



The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 154th Year ♦ Issue 52 ♦ December 26, 2025

Words of Wisdom

1. Compliment three people every day.
2. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
3. Be the first to say, "Hello."
4. Live beneath your means.
5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
7. Forget the Joneses.
8. Never deprive someone of hope.
It may be all he has.
9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
10. Be tough-minded but tenderhearted.
11. Be kinder than necessary.
12. Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
13. Keep your promises.
14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.
16. Leave everything better than you found it.
17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.
18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
19. Don't rain on other people's parades.
20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.



Thanks to the generosity of Messenger readers, the Hillsboro Lions Club was able to provide Christmas dinners to 51 area families.

Messenger readers answer the call

Overwhelming support given to Lions Club's Christmas Basket Project

Once again, Messenger readers have responded generously to the Hillsboro Lions Club's request for donations to fund the Club's Christmas Dinner Basket Project, donating a record total of \$3,210.00.

This overwhelming display of community spirit allows the Lions to purchase, pack and distribute 50 Christmas Baskets to our needy neighbors.

Each basket contains: a turkey,

mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, peas, corn, carrots, cranberry sauce, rolls, butter, candy and dessert, sufficient to feed the family of those who receive a basket.

Those contributing to this worthwhile project include:

Jim & Clare Fidolfi, Dennis & Lana Dumont, Leigh & Joyce Bosse, Deering Community Church Women's Guild, Peter & Patricia Martin, Matthew Haag

& Bob Schaefer, Greg Chlapowski, Ellen McGuire, John & Terese Wenckus, Thomas Copadis, American Legion Post #59 Auxiliary, Richard Head & Melinda Gehris, David Dick, Scott Shulman, Jed & Nancy Schwartz, Keith McGuire, Steven & Emma Garcia, Don St. Lawrence in memory of Ashley Wendt.

Thank You and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Only minor injuries reported in Newbury accident

Newbury Police and New London Ambulance responded Thursday night to a vehicle off the road. The car was located

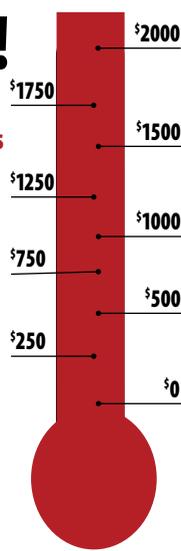
35 feet down an embankment on Rte 103 west of the Newbury town center. Traffic was restricted on Rte 103 for two hours

while the car was winched up the hill and towed away. The driver was transported to the hospital by New London Ambulance.

Urgent!

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

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

December 27, 2024

ConVal considering multi-aged classrooms
Petitioners seeking 17% Kearsarge School budget reduction
Governor withdraws Sunapee nominee's name as State Librarian
Andover Select Board urges residents to attend School Board meetings

January 5, 2024

Assistant Deering Fire Chief Doug Connor remembered
Hillsborough boy seriously injured after being hit by car
Henniker man leaves \$67,545.28 to Fire & Rescue Department
Former Bradford Firefighter Nathan Nichols charged with arson

January 6, 2023

Crash ends multi-town pursuit
Hillsboro-Deering School Board approves \$24,072,133 Budget
Contoocook company is candle maker for Popes
Multiple accidents in Bennington and Peterborough

January 7, 2022

OSRAM acquired by Austrian firm
New owners plan major expansion at Angus Lea
Henniker's entire Azalea Park committee resigns
Hillsborough's K-9 Gibbs aids in Hancock rescue

January 8, 2021

Gordon MacDonald is Supreme Court Chief Justice
All Hillsboro-Deering schools closed for Covid-19
New London interviews for Housing Commission
Man arrested driving 132 mph in Warner

January 10, 2020

Meet Goffstown's new Police Chief
Hillsborough man's plea bargain avoids rape conviction
Kearsarge Regional School District budget up 3.13%
Hopkinton Rescue Squad clarifies its roles

January 11, 2019

New London Select Board prioritizing demands
Hillsborough Chamber hosts Business Breakfast
Henniker Community School budget up 2%
Kearsarge School District budget at \$43,278,985

January 12, 2018

Incoming Mayor predicts Franklin's rebirth
Jacob Merritt is Newport Troop's newest Eagle Scout
Washington man jumps from 2nd floor to avoid flames
Firefighters hampered by cold temperatures and winds

January 13, 2017

Hillsborough woman dies - three others injured in crash
Chichester Board proposes full-time kindergarten
Jeff Yale sworn in as new Hopkinton Fire Chief
New Boston Boy Scouts Where Eagles Soar

January 8, 2016

Franklin trio arrested for trying to falsify evidence
Hillsborough man, Newport woman arrested
SAU 24 employees to be trained in suicide recognition
MaineLine Graphics top women-led business

Hillsboro-Deering Alternative School to return to main campus

At its December 5th meeting, the Hillsboro-Deering School Board continued to refine its proposed budget.

Superintendent Crawford reported the adjustments, based on relocating the H-DHS Alternative Program to the main H-D Campus and the recommended bids for the Custodial Services and Grounds Maintenance Contracts, would result in an H-D Proposed FY27 Budget of \$23,792,673.

That is \$920,205 (-3.72%) less than FY26.

A. Moving the H-DHS Alternative Program to campus would result in the following reductions:

- \$35,000 Rent
- \$21,641.40 Transportation
- \$19,668 Custodial Services
- \$1,080 Pest Control
- \$1,500 Repairs
- \$9,000 Electricity
- \$7,500 Propane
- TOTAL: \$95,389.40

B. Reducing the Grounds Maintenance contract to the recommended bid of \$125,000 and eliminating the \$5,500 for

salt as they are reimbursed for that expense would reduce that line by \$18,500.

C. Reducing the Custodial services contract to \$654,695 (which is the recommended bid

minus the \$12,747 that they bid for the alternative program building work) means that line can be reduced by \$27,624.

With the above changes the total cost of the 4 proposed

warrant articles, including staff and teacher pay raises, will be \$25,278,557, which is \$442,592 (-1.72%) less than the total FY27 (including SAU Apportionment) budget.



Sunapee's new ambulance.



Because outstanding educators deserve the spotlight! New Hampshire's 2026 Teacher of the Year Andover's Megan Philbrook received a special commendation from Governor Kelly Ayotte in front of the Executive Council. Such a special moment at the State House recognizing excellence in education.





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Coming up: Happy Valentine's Day

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 **Hometown heroes**



Congratulations to Hillsboro Officer Meattay and Officer Dustin on successfully completing the 201st New Hampshire Police Academy, which began over the summer. Both officers will now complete a sixteen week in house field training program. (Pictured left to right: Sgt. Bannister, Sgt. Hodgen, Officer Meattay, Chief Parsons, Officer Dustin, Lt. McSweeney)



The Hillsboro Police Department is proud to share that Officer Joshua Gallant has been named a 2025 Traffic Safety Champion by the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety, which praised Officer Gallant's commitment and professionalism, noting that his efforts have made a real difference for the safety of both Hillsboro residents and drivers across NH.



Dunbarton Police stopped by Women's Coffee at the Dunbarton Public Library to discuss common scams and fraud schemes, and ways to avoid becoming a victim.

Henniker Select Board undertaking major review of Riverfront Parking areas

The Henniker Select Board has begun the process to amend and reclassify any Riverfront Parking, as there is no authorization for spending town funds to maintain private parking areas.

The Purpose of the Stakeholder Meeting:

To engage the Stakehold-

ers in a collaborative effort to modernize the 1993 Riverfront Parking ordinance to reflect current use, clarify responsibilities, and ensure proper use of public funds.

Proposed Ordinance Changes:

- Limit Town role to public safety and emergency access.

- Eliminate Town obligations for snow removal, lighting, and enforcement of private parking arrangements.

- Reclassify ordinance from Parks & Recreation to Traffic & Parking.

- Execute a Shared Use Agreement to define responsibilities and signage.

- Board of Selectmen had a first reading scheduled to review proposed amendments on December 16th.

- Stakeholder Meeting – date to be determined.

- Review draft Shared Use Agreement.

- Second reading and public hearing – date to be determined by Board of Selectmen

- Finalize ordinance and shared use agreement language after hearing, stakeholder input and legal review.



EARLY DEADLINE



for the January 2 issue

Due to early holiday press deadlines we need to have all ads/notices and news items early for the January 2 issue.

Any new ads, ad changes or notices must be received **FRI, DEC 26** by 5:00 PM



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RED HOT BUY

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SALE

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RED HOT BUY

BAD BREATH



Dr. Esin Narli

Q: How can I avoid bad breath?

A: The causes of bad breath are many. But they fall into three major areas: a mouth that's unclean and full of bacteria; a medical condition, like a sinus infection; and bad habits like smoking or chewing tobacco. In addition to brushing and flossing regularly, experts also advise brushing the back of the tongue, where odor-producing bacteria can collect. Dry mouth, meaning a shortage of saliva, can also cause bad breath because saliva is the mouth's natural cleansing agent, helping to wash away particles of food that can also contribute to bad breath.

Some highly pungent foods, like onion and garlic, will leave an odor on your breath until your body has eliminated them. Even certain diets, like a high-protein diet, can unfavorably impact your breath. So the first step in avoiding the problem is to keep your mouth clean through brushing and flossing, and to visit your dentist regularly for examinations and cleanings. Try to brush, or at least rinse your mouth out, after every meal. Talk with your dentist about the best practices you can follow to keep your breath fresh and your mouth healthy.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

A new study published in *JAMA Network Open* found the use of gabapentinoids — medicines widely used to treat neuropathic pain — increased the risk of hip fractures, especially in older patients who were frail or had kidney disease. Often seen as a safer alternative to opioids, the gabapentinoid drugs gabapentin and pregabalin are antiepileptic drugs that are considered as first-line treatments for the management of neuropathic pain. Patients had 30 per cent increased odds of suffering a hip fracture within two months of being dispensed a gabapentinoid medication. The link between gabapentinoids and hip fractures existed across different age groups but the odds of hip fracture was higher among patients who were frailer or had chronic kidney disease, so these should be important considerations when deciding when to prescribe gabapentinoids.

In new study published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, adolescents with obesity prescribed a glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist (GLP1R) had a lower incidence of suicidal ideation or attempts compared with matched patients not prescribed GLP1R who were treated with lifestyle intervention. These results suggest a favorable psychiatric safety profile of GLP1R in adolescents. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs) are a class of drugs used to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity. They mimic the action of the GLP-1 hormone, which is released after eating and helps the body produce insulin and regulate blood sugar. GLP-1RAs work by increasing insulin production, slowing gastric emptying, and reducing food intake. Some examples of GLP-1RAs include: Exenatide, Liraglutide, Dulaglutide, Semaglutide, and Tirzepatide. GLP-1RAs are generally safe, but they can have side effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, pancreatitis, gastroparesis, bowel obstruction, and gallstone attacks.

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Volunteers from Hillsborough's Operation Christmas purchased, wrapped and distributed 62 bags of presents for our neighbors in need.

SAU #34 receives \$30,000 grant to End 68 Hours of Hunger

End 68 Hours of Hunger at SAU 34 is honored to have received a \$30,000 donation in gift cards from the Maia Magee Foundation to be provided directly to the children and families we serve in our community. This incredible support will make an immediate and meaningful impact for so many local families.

The Maia Magee Foundation celebrates hard-work-

ing American families and recognizes their perseverance and achievements. Their mission is rooted in compassion, ensuring people know they are cared for, and they take initiative by easing financial struggles through direct financial relief. We are deeply thankful that they chose our program to help support children and families in SAU 34.

Henniker Planning Board ponders "Cottage Court Housing"

The Henniker Planning Board is considering introducing a new housing type called Cottage Court Housing, intended for high-density, pedestrian-friendly development in downtown zones (Residential Village and Commercial Village) with access to town water and sewer.

The concept promotes infill development, efficient land use, and clusters of up to 12 units arranged around shared green space, with individual private open areas.

While similar projects exist in Bedford and are proposed in other NH communities, local feedback is mixed: some residents oppose high-density housing in rural areas, while others support limiting it to serviced zones to help offset utility costs and utilize under-capacity wastewater systems.

Key concerns include fire safety, emergency service burden, and available land, with suggestions to start small near the town center and expand later if successful.

Newbury's 1787 Constitution to be stored at State Archives

Lea McBain informed the Newbury Select Board that the company that has the Newbury 1787 copy of the constitution is near completion of the project and is almost ready to pick up. McBain said they have been talking with the NH state archivist regarding the priceless value of this document and they should store this document at the State Archives. Newbury will have ownership of the document but the State would store it for free. McBain recommends to the Select Board that when they pick up the document they take it directly to the State archives.

The constitution is an amazing document and it is quite rare.

Schultz asked if it would be moved, for example, to be displayed at Old Home Day. McBain said they will have the facsimile and it will be displayed at the library, but they can sign out the original if needed.

Warde suggested that the constitution be stored at the NH State archives. Warde made a motion that the Town accepts moving the document to the State archives; Schultz seconded the motion; all in favor.

Eagle Times owner, Jay Lucas, indicted for \$50 million “Ponzi-like” scheme



Jay Lucas

A prominent NH Republican, formerly of Newport, was indicted for allegedly raising more than \$50 million

as part of a “Ponzi-like” scheme, according to the FBI and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Officials unsealed documents about the scheme involving Jay Lucas, 71, of Portsmouth, formerly of Newport. The indictments include securities fraud, investment adviser fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering as founder and managing partner of Lucas Brand Equity LLC (“LBE”), a private equity fund based in Manhattan.

Lucas is a former state representative and was the Republican nominee for governor in 1998.

The charges allege Lucas raised more than \$50 million

from investors by falsely representing that their money would be invested in “early-stage health and wellness companies, when in fact it was diverted to cover personal expenses, promote unrelated ventures, and make Ponzi-like payments to earlier investors,” according to a news release.

Lucas was arrested and set to be arraigned on Monday, Dec. 22, in a federal court in New York. U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton said in a statement that Lucas promised investors he would use their “hard-earned money to grow wellness businesses” and have all investors share in the profit.

“Instead, Lucas allegedly lied, frittered away investor money on personal vanity projects, and betrayed his obligations to his investors,” he said.

Clayton said his office will aggressively prosecute the case.

Lucas spent the money on personal expenses including alimony, rent, a vanity newspa-

per project in his hometown and political consultants, according to the news release. Lucas owned Sunshine Communications LLC, which acquired The Eagle Times of Claremont in 2022, which ceased operations this summer.

The general manager of the paper wrote “the majority of the Eagle Time (sic) staff has resigned effective immediately due to ongoing issues with accounts payable, subscription and website services and our inability to provide top-notch customer service due to our leadership team.” Lucas also launched the online news outlet The Granite Eagle, which is currently in operation.

Other allegations against Lucas include:

- He used new investor money to pay earlier investors in Ponzi-like fashion, “enriching himself while starving the Funds and portfolio companies of capital,” the news release said.

- He funneled investor money to Immunologie, a luxury skin-

care business run by Lucas’s wife.

- Investments in Immunologie went to “marketing” expenses, such as parties and trips to luxury resorts where Lucas’s wife promoted “brand awareness.”

- Lucas arranged for Lucas Brand Equity to take majority ownership of Immunologie.

The actions led to the private funds being “chronically undercapitalized” and unable to cover basic expenses, including salaries. Employees feared confronting Lucas would cost them

their jobs, according to the news release.

None of the funds’ investments have paid off and no investors have received money, according to the release.

The charges of securities fraud, wire fraud and money laundering each carry a sentence of up to 20 years, and the charge of investment adviser fraud carries a maximum five-year sentence. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission assisted in the investigation.



The Franklin Regional Special Operations Unit hosted a tactical medical training starting at the Bristol PD and ending with practical exercises at the Alexandria Town Hall.

Out with the old. In with the new.

New year. New projects. Looking forward to seeing what’s in store for 2026. Thanks for a great 2025.
Happy New Year!

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Around Our Towns



On Saturday, a wreath laying ceremony was held at Spring Grove Cemetery, hosted by Andover Veterans Services in partnership with Wreaths Across America. Dozens of volunteers were on hand to place wreaths on the graves of veterans.



The Gift Making Workshop was a hit! Avenue A was filled with crafty elves making needle felted creatures, shinky dinky key chains, ornaments, paintings, and other fabulous gifts!



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Town of Hillsborough seeking bid to restore former Woods Woolen Mill site

Just as the contractor is completing the demolition of the former Associated Electric property on West Main Street, the town of Hillsborough has submitted bid requests for the Riparian Floodplain Restoration of the Former Woods Woolen Mill Site at 23-25 West Mill Street.

Separate and sealed Bids for the floodplain restoration at the Former Woods Woolen Mill site will be received by Streamworks, PLLC, the Engineer, by Friday, January 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. A second Invitation to Bid has been issued by Sanborn Head & Associates, Inc. for Brownfields cleanup for a portion of the site.

Contractor will need to prepare a separate bid for Sanborn Head's Contract. Both Contracts will make up the entirety of the Project.

The Project has been split into two Contracts, each of which are being funded through separate sources. The floodplain restoration work will be

contracted with the Town of Hillsborough, NH (Town).

The floodplain restoration Contract that is the subject of this Invitation to Bid is being led by the Town's authorized agent, Streamworks, PLLC, and funded through NHDES Aquatic Mitigation Funds. The Sanborn Head Contract covering brownfields cleanup (a separate bid) is being led by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES; the Owner) and funded through NHDES Brownfields Cleanup Grants.

The Owners are completing this work to promote future redevelopment of the Brownfields site.

The work being completed under the Town's Contract includes, but is not limited to, the following major items:

- Mobilizing and demobilizing materials, equipment, and personnel required to complete the Work;
- Excavating select areas



The clean-up of Hillsborough's former Associated Electric site is nearing completion.

following brownfields cleanup excavation where rubble, retaining wall, concrete, and bedrock remain on-Site;

- Transporting and disposing of the following waste at appropriately permitted, Streamworks-approved, off-site disposal facilities: wood and vegetation from grubbing activities (most importantly, invasive species removal), rubble/wall/concrete/bedrock from within

project excavation areas, and accumulated sediment and erosion control;

- Construction of the floodplain within the footprint of the former mill building including soil stabilization measures;
- Planting, seeding, and installing habitat features on the restored floodplain;
- Staging and stockpiling of materials within appropriate lands;

Erosion and sediment control installation, inspection, and maintenance including all appropriate intermediate means (installing and removing when/where necessary to control erosion around the site;

- Removing, rebuilding, and/or reinforcing granite masonry retaining walls; and
- Scheduled and required documentation, reporting, and meetings.

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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.

Tis The Season



The Kearsarge Middle School student council recently held their annual holiday food drive. All together as a school they collected 928 items. These will be split between The Warner and New London Food pantries.



We are incredibly grateful to Dime Bank for their generous donations to K9 units across New London, Montville, Colchester, and Manchester! These contributions are providing essential K9 training and equipment—including protective vests and specialized gear—that directly strengthen our canine programs and support the brave first responders who serve our communities.



Andover Middle School's Gingerbread House Decorating Contest.

Drive Safely



New London Emergency Services responded to a multi vehicle crash on I-89, south, between exits 11 & 12. One subject was transported, and crews assisted while the vehicles were removed.



Two vehicles collided head-on on Bow's Logging Hill Road after one driver experienced a medical emergency. Both drivers were evaluated and one was transported to Concord Hospital with minor injuries.

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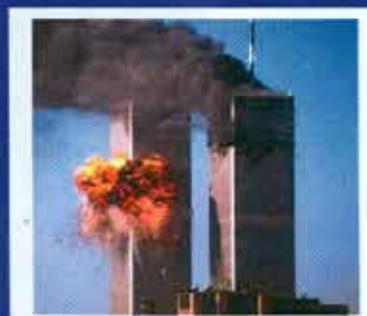
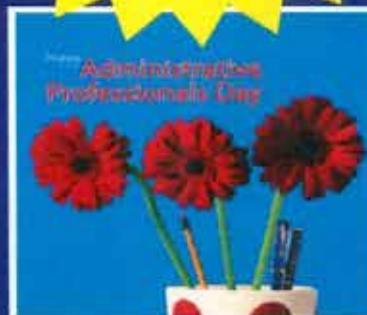
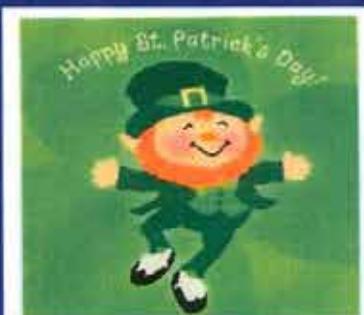
Happy New Year!

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Rescue Squads each April



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Until further notice, for anyone listing and selling their home through us OR buying a house (any house listed with any agency) using Red Coat Realty as their “buyer’s agent,” we will **DONATE \$250.00*** in their name, to the Community Support Group of their choice, listed below.

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Firefighter’s Association
Police Association
Lion’s Club
Historical Society
Presbyterian Church
Church of Christ
Baptist Church
American Legion

BENNINGTON

Firefighter’s Association
Police Association
Lion’s Club • VFW
Historical Society
Congregational Church

DEERING

Firefighter’s Association
Police Association
Historical Society
Community Church
Deering Association

HENNIKER

Firefighter’s Association
Police Association
Lions Club • HYAA
Rotary Club
Historical Society
Congregational Church
St. Theresa’s Church
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
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

*One donation per buyer or seller, not to exceed \$500.00 per transaction.

To add your non-profit group to this great Community Support Program, call Joyce at 464-3053.



That’s a wrap on the 113th year of Boy Scouts Troop 2 of Antrim. They held their Yankee Swap and their Christmas Party for their last meeting of the year, and they’re looking forward to year #114! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Boy Scout Troop 2!

New details in death of Ashley Wendt

New court documents detail what a driver was doing moments before a head-on crash that killed 25-year-old Ashley Wendt of Washington earlier this month.

Newport police said they received a report of a rollover crash on Maple Street on December 5th.

When officers arrived, they found two damaged vehicles. Authorities described the vehicle occupied by the victim, Ashley Wendt, as completely mangled.

Police said the driver of the other vehicle, Dylan Galland of Connecticut, showed signs of impairment, including watery eyes, slurred speech and the smell of alcohol.

Galland was taken to a local hospital, where he waived his Miranda Rights and

spoke with investigators.

According to an affidavit, Galland told police he was looking down at his GPS before the crash and agreed he had accidentally crossed into the opposite lane.

Police said Galland admitted he began drinking around noon and had 2 1/2 shots of bourbon. He told investigators he was driving to meet a friend at a nearby brewery.

Officials said Galland also admitted he was speeding on the road, which has a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

Galland is charged with negligent homicide, DUI and DUI aggravated collision with serious injuries.

His case will be presented to a grand jury. He remains behind bars.

Free For Deering Kids: Conservation Camp

The Deering Conservation Commission will send some Deering kids aged 8 – 17 (depending upon the camp) for a grand experience in the White Mountains National Forest in one of the UNH Extension Barry 4-H conservation camps: Hunting, Fishing, Shooting, Hiking, Camping, Junior Adventure Camp or Resource Management. Full support to attend a

camp, exclusive of transport to and from the camp in Berlin, will be provided.

The camps are described by following this link:

<https://extension.unh.edu/new-hampshire-4-h/barry-conservation-camp>

Applications for support must be received no later than Sunday, January 11 (by email or Thursday, January 8 if mailed or dropped off at Deering Town Hall).

To apply, the applicant will write a brief note explaining why they want to attend one of the camps and/or the importance of Conservation and natural resource protection to them and/or our Town. Send applications or questions as emails to Gary Samuels, samuelspatty@gmail.com.

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Hillsborough Planning Board proposing several Zoning Amendments

A public hearing was held by the Hillsborough Planning Board on December 18th, to consider the following amendments to the Hillsborough Zoning Ordinance:

1. Amend the Zoning Ordinance Article II General Provisions 229-14 Accessory Dwelling Units to amend the definition and add it to section 229-6 Definitions section.
2. Amend the Zoning Ordinance Article I General Provisions section 229-14 Accessory Dwelling Units B(4) to delete the

current verbiage and replace it.

3. Amend the Zoning Ordinance Article I General Provisions section 229-14 to remove the requirement for a Conditional Use Permit for a Detached ADU.
4. Amend the Zoning Ordinance Article I General Provisions section 229-6 Definitions to add "Tiny Homes" and its definition.
5. Amend the Table 4 Chart of Uses/Residential Uses to include Tiny Homes and permit them in all Residential Zones

except for the Historic District.

6. Amend Article XIV Cluster Development Ordinance to add "per the authority of the Innovative Land Use RSA 674:21."
7. Amend Article IX Administration and Enforcement to add the provision per RSA that all buildings on Class VI roads must be "Insurable."
8. Amend Article I General

Provisions section 229-6 to amend the definition of Motor Vehicle Service Station and repair Garage to include "cleaning."

9. Amend Article VI Special Regulations section 229-35 Signs (D) Specific Sign Regulations by District, (4) Historic District, by deleting letter C which prohibits temporary signs

in the Historic District.

10. Amend Table 4 Chart of Uses/Residential Use that permits multifamily housing in Commercial Zone.

Copies of the proposed ordinance changes are available for public inspection at the Town Office during regular business hours, and available on the Town web site.



Newport's new ambulance.



A house fire that occurred the night before last in Sutton. Two humans and two dogs miraculously are safe due to the puppy waking one of the humans up.

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Davis & Towle Insurance Group announces partnership with The Insurance Source

Davis & Towle Insurance Group, New Hampshire's largest family-owned independent insurance agency, is proud to announce it has partnered with The Insurance Source, a respected independent agency serving the Greater Monadnock Region for over 41 years. The Insurance Source is the latest addition to the Davis & Towle Group's growing list of affiliated independent insurance agencies.

This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone for both organizations. The Insurance Source, led by President Ryan Barcome and Vice President Cheryl Belair, has built a legacy of client-first service and deep community roots. By joining Davis & Towle Group, The Insurance Source will continue to operate under its established

name with its trusted team, while gaining access to expanded coverage options, resources, and expertise.

Ryan Towle, President of Davis & Towle Group commented, "We are honored to welcome The Insurance Source into our group of agencies. Our shared commitment to honest, local service, and client-first values makes this partnership a natural fit. We look forward to working together to provide even more options and support to clients in the Monadnock Region, while preserving the personal touch and continuity that The Insurance Source is known for."

Clients can expect uninterrupted service from the same dedicated team, with the added benefit of broader insurance solutions and enhanced support.



The Insurance Source remains locally accessible and committed to the relationships that have defined their success.

"Our philosophy has always been to treat every client as we

would want to be treated, whether you're protecting your first car or your family business," said Cheryl Belair, Vice President of The Insurance Source. "Partnering with Davis & Towle allows

us to remain true to our values while gaining the resources to serve our clients even better. I am proud of our team and excited for the future with Davis & Towle by our side."

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The Hillsboro Lions Club enjoyed its annual Christmas Party at the Legion.

Area Dining Guide

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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Linda Delay



Bennington – Linda Delay passed away peacefully at home, December 13, 2025, after a brief illness. Linda was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Richard Delay, her parents, John and Alice Armstrong of Bennington, and sisters, Edna Armstrong and Marilyn Dunlap. She is survived by her three children, Cheryl (George) of Averill Park, NY, Kathleen (Kevin) Reardon of New Boston and Richard Jr. (Melissa) Delay of Merrimack; grandchildren, Nathan, Andrew, Katie, Megan, Drew, Matthew and Sage; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Friday, December 19 at Jellison Funeral Home, 25 Concord Street, Peterborough, with burial in the spring. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to the Bennington Historical Society.

Shirley Avery



New London – Shirley Sanderson Avery, 89, died peacefully November 20th, surrounded by family at Woodcrest Village in New London, of Alzheimer's disease. Shirley was born July 7, 1936 to Elgin and Eleanor (Nichols) Sanderson in Concord. She is survived by her daughter, Leslie Pferchy and her husband, Ron of New London

and her son, Steven Avery and his wife, Jean of North Grafton, MA, grandchildren, Nicole Ratliff and her husband, Greg of Leland, NC, Matthew Pferchy of Leland, NC, Nicholas Avery of Quincy, MA, and Alexandra Avery of Chestnut Hill, MA, and great grandson, Tyler Ratliff, also of Leland, NC. She is also survived by sisters-in-law, Carol Avery Haber of New York City, Barbara Avery of Woodstock, NH, Cheryl Sanderson of Concord, NH and several nieces and nephews. If you are so inclined, please consider a contribution to Tunnel to Towers t2t.org in Shirley's name.

Robert "The Kernel" Koerber

Peterborough – My husband, Robert Koerber, of the Kernel Bakery, died of interstitial lung disease at Pheasantwood in Peterborough on December 9, 2025. Robert was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, the son of Harry and Elsie. The people wishing he were here: His wife, Kim Kossick. His sons: Jason (Tina), Christopher, and Jonathan. His former wife, Janet Tyler. His step-daughters: Mary Fordham (John), Colleen Jones (Matthew), and Bridget Fordham. His grandchildren: John, Eli, and Cecilia, and step-grandchildren: Matson, Lucille, Mitchell, Amanda, George, and Josephine. His sisters: Gayle Lee and Rosemary. His best friend, Alice Groh. His goddaughter, Nicola Groh. Multiple nieces and nephews and innumerable friends. The people who went before: His parents: Harry and Elsie, his sister: Elaine, and his brother:

Fred Koerber. A celebration of life will be held in the spring, with details to be determined and published. Robert was opposed to the carceral State. Memorial donations can be made to: The New Hampshire Community Bail Fund.

James (Jim) Granger

New London – James (Jim) Archibald Granger, 94, passed away on December 9, 2025 at New London Hospital. Jim was born on February 23, 1931, the son of Clarence Burns and Ruth Elizabeth (Pingree) Granger. Jim was predeceased by his parents, sisters and brothers-in-law, Mary and Anthony Leahy and Marguerite and Phillip DeLuca. He is survived by his children, James C. Granger (Bonnie), Ellen Coffin (Wayne), Suzanne Lamphere (Stanley) and William Granger (Annette), his sister Mabel Baker (James), daughter-in-law Crystal Granger and cousins Larry Rowe and Laura Davis with whom he lived for the past 9 years.

His surviving family also includes 4 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild. A Celebration of Life will be held in the late spring. Donations in Jim's memory can be made to King Solomon's Lodge #14, PO Box 295, Elkins, NH 03233-0295, Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice, or a charity of one's choice.



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Events: Community Bulletin Board

THURSDAY JANUARY 1

FIRST DAY HIKES: at various NH State Parks to start the new year with fresh air and nature. For a list of hikes, visit <https://www.nhstateparks.org/things-to-do/first-day-hikes-2026>.

SATURDAY JANUARY 3

WINTER FARMERS MARKET: 9am-12pm. Danbury Winter Farmers Market – Blazing Star Grange of Danbury, NH. First Saturday of the Month. Explore two floors of our Grange Hall, at 15 North Rd in Danbury NH!

TUESDAY JANUARY 6

MONADNOCK AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM: at Stonewall Farm, Keene. 5:30-7:30pm. For farmers and community to discuss local food systems. 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.

THURSDAY JANUARY 8

POLICY & PINTS: Monadnock Region at Branch & Blade Brewing, Keene (5:30-7:30 PM) for young professionals to discuss NH issues.

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

30TH ANNUAL PETERBOROUGH SNOW BALL: at Peterborough Town Hall, featuring contra dancing from noon to midnight.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

NEC CARNIVAL AT PATS PEAK: Saturday, 686 Flanders Road, Henniker, NH.

Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL

HOPKINTON 54, HILLSBORO-DEERING 14: The Hawks used a strong defensive first half to open up a 38-7 halftime lead on the road.

HOPKINTON 50, SOMERSWORTH 12: The Hawks jumped out to a 33-7 halftime lead as 10 different Hopkinton players scored in the win.

HOPKINTON 44, CAMPBELL 29: The Hawks used a 21-6 advantage in the 3rd quarter to open up the game in the second half.

FALL MOUNTAIN 46, KEARSARGE 32: Fall Mountain led 14-3 after 1, and Kearsarge could never catch up.

BOW 47, SOUHEGAN 34: Peyton Vaughn 19 pts, Lauren Longley 12 pts.

BOW 47, BISHOP BRADY 7: Peyton Vaughn 14pts, Kyleigh Duval 8 pts, Reis Domini 4 pts. Bishop

BOYS BASKETBALL

OYSTER RIVER 51, JOHN STARK 38: Oyster River took control early but the Generals played hard throughout.

MILFORD 71, JOHN STARK 43: A tight game through 3, Milford pulled away in the fourth.

HOPKINTON 57, SOMERSWORTH 41: Jackson Westover 28 points and 24 rebounds, Nick Goddard 11 points and 14 rebounds.

KEARSARGE 73, NEWPORT 40: Kearsarge came out early with pressure defense that led to easy buckets, setting the tone and tempo.

SOUHEGAN 53, BOW 50: Souhegan hit a corner three with 3 seconds left to time the game and eventually win in it overtime.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Last week, the Messenger published a letter to the editor discussing SAU34 and allegations of improper retention of a fund balance. Concerned by this claim, I attended the 12.18.25 SAU meeting where the issue was addressed.

During the meeting, the SAU board indicated that they consulted legal counsel and clarified in public that, as a multi-district SAU, SAU34's budget is separate from those of its constituent schools.

The fund balance can legally remain with the SAU since it operates as a distinct entity, and there is no means to return any unspent funds to the taxpayers. The available funds can be used to reduce the appropriated budget amount, which the SAU plans to do for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Moreover, both the SAU and the districts undergo annual audits. (Refer to RSA 194-C:1 for further details.)

Thank you,

Lindsey Kazanovicz, Hillsborough

BUYING A HOME AS AN UNMARRIED COUPLE: PART I



By: Joyce Bosse

It's increasingly common for people to live together but not be married. For example, in the past 20 years, the number of unmarried couples living together has almost tripled. You might be planning to wait to get married, or maybe you're not going to at all, but what if you want to buy a home together?

It's possible to buy a home as an unmarried couple, but it can be a little more complex than it is for a married couple.

The following are some considerations to proactively think about before you start the process.

Who's Going To Apply for the Mortgage? When you aren't married, but you want to buy a home together, one of the first things you'll have to think about is who's applying for the mortgage. The person in the relationship who has the strongest financial history is the one who needs to do it in almost all cases. When you aren't married, you typically have to apply as individuals.

Go over financial factors like credit scores, incomes, debt-to-income ratios, employment status, and assets to figure out who has the stronger financial standing. Not only will that person have a better likelihood of approval, but they'll also qualify for better terms, like lower interest rates.

Some lenders may let you apply for a mortgage together, although it's not common. If you apply together, it can help or hurt you. The benefit is that you may qualify for a larger mortgage since you have a combination of two incomes. The downside might be if your partner has a lower credit score, and the lender could base their decision on that.

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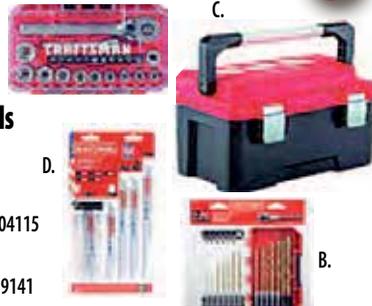
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