

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 1 ♦ January 2, 2026

Student Athlete of the Month

Congratulations to Juliet Faria, Kearsarge Regional High School Student Athlete of the Month. Juliet is a standout leader on the Track & Field team, serving as a team captain and competing at the varsity indoor and outdoor levels for multiple years. This season, she qualified for the New England Track & Field Championships, a huge accomplishment that reflects her resilience, discipline, and growth as an athlete.



Peterborough employee graduates

Please join us in celebrating Nathan Limric of the Peterborough Wastewater Treatment Facility for successfully graduating from the 2025 NHDES Wastewater Managers School.

This week in history

JANUARY 1, 1863

Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation

JANUARY 2, 1492

Moors lose control of Spain

JANUARY 3, 1917

British nurse writes from the Western Front

JANUARY 4, 1958

Edmund Hillary reaches the South Pole

JANUARY 5, 1980

"Rappers Delight" hip-hop's 1st Top 40 hit

JANUARY 6, 1994

Figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is attacked

JANUARY 7, 1927

Harlem Globetrotters play their first game



Hillsborough's West Main Street sidewalk project out to bid

Long anticipated project to be completed by October 30, 2026

The Town of Hillsborough is requesting bids for the construction of the West Main Street Sidewalk Improvements project. Sealed Bids for the construction of the project will be received at the Selectman's Office until 6:00 p.m. local time on January 21, 2026.

At that time the bids received will be

publicly opened and read. It is anticipated that the Notice of Award will occur on or before March 18th, 2026, dependent upon approval at Town Meeting Day (if necessary).

Work to be performed under this project shall include, but is not limited to, bituminous sidewalk, granite curbing, shoulder reconstruction, pavement

markings, signage, drainage improvements, landscaping and other highway related items. The town anticipates that the project's total bid price will be approximately between \$1,500,000 and \$2,500,000.

Substantial completion of the work must occur by September 30, 2026, with final completion by October 30, 2026.

Only minor injuries reported in Frankestown accident

Frankestown Fire & Rescue responded to a single-vehicle crash at 7:43 a.m. Dec. 26 on Second N.H. Turnpike-South near Red House Road. A gray four-door sedan traveling south struck a utility pole, shearing it and continuing a short distance

before coming to rest just beyond the turn onto Red House Road, officials said.

The driver, a 31-year-old man and the sole occupant of the vehicle, was not seriously injured and declined medical treatment at the scene.

Emergency crews remained on scene until New Hampshire State Police and an Eversource representative arrived to assess damage to the utility pole.

State Police are investigating the crash. The cause has not yet been determined.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

January 3, 2025

Bradford man dies in fire he started
Newest Francestown Public Works truck destroyed in fire
New London Police facility projected at \$14.8 million plus cost of land
Two people transported to hospital after Henniker Street crash

January 5, 2024

Assistant Deering Fire Chief Doug Connor remembered
Hillsborough boy seriously injured after being hit by car
Newport teenager Zackary Jenner indicted for arson
Warner EDAC discusses old grade school & Community Center

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

H-D School Board awards new Custodial and Grounds Keeping Contracts

Hillsboro-Deering School District Business Manager Rebecca Minichiello and Facilities Manager Mark Nichols presented the School Board with their recommendation for the Landscaping and Snow Removal Contract.

The contract with the current Landscaping and Snow Removal company ends March 31, 2026, so they sent out Request for Proposal (RFP) for this contract inviting companies to do a scheduled walkthrough on November

17th and provide bids by November 25th.

They received two vendor quotes as follows: Zach Edge Landscaping and Boulder Creek Excavation.

Zach Edge was the lowest bid, and they requested that the board award Zach Edge Landscaping the snow removal and landscaping contract.

The Board approved on a vote of 2-0-2.

They also presented their

Recommendation for the Custodial Contract.

The contract with the current Custodial Contract company ends June 3, 2026, and they obtained three quotes.

The three vendor quotes as follows: Monadnock Maintenance, Moura's Cleaning Service and SJ Services.

Although Moura's Cleaning Services was not the lowest bid,

the managers did not feel comfortable with the lowest bidder and requested that the Board award the bid to Moura's cleaning services.

The Board approved 4-0.



Congratulations to the John Stark students who made it into auditioned festivals this year. Pictured above, from left to right: Nicholas Tetro (Jazz All-State and All-New England), Dylan Burke (Jazz All-State, Classical All-State and All-New England), Eloisa Osgood (Classical All-State), Alexis Gelinis (Classical All-State).

Henniker Farm & Country Store would like to thank EVERYONE who made 2025 such a wonderful year!

Wishing everyone a HEALTHY and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!!

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Attorney General John M. Formella, State Police Colonel Nathan Noyes, and New London Police Chief Emily Cobb announced that authorities are investigating the untimely deaths of two adults at a residence in New London. There is no current indication that the public is at risk.



On Thursday, December 25th Sunapee Fire was called to a residence on North Road for a Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activation. Sunapee Engine 2 was met by the homeowner, who had safely evacuated from the residence. Once Engine 2's crew made entry to the residence, they were immediately met with a life-threatening level of carbon monoxide readings. Sunapee Fire personnel were able to locate the source, a faulty boiler, and shut it down to prevent further buildup of carbon monoxide.



Springfield Fire Rescue received automatic mutual aid from Grantham, New London, Sunapee, Enfield, and an ambulance from New London. No injuries were reported due to the fire, and trucks and crews were back in service.

Interim New Boston Town Admin. updated the Select Board on her activities

New Boston's Interim Town Administrator Kathie Vieira read a memo from Lieutenant Loveless to Chief Brace, which explains that he was able to obtain another donation of ammunition from the Office of Inspector General, United States Postal Service. The donated ammunition is in factory sealed boxes, 12 gauge and 40 caliber, and is for use in law enforcement. This would greatly improve training abilities at the New Boston Police Department.

An estimate of the monetary amount of the ammunition donation totals \$8,864.

Vieira stated that the new part-time maintenance person is working out nicely, and he has already completed some tasks at the Town Hall. The person is scheduled for 4-6 hours per week. She spent time with each department to hand out longevity checks to employees who have been with the Town for over six years. She spoke with the High-

way Manager on encumbrance procedures and the budget. She spoke with the Transfer Manager regarding questions, observations, or concerns. She spoke with the Police Chief on a variety of topics.

She spoke with the Fire Chief regarding securing funds to move the air compressor to the Tracking Station location. This will save time and money, allowing them to refill tanks from that location.

She also worked to finalize the extra paving piece to the Library and submitted the invoice to Finance for payment. She helped the Finance Department to work on budget and payroll items. She worked with the Assistant Town Administrator to get proper wording for the White Building 5-to-10-year lease, in order to get it signed for 2026.

She also spoke with the Recreation Director regarding the success of S'mores with Santa

and additional upcoming activities. She attended the Library's Graham Cracker House Decorating Party. She spoke with

the Community Development Director regarding ongoing tasks and providing education to committee volunteers. She fielded

and responded to a number of residents' questions, including no heat, need of welfare services, and a plowing challenge.



The Henniker Fire Auxiliary recently held another successful Cookie Craze.

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DO STARCHY CARBS CAUSE CAVITIES?



Dr. Esin Narli

It's common knowledge that sugar causes cavities, but new Cornell University research provides evidence that – depending on your genetic makeup – starches could also be a contributing factor.

A new study explores the response of the oral microbiome to starch, finding that the number of copies of a particular gene, *AMY1*, in combination with starch, alters the complex composition of bacteria that play a role in oral health.

"Most people have been warned that if you eat a bunch of sugar, make sure you brush your teeth," said Angela Poole, senior author and assistant professor of molecular nutrition. "The takeaway finding here is that depending on your *AMY1* number, you may want to be just as vigilant about brushing your teeth after eating those digestible starches."

But how the salivary amylase enzyme interacts with its main substrate, starch, to alter the oral microbiome and increase disease risk was unclear.

"That's what we wanted to know in this experiment," Poole said. "What's going on in the mouth if someone eats starch, and is the answer different if their copy number is high or if it's low? What we found was that there are other bacteria involved in these processes and that the changes depended on *AMY1*."

"If someone has a high copy number, they break down starch efficiently, and bacteria that like those sugars are going to grow more in that person's mouth," Poole said. "So you can have species behave differently based on the different substrates. It's pretty incredible – how we adapt and these microbes turn around and adapt, too."

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BY SARAH CHAPIN

Antiviral medications nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) were not effective in relieving long COVID symptoms, according to a new study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved FluMist for self- or caregiver-administration. FluMist is approved for the prevention of influenza disease caused by influenza virus subtypes A and B in individuals 2 through 49 years of age. FluMist is sprayed into the nose and has been used safely and effectively for many years. It was initially approved by the FDA in 2003 for use in individuals 5 through 49 years of age, and in 2007, the FDA approved the use of FluMist to include children 2 through 5 years of age. It is the first vaccine to prevent influenza, more commonly known as the flu, that does not need to be administered by a health care provider. The flu is a common and contagious respiratory disease that is caused by influenza viruses that typically circulate during the fall and winter in the U.S. It can cause mild to severe illness with a range of symptoms that usually appear suddenly, such as body aches, fever, coughing, sore throat, tiredness and a stuffy or runny nose. Flu can be life-threatening and cause serious complications that can lead to hospitalization or death, particularly in high-risk groups such as the elderly, young children and people with certain chronic medical conditions. Each flu season is different and the health impacts can be substantial and vary widely from season to season, with some flu seasons being worse than others. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu has resulted in about 9.3 million to 41 million illnesses, 100,000 to 710,000 hospitalizations and 4,900 to 51,000 deaths annually between 2010 and 2023. Numerous FDA-approved vaccines are available each flu season to prevent influenza.

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Tis The Season



The Washington Fire Department recently hosted another successful Drive-Thru Christmas Party.



The NEC Criminal Justice Club's 3rd Annual Toy Drive was a huge success! Thanks to our generous community, toys, cash, and checks brought smiles to Dartmouth Health Children's this Christmas.



The New Boston Police Department was feeling festive as they extended Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays wishes to all they serve.

Jeffrey Epstein's accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell's Bradford home

Newly released court documents tied to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation are shedding additional light on Ghislaine Maxwell's time in New Hampshire, including how she toured a multimillion-dollar home under an alias and how federal agents carried out her arrest.

More than five years after Maxwell was taken into custody at a secluded Bradford property, residents say the raid remains fresh in their memory.

"I was shocked that right here in my backyard was somebody hiding out," said Michael Sigourney of Bradford.

Maxwell, who was arrested on July 2, 2020, is serving a 20-year federal prison sentence after being convicted in 2021 of sex trafficking minors.

According to bail hearing transcripts and government filings, Maxwell may have been in New Hampshire as early as November 2019.

Prosecutors said the home

was purchased for several million dollars in cash.

A real estate agent involved in the transaction told the FBI that the buyers identified themselves as "Scott and Janet Marshall," both speaking with British accents.

The woman, who introduced herself as Janet Marshall, described herself as a journalist who valued privacy, according to court records.

After Maxwell's arrest, the agent realized that the woman she knew as Janet Marshall was actually Maxwell, prosecutors wrote.

"They were not aware as the process was happening in terms of the purchase, that it was going to her," Sigourney said.

Government filings also detail Maxwell's arrest at the remote property, which was set back from the road and secured by a locked gate and private security.

According to prosecutors, FBI agents announced themselves



Maxwells home in Bradford.

and ordered Maxwell to open the door. Instead, they saw her attempt to flee to another room. Agents ultimately had to breach the door to make the arrest.

During a security sweep, agents also discovered a cell-phone wrapped in tin foil on a desk, which prosecutors de-

scribed as a misguided attempt to evade detection.

Bradford's Police Chief Edward Shaughnessy said he assisted federal agents the morning of the arrest.

"We got notified earlier that morning that the FBI was conducting an operation in the town

of Bradford," Shaughnessy said. "My job that day was just to lead them up to the residence."

After her arrest, Maxwell was transported to the Merrimack County Department of Corrections, where records show she was treated as a high-profile inmate and monitored closely.

**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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Gingerbread Houses in Antrim



The Tucker Free Library and the Henniker Lions Club held a successful Gingerbread House family event.



Avenue A's 3rd Annual T.A.C.O. Gingerbread Making Competition was full of frosting-fueled creativity, candy chaos, and some serious architectural ambition.

The Messenger's
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We purchased The Messenger in 1989. In that time, we have always felt that we held the paper in trust for the communities we serve. We firmly believe that a weekly newspaper can and should be a valuable community resource. In that light, we have never charged Hearts of Hillsborough, Lions, Rotary or Kiwanis Clubs, Masons, Historical Societies, Boy & Girl Scouts, PTOs, School Groups, or area Churches to advertise their events.

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State Department of Education approves Francestown withdrawal from ConVal

The State Department of Education has approved Frances-town's request to bring a proposal to withdraw from the ConVal School District back to the voters in March 2026.

If voters approve, the town would form an independent district for Francestown Elementary School, which currently has fewer than 30 students. The town is also evaluating withdrawing to lower the cost burden on SAU 1.

"The Board of Education's decision to accept the minority report allows us to go to the next step: a vote by ConVal School District voters in March on whether we should be allowed to withdraw," said Charlie Pyle of the Francestown Select Board.

The state DOE's recent decision is the second time the state has approved Francestown's minority report in the withdrawal study process. The decision contradicts the recommendation of the ConVal School Board, which voted against Francestown's first

two proposals for pursuing with-drawal in 2024 and 2025.

The ConVal School District, which has faced declining enroll-ment since the early 2000s, has cited concerns around the inequity of resources in the district and the high cost of maintaining 11 buildings spread across eight towns as the basis for considering the consolidation of schools.

The ConVal School Board has stated that if any town withdraws from the district, costs will go up for the remaining towns.

The board and the SAU have expressed concerns about Francestown's ability to provide adequate education and services on such a small scale.

The Francestown School Committee, an official town com-mittee representing Francestown, has stated multiple times that its top priority is to keep the ele-mentary school open. In October, the FSC presented its findings to the ConVal School Board. Those findings were based on research

and discussions with other small towns that have successfully with-drawn their elementary schools from larger districts. The FSC maintains that it is both feasible and viable for Francestown to run its elementary school as an independent district, similar to models in Mason, Cornish and Hill. The FSC has stated that Francestown's middle and high school students who wish to attend public school will be tuitioned back into the ConVal district.

In 2024, the ConVal Feasi-bility Study Committee rejected proposals by both Frances-town and Dublin to withdraw their elementary schools from ConVal. Both towns submitted minority opinions to the DOE in November 2024, and both were approved, allowing the towns to bring the issue to ConVal voters.

In March 2025, both Fran-cestown and Dublin put forward warrant articles for withdraw-al. Francestown received 81%



Francestown Elementary School.

approval from voters in town but only 38% districtwide, while Dublin's article drew 51% support locally and 37% across the district. Under state law, for a withdrawal article to pass, it must receive at least 60% approval in the withdrawing town or 40% across the district. Francestown's proposal to withdraw failed by just 80 votes districtwide.

The town first began look-ing into withdrawing from the ConVal district after ConVal put forth a warrant article in 2023 that would have allowed the

district to consolidate the eight existing elementary schools into four. The elementary schools in Francestown, Bennington, Dublin and Temple, all of which had fewer than 60 students, could have potentially been closed, with students from those towns given the option of attending school in a neighboring town.

After the warrant article failed at the polls, ConVal officials stated they will consider other ways to reduce costs, including consolidating the middle schools and the high school.



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

Publisher's Perspective

H-D's School Budget - The Good, Bad & Ugly

As the Hillsboro-Deering School Board continues to formulate next year's budget, its current draft has been given mixed reviews:

The Good: It appears the Board is ready to approve returning the Alternative School from the Deering airport to the main Campus. Declining student enrollment has provided ample space to house the facility in one of H-D's three campus buildings, saving taxpayers over \$95,000 annually.

The Bad: Because of declining student enrollments, the proposed budget eliminates several teaching positions, while adding about \$100,000 to administrative costs in the three principal's offices.

The Ugly: Being mindful of holding costs down does

not mean that the lowest bid is always the best choice. Following several years of complaints and under performance on ground maintenance contracts, Boulder Creek Excavation has provided the District with 9 years of exemplary service with high praise and zero complaints. Rejecting that loyalty and exemplary service the Board awarded a new 3-year contract to a small Windsor company who has never done such a large job and is reportedly trying to hire enough workers to complete the contract. They justified the decision solely on the fact that Boulder Creek was not the low bidder, despite, on the same night, refusing to award the new Custodial Contract to the low bidder over the identical concerns. Penny Wise and Pound Foolish.

R.I.P. Donald Ager

It was a bittersweet week for the Hillsboro Lions Club. As we rejoiced in providing our Annual Christmas Dinner Basket Project to 51 area families, our joy was tempered by the loss of one of our valued and cherished members, Don Ager.

Don, his wife Meg and son Alan have been mainstays of our club for decades. When I joined the club in 1975, we met at the Three-Ways Restaurant and performed a once-a-year cleanup at Manahan Park. It was only in the early 80's, under back-to-back president Don McCulloch and Don Ager that the club was transformed into the dynamic multifaceted organization of today.

Donald had a passion for trading Lions Club pins in this country and abroad. He lived a life of service to others. Donald served in the US Navy for 21 years, retiring as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (CTACS), and also retiring from the US Postal service after 19 years. After his federal service, Donald was an active member of many organizations, including the Hillsboro Lions Club (PCC, Progressive Melvin Jones and serving as a District Governor), the American Legion, The Loyal Order of the Moose (Pilgrim degree), the VFW, the Fleet Reserve Association, and the Boy Scouts of America. Hillsboro is indebted in so many ways. R.I.P. Lion Don.

**Having a wall does not
mean "keep out" it means
"Use the door!" (come in
legally) Borrowed from a
friend.**





Silentwoods Collective performed a sold-out show at Tuttle Library on Saturday night in Antrim. Courtesy photo by Stephen Burkhardt

Silentwoods Collective performed “A New England Christmas”

The Antrim-based Silentwoods Collective performed “A New England Christmas” on Saturday night, December 20, at the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim. The concert included historic and period songs from “Old New England.”

Performers in the Silentwoods Collective Ensemble

were soprano Elizaveta Kozlova; Kelsey Burnham and Nuria Canales-Rubio, flute; Dana Maiben, Nelli Herskovits-Jabotinsky, and Eliana Estrada, violin and viola; founder Andrew Koutroubas, cello; and John Stajduhar, double bass. For information about Silentwoods, visit silentwoodscollective.org.

Dueling Pianos to perform at Franklin Elks Lodge on Jan. 17th

Franklin Opera House is pleased to present Dueling Pianos on January 17, 2026 at the Franklin Elks Lodge, 125 S. Main St., Franklin, NH. Always a popular event, they're back again for another rollicking good time! Dueling Pianos of New Hampshire brings fast-paced, request-driven fun in a non-stop, high-energy show where YOU pick the set list. This isn't just another concert; it's a high-octane, audience-powered party where YOU control the playlist. From rock anthems to soulful ballads, no genre is off limits and no two shows ever repeat. Grab your seat, shout your favorite song, and watch the pianists turn your requests into a nonstop, feel-good spectacle.

Jim Tyrrell has been a mainstay in the New England music scene for the last thirty years. He has written and recorded four solo albums (and two with folk trio the Midweeklings). He performs over 200 solo, duo, Dueling Pianos, and full band shows annually. Over the years, Jim has opened for Don McLean (“American Pie”), Ellis Paul, the Avett brothers, John Prine, and Weird Al Yankovic. Jim's newest album, “Box of Shells” was released on Feb-

ruary 16th, 2023.

Gardner Berry is a walking encyclopedic history of New Hampshire's music scene. He is currently a member of Mama Kicks. Before Mama Kicks, Berry spent the early 1990s and a chunk of the 1980s leading show bands at popular Manchester restaurants. Prior to his house band years, Berry was a member of well-known local cover bands Double Cross, Stone Cross, and The Tel-Stars, dating back to 1964. The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. January 17, 2026. Franklin Elks #1280 will be hosting a cash bar. Snacks will be sold and all snack & ticket proceeds benefit Franklin Opera House general operations. Get your tickets NOW-- this show is usually a SELL-OUT!

Tickets are on sale at www.FOHNH.org. You can also call directly at 603-934-1901. Want to buy tickets in person? Stop and visit the Franklin Opera House ticket office at 321 Central St. in downtown Franklin Tuesday - Friday 8:30-3:30. This event is general seating. Adults \$20, Seniors and Students \$18. Any tickets sold at the door the night of the event will be \$25 each for all seats.

Meals On Wheels volunteer drivers needed in SouthWest NH

Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services is seeking volunteer drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels to older adults and individuals with disabilities across southwestern New Hampshire.

HCS volunteers deliver meals daily to more than 400 residents in Cheshire County. In addition to providing nutritious food, the deliveries offer regular social contact and a safety check for individuals who are homebound.

Volunteer drivers help seniors and individuals with disabilities remain safely in their homes while reducing isolation and loneliness. Routes and time commitments

vary, and training is provided.

Those interested in volunteering can contact HCS by email at events@hcsservices.org, visit hcsservices.org, or call 603-352-2253. All Meals on Wheels volunteers are required to complete an orientation and pass a background check before interacting with clients. Additional screening requirements may apply. Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services is a nonprofit providing home healthcare, hospice care and community-based services to more than 2,000 individuals each day across 52 communities in southwestern New Hampshire.

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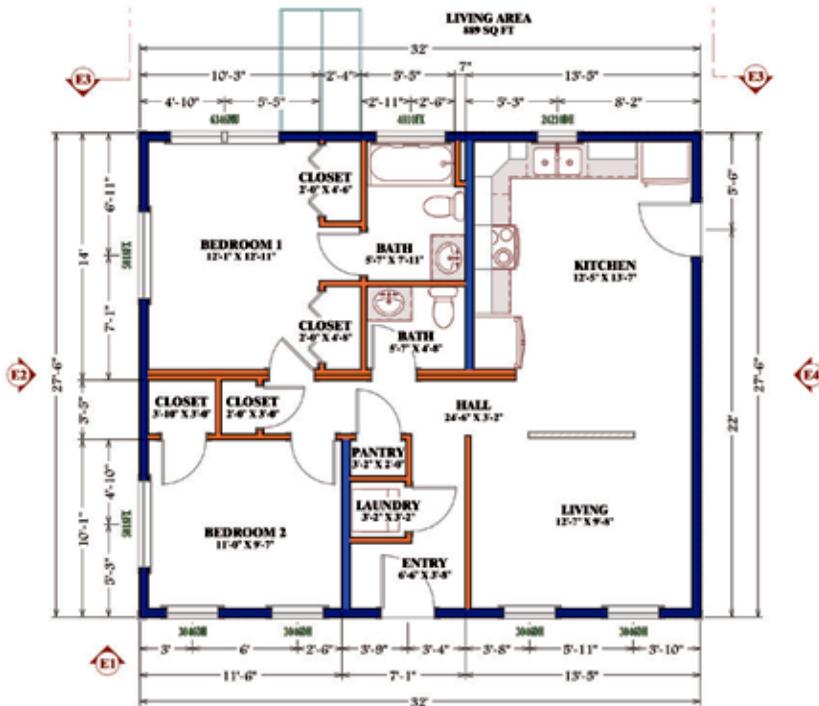
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Police Association
Lion’s Club
HYAA • VFW
Historical Society
CV Bible Chapel
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Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
Methodist Church
St. Mary’s Church
American Legion
Food Pantry
Community Center Committee

WASHINGTON

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

WEARE

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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.



Select Board approves Community Development Block Grant

The Hillsborough Select Board will hold three consecutive Public Hearings on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Police Department on Kim Opperman’s request for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$500,000 in CDBG Housing Grant Funds.

Of the grant funds, up to \$35,000 will be retained by the Town to cover eligible

administrative and labor compliance costs. The remainder will be subgranted to Rumrill LLC to rehabilitate the 4th floor into 2- bedroom apartments and to install fire sprinklers throughout the building located at 17 West Main Street in Hillsborough. The two new units will be affordable housing.

The majority of the existing 11 units are affordable housing.

New London Conservation Commission receives American Chestnut Award

The New London Conservation Commission (NLCC) is proud to announce that they have received The American Chestnut Foundation Partner’s Award for 2025.

This award recognizes groups that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the mission of restoring the American Chestnut tree to its former standing as the dominant tree in the eastern hardwood forests.

Numbering nearly four billion before it was wiped out by blight, the tree was among the largest, tallest, and fastest-growing, with the nuts providing an abundant food source for Indigenous Peoples and area wildlife. NLCC presently has three active AC Experimental Forest locations, with a total of 120+ seedlings in the ground. The seedlings range in age

from 1 to 7 years, with heights of 12 inches to over 8 feet tall.

Most of this stock is 1 year seedlings grown at TACF nursery, but they have some seedlings that they started from seed nuts in New London. Now entering year 8, they are optimistic that they will see significant growth from these trees which are becoming more well established.

This past year NLCC received the gracious help of Spring Ledge Farm, who allowed them to use their greenhouses to grow their seedlings.

Their staff did a great job of caring for the plants, which thrived in the excellent growing conditions. The seedlings will be planted next spring in their current locations, and they hope to expand to new locations as well.

Newbury Select Board approves new Building Permit Fee Schedule

The Newbury Select Board held a public hearing to discuss the Town's building fee schedule. Darren Finneral said these are the new buildings permit fees. The Blodgett sewer hookup fee is also on there with the new fee of \$2,400 to hook up to the sewer, as well as the tree cutting permit in the protected shoreland, which is new and is proposed at \$100.

Scott Lacroix spoke about new fees and how he came to that cost; he looked at fees in Sunapee, Bradford and New London, as well as considering time spent on permits, reviewing, entering into Avitar, site visits, and inspections.

Lacroix said they are still below their neighboring towns, at about fourth on the list for fees. Lacroix said he added the tree cutting permit in the protected shoreland as it is time consuming, going out to site, the office work, going back out to site for compliance, and filing; it's about 2 to 3 hours. It is time consuming for Lacroix and Pam Bryk and he feels the rest of the townspeople shouldn't have to cover this cost; they are in line with New London and Sunapee

with the \$100. Lacroix said they had 51 this year and they average about 55 a year. Schultz said that After the Fact Permit fees/fines are included on the fee schedule.

Schultz opened up the hearing for public input. Larry Briggs asked whether on After the Fact Permits, do they have fixed fees for that, they should double the fees. Lacroix said it is double the fee for After the Fact Permit, it is not included on this. Schultz said they should add that back on this fee schedule with the additional fines and the supporting RSA 676:17.

The Board agreed. Polly Lowe questioned the fixed permit fee and the square foot fee. Lacroix said the square foot fee is the calculation of the size of the building and the fixed fee is for all the paperwork, etc that is involved. Discussion followed on how calculations are done. John Gedaminski said it is fixed fee plus square foot, this is unchanged from how it was before. Finneral told the Select Board the one new thing on the fee list is the tree cutting permit in the protected shoreland. Schultz said the fee for tree cutting in the

protected shoreland is validated. Warde agrees, Wheeler agreed and said it has been proven in the last year how much time Lacroix has to go out. Briggs asked about the seasonal wooden docks, whether a permit is needed every time it is replaced. Lacroix said the State oversees the docks and feels the Town shouldn't be charging for the docks. Schultz said the rationale behind that is the docks have assessment value; pulling a permit triggers a reassessment but in terms of a building permit the Town doesn't have jurisdiction. Warde said it is a State permit. Wheeler said they shouldn't charge for a dock.

The Board would like to strike the fee for docks. Lacroix

asked the Board about the septic fee charge. They haven't charged in the past but it is in their permit fee schedule.

The Board said to charge for the septic. Kara Obey asked where the money goes for the fee for the sewer hook up, that it should go to the sewer fund; Warde said it should go to the Blodgett sewer user fund. Discussion followed. Obey mentioned that the town of Sunapee charges \$6,000 for a hook up fee, and New London charges \$2,000, \$3,000, or \$10,000, depending on size of house. Newbury's fee is small. Bryk read the revision of the unpermitted structure. Unpermitted structures or projects will need to file an After the Fact Permit which is

double the application fees. The property owner on unpermitted structures or projects will also be sent a letter of violation with a deadline to correct the violation, which can include fees/fines, undoing work that has been, and possibly demolition. NH RSA 676:17. Bryk will also add an explanation for the fixed fee plus per square foot fee equals the total permit fee. There will also be an example at the bottom of fees how it is calculated. Also, they are taking out the dock fee and continuing with the septic fee. Those will be the changes.

Schultz made a motion to approve the Building Permit fee schedule with corrections that were read into record. It passed unanimously.

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Students in Lori LaBrie's Creative Cooking class at John Stark baked dog treats for the adoptable pets needing a home at the Hearts and Tails agency of Weare. Bob, the greeter dog, happily received snuggles from the generous student cooks when he came to fetch the snacks. Pictured above, from left to right: Noah Patenaude, Sean Crean, Rachel Henderson, Adelyn Arel, Ms. LaBrie, Instructor, Ethan O'Bryan, Richard "Isaiah" Armendraz, Tobin Prieto, Robert Edmands II, Damion Beaulieu and James Wilcoxon. Cathy Bailey and Bob are in the center.

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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Donald William Dumais



DEERING - Donald William Dumais, 92, passed away Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the Hillsboro House Nursing Home after a period of declining health. Donald was born on November 28, 1933, at the family home in Deering, New Hampshire. He was the son of the late William J. Dumais and Louise J. (Putnam) Dumais. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 60 years, Melody P. (Bumford) Dumais; his infant son, David M Dumais; his sister, Barbara (Dumais) Robbins; and his brother, James G Dumais. Donald is survived by his son, William W. Dumais (and wife Debby) of Deering; daughters, Diane L. Graziano (and husband Kyle) of Newbury, Donna L. Grady (and husband Martin) of Contoocook, and Deanna P. Cote (and husband Michael) of Hillsboro; and his sisters, Teresa Parker of Hillsboro, Darlene McHale of Bertram, Texas, and Linda Lawson of Henniker. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A graveside service will be held in the spring at a date to be determined.

Deborah T. Roberts

PETERBOROUGH - Deborah Train Roberts, wife of Dr. Richard B. Roberts, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 12, 2025, in Peterborough with

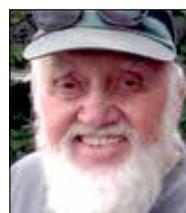


her husband and her brother by her side. She was 87 years old. Born Deborah Train Smith on January 17, 1938, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, she was the daughter of Russell Train Smith. Deborah is survived by her husband, Richard B. Roberts; her brother, Henry F. Smith; her children, Bryan E. Roberts, Gwyneth B. Roberts, Hannah L. Miller and five grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, Peterborough, on Saturday, January 24, at 1:00 p.m., with a reception to follow at her son's home in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. In lieu of flowers, family and friends are invited to make contributions in Deborah's memory to the Apprenticeship Program at The Peterborough Players, P.O. Box 118, Peterborough, NH 03458.

Ann Edwards

ANTRIM - Ann Edwards, of Antrim, NH, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and service. She was the daughter of William and Doris Elliott. She is survived by her daughter, Lynn Wegman and her husband, Joe, of Henniker, NH, as well as her cherished grandchildren, Joseph and Noah. She is also survived by her siblings: Joyce Dunlap of Honea Path, SC; Carroll Elliott of Cypress, TX; and Charles Elliott of Antrim. She was predeceased by her husband of 34 years, Wayne, with whom she shared a life filled with devotion and joy, and by her brother, Wayne Elliott of Antrim. Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion Auxiliary, 538 West Main Street, Hillsborough, NH 03244 in her memory.

Christie S. Ellinwood Jr. "Chris"



Christie S. Ellinwood Jr., known to all as "Chris" and to childhood family as "Tim," passed away peacefully with family by his side on December 20, 2025, at the age of 86. Born in Keene, NH on August 17, 1939, Chris is survived by his beloved wife, Albertine (Carpenter) Ellinwood of Hillsborough; his children, Tyler Ellinwood, Timmy Ellinwood, Angel (Ellinwood) Wahl of California, Kevin Ellinwood, Melissa Ellinwood Smith, and Aaron Ellinwood of New Hampshire; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren who brought him immense joy; his brother, John Ellinwood of Port Angeles, Washington; his cousin, Sandy Stowe of New Hampshire; and the Lawlors from Vermont. He was predeceased by his sister, Nancy Shapiro of Monrovia, California. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Granite VNA (<https://www.granitevna.org/donate/>) or the Stommel Lab Dartmouth Hitchcock (<https://sites.dartmouth.edu/stommel-lab/>). In accordance with Chris's wishes, there will be no formal service. The family will host a celebration of his life this summer, where friends and family can gather to share stories and remember a man who never met a big job he couldn't tackle or a family member he wouldn't help.

George R. Homo



FRANKLIN - George R. Homo, of Franklin, NH, passed away on December 12, 2025, at the age of 75. Born on December 20, 1949, in Concord, he is survived by his brother, Robert Homo; his brother, Andy Homo; and his sister-in-law, Cindy Homo. Alongside his family, George leaves behind many devoted friends who will greatly miss him.

Joan Lois Hamel



WEARE - Joan Lois Hamel sadly passed away on Dec. 20, 2025, at the Concord Hospital. Joan was born in Concord. She is the daughter of Frank Abbott Sr. and Virginia Miller. Joan is survived by her two daughters, Katherine Petrain and Christine A. Hamel; her two sons, Michael J. Hamel and Roger B. Hamel; and many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Joan was predeceased by her husband, Alvin John Hamel Jr.

Elizabeth E. Clark



CONTOOCCOOK - Elizabeth Emerson Clark "Beth," 71, of Contoocook, NH, died surrounded by family after a brief illness on December 19, 2025. She was born in Portsmouth, NH in 1954 to Joyce and Wallace Emerson, and grew up in Hooksett, NH with her three older sisters. Beth was preceded in death by her husband, Ed Clark and sisters, Peg Covatis and Elieen Douillette. She is survived by her son, Devin Clark, daughter-in-law, Kiki Clark, granddaughters, Lucy and Molly, sister, Evvy Piece, and many beloved nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be Sunday January 4, 2026, at the Everyday Cafe in Contoocook, NH from 3-5 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Beth's granddaughters' education fund: <https://everloved.com/life-of/elizabeth-emerson-clark/donate/check-out/?flow=202>.

Donald Richard Ager



HILLSBORO - Donald R. Ager, of Hillsboro, born March 26, 1934 in Racine, WI, passed away peacefully December 19 at home, surrounded by his immediate family. He leaves behind his wife of 68 years, Mabel (Meg) R. Ager; his four sons, Donald Jr. (Karen), Alan (Jean), David (Martha), and Todd. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, two sisters. A celebration of life will be held in the near future. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hillsboro Lions Club, PO Box 592, Hillsboro, NH 03244, or the American Legion Post 59, 538 W. Main St., Hillsboro, NH 03244.

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Play your cards right and you can win some great prizes, including a Twin Lobster Dinner, Spaghetti Dinner, Taco Dinner, Beef Rib Eyes, Big Breakfast Basket, and SO MUCH MORE! Including Free plays and a 50/50 drawing. Mimosas and Bloody Marys available at the cash bar.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59
538 West Main St, Hillsboro, NH

Events: Community Bulletin Board

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.

OPEN HOUSE: The Sunapee Fire Department will be holding an open house on from 9:00 to 12:00. During the open house, we will be pushing Sunapee's new fire truck into the station and officially placing it in service. All are welcome to attend. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Come see the new fire truck, meet your local firefighters and EMS providers, and learn more about the fire department. For any questions, call 603-763-5770 or email firechief@sunapeenh.gov

CONCERT: Francestown Academy Coffeehouse: performance begins at 7:00 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM at the Francestown Town Hall. Variety of music with featured act "Eve Pierce and Gordon Peery." Also display by fiber artist Tracy Szanto, and snack foods. \$8 suggested donation per person. See francestowncoffeehouse.org.

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.

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

BUYING A HOME AS AN UNMARRIED COUPLE: PART II



By: Joyce Bosse

How Will You Hold the Title? The title of a home is proof of ownership. There are a few options here:

Joint tenancy is one option in which both you and your partner will have equal shares of your property. This will include the right of survivorship, meaning that if one of you passes away, the survivor will receive the deceased's half of the property.

Another way to deal with the title is called tenants in common. Under this arrangement, you're co-owners with equal rights to the property. It's different from joint tenancy because you hold titles individually for your share of the property. You can dispose of your individual ownership. There isn't a right of survivorship and the other partner doesn't receive the decedent's property share if they pass away. Instead, the property would go to the heirs of the person who passed away.

What About a Cohabitation Property Agreement? Whether you're married or not, when you buy a property together, you're going to accumulate equity. However, you're not going to have the same level of property protection as a married couple, meaning you might want to go further to protect yourself.

One way to do this is to have an attorney create what's called a cohabitation property agreement, outlining who owns what. This is something you'll fall back on if you separate.

A cohabitation agreement should outline how you'll share expenses related to the home you buy, buyout terms, an exit strategy if one of you wants to sell, and a process for how you'll resolve any disputes. Your cohabitation agreement will also include the type of ownership on the title and deed.

Presented as a service to the community by

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New Officer joins Peterborough Police Department

The Peterborough Police Department would like to introduce you to Officer Douglas MacPherson. Ofc. MacPherson has been with the Department since May 2025.

Ofc. MacPherson attended and successfully completed the 200th Full-Time Academy conducted by the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council.

Ofc. MacPherson then started and successfully com-

pleted the Peterborough Police Department Field Training Program conducted by Mpl. Byam, Sgt. Sweeney and Lt. Xenakis. In total, Ofc. MacPherson has completed over 1400 hours of training since his hire.

Please join us in congratulating him in his position as a solo patrol officer. We wish Ofc. MacPherson a long, successful career with the Peterborough Police Department.

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HELP WANTED

CAREGIVER: Paralyzed female in Antrim looking for a personal care attendant for Sunday mornings 7AM – 12PM and Wed, Thurs nights 7:30-9, along with assisting with errands and appointments possibly On occasion fill ins for other (pca)'s. Must be reliable, love dogs, a team player, pass background check, 3 reference checks. No certifications needed consumer directed.

Starting pay \$22 per hour hiring through an agency called granite state independent living.

If interested, please call 603-547-0925.

P/T KITCHEN COOK:

Day Cook hours are 9:30a-5:30p. Cooking in our kitchen is like cooking for a big family. Call us at (603) 464-5561 or email inquiries/resume to officemanager@hillsborohouse.org

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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contocooknhpost81.org
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Town of Weare SELECTMEN'S OFFICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Weare Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, January 19, 2026** beginning @ **7:00 PM** to hear public testimony and comment on the 2026 overall Proposed Town Budget, including all separate, special, and petitioned Warrant Articles, as well as disclosure of the Default Budget.

The hearing will be held at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 15 Flanders Memorial Road, Weare, NH. Please note, any person with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting and needs to be provided a reasonable accommodation in order to participate, should call the Weare Board of Selectmen's office at 529-7535 at least twenty-four hours in advance so that arrangements can be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL BOARD ATTENTION: HILLSBORO AND DEERING RESIDENTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK WANTED

The Hillsboro-Deering School Board is accepting letters of interest for the position of School District Clerk.

The duties of the School District Clerk are similar to those of a town clerk as they relate to the transcribing minutes for the annual Deliberative Session, overseeing and facilitating the ballot/election process, assisting the District Moderator as needed, coordinating recount and special meeting sessions (if needed) certifying election results, and administering oaths of office as needed.

Registered voters from the towns of Hillsboro and Deering who are interested in applying for this position may submit a letter of interest to:

**Hillsboro-Deering School Board, c/o SAU #34,
78 School Street, Hillsboro, NH 03244 or email
Chris Bober at cbober@hdsd.org. Please submit by
Monday, January 5, 2026.**

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HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES:

Persons wishing to submit warrant articles for inclusion in the 2026 Hillsboro-Deering School District Warrant must submit such petitioned warrant articles to the School Board, or one of its members, no later than **January 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM**. Persons wishing additional information may contact the Superintendent of School's office at 603-464-4466.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:

The Hillsboro-Deering School Board will hold a Public Budget Hearing on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 (Snow Date: January 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM)** in the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Cafetorium. The purpose is to receive public input on the Hillsboro-Deering School District's proposed FY 2026-2027 operating budget and proposed warrant articles. The public is encouraged to attend. The regular Board meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and recess for the public hearing.

FILING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES:

Persons interested in being a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting on January 21, 2026. **The deadline for filing is 4:00 PM on January 30, 2026.** Persons wishing to file should contact the Superintendent of School's office at 603-464-4466.

- 1 School Board Member, Hillsboro—3-year term
- 1 School Board Member, Hillsboro—1-year term
- 1 School District Moderator—1-year term

DELIBERATIVE SESSION:

The Hillsboro-Deering School Board will hold a Deliberative Session on its FY 2026-2027 Budget and Warrant Articles on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026 (Snow Date: February 5th) at 7:00 PM** in the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Cafetorium.

The Deliberative Session is the first voting session of the School District Annual Meeting requirement as defined under SB 2. It is conducted for discussion and possible amendment of the warrant articles, which will then be put on the official ballot for a vote at the **second session scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026.** **The regular Board meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and recess for the Deliberative Session.**

VOTING DAY: TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

You are hereby notified to meet in each Town, on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, to vote, by official ballot, on the election of officers and on all warrant articles.

Voting shall take place at the following locations and times:

For Deering Voters: Deering Town Hall – 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

For Hillsboro Voters: Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Gym – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

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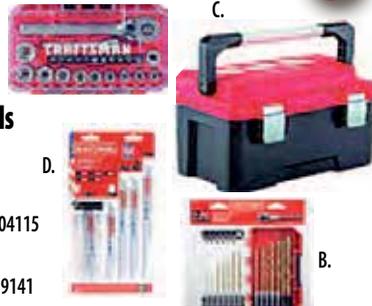
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