

# THE WEIRS TIMES

AND TOURISTS GAZETTE

"How blithely might the barge bars  
Chide, on the lake, the lingering morn!  
How sweet at eve, the lover's love  
Oh me, when the groves were still and still!"  
—Lady of the Lake.

"Their wigwags that clustered o'er the vale,  
Have fled away like withered leaves  
Before the Autumn gale;  
But the memory liveth on your hills,  
Their haptism on your shore."—Shipwreck.

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COMPLIMENTARY

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVOCATE BOWLS HIS FIRST PERFECT 300 GAME

by **Brendan Smith**  
*Weirs Times Editor*

Jack Batchelder fell in love with the sport of Bowling when he was in the seventh grade.

Growing up with epilepsy, most other sports weren't really an option.

"Bowling was just something I could do," said Batchelder.

He's taken that love for the game with him throughout the years and today finds a lot of pleasure in introducing it to a new generation as well as helping to promote youth athletics as a whole.

He also just bowled his first perfect 300 game in February at the Funspot Family Entertainment Center in the Weirs.

Batchelder learned a lot about bowling when he worked as manager for the Lakes Region Family Bowling Center in Gilford. After that he actually stepped away from the game for a number of years to raise a family.

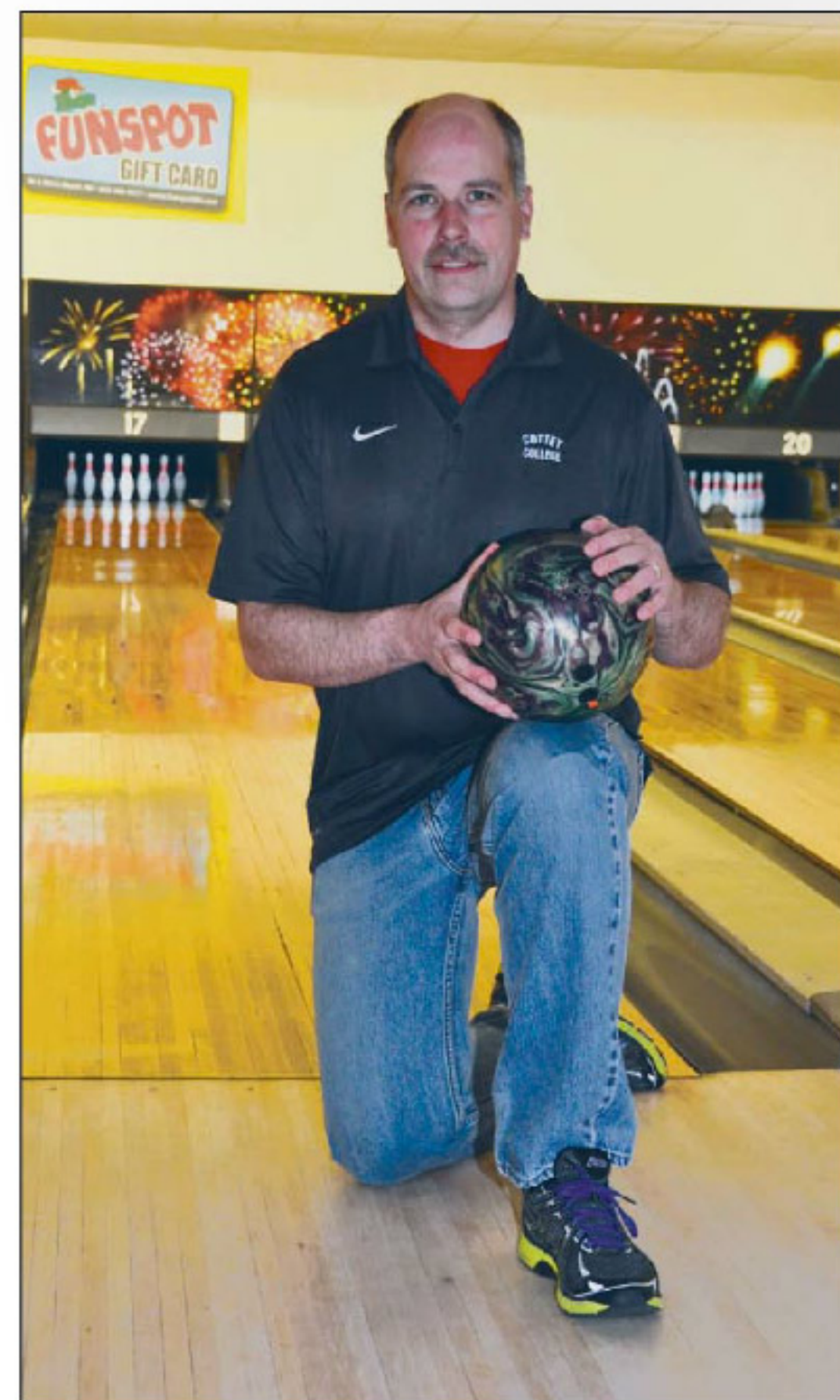
It was back in 2009 when a friend told him he should come to Funspot and check out the leagues.

"I did come down on a few Tuesdays and filled in as a substitute," said Batchelder. "Pretty soon I was back playing in the leagues full time during the winter months."

It was also about five years ago that Laconia High School began their first bowling team, who also practice at Funspot. Batchelder got involved with the program and for the last two years he has served as the Laconia High School Bowling Team Head Coach after volunteering his services for the first years.

"For some of these kids, it's their first time ever throwing a bowling ball," said Batchelder. "My job is to teach the game and all the fundamentals."

The High School bowling season is about fifteen weeks and they practice Wednesdays and Thurs-



**Jack Batchelder, an advocate for youth sports as well as a life-time bowler finally got his first 300 game in February at the Funspot Family Entertainment Center in the Weirs. Jack is shown here in front of lane 17, where the once elusive feat was accomplished.**

days from 3-5pm. The hard work has paid off this year as three players from the team qualified for the individual state finals.

Batchelder also noted the contribution of Funspot in helping the team in its growth.

"Bob Lawton, the owner of Funspot has given us a great deal on the weekday practices and has also hosted and donated the bowling lane time when Laconia High School was the home team in bowling matches."

With the bowling season over on the high school level, Batchelder

is still extremely active in Youth sports as a whole as a volunteer and the President of the Rich Valasquez Youth Sports Equipment Foundation (RVYSEF) whose mission is to assist in providing sports equipment to the children and youth of needy families in the Greater Lakes Region community in an effort to ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate in community sports regardless of financial circumstances.

"RVYSEF was started by Cindy Valasquez after Rich passed away in

**BATCHELDER** from 3 2008," said Batchelder. "She wanted to make sure it was done in his name."

Valasquez was one of the Lakes Region's more avid youth sports supporters. He was active in many of the city's youth sports programs. He was an umpire in both Laconia Little Leagues and upper levels of play.

Batchelder also volunteers his time to help out with the Easter Seals bowling visits to Funspot as well as serving as president of the Laconia Kiwanis.

Batchelder also runs a home business where he custom fits bowling balls for a perfect hand fit and is a staff member of Bowlerx.com, a bowling distributor.

Still, with plenty to keep him busy, Batchelder still shows up for his weekly bowling league at Funspot where he was awarded with that perfect 300 game in February.

"I've had a 280 game before and a 268," said Batchelder of that day. "The funny thing was I wasn't nervous at all. I was very calm. The bowlers on each side of me were going for 300 games as well."

Batchelder joins a very small list of 300 bowlers at Funspot.

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