

Lakes Weekend

CITIZEN OF LACONIA
10/14/10

ADMIT ONE

CALENDAR

Art Galleries

The Artists' Loft, a life drawing group, meets Monday mornings in Laconia. New members welcome. Call 293-2702 for information.

Edwards Gallery, Holderness School. Gallery hours, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sun.

The Galletly Gallery, Moore Center, New Hampton School. Gallery hours, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. to Noon.

Gordon Nash Library, New Hampton. Tues.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 744-8061.

Imagine Gallery, 624 Main St., Laconia. Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Sat. or by appointment. 235-2777 or 528-1706.

Lakes Gallery at Chi-Lin, 17 Lake St., Meredith. 279-8663, www.linasianarts.com.

Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, Route 113, Center Sandwich. 284-7728,

www.patricialaddcarega.com

Eric Grant Band sweeps NE country showdown

The room at the Doubletree Hotel in Bedford, Mass., was buzzing as the Eric Grant Band from the small town of Gilford, N.H., accomplished the improbable: winning every category in which they were entered at the 2010 Northeast Invitational Country Showdown.

The regional event pits winners from state competitions in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island against each other to crown a New England Country Music Organization champion.

A panel of judges scored the competitors' performances on a variety of factors including quality of performance, originality,

stage presence and star quality.

The Eric Grant Band won the coveted Band of the Year honor as well as the Best Vocal Group in the New Country category. Bandleader Eric Grant was named New Country Male Vocalist of the Year.

The band's success at the regional event follows on the heels of its three-award performance at the N.H. Country Music Association Awards in September. NHCMA Vice-President Paul Malone was on hand to watch the Eric Grant Band compete against New England's best and said, "We knew they were special and now New England knows too. NHCMA is proud to claim Eric and the band as one of our very own."

Eric Grant did his best to keep his emotions intact after receiving the awards. "You know, my voice was not in great shape, but we all got together; committed to a no-excuses EGB performance. This band and the EGB family raise all of us to levels we can't reach on our own. I am truly humbled."

Next March, the Eric Grant Band will compete in the North American Country Music Association International Competition in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

In the meantime, the band continues to perform at venues and events throughout New England and plans a release of original material.

For more information on the band and its performance schedule, see www.ericgrantband.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

THE ERIC GRANT Band won Band of the Year and Vocal Group of the Year titles at the NECMO regional competition in Bedford, Mass. EGB members, from left, are Paul DiBiasco, Dan Haney, Sherry Grant, John Littlefield, Eric Grant (who also won Male Vocalist of the Year) and Carlos Flores. They display some of the hardware they brought home to Gilford.