’s website.

Neily was awarded with a Samsung Galaxy tablet and a certificate.
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So You Think You Know Hermon (then and now)

In 1822 the area from Billings Road to the Glenburn town line including the side roads was called “North Hermon” and was approximately 2 miles square.

One of the side roads was named the __________ Road, but is now known as the __________ Road.

Answer to November question:
School #12 was located on the Coldbrook Road and on January 12, 1923 it burned. It was re-built in 1924 at the cost of $1,991.03. In the later years it was used for a time as a church and then moved to Glenburn.

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(Pictured from left to right): Ginny Jacobs, stylist & certified nail tech.
Erin McPherson, owner & stylist

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*Get $10 off your first chemical service just for trying us out!

Call or stop by for your appointment today!
207-951-7046
82 Morgan Hill Lane Suite#4
Check us out on Facebook.
ermonfamilyhair@gmail.com

(Pictured from left to right): Ginny Jacobs, stylist & certified nail tech.
Erin McPherson, owner & stylist

Season Greens Fees Membership
- Single $600
- Family $850
- Junior $200
- Senior $500
- Active Military $500
- 50 Round Pass $500

Hermon Meadow Golf Club & Driving Range
281 Billings Road | Hermon, Maine 04401 USA
Phone: 207.848.3741
www.hermonmeadow.net

You’re invited to “Hermon Family Hair Salon”
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Dog Licenses Due

Remember, your dog must be licensed each year by January 31st. Residents licensing dogs after January 31, 2015 will pay a state mandated late fee of $25.00.

Licenses are now available at the Hermon Town Office. You may also license your dog online at: https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl

Please call the Town Office with any questions at 848-1010.

Mark your 2015 calendar

The Town Office will be closed on:
- January 19 – Martin Luther King Day
- February 16 – President’s Day
- April 20 – Patriot’s Day
- May 25 – Memorial Day
- July 3 – Independence Day
- September 7 – Labor Day
- October 12 – Columbus Day
- November 11 – Veteran’s Day
- November 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving
- December 24 – closing at noon
- December 25 – Christmas Day

Municipal Elections

For those who may be considering running for local office; Nomination Papers for Town Council and School Committee will be available in the Clerk’s office on March 13, 2015. The deadline for returning completed papers will be the close of business on April 24, 2015. Two Council seats and two School Committee seats will be voted upon on June 9, 2015.

2014 Taxes

Just a reminder; if you have not already mailed a copy of your 2014 tax bill to your mortgage holder, you want to do so. The due date for 2014 taxes is April 1, 2015.