

Merry Christmas to all!

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

# The Messenger

Free ♦ Our 154th Year ♦ Issue 51 ♦ December 19, 2025



## Happy Hanaka

Hanaka is likely a phonetic spelling or slight misspelling of Hanukkah (or Chanukah), the Jewish eight-day "Festival of Lights" celebrating the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple and the miracle of oil lasting eight days, marked by lighting a nine-branched menorah. It can also refer to a specific brand or store, such as a Japanese sake tasting/shop in California or a clothing concept store.

## Goffstown Chief Retires



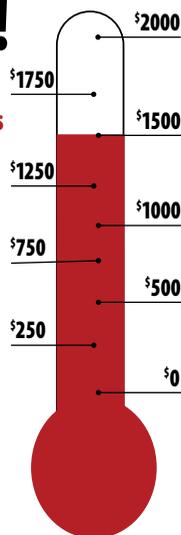
Congratulations to Goffstown Chief Shawn Murray as he retires after 45 years of dedicated service. A brief ceremony and light refreshments was held at the Goffstown Fire Department.

## Urgent!

Help us feed our needy neighbors this CHRISTMAS... Please send your check today!

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03244

Contributions of any size are needed.



## Henniker legend Wayne Patenaude dies at 87

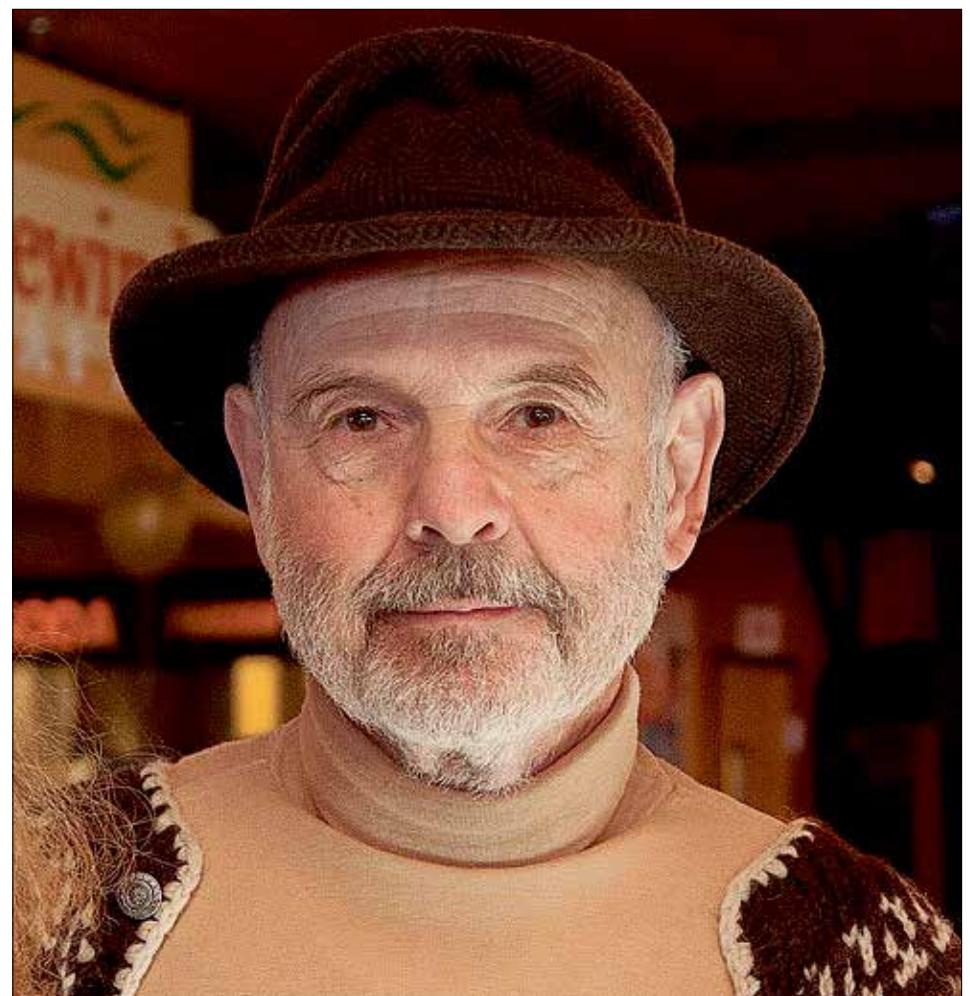
Henniker legend and Pats Peak's patriarch, Wayne Patenaude, passed away peacefully at his home on December 4th after a period of declining health. He was 87.

Wayne had a passion for building businesses, and Pats Peak was one of the many he was involved with. Originally built in 1962 with his three brothers, Pats Peak recently celebrated its 62nd year of operation. One of his many mantras over the years was that "it needed to be the best." He proved that time and time again with his aggressive investments in Pats Peak to make it the premier learn-to-ski mountain in New Hampshire.

He was innovative in snowmaking and business ventures, savvy like a good Yankee, and never met a technology he didn't embrace. Pats Peak stands tall in the ski business as one of the last surviving independently owned ski areas in New England. The stewardship of the Patenaude family has allowed Pats Peak to thrive.

Not only was Wayne a great ski operator, he was a family man.

Wayne's legacy, spirit, and vision will forever be part of Pats Peak. Our thoughts are with the Patenaude family during this time.



Wayne Patenaude.

## New Boston man arrested after 100 mph pursuit

A New Boston man was arrested for multiple charges after speeding more than 100 mph and a pursuit that ended in Bedford. On Sunday, Dec. 14th, Trooper Brian Knell of the Troop B barracks observed a white 2018 BMW 3 Series traveling 123 mph on Interstate 293 northbound in Manchester. The driver

passed Trooper Knell and failed to stop when Trooper Knell activated his emergency lights. A pursuit ensued. The driver struck a 2021 black Hyundai Palisade, causing disabling damage to the BMW, which came to a full stop soon after.

The driver of the Hyundai Palisade was not injured in the crash.

The driver of the BMW was taken into custody and identified as Jose Munoz, 26, of New Boston. Munoz was arrested and charged with felony reckless conduct – deadly weapon, as well as misdemeanor charges of conduct after an accident, disobeying an officer, and criminal mischief, along with various violation-level offenses.

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Rise.

## **Yesteryear** *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

### **December 20, 2024**

Captured after pursuit through Hopkinton & Concord  
Antrim Fire Department urges residents to number their houses  
Washington standoff closed Route 31

### **December 22, 2023**

Hillsborough's K-9 Voight captures criminal  
Hillsboro-Deering DECA recognized as Thrive Level Chapter  
John Stark DECA achieves Thrive Level status  
Franklin woman faces DWI charge after fatal accident  
Major expansion of New England College's Athletic Center

### **December 23, 2022**

Henniker Select Board approves two new cruisers  
New London Select Board exploring land purchase for police station  
You can't keep a good teacher out of a Henniker classroom  
Deering Conservation Commission conducts national Resource Inventory

### **December 24, 2021**

Local Girl Scouts join Wreaths Across America  
Covid spike at Monadnock Hospital  
Weare students Food Drive aids Food Pantry  
Newbury Fire & Rescue kept busy over the weekend

### **December 25, 2020**

Hillsborough mother and two children survive fire  
H-D Middle School teacher positions restored  
Weare third graders study impressionist painters  
Weare campground asks selectmen to enforce rules

### **December 27, 2019**

Henniker veteran receives a Quilt of Honor  
Hillsborough Planning Board approves "Life Forest"  
New Boston Police seek hit & run driver  
Frigid cold hampers Bradford firefighters

### **December 28, 2018**

New London man stabbed to death in Hillsborough  
Goffstown fire leaves family homeless for the holidays  
Hillsborough Chamber's promise ambitious  
Peterborough targeted for major solar panel initiative

### **December 29, 2017**

Hillsborough woman injured in Hancock accident  
Weare Middle School excels at virtual competition  
New Boston Police Officer dies suddenly  
Bow officials hope to expand tax base

### **December 23, 2016**

Henniker program turns parking tickets to food  
The Grinch is stealing Goffstown Christmas presents  
ConVal High School Principal on administrative leave  
Gary Snair sentenced to 18 years in prison

### **December 24, 2015**

Newport to eliminate 6 teachers and 2 para-educators  
Ronald Magoon named Franklin Savings President  
Shots fired in Deering father-son dispute  
Police report a grinch stealing New Boston presents

# Crews from nine towns respond to assist Antrim in battling garage fire

Antrim Fire was dispatched Wednesday December 10th at 8:15 p.m. for a 1st alarm garage fire with fire showing. The first officer on the scene reported a commercial auto repair garage with heavy fire showing on the C side of the building with fire through the roof.

The garage was built in 1930 and was 1861 square feet with a heavy fuel load inside. Engine companies made an initial de-

fensive/exterior attack due to a partial roof collapse and several explosions in the building.

Water was supplied from two pressurized hydrants and several tankers. Several areas were difficult to extinguish due to a void where another roof had been built over the original.

The fire was upgraded to a 2nd alarm assignment for additional engine companies to

rotate out crews.

The bulk of the fire was knocked down in 30 minutes with extensive overhaul for complete extinguishment.

One firefighter suffered a minor facial injury during operations.

The fire is under investi-

gation and is undetermined at this time but is not deemed suspicious. The building and most of the contents are a total loss.

Thank you to mutual aid partners for providing assistance.

Agencies on scene- Antrim

Fire, Antrim Police, Bennington Fire, Deering Fire, Frankestown Fire, Hancock Fire, Henniker Fire, Hillsboro Fire & Ambulance, Peterboro Fire & Ambulance, Stoddard Fire, and Capital Area 1.

*Photo and news release courtesy of Antrim Fire and Rescue.*



Auto repair garage fire in Antrim.



Deering man arrested for Felony Burglary. On December 10th, the Hillsboro Police took a report of a burglary on Pearl Street in Hillsboro. Information obtained on December 11, 2025, by investigators led them to an address on Martin Road in Deering. On December 11th, officers executed a search warrant. Corey Hale, age 37, a resident of Deering (formerly of Newport), was arrested at the scene and charged with one count of Felony Burglary.





**SPECIAL**

THRU DECEMBER 31ST

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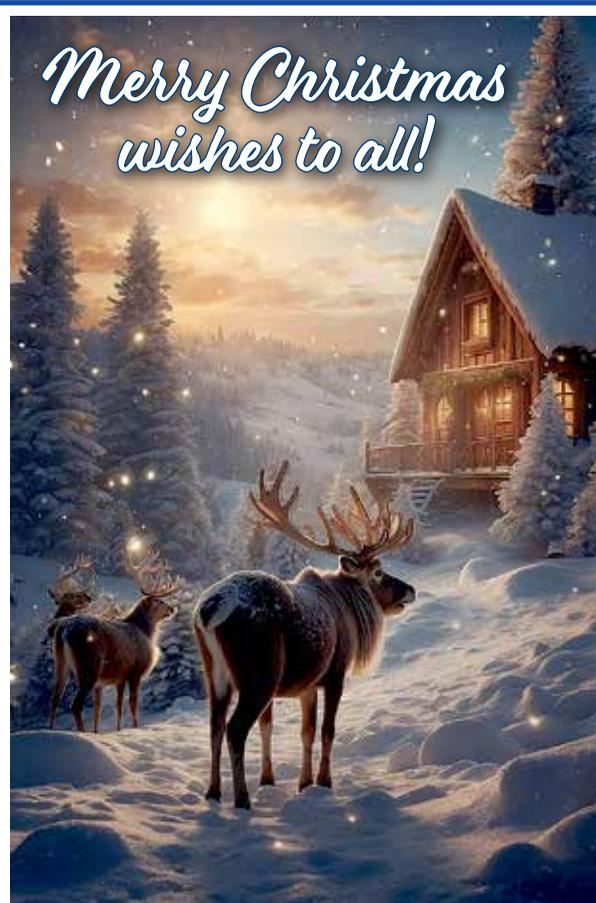
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**Coming up: Happy New Year!!**

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**Hometown heroes**



Welcome the newest recruit to the Hopkinton Fire Department — Abby Houston, who officially completed her Firefighter Level 1 & 2 training. Her grandfather, Bob Houston, served as Hopkinton's Fire Chief from 1973 to 1979. Carrying forward his legacy, Abby represents the strength of tradition and the future of service in the community.



Long time supporter of East Andover and Andover Fire Departments, and former member of the Andover Rescue Squad, Irene Jewett was laid to rest. Last respects were paid to Irene with a formal goodbye. Our thoughts are with Irene's family and friends.



Employees of the Newport Police Department donated 97 toys this year for the annual Toys for Tots drive at WCNL.

# No injuries reported in Sunapee one-vehicle accident

On Wednesday, December 10th, at 19:10, Sunapee Fire, Sunapee Police, and Newport Ambulance were called to the area of Route 11 by Holmes Lane for a possible motor vehicle accident. The initial information that dispatch received from 911 was that a tractor-trailer unit was sideways in the roadway, with no other information. New London Ambulance 5, who happened upon the accident while responding

to a call in Springfield, informed responding Sunapee units that it was a confirmed motor vehicle accident and that a truck was off the road into the ditch.

When the first arriving Sunapee Fire units arrived on scene at 19:15, they located a pickup truck with a large car trailer attached, with a vehicle in the trailer, that had gone off the road and came to a stop after colliding with the guardrail and multiple trees. The

lone occupant of the vehicle was uninjured and had self-extricated before the arrival of rescue crews, so Newport Ambulance was cancelled.

Sunapee Fire discovered a small diesel spill coming from the pickup truck that was quickly contained and mitigated by Sunapee

Fire personnel.

Sunapee Fire, Sunapee Police, and New London Police remained on the scene while Reeds Truck Services recovered the truck, trailer, and vehicle that was inside the trailer.

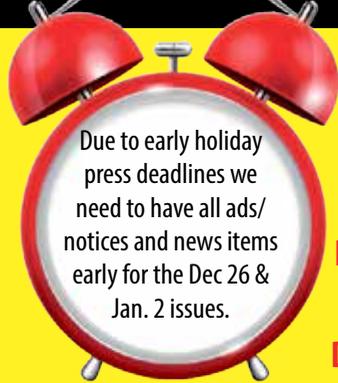
During the incident, Route 11 was closed down in both direc-

tions so crews could properly recover the vehicle. A short detour was set up around this incident via Main Street and Holmes Lane in George's Mills.

All units cleared the scene once the vehicles were removed, and the roadway had been treated by NHDOT at 23:21.



## EARLY DEADLINES



**the next  
2 weeks!**

Due to early holiday press deadlines we need to have all ads/ notices and news items early for the Dec 26 & Jan. 2 issues.

**For the Dec 26 issue:  
DEADLINE: FRI, DEC 19 5:00 PM**

**For the Jan 2 issue:  
DEADLINE: FRI, DEC 26 5:00 PM**

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\*\*Not all eligible products are pictured. See store for more details.

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## DENTAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN TRAVELING



Dr. Esin Narli

**Q:** We're planning an overseas vacation. Any tips for dental hygiene?

**A:** The first piece of advice is to schedule a cleaning and a thorough dental exam at least a couple of weeks before leaving on your trip. Knowing your mouth is in good shape before you leave can ease any anxiety about having to deal with a problem while you're abroad. If you have a major procedure coming up, have it finished before you go. Or schedule it for your return. You don't want to have to deal with a dentist who doesn't know you – and whom you don't know – if you have an emergency in another country. Have your dentist's office phone number with you if you need to contact him in an emergency.

Certainly when you're packing, don't forget your dental equipment: toothbrush, floss, toothpaste and whatever other items you may use regularly. Remember that in these days of the TSA and heightened security, you may not be able to bring toothpaste or mouthwash on a flight in your carry-on. And don't be tempted to rinse your mouth with tap water from the plane's rest room. Everyone's situation, of course, is different. If you're planning an overseas trip, talk with your dentist about what you, specifically, should have with you and what you should do if an emergency arises.

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## TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

Common cardiovascular drugs are linked to a lower risk of dementia in older age, according to a new study published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*. Cardiovascular disease and dementia are major public health challenges that cause a significant burden on both healthcare and society. The new study shows that long-term use of

common cardiovascular drugs is associated with lower risk of dementia later in life. The results of the study show that long-term use of anti-hypertensive drugs, cholesterol-lowering drugs, diuretics and blood-thinning drugs is associated with between 4 and 25 percent lower risk of dementia. Combinations of the drugs had stronger protective effects than if they were used alone. The researchers also found that, on the contrary, the use of antiplatelet drugs may be linked to a higher risk of dementia. Antiplatelet drugs are medicines used to prevent strokes and stop platelets from clumping together. One possible explanation is that these drugs increase the risk of microbleeds in the brain, which are associated with cognitive decline.

Dietary zinc deficiency promotes lung infection by *Acinetobacter baumannii* bacteria — a leading cause of ventilator-associated pneumonia, according to a new study published in the journal *Nature Microbiology*. Nearly 20% of the world's population is at risk for zinc deficiency, which can impair immune function and is a major risk factor for pneumonia. The World Health Organization considers zinc deficiency a leading contributor to disease and death. Patients at risk for zinc deficiency in health care settings have the highest risk for infection, especially those who are on ventilators, have devices such as catheters, are in intensive care units, or have prolonged hospital stays. *A. baumannii* is becoming increasingly resistant to antimicrobial treatments, making it a critical public health threat.

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## Saturday morning head on crash on Route 103

Newbury Rescue 1 and Engine 4, along with Newbury Police, Bradford Police and New London Ambulance were dispatched to a two vehicle crash on Route 103 at Sutton Road.

Upon arrival the apparatus found two vehicles in the snow banks with heavy front end damage. The drivers of

both vehicles were evaluated by Newbury EMS and New London Ambulance paramedics and it was determined that they did not need to be transported to the hospital.

Route 103 was closed and traffic detoured onto Village and Morse Hill Roads for nearly two hours until both cars could be towed away.

## Monadnock Hospital receives Performance Award

Monadnock Community Hospital has received a 2025 Performance Leadership Award for Outcomes from The Chartis Center for Rural Health, a recognition connected to National Rural Health Day.

The national awards recognize rural hospitals performing in the top 75th percentile or above in quality, outcomes and patient perspective. They are based on the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance Index, a national

framework used to measure and compare clinical outcomes, patient experience and key operational indicators. "We're deeply honored to receive this recognition," said Denise Lord, vice president of organizational performance. "It reflects the dedication of our entire team — the physicians, nurses and staff who work together every day to deliver exceptional care and service to promote the health of our community."



Washington crews with Lempster's Ladder responded to a chimney fire on South Main St. A passerby saw smoke from the chimney and went to the station to report it. Ambulance 1 went to the residence and confirmed a working chimney fire. When Lempster's ladder arrived fire was visualized halfway down the chimney from above. The fire was extinguished and the chimney was cleaned and cleared of any obstructions and all crews were cleared.

# Newbury Select Board reviews status of the solar array

Tracy Wood from Newbury's Energy Committee reviewed the solar array with the Select Board. Wood presented a PowerPoint. The solar array was installed in 2022, and the Town will have the option to purchase in 2027. Wood explained the process the Town went through to install the solar panels, and showed the graph of the power it produces. The energy produced behind the meter is used at solar site and the rest of the energy goes to the grid and the whole Town gets credit. The energy committee is looking into what is best for the Town in terms of either choosing to purchase the solar array or continue with investors owning it. The committee will come back next year with some ideas.

Schultz asked if someone else can buy the solar panels if the Town doesn't buy it. Wood said yes, but that is what we are looking at right now. Andrew Cockerill said this is all negotia-

ble and we need to look at future rates, the energy committee is not making any recommendations today.

Warde asked what is the life cycle of the panels. Cockerill said 40 years but realistically 25 years. Polly Lowe asked what is the overall savings for Newbury at this point. Wood said that the energy produced powers the sewer plant, then it goes back to the grid and the savings goes back to the Town as a credit. The Town is not paying for the delivery cost when the energy is coming directly from the panels. The Town does not pay for the solar equipment but the Town still pays for their energy. The Town is credited on what goes back to the grid after the energy goes to the sewer plant but it depends on the market. Polly Lowe asked if the investors are the owners. Wood said yes, they always have been, right now the investors are with Revision and that is who



Energy committee is looking into what is best for the town.

the Town's contract is with. John Gedaminski said every month that this has been operational, we need the numbers, we want

to see the four years of data. Finneral said Marek Kotelba is working on this, he receives the Eversource bills monthly to

track this. The energy committee will come back the first quarter of 2026, and will include numbers at that time.



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**School Days**



The cast and crew of Henniker Community School's Production of The Fearsome Pirate Frank! It was an outstanding performance for a packed house. The hard work and perseverance of the cast was very evident.



Kearsarge Regional Elementary School-NL and Sutton Central were honored to host professional artist Alice Ogden at the beginning of December. Alice is a traditional black ash basketmaker who is a master of her trade and has been making baskets for over 40 years.



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# Hillsboro K-9 Voight and drone locate fleeing subject after crash



crashed vehicle and damaged utility pole.

An immediate search of the area began using Hillsboro Police K9 Voight in conjunction with the department's drone unit.

Just after 1:00 a.m., K9 Voight successfully located and apprehended the driver, who was hiding underneath a large boulder in the woods off Route 9.

The driver was identified as Michael Lesperance, 45, of Brattleboro, VT.

Lesperance was transported to Concord Hospital for treatment of cold exposure and a dog bite to his buttock.

Charges:

- Disobeying an Officer
- Resist Arrest/Detention
- Conduct After Accident
- Disobeying an Officer
- Aggravated DUI
- Drive After Revocation/Suspension – Subsequent
- Controlled Drug: Schedule I–IV; Possession

- Controlled Drug: Schedule I–IV; Possession
- Lesperance was also found

to have outstanding warrants from Hinsdale, NH, and Vermont. He is being held at the

Hillsborough County House of Corrections pending his court appearance.

In the early hours of December 13th, officers attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding and illegal passing on West Main Street near Penstock Hill. The vehicle accelerated in an attempt to elude, but crashed seconds later on a sharp corner along West Main Street.

Officers observed the operator flee into the woods and immediately organized a large perimeter with assistance from Antrim and Henniker Police. Hillsboro Fire and Rescue were also called to address the



Henniker Community School music teacher Alex Sullivan lived out a dream over Thanksgiving break when he marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Mr. Sullivan plays tuba with the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps based in Nashua, NH. In preparation for the parade, he and his fellow Spartans spent many hours rehearsing before traveling to New York City for the big event. To celebrate the occasion, Henniker Community School held a "Where's Mr. Sullivan?" contest for students and families watching the parade. Did you spot him? Alex Sullivan (L) and Andy Hui (R).

## Warming their hands with kindness.

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Turn a simple act of kindness into a meaningful difference.

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**Where:** Any Merrimack County Savings Bank branch

**When:** Now through 12/31/25 during lobby hours

**What You Help Support:** We match every act of kindness with a \$2 donation to local food banks. Every small cozy thing you donate will be distributed to local schools and nonprofits.

Thank you for warming hands & hearts this holiday season.



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# THE Messenger

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### STAFF

**Leigh Bosse:** Publisher

**Joyce Bosse:** Editor

**Christi Carlson:**

Advertising Design

**Gail Stratos:** Publication Design & Layout,  
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.

## Guest Editorial

### Reflection on Christmas

By Grant Bosse

CHESTNUTS ROASTING on an open fire were not, as far as I can recall, mentioned in the Bible.

My Sunday school education did not include flying reindeer, talking snowmen or jolly, old elves.

So I've never gotten all that worked up about complaints over the commercialization of Christmas, or that all the shopping distracts from the religious importance of the season. Frankly, the secular celebration of Christmas has long dwarfed religious observance.

I'm OK with that. I love the trappings and traditions of Christmas, most of which have nothing to do with the birth of Christ. I love decorating the house. I'm a plastic tree convert, and I love listening to most Christmas carols, though "Santa Baby" should be banned and wiped from our collective memory. I even love wrapping Christmas presents.

My Dad and I used to wrap my Mom's presents together, and he taught me how to do it properly. I have no artistic ability whatsoever, but I can work magic with a roll of paper, a pair of scissors and some Scotch tape. It's one of my few actual skills.

Even when I was a kid, I loved giving presents more than receiving them. I liked new toys as much as any kid, but I started doing my own Christmas shopping very young. That smile and laugh when someone you love opens the perfect gift lasts all year.

Which gets us back a little closer to the true meaning of Christmas. It's not really about the presents, but the gifts we give each other are a reflection of the gift God gave us.

Jesus Christ was born for us, and died for us, that our sins may be forgiven. We celebrate his birth by giving

gifts to each other. We may not consciously reflect on the gifts of the Magi when someone opens their new voice-activated Star Wars droid, but there's a connection.

That's also why charities rely so much on the Christmas season. We're in a giving mood, and more open to helping strangers as we shop for our family. I'm disappointed that I didn't make it back to Hillsborough last year to help the Lions Club pack their Christmas baskets. My folks help raise money for the program, which helps feed 400 people each year. Packing the carrots and cranberry sauce is one of my favorite Christmas traditions.

When I was on the radio in the Upper Valley, each of our three stations supported a different worthy cause each December. The news station where I was program director held the Christmas Crusade for Kids, a toy drive for low-income families. The pop station raised money for the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD). The biggest effort was the country station's Giving Trees campaign for David's House. For the past 30+ years, David's House has been a home away from home for families of children receiving care at Mary Hitchcock, and now Dartmouth-Hitchcock. They have never charged a dollar. The story of its founding is heartbreaking and inspirational.

A little boy with terminal leukemia saw other families with sick kids and no place to stay. He saved up \$300.78, and from that seed money, David's House has grown and served more than 13,500 families from around the world.

Every Christmas, at least once, I remember David Cyr, and I remember that there are miracles.

That annual present makes it worth putting up with the lines, and the traffic and the ugly sweaters.

Although it's been said many times, many ways, I hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

## Publisher's Perspective

### One Solitary Life

Attributed to James Allan Francis

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials, but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

## Letters to the Editor

To the Hillsborough Community:

We would like to thank everyone for participating in the Hillsborough for the Holidays event. Whether you were a business, organization, or a patron, we appreciate you all. Hillsborough for the Holidays is a special event, and we all worked together to bring our community a

fabulously festive day! We hope you enjoyed our first ever light parade, it was small this year and we hope it grows next year! If you would like to participate in next year's parade email us at Hillsboroughnhfortheholidays@gmail.com.

*Hillsborough for the Holidays Committee*

## Letters to the Editor continued

**Dear Editor:**

Thursday, December 18 there will be a public hearing for the SAU 34 budget at 6:00 PM in the Hillsboro-Deering High School Media Room.

Each year, SAU 34 voters are asked to approve a budget over which we have little influence. Unlike the school district budget, the SAU budget cannot be amended by voters and becomes a fixed expense within our school district budgets. While a public hearing allows residents to speak, voters cannot change the bottom line. As voters face rising costs and increased taxes, this process warrants closer examination. After listening to the October 30th SAU 34 budget presentation, I'm left with several concerns that voters should understand before being asked to approve the proposed budget.

The Superintendent is requesting a 1.23% increase to the overall SAU budget, which includes the addition of a new administrative position. This position was described as one that would "increase revenue." However, since SAU revenue comes from property taxes, this ultimately means higher taxes for residents.

The proposed budget also includes significant increases within administration. The Director of Curric-

ulum, Instruction and Assessment line would increase by \$13,072, a 12.82% jump. Salaries and benefits across the SAU are proposed to rise by nearly \$50,000, a 4.41% increase. The Superintendent asked all three school boards to prioritize staffing above all other items, which is concerning.

Most troubling was learning that SAU 34 has been carrying an unassigned fund balance. Local school districts are not allowed to retain unassigned fund balances unless voters authorize it, something Hillsboro-Deering voters did not approve. In speaking with the NH Dept of Education, it was confirmed that since SAUs are funded through tax apportionment from the school districts, they are not permitted to retain a surplus. A review of the audits shows SAU 34 currently has \$267,512 in its unassigned fund balance, raising questions about how those funds should be handled.

We all want strong schools and responsible use of taxpayer dollars. I encourage residents of Hillsborough, Deering, Windsor, and Washington to attend the December 18th public hearing, ask questions, and take part in the discussion before this budget is approved.

**Riché Colcombe, Hillsborough**

## New England College makes Admission Process easier

New England College has signed up with Niche Direct Admissions, a program under which students who create a profile on Niche and meet NEC's academic criteria receive an immediate offer of admission and scholarship consideration, with no other application required.

This makes the Henniker college one of more than 100, including UNH, who have paid Niche to be part of the company program. The move reflects national efforts to make college applications easier as competition for new students grows tougher due to declining numbers of graduating high-schoolers and the federal government's attitude towards international students who would otherwise have come to the U.S. for college.

Colleges and universities are bracing for a "demographic cliff" caused by Americans having fewer babies, a trend that began around 2007 and has not changed much since.

"Partnering with Niche allows us to remove barriers and open doors for students who might not have otherwise considered NEC," said Brad Poznanski, Vice President for Enrollment at New England College.

Niche.com has long been a platform for ranking and getting information on colleges. It claims that more than 50 million high schoolers create accounts on the platform to see the data. The company's direct admission program launched this year.



Michael Taberski, EdD, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of New England College, bringing seasoned leadership in higher-education student and campus life to the College's governing body. Dr. Taberski currently serves as Vice President for Student and Campus Life at SUNY Geneseo.

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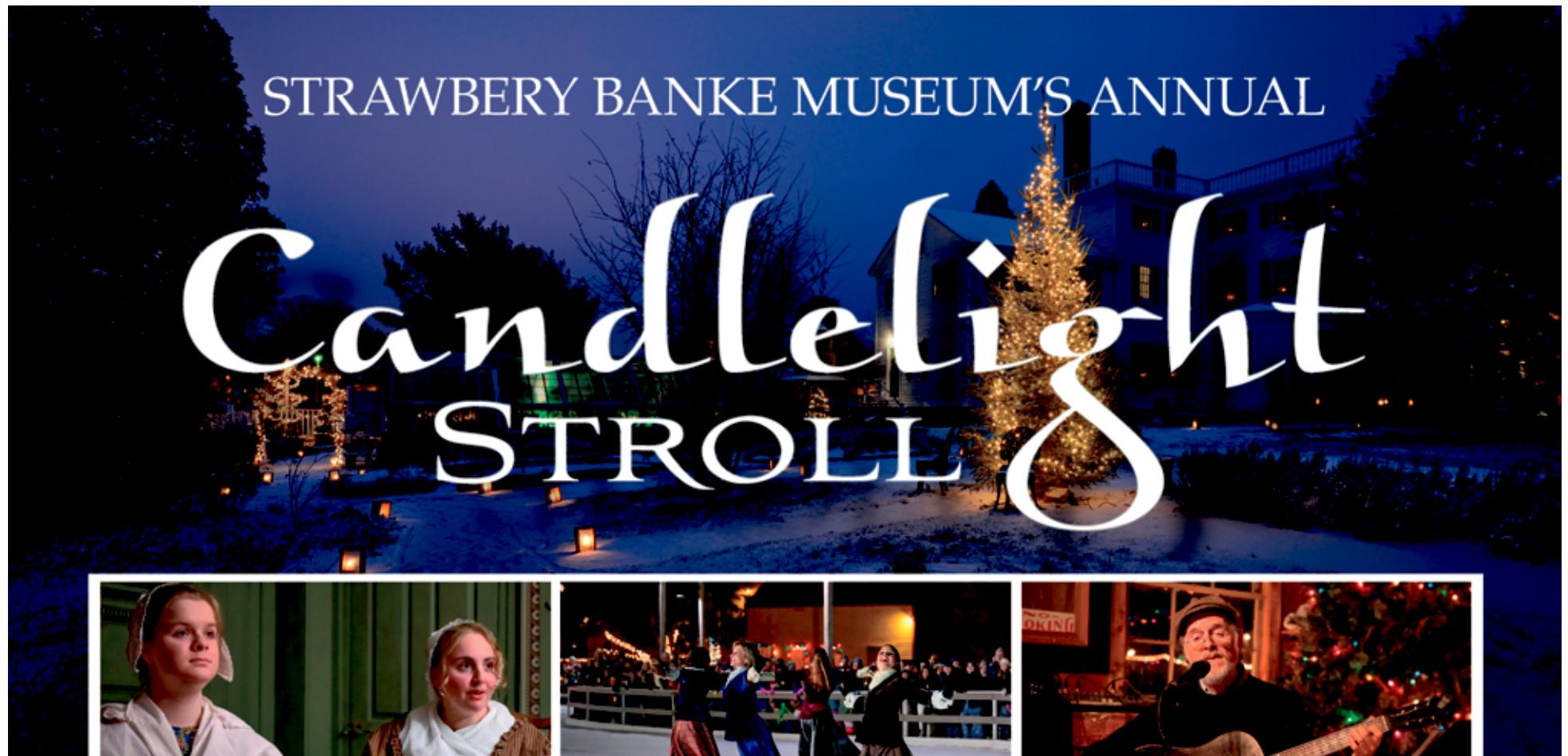
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Andover 5th graders were recently able to showcase their parasite presentations to the 4th Grade. Students explained life cycles, symptoms, and treatments. It was awesome watching students teach other students.

## Crime Watch

### **Franklin woman for Drugs**



For the second time in less than four months the Franklin Police Department has arrested Tammy Hosmer for felony level drug sales and drug possession charges. On 12/4/2025 Ms. Hosmer was arrested in the Northfield area with assistance from investigators from the Drug Enforcement Agency, Homeland Security Investigations, Troopers from the NH State Police and Officers from Northfield PD. Along with various quantities of suspected methamphetamine and fentanyl, Ms. Hosmer also had a handgun in her possession. Ms. Hosmer was charged with several counts of Sale/Possession of a Controlled Drug, Felon in Possession of a Dangerous Weapon and Breach of Bail. Ms. Hosmer was arraigned at Franklin District Court on 12/5/2025. She is presumed innocent of all charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

### **Henniker woman for Theft By Deception**

Melissa Erin Weston, 44, of Tanglewood Drive in Henniker, on two theft by deception and two theft by unauthorized taking charges, all felonies. She was accused of taking control of property, more than \$1,500, owned by teenagers in Henniker between Sept. 25, 2020, and May 11, 2022.

### **Weare man for Criminal Threatening**

Richard D. Nowakowski, born in 1986, of Weare, was arrested at 12:40 p.m. on Oct. 20 on a criminal threatening charge. He was arrested after an investigation or incident on Rumford Street.

### **Franklin man for Felony Theft**

Shane Hill, 29, of North Main Street in Franklin, on a felony theft by unauthorized taking charge. He was accused of failing to return

equipment issued to him by Soil-Away, a former employer in Hooksett, valued at more than \$1,500, on Feb. 14, 2022.

### **Franklin man for Possession of Meth**

David M. Fales, 36, of no fixed address in Franklin, on a felony controlled drug act; acts prohibited-methamphetamine charge on Jan. 18.

### **Franklin men arrested for Sale of Drugs**

Justin Adams, 43, of East Bow Street in Franklin, on a felony sale of a controlled drug-subsequent-methamphetamine. He worked in concert with Joshua Atwood to sell the drug to another person on July 22 in Franklin, according to the indictment.

### **Franklin woman Possession of Fentanyl**

Heather Avery, 39, of River Street in Franklin, on a felony possession of fentanyl charge on May 26 in Northfield.

### **Franklin man on multiple charges**

Deshon J. Stone-Davis, 30, of South Main Street in Franklin, on pistols & revolvers; convicted felons-a sheathed dagger and two controlled drug act; acts prohibited charges, fentanyl and meth, both felonies, on March 29 in Hooksett.

### **Andover woman Driving After Revocation**

Stacey M. Young, born in 1983, of Andover, was arrested on a driving after revocation or suspension charge after an incident or investigation in the area of the Interstate 393 and Interstate 93 interchange at 9:56 p.m. on Nov. 19.

### **Goffstown man Driving After Revocation**

Jaidan Joseph Hough, born in 2002, of Goffstown, was arrested at 5:42 p.m. on Nov. 19 on a driving after revocation or suspension charge after an incident or investigation at the Doubletree by Hilton at 172 N. Main St.

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# New Boston Select Board addresses lack of overtime pay for police officers

Lieutenant Loveless explained that the New Boston Police Department has had a couple of instances in which officers have worked overtime (OT) on a holiday but did not receive an added benefit due to the wording of the existing policy.

As a result, questions were raised regarding their pay.

These rare instances only occur when a holiday falls in the later part of the work week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) when employees have already completed their normal 40 hour work schedule prior to the holiday.

This condition could also occur for Highway Department workers due to storm related work which occurs early in a work week. The solution is proposed to update the language

to read, "The rate of pay for the employee for any hours worked on the holiday will be paid at 1 1/2 times their applicable rate." Thus, if an employee or officer is working overtime on a holiday, the applicable rate is the OT rate.

That person will be paid 1 1/2 times the overtime rate, (the applicable rate) for any hours worked on the holiday. Given the rare instances in which this could occur, the cost for the Police Department to make this correction would likely be less than \$1,000 annually. No additional funding would be required as this can be absorbed within their normal annual budget.

Kevin Collimore stated that offering more than triple time on holiday pay is a difficult amount for him to consider. It may not be well taken by the communi-

ty. Lieutenant Loveless noted that this would only be used in rare circumstances. Bill McFadden stated that other towns he reviewed were at 2.5 times the

rate. He suggested offering a bonus amount instead, which may come out to the same total.

Karen Scott asked if this increased amount would go away

if the Police Department were no longer short staffed. Lieutenant Loveless stated that there would be no need to use it in this instance.



Through Hopkinton Rotary connections some funding was able to be secured, and through the generosity of their members they were able to provide gifts for 31 elderly individuals.

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The Sunapee Fire Department held its annual holiday dinner and awards night. Assistant Chief Matt Pollari received his new helmet and his assistant chief badges. Lieutenant Joe Hampson received his lieutenant's badge. Lieutenant Timothy White received his lieutenant's badge. Lieutenant Keith Ricci was recognized for 5 years of service. Firefighter/EMR Richard Hamm was recognized for 20 years of service. Firefighter Richard Osborne was recognized for 25 years of service. Retired Firefighter and current Fireward Matt Gross was recognized for 25 years of service. Assistant Chief Matt Pollari was recognized for 30 years of service. Safety Officer John Gosselin was recognized for 35 years of service. Lieutenant Timothy White received the 2025 Firefighter of the Year award.

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## Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

### Randall Plett

GOFFSTOWN - Randy Plett, of Goffstown, NH, born June 4, 1970, passed away on November 5th in Scottsdale, AZ. He leaves behind a son, Jared Tyler Plett in Aliso Viejo, CA; his father, Fred Plett in Goffstown, NH; his mother, Patricia Plett of Taberg NY; three sisters - Pati Wheeler of Gainesville FL, Kristen Moon of Taberg NY, and Kathryn Durant of Minneola FL; and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral and burial services will be arranged sometime in the Spring of 2026. Donations in his name can be made to NAMI New Hampshire.



### James Douglas Wood

DEERING - James Douglas "Jim" Wood of Deering died peacefully on November 26th after a period of declining health. He was 82. The son of Dorothy Parker Wood and Wallace Peter Wood. Jim was predeceased by his brothers, Maurice and David Wood. Donations can be made in Jim's memory to: Riverbend, 42 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301. A Celebration of Life will be planned for the Summer of 2026.

### Colin McLean Momeyer

PETERBOROUGH - Hasudo Colin McLean Momeyer, age 44, of Peterborough, passed away on December 1, 2025. He was born in Peterborough on December 19, 1980, the son of Thomas and Jane (O'Connell) Momeyer. In addition to his father, Tom Momeyer and Tom's wife, Wendy Keith, Colin is survived by his loving partner, Kerry Wright, of Hollis, NH; his sister, Emily and her husband, Noah Jones, and their children of Temecula, CA; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Special thanks to the Redfield and Franklin families who have shown so much love to Colin over the years. He was predeceased by his mother, Jane (O'Connell) Momeyer in 2015. A Celebration of Life will be held January 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. with Gendo Allyn Field officiating, in the Unitarian Universalist Church parish hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Colin's name to The Upper Valley Zen Center, White River Junction, VT.



### Julia M. (Fries) Eccard

WASHINGTON - Julia M. Eccard, 91, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2025, at her daughter's house in East Washington, following a brief period of rapidly declining health. Julia was born on November 11, 1934, in Eschenz, Switzerland to Johan and Marie Fries. Julia was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and her brother, Hans. She is survived by her daughter, Marianne (James) Garvin, her son, George (Sandy) Eccard, and her son, John (Becca) Eccard. She is also survived by her six grandchildren, Greg Garvin (Kristen) and Tyler Garvin (Caitlyn), Ryan Eccard (Amy) and Kristi Eccard (Phil), and



Patrick Eccard (Alyssa) and Megan Eccard (Nate). Julia is also survived by 12 great grandchildren, Margaret, Charlie, Rudy, Greer, Maude, Victoria, Charlotte, Brody, Brantley, Brennon, Audrey, and Weston. There will be a graveside service in the spring at the East Washington cemetery, where her ashes will rest with those of her husband. A notice will be placed on the Holt Woodbury Funeral Home website when a date is determined for the service. If you would like to make a donation to the Granite VNA in memory of Julia, you can send it to: Granite VNA, 30 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301.

### Benjamin Harry Creighton

WEBSTER - Benjamin Harry Creighton, 87, of Webster, peacefully passed away at the Granite VNA Hospice Center on November 29, 2025. Ben, the seventh of nine children, was the son of John Creighton and Sylvia (Poore) Creighton Horgan. Ben is survived by his son, Brian Creighton; step-children, Wayne Donadio, Jay Donadio, Cindy Perry (Bill), Rob Donadio, and Jeff Donadio; daughter-in-law, Sandy Creighton; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Beatrice Nadeau and Susan Curtis; brother, Daniel Creighton; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to June, Ben was predeceased by his parents, John and Sylvia (Poore) Creighton Horgan; son, Glen; sister, Virginia Horgan; and four brothers, John, Glen, James, and Perley Creighton. Visitation hours were held on Thursday, December 4 at the Holt Woodbury Funeral Home. Burial services, with full military honors, were held on Friday, December 5, in the Chapel at the NH Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscawen, NH. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to: First Congregational Church of Webster, 1013 Long St., Webster, NH 03303 or Granite VNA Hospice House, 240 Pleasant St., Concord, NH 03301.



### Pauline Purington-Bond

WEARE - Pauline Purington-Bond of Thorndike Road in Weare, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, from a brief illness. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, she is survived by her husband of seven years, Bernard Bond; brother, Eugene Desjardins Jr.; daughters, Cynthia Griswold, Denise Purington and Patricia Beaudoin; stepchildren, Dan Purington, Cliff Purington, Robin Asselin, Lorna Clancy and David Viens; 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Born in Concord, N.H., in 1933, oldest daughter of Eugene and Bertha (Audet) Desjardins. She is predeceased by Bernard Maillette, husband and father of her three daughters, and Donald Purington, husband and father of her three stepchildren. Calling hours were held on Monday, Dec. 15, at French and Rising Funeral Home in Goffstown N.H., 17 South Mast St. Funeral service was held Tuesday, Dec. 16, at St. Theresa's Church in Henniker at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to White Birch Center for Active Living in Henniker or to the Weare Public Library.



### Richard Lionel Gosselin

GOFFSTOWN - Richard Lionel Gosselin, 47, of Goffstown, NH, passed away at Elliot Hospital on Dec. 3, 2025. Born in Manchester on Nov. 20, 1978, he was a son of Jean and Louise (Boucher) Gosselin. Rick is survived by his parents, Jean and Louise Gosselin of Manchester; his brother, Nicholas Gosselin of Manchester; his uncles, Robert Boucher of Manchester, Maurice Boucher and his wife, Sue of Bedford, and George Gosselin of Maryland; as well as several cousins, extended family members, and many friends. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 27, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Puritan Conference Center, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, NH. Family and friends are welcomed to attend.



### Steven Charles Lull

NEW LONDON - Steven Charles Lull died at the Jack Byrne Center on Dec. 11, 2025, in Lebanon, N.H., at the age of 74. Steve was born on Oct. 25, 1951, in New London, N.H., to Bob and Dotty (Prew) Lull. Steve is predeceased by his dedicated and loving wife, Lisa King Lull, who shared his sense of humor and wit and love for their family; his father, Robert Charles Lull; and his beloved sister, Bonnie May Lull, all of New London. Surviving family members include his mother, Dorothy Lull of New London; his sister and her husband, Heidi and Tom Rousseau of New London; a brother and his wife, David and Patricia Lull of Colorado; and his four children, Brian Lull, Benjamin Lull and Bonnie Lull, all of New London, and Brandon (Scooter) and Tania Lull of San Diego, California; along with countless extended family members and friends. Grandchildren include Ayla, Lucy, Luca, Olivia and Isaac, all of whom will miss their Papa as much as their Mimi and find comfort knowing they are together again telling each other funny jokes and enjoying a good laugh. Friends may call at the Chadwick Funeral Home, 235 Main St., New London, on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Jack Byrne Center at 154 Hitchcock Loop Road, Lebanon, NH 03766.



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**Events:** Community Bulletin Board

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 20**

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** hosted by the Ladies Aid at the Union Chapel. Please dress warm. 7pm. The Chapel is located at 220 Sawmill Road.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21**

**QUAKER CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE:** 6:30pm, Henniker Quaker Meetinghouse at 529 Quaker St., (in the historic district of Henniker) led by members of Weare/Henniker Quaker Meeting. Join us once again as we gather together on the longest night of the year with Light, Love, and Song. Free -- all are invited. If you wish, bring a candle, stick of firewood, or finger food to share. For more information call 603-995-4311.

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT SMITH CHURCH:** Our Christmas Eve service is at 7pm. This joyful worship service ends with the handbell choir and candlelight for Silent Night.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** The Hillsboro Methodist Church will hold their Traditional Christmas Eve Service at 7pm.

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

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By: Joyce Bosse

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The temperature should be at least 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Colder temps will slow the setting time for the product, although it will still set faster than typical resurfacing products.

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First, examine the floor for large cracks, holes or damage that may need repair. If you have deep cracks (more than 5/8" deep) or large chunks of floor to repair, use a fast-set repair mortar and cure. Small hairline cracks will be easily filled by the floor resurfacer.

Then, use a level to determine how much slope you have. You can apply up to 5/8 of an inch of lift but not more than that in a single application, so if your floor has a bigger slope, you'll want to use more than one application to level the area.

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**603-464-3388**

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### AA MEETINGS

**IN PERSON AA MEETINGS:** Tuesdays 7:30 pm at St Mary's Catholic Church in Hillsboro and Thursdays at 7:30 pm at Smith Memorial Congregational Church in Hillsboro.

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## Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

### Case No 2026-01

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:4 & 675:7 that the Hillsborough Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a Subdivision on Myrtle Street (Map 11P Lot 191 and Map 23 Lot 113) by Leigh Bosse of Dascomb Associates. The application is for a 10 Lot subdivision serviced by Municipal water and individual on-site sewage disposal systems. The property located in the Village Residential Zone. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, **January 7, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillsborough Town Offices, 27 School Street, Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

Upon a finding by the Board that the application meets the submission requirements, the Board will vote to accept the application as complete and the Public Hearing on the merits of the proposal may follow immediately. Copies of the application may be viewed at the Office of Community Planning, 27 School Street, Hillsborough, New Hampshire. Anyone with questions about this application should contact Robyn Payson, Planning Director at 603-464-7971 or by e-mail at [robyn@hillsboroughnh.net](mailto:robyn@hillsboroughnh.net)

## TOWN OF DEERING EMPLOYMENT VACANCY

Job Title: Assessing Clerk  
Salary: Depending on Qualification and Experience  
Closing Date: Until filled

### Description:

The Town of Deering has a part-time vacancy of up to 29 hours per week. Ideal candidates will have proven experience in customer service, basic municipal assessing skills, and a willingness to learn. Mail completed resumes and cover letters to the Town of Deering at 762 Deering Center Road, Deering, NH 03244, or email [administrator@deering.nh.us](mailto:administrator@deering.nh.us). For a full job description, please visit the Town of Deering website listed below.

<https://www.deering.nh.us/administration/pages/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities>

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## TOWN OF HENNIKER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Roof Structure Design and Build

The Town of Henniker, NH is requesting bids for an engineered truss roof system and roofing over two town owned containers located at the Highway Department complex. **Bid proposals must be on company letterhead clearly stating price and specifications. Bids must be sealed and marked, "Roof Structure" and be delivered to Town of Henniker Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Road, Henniker NH 03242 by January 5, 2026, at 12:00 PM, when they will be opened publicly and read aloud.** Contact person: Leo Aucoin, Highway Superintendent 603-428-7200.

All work to be completed no later than June 1, 2026, or as laid out in a predetermined timeline.

Requirements and specifications can be viewed at the [www.henniker.org](http://www.henniker.org) website under the Doing Business tab – Bids and RFPs, or at Henniker Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Road.

## Washington, NH Notice of a Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Board on Tuesday, **January 6, 2026** at 6:30 PM in the upper hall at Town Hall.

• To discuss proposed changes to the Land Use Ordinance:

1. Amend Section 200.2, Minor Home Businesses, to include Hosted Short Term Rentals by right
2. Amend Section 200.4, Business Use, to include Non-Hosted Short Term Rentals as a business use requiring a business permit
3. Amend Section 501.1 to change LUCC permit to Building Permit
4. Amend Section 501.1 to clarify when a building permit is required – for all structures over 200', not required for temporary structures (erected for 180 days), and not required for non-permanent storage structures.
5. Amend section 202, Setbacks, to lower setback distances for "All Other Uses" of 30'-15'-15' and lower "Detached Structures under 100 SF" to 0'-5'-5'.
6. To discuss the addition of a Solar Energy System ordinance.
7. Definitions for Short Term Rental, Hosted- Short Term Rental, Non-Hosted Short Term Rental, Non-permanent Storage Structure.

The public is invited to attend or comment in writing to the Planning Board prior to the hearing. The full language of the proposed changes will be available on the Town's website and at Town Hall. The Planning Board will hold their regular meeting after the hearing concludes.

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Church of Christ  
Baptist Church  
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### BENNINGTON

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Lion's Club • VFW  
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Congregational Church

### DEERING

Firefighter's Association  
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Historical Society  
Community Church  
Deering Association

### HENNIKER

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Police Association  
Lions Club • HYAA  
Rotary Club  
Historical Society  
Congregational Church  
St. Theresa's Church  
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White Birch  
Tucker Library

### HILLSBOROUGH

Firefighter's Association  
Police Association  
Lion's Club  
HYAA • VFW  
Historical Society  
CV Bible Chapel  
Smith Church  
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts  
Methodist Church  
St Mary's Church  
American Legion  
Food Pantry  
Community Center Committee

### WASHINGTON

Firefighter's Association  
Police Association  
Historical Society  
Congregational Church  
Baptist Church

### WEARE

Firefighter's Association  
Police Association  
Historical Society  
Christ Church  
Bible Baptist Church  
Congregational Church  
Union Church  
Episcopal Church  
American Legion  
Lions Club  
Senior Center

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4' Folding Table, 6028604...SALE \$49.99.



**SALE** **RED HOT BUY**

# 89<sup>99</sup>

**Whole Room Heater**  
750/1500 watt. Dual-function fan, tip-over and overheat protection, cool touch cabinet and grille.  
6103071

