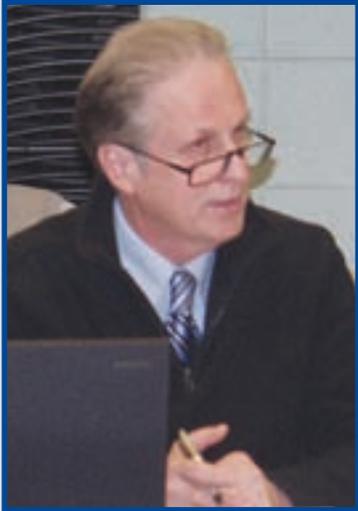


THE Messenger

"Your Local Weekly Since 1868 ♦ A Tradition Worth Keeping"

FREE ♦ OUR 144th YEAR ♦ ISSUE 3 ♦ JANUARY 20, 2012



Newport cuts budget

Business Administrator James Vezina presented the proposed 2012-2013 Newport School Budget to a small group at the District's Public Hearing Monday evening. **See story on page 5.**



Nursing home murder

A Bennington woman has been charged with murder in a Vermont nursing home. **See story on page 3.**



Washington Police Chief Steve Marshall.

Fire the Chief?

Petition seeks Steve Marshall's removal

83 Washington voters have submitted a Petitioned Warrant Article seeking the removal of Police Chief Steve Marshall. It reads: "To see if the voters in the Town of Washington will vote to remove the Chief of Police immediately." When contacted, Marshall, who has been Chief for 12.5 years, would say only that it is a personal attack by a former resident who has an axe to grind, and has nothing to do with his job performance. The petition continues, "Whereas We, the voters and tax payers of the town of Washington are dissatisfied with the performance, behavior and effectiveness

of the Police Chief, we ask the Selectmen to remove, immediately, upon passage of the Warrant Article, the current Chief of Police."

A second Petitioned article seeks to have the Chief of Police elected in the future. "To see if the voters in the Town of Washington will vote to elect a Police Chief as allowed in RSA 41:47." Washington officials have apparently determined that the second article is proper and will be placed on the March Warrant. The selectmen are checking with town council as to the legality of placing the removal petition on the Warrant.

Henniker accepts sewer cleaning bid

The Henniker Selectmen accepted Hartigan Wastewater's bid of \$14,948 for cleaning about 1.9 miles, or 1/3 of the town's

sewer system, and authorized the withdrawal \$1,330.35 from the reserve fund to purchase radiators for the water department.

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KRES at Bradford students read with their Reading Buddies once each quarter for approximately 15 minutes. Each student is paired with an older student when they begin at KRES Bradford, and continue with that "buddy" till one moves up to the Middle School. Here Brie vonBeren and Kaitlyn Blaisdell.

Weare budget proposed at \$4,787,860

The Town of Weare's proposed 2012 Budget is \$4,787,860 with a default budget of \$4,685,778 and the town's portion of the tax rate set at \$2.86 per thousand for the proposed and \$2.74 for the default.

Warrant Articles include:

CIP Fire Truck – \$374,900 to be withdrawn from the Weare Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund.

CIP-Defibrillator – \$30,000 to be raised by taxation

Road Reconstruction – \$400,000 of which \$151,586.06 to be raised by taxation

CIP-Highway Department – \$155,000 to be raised by taxation and added to the Highway Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

CIP-Transfer Station – \$42,000 to be raised by taxation and added to the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve

CIP-Police Cruisers – \$64,000 of which \$40,000 to be raised by taxation

CIP-Police Department Communications – \$9,200 to be raised by taxation and added to the Police Communications Capital Reserve Fund

CIP-Computers Police Department and Town Office – \$30,000 to be raised by taxation and added to the Computer System Capital Reserve Fund

Highway Union – \$18,863.78 to be raised by taxation; Accruals – \$15,000 to be raised by taxation and added to the Employee Retirement and Accrual Capital Reserve Fund; Employee Raises – \$22,200 to be raised by taxation

Library Adding Hours – \$4,346 to be raised by taxation

Cy-Pres – \$20,000 to be raised by taxation and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal from Cemetery Trust Funds Cy-Pres Account

Hazardous Waste Day – \$6,000 to be raised by taxation

Fireworks – \$8,000 to be raised by taxation

Hillsborough family homeless after house fire

Firefighters responded to a three-alarm fire which destroyed a home on Spring Street in Hillsborough Monday morning.

According to Hillsborough Deputy Fire Chief Scott Murdough, the fire started near a wood-burning stove at the back of the house shortly after 7 a.m., and the blaze quickly spread to the second floor. By the time crews arrived, the house was fully engulfed in flames.

Three generations of the Dillon family live in the home, but all nine adults and three children escaped without injury. The family was also able to save its pets, but the house and its contents were totally destroyed. The Red Cross is helping to arrange for clothing and shelter for the family, but the house was not insured.

Murdough said the fire was a challenge because of the cold and because it was so early, making it difficult to get enough firefighters on the scene. A third alarm had to be called which brought in backup from Henniker, Antrim, Deering, Washington, Bennington, Warner and Hopkinton. Sand trucks were needed because the roads were icy, the trucks and equipment kept freezing up because of the bitter cold.

Bryan Dillon, an Iraq war veteran shares the home with his fiancée and two children, his father and his father's girlfriend and children, and an uncle.

Though the Dillon family has many relatives nearby, Brenda Dillon said

recovering from the total loss is going to be difficult. "My dad has been in touch with the VA (Veterans Administration)

because we're both veterans, so we're hoping they can help out," Bryan Dillon said.



This house on Spring Street was a total loss.

Bennington woman charged with murder

Jodi LaClaire, 37, of Bennington has been arrested on the murder warrant in New Hampshire. The Vermont attorney general said the patient died in April 2009 after being injected with insulin by LaClaire. The patient was not diabetic. Police said LaClaire was in charge of the second floor of The Thompson House nursing home in Brattleboro when the 83-year-old patient fell into an insulin-induced coma, according to documents filed in court. The documents said LaClaire used the patient's credit card over the next 10 days

while the woman was in a coma and after she died. In April 2011, LaClaire was charged with sixteen counts of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult and attempted financial exploitation. The second-degree murder charge carries a possible sentence of 20 years to life if convicted. LaClaire was also charged with being a fugitive from justice. She was turned over to Vermont authorities after her hearing. She pleaded not guilty to the murder charge and was held on \$150,000 cash or surety bail.



Welcome New Readers!

This issue of The Messenger is being mailed to you to introduce you to our weekly newspaper which has been published continuously since 1868. On page 13 you will find a list of the locations where you can pick up a FREE copy of The Messenger each Friday or you can read the entire paper FREE on line at

www.granitequill.com

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Ambulance Stolen - Page 11
Selectman Resigns - Page 13

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The New Hampshire Real Estate Investors Association (NHREIA) members have elected their 2012 Board Members. L to R: Linda Hamada, Chairman of the Board; Matt James, President; Joe Mendola, Board Member; Curt Lampron, Vice President; David Hampson, Treasurer; Henk Portier, Secretary; Tom Neal, Board Member.

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Food Pantry enters \$1 million challenge

The Hillsboro Food Pantry is participating in the Feinstein Challenge for a portion of a million dollar grant during the months of March and April. Several organizations are being challenged to raise as much money or as many non-perishable foods as possible during March and April. At the end of April all of the money is totaled and the cans are credited at \$1 per can or per pound. This information is sent to the Feinstein Challenge and compared with the monies collected from other organizations. At the end of the challenge each organization is given a percentage of the \$1,000,000 in proportion to what was collected. If Hillsboro collects 3% of the total from all of the organizations, the local pantry will get 3% of the \$1,000,000 grant, up to a maximum of \$35,000. The more we collect, the larger percentage of the \$1,000,000 will be given to the Hillsboro District Food Pantry.

Business/Community members sought

The Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce will present its inaugural awards for Lake Sunapee Region Business Member and Community Member of the Year during its annual meeting January 30th at Ellie's Cafe and Deli in New London. Nominations for the awards are being accepted until January 24th. There are no set criteria, but those nominating a business or individual must list and explain two reasons why the nominee should be chosen. Contact Executive Director Jen Tockman at chamberinfo@tds.net or 526-6575 for more information. Nominations should be submitted via email to Tockman. The nominees do not need to be members of the chamber. The annual meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person for heavy appetizers. RSVPs required by Jan. 24 to Tockman. Non-chamber members are welcome to attend.

SAU 24 to unveil five-year strategic plan

SAU #24 Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Tacconi-Moore reported that each of the five schools in the district have been asked to align their individual initiatives to overarching goals embedded in a new five-year strategic plan for SAU #24. Seven strategic goals address curriculum and instruction, assessment and data usage, personnel, professional development, culture and climate, facilities and operations, and community support and involvement. Working with the faculty and staff, principals will bring forth their components to ensure that the plan becomes a living document. A draft document will be unveiled in late winter.

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Newport school budget reduced by \$391,193

A small crowd, consisting mostly of Budget Committee members and the press attended the Newport School District's budget hearing on Monday. Interim Superintendent Donna Moyer said she was proud of the work done by the administration and board in actually reducing the budget in light of a loss of \$391,000 in state revenue. Business Administrator James Vezina presented the proposed 2012-2013 budget of \$17,783,863 which is a reduction of \$391,193 from the current budget. If defeated, the default budget would be \$17,732,927.

\$339,000 in savings comes from the elimination of several positions, including: a preschool psychologist, a para educator, two part-time admin assistants, a reading teacher, a language teacher, a crisis counselor and a grant administrator. Offsetting a reduction of \$200,000 in contracted

services was an increase in in-house special education staff. As presented the

school's portion of the tax rate would drop from \$13.54/1000 to \$13.51.



The Newport School Board during a recent Budget Hearing.

ConVal graduate honored

Mike Crowe, a 1975 graduate of ConVal Regional High School was always bothered that his school had no lights on its athletic fields, and he was determined to rectify the problem.

Crowe then led a campaign that raised \$230,000 to put up lights at the ConVal football field. On Saturday Crowe was honored for his efforts at a gathering attended by over 100 people at the Monadnock Country Club.

H-D neighbors asked to "Walk For Taj"

When she learned that Taj Estey-Bethel, a 5th grader in Jennifer Zdon's son's class had been diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer, she and Sonya Edsall started planning a fundraiser to benefit Taj and his family. Taj is being tutored from home and must travel to Dartmouth Hospital in Lebanon for treatment. His family is with him 24/7.

A benefit to help the family financially and show our support for them will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at the H-D Elementary School from 1-4 PM. They are planning a bake sale table, among other

activities, which includes an indoor/outdoor walk.

Come show your support by walking in the gym to music or outside around the schools, making a donation and buying tickets for many great raffles from local businesses including ski passes. There will be face painting, a large poster to create personal messages for Taj, baked goods, hot chocolate, coffee & bottled water. Donations can also be made at TD Bank under the "Walk for Taj Benefit account". Please call 315-6138 with questions.

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Henniker Community School Honors

5th Grade Effort: Jessica Beeso, Aaron Brasier, Katelyn Brennan, Will Brown, Adelle Brunstad, Jared Clancy, Jacob Cole, Delani Dowst, Patrick Gagne Jr., Madeleine Gardner, Payton Harding, Maya Healey, Erik Hilyard, Trinetta Hunter, Julia Hurley, Alexandra Knapton, Dennis Kochanek, Ian Lamphere, Brandon Langdon, Brianna Martel, Shawna Murdough, Simon Page, Alexis Pochay, Adara Ryder, Nicholas Sergio, Steven Shattuck, Savannah Twombly, Aria Ulmer

6th Grade Effort: Skylar Bergeron, Abigail Brandt, Lily Bryant, Aubrey Cameron, Anita Childers, Andrew Dubrenil, Tyler Gendron, Avery Gorhan, Jonathan Gould, Noah Greene, Brenna Hopkins, Melina Jackson, Kathryn Janelle, Spencer Janelle, Abigail Jensen, Margaret Johnston, Patrick Kalob, Rylee Ledoux, Alexandra Love, Piper MacLean, David Marko, Timothy McComish, Allie McKean, Sara Medvetz, Corbin Paradis Emily Patten, Chase Patterson, Elizabeth Poehlman, Joseph Simeone, Sydney Story, Ashlyn Weston

7th Grade Effort: Travis Borruso, Adriana Bumford, Samantha Conroy, Samuel Hammond, Zachariah Lanctot

7th Grade Honor: Cassidy Bechtle, Jessica Corbett, Jessica Hamann

7th Grade High Honor/Effort: Abigayle Chapin, Kyara Gardiner, Molly Glover, Connor Huttalen, Erin Loc, Isaiah Lovering, Katherine McMurphy, Nicholas Pochay, Tian Quinn, Alyssa Robichaud

7th Grade Honor/Effort: Madeline Clancy, Hunter Jensen, Jordan Malachi, Benjamin Richard, Tyanna-Marie Ryder, William Shattuck

8th Grade Effort: Shilo Colburn, Madison Poitras-Upton, Damien Sebastian

8th Grade High Honor/Effort: Angela Beeso, Nicole Beeso, Elizabeth Brandt, Katelyn Butler, Evelyn Cameron, Lily Hamel, Micaela Hopkins, Brigid Kalob, Helen Lovejoy, Steven Medvetz, Carissa Paradis, John (Jack) Rogers, Gretchen Wagner

8th Honor Matthew Denham, Christopher DePanla, Kelsey Dobbins, Jackson Doremus, Wesley Lamphere

8th Grade Honor/Effort: Kira Durgin, Nichole Durgin, Olivia French, Kylee Frink-Kendrick, Danielle Galli, Madelaine Harding, Cody Ledoux, Elizabeth Neal, Kathryn Nitzschke, Baylie Phinney, Sawyer Twombly.

Benefit for Hopewell Farm this Sunday

Newbury area neighbors are gathering at Bradford's Rosewood Country Inn on Sunday, January 22nd from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. for an Open House to benefit Hopewell Farm in Newbury, which suffered tremendous damage due to a fire. Delicious appetizers featuring Hopewell Farm organic meats will be expertly prepared by Chef Peter Fenton of the Appleseed Restaurant and his Sous-Chef, Andy Spiegel. There will be a full cash bar available, followed by decadent desserts provided by Malaika Sidmore and Pleasant Street Sweets. Bid on the many amazing silent auction items including, The Enchanted Evening; a one night stay at the Rosewood suite with a cozy fireplace and Jacuzzi-for two complete with a bottle of chilled champagne and luscious chocolate covered strawberries. They are accepting \$20 per person or your most generous offer at the door. This is an adult only event.

AG releases report on 2011 Warner home invasion

According to a report released by the Attorney General, the man who terrorized an 82-year-old Warner resident during a home invasion last year and then committed suicide had no criminal history and was not on drugs that would explain his behavior. The report says Jesse Cook, 30, from Rhode Island, tormented 82-year-old Gordon Smith on the night of Jan. 8 and morning of Jan. 9 before raising a gun to his head and killing himself.

Police said Cook stole a Hyundai Elantra in Providence at gunpoint on Jan. 7, 2011. The vehicle was later found off exit 9 on Interstate 89 in Warner, and it was displaying a New Hampshire license plate that was covering a Rhode Island plate. Police determined the New Hampshire plate was stolen in Manchester on Jan. 8.

Footprints were found, indicating Cook walked from the park-and-ride to Smith's home and went in through the garage on Jan. 8. The report said he might have been in there for "some time" before Smith heard noises and locked his door.

Cook broke into the home by kicking the cellar door, told Smith he had a gun and asked where he kept his money. Cook acted paranoid and erratic during the six-hour ordeal, disabling all the phones and identifying people in Smith's photos as his own relatives. He took items from the home and placed them in the garage throughout the night.

Early in the morning, Cook pointed a gun

at Smith's temple and when Smith told Cook he would go to prison for life if he killed him, Cook said, "Why don't I just kill myself then?" He placed Smith's hand on the gun and raised it to his own head and the gun

fired, according to the report. He died from a single gunshot wound to the head, and the manner of death was suicide, the medical examiner ruled. Officials have not been able to trace where Cook got the gun.



The H-D School Board, Superintendent and Business Administrator responded to questions at the recent Budget Hearing.

H-D Board approves 4% budget reduction

With approximately 40 people in attendance, the HD School Board presented their 2012-2013 budget on Tuesday. Taking a cue from the results of the SAU budget hearing, they presented a 4% or \$76,507 reduction from last year's approved budget.

This puts H-D in line with other area districts who have also come to the public with requests that are not only lower than the default budget, but also lower than

what was voted on the previous year. The Board credited the administration with fine-tuning the budget and finding ways to reduce spending without compromising education. Community member and former Board member John Sedegy, after asking a few questions of the Board and Business Administrator Muserallo, complimented and thanked the Board for their work.

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WALK FOR TAJ

Benefit for 5th Grader Taj Estey/Bethel

And his family during his fight with cancer. His family commutes to DHMC regularly for treatment and he is unable to attend school. Please come show your support by walking in the gym to music or outside around the schools, making a donation, and buying tickets for many great raffles from local businesses including ski passes. There will be face painting, a large poster to create personal messages for Taj, baked goods, hot chocolate, bottled water, & coffee. Contact 315-6138 with questions.

Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School
Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 1-4 p.m.



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Alma Mater: Tracking Grads

Shelbie Connor and **Benjamin Titcomb** of Henniker, and **Scott Rankins** of New London were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2011 semester at Quinnipiac University.

Antrim resident **Alicia Gould** was named to the dean's list for the 2011 fall semester at Messiah College. Gould is a senior majoring in human development and family science.

Keene State College has released the Dean's List for the fall semester 2011. Among the 1,501 students named to the Dean's List are: **Rory Hurley** and **Patrick Tempone** of Franconia, **Dane Haupt-Renaud** of Greenfield, **Dorothy England** of Contoocook, **Nathan Huff** of Hopkinton, **Jordan Page** of Henniker, **Grace Healey** and **Kira Longgood** of Antrim, **Jordan Cudemi** of Bennington, **Samuel Baker-Salmon**, **Samuel Lusted** and **Velvet Young** of Hancock, **Megan Briggs**, **Michael Broder**, **Molly Bryant**, **Devin Cutter**, **Kyle Fisher**, **Thomas Fox**, **Sandra Garcia**, **Jessica Kirchner**, **Gregory Lefko** and **Jonathan Newhook** of Peterborough, **Jordan Chase** and **Sara Pratt** of Stoddard, **Seth Farmer**, **Chloe Marchand**, **Jordan Whitaker** and **Leighanna Moore** of Deering, **Jayne Krzywicki** and **Thomas Morris** of Hillsborough, **Clare Dow-Ramirez**, **Joseph Gallo**, **Hilary Gooding** and **Chelsea Slogic** of New London, **Kristin Dumeny**, **Bridget Griffin** and **Ryan Joy** of Washington.

Kristina Parker of Hillsborough was named to the Dean's list at Saint Joseph's College of Maine for the fall semester.

Troy French of Antrim graduated from Springfield College with a degree in human services.

St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York welcomes **Levi B. Newbury** of Hancock as a member of the class of 2015. He is a home-school graduate.

The following area students were named to the Dean's List at Syracuse University: **Zachary Litchfield** of Hopkinton (L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science); **Zile Jones** of Henniker (College of Human Ecology); **Sarah Walton** of Henniker (College of Arts and Sciences and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications); **Andrew Cline** of Newbury (L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science); **Robert McCardell** of Weare (College of Arts and Sciences); **Nicholas Laboe** of Bow (L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science); **Jocelin Lamprey** of Bow (College of Human Ecology); **Nicole Laurin** of Bow (College of Arts and Sciences).

Diane Conley of Contoocook graduated from Franklin Pierce University, summa cum laude, with a bachelor of science in general studies.

Clarice Young of Stoddard, **Marc-Anthony Seminara** of New London and **Felisha Grendell** of Washington, were named to the Dean's List at Paul Smith's College during the fall 2011 semester.

Superintendent stresses SAU successes in 2011

At a recent Henniker community and John Stark School Board meetings, SAU #24 Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Tacconi-Moore reflected on the accomplishment of the District in 2011, stating that each school and every district within the SAU has worked diligently to continually improve the educational programming for our children.

"The past calendar year brought successes as well as challenges to the SAU," she said. The district faced the challenges of replacing Dan Starr as business administrator and Jude Chauvette as the principal of Center Woods Elementary School. Moreover, with the fiscal landscape stagnant, the State of New Hampshire announced that individual employees and local school districts would now be responsible for all employee retirement contributions. This resulted in budget reductions after the taxpayers of our communities approved our 2011-2012 budgets. However, challenges can present opportunities and these possibilities had

successful results as the district welcomed Kathleen Sargent as the Business Administrator and Jessica Potter as Center Wood's new principal. The year 2011 also

brought SAU 24 to its new home at 258 Western Avenue in Henniker, thus saving the taxpayers revenue for overall facility expenses.



Superintendent Lorraine Tacconi-Moore and Assistant Superintendent Pam Sheppard recently briefed the Henniker School Board.

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James O'Rourke.

James O'Rourke named HDHS Principal

SAU #34 Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Murphy has announced that Interim High School Principal James O'Rourke has been named as HD-HS Principal effectively. He has served in an interim capacity since the departure of Dixie Tromblay. Current Dean of Students Jennifer Crawford will become assistant principal on July 1st.

GSC announced Scholarships available

Granite State Communications is pleased to announce that it is offering \$1,000 scholarships to two deserving students in the company's service area. This marks the 19th consecutive year of the independent telecommunications company's scholarship program. Over the years, Granite State Communications has awarded over \$33,000 to New Hampshire students aspiring to further their education.

Scholarships will be awarded for the 2012-13 academic year. To be eligible, candidates must be a customer of Granite State Communications, in the following towns: Dunbarton, East Deering, Hillsboro Upper Village, Sandown, Washington, Deering, Weare or Windsor. The scholarships are based on academic merit and financial need and are administered by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. They will be awarded in the summer of 2012.

If you are interested in obtaining an application, please visit the NHCF online at www.nhcf.org. Click the Scholarships 'For Students' section, and select the application for 'Statewide Student Aid Program' or the 'Career Aid to Technical Students Program' as applicable.

The Statewide Student Aid Program is for 4-year schools or graduate study. The application deadline for this program is April 13, 2012. The Career Aid to Technical Students Program is for 2-year programs. The application deadline for this program is June 1, 2012. Please supply a copy of your Granite State Communications bill as part of your application process to assist the NHCF in verifying your eligibility for our scholarships.

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Will \$1 million grant benefit Hillsborough

The Capitol Region Development Council recently received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to capitalize a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). CRDC will provide loans and

Henniker approves Safe Routes To School Plan

The Henniker Selectmen have approved placing a Safe Routes to School article on the Town warrant. It seeks to raise and appropriate \$246,946 for the reconstruction of sidewalks and curbing on Western Avenue and Rush Avenue and modification of the Hall Avenue-Western Avenue intersection and authorize the acceptance of the same amount from a Safe Routes to School Program grant set forth by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. The funding is 100% reimbursable by the State upon completion of the project, and is contingent upon DOT awarding the grant.

sub-grants to businesses, non-profits and municipalities located throughout Merrimack and Hillsborough Counties to support clean-up activities of environmentally damaged (hazardous materials) sites that are suitable for redevelopment.

CRDC Executive Director Stephen Heavener has been an active participant at meetings of Hillsborough's Economic Development Committee so it is hoped that some of that grant money would be available for the long dormant Woods Woolen site.



Demolition of the former Woods Woolen Mill was halted because of hazardous materials on site.



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We will print signed letters to the editor on a space available basis. Letters should be no more than 250 words, typed or e-mailed. Letters must be signed but names may be excluded upon request.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:

We encourage individuals and groups to submit photos of their events or activities, either by mail or e-mail.

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

We strive every day to present full, fair and accurate news reports. We will correct, in this space, factual inaccuracies in our coverage. We encourage readers to tell us if we have made a mistake.

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Guest Editorial *by Charley Reese*

This was Charley Reese's final column for the Orlando Sentinel...He has been a journalist for 49 years. He is retiring.

545 vs. 300,000,000 People

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, WHY do we have deficits?

Have you ever wondered, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, WHY do we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The President does. You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does. You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does. You and I don't control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one President, and nine Supreme Court justices equates to 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a President to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician \$1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate

in this common con regardless of party. What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a Speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits. The President can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the House now? He is the leader of the majority party. He and fellow House members, not the President, can approve any budget they want. If the President vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts -- of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red. If the Army & Marines are in Iraq and Afghanistan it's because they want them in Iraq and Afghanistan. If they do not receive social security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.

There are no insoluble government problems. Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power. Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.



Guest Editorial *Continued from page 12*

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible. They, and they alone, have the power. They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are

their bosses. Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees... We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!



OPINION Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I agree with Fredrick Hills, we do need to get Pelletier and Porter out. They are ruining our schools. We need someone who cares about ALL the students and will support the staff who support educating them.

As for the comment on Steve Venezia being appointed as selectman, well this is not the first time Mr. Venezia has been hand picked. Porter has done the same on the Policy Committee at school. Marg wanted Mr. Segedy out so desperately that she contacted Steve to replace him. She did it in an underhanded fashion. The majority of the School Board backed her up, including Pelletier. Fellow Policy Committee members spoke of it at a School Board meeting. No one cared.

I have been to many school board meeting and have seen the same things done to public members and their chil-

dren. We do not have enough people in town that actually care about this school to make a difference. The only time members come out is to lower the budget or demand expensive field trips for their children (gosh wouldn't it be nice if parents demanded a better education for their children with the same passion).

I demand both. lower taxes and a better education. My daughters Charter school does both. They are at the top in the state in test scores, doing it on third of the budget as the average district school. And yes, they take all students.

In defense of Mr. Venezia, I see he is an intellegent person who really does want to do a good job whichever commitee or seat he occupies. He is well spoken and puts a lot of thought in the decisions he makes, he is the right guy for both these positions.... even if he is from Massachusetts.

Karen Newton

ConVal school closing petition is non binding

ConVal School District attorney, Norm Makechnie, has informed the school Board that a petition warrant article calling for the district to move fifth-graders into their hometown elementary school and close one of the district's middle schools is not binding, but that doesn't

upset the petitioners.

Gail Cromwell, one of the organizers of the petition agrees with Makechnie that the article is purely advisory. Cromwell said the organizers knew it would be non-binding, but would serve to measure the feelings of district voters.

Antrim Wind offers 685 acre conservation easement

Jack Kenworthy, CEO of Enolian Renewable Energy and an executive officer of its subsidiary, Antrim Wind Energy has announced that 685 acres of forestland will be permanently conserved if Antrim Wind Energy wins approval of its lo-turbine wind farm on Tuttle Hill and Willard Mountain. Antrim Wind Energy has reached an agreement with four private landowners who own forestland near the proposed project on January 11th. Ken-

worthy said the company has been on this agreement for more than a year.

If the project is approved and begins operation, 685 acres of forest will be permanently conserved, with the Harris Center for Conservation Education holding the easements. Kenworthy went on to say that the easement is something the company was not required to do, and it's beyond what other companies would do, but it was done as a good-neighbor effort.

THE Messenger

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Bennington: Harris Convenience, Bennington Village Store

Bradford: Post Office, Lake Sunapee Bank, Appleseed, Cobble Farms

Claremont: Market Basket, Hannaford's

Contoocook: T-Bird, Colonial Village, Dimitris

Deering: Derring Town Hall

Francestown: Country Store

Goffstown: Sully's Superette

Greenfield: Delay's Store

Hancock: Fiddleheads, Country Store

Henniker: Harvester Market, Country Spirit, Edmunds, Pharmacy, Pop Schultz, Simon Center, St. Georges Cafe

Hillsborough: Sweet Expressions, Shaw's, Diner, Williams' Store, The Corner Store, Irving, Lake Sunapee Bank, Sovereign Bank, Beauford's, Najib's

Hopkinton: Cracker Barrell, Town Hall

Jaffrey: Belletete's

Newbury: Marzelli's, Mobil, Out Spoken, Lake Sunapee Bank, One Mile West

New London: Hannaford's, McKenna's, Colony Marketplace, Gallery, Pizza Chef

Newport: Shaw's, Irving, T-Bird, Country Kitchen, Lake Sunapee Bank, Sugar River Bank

Peterborough: Belletete's, Agway, Shaw's

Rindge: Market Basket, Hannaford's

Sunapee: Digbee's, Sugar River Bank, Lake Sunapee Bank, Exxon

Sutton: General Store

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The risk of gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding needs to be considered when determining the potential preventive benefits associated with low-dose aspirin for cardiovascular disease and cancer. According to a new study in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, the use of low-dose aspirin increases the risk for GI bleeding, with the risk being increased further with accompanying use of cardiovascular disease-preventing therapies, such as clopidogrel and anticoagulants. In patients who took proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), bleeding risk decreased.

The drug Zelboraf (vemurafenib), a groundbreaking new drug, has received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for treatment of malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

Kidney cancer is the seventh leading type of cancer among men and the ninth leading type of cancer among women. The most common type of kidney cancer, renal cell cancer, accounts for 85 percent of all cases. Analgesics (pain-relieving medications) are among the most commonly used groups of drugs in the United States, and some appear to have protective effects against cancer. However, long-term use of nonaspirin anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) is associated with an increased risk of renal cell cancer, according to a report in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

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Antrim Zoning Amendments proposed

The Antrim Planning Board held public hearings on Wednesday, January 4, Thursday, January 19, and, if necessary, another will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012 to receive public input on the following proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments: the intent of which is as follows:

1. Are you in favor of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows: To adopt a Large Scale Wind Energy Facility Ordinance, the purpose and intent of which is to:

- * Establish a process for the Planning Board to issue Conditional Use Permits, in addition to Site Plan approval, for Large Scale Wind Energy Facilities (as defined in the ordinance) that would be allowed to be located anywhere in town;

- * Specify particular standards that address construction, public health and safety, noise, environmental issues, and visual impacts;

- * Require as part of the application various impact statements and assessments to help gauge impacts of a proposal; and

- * Establish a process and requirements, following an approval, whereby the Planning Board issues a Permit to Operate that must be renewed on a regular schedule

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article V – “Highway Business District” TO CORRECT REFERENCE under Section B, 1 Manufactured Housing Units (per Article XIV, Section U)

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article III – “Definitions” - TO CORRECT REFERENCE under Section B

Cluster Housing Development: An area of land, controlled by landowner or landowners organization developed as a single entity for a number of dwelling units in accordance with Supplemental Regulations, Article XIV-A.1

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article XIV-B – “Personal Wireless Service Facility” (PWSF) CHANGE TO READ

Section 4. DISTRICT REGULATIONS:

Location – PWSFs proposed to be located in or on existing structures shall be permitted in all zoning districts. PWSFs shall be an allowed use in the Highway Business district, and by a Special Exception from the Zoning Board in the Rural, Rural Conservation, and Lakefront District. Ground-mounted PWSFs will not be allowed in the Residential or Village Residential Districts. In any district where ground mounted PWSFs are allowed by Special Exception no portion of the facility except roads shall be located within 300 feet of any abutting structure.

5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Article XIV, Section 0, 7 – “Supplemental Regula-

tions” ADD REFERENCE

6. Not show any exterior evidence of a home occupation except for signs as permitted in Article XVII, Section D – Signs Permitted in All Districts without Permit.

7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Antrim Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Article XVII Section E, 3 – “Sign Ordinance” 3. All signs shall conform to all provisions of Section C of this Article (Signs Prohibited in All Districts)

Henniker Zoning Amendments proposed

Amendment 1: Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations, Article VIII Commercial District Regulations, Section 133- 29 Commercial Uses in CH Heavy Commercial District, by deleting all residential uses as Permitted uses in the District and delete those allowed by Special Exception (thereby prohibiting the establishment of new residential uses in the CH District), thereby prohibiting the following: single and two-family dwellings, home rental of up to 2 apartments, manufactured housing, home rental of 3 or more apartments and manufactured housing parks. As well as amending Article XX, Manufactured Housing Parks, section 133-82 Permitted Uses, paragraph A, by deleting manufactured housing parks in the CH Heavy Commercial District as a use allowed by special exception.

Amendment 2: Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations, Article VIII Commercial District Regulations, Section 133- 28 Regulations for all commercial districts, G, by amending it as follows: Commercial retail buildings, as defined as any building for commercial retail use, with a building footprint greater than 35,000 square feet shall be prohibited from all zoning districts, except for the CH Heavy Commercial District.

Amendment 3: Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations, Article XXIX Historic District, by amending Section 133-162 District areas, Paragraph B, by adding the following properties to the Historic District Overlay Map: Lot 413 (The Grange), Lot 242- A & B (The Community Center & Park) and Lot 203 (Academy Hall). All properties are owned by the Town of Henniker.

Amendment 4: Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations, Article XI, Signs, by amending the Ordinance in numerous places, with the goal to clarify and streamline the permitting process, along with other amendments that: 1) Remove the current requirements for sign permits for many types of signs, including temporary signs, window signs, flags and banners, while still maintaining existing size and lighting requirements. 2) Remove restrictions on when temporary signs can be displayed. 3) Remove requirements for sign setbacks, unless there is a safety issue. 4) Permit projecting signs. 5) Clarify that sign sizes exclude the sign framework. 6) Clarify that the Ordinance applies only to business type signs and not homeowner signs. 7) Allow for service organization signs (like Rotary or Farmer’s Markets) which are not allowed under the current regulations. 8) Ensure that externally lighted signs may use energy saving compact fluorescent lights (which currently are not allowed) and that these signs will be designed to avoid excessive glare.

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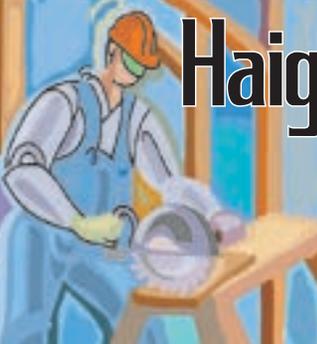


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SPORTS

Boys' Basketball

Mascoma 65 Hillsboro-Deering 57 The Hillcats were down 27-23 at the half but that was as close as they would come.

Alex Goodwin netted 24 with Kyle Gidari adding 13 for H-D.

Campbell 57 Hopkinton 44 Campbell's tight defense left the Hawks with 32.7% shooting from the floor. Jay White had 11 points for the Hawks.

Hopkinton 62 Newport 43 The Tigers led 7-4 before the Hawks started flying to take a 23-21 lead at the break. Hopkinton used an 8-0 third quarter run to take control. Hopkinton's Steve Auger was game high with 20 points followed by Frankie Beane with a dozen. Greg Beaulieu led Newport with 14.

Lebanon 54 Kearsarge 43 Down only 28-27 at the break, the Cougars stalled in the second half. Jake Broom erupted for 25 points in the loss.

Derryfield 53 Sunapee 46 Brian Brewster had 25 points with five "3's" but it wasn't enough to overcome a tough Cougars team.

Pittsfield 56 Sunapee 39 Still shorthanded, the Lakers kept it close early but lost momentum. Troy Fowler tallied 13 and TJ Wacholtz 12 for Sunapee.

Sunapee 54 Concord Christian 49 Playing shorthanded on the road, the Lakers prevailed thanks to Troy Fowler who exploded for 22 points and TJ Wacholtz and Cam Morrison hit for 10 each.

Boys' Hockey

ConVal 2 Souhegan 2 Keeper Parker Wheeler made 35 saves, 10 in the frantic third period, to earn a tie for the Cougars.

Mason Ellis and Tyder Thompson tallied for ConVal.

Portsmouth 5 John Stark-Hopkinton 3 Goals from Nick Saball, Kyle Kolemainen and Simon Hunter were not enough for the win.

Girls' Basketball

Sunapee 54 Newport 50 (OT) The Lakers' Erika Waterman (7) and the Tigers' Kanesha Campbell (5) netted "3's" in this close contest. Madison Fowler's jumper sent the games into overtime where Sunapee prevailed at the line. Waterman finished with 26 points and Fowler 12. Campbell led Newport with 19 with Darien Hebert 13 off her own pair pf "3's".

Pittsfield 41 Sunapee 36 The Lakers led 11-10 until the undefeated Panthers went on a 9-0 run to take a 19-11 lead at the half. Liza Bourdon led Sunapee with 13 points.

Kearsarge 52 Manchester West 29 Morgan Church led the attack followed by Katie Levesque with 8. Katlyn Wyatt and Eliza Henley added 7 each for the Cougars.

Souhegan 60 ConVal 28 Trailing 21-0 after one and 33-6 at the half, there was little the Cougars could do to catch up. Jess Nerz scored 14 for ConVal.