

THE Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 144th Year ♦ Issue 29 ♦ July 20, 2012



He actually ate some

Joe Derby was the only Hopkinton entry in the July 4th pie eating contest who was under 12 yrs. After that, he was in no shape to do the contest offered later. See the story and photo of Hopkinton's 4th of July celebration on page 5.



Selectman resigns

Longtime Bennington Selectman Joe Cuddemi has resigned. He has agreed to stay on for a couple of weeks to help with personnel interviews. Cuddemi, the owner of Alberto's Restaurant, has served for 10.5 years.



The Hillsborough Balloon Fest is open and runs through July 22nd. Don't miss the spectacular Fireworks on Saturday night.

Antrim group not satisfied

Wants all E-mails with Antrim Wind Energy

The group of Antrim residents who requested the minutes of meetings between Antrim Wind Energy and the Board are unhappy with the documents provided to them. Charlie Levesque, Martha Pinello, Sarah Van derWende, Mary Allen, Gordon Allen, Peter Moore and Janice Longgood claim that non-public meetings between the town and Antrim Wind were illegal, and thus any agreements

resulting from those meetings, including the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) agreement should be null and void. The town provided meeting minutes to four meetings, but Levesque believes they do not qualify for the exemption.

The residents have also requested 1,311 emails between the town and Antrim Wind, which have not yet been provided.

Newbury Selectmen continue Veterans Hall plans

Newbury Town Administrator Dennis Pavlicek distributed photos and information on the retaining wall to be put in by the Veterans Hall, and the Board decided to go with Weed Construction with a bid of \$3475.80. Selectman Richard Wright reported that the kitchen cabinets have arrived and Marty Newell has done electrical work.

Pavlicek said that he ordered more bricks and the extra ones will be used at the library. Pavlicek reported a request to use the Veterans Hall for a Vaudeville Show. Tickets will be sold for \$10 each and all proceeds will be given to the Veterans Hall for future renovations. See our photo tribute to Newbury's Memorial Dedication on pages 16-17,



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Monadnock Humane Society provides Therapy Dogs

Children will be able to practice reading this summer at Monadnock Humane Society in the company of a dog. Our friendly therapy dogs love to listen to a good story. Don't worry, Mom. These dogs hold advanced degrees in Meeting & Greeting so we can promise your child a safe and fun reading session. Our program is staffed with registered therapy dog teams (volunteers from Monadnock Therapy Pets) which means they are temperament-tested and insured pet dogs. The "Paws to Read at Monadnock Humane Society" program will be offered on five dates: Tuesdays, July 10, 17, & 24 and Saturdays, July 21 & 28. Each child will have 15 minutes to read with the dog. Tuesday appointments are offered at 12:05, 12:25, and 12:45 p.m. Friday appointments are offered at 11:05, 11:25, and 11:45 a.m. Sign up for one date or for a series. Pre-registration is required. Call Ameer Abel at (603) 325-2869 to sign up. Readers are encouraged to bring their own books to be sure they have something they are interested in reading. Don't worry if you are in the middle of a book, our dogs are happy to jump right in to the story right where you are. If you don't have a

book, we will have a small selection of books available. This program is free of charge, however a donation to Monadnock Humane Society, whether in cash or in items on their

wish list, would be appreciated. Plenty of parking available. For more information on the Monadnock Humane Society, visit www.monadpets.org.



Benjamin and Eliot Etzweiler read with Max, a registered Therapy Dog (who was adopted from MHS!).

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Hillsborough woman suing SAU #34 for wrongful termination

Maureen Berger's wrongful termination lawsuit against SAU #34 is scheduled for trial in the Hillsborough County Superior court in April of 2013. Berger, of Hillsborough, had been employed as the Administrative Assistant to then Superintendent Barbara Baker from 1989 to 2009. Beginning in 2008, Berger's work was limited because of non-work related injuries. In December of 2008 she was told that she had exhausted her available leave time and unless she could return to work full time after her next doctor's visit, she would be replaced. In March 2009, when her doctor reported she could return "on a gradual plan to full employment," she was terminated

School officials insist that Berger was terminated solely because she could no longer perform her function. Berger claims she was told "she was a drag on

the SAU and she was a reason insurance premiums were going sky high." Her hus-

band, Richard also suffered as he relied on her income.



The 27th and 28th Sheriffs of Hillsborough County--Walter Morse and Jim Hardy .

Antrim new tax reassessment

The Town of Antrim has contracted with the assessing firm of Commerford Nieder Perkins, LLC to perform a cyclical revaluation of properties in Antrim. An appraiser from CNP will be visiting properties throughout the Town performing measurements, taking pictures and requesting to view the insides of homes in order to establish a current appraisal of your property. The staff at the Town Hall has the appraiser's name and vehicle information. If you have any question, please call 588-6785.

Microburst knocks out 40% of Hopkinton power

A round of severe storms rolled through the state Tuesday night, taking out trees and power lines and leaving a big mess in many areas.

In Hopkinton, several roads were shut down after strong winds knocked trees onto the roadways. A Jeep was crushed on College Hill Road, but the driver said he managed to escape unharmed. More than 40 percent of the town's residents were

without power at one point.

The National Weather Service confirmed Wednesday that the storm in Hopkinton was a microburst with wind speeds of 60 to 80 mph.

At the peak of the storm, power was knocked out to more than 20,000 utility customers across the state. By 8 a.m. Wednesday, power had been restored to all but about 1,000 customers.

THE Messenger
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FREE • OUR 144th YEAR • ISSUE 1

Firefighters donate
Hillsborough firefighters recently presented the volunteer fire department with a donation of 100 fire extinguishers.

Chief & officer honored
Sergeant Police Chief [Name] and Officer [Name] were honored for their service.

Newport cuts budget
Newport announced a budget cut of \$1.5 million for the fiscal year 2013.

Fire ti
Petition seeks \$1 million for fire department.

Nursing home murder
A woman was found dead in a nursing home room.

Henniker acce
Henniker accepted a bid for a new school building.

The Messie is Loose
A dog named Messie was found wandering in the streets.

Life flight
A woman was rescued from a tree by a life flight crew.

Antrim's proposed budget up \$195,000?
Antrim's proposed budget for 2013 is \$195,000 higher than last year's.

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

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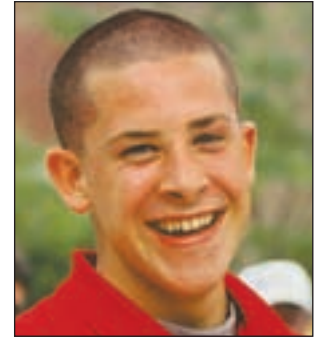
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From a H-D Hillcat to a JWU Wildcat

Corey Boilard, son of Hillsborough Code Enforcement Officer Kelley Dearborn-Luce, is entering his first season at the helm of the Johnson & Wales University's Wildcat women's basketball program. Boilard comes to the Wildcats program after spending the previous two seasons as a member of the WPI coaching staff. Prior to his time at WPI, Boilard spent four years as the varsity coach at Bow (NH) High School. In addition to Bow, Boilard spent time early in his coaching career working with the men's programs at Keene State and Plymouth State. As a member of the Keene State men's basketball team, Boilard made several starts in his first year while the program was at the Division-II level. He was also part of great turnaround at Keene State as the Owls went from a 2-22 record in Boilard's freshman season to 22-9 and 20-7 in the subsequent years. Both 20-plus win teams were invited to the ECAC tournament. Corey spent his first two years at Hillsboro-Deering before transferring and graduating from John Stark in 1996.



Corey Boilard

Kathleen Williams now at Keene State

Keene State College today announces the appointment of Kathleen Williams as the college's incoming director of marketing and communications. Kathleen brings twenty years of experience in the field of marketing and strategic communications, most recently from New England College where she was the director of public information for the past seven years. She succeeds an interim director, Eve Alintuck, who was hired to develop and execute a number of strategic initiatives. Ms. Williams began her work at Keene State College on July 9.

79th Annual Craftsmen's Fair Aug 4-12

Now in its 79th year, the Annual Craftsmen's Fair, which runs from August 4-12 at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury is a showcase for beautiful, one-of-a-kind craft items that are functional, decorative, and built to last. All of the craft is made by hand by master craftsmen, many of which are from the Messenger's readership area, including :

Contoocook:

Dan Dustin, Wood; Patricia Palson, Fiber - Weaving; Kathleen Dustin, Polymer Clay; Boyan Moskov, Clay; Ira Frost and Jane Alice Emery, Wood; June Adinah, Fiber - Felting

Goffstown:

Susan Babine, Clay; Tom Jipson, Fiber - Weaving

Henniker:

Dawn Blanchard, Printmaking; Heidi Edwards Dunn, Fiber - Stitchery/Surface Design; Gigi Laberge, Glass

Hopkinton:

Tom Worcester, Wood; Annette Frye, Fiber; Linda Brooks Dunning, Fiber - Stitchery/Surface Design

Mont Vernon:

Karen B. Mitchell, Metal - Jewelry; Nina Zotcavage, Metal - Jewelry

New Boston:

Marcia Rae, Metal - Jewelry; Jeff & Erica Lamy, Glass
Weare: Wes Parsons, Wood

Antrim Planning Board continues to fight Antrim Wind

The Antrim Planning Board remains committed to staying in the battle with the Selectmen and Antrim wind Energy. At Tuesday's meeting the Board voted 5-2 to submit a legal brief contesting SEC's authority to subdivide land. Board members believe that the Planning Board retains sole authority over subdivisions in Antrim. Subdivision approval is required because the power station needed for the project will be owned by Public Service of New Hampshire, which requires that such stations be built only on land owned by PSNH, while the remaining land would be owned by Antrim wind.

Mike Genets, the Selectmen's representative to the Planning Board asked if the Board would appeal to Superior Court should the SEC rule against them, and Planning Board member Charlie Levesque said it is premature to make that decision. In a second vote, the board decided to hire an outside attorney to develop the brief at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

Some members expressed concern with

Town Council, Upton and Hatfield. Planning Board members Charles Levesque, Sarah Van der Wende and Martha Pinello

participated in the discussion although they were requested to recuse themselves because of bias.



(L-R) Braden St. Jacques, 14, Colby St. Jacques, 16, Michele St. Jacques, Ron Derby, ages withheld, and Savanna Derby, 15 also participated in the pie eating contest. Can you tell? Michele St. Jacques photo.

Lost wallet in Hopkinton

The Hopkinton Town Clerk's office found a wallet in June. Its contents did not contain any identification. If you have lost/misplaced your wallet sometime in June and you were at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office in June, it may be yours. Please contact the Town Clerk at 746-3180 and describe the wallet to claim it.

Hopkinton knows how to celebrate the 4th of July

This year's 4th of July in Hopkinton was a smashing success. The Hopkinton Recreation Committee worked many hours to ensure the success of the annual Kiddie Parade and the annual Family Fun Day at Houston Park. Over 200 people came out to support the event. It was an afternoon filled with old fashioned

games, pie eating contests, raffles, great food, and lots of family fun. Many thanks to all the volunteers and non-profit groups who came out to help. Thank you to all the many sponsors who made the event possible. Thank you to the residents of Hopkinton for celebrating their day with us.

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(L to R) Dave Case, Louis Corson, Master of Harris Lodge, Bob Lethbridge, Chairman of Horseshoe Tournament, Joe Hardy, Master of Horace Chase Lodge.

Masons face off in Horseshoes Tourney

Photo and text by Rich Dahlgren.

Harris Lodge #91 F.&A.M., Warner, held its 9th Annual District-wide horseshoe tournament on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. The tourney was played on a field adjacent to the Lodge, courtesy of Simonds Elementary School.

It was a contest played in the high heat and humidity but that did not slow the players from intense competition. Once again, the contest came down to teams from Horace Chase Lodge and Harris Lodge vying for the championship. Penacook and Warner warmed up their pitching arms and the matches began in earnest, with each team member getting encouragement and some good natured heckling from the sidelines.

When the dust settled, the team of Dave Case and Joe Hardy from Horace Chase prevailed and garnered the winner's trophy. Joe is the Master of Horace Chase. Individual trophies were presented to Case and Hardy by Louis Corson, Master of Harris Lodge. A traveling trophy will be given to Horace Chase Lodge and the lodge name will be engraved on a plaque that is mounted in Harris Lodge denoting the annual lodge winner. The traveling trophy will pass each year to the lodge of the winning team.

During the horseshoe tourney, the smell of burgers and dogs cooking on the grill permeated the playing area. Needless to say, the contestants were eager to finish so that they could partake in the excellent meal prepared by Ron and Carol Piroso with assistance from outdoor chef, Bill Courser.

And next year the winner will be... Stay tuned to find out.

Weare's 2nd Annual Tour For The Twins

Hunter & Jack MacKay of Weare were born in 2008 with a rare genetic disorder called MPS IV or Morquio Syndrome. At four years old they have each undergone two spinal fusions to battle the effects of this terrible disorder. They have endured countless other operations, procedures, and obstacles, with many more to come. Please join us and support the boys and their family with our second annual "Tour For The Twins" motorcycle rally Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 9 a.m. Registration at Dunkin Donuts parking lot in Weare, (ride begins at 10 a.m.), 5-Stop Itinerary, Optional Poker Run Participation: \$5/card, \$10/trade-in 1 p.m. After-Party begins at 99 Black Brook Rd., Goffstown, \$30 per bike/\$10 passenger (includes ticket to after-party), \$10 per ticket for party only. To meet the boys and learn more about Morquio Syndrome visit their website at jackandhunter.wordpress.com



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Henniker Selectmen deal with varied agenda

Renee Soucy and Lola Dole read a letter that they had written to the Henniker Selectmen complaining about the tax bills that they received for their seasonal campers in campgrounds. They also complained that they received their letters that they were going to be taxed and their tax bills on the same day, the manner in which they are being taxed, how they're being assessed, and other grievances. Chairman Khris Blomback responded that while the Selectmen sympathized, they were unable to change their ruling based on directions from the State and said that the State has a process for abatement requests. (Selectman Robert French recused himself). The

women have made an appointment to meet with the Selectmen at the next meeting on August 21 and the Selectmen will have copies of their letter at that time.

In other business, the Congregational Church Rd. will have permission to close Church Rd. on Saturday, July 28 from 4-8pm (Selectman Ron Taylor recused

himself). Pat's Peak received permission to construct a new driveway with two culverts off of Craney Pond Rd., (Selectman Blomback recused himself). The Selectmen also gave Road Agent Carl Knapp permission to send surplus items to the State auction and to buy a sander after investigation by the Chief of Police.

High E.Coli at Gregg Lake

The water test at Antrim's Gregg Lake Beach on Monday indicated a cautionary level of bacteria. (e. coli) This is highly unusual for this beachfront. In 11 years of water testing, this is only the second time it has gotten a high level. The water is being retested, but until then, swimming lessons will be affected. Officials are confident that this situation will be remedied quickly.



Dwight Gould's "Second Time Around" was featured at Hillsborough's Thursdays In The Park. See the Bulletin Board for a schedule of concerts in Antrim, Contoocook, Hillsborough, Henniker, Newport, New London and Sunapee.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

The anticoagulant dabigatran (brand name: Pradaxa) is associated with an increased risk of myocardial infarction (heart attack) or acute coronary syndrome in a broad spectrum of patients when tested against some other medicines, according to a study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Voraxaze (glucarpidase) to treat patients with toxic levels of methotrexate in their blood due to kidney failure. Methotrexate is a commonly used cancer chemotherapy drug normally eliminated from the body by the kidneys. However, patients receiving high doses of methotrexate may develop kidney failure. Voraxaze is an enzyme that rapidly reduces methotrexate levels by breaking the chemotherapy drug down to a form that can be eliminated from the body. Voraxaze is administered directly into a patient's vein (intravenously).

Individuals addicted to prescription painkillers are more likely to succeed in treatment with the aid of the medication buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone), according to a report in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*. Suboxone is a combination of buprenorphine, which alleviates opioid withdrawal and craving, and naloxone, which prevents abuse if the drug is not taken orally as prescribed.

A study in *Science Translational Medicine* reports that low-dose Camptothecin (irinotecan) can treat patients with Leukemic cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (L-CTCL) without increasing their risk of infection. L-CTCL is a leukemia arising from T-cells, a type of white blood cell. This cancer can involve the skin and other organs. Patients often die within three years.

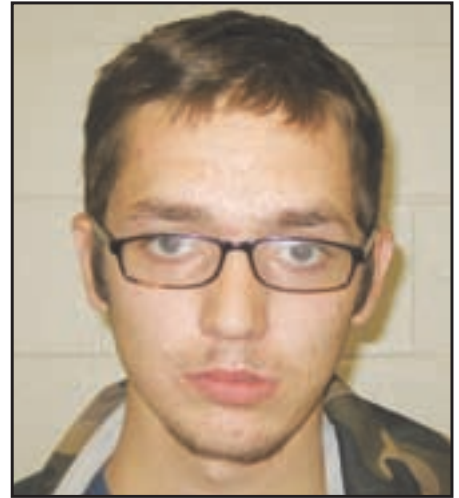
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Washington Police make two arrests

Washington Police Chief Steven Marshall announces the recent arrest of two individuals for crimes committed in the Town of Washington. The arrests are unrelated to each other.

Paul Sanguedolce, Jr., age 17, of Washington has been arrested and charged with 2 counts of Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault and one count of Attempted Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault. All the offenses are Class A Felonies. The arrest was as a result of an investigation by Ofc. John Corrigan relating to events that occurred between April and June where the victim was a member of the same household. Sanguedolce was held on \$50,000 cash bail. The case will be presented to the Grand Jury in late August.



Paul Sanguedolce, Jr.

As a result of a motor vehicle stop for a simple traffic violation Ofc. John Corrigan arrested Rony Enrique Veliz-Palencia, age 29, of East Boston, MA. Veliz-Palencia, a passenger in the stopped vehicle, provided Ofc. Corrigan with a false name and address. After furthering his investigation Ofc. Corrigan learned that Veliz-Palencia was in the country illegally from Guatemala and a Deportation Warrant issued by the US Border Patrol was in effect. Veliz-Palencia was held at the Washington Police Department until agents from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrived to take custody of him.

Bradford Selectmen reject pistol range

William Martin sent the following letter to the Bradford Selectmen: "After a recent discussion with Selectman Barry Wheeler I was impressed at what he was trying to do in an effort to reduce highway costs and associated future C.I.P. expenditures. In an effort to follow his lead and try to give back to the Town of Bradford I have decided to try and do the same. When I bought my home on Pierce Road one of the first things I did was put in a Pistol Range that I didn't fully utilize until recently. I recently discovered that our local Police have a request for a Pistol Range that I don't believe will ever come to fruition. Coming from a background with numerous family and friends in law enforcement I feel their safety is paramount. I continually read about fatalities in law enforcement and have decided to open my range to the Bradford Police in order that they can sharpen their skills and make it home safely to their respective families. I will contact the Chief with the details of when the range will be available to them. I feel so strongly about their safety that I intend to extend the offer to the surrounding towns' Police Departments." Chairman Harry Wright said he has talked with Police Chief Jim Valiquet and thanked Mr. Martin, but feels the offer is inappropriate.

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50th Anniversary of Hopkinton & Everett Dams

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, the communities of Hopkinton, Henniker, Dunbarton, and Weare, along with several other agencies and groups will join together to observe the 50th anniversary of the construction of the Hopkinton and Everett Dams in a ceremony on July 28, 2012 at the project office in Hopkinton, New Hampshire.

The dam at Hopkinton Lake, located on the Contoocook River in Hopkinton, and the dam at Everett Lake, located on the Piscataquog River in Weare, are connected by a two-mile long canal and in moderate to severe flooding are operated as a single flood risk management project. Construction of the dual facility was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$21.4 million.

A formal ceremony to observe the 50th anniversary of the completion of the dams will be held on July 28th at 2097 Maple Street in Contoocook.

The Corps' New England District Color Guard will open the ceremony at 10 a.m. There will be guided tours of the dams for

visitors and other activities.

Two developed parks are available at Hopkinton Everett Lakes. Elm Brook Park is operated by the Corps and offers a swimming beach, picnic areas with water, grills and restrooms, athletic field, nature trail, boat ramp, and a model airplane flying field.

Clough State Park, operated by the Division of Parks and Recreation, is on the shore of the 130-acre Everett Lake and offers a swimming beach, picnic areas with water, grills, restrooms and a boat ramp. and horned pout fishing. An estimated 450,000 visitors come to the project annually.



How many pancakes does it take to feed 57 teenaged boys? Warner's American Legion Post found out when they treated the boys from Boys' State on July 4th. Richard Dahlgren Photo.

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(L to R) Tony Crilley, Randy Adams, Lee Leduc And James Edgell.

Warner Legion participates at Pow Wow

Photo and text by Rich Dahlgren

Wilkins-Cloues-Bigelow-Pearson Post 39, American Legion, Warner presented the colors at the annual Indian Pow Wow at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner on July 14, 2012. This is the second year that the Post has been invited to participate in the program. In the absence of Post Commander Charlie Trowbridge, Adjutant Rich Dahlgren assembled the veterans who were dressed in their native regalia to help present the flags.

Revolving door in Frankestown position

The Town of Frankestown will need to hire its third Administrative Assistant in just over a year since Sherry Miller resigned to take a position in Dublin.

Christine Lavery was dismissed after a non-public selectman's meeting earlier this week. Select Board Chair Betsy Hardwick told the Monadnock Ledger Transcript that "Our official statement is that the appointment wasn't working well and we decided to let her go."

Lavery was hired in November 2011 to replace Debra Davidson, who lasted less than a year after replacing Miller. Select Board Member Abigail Arnold, along with the town's clerical assistant, will continue to fill in until the board decides how to fill the position. Arnold will be assisting the town's clerical assistant on an as-needed basis, and will not be compensated for her time, according to Hardwick.

Newport toddler dies in swimming pool

A 19-month-old girl was pulled from a swimming pool on Sunday and rushed to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

Newport police said the child, whose name was not released, was unresponsive when she was found in the water around 2:30 p.m. A 14-year-old resident who had emergency training performed CPR before emergency responders took over upon arrival. Police classified the incident as a near drowning. The condition of the child was not available Sunday night.

Police say the home had adequate safety fencing around the pool, but the gates were not secured when the girl went into the water. Police and the Sullivan County Attorney's Office were investigating.



This forerunner of a snowmobile was one of many antique autos on display at Bill Kidder's Ice House Museum in New London on Saturday.

Greenfield's Otter Lake full of Milfoil

Officials at the NH Department of Environmental Safety have determined that the milfoil infestation at Otter Lake in Greenfield is so bad that it can not be eradicated this year.

In a statement recently released by DES, the infestation is established enough to have been present for as long as four or five years before being reported. When she arrived at the lake, DES Exotic Species Program Coordinator Amy Smagula said she didn't even put the boat in the water as the infestation was so evident. Management of the problem has been put off until May or June of 2013, when the plants will be treated with herbicide, and a management plan including checks at the boat launch will be implemented.

Drowning woman saved at Lake Sunapee

New Hampshire Marnie Patrol officers pulled a Massachusetts woman out of Lake Sunapee after she had trouble in the water Sunday. The officers heard a cry for help as they were on patrol in Gardner Bay at the lake and saw a woman about 50 feet out in the water, according to police. The woman, Lili Li, 48, of Dedham, Mass., was in the water about 10 to 12 feet deep and struggling, according to police. The officers said she was using a non-Coast Guard approved flotation device, and Li is not a strong swimmer. The officers threw her a life ring and managed to get her to shore.

Clinton Grove Academy project on hold

Paul Morin was present with Sherry Burdick, Heleen Kurk and Betty Straw. Paul Morin informed the Weare Selectmen that shortly after the last Selectmen's meeting they had a meeting with Dr. James Garvin, from NH Preservation, Mike Bruss from Bruss Construction and Justice David Souter. They are still highly interested in the Clinton Grove Academy project but at this time don't want to jeopardize the project. They would like to withdraw the proposal of the addition at this time and just proceed with the roof repair project. They are continuing with the Moose Plate Grant for the roof with an estimated cost of between \$12,000 and \$20,000. The grant has been applied for, but the rest of the project they would like to put on the back burner for now and come back at a future time.

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

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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 Grant Bosse

Legislature brings needed reform to Building Aid program

While the New Hampshire Legislature was dealing with resignations and Constitutional Amendments, it was easy to lose track of some rather far-reaching legislation that will directly affect school districts across the state. The House and Senate have agreed to overdue reforms to the state's Building Aid Program.

For a history of program and how it has worked over the years, you should read Daniel Barrick's January 2011 report for the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, *Under Construction*. Seriously, it's only 15 pages, and that's with a lot of pictures. Go read it. I'll be waiting right here.

As Barrick's report shows, state spending on school construction subsidies ballooned from about \$15 million in 1995 to over \$50 million now. A wave of new schools across New Hampshire tapped into state aid that pays between 30% to 60% of construction costs. This included \$50 million schools in Bedford and Windham, leaving some lawmakers wondering why state taxpayers were picking up so much of the tab for local spending decisions. With no real cap on the state's generosity, the Building Aid Program exceeded the Legislature's ability to pay for it.

Faced with this fiscal reality, our government in 2009 decided to ignore it. Rather than cut total Building Aid spending, target the program to districts most in need of state help, or cut spending elsewhere, the Legislature and Lynch Administration decided to borrow. They shifted Building Aid from the state's Operating Budget to the Capital Budget, increasing the state's debt and covering up a mounting deficit.

From 2009 to 2011, New Hampshire borrowed \$131 million to meet its annual Building Aid obligations. Even supporters of bonding Building Aid realized this was not a permanent solution, so they put a moratorium on new projects entering the program.

Even with no new schools getting assis-

tance, the state still needs to pay off \$550 million in previously approved projects, and \$188 million in debt services payments for the three years of borrowing.

Future Legislatures will be getting two bills, annual payments for local bonds and bond payments for the state's debt service. And that's without making any promises for new school construction.

This year's legislation sets up a priority system for future Building Aid projects, rather than the old system where every district was almost automatically qualified. As Barrick recommended last year, this will not only force local districts to put a little more thought into their construction projects, but also leverage limited state aid towards districts that need it most.

The bill also caps the state's annual Building Aid Program to \$50 million, which is about what we're already paying for schools that have already been built, outside of debt service. But as more and more school bonds are paid off, more capacity for new projects will come open.

Nor is the \$50 million all that tough a burden. The next Legislature can break it simply by writing a higher number into the next budget. The cap is aspirational, functioning like a post-it note on the freezer telling you to eat less ice cream. It's really easy to ignore the note or throw it away, but having it there encourages discipline.

Please note that there is no constitutional right to adequate construction subsidies. The Supreme Court has not mandated that the Building Aid Program resume, and no one is threatening a lawsuit if the Legislature doesn't give them money for their proposed middle school.

Despite the protestations of my liberal friends, politicians historically have not needed a court order to spend money. The skinflint Republican Legislature that they fear will abandon public schools has restored a state assistance program that Democrats suspended. Whether it's a good idea to continue to subsidize local school construction is an open question for lawmakers and voters to decide.

School buildings don't last forever. They need to be repaired, refurbished, and eventually replaced, but demand for new

schools if dropping across New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's school aged population is falling. Enrollments are dropping, along with the classroom crunch that spurred the Building Aid spike over the last two decades. Taxpayers still have more than half-billion dollars in bills to pay from the Legislature's past promises.

This year's reforms mean that future Legislatures will have to be a little more careful in the promises they make.

Grant Bosse is Lead Investigator for the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy, a free market think tank based in Concord, NH.



OPINION Letters to the Editor

Dear The Messenger:

There is a clear difference between President Obama and Governor Mitt Romney when it comes to education. President Obama has taken the initiative to reform community colleges while also putting pressure on individual states to improve their education system through the Race to the Top initiative. He has doubled Pell Grant funding and signed a new law regarding student loans that will greatly benefit borrowers. Finally, President Obama's Recovery Act assisted school districts in preventing 161,000 faculty and staff layoffs, while also supporting nearly 300,000 education jobs.

President Obama has prioritized education to the top of his list and yet Governor Romney intends on putting such an integral part of the American Dream on the back burner. For example, Romney has criticized Pell Grants and endorsed a Republican measure that would cut them by 25 percent. He claims to support extending low interest rates for students, yet endorsed the Republican budget that doubles these rates. America cannot afford to elect a man such as Governor Romney. Our future depends on making education available to every American, and President Obama is fighting to give each and every one of us a chance.

Stephen Griffin, Frankestown

Editor:

The Republican electoral tsunami of 2010 in New Hampshire was largely based on two lies: that the Democrats were the party of irresponsible taxing-and-spending, and that New Hampshire does not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. The figure cited again and again was a 24% increase in spending, in the six years the Democrats

were in the majority in Concord. Even a cursory examination of the facts belies those premises. The spending increase was almost completely accounted for by one-time stimulus funds from the federal government. Of course we spent that--we're not stupid. General-fund spending for the same period was virtually level, and the budget was balanced for each biennium--without the draconian cuts that have been enacted by the current congress. As to the second: of course we have a revenue problem in our state! We rely on an antiquated system of fees and property tax, which make no distinction for those that are out of work, on fixed income, or disabled. New Hampshire advantage, my necktie. This November, we need to elect representatives who will move beyond slogans and dogma to a realistic approach to New Hampshire's fiscal and humanitarian challenges.

Mike Bradley, Hillsboro

Editor:

Obama wants to cripple the United States with his so-called Obama health care, which would be very detrimental to the American people.

We are the people and we have spoken to the so-called President Obama of the United States, and we demand you do not pass the idiotic notion of the Obama Health Care.

How dare you defy the "American People." You work for us, and we are your employer, not your employee!

Give the United States back to the American people now!!! Do you all want to hear the truth? Well this is it, you get what you ask for, if you do nothing!

Best wishes to you all.

Julie Dozois, Deering

THE Messenger

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

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

Hopkinton: Cracker Barrel, Town Hall

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Warner: Evan's Expressmart, Irving, Market Basket, Foothills

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Associated Grocers of New England recently held its 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament this year benefiting Share Our Strength® Cooking Matters and the New Hampshire Food Bank. Participating in the tournament were AG New England retailers, associates, and supporting brokers, vendors, and manufacturers. In the tournament's four-year history, AG New England has raised over \$100,000 to aide charitable organizations with goals of feeding the hungry.

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Insurance covers most of Hopkinton's highway garage loss

The insurance adjusters have give the Town of Hopkinton the OK to begin. demolition of the former highway garage, which was deemed a total loss. Insurance will cover the full replacement cost for the building. A new six-wheel dump truck to replace the one that was destroyed in the fire has already been bought and paid for and is due for delivery this year. The town had planned to trade in the old truck but having been de-

stroyed, insurance should cover the trade-in value. The grader, which was parked inside the garage received only minor damage which is covered, as well as the small dump truck and a tractor that the department rented to do roadside mowing. However, insurance only covers the fair market value of the 10- wheel dump truck, which was only 5 years old and will cost between \$150,000 and \$180,0,00 to replace.

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Henniker Rotary Club Scholarship Chairman Carolyn Damour presents a \$1500.00 "Brooks Burt" scholarship check to Henry Glendenning of Hillsborough, who will be attending Franklin Pierce University (left photo) and a \$1500.00 "Hillsboro-Deering" scholarship check to Austin Brown of Hillsborough, who will be attending Colby Sawyer College in the Fall (right Photo).

Weare Selectmen approve Eagle scout project

Tyler DeStefano told the Weare Selectmen that he has been a Scout for ten years and is currently working towards his rank of Eagle Scout. He is seeking approval for his Eagle Project to place a flag pole at the Town Hall which will be lighted by solar or electric with a photo eye controller. The flag pole will have an internal rope and the project would comply with the Town's guidelines for displaying flags on town property.

He will need to remove and place elsewhere the shrub and daylilies near the driveway. The cobblestone area surrounding the flag pole will need to be level. Tyler DeStefano said that he received a quote for the fiberglass

flagpole. The cobblestones or old city bricks will be engraved as part of his fundraising efforts. He will be selling the bricks for \$35.00 each.

Chairman Clow said that it would need to be a high quality pole and the height is a consideration. The total cost of the proposal is \$3,500. Tyler explained that he will have a table set up at Old Home Day to sell cobblestone and/or bricks.

He would like to complete the project in 2013. The Board voted to approve the Eagle Scout Project to include a 35 ft commercial grade flag pole to be installed in front of the Town Hall with the height to be consulted with the flagpole distributor.

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Bud Fitch on behalf of Senator Kelly Ayotte presents a flag flown at Arlington National Cemetery



Members of the Veterans Memorial Committee



Gemma Bready sings the National Anthem



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