

The Messenger

"Your Local Weekly Since 1869 ♦ A Tradition Worth Keeping"

Free ♦ Our 154th Year ♦ Issue 25 ♦ June 20, 2025



Congratulations to New Boston's Softball 10 U champs! Way to go girls, we are so proud of you!



The Weare 8U girls lacrosse team defeated both Concord (13 to 12) & Exeter (15 to 12) in the NHYLA festival, finishing in first place!

This week in history

JUNE 23, 1778

U.S. Constitution is ratified

JUNE 22, 2011

Mobster Whitey Bulger is arrested

JUNE 23, 1972

Title IX is enacted

JUNE 24, 1993

Mail bomb injures Yale professor

JUNE 25, 1910

Congress passes the Mann Act

JUNE 19, 1856

1st Republican national convention ends

JUNE 12, 1975

Jaws is released



Salutarian Jacob Audette addresses his classmates.

Hillsboro-Deering Class of 2025

A week's rain delay couldn't dampen the spirits of the families, faculty, and friends who filled the huge white tent to celebrate H-D's 2025 graduating class. Principal Jim O'Rourke thanked and welcomed all to the festivities and introduced Kelly Learn as the 2025 recipient of the Richard Withington Award. Student Council President Kathryn Thyng asked classmates who will join the military to join her on stage to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and the band played the National Anthem.

Class President Peter Bean welcomed the attendees before Principal O'Rourke introduced Valedictorian Morgan Dean and Salutarian Jacob Audette.

In his student address Audette urged his classmates to stay positive and "Don't judge yourself by your downfalls."

James Maccabe's Commencement Address compared the path through high school and life in general with a marathon admonishing the graduates to "Run your own race..."

ConVal High School's 2025 Commencement

ConVal's 2025 graduation was moved into the school gym Saturday to avoid the rain, but emotions in the packed space were far from dampened.

Along with the 153 seniors who received diplomas, two classmates who died during the school year received honorary diplomas in a ceremony that offered the graduates encouragement and recalled for them that tears had been shed for joy and sorrow during their years at the school.

Lukas Baker performed the National Anthem and Darlene Raymond led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In welcoming the assembled, Principal Heather McKillop reminded her charges that "Not every achievement is loud," and that when new challenges present themselves, they should tell themselves that "I am ready for this because I've learned how to keep going..." "You belong wherever you go."

She then called for a moment of silence to remember and honor Damian Cronan, and Timothy Donaruma, seniors who died in car crashes, and faculty member Michael Serard who also died this year.

Isabelle Jobin spoke of these losses in her Valedictory Address. "There is joy, and there is pain felt, for Damian and Tim who should be here," she said.

Class Speaker Grace O'Brien, known for her handwritten notes, told her classmates that "Your presence in this world is like a handwritten note to it."

Kendrick Robert Edwards, a senior who "was late for every class because he was holding the doors for others, and some of his senior work was late this year because he gave his time to helping others complete their projects," was presented the Faculty Award.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

June 21, 2024

Colby-Sawer & NEC make transferring to Community College easier
Warner man sentenced to 12 months in jail
One dead another injured in Goffstown house fire
Henniker to apply for a \$500,000 Community Development block Grant

June 23, 2023

Fatal accident on Route 202/9 in Henniker
Goffstown couple indicted for stealing & selling body parts
New London history preserved in Whipple Hall renovation
New Boston Town Administrator resigns

June 24, 2022

Goffstown Police searching for American flag burners
Cameron Brissette of Deering arrested on 17 charges
Warner man's body recovered from Kings Ridge
New Boston Fire Department supports cancer victim

June 25, 2021

Stolen vehicle found submerged in Greenfield
H-D Board expects \$1.2 million surplus
Henniker Planner's performance under scrutiny
ConVal Board returns \$3.2 million to taxpayers

June 26, 2020

Cause of Cousineau fire undetermined
Playground begins with demolition
Kearsarge graduate injured filming North Woods Law
Great Brook Teacher is Teacher of the Year finalist

June 28, 2019

Contoocook man one of seven killed
Goffstown daughter charged with killing her mother
NEC merger with NH Institute of Art to be finalized
Hillsborough Center Church holds 250th celebration

June 29, 2018

Two DWIs in only two days
Franklin hosts its initial Whitewater Festival
Antrim Grange #98 holds Annual Community Awards
Concord robbers evade Henniker Police

June 30, 2017

23 underaged drinkers busted in Georges Mills
Animal abuse charges in Deering
Goffstown dedicates Church Street Fire Station
Newport teen assaults police officer after arrest

June 24, 2016

Goffstown couple arrested on child abuse charges
Several towns battle 14 acre Henniker brush fire
Demolition of 1941 building deadlocked vote
Franklin School Board & City Council budget gap

June 26, 2015

Former Hillsborough Planner is Newport Manager
Sean Kelly sworn in as Weare's new Police Chief
Toad Hall renovation is first step in revitalized Franklin
Goffstown fire damage set at over \$100,000

John Stark High School celebrates its 38th Commencement

The light rain stopped just as the band began the “Pomp and Circumstance” Processional for John Stark High School’s Class of 2025.

Jillian and Emily Fredette led the Pledge of Allegiance and Evelyn Tagliaferro performed the National Anthem accompanied by the band.

Principal Gary Dempsey welcomed all, introduced the nine retiring staff members, and proudly announced this year’s graduates who received a total of 113,000 in scholarships and awards. He then asked graduates who will be entering military service to stand and they were given a standing ovation.

Student Speaker Sadie McCallum, who has cerebral palsy and uses either a walker or a self-balancing mobility wheelchair was chosen by staff to represent the senior class. She reminded her classmates that “small deeds can change

the world.”

Stressing that “every day you can leave your little corner of the world just a bit better than it was when you woke up, the same as you have here at Stark. By the end of your life, you’ll find your small changes have spread out far beyond your border and you did, in fact, change the world.”

Salutatorian Edison Bolduc advised her classmates that “You’ll never get what you want if you let people sweep over you.”

Valedictorian Elizabeth Ackerly urged the graduates to remember that “Competition is not how we achieve greatness, collaboration is ... All of our voices are equally valuable, and are stronger together than they are alone,” she said. “Life is not a solitary task, far from it. We stand not on the shoulders of giants but on generations of people just like us.”



Savanna McLaughlin and Emily Fredette present the 2025 Class Gift of Coupolas and Tents to be used for outdoor classrooms.

John Stark High School 2025 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

Elizabeth Ackerly is the Class of 2025 Valedictorian. Ackerly, 18, served as a student school board member – one of the first to ever have voting rights – and president of the National Honor and French Honor societies.

Ackerly also served as Vice President of the Senior Executive Council, treasurer of the

school’s Amnesty International Chapter and she was a member of the Student Council and Tennis Club.

Ackerly, the daughter of Edward Ackerly III and Rebecca Ackerly of Weare, will be attending Dartmouth College with intentions to study chemistry and government. “I will forever miss the supportive and

loyal community I’ve found at John Stark, including the teachers, administrators, and friends that helped shape me into the person I’ve become today,” Ackerly said.

Adison Bolduc is the Class of 2025 Salutatorian. Bolduc, 18, is a four-year varsity field hockey player and two-year captain of the team. She participated in

tennis and art clubs, and she also served on the executive council for three years. Bolduc was a member of the National Honor and French Honor societies.

Bolduc, the daughter of Carla and Dave Bolduc of Weare, plans to major in Bioengineering at Endicott College, where she will also play field hockey.

Bolduc said that she will miss a lot about John Stark, “mainly... having such close connections with my teachers and being friends with so many of my classmates. This is the exact reason that I have decided to go to a smaller college as I could never imagine myself growing and learning without this kind of environment.”

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Newport grads told “step out of your comfort zone - never give up”

Class speakers at the 2025 Newport High School graduation touched on familiar themes of friendships formed, gratitude given and the inevitability of change that lies ahead, waiting to be embraced, not feared.

With a rare appearance by the sun this spring, commencement Wednesday evening on the football field began with students marching to their seats while Pomp and Circumstance played.

After seniors Evah Hodge and Austyn Spivey sang the National Anthem, Class President and Salutatorian Taylor Fellows welcomed her fellow graduates in her first of two speeches.

Change is the one thing over the past four years that best unites the diversity of friend groups, talents and personalities of the class, Fellows said. She reminded the graduates they began high school when COVID-19 was still a fear and wearing masks was the norm.

“The class of 2025 has shown what it’s like to embrace change instead of resisting it,” Fellows said. “We have learned to adapt and make changes to the different situations around us.” There is certainly more change ahead, she said, and it can be scary, happen quickly and may not even be noticeable.

“As we navigate our next chapter, don’t let the fear that change brings cause us to forget what is familiar to us,” Fellows said. “I want to remind you today to always embrace change, step out of your comfort zone, be bold, try something new and never give up.”

Graduate Samuel Winchester read his class poem with the words, “the sun rises again,” followed by the valedictorian address from Kylie Janicke.

High school was not only about grades or test scores but “about the friendships that were made along the way,” Janicke said.

“Friendship has carried us through the challenges and helped us celebrate victories,” Janicke said. “As we take our next steps into the world, it’s important to remember this: Never forget your friends. Whether you stay in touch every day or go your separate ways, hold on to the people who helped you, who made you laugh, who saw you at your best and your worst.”

Janicke, who thanked her family for the unconditional love and support that helped her reach her goals, also mentioned the change coming for graduates, telling them that while it may be uncomfortable it can also be powerful.

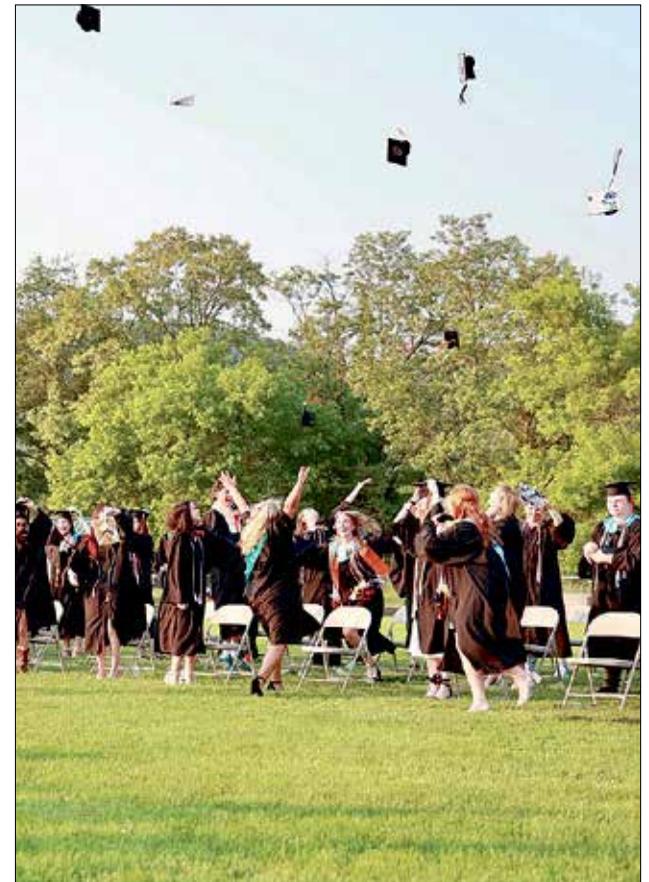
“So remember this as you start on your new journey’s path, change is a good thing,” she said.

Lela Trott was chosen to give the Class Essayist Address. Strong support from so many in the close-knit Newport community helped her achieve more than she expected of herself, Trott said, giving a warm and heartfelt thank you to her family and to the teachers and staff at the high school.

Trott challenged her classmates to grab any opportunity that comes their way and not to worry if they later change course because something doesn’t work out.

“It’s really not that bad to quit one thing and start another,” Trott said. “You need to find something that makes it worth getting up every day. Find something you find enjoyment in.”

In her salutatorian remarks, Fellows talked about the



Newport High School.

support and inspiration from so many, guiding her and the entire class during their high school careers.

“Think about it, we would have never gotten through high school without the strong support systems that we were gifted by our family, friends, teachers, coaches and even ourselves,” said Fellows, who plans to study nursing at Colby-Sawyer College. She praised her classmates for their resilience and adaptability, which will help them in the next chapter of their lives.

“Every obstacle and challenge is there to help teach and push you to become a better, more knowledgeable person,” Fellows said. “Falling down is only part of the process but getting back up is what matters.”

The graduates are poised for more success after high school years marked by academic and athletic achievements, School Board Chairwoman Nikki Murphy said in her remarks.

“We believe in you, we are proud of you and we can’t wait to see what you will accomplish,” Murphy said.

This year’s class earned more than \$102,000 in scholarships, Newport High School Principal Shannon Martin said.

After the 64 graduates collected their diplomas, outgoing Superintendent Donna Magoon congratulated the class and offered some final words of advice, challenging the graduates to “move forward with purpose” in a world in need of dreamers, doers and people who lead with integrity.

“Graduates, we are so proud of you for what you have accomplished,” Magoon said. “Hold on to the lessons you learned here. Stay curious, stay humble and stay true to yourself. Go forward with courage and hope.”

More than \$559,000 awarded to protect 294 acres in New Boston

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) announced that the Governor and Executive Council recently approved \$559,304 for the Great Meadow-Follansbee Project in the town of New Boston. This Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund grant was awarded to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy.

This project will protect 294 acres of aquatic resources and upland buffers, which include 51 acres of diverse wetlands, 23 vernal pools and 9,000 feet of riparian frontage along Buxton Brook and the Piscataquog River. The project will continue efforts to connect over 700 acres of adjacent conservation preservation land. The Great Meadow-Follansbee project is located within the Merrimack River watershed and a Designated River Corridor which are important resources for wildlife

habitat. These protections will coincide with minor stream restorations at two different intermittent streams to improve hydrology. The restorations are vital to ensure that the aquatic resources continue to be protected. Securing this parcel's protection is essential for maintaining the sustainability of the upland buffer and preserving these critical aquatic habitats.

The ARM Fund Program manages money to offset unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources. Competitive grants fund projects that restore, enhance and preserve aquatic resources and associated upland buffers across nine watersheds, also called service areas. Since 2006, more than \$26.8 million in compensatory funds have supported more than 143 projects. Examples include irreplaceable-resource preservation, aquatic barrier removal (culvert

replacement and dam removal) and living shoreline projects.

The program aims to support restoration, enhancement and

preservation to ensure "no net loss" of aquatic resources.



Members of the New Boston's CERT team met at the New Boston Police Department to do inventory and make repairs to the response trailer. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. Members are all volunteers who play a role in supporting professional first responders.



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Franklin's graduating class paid its annual visit to the Paul Smith Elementary School.

Franklin High School class of 2025 Commencement

Many students are anxious about graduating and stepping into uncharted territory, but Julia Swett is used to trying new things.

She has always welcomed new hobbies and possibilities as an active member of both Franklin High School and the town community.

Her freshman and sophomore years, she enjoyed being part of the drama club. As a senior, she joined the field hockey team. Throughout high school, she participated in student council, the National Honor Society and Girl Scouts, all while volunteering at her local church.

Swett spoke highly of the support she received at Franklin High School, a community that provided her with a safe space to develop a love for trying new things.

"I wish I would have joined before, but they were very welcoming because I'd never played before," she said.

On Friday evening, family, friends and faculty gathered at Franklin High School to celebrate the class of 2025. Dozens of graduates sat in rows on the field while wearing blue caps and gowns and large smiles on their faces.

Their loved ones spread out in the audience in an array of metal folding chairs and personal lawn chairs, while small children ran around in the grass waiting for their graduates to finish.

During the ceremony, some students received awards for their scholarship, commitment to athletics and growth, both academic and personal.

Swett received The Loyalty Award, voted on by students and staff, for dedicating herself to the class and to the school and for always being there to "do a job well done."

Ready to explore the unknown, Swett is eager to step into summer – and the rest of her life. In the coming months, she looks forward traveling to Italy with one of her friends to visit an exchange student she met the year before during school. Not speaking a lick of Italian, she said she is ready for the exposure to a new language and culture.

When she returns to the United States, she will start preparing to study hospitality management at Lasell University.

"I'm really looking at event planning right now. I'll be exploring food and beverage, meeting with people, tourism," she said.

Based on her own positive experiences and the relationships she built at Franklin High, Swett cannot wait for the opportunities that college has to offer. Always looking for something new to try, she finds herself most excited about the idea of meeting new people.

"I am going kind of far away, but not too far away, so I'll get a new environment, a new community," she said.



The Franklin Fire Department visited with Franklin Middle Schoolers.

Kearsarge High School graduates urged to “Be kind, be curious and be bold”

With only a few umbrellas up, the Kearsarge Regional High School Class of 2025 proceeded to their seats.

Principal Charles Landrell, Jr. welcomed the class, as well as those in the audience to the celebration. He remarked how much this class in particular was thankful for all they have and routinely showed their appreciation.

In KRHS tradition, the Class of 2037 (this year’s kindergarten class) joined the chorus to sing

God Bless America and to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Student speaker Jacob McNutt, chosen by his peers and the faculty, also welcomed the crowd and recalled years in the Kearsarge District and how trips helped to bind them together. He finished by saying, always be respectful, always be responsible, and always be resilient.

During the traditional yellow rose ceremony, Seniors located a person who meant a lot to them.

Principal Landrell explained that yellow was not only the close color to the gold for KRHS, but was his mother’s favorite flower and his father raised them for her. They are symbolic of love and gratitude.

Class President Tori Wooten

gave the farewell speech, pointing out the obvious, that she’s a “ginger” and survived high school. She noted that the class made memories that they would not forget and it takes courage to keep going even though you may feel overwhelmed. She pointed

out that sometimes courage comes in the form of a whisper, not always a roar and life can be terrifying. But you are strong, you are capable and you are ready! Her final charge was to the Class of 2029 from the Class of 2025: “Be kind, be curious and be bold.”



Beth Camp '92, director of development, has been named the 2024-25 Staff Member of the Year for her extraordinary contributions to Colby-Sawyer College.



Jason McNutt addresses his fellow Kearsarge classmates.



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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

A recent study, published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, demonstrates that when the diabetes drug metformin is given to the mother during pregnancy, fetus growth is restricted, including a slowed maturing of the kidneys, which has been linked to a higher risk of obesity and insulin resistance in childhood. Metformin, which is prescribed to 50 million Americans annually, has long been used outside of pregnancy to control blood sugar, but it is now widely prescribed to pregnant women to reduce complications related to prediabetes, Type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes and obesity. While metformin is effective for controlling a pregnant woman's blood sugar and decreasing the odds of a large-for-gestational-age baby, little has been known about the drug's long-term effects on the newborn.

A new national survey shows that, despite intense marketing, most Americans do not want the new weight-loss injectables, such as Wegovy and Ozempic. The survey was conducted by Morning Consult for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a non-profit organization with more than 17,000 physician members, on Sept. 5, 2024, and included 2,205 adults. Asked to respond to the statement, "If I wanted to lose weight, I would take an injectable weight-loss drug, rather than make a diet change," only 23% agreed or strongly agreed, while 62% disagreed or strongly disagreed and another 14% said they were not interested because they did not need to lose weight. Among those wanting to lose weight, 73% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the idea of taking a weight-loss injectable. In addition, most people who begin the drugs discontinue their use, despite the likelihood of weight regain. Blue Cross Blue Shield affiliate Prime Therapeutics reported that fewer than half of users were still using the drugs at six months and fewer than one-third at 12 months. The findings were published in the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*.

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Dr. Esin Narli

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Schedule appointments for the time of day you're most comfortable. If you're a "morning person," for instance, or if your mornings are more leisurely, schedule appointments for then. Don't try to squeeze an appointment in during a brief break in another part of the day. Trying to get in and out quickly will only raise your stress level.

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Bow High School's 2025 Commencement

At Saint Anselm College, the graduating seniors of Bow High School gathered to mark the culmination of their secondary education, with 147 young men and women participating in the ceremony. Principal Matt Fisk lightened the formal proceedings by sharing a corny joke, a gesture that continued a tradition initially sparked by student Cole Cochrane during the school's morning announcements, weaving a thread of familiar levity through the momentous occasion.

The event was punctuated by heartfelt performances, including a rendition of the National Anthem by class secretary Emily Fauteux and a musical offering from the concert choir, each note resonating with the shared history of the class. Class president Adam Valpey addressed his peers, emphasizing that the true measure of the Class of 2025 extended far beyond academic achievements or extracurricular accolades, residing instead in the collective spirit and impact they had fostered within their community. As graduates stepped forward to receive their diplomas, many paused to acknowledge the profound influence their parents had exerted upon their life choices

and the aspirations they now carried for the future.

As the graduates prepared to step out into the wider world, their individual paths began to diverge, reflecting a spectrum of ambitions and interests. Conversations among the departing students revealed a diverse array of future plans, with some setting their sights on careers in economics, eager to delve into the complexities of global markets, while others felt drawn to the human-centered fields of social work and psychology, aspiring to make a tangible difference in the lives of others. The call of the skies beckoned a few, who spoke of pursuing aviation, ready to trade textbooks for flight manuals. Yet, amidst these clearly defined trajectories, there were also those, like James Menezes, who spoke with thoughtful honesty about the journey of exploration that lay ahead, acknowledging that their purpose was still unfolding, a quest for discovery rather than a predetermined destination. This mix of certainty and open-ended possibility painted a realistic portrait of the post-graduation landscape, where carefully laid plans coexist with the exciting, sometimes daunting, prospect of figuring things out along the way.



Troop 99 supported the Goffstown Historical Society honoring veterans of Bunker Hill.

Kearsarge School Board considering consolidation of area schools

Kearsarge Regional School District Superintendent John Fortney met with the Warner Select Board. He stated that a deep dive was done into all school facilities to determine the needs, and outlined the options in the study:

Option 1: Base Fix: Fortney stated that every building is in need of some repair. He stressed that the roof at the High School is one of the most pressing items at an estimated cost of \$6-10 million dollars. The roof at the middle school is also in need of replacement, with a ballpark estimate of \$40-

\$60 million dollars to make all the repairs to all the buildings. He stressed that just fixes what is known, it does not include things like air conditioning.

Option 2: Consolidation: Fortney explained that this would consolidate the middle and high schools and consider consolidating the four elementary schools.

He acknowledged the decline in enrollment, and spoke about the need to maximize the space they have.

The repair cost for Warner's Simonds Elementary is estimated to be \$10-14 million dollars.

Fortney explained that there is the possibility of consolidating down to three schools, and another consideration is two schools; North School in New London and a South school in Bradford with the consolidation of Sutton and Simonds Elementary schools.

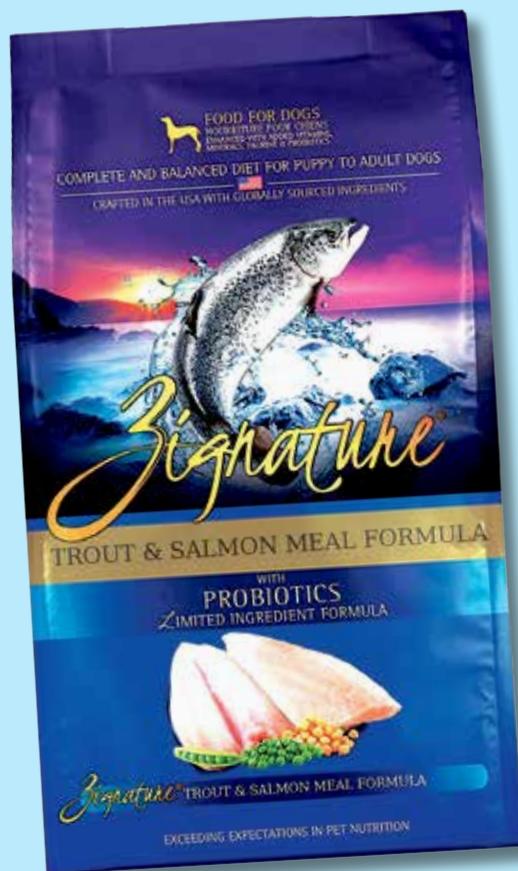
ary schools.

Option 3: One Regional School: One regional middle school, one regional high school and one NEW regional elementary. He estimated that the cost to build a regional elementary school is \$90 million.

He believes the School Board will be focusing on option 1 Base Fix and option 2 Consolidation. Fortney stated that the cost savings of consolidating will bring savings between \$2-4 million dollars in salaries and benefits.



New London Firefighters were dispatched to the area of Mile Marker 33 on Interstate 89 Northbound for a vehicle fire. Upon arrival on the scene, crews found a well involved Subaru Forester in the breakdown lane. The fire was quickly extinguished.



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Advertising Design, Production & Website

DEADLINE:

Monday at 5pm prior to Friday publication.

ADVERTISEMENT ERRORS:

We will be responsible for errors in advertisements only to the extent of correcting the same in the next issue using space equal to the items in error.

LETTERS POLICY:

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

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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



Publisher's Perspective

Advice To Area Graduates

Congratulations to those who just graduated or are about to graduate from one of our fine area high schools. It is traditional, at this time of year, for just about anyone to offer you his or her sage advice on what to do with the rest of your life. Here, for what it's worth, is my contribution. LDB

GET OUT OF TOWN: Your hometown has nurtured and supported you all these years, but it has also limited your perspective on the world around you.

EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS: This great country has a lot to offer, much of which you have not experienced. Explore, discover, grow.

CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES: Much of what you "KNOW," you actually just suspect, based on the limits of your education, upbringing and environment. Stereotypes breed prejudice which breeds bigotry. Challenge them at every opportunity.

CHERISH DIVERSITY: America owes its greatness, in large part, because it has been a melting pot of races, cultures and ideas. Different is not divisive. Reach out and understand what your fellow man has to offer.

LISTEN: Just like in class, too often our misunderstanding of the other person's position results from the fact that we just were not listening. I've always learned more with open ears than with an open mouth.

DARE TO DREAM: Don't be satisfied. Demand excellence. I was never much of a philosopher, but this quote has stayed with me my whole life. "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, man can achieve." Believe in your self and go for it! Don't be afraid to risk failure in order to achieve success. Remember failure is only permanent if you give up. Admit

your mistakes, learn from them and move on.

BE HUMBLE: As good as you are, there is always someone better, but that should not hold you back. I was a pretty good high school catcher, having earned my varsity baseball letter in the 8th grade. I thought my success would continue at UNH until I had to compete against another catcher. His name was Carlton Fisk, now a member of the baseball Hall of Fame.

SLOW DOWN: Today's life is lived at such a fast pace that it is easy to lose track of what is truly important. What's your hurry? Many of my generation will live into their 80's and yours may well be the first to have a life span of over 100 years. You have plenty of time for fame, fortune and success. Take time to enjoy the ride.

RETURN TO YOUR ROOTS: Once you have done the above, come back and share your knowledge and experience with the town of your upbringing.

GIVE SOMETHING BACK: Do more than just live out your life, participate in it. Get involved, not just with your family and job. Coach a youth sports team, work with the Boys or Girl Scouts, join the Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, men's or women's club, or PTO. Get off your backside and make it happen!

HONOR AMERICA: Don't hesitate to point out our faults and protest failings, but always remember that this great experiment in personal liberty, America, remains the world's best example of personal liberty and individual responsibility.

We certainly are not perfect, but by any standard of freedom, equality and justice, we set the example for the rest of the world.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

It's always easy to criticize our schools. However it's equally important to share & praise the hard work the students and staff in our district.

This week both the middle and high school shared some preliminary SAS testing details.

HDMS—"Our 6th and 7th grade students scored 3% over the state average on the Math SAS and our 8th grade students scored 4% over the state average on the Science SAS."

"HDHS Surpasses State Average in NH SAS Science Scores!

For the second year in a row, HDHS has achieved over 50% passing student scores on the NH SAS Science assessment—well above the statewide average of 36% for Grade 11. Last year, our school reached a 50% passing rate, a 15% increase from the previous year. This year, we've raised the bar even higher, with 53% of our students achieving passing marks.

Even more impressive, this year the entire grade averaged a score of 1153—meeting the passing benchmark of Level 3!"

This outstanding accomplishment highlights the

dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students.

As a parent it's encouraging to see the continued progress in a positive direction and seeing the comparison to the state is something everyone should all be proud of!

Kathryn McGinn, Hillsboro

Messenger Delivery

For the past several years we have e-mailed The Messenger to nearly 1,000 readers each week.

Recently, our subscription service "Constant Contact" nearly doubled its fee, which forced us to discontinue this practice.

Those who wish may still receive a free weekly downloadable copy of The Messenger on their computer simply by typing in "granitequill.com" and following the directions.



Henniker Community School students stopped at Pats Peak for the annual History Walk.

Dining Guide

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We can't wait for everyone to see it!!

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Sat 6am-2pm-Breakfast ALL DAY; Lunch 11am-2pm & Breakfast Buffet
Sun 7am-1pm BREAKFAST MENU ONLY & Breakfast Buffet

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27 Main St., Hancock 525-3342
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<p>AUGUST 23 The Jazz Sanctuary House Band 6:00pm (Saturday) Bass, drum and keyboard and fabulous vocals Swinging Rock and Jazz</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 14 Shizue Sano 2:00pm (Sunday) By popular demand, the classical concert pianist is performing again at the Deering Community Church Bring Your Own Chair or Blanket! Events held at the Deering Town Pavilion (except Sept 14th) If weather is inclement, concert will be inside the church</p>

763 Deering Center Rd, Deering, NH
(603) 464-5643 for more info
deeringchurch@mcttelecom.com
Details on Facebook

**BRADFORD
Independence Day
Celebration**

SATURDAY • JUNE 28, 2025

5K ROAD RACE 7AM
7AM registration • 9AM race start
38th Parks and Rec 5K Road Race. Registration opens 7am at the Bradford Area Community Center, race starts 9am • Info at bradfordnh.org

BREAKFAST BUFFET 8-11AM
CHURCH FAIR 9AM-1PM
Breakfast buffet, games for children, bake table and vendors at the Bradford Community Church

FIRE DEPARTMENT BBQ 4-6PM
Available by pre-order, buy tickets ahead of time from members of the Fire Dept.

CELEBRATION ON EAST MAIN STREET 5-9PM
East Main will be closed from NH 114 to 150 E Main St. Bring a chair or blanket to set up on the lawn at the Bradford Historical Society for a great view of the fireworks and fun!

SQUARE DANCING 5-6:30PM
Demo & audience participation with Bradford Country Squares

FOOD TRUCKS 5-9PM
Willy's Weiner Wagon, Becky's Desserts and Pies, and Lure Bistro

NICK'S OTHER BAND 7-9PM
High-energy rock 'n roll dance music with local favorites

FIREWORKS WITH YOUR FRIENDS 9PM
—Rain date June 29th—

Please check BradfordNH.org and Facebook, Bradford NH Parks & Recreation for updated information

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

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School Days



Henniker Community School 5th & 7th grade classes recently celebrated their graduation from the DARE program, which is taught each year by Officer Rachael Lacombe of the Henniker Police Dept. The kids were treated to cake, received their certificates of completion and goodie bags, and celebrated the winners of the poster and essay contests.



The Dunbarton 6th grade came to help clean headstones at the Center Cemetery. What a great group of students! They did an awesome job.



Andover Emergency Services visited Andover Elementary Middle School. The kids explored our firetruck, ambulance and police cruisers. They asked great questions and we had an awesome time.



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would like to thank all of
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Neighbors for making
our first six months
a success!

*Bob's
Team*

**Please join us during our
new summer hours:**

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Friday 9:30am to 3:30pm

Saturday 9:30am to 3:30pm

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Sports



Hopkinton High sophomore cross country and track star Madeleine Lane recently defended her titles in both the 1,600 (5 minutes, 5.95 seconds) and 3,200 meters (10:53.7) and helped the Hawks defend their 4x800-meter relay crown to backstop the team's second straight Division III state title. On Saturday Maddy Lane crossed the finish line to claim the New England Interscholastic Track and Field Championship title in the 3,200 meter - Congratulations Maddy.

DIVISION II BASEBALL SEMIFINALS

No. 2 John Stark 9, No. 6 Hanover 0: The John Stark pitching staff, led by senior Hayden Pond, combined for a shutout, and Pond's two-run single in the bottom of the fourth provided the game-winning runs as the Generals punched their tickets to Saturday's Division II championship game with a 9-0 victory over Hanover .

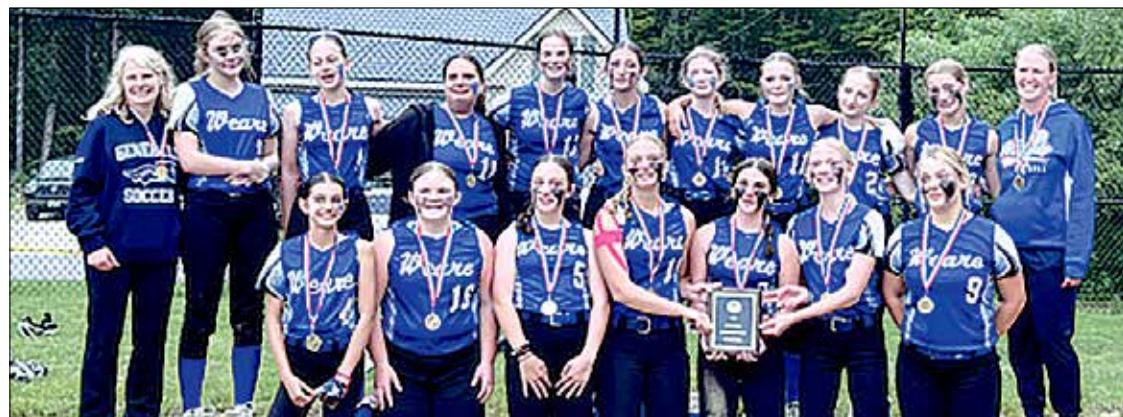
DIVISION II BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

No. 1 Souhegan 4, No. 2 John Stark 3: The Generals took an early lead and Player of the Year Chase Philibotte struck out nine Saber batters, but John Stark committed a couple of errors early that allowed Souhegan to claw its way back into the game, and weren't quite as crisp in the field as usual as

Souhegan defeated the Generals to win the Division II baseball championship.

DIVISION III LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

No. 1 Coe-Brown 14, No. 4 Hopkinton 7: The Bears got a strong start and scored five goals in the first quarter while the Hawks trailed with two goals. By the start of the third quarter, the Hawks cut the game as close as 8-6, but lacrosse is a game of runs. Seniors Gil Bean and Ryan Rodler, and junior Garrett Ward all scored hat-tricks to lead the Bears. On defense, sophomore midfielder Colby Strum showed up with five caused turnovers and three ground balls to lead the team. After Hopkinton's quick goal, Coe-Brown went on another five-goal tear and managed to hold their opposition scoreless in the fourth quarter.



The Weare Middle School softball team beat Hopkinton to bring home the Tri-County League D3 West championship.



Hillsborough Conservation Commission member Jim Riddle, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to intern Shawna (Crosby) Caron for her work mapping trails and conservation areas in Hillsborough.

“Hillsborough Hikes” Trail Mapping Project Complete

Antioch University graduate student Shawna (Crosby) Caron has completed her project mapping the trails and conservation areas in Hillsborough. During the 3.5 month project, Shawna and HCC member Jim Riddle hiked various conservation area trails in Hillsborough.

Shawna used a GPS device to capture data for creating individual maps of the conservation areas and trails. Shawna also created an overall map of the Town, showing the locations of the conservation areas and trails, along with brief descriptions of the properties.

Printed maps of Hillsborough’s conservation areas are available at area businesses, including Fuller Public Library. Maps can also be accessed online by viewing the Town’s tax map at: <https://next.axisgis.com/Hillsbor->

oughNH/#

To view and print individual parcel maps, turn on the “conservation map” layer, zoom in and click on a conservation property, and the trail map and photos of the area should appear next to the AVITAR property cards.

In the coming weeks, all of the maps will be posted on the Hillsborough Conservation Commission’s page on the Town’s website. Hiking trails will also appear as a layer on the tax map.

This summer, the Hillsborough Conservation Commission will be printing the maps on metal signs and posting them at the trailheads of Town-owned conservation areas. The HCC thanks and commends Shawna Caron for a big job well done!



Stone Arch Players President Gene Gould met with some members of the End 68 Hours of Hunger program supporting SAU 34. Left to Right: Dorothy O'Rourke, Gene Gould, Jessica Granger, Erica Hoegen, and Michael Bagtaz. Stone Arch Players presented them with a check for \$204, which was 10% of the ticket sales for their first ever production, “The Mad Tea Party”.



WASHINGTON: True colonial post & beam, 4 bedrooms, built around 1800, in the lovely center of Washington, NH across from the iconic Washington town common. Near lakes, streams, ponds for many different forms of recreation, such as fishing, skiing, snowmobile trails, boating, golf and just a few miles from both Pillsbury and Sunapee State Parks. All Washington residents have access to Millen Pond and Camp Morgan. Currently an antique shop and residence, could be a great location for an Air B&B, small retail shop or large family.
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Fracestown Rec Department

Fourth of July CELEBRATION

This family centered patriotic celebration, sponsored by the Fracestown Recreation Committee, is designed to bring the community together with fun for all ages. Now is the time to celebrate with our friends!



Schedule of Events

**12pm - Pickleball Tournament, at the tennis courts
sponsored by Fracestown Pickleball Players**

2pm - Hotdog Eating Contest

2:30pm - Apple Pie Contest, delivery & judging, awards to follow

2:30pm-3pm - Bike Parade and Skate Park Demo

3pm - Reading of the Declaration of Independence

**3pm-6pm - Free Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Soft Drinks, and Popsicles
sponsored by the Houston Family**

3:30pm-4:30pm - Dodgeball Tournament, at the tennis courts

3:30pm-5:30pm - Kids Games, at the sports complex

4:30pm - Patriotic Pet Parade

5pm-6:45pm - Home Run Derby, at the baseball field

**7:30pm - Bonfire & Live Music by Lonesome Train
at the soccer field and main stage**

**All events are at the Main Stage unless otherwise listed
75 Old County Road S, Fracestown NH**

Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Raymond A Houghton Sr.

Hillsboro - Raymond A Houghton Sr., born April 22, 1943, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his family on June 10th, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 41 years Donna (McCulloch) Houghton, his sister Merlene (Houghton) and her husband Richard Patten, sisters-in-law Sharon Houghton (Wallace) and Janis Houghton (Virgil Sr.). As well as by his children Pam Houghton and her partner Doug, Tracy and Warren Rooks, Raymond and Annette Houghton, Bridget and Jesse Kelley. He cherished his nine grandchildren, Michael & Jennifer Houghton, Caylin, Christopher and Joey Kozlowski, Serenedy, Alyssa, Ryan and Curtis Kelley. Ray had many nieces and nephews that adored him. He is also remembered by many other children that affectionately called him BEEPA. He is predeceased by his son Ryan Houghton, his parents Virgil Sr. and Mabel (Wheeler) Houghton, his siblings Ronald Sr., Virgil Sr., Wallace Houghton, James & Cheryl (Ashley) Houghton, Gloria Lugtig, and Francis & Rhonda (Geddes) Houghton. There will be a celebration of life that is open to the public at the American Legion located at 538 West Main Street, Hillsboro, NH, from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday June 29th, 2025.



Lawrence "Larry" M. DeLacy

Hillsboro - It is with the heaviest of hearts we share that on June 9, 2025 at the age of 62, Lawrence "Larry" M. DeLacy passed away unexpectedly. He will be immensely missed by his loving wife and best friend, Jennifer DeLacy; his daughters, Kathryn (DeLacy) Treadwell and Erin DeLacy; their spouses, Aaron Treadwell and Jason Taylor; and his two beloved grandchildren, Brayden and Charlotte Treadwell. Larry was born September 24, 1962 to Albert O. DeLacy Jr. and Catherine (Harrington) DeLacy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After the passing of his mother he was adopted by Thomas R. Dolan and Mary T. (Harrington) Dolan. He was a devoted brother to Albert O. DeLacy III, Richard J. DeLacy, M. Joseph DeLacy, Paul Dolan and Jacquelyn (Dolan) Santini. A service for family, friends and community was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 19th at the Smith Memorial Congregational Church located at 30 West Main Street Hillsboro, NH 03244. A private burial will take place at a later date for family at the Boscawen Veterans Cemetery.



Christine Marie Lettre

Weare - Christine Marie Lettre, 61, of Weare, N.H., passed away surrounded by loved ones at Elliot Hospital on June 5, 2025. Born in Dorchester, Mass., on July 18, 1963, she was a daughter of Thomas and Claire (Monahan) Holt. Christine is survived by her husband, David Lettre of Weare; her mother, Claire Holt of Delray Beach, Florida; her daughters, Annette Chaput and her husband, Brian of Merrimack, and Jennifer Omer of Manchester; her stepdaughter,



Kera Hartlen and her husband, Blaine of Whitefield; her brother, Michael Holt and his wife, Karen of Stoneham, Mass.; her sisters, Julie and Amy Holt of Lantana, Florida, and Jessica Holt-Lopez of Delray Beach, Florida; seven grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends. She was predeceased by her father, Thomas Holt. A memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 9 a.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 16 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, N.H. Family and friends are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, Christine's family asks that family and friends contribute to a fund for a memorial bench in Christine's memory to be placed at her favorite lake in New Hampshire. Contributions can be sent by PayPal to paypal.me/AnnetteChaput, Venmo @Annette-Chaput or by check made out to Annette Chaput and mailed to 17 Woodland Drive, Merrimack, NH 03054.

Ruth Elaine (White) Dobson

Hopkinton - Ruth Elaine (White) Dobson, 95, of Hopkinton, NH passed away peacefully on June 5, 2025, at Pine Rock Manor in Warner, NH, with her beloved family by her side. She was born in Portland, ME on November 11, 1929, to her late parents, Winfield Stanley and Edith Maude (Smith) White. Ruth is survived by her four children; her daughter, Elaine Dobson Collins of Warner, NH, her daughter, Debra Jean Fornier of Salisbury, NH, her son, David Winfield Dobson of Gilmanton, NH and her son, Brian Joseph Dobson and his wife, Donna of Washington, NH; her eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest.



A graveside funeral service for Ruth will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at the Pine Grove Cemetery, 9 Waites Landing Rd., Falmouth, Maine 04105. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Ruth's memory to a charity of your own choosing.

Holly Lynn Franz

New Boston - Holly Lynn Franz, 31, of New Boston NH, peacefully left us to soar with the angels on June 10, 2025. She was surrounded by loved ones and the love of all who knew her. Holly was born April 2, 1994, in Arlington Heights, Illinois and moved to Bedford, NH at age 7. She was diagnosed with a rare neurodegenerative disease, Friedreich's Ataxia, when she was 11. Although Holly became a full-time wheelchair user at 15, she did not let her condition define her. After completing high school, she went on to earn her BA in Fashion Marketing at SNHU. Holly is predeceased by her mother, Hannelore Federspill, who was her greatest advocate; Holly was also preceded in death by her stillborn twin sisters, and her beloved dogs, Zoey and Jett. She is survived by her father, Rob Franz, her stepfather, Eric Federspill, her "Uncle" Frank, and legions of close friends and family. A Celebration of Life was held Monday June 16 at Pat's Peak Resort. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider making a donation to FARA at curefa.org.



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FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUILDING A FIRE PIT FOR YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE: PART II



By: Joyce Bosse

Here are more issues to think about before you build your fire pit.

Where should you put it? Placement is very important. For fire safety, first of all, it's crucial that your fire pit is not located too close to your home or any other structures, as well as trees, shrubs or other plants. You'll also want to check with your local municipality for rules and regulations regarding the placement of fire pits; some areas also require that you apply for a permit.

Beyond safety considerations, you'll want to decide whether your fire pit will be a central focal point for your outdoor space, or if it will serve as a natural boundary feature. Where you place the fire pit will also help you decide on its size and shape.

Don't be afraid to DIY: While you could hire a professional to build your fire pit for you, it's actually not that hard to construct a fire pit for less cost — and in minutes — using the right products.

Opt for durability: Creating a fire pit using concrete blocks has definite advantages. Your new fire pit will be strong enough to withstand the elements so you'll be able to enjoy it for a long time. However, you will also be able to pick up and move your firepit elsewhere if your design changes, as long as it is installed on the surface.

Keeping these factors in mind, you should be able to create a beautiful fire pit that will transform your backyard into a cozy spot to gather and make memories with friends and family for years to come.

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Events: Community Bulletin Board

SATURDAY JUNE 21

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Join the New London Conservation Commission as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. There will be a Bird Walk at the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, 447 Newport Rd. from 7-8am. At 9:30am-10:45 at the Tracy Memorial Library, 304 Main Street, there will be presentations about the hiking trails, the "Natural World in New London" and a multi-media presentation about the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog. The Open House at the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog will follow from 11-3pm and the "Ruth White Commemorative Botany Walk" guided by botanist John Walsh, from Noon-1:30.

MASK PAINTING: At the Deering Library at 10:30am, with crafty resident Anne Cavagnaro. Come and show your creative side! All supplies will be provided. Ages 6 to adult.

SUMMER THYME TEA: at Smith Memorial Church at 2pm. Seating is limited; reservations are highly encouraged. Admission is \$20 by reservation or \$25 at the door on that day. The event is accessible. Please contact Judy at 603-715-1414 or by e-mail at judy@hatco.com to make your reservation. A delicious, full three course menu of summer flavors will be served, and there will be an opportunity to shop at the Tea Emporium. Other surprises await.

DEERING CONCERT: Decatur Creek, 6pm at the Town pavilion. Bring your own chair or blanket.

SUNDAY JUNE 22

RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Charles Hambrick-Stowe, Smith Memorial Church, UCC. Noon - A Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Opportunity. Why the war was spiritually and theologically complicated. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on ways the issues confronting Christians in the Revolution are still with us in contemporary American society.

MONDAY JUNE 23

AA MEETING: 7:30pm St. Mary's Church, Hillsboro.

WARNER CONCERT: Colin Nevins 4-6pm at The Mainstream Warner Stage. Free- Donations accepted.

TUESDAY JUNE 24

HENNIKER CONCERT: Scott Kirby with Gary Green will be performing at the gazebo in Henniker from 6pm to 8pm. For over 35 years, internationally acclaimed artist Scott Kirby has been playing laid-back Jimmy Buffett type songs. Sponsor: Davis and Towle Insurance. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Community Center.

AA MEETING: 7:30pm St. Mary's Church, Hillsboro.

WARNER CONCERT: Colin Nevins 4-6pm at The Mainstream Warner Stage. Free- Donations accepted.

NEW BOSTON CONCERT: Freese Brothers Big Band 6-7:30pm. New Boston Common. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy a summer evening of music, friends, and fun!

THURSDAY JUNE 26

LISTEN & LUNCH: Folk Soul Duo. The Listen & Lunch outdoor music series from noon to 1pm in Depot Park, 1 Grove Street in Peterborough. Event is free and open to the public.

HILLSBORO CONCERT: Kick-Off Summer with a concert in Butler Park, Hillsborough, sponsored by Fuller Public Library. In Clover will perform from 6-7pm, BYO chairs

and dancing shoes! Rain will move the concert to the library. Butler Park Summer Concert Series is every Thursday through the summer.

HANCOCK CONCERT: Susie Burke and Kent Allyn. The concerts run from 6-7:30 at the Gazebo, and are free to the public.

AA MEETING: 7:30pm Smith Memorial Church, Hillsboro.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

COLD BLOODED CREATURES: at 2pm, at the Deering Town Hall. Please join us for a family program titled What might you see? Lizards? Frogs? Maybe some bugs? This program is presented by the Wildlife Encounters Ecology & Wellness Center and is hosted by the Deering Library and Deering Association.

YARD SALE: and Barbeque at South Congregational Church, 20 Church St., Newport 9am to 2pm. South Church will be part of the Newport Town Wide Yard sale. Lots of attic treasures and basement relics.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 28 & 29

FIELD DAY: Henniker: The Contoocook Valley Radio Club will be operating Field Day, the annual ARRL Emergency Preparedness Exercise, from 2pm on Saturday to 2pm on Sunday. If you would like to participate, or learn more about Amateur Radio, please call 603-428-3840, before Friday, June 27th.

SUNDAY JUNE 29

SOLSTICE SING & PIE SOCIAL: at Henniker Quaker Meetinghouse, 529 Quaker St. 4pm. Join voices in song with friends and neighbors, enjoy the historic ambiance of 1799 Meetinghouse, and indulge in homemade pies, both savory and sweet. Come sing with us!!! Free. All ages are invited and welcome. For more information call 603-995-4311.

RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Charles Hambrick-Stowe Smith Memorial Church, UCC. Noon---A Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Opportunity. Ways the Revolution changed religious life in America. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on ways the issues confronting Christians in the Revolution are still with us in contemporary American society.

TUESDAY JULY 1

MUSIC ON THE COMMON: The Pop Farmers at Greenfield's Oak Park at 6:30pm. Free to the public.

HENNIKER CONCERT: The Rebel Collective will be performing at the gazebo in Henniker from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Community Center.

THURSDAY JULY 3

LISTEN & LUNCH: C2 Revue. The sixth annual Listen & Lunch outdoor music series from noon to 1pm in Depot Park, 1 Grove St. in Peterborough. The event is free and open to the public.

AA MEETING: 7:30pm Smith Memorial Church, Hillsboro.

SUNDAY JULY 6

TAG SALE: Washington Congregational Church Tag Sale in the lower level of the church. Plenty of parking behind the church. Lots of bargains and attic treasures. Come and check it out between 9am and 1pm.

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RECORDS DESTRUCTION

School Administration Unit 24 (Henniker, John Stark and Weare School Districts)

Notice to all persons who graduated in 2018 or prior from John Stark Regional High School, Weare School District or Henniker Community School.

The John Stark School District may have cumulative educational records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after August 5, 2025. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the Registrar at 618 N. Stark Highway, Weare NH 03281, 603-529-5298 or email at Leslie.ouellet@sau24.org prior to July 31, 2025, to make arrangements for obtaining these records.

The school district shall maintain permanent transcripts that include a record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed and year completed.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RECORDS DESTRUCTION

School Administration Unit 24 (Henniker, John Stark and Weare School Districts)

Notice to all persons born in or prior to 1998 who attended John Stark Regional High School, Weare School District or Henniker Community School, and was identified as a Special Education student or received special education services or was identified as a 504 student, or to their parents/guardians:

The John Stark School District may have special education records and 504 records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after August 15, 2025. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the main office secretary at 618 N. Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281, 603-529-7675 or email at Kathryn.cyr@sau24.org prior to August 12, 2025, to make arrangements for obtaining these records.

*The school district shall maintain, permanently, a record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed. *

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