



Testerman won't resign Although the New Hampshire GOP Executive Committee voted 28-0 to remove her from her position as Merrimack County Chair, Karen Testerman of Franklin refuses to resign. The unanimous vote to remove Testerman and Patricia Jorgensen, the Merrimack County vice chair, comes on the heels of an ongoing lawsuit filed in November to close the party's primary to allow only registered Republicans to cast ballots, preventing same-day registration and voting from undeclared voters.

This week in history

February 17, 1600 Giordano Bruno put to death at the inquisition

February 18, 1981 Hoax Hitler diaries sold to Gruner and Jahr Publishing

February 19, 1878 Thomas Edison patents the phonograph

February 20, 1919 Emir of Afghanistan is assassinated

February 21, 1916 World War I Battle of Verdun begins

February 22, 1819 United States acquires Spanish Florida February 23, 1836

Siege of the Alamo begins in Texas



(L-R) Sunapee Fire Lt. Rob Riessle, Safety Officer John Gosselin, Chief John Galloway, NL Police Chief Emily Cobb, Communications Specialist Greg Barthol, Fire Chief Jay Lyon, Sgt. Eben Lamson, K9 Ofc. Geoff Daley, FF Andrew Sarnevitz, FF Connor Heath.

New London dispatcher honored

New London Dispatcher Greg Barthol receives Exceptional Duty Award

At last Thursday's New London Select Board meeting, in front of a group of his colleagues, Police Chief Emily Cobb presented Greg Barthol an Exceptional Duty award for his deft handling of two simultaneous major fires in two separate towns.

On Thursday, January 18, 2024, at approximately 6:40 p.m., New London Communications Specialist Greg Barthol toned a first alarm fire in New London at Hannaford Grocery Store for a report of a fire in the bakery oven filling the building with smoke. A first alarm assignment requires the dispatching of multiple fire departments from different towns for mutual aid and support personnel.

While still managing the first alarm fire at Hannaford, Communications Specialist Barthol toned a first alarm fire in the Town of Sunapee for a report of smoke in the building due to a heater. Communications Specialist Barthol, knowing he had multiple pieces of fire apparatus still tied up on the New London call, drew from his years of dispatching expertise and knowledge to modify the run card for the Sunapee call, pulling other fire apparatus units from the region to attend to this fire. Throughout the night and during Communications Specialist Barthol's entire shift, he managed what turned out to be a 5+ alarm fire in Sunapee. Not only did Communications Specialist Barthol effectively dispatch and manage the fire apparatus and personnel responding to the scene, he requested utility companies, the American Red Cross, and diesel fuel trucks for the fire apparatus who were running low on

fuel. This type of dispatching is evident of Communications Specialist Barthol's ability to think quickly on his feet and expertly manage multiple major, overlapping events all from his seat in the Communications Center.

Communications Specialist Greg Barthol was presented with the Certificate of Exceptional Duty for outstanding personal and team efforts on January 18, 2024, for skillfully dispatching and managing significant fire calls in two towns, backto-back. "You successfully dispatched a 1st alarm fire in New London and within the hour, dispatched a 5+ alarm fire in Sunapee that lasted your entire shift. Your expertise and knowledge in handling both of these incidents is evidence of your commitment to public safety and your profession. Congratulations!"

Newport's 108th Winter Carnival continues the tradition

The Newport Winter Carnival celebrated its 108th year in style. The oldest continuous winter carnival in America ran from Wednesday, February 7th to Sunday, February 11th under the Woodstock theme. Wednesday's opening ceremony torch lighting was only the first of over 40 fun-filled events throughout the weekend featuring an Egg Hunt, Axe Man Challenge and Mac 'n Cheese Cook-off and the Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast.

With residents and guests dressed up and celebrating Peace, Love, a good time was had by all.



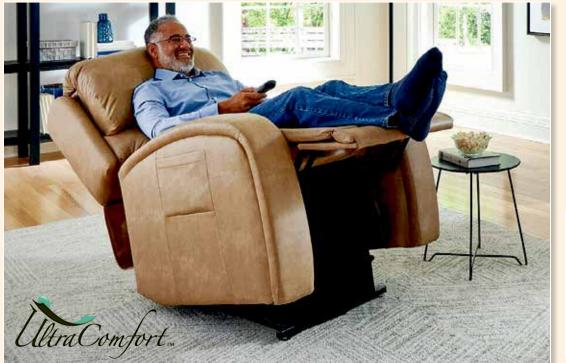
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Hillsborough voters to face an imposing 25 Article Warrant on March 12th

After voting on nine proposed zoning amendments, Article 10 asks Hillsborough voters to support a \$9,494,950.00 2024 Operating Budget.

Article 11 requests \$882,592.00 for operating the Water Department to come from Department income.

Article 12 seeks \$1,066,074.00 for operating the Sewer Department with \$15,000.00 to come from surplus funds and \$1,051,074.00 to come from Department income. Article 13 seeks \$495,000.00 to be deposited in the following already established Capital Reserve Funds:

• Ambulance CRF \$100,000.00

• Fire Department Equipment CRF \$40,000.00

 Police Department Equipment CRF \$40,000.00
 Municipal Buildings Mainte-

nance, Repairs & Upgrades CRF \$150,000.00 • Cemetery Maintenance &

Repair CRF \$10,000.00

• Library Building CRF \$25,000.00

• Parks CRF \$40,000.00

• Sidewalks CRF \$15,000.00

• Software/Computer CRF \$50,000.00

• Employee Health & Wellness CRF \$25,000.00 with \$300,000.00 to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and \$195,000.00 to come from taxation.

Article 14 asks for \$439,000.00 for road work, and Article 15 calls for \$207,000.00 for Stowe Mountain Bridge Repair, with \$50,588.00 to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance and \$156,412.00 from taxation.

Article 16 asks voters to support a 3 year collective bargaining agreement with Town Employees; costing

\$55,282.00 in year 1, \$29,361.00 in year 2, and \$25,095.00 in year 3.

valspar

ACCOLADE

Article 18 is a 3-year collective bargaining agreement with the

New England Police Benevolent Association Local No. 51, which calls for the following increases:

\$86,900.00 in year 1, \$77,061.00 in year 2, and \$44,608.00 in year 3.

Article 20 requests \$257,700.00 for the purchase of a Highway Truck, with \$206,160.00 to come from a State of NH Grant and \$51,540.00 from taxation.

Article 21 asks for \$283,190.00 for the purchase of a Highway Truck, with \$226,552.00 to come from a State of NH Grant with \$56,638.00 from taxation.

Article 22 asks voters to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5-year Grader with \$67,142.00 for the first year's payment.

Article 23 seeks a Capital Reserve Fund for the Municipal Infrastructure Projects which includes roads, water, sewer, and municipal buildings, with \$50,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Article 24 seeks to establish a Recreation Revolving Fund for money received from fees and charges for recreation programs, park services and facilities, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the general fund unassigned fund balance.

Finally, Article 25 asks voters to adopt the Hillsborough Community Power Plan, which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to develop and implement Hillsborough Community Power.



The Warner Select Board held a reception Monday afternoon for residents to meet their new Town Administrator, Kathleen Frenette. Kathy has worked for the Town of Gorham as **Director of Finance and** Administration and previous to that the North Country Council as Chief Operations Officer/Co-Executive **Director. Interim TA** Butch Burbank will be assisting in an advisory role during Kathy's transition.

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February 17, 2023

Two workers injured when Bennington roof collapses Chief Emily Cobb appointed to Police Standards & Training Council Fireworks erupt at Washington Budget Hearing/Candidates Night Duncan-Jenkins Trust awards 66 student & teacher Enrichment Grants

February 18, 2022

Weare rejects ban on teaching CRT Colby-Sawyer coach arrested on child sex charges New London to renovate Philbrick-Cricenti Bog Diane Kendall named Henniker Town Administrator

February 19, 2021

Man dies, daughter survives Peterborough crash Cracker Barrel is now the Hopkinton Village Store Snowmobiler collides with Hillsborough bob house Antrim man is sued for defrauding an investor

February 21, 2020

Center Woods teacher donates kidney to colleague Missing Weare man's body discovered in MA Hopkinton Fire Department promotes two Newbury man dives into lake to avoid arrest

February 22, 2019

20-year-old Hillsborough woman killed on Main Street Weare to pay former policeman Joe Kelley again Henniker Rescue Squad recognized police officer Hillsborough teenager not guilty of graduation threat

February 23, 2018

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force at John Stark Hopkinton taking steps to improve school security H-D Board applies for two School Security Grants Weare woman thankful of those who saved her life

February 24, 2017

Juvenile charged with gun threat at John Stark Goffstown man faces felony burglary charges The Hancock Market sold to Inn owners Warner man convicted of several sexual assaults

February 19, 2016

H-D Elementary Principal resigns Goffstown woman guilty of forging checks PETA withdraws protest of Newport's "Greased Pig" New Town Clerk/Tax Collector in New London

February 20, 2015

Deering Fire Chief quits after explosive meeting Franklin fire leaves tenants homeless Bow man guilty of mail fraud & tax evasion Lux challenges Langwasser for Hopkinton Selectman

February 21, 2014

NEC arrest gives new meaning to "Panty Raid" Board recommends keeping New London Dispatch Bradford Selectmen reject Fire Truck Proposal \$8,000 to defend Weare Police Officers

Medal of Honor winner Pitts addresses NEC Founder's Day

New England College recently celebrated Founders Day, an annual event that honors the vision of the College's founders to provide higher education for service members returning from World War II.

Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts of Nashua served as keynote speaker and received an honorary degree.

"Twenty-one years ago, I was a high school senior who didn't know what I wanted to do next. I joined the Army so that I would have money for college down the road," Pitts said. "But the Army was where I learned some of the greatest lessons: how to put service before myself, how to have a team mentality, and how nothing can stop us when we coalesce around a mission that means more than each of us individually. That's all it takes to be a leader, and anyone can do it."

A highly decorated veteran, Pitts joined the Army in 2003, at the age of 17 under the delayed entry program.

He served as a radio telephone operator for the 173rd Airborne Brigade at Camp Ederle, Italy from 2004–2009.

On July 13, 2008, during Pitts' second deployment to Afghanistan, his unit of 48 service members came under attack by 200 anti-Afghan forces in Kunar Province. Pitts immediately received grenade shrapnel in his left arm and both legs but, while severely injured, returned to his position to gallantly defend his unit from enemy fire and encroachment.

For his heroism, Pitts received the Medal of Honor on July 21,

Farmers' Market named Non-profit of the Year The Sunapee Farmers' Market recently received the Lake Sunapee Chamber of Commerce's Non-profit of the Year Award. 2014. He departed active duty in 2009.

"As a college founded for veterans, I couldn't think of a better keynote speaker than Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts. He is the epitome of selfless service, teamwork, bravery and leadership," said Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance Jr., President of New England College. "It was NEC's honor to host Sergeant Pitts and hear his story that I hope inspires everyone at NEC to give their all in their respective roles within our community."



Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Ryan Pitts speaks at New England College's Founders Day.



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Marcound our towns



"Hoops for Hunger" 2024: Wow! An amazing Food Pantry donation effort at HMHS. Over 200 food items and \$1150 in cash were collected during recent basketball games. Special recognition to Riverside Pizza for their involvement as well as the Hopkinton Booster Club, Game Director Glenn Walling and Athletic Director Dan Meserve for making this annual event a success.



Antrim's James A. Tuttle Library recently hosted a community chili cook-off. The winning pot of chili was made by Avery and Grayson Tommila (r). Amy Mullaly (I) and Fletcher Novotny (c) tied for second place.



Avenue A's second annual Cupcake Wars with Peterborough Town Library was a great success! Our cupcake artists were so talented. They decorated cupcakes inspired by books and wintry scenes.

H-D DECA's "Hillcat Corner" receives Gold Level International ranking

The Hillcat Corner, the school-based enterprise at Hillsboro-Deering High School was among 728 school-based enterprises achieving gold-level re-certification for the 2023-2024 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference this April 27-30, 2024, in Anaheim, California.

A school-based enterprise (SBE) is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet the needs of the market. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate National Curriculum Standards in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA advisors have utilized this effective educational tool for over four decades to provide their students with realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, enhance 21st Century skill development, and prepare

students for college and careers.

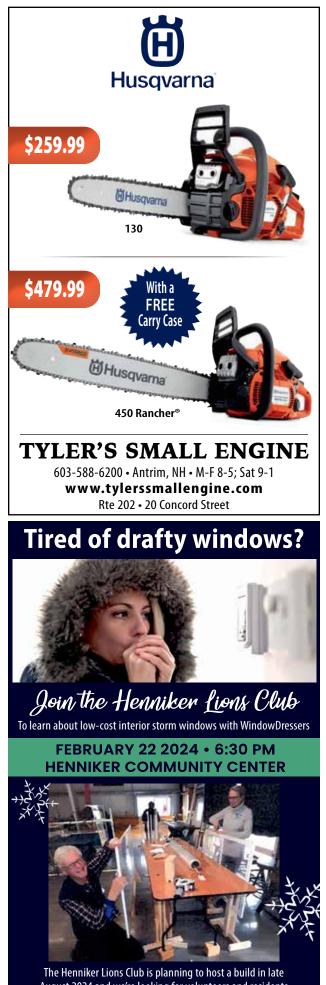
The Hillsboro-Deering High School DECA members who contributed to the certification were Isabel Swirko, Madison Paquette, Peter Beane, and Jack Hebert with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, Marc Payeur. The SBE at Hillsboro-Deering High School has operated for 25 years and is to be commended for this achievement.

"DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program is a rigorous process designed to help DECA members demonstrate their classroom learning in a practical, learning laboratory, and then translate that into meaningful outcomes," said Christopher Young, CAE, Chief Program Officer at DECA Inc. "These DECA members are practicing important workplace readiness skills while preparing for college and careers."

DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program provides recognition for outstand(L-R) Jack Hebert, Peter Beane, Madison Paquette, and Isabel Swirko.

ing achievement by school-based enterprises and motivates SBEs to strive for excellence and growth. SBEs can be certified at three levels: bronze, silver or gold. In order to apply for the certification, SBEs must submit extensive documentation that explains how the SBE demonstrates the practice of various marketing and retail standards. A review committee evaluates the documentation to determine which level of certification has been achieved. DECA's School-based Enterprise program is sponsored by Otis Spunkmeyer Inc. and Pop Chips/ You Need This.





The Henniker Lions Club is planning to host a build in late August 2024 and we're looking for volunteers and residents who would like to have inserts made.

For more info email hennikerlions@gmail.com or visit windowdressers.org

Weight Hometown Heroes



Recently Conservation Officers from District Three received ice rescue training from New London NH Fire Department. Many thanks to New London Fire for this invaluable training.



New London Firefighters were dispatched for a 2 vehicle crash in the area of Rowell Hill Road and King Hill Road with possible entrapment. Upon arrival on scene, New London C1 updated responding units that there was no entrapment. While on scene, New London crews ensured stabilization of the vehicle, maintained traffic control, and assisted New London Hospital EMS with evaluating one patient with minor injuries. One vehicle was towed from the scene.



On January 24th, New London Firefighters were requested to respond mutual aid to Wilmot for a first alarm building fire at 103 Grafton Road for a reported barn fire. New London crews arrived and found the barn significantly burned to the ground. Crews set up the aerial waterway for suppression of the remains and assisted Wilmot crews with hot spot suppression.

2 E Main St. Warner

ReedsNorth.com 456-2143

7:45pm at 603-938-2100.



Peterborough Elementary School students watch as Ladder the Whale is inflated during the school's Whale of a Day program in collaboration with Blue Ocean Society of Hampton. Courtesy Conval School District.

🌠 Dining Guide **Hillsboro Moose** Sweet TOKY MILLS PUB Aanna Lodge 1091 1950's Diner An Establishment of Good Taste Wie located at 83 Henniker Street in Hillsboro **Open for** was purchased April 17, 2023 by the new owners, John & Althea Henderson. Dine-In CLOSED Monday & Tuesdays Dai Special Wednesdays 6am-2pm or Take Out Breakfast All Day Take-Out Available Lunch 11am-2pm To make reservations call Thursday-Saturdays 6am-8pm We serve 603-464-6700 Breakfast All Day breakfast & 62 Main St., Antrim, NH B Lunch 11am-2pm • Dinner 2pm-8pm lunch too! See our Facebook page for details & specials. Sundays 7am-1pm • Breakfast Only **Fresh baked** 1st & 3rd Sunday each month. 603-588-3388 Take Out is always available 1-603-464-3575 doughnuts and bagels every Saturday morning Visit: www.tookymillspub.com Served 8:00-11:00 a.m. Try our Homemade Pies Sunday: 11am - 8pm 9 Depot St. • Hillsboro • 464-6700 Senior citizens ALWAYS 1/2 priced. Find us on 📕 Hanna's 1950's Diner 🚾 Est. 1999 • Sean Burt, Proprietor 👛 Tues. thru Sat.: 11am - 9pm 15 SCHOOL STREET • (603) 464-6024 2370 State Rt 114 • Bradford, NH (603) 938-2663 THE APPLESEED NG D 都 RESTAURANT **Chinese Restaurant** & CATERING SERVICES **Great Food** Catering for all occasions • LAKE TODD • P.O. BOX 77 BRADFORD, NH 03221 **Great Prices** "Country Dining... Featuring fresh NE at Country Prices" **Great Service** comfort food, craft beer www.Appleseedrestaurant.com & signature cocktails Take-Out 938-2100 • HOURS: Tues.-Sun **Specializing in Pizzas**, with a fun vibe. **OPEN:** 5:00 pm-9:00 pm • Closed Mon. 207 Pasta. Subs & much more! Mon.-Thu. 11-9:00pm THURS. 6 to 8 Trivia Night Our menu is available for W. Main St. Fri. & Sat. 11-9:00pm SAT. 6 to 9 Tavern Night driveway pickup & delivery! Exceptional food at Sunday 12noon - 9:00pm SIZED PIZZAS with live music Hillsboro a reasonable price! 603-464-0219 Salads · Subs · Calzones Some items may be subject to availability. SUN. 8-2 Brunch 603-464-6488 Taking orders from 4:30pm-260 W. Main St., Hillsboro

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🜠 Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Shuttering Elementary Schools - My view The ConVal School Board recently published a very thoughtful opinion in The Ledger. While I'm in no way as articulate as Ms. Swan, I would like to address my own concerns about this entire process.

Admittedly my wife and I are newcomers and as such we don't have a lot of history around ConVal's previous attempts to shutter schools.

In making our decision to move we looked at many alternatives, in the end we decided on Francestown.

What we found in Francestown was a community rich in history and endowed with a strong sense of community while still living up to New Hampshire's creed of self-empowerment. We found exactly the home and community we were hoping for. The question we are asking ourselves now is, would we have made the same decision to move to Francestown knowing that the school would be shuttered. The answer is, we don't know. Schools are the growth engine and the heart of every small community, especially in New Hampshire. Knowledge of the town's future being put in jeopardy would certainly have caused us to take a closer look at our decision.

I do have a problem with Ms. Swan writing off smalltown schools as "nostalgic." Like any prudent person we did our research before settling in Francestown. We were pleased to find the Francestown school is well respected and highly ranked. Francestown has an overall rating of "B" with an academic rating of "B+". The schools that Francestown's children are to be shipped to have overall ratings of "C & C+" and academic ratings of "C+". Francestown is ranked 93 in the state while the other two schools are ranked 164 and 173. We also compared Francestown to one of the larger elementary schools in the Manchester area (436 students), it had an overall rating of C- and an academic rating of C- (larger is not necessarily better).

I would also like to address Ms. Swan's "Rhetorical questions," because they are not rhetorical. These are good questions that deserve to be addressed.

1. "Should we sacrifice the educational quality of our kids when they are in middle and high school for maintaining the current structure that doesn't serve anyone?"

I'm sure she's not saying Elementary School "doesn't serve anyone." I believe she's talking about elementary schools in small towns not serving anyone.

Elementary schools provide the foundation for future learning. The better the foundation the better that child will do in middle and high school and beyond. The question ought to be: is the future of a student better served in a smaller school where they can get the attention they need to build a solid foundation of learning or should we put them in a school with 436 other students where we hope they receive enough attention to make it to middle school? My answer to Ms. Swan's questions is: More kids crammed into a classroom reduces the quality of education for the individual student.

2. "Is it reasonable to ask that we continue to be unable to meet the needs of certain children at elementary levels without sending them to a school with more resources? If they cannot have their needs met, is that acceptable? What are we willing to do?

Ms. Swan raises another good question. What are we willing to do? Consolidate special needs by region. For example, in the Francestown, Greenfield and Antrim area special needs children could be educated in Francestown, it is in the center of the other two schools and as the board knows, it has the space.

3. "What if there is a medical emergency and no nurse is staffed at a small school?"

In this matter I can only speak for Francestown (but I'm sure other small towns have similar set-ups). The Francestown Fire Department with its excellent and highly trained EMS team is literally across the road from the elementary school. The question is: in an emergency, do you want a school nurse or an entire EMS team?

4. "What about taxpayers who no longer have children in the schools but cannot afford to live in the town they have all of their entire life because of unsustainable budget increases."

Wow, I can't believe they went there. How is shuttering schools in these towns going to save our communities on taxes? Was Ms. Swan saying taxes will go down or even remain the same when these schools are shut? Are the budget increases going to stop if these schools are mothballed?

Here is how I see it. We bought a home in Francestown and we are paying our property taxes like every other citizen (we have no school age children). If the schools are closed, and the future of the town is put in question, our property value will decrease by anywhere from 15 to 25%. What happens to the district's revenue? I'm sure one of the board members with a business or finance background will confirm that revenue for the district will be reduced. To continue the same funding levels as today, property tax rates will have to increase. Higher rates will keep those looking for homes out of our district, creating a vicious downward spiral with fewer people having to pay more of the bills.

My answer to Ms. Swan's question; Taxes and budgets will not go down by shuttering these schools. Forty years of managing businesses and budgets tell me that (especially if you are planning to spend \$40 million on a technology center).

5. What happens when there are only 10 students left...."

This is by far her best question and the most difficult to address. While this scenario is not likely, it is a possibility. The same question holds true in the other direction. What if a sudden population explosion takes hold in these smaller communities? Now we must buy more land to rebuild our schools at a much higher price. Neither variable is foreseen by any of the analysts and as the board tells us, the analysts hardly ever miss the mark.

The solution to all of this is simple. Instead of building a \$40 million Technology Center, build a \$38 million technology center and save our elementary schools.

Francestown has been an integral part of educating our leaders dating back to the early 1800s. The Francestown Academy for example educated many leaders in industry and government, among them a President, a Governor and a Supreme Court Justice. It is sad that Francestown's history of being a vital partner in educating this country's future leaders could end based on a poorly researched report by a North Carolina company.

BTW, NC ranks 44th when it comes to ACT scores and 33rd when it comes to drop out rate. Where is NH? 4th in ACT scores and 3rd lowest dropout rate. Just saying.....

Events: Community Bulletin Board

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17

GRAPEVINE: How do you create family connections? Join us for a Parent Cafe for middle school families at Great Brook School in Antrim. Childcare and refreshments are available. A \$10 gas card will be offered to the first 15 registrants. To sign up, please call 603-588-2620 or email info@grapevinenh. org. Offered in partnership with The River Center.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20

COMMUNITY FORUM: on Recreation at the Sunapee Middle High School from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Hosted by Matt Frye -University of New Hampshire Department of Recreation Management & Policy - Curious about the future of Sunapee Recreation? Eager to share your thoughts and ideas on what matters most to you?

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21

FOOD FOR FAMILIES: Do you enjoy Taco Beyondo and Tooky Mills? Do you want to contribute to a great cause that directly benefits students and families? If you answered yes to either of those questions please join us 5:00-7:00pm. Hillsboro-Deering Middle School multi-purpose room. Cost \$3 or an end 68 food item donated at the door email Jon Young for specific items: jyoung@hdsd.org

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

NH FOOD BANK: 12:00-2:00pm Hillsboro American Legion parking lot. A truckload of food to be distributed to families and individuals. No proof of income or residence needed. All items will be distributed in your vehicle.

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 26

FULLER FUN WEEK: at Fuller Public Library. Stop in anytime between 1:00-4:00pm to create with LEGOS.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27

HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSES & KEEPERS OF NH AND MAINE:

Join us for a NH Humanities sponsored program with Jeremy D'Entremont. Jeremy will tell fascinating stories of the lighthouse keepers and their families who, beginning in 1771, maintained the lighthouses between Portsmouth, NH and York, Maine. Fuller Public Library, 6:00pm.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29

SENIORS' BREAKFAST: at Hanna's, in Hillsborough, Thursday, February 29th at 9:00am. We will enjoy our own table, delicious food, and lots of old and new friends Come for the French toast- stay for the schmoozing. For further info, please email stephenhullman@gmail.com.

FRIDAY MARCH 1

PRAYERS FOR PALESTINE: All are invited to attend our annual observance of World Day of Prayer, hosted by Weare-Henniker Quaker Meeting at 529 Quaker Street Henniker, NH, which has a special connection to schools started by Quakers in Ramallah since 1889. Noon-Potluck sharing, including some traditional Palestinian foods to try. 1:00pm Prayer service. The program is open and free for all. An offering will be collected for the World Day of Prayer Grant Program that helps women and children in need all over the world, with a portion going towards a local project. For

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

FAMILY HISTORY: A second program on family history sponsored by Pillsbury Free Library will be held 6:30pm: Family Stories: How and Why to Remember and Tell Them. In this active and interactive program, storyteller Jo Radner shares foolproof ways to mine memories and interview relatives for meaningful stories. Participants practice finding, developing, and telling their own tales. Register at https://signup.com/go/nKVRrom.

TUESDAY MARCH 5

CANDIDATE'S FORUM: SAU 24 is hosting a Meet the Candidates for School Board at 6:00pm in Room 144 at John Stark Regional High School. The candidates are running in 3 distinct school district races: Weare, John Stark, and Henniker School Districts.

THURSDAY MARCH 7

CANDIDATE'S FORUM: Warner Town Hall 7:00pm. Hear the candidates for Select Board and Budget Committee. **GRAPEVINE:** Positive Solutions for Families - A six week parenting program for those with children ages birth to age 5. Learn ways to encourage positive behavior, use praise and encouragement, set up daily routines, understand the reason behind behaviors, and make the most of playtime. Facilitated by Carol Lunan and Lesley Moenter. Email us at info@grapevinenh.org to register or give us a call, 603-588-2620. This program is made possible by the Concord Hospital Trust & Healthy Beginnings Endowment.



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WHAT DO LAWYERS USUALLY THE BENEFITS OF PLANTING TREES AND BUSHES



Planting trees on your property can add some great value to your home. Trees help reduce cooling costs. They help to break winds and also can provide a habitat and food for local wildlife. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less.

In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%. A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

In one study, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a 'strong or moderate impact' on the salability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%. Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent.

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating. The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.

Adding strategically placed shrubs around air conditioner units can help keep them cool and improve their efficiency.

Bushes and shrubs can provide privacy from neighbors and busy roadways. Shrubs stop strong winds and help to dampen sound. Bushes and shrubs also help to maintain healthy ground composition which can help with water recuperation and prevent erosion.

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Superintendent Jackie Coe thanked outgoing Henniker School Board members Ellen Fioretti (3 terms) and Zach Lawson (4 terms and vice-chair since 2016) for their years of service during the Henniker School District Deliberative Session, (left photo). Sen. Beckey Whitley (D-Hopkinton) and her son welcomed his fourth grade class from Maple Street School to the State House to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance before last week's session, (right photo).

John Stark's proposed \$15 million budget up 2.36%

John Stark School District voters are being asked to support a \$15 million budget, up 2.36% from the current budget, along with a new contract for the support staff.

If all warrants pass, it is projected the local school tax rate for Henniker residents would go up 32 cents per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, adding \$112 to the annual bill on a \$350,000 home, and go up 21 cents for Weare residents, adding \$73.50 to the annual bill. Even so, Henniker 's school tax rate would be \$4.37 versus Weare's \$5.23.

The increase in the operating budget is required by increases in health insurance costs and out-of-district special education costs.

The proposed two-year contract for support personnel, including para-educators, custodians and some administrative staff, would increase average hourly wage from \$18.43 to \$20.30. Over all, the average first year increase would be 11.55% and between 2.5% and 3% the second year.

If passed, the contract would add \$152,548 in costs the first year and \$39,653 the second year.

Dunbarton uses surplus funds to hold the line

Dunbarton's proposed operating budget is set at \$3.31 million, with \$148,000 coming from the surplus fund balance to offset costs. If approved, the estimated tax impact rate would be \$4.59, compared to last year's rate of \$4.42, amounting to \$50 more per year in taxes for a home worth \$300,000.

Other warrant articles, including the purchase of

Hopkinton town budget up 6.2% - schools 6.8%

The operating budget for the Hopkinton School District is \$26.6 million, a 6.8% increase, while the town's budget is \$9.74 million, up 6.2%.

The tax impact of the town's operating budget is 96 cents, combined with the school's \$1.70 increase, between the two would mean \$931 more a year on the

Warner residents facing an estimated 13.15 tax increase

Warner's proposed operating budget was presented at \$4.57 million, which will provide a tax rate increase of 13%. While the operating budget is up

Propane smell forces evacuation of Antrim dental office

Antrim Fire Chief Marshall Gale reported that employees at Perry Family Dental Care left the building and called 911 Tuesday after noticing the smell of propane. Firefighters first checked the propane tank and confirmed it was working properly. a new fire engine, ambulance, and dump truck, are funded through a combination of capital reserve funds and surplus from the unassigned fund balance. If all warrant articles are passed, the projected tax rate would increase to \$4.82.

Residents will also vote on whether to adopt community power at the town meeting in March.

tax bill for a home worth \$350,000. Major increases in the school budget are a \$720,401 increase in healthcare costs and \$395,408 in salary increases. The town's operating budget also includes funds to hire a full-time employee at the transfer station to ensure compliance with the pay-by-bag program.

4.3%, the capital budget is down by 32.9% and revenue is down 20.3%, and the combination results in an overall tax increase of a 13.1% jump.

Firefighters ventilated the building and got the - carbon monoxide readings down to zero, allowing f employees to return.

They also made sure CO detectors were placed properly throughout the building.







In PE classes at the Henniker Community School with Ms. Girard, 2nd graders from Ms. Mannix's class and 3rd graders from Mrs. Crowe's class worked in stations trying out jumping rope, hula hooping, balancing, different rolls on the mat, and tossing and catching scarves. Ruby Hattan (left) hula hooping, AC, Felix Gage (center) hopes to catch the scarf, from mat to back (right) Hatley Nye, Mya Mello, Kendal St. Onge.

Ballfields or hayfields dominate Weare debate

Two warrant articles discussing the land known as the Banks-Schmid property, which was acquired by the town in 2013 dominated the debate at Saturday's deliberative session. Selectman Salim Blume called it "the main event" of the meeting.

Both articles aimed to set aside an area to create athletic fields, but the exact location and whether the land should be used for that purpose caused division.

"There is much confusion and disagreement in town regarding the East Road property, most specifically how it was acquired and its intended long-term use," said Thomas Clow, chairman of the Finance Committee.

Article 24 would complete the plan for an easement on the land and dedicate 20 acres for a working gravel pit and an area for the athletic fields. A hav field in the front of the property would remain protected and the easement would be transferred to a land trust.

Bennington voters approved 28 warrant articles for Town Meeting, with none altered or removed.

The town operating budget is up \$172,000 to just over \$2 million, mainly due to cost increases, including health and dental insurance for town employees, that are out of the town's control.

In addition to the operating budget, warrant articles included annual appropriations for police, fire, rescue and highway department vehicles, as well as funds for road rehabilitation, sidewalk maintenance, bridge repair, safety equipment for the fire department and repairs to the library. Town Moderator John Cronin III reported there are many vacancies

Francestown Elementary School takes to the hardwoods

The Francestown Elementary School basketball program (sponsored by the Francestown Recreation Commission) which had 18 participants, concluded in February. K through 2nd grade learned basic skills, passing, dribbling, and shooting while 3rd and 4th graders started to learn some basic plays. All players demonstrated their skills in front of their friends and families on the final night of practice.

Article 26, submitted by petition, seeks to convert the hay fields at the front of the property into athletic fields. Both plans would allow the Conservation Committee to protect most of the land, but the use of the hay fields hangs in the balance.

Andrew Fulton, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, read a letter from previous property owner Raymond Banks Sr. who could not attend the session: "(When) I sold this land at a bargain price to the town, we agreed that the fields would be protected unless it's agricultural," Banks wrote. "We're not trying to deter parks and rec from putting fields in Weare, the property on East Road was not sold for this reason."

In other business, during Saturday's eight-hour meeting, residents were presented with an \$8.6 million proposed budget, and a default budget of \$8.2 million. Ballot voting is set for March 12.

Bennington residents approve all 28 Warrant Articles

in town positions and that while the filing period had passed, he urged candidates to run as write-ins. "At this point we have many more vacancies than candidates who have come forward. Please encourage anyone you know to get involved and serve on some of these boards," Cronin said. After adjournment, Cronin urged all residents to attend the ConVal deliberative session Tuesday night, as well as the community forum for all nine ConVal towns. Joe MacGregor also encouraged people to attend both meetings and become educated on the reconfiguration proposal, which would result in the closure of Bennington's Pierce Elementary School, if passed.

K through 2nd grade demonstrated their skills by performing bounce and chest past drills, by dribbling through a series of cones and by shooting free throws at appropriately height baskets. 3rd and 4th graders showed off their skills by playing a series of games. The REC commission honored their achievements with an awards ceremony topped off with a Pizza Party.



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🜠 Sports



John Stark Boys place 2nd at Indoor Track & Field Championship

Junior Rio Calle won the boys high jump with a clearance of 6'1" and junior Joel Douzanis won the boys shot put a with a throw of 47 feet. Additionally, Logan Montgomery was second in the 300m and fifth in the high jump, Sam Kinsey-Turner, third in the high jump, Eli Lemire fifth in the 1000m and the 4x400m team of Calle, Lemire, Alex Keirstead,

BOYS NORDIC SKIING

Hopkinton 1st: Matt Clarner topped the field of 49 skiers – finishing 46 seconds ahead of the runner-up – to lead the Hawks to a victory in a classic race at Waterville Valley.

GIRLS NORDIC SKIING

Hopkinton 1st: Elizabeth Trafton (2nd, 16:38), Florence Dapice (4th), Isabel Afflerbach (5th), Amelia Walsh (6th).

BOYS ALPINE SKIING

Hopkinton 1st, Kearsarge 2nd: Hopkinton's Harrison Wilson 1st GS, 2nd slalom, Kearsarge's Alex Spinney 2nd GS, 4th slalom.

GIRLS ALPINE SKIING

Hopkinton 1st, John Stark 10th, Kearsarge 11th: Hopkinton's Lia Chapin 1st GS, 6th slalom, Marcella Guadagno 1st slalom.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St. Thomas 66, Hopkinton 48: After falling behind by double digits in the first quarter, the Hawks stormed back to cut the score to 37-30 at halftime.

Kearsarge 43, Monadnock 24: Kearsarge's seniors led the way on senior night, leading the Cougars to a 25-15 lead at halftime and a 33-20 advantage through three quarters.

Derryfield 44, John Stark 34: The Generals drew with the Cougars in the first half, but trailed at halftime and didn't recover.

John Stark 60, Coe-Brown 48: Eleanor Girardet had a season-high 28 points and scored the 1,000th of her career on a 3-pointer.

Bow 51, Bishop Brady 29: Ella Trefethen led the way

and Montgomery crushed their previous time and earned the last 6 points for third place.

When all the dust settled, the John Stark Generals finished only 2 points from a team state championship. Representing the girls indoor track team, John Stark's Kayla Barriere, Ayris Beliveau, Rylee Barnard, and Anna Chasse placed 5th in the 4x800m relay.

for the offense in the third when she scored 15 of her 17 points for the game.

Bow 45, Kennett 35: The Falcons won a rematch of last year's Division II championship game on their home floor.

Bow 48, Souhegan 16: The Falcons celebrated Senior Night with a decisive victory on their home floor. **Franklin 59, Mount Royal 50:** Franklin ended its losing

streak at two games with a victory over visiting Mount Royal, dominating the first 16 minutes to take a 34-12 lead at halftime.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bow 74, Bishop Brady 31: The Falcons bounced back from a tough outing on Thursday (scoring just 31 points) with a huge night offensively on Friday against the Giants.

Souhegan 63, Bow 31: The Falcons' winning streak came to an end at seven games, while the Sabers extended their winning streak to six.

Coe-Brown 61, Stark 53 (OT): The game was tied 12-12 after one quarter, Coe-Brown had a 25-22 lead at halftime and the two teams entered the fourth quarter tied at 36.

Bow 57, Kennett 43: The Falcons won their seventh in a row with a victory in North Conway.

Kearsarge 28, Conant 26: Kearsarge made enough plays defensively to hold off first place Conant, handing the Orioles their first loss of the season. The Cougars will be the No. 4 seed for next week's D-III tournament.

Kearsarge 52, Monadnock 24: The Cougars celebrated their seniors – Jack Goen, Noah Dunlap, Parker Goin and Eddie Kinzer – before the game for their leadership

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🜠 Sports

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Kearsarge 67, Raymond 44: The Cougars led 18-11 after the first quarter, connecting on six 3-pointers in the opening frame. Raymond fought back to cut Kearsarge's lead to 32-30, but that was as close as it would get, with the Cougars outscoring the Rams 35-14 over the final 16 minutes.

St. Thomas 65, Hopkinton 40: Hopkinton started the game down 15 after the first guarter, and, despite showing grit and toughness, the the Hawks were unable to mount a comeback against the second-place Saints. Mascoma 57, Hopkinton 49: After a back-and-forth first half, the Royals extended their lead to eight points to end the third quarter.

Concord Christian 68, Franklin 61, OT: Franklin gave up a 13-point lead in the fourth guarter and the Kingsmen took advantage of the extra time to claim the victory.

BOYS HOCKEY

Londonderry 11, Bow 2: The Falcons held the Lancers in check through one period with a 2-2 tie, but Londonderry scored three goals in the second period and six more in the third.

John Stark-Hopkinton/Hillsboro-Deering 7, Sanborn-Epping-Raymond 6, OT: Lucas Gagnon completed his hat trick two minutes into overtime to lift the General Hawks to the victory, snapping the team's eight-game losing streak.





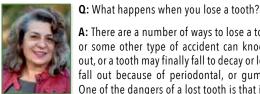


John Stark's Eleanor Girardet (left) scored her career point 1,000 in a victory over Coe-Brown. Eleanor becomes the 9th basketball player in school history to reach this milestone. ConVal freshman Morly Johnson (center) threw the shot put for a personal best 36-feet, 2.75-inches, the longest throw among all freshman in New Hampshire this indoor season. Noah Dunlop (right) a senior at Kearsarge Regional High School, played his first varsity minutes and scored his first points. Noah, who has autism, inspired both teams by scoring Kearsarge's first basket of the game plus a three pointer.



John Stark Regional High School's football head coach, Ray Kershaw, receiving the Semper Fi Coaches Award in Boston, MA last weekend. The intent behind this award is to recognize a high school football coach who develops leaders both on and off the football field, who cares about giving back to their community, and who exemplifies the Marine motto: Semper Fidelis – Always Faithful. Glazier Clinics reviews all nominations and selects just one coach to receive this honor in the New England region.

CONSEQUENCES OF A LOST TOOTH



Dr. Esin Narli

A: There are a number of ways to lose a tooth. A fall or some other type of accident can knock a tooth out, or a tooth may finally fall to decay or loosen and fall out because of periodontal, or gum, disease. One of the dangers of a lost tooth is that it can start a domino effect in your mouth.

In the normal healthy mouth, the closely packed teeth support one another. When there is a gap in that support system, over time the teeth near the gap will start to shift and loosen. So if you lose a tooth, for whatever reason, you should consult with a dentist immediately.

Your dentist may recommend a crown or a bridge. A crown would be fitted over the remaining portion of a tooth that was essentially, but not completely, lost. A bridge is an appliance that fills the space where a tooth is completely lost. You may also be a candidate for an implant, which involves putting a metal anchor directly into the jaw and, after a time, attaching a small post and artificial tooth to the anchor.

Not everyone, however, is a candidate for an implant. You must have sufficient jawbone for the procedure to be successful. If you are missing a tooth, or have loose teeth, talk with a dentist about your options. The best way to cut down the likelihood of being in that position, though, is to visit your dentist at least twice a year. • • •

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the first over-thecounter (OTC) at-home diagnostic test that can differentiate and detect influenza A and B, commonly known as the flu, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The Lucira COVID-19 & Flu Home Test is a single-use athome test kit that provides results from self-collected nasal swab samples in roughly 30 minutes. The Lucira

COVID-19 & Flu Home Test is a single use test for individuals with signs and symptoms consistent with a respiratory tract infection, including COVID-19. The test can be purchased without a prescription and performed completely at-home using nasal swab samples self-collected by individuals ages 14 years or older or collected by an adult for individuals 2 years of age or older.

> . •

The drug atogepant may help prevent migraines for people who have had no success with other preventive drugs, according to a preliminary study presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 75th Annual Meeting . The study involved people with episodic migraine, which is defined as having up to 14 headache days per month with migraine characteristics. Those taking the drug had an average of four fewer days with migraine per month from the start of the study to the end, while those taking the placebo had about two fewer days with migraine per month. Those taking the drug also showed improvement compared to those taking the placebo in how often they needed to take medication to stop a migraine attack and in how many people had a reduction of 50% or higher in how many days per month they had migraines.

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Meighbors Remembered & Neighbors Remembered

Christina Sue Melick

FRANKLIN - Christina Melick, of Franklin, NH, died December 25, 2023, with loved ones at her bedside.



She is the daughter of Jack and Martha Melick, and younger sister to Charles, George (deceased) and Jeff. She leaves behind her partner of twenty-five years, Laurence Anderson, her brothers, Chuck (Marcia) Melick of Atlanta, and three nieces, and Jeff (Clare) Melick of Roanoke, former spouse,

Richard Ouellett, of California, and his brother, Thomas (Elaine) Ouellett and their three daughters. In lieu of flowers, please donate to: Appalachian Mountain (outdoors.org). There are no calling hours. A gathering will be held this summer.

Richard Allen Abrams

CONTOOCOOK - Richard Allen Abrams, 80, of Contoocook, New Hampshire passed away at his home sur-



rounded by family on February 3, 2024. Richard was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 5, 1943 to the late Eleanor and Barney Abrams. He is survived by his wife, Carol Abrams, two daughters, Donna Gilliatt and Lisa Cullinan and her husband Michael Cullinan. His two stepsons, Bill Farese and Brian

Farese, and his sister, Barbra Gradozzi and her husband, Ronnie Gradozzi. He was also a proud grandfather to Marisa (Gilliatt) Al Sharif and her husband, Taher Al Sharif, Taylor Gilliatt, Alec Gilliatt, Nicole Cullinan, and Joseph Cullinan. A memorial service to celebrate Richard's life will be held on Saturday, February 17, from 1:30-4:30pm at Andiamo Restaurant and Bar, located at 1268 Osgood Street North Andover, MA 01845.

Josef Sigmund Maria Thanner

DUNBARTON - Dr. Josef Sigmund Maria Thanner, a retired Rutgers University Professor, died on January



versity Professor, died on January 17, 2024 at his home in Dunbarton, New Hampshire. Dr. Thanner was born in 1926 in Altotting, Germany and emigrated to the United States in the 1950s. Professor Thanner - or "Opa" and "Papa Joe" as his grandchildren called him - is survived by his loving wife of sixty-four years, Phyllis Thanner, his brother

Rudolf Thanner and his wife Jutta and their children, his sister Irmengard Thanner, his children Megan Guerra and her husband David, Koren Thanner-Rasmussen and her husband Tim, Christopher Thanner and his wife Shari, and his grandchildren Abigail, Sophia and Nicolas Guerra, Mackay and Case Rasmussen, and Brenna, Annie and Christopher Thanner. There will be a small private service on February 17, 2024 followed by a celebration of life. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Josef's honor to Granite VNA at granitevna.org.

Matthew A. Chauncey ANTRIM - Matthew A Chauncey, 75, of Antrim NH



passed away Friday, February 2, 2024 at Keene Center Nursing Home. Born in Boston MA August 15, 1948 to the late Forrest and Dorothy (Knapp) Chauncey. He is survived by his brother, Edward Chauncey of West Bridgewater, MA, daughters Mackenzie Chauncey of Lebanon, NY; Mary

Welles of Contoocook, NH; son, Forrest Chauncey and wife Bethany Chauncey of Antrim, NH. Although Matthew will not be missed by the masses, he was an accomplished man with a Masters Degree in Special Needs Education, 35 years teaching at Franklin High School, Franklin, MA. He was a salesman and row crop farmer in his spare time.

Nicolas E. Pishon

CONTOOCOOK - Nicholas E. Pishon was born in Boston, the oldest adopted son of Emmett Pishon and



Kathleen McCrystle Pishon. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Astrid, sons Mark and Nick J, daughter Crystle, and four grandchildren; Joshua, Lucas, Elizabeth and Nathaniel. He was predeceased by his murdered middle son Curtis and Elaine, a stillborn granddaughter. In accordance with

his wishes, there will be no services, but donations may be made to the Officer Jeremy Charron Law Enforcement Post 122, NH American Legion, POB 6352, Manchester, NH 03108.

Tammy L. Gamache

GOFFSTOWN - Tammy L. Gamache, 53, of Goffstown, NH, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at the



Elliot Hospital, in Manchester, NH, after a brief battle with cancer. Tammy was born on Aug. 4, 1970, in Dover, NH, the daughter of Debra Bowen. Members of her family include her husband, Edward A. Gamache Jr. of Goffstown; three sons, Bobby and his wife, Tiffeny, of Hooksett, Michael and his

wife, Tia, of Goffstown and Jeffery of Goffstown; three grandchildren, Kaylee, Logan, and Alaina of Hooksett; 10 nieces and nephews. A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, from 10 a.m.-noon with a small service immediately following at Phaneuf Funeral Homes & Crematorium, 250 Coolidge Ave., in Manchester, NH. In lieu of flowers, it has been suggested that those who wish may make memorial contributions do so to the American Cancer Association in memory of Tammy.

> Please send your Obituaries to: PO Box 1190, Hillsborough, NH or email leighb@tds.net



Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are. ~ John Wooden







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Questions: Contact Diane Ricciardelli, Town Administrator, 603-763-4940 ext. 204.

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Attention Candidates for School & Town Offices

Send us your photo and a brief statement of why you are running for that office and we'll publish it in our **MARCH 1**ST issue of The Messenger.

If you don't have a photo, stop by our office at 246 West Main Street in Hillsboro and we'll take one for you.

DEADLINE FOR YOUR SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

MAIL TO: The Messenger PO Box 1190, Hillsboro, NH 03244 or EMAIL: leighb@tds.net

TOWN OF WINDSOR SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST SESSION

Notice of Session at Windsor Town Hall Windsor, New Hampshire on

Saturday March 2, 2024 2:00 - 2:30 P.M.

Correction of Checklist

NOTICE OF A HEARING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

WASHINGTON, NH 03280

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Adjustment will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 28**, 2024, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall, 2nd fl. regarding the following:

John & Laure Rankin, Tm. # 14-296, 52 Lincoln Drive, requesting a 3.27 percent over the allotted impervious of 20% to construct a 16 X 16' addition of covered walkway to the back sunroom.

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Fruit Juices 100% Juice - 6-7 oz • Fruit Cups - 4 pack
Granola Bars/Nutrition Bars • Instant Flavored Rice or Noodles • Ramen Noodles • Instant Flavored Potatoes
Raisins • Pretzels • Nuts • Goldfish • Canned Tuna
Chicken, Ham or Pulled Pork • Instant Oatmeal

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