

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 4 ♦ January 23, 2026



Veteran Hillsboro Dispatcher

The Hillsboro Police Department is deeply saddened to share that Dispatcher Vivian Bohanan has passed away after a brief battle with cancer. For 22 years, her familiar voice sent officers to every type of emergency with devotion. On quiet midnight shifts, she proudly treated weary officers to pancakes or french toast. Viv was hardworking, kind, and witty, often ending conversations with her signature phrase "That's my story, and I'm sticking to it." We will miss you, Viv (Dispatcher #14).

This week in history

JANUARY 23, 1922

Insulin injection aids diabetic patient

JANUARY 24, 1972

Japanese soldier found hiding in Guam since 1944

JANUARY 25, 1924

First Winter Olympics held

JANUARY 26, 1500

Explorer Vincent Yanez Pinzon reaches Brazil

JANUARY 27, 1888

National Geographic Society officially founded

JANUARY 28, 2017

Serena beats sister Venus Williams for 23rd Grand Slam Title

JANUARY 29, 1886

Karl Benz applies for patent on first automobile



Maj. Gen. David Mikolaities delivers the keynote address at New England College's 2026 Founders Day celebration.

New England College celebrates Founders Day

Honoring 80 Years of NEC's Legacy and Service

The New England College (NEC) community gathered on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in the Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate the College's annual Founders Day, honoring the vision of NEC's founders and marking the beginning of the College's 80th anniversary year.

Founded in 1946 to provide access to higher education for service members returning from World War II, New England College has spent eight decades advancing a mission rooted in opportunity, innovation, and experiential learning.

Founders Day recognizes the founding faculty, staff, administration, and students whose dedication established the College and continues to inspire its work today.

"New England College was founded

on the belief that the American dream is not a spectator sport. It must be preserved, protected, and passed on," stated Maj. Gen. David Mikolaities, Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard, who served as keynote speaker. "Created as a launch pad for veterans returning from World War II, NEC has spent 80 years empowering generations to turn sacrifice into opportunity. An education here is about more than a career; it is about preparing engaged citizens and leaders who understand that freedom and opportunity are ideals worth defending."

During the ceremony, U.S. Representative Maggie Goodlander (NH-02) addressed the NEC community via video, underscoring the College's role in expanding access to education and strengthening communities across New

Hampshire.

"New England College was founded on a simple but powerful idea—that education can open doors and change lives," Goodlander said. "For 80 years, NEC has lived that mission, preparing generations of students to serve, lead, and make a difference in their communities."

This year's Founders Day ceremony also marked the kickoff of New England College's 80th anniversary.

"As we begin a yearlong celebration of the people, purpose, and progress that have shaped NEC since 1946, we honor NEC's unique founding principles, reaffirm our commitment to educating students who will lead with purpose and look ahead to the next chapter of our story," added Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., President of New England College.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

January 24, 2025

Andover teen dies in single-car accident
Antrim man injured in Jaffrey dirt bike crash
Goffstown man charged with LGBTQ civil rights violations
Hillsboro man guilty of 34 Fish & Game violations

January 19, 2024

Hillsboro mourns the loss of Police Chief "Pete" Cate
Manchester woman turns herself in for Dunbarton vandalism
New England College freezes tuition at 2022 rate
Deering residents reject electing its Road Agent

January 20, 2023

H-D school budget down \$1,604.00
NH school enrollment declining while costs are escalating
Henniker Community School approves expanding Pre-School
John Stark's proposed school budget shows modest increase

January 21, 2022

Deering icon Nancy Cowan dies
SAU #34 Superintendent Patricia Parenteau to retire
Henniker may separate Town Clerk & Tax Collector
H-D students again test well below state averages

January 22, 2021

Bennington woman faces multiple charges after chase
1,100 feet of Contoocook River shoreline preserved
Henniker fire victim remains in intensive care
Hillsboro Police, Fire & Rescue respond to 2 accidents

January 24, 2020

Hopkinton Select Board & Rescue Squad at impasse
New Boston asked to support \$2.9 million Fire Station
Warner Select Board adopts 2010 ATV Agreement
Deering Police Chief James Pushee retires

January 25, 2019

HP Fairfield purchases Hopkinton facility
Eight towns provide mutual aid for Weare fire
Henniker Select Board cuts \$48,516 from budget
Hillsborough sewer & water fees up \$90-\$120/quarter

January 26, 2018

Weare Selectmen accused of padding the budget
Hopkinton Board withdraws \$30 million school bond
Andover Selectmen seek expanded Comcast service
Belmont man sent to prison for 41 months

January 27, 2017

Newport Board approves \$500,00 Senior Center grant
Chichester Forest Fire Warden Steve Stock retiring
Armed robbery at Belmont's Penguin Market
New London named a "HeartSafe Community"

January 22, 2016

Bomb threat at Sunapee Middle/High School
Silver named New Boston's Planning Coordinator
Henniker Police Chief to Washington
Newbury seeks new Police and Fire Station

Deering's Budget Advisory Committee recommends a 2.14% increase

The Budget Advisory Committee met with the Select Board on January 15th to put forth a 2026 Budget recommendation for the Town of Deering.

Committee members agreed that 2026 should be a year for essentials and basics only, and decided the best plan of action would be to keep the 2026 budget flat when compared to the Final approved 2025 Budget. To do this, the committee made cuts across each department, removing non-essential items for 2026 and reducing several line items by 5-10% for no other reason than to keep the budget flat.

The Committee's proposed budget represents a 2.14% increase over the Final Approved 2025 Budget and a 7% decrease compared to the Department requests. The impact on the tax rate as recommended is \$0.80 per thousand - with Warrant Articles being \$0.70 of it.

To accomplish this, the following line items were substan-

tially reduced from 2025 levels:
 Administration -\$67,586
 Police Department -\$37,814
 Highway Maintenance -\$50,500
 Solid Waste -\$12,300
 Parks & Recreation -\$24,999
 These were offset by new or increased Debt Service expenses for Fire and Highway Department vehicles totaling +\$153,214.

This brings the Total budget to \$2,544,414, an increase of \$3,289 over the 2025 spending.

As to Warrant Articles that were presented to the Committee:

- To Lease/Purchase a Backhoe - BAC is in favor.
- To Change the Purpose of the Library Building Maintenance Expandable Trust Fund - BAC is in favor with wording clarification of striking the words "and grounds" due to town being responsible for grounds where the library is.
- Create a Building Inspec-

tion Equipment Expandable Trust Fund - BAC is not in favor. Reasoning: Not the year for additional expenses.

- Avitar Building Permits Software - BAC is not in favor. The expense does not seem justified for the small volume in Deering.

- Create a Columbarium Expandable Trust Fund - BAC is not in favor. Not presented with enough detail.

- BAC is in favor of adding funds as requested by the Cemetery committee for their Expandable Trust Fund for required maintenance.

- BAC is in favor of adding funds to the Assessing ETF in the amount of \$16,510.

- Add funds to Road Reconstruction - BAC is in favor as long as Town received the anticipated amount from the Highway Block Grant.

- Fire Departments PPE - BAC in favor.

- Fire Department Building



Lori Martinage presents the Budget Advisory Committee's recommendation to the Deering Select Board.

Maintenance - BAC not in favor. The building fund still has an adequate balance.

- Fire & Rescue Dept Vehicle

- BAC not in favor. This is not the year for non-essentials.

- Exotic Weed Control - BAC in favor.

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Capital Improvements Committee Chair Tia Hooper brief the Henniker Select Board on the Committee's recommendations.

Henniker's Capital Improvement Committee briefed Select Board

During the review process the Committee reaffirmed the importance of stabilizing capital reserve and expendable trust funding to reduce reliance on bonding, which should be used sparingly and only for large-scale projects that cannot reasonably be funded through reserves.

Key FY 2026 recommendations include continued funding of Fire, Rescue, and Highway Department equipment capital reserves; approval of an urgent skid steer replacement to achieve operational cost savings; targeted appropriations for building maintenance expendable trusts; and the formation of a temporary subcommittee to conduct an initial assessment of Town-owned buildings.

This assessment is intended to establish a defensible plan for future capital planning before engaging outside consultants. Collectively, the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan reflects a disciplined, data-driven approach to capital planning that balances service delivery, fiscal responsibility, and long-term community sustainability.

2026 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIP Committee's recommendations prioritize essential investments across municipal departments and align with long-term strategic needs: The CIP Committee provided detailed funding recommendations for FY 2026, ensuring resources are allocated to maintain and enhance essential municipal services.

Rotary/New London's 2026 "Police Officer of the Year"

It is with great pride that New London Police announce the selection of Officer Anna "Annie" Agnew as the 2026 Rotary New London Police Officer of the Year.



Anna Agnew

This prestigious recognition, presented in partnership with the New London Rotary, is reserved for an individual who exemplifies the highest standards of their profession. Throughout the past year, Officer Agnew has consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism, proactiveness, and diligence that serves as a benchmark for excellence within the New London Police Department.

Officer Anna Agnew's impact on the safety and well-being of New London has been profound. Through keen investigative instincts and a tireless work ethic, Officer Agnew has achieved successful outcomes across a diverse range of critical cases, including a homicide investigation, multiple gun seizures, armed robberies,

and vehicle theft cases. Her diligent work has directly removed dangerous weapons from the community's streets, helped solve violent crimes, and provided essential intelligence for ongoing investigations. These efforts have significantly enhanced public safety and the quality of life throughout New London.

Beyond proactive enforcement, Officer Agnew distinguishes herself through a deep commitment to community policing. By fostering genuine relationships with the citizens the department serves, Officer Agnew embodies the vital balance between rigorous law enforcement and community-oriented service. This approach honors the finest traditions of the profession while moving it forward into a future built on mutual trust, transparency, and partnership.

Please join in congratulating Officer Agnew on this well-deserved honor.

Officer Agnew, thank you for your unwavering dedication to the City of New London. We salute your service.

Maine murder suspect arrested after multi-state pursuit into Dunbarton

A man wanted for murder in Maine was taken into custody in Dunbarton by the New Hampshire State Police following a multi-state pursuit.

State troopers assigned to the Troop B barracks received information around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday that Lowell, Mass., Police were pursuing a vehicle on I-93 northbound.

Troopers received additional information that the suspected

driver was wanted in connection with a homicide investigation in Skowhegan, Maine. Troopers joined the pursuit as the vehicle, a 2018 silver Jeep Compass, crossed the state line in Salem.

The driver refused to stop, and the pursuit continued onto parts of I-93, I-293, Route 101, and Route 114 before the Jeep ultimately went off the road and crashed into a tree on Route 13 in Dunbarton. Nonlethal muni-

tions were ultimately deployed before the driver was taken into custody and identified as Dane Burke, 55, of Skowhegan, Maine. Burke was taken by ambulance to an area hospital, where he is being treated for serious injuries and remains under law enforcement supervision.

The Jeep was also seized as evidence in connection with the homicide investigation in Maine.

In addition to the criminal charges he faces in Maine and Massachusetts, Burke has been charged by the New Hampshire State Police as a fugitive from justice. Additional charges will

be filed in connection with the pursuit. No court date has been scheduled at this time; however, Burke is expected to be held in custody in the New Hampshire pending extradition.

No law enforcement personnel were injured during this incident.




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~ Dr. Ben Carson



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MANY FOODS AND DRINKS PEOPLE BELIEVE ARE HEALTHY CAN ACTUALLY DAMAGE ENAMEL



Here are common foods and drinks that, surprisingly, quietly harm your teeth:

Apple-Cider Vinegar Shots: Apple cider vinegar may be a wellness staple, but those morning shots can soften your enamel in minutes when saliva is low. Its high acidity (pH 2.5-3.0) makes it nearly as bad as soda or citrus juice.

Expert tip: Dilute it, sip with a straw, rinse with water after, and wait 30 minutes before brushing.

Kombucha: Kombucha's trendy fizz is just as acidic as soda, and leftover sugars can cling to your teeth long after the last sip.

Expert tip: Pick low-sugar brands (5g or less), drink it with lunch, and rinse with water after.

Coconut Water: Coconut water, the latest 'nature's sports drink,' is mildly acidic and packs ~9 g sugar per 300 ml. Bad news for dry, post-workout teeth.

Expert tip: Rehydrate with plain water first, drink it in one go, then rinse with water or chew sugar-free gum before brushing.

Smoothie Bowls: Smoothie bowls are an Instagram-friendly health staple – great for vitamins, but their low pH and high natural sugar per serving turn the blend into an acid-sugar soak.

Expert tip: Add more greens, use less fruit, sip thinner blends through a straw, and drink plain water after.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

Lipid-lowering medicines, known as statins, are prescribed in cases of high cholesterol levels, to reduce the risk of atherosclerosis, heart attack and stroke. The results of some small studies suggest that statins could also have an antidepressive effect. Researchers now conducted an extensive study to investigate this claim. However, they could not verify that statins cause any antidepressive additional effects. As a result, the researchers suggest following the general guidelines and prescribing statins to help lower cholesterol, but not to manage depression. The study has now been published in the *JAMA Psychiatry* journal. Cholesterol-lowering drugs are the most commonly prescribed medicines globally. They have anti-inflammatory effects and lower the production of cholesterol in the liver, which in turn reduces the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

Roughly 10 percent of the U.S. population is afflicted with major depressive disorder at any given time, and up to 20 percent will exhibit MDD symptoms over their lifetimes. Yet despite its prevalence, methods to treat MDD often fall short for a not-insignificant portion of the population. Antidepressants — the standard of treatment — don't work for 30 percent with MDD. When infused at a low dose ketamine shows remarkable efficacy as a rapidly acting antidepressant, with effects observed within hours even in patients who have been resistant to other antidepressant treatments. However, consistent infusions of ketamine are needed to maintain symptoms at bay, which could result in side effects, such as dissociative behaviors and the possibility of addiction, and stopping treatment can result in relapse. A new study published in *Science* shows that it is feasible to substantially extend the efficacy of a single dose of ketamine from its current duration of up to a week to a longer period of up to two months.

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School Days



7th grade students in the Kearsarge Middle School Family and Consumer Science class volunteered to make Caring Bears for Scott Palmer of S&W Auto and Officer Val from Sutton PD.



What a fantastic Henniker Community School Spelling Bee for all the students who participated and those who supported in the audience! It was an amicable sibling rivalry for first place with Claire taking the win.



The Dunbarton Garden Club's annual gift of a growing project to Dunbarton Elementary School classes. Each classroom was gifted all the materials needed to grow Oxalis plants.

Henniker Select Board approves Police and Highway Department requests

Henniker Police Chief Matthew French met with the Select Board, which had previously approved grant funding from the NH Highway Safety Committee in the amount of \$9,891.50. This funding is for speed signs and enforcement patrols. The chief applied for and received additional funding for enforcement patrols in the amount of \$1600.00. There is a \$400.00 matching funding that will be required by the town which will be covered through the police department budget.

There is specific language that is required to accept the funds. "The Select board, in a majority vote, had previously accepted terms of the Highway Safety Grant agreement in the amount of \$5,300.00 and had also previously accepted the terms of the Grant Agreement Amendment notice in the amount of \$4,591.50 and an adjusted total grant limitation of \$9891.50 and now the Select Board, in a majority vote is accepting the amended grant terms of the additional Speed

Enforcement funds as presented in the Grant Agreement Notice in the amount of \$1,600.00 for an adjusted total grant limitation of \$11,491.50." The Board approved.

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin informed the Board that the department proposes to add equipment storage by connecting two storage containers with a truss roof system. The containers are owned by the town department. Proposals were issued in December and opened on January 5th.

Apex Exteriors gave the lowest bid at \$86,200. Aucoin requested the board include the warrant article on the 2026 warrant and award the bid to Apex Exteriors pending town meeting approval. They did.

Tim Payson, Craney Hill Amateur Radio Team requested permission to install amateur radio repeaters on the Craney Hill Public Service Tower to enhance emergency communications and provide auxiliary support for public service operations. The

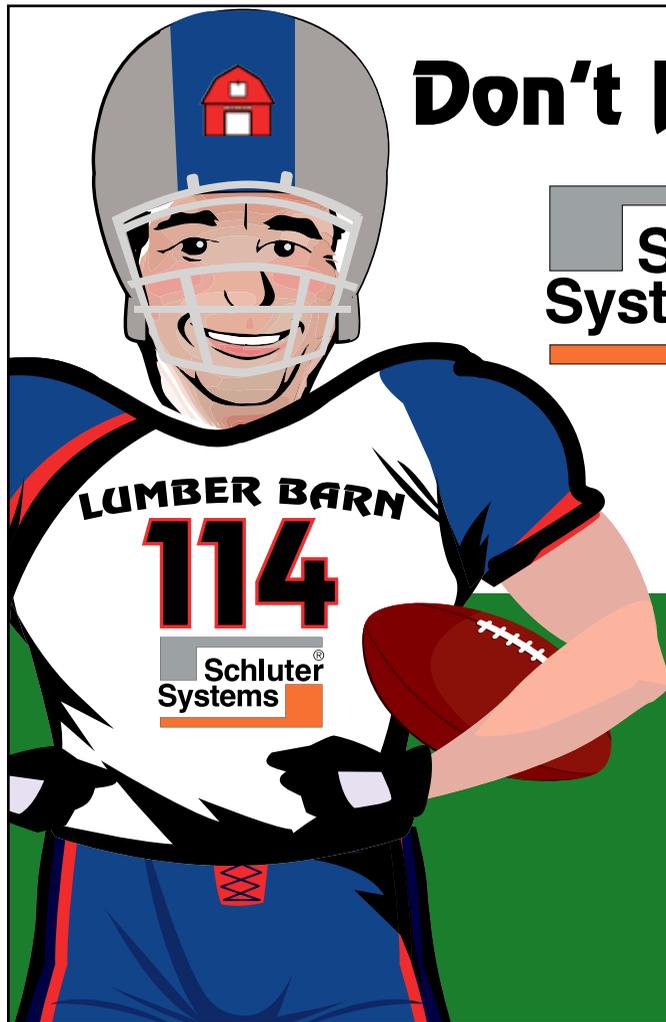
Board approved a motion authorizing the Board of Selectmen

Chairman to execute the agreement with Craney Hill Amateur

Radio Team, pending the review process.



Henniker Police Chief Matthew French met with the Henniker Select Board requesting approval of a Grant.



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Kearsarge students pass Licensed Nursing Assistant exam

Congratulations to the eight Kearsarge students who have successfully passed the Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) exam and received their nursing pins, marking a significant milestone in their healthcare education.

Through a partnership with River Valley Community College in Claremont, New Hampshire and New London Hospital/Dartmouth Health in New London, New Hampshire, six juniors and two senior students began the LNA program in April 2025. The students completed online coursework over the summer in preparation for the fall semester, followed by extensive classroom instruction and simulation training.

“As a registered nurse, I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to help shape and guide the future nurses of our community,” said Lyuba A. Faria, RN, NLH Med-surg/SCU and Nursing Assistant Instructor. “I have witnessed the empathy and dedication these students bring to their work as they take the next steps toward a career that can last a lifetime. The world needs more caregivers, and I look forward to teaching the next group of growing minds.” In addition to their academic studies, students participated in clinical rotations twice a week at New London Hospital in New London, New Hampshire. During these clinical sessions, they gained hands-on experience while shadowing healthcare professionals in a real-world medical setting.

At the conclusion of the fall semester, all eight stu-

dents took the LNA exam and achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their first attempt. Since the program’s inception in 2022, the LNA program has maintained a 100 percent first-attempt pass rate.

The students who completed the program and received their LNA pins are Klara Byfield of Newbury, Savannah Caswell of Sutton, Madison Gray of Warner, Kinsley Monnat of Bradford, Ava Nolan-Waddell of Springfield, Olivia Quimby of Sutton, Brooke Tatro of Springfield, and Alyssa Wheeler of Newbury.

“I am proud of the exceptional effort and commitment by all of the Kearsarge LNA students over the years,” Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator Rebecca Hemingway said. “These students are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.”

With their LNA certification, these students are now eligible to apply for positions in the nursing field, allowing them to gain valuable professional experience prior to their high school graduation.

“We are extremely proud of these students and their recent achievements,” Superintendent John Fortney said. “Hopefully this is just the beginning of their careers in the medical industry and they will continue to help and inspire those they help and work with.”

The eight students, along with their friends, family, and peers, were honored in a pinning ceremony at the Kearsarge Regional High School on January 13th.

The Messenger's

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Weare Select Board continues its 2026 budget review process

Police Chief Christopher Moore provided the Select Board with an update on the Central Square agreement/contract. He reported that after inquiries to the salesman, the town would not need to sign anything as Chief Parsons from Hillsborough Police Department will sign the contract and invoice Weare.

Attorney Whitley had asked a question about a certain company which was the vendor for crash software, not this. Chief Moore noted there would be no price increase through October 2027.

The Chief presented information about replacing four vehicle mobile data terminals for \$29,438.96.

The grant is an 80/20 split with 80% (\$23,551.17) reimbursed and 20% (\$5,887.79) paid by the town through cruiser detail funds.

The computers need to be replaced as they are running Windows 9, which is no longer

compliant with criminal justice information systems regulations. The Board approved, specifying that the cruiser detail funds shall be used to facilitate this purchase. Once the purchase reimbursement funds are received, they shall be returned to the detail fund.

Finance Administrator Beth Rouse reviewed several warrant articles. The operating budget was updated to include heat and electricity for the stone building. Veterans' exemptions warrant articles need to be combined due to House Bill changes. The Board discussed combining the disability tax credit article with the veterans' credit increase from \$500 to \$750.

The police cruiser warrant article amount was reduced to \$79,719 with \$54,436 to be raised from taxation due to the computer grant.

Chief Moore proposed using special detail funds for the 5-bay carport project (up to \$30,000)

rather than taxation, noting that the vehicle detail fund had a

balance of \$73,589. The Board approved Chief Moore to use up

to \$30,000 special detail funds to complete the project.



This is the type of sheltered storage garage the Henniker Highway Department hopes to build.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING A HOME IN WINTER: PART II



By: Joyce Bosse

Note Signs That Could Indicate Heating/Insulation Problems

One good thing about home shopping during the winter months is that you can easily determine how well a home is retaining its heat — or how poorly.

For example, if you note long icicles hanging from the edge of a roof, it could be a sign that the roof isn't properly insulated. Your roof is losing heat, which melts the snow and ice above, causing icicles to form. Similarly, if you feel cold air streaming in through closed windows or cracks in shut doors, you know that you're looking at a home that needs some work.

Look for Signs of Household Pests

Pests problems can be especially bad in the winter. As the weather gets colder, critters like mice, bats, racoons, snakes, and insects can sneak indoors to stay warm. In fact, rodents alone invade an estimated 21 million American homes every winter — according to the National Pest Management Association.

This is why it's vital that you take a good look at the basement and attic of the home.

Droppings, small holes in the walls, and smells can be surface level indicators of pest problems. However, you need to get a pest control service in the house to look for more discreet signs of infestations.

Pest control can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars — depending on the severity of the infestation. Even if there are no immediate signs of problems, an expert will be able to tell you if the home has any vulnerabilities that could open the door for unwanted pests in the future.

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Gail Stratos: Publication Design & Layout,
Advertising Design, Production & Website

DEADLINE:

Monday at 5pm prior to Friday publication.

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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.



Publisher's Perspective

Peaceful protest or obstruction of justice?

Last week about 20 area residents gathered at Hillsborough's Butler Park for a candlelight vigil in honor of Renee Good, who was killed while demonstrating against the presence of ICE Agents in Minneapolis.

While I do not support their reasons, I applaud their courage and willingness to stand up for a cause they believe in.

The right to free speech and to peacefully protest is a long-standing American tradition, which must be honored and protected. This week's celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday highlights the power of peaceful

protests and what they can accomplish.

However, the disruption of legitimate government action goes well beyond what is to be condoned, less encouraged.

ICE agents are performing a legitimate function by rounding up and deporting foreign nationals, who are in this country ILLEGALLY. Interfering with that process is an Obstruction of Justice - a CRIME which is subject to arrest and punishment.

Mrs. Good's death is a tragedy, but her death should not be honored.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

My wife and I attended the vigil for Ms. Good on January 11, 2025 in Butler Park. It was announced only a few hours before, but I was encouraged by the almost 2 dozen citizens who were there. It was a valuable time for like-minded people to gather and share concern for Ms. Good's death and for our nation. We trust her death is investigated fairly and everyone responsible held accountable.

Don Sampson

Dear Editor:

A Vote Ignored? Questions for the Hillsboro-Deering School Board

At a recent Hillsboro-Deering School Board meeting, a question was asked about an upcoming presentation by the NH Funding Fairness Project. A board member said the group was invited by an outside organization that requested use of school facilities, but the school board's response raises some reasonable questions.

There doesn't appear to be a facilities-use application from either the outside group or the nonprofit organization, nor a waiver approved by the School Board. Yet SAU 34 is actively advertising the event on its website and social media. Understandably, we're asking who is actually sponsoring this presentation and why district resources are being used.

In March 2024, Hillsboro-Deering voters overwhelmingly approved a warrant article prohibiting the use of taxpayer dollars to fund lobbying activities. I'm not suggesting canceling the event or silencing viewpoints. However, I am asking the School Board to honor the vote. "Free" use of a school gym, custodial services, and staff time is not free; they are taxpayer-funded resources. Providing them at no cost effectively supports the organization using them.

If this truly is an outside advocacy group's event, why is SAU 34 promoting it? SAU 34 has historically declined to promote private or community events, saying that its platforms are reserved for district business. Making an exception here raises concerns about selective promotion. If the SAU is going to advertise this private organization's event as "hosted by SAU 34," then basic

fairness...and the First Amendment...require equal treatment for all groups, especially those granted facility-use waivers.

Also missing from the conversation is the school board's unwillingness to invite the NH Department of Education (NHED) in to discuss school funding. The NHED is nonpartisan and does not lobby. They'll explain, factually, how school funding is calculated in New Hampshire. Yet the board has not invited them to speak, while helping promote an advocacy nonprofit group instead.

Voters were clear in 2024. Respecting that vote doesn't stop discussion; it simply asks for transparency, balance, and fairness in how district resources are used.

Riché Colcombe, Hillsborough

Letter to the Editor:

As we are currently in the budget season for the HDSD school district for the upcoming fiscal year the board would like to take the opportunity to call out some key points related to the proposed budget.

We as board members are taxpayers. We are working hard to do our best to receive community feedback in order to bring forward a proposed budget to the public that shows a decrease to the current year operating budget.

The proposed operating budget is 3.72% less than the current FY 2026 budget. The proposed budget (Articles 3) is \$142,186 lower than the current operating budget. There is a decrease in salaries and Benefits which is mainly due to reduction in staff whether due to retirement, or unfilled positions. Many of these positions have been removed from the budget, therefore they will not appear in the default budget. These moves are in response to our current decline in enrollment and allow us to adjust the staffing model with minimal impacts to instruction. If the proposed budget warrant does not pass, we will be operating under the default budget again. This move would cost all of us more than the proposed budget the board is bringing to the voters.

We also are bringing two collective bargaining agreements to the ballot- Article 6 is the Hillsboro Support Staff contract. This would be a 3-year contract. This

LETTERS - continued on page 14

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Sports



Andover Elementary Middle School defeated Kearsarge 34-15.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St Thomas 52, Hopkinton 45: Hopkinton – Zoe Bishop (12 points, 7 rebounds), Ellie Collins (10 points), Ella-Mai Johnson (8 points, 7 rebounds); St Thomas – Emma Toriello (18 points), Molly Gaynor (14 points).

Bow 44, Hollis-Brookline 36: Peyton Vaughn (15 points), Bella Berg (13 points).

Bow 50, Laconia 21: Peyton Vaughn (16 points), Bella Berg (8 points), Reis Domini (8 points), Audrey Glennon (8 points).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Kearsarge 37, Conant 23: Kearsarge extended its lead when Blake Grieco hit a 3-pointer, then a Davin Boehle

3-point play.

Manchester West 79, John Stark 49: Manchester West jumped out early and didn't look back.

GIRLS ALPINE SKIING

Bow 382, Hollis Brookline 373: Madelyn Hebert of Bow, 1st place with a combined time of 1:15.03. Jenna O'Connor of HB 2nd at 1:16.9. McKenzie Burke of Souhegan 3rd at 1:22.07.

BOYS ALPINE SKIING

ConVal 380, Bow 378: Reid Kimball from Souhegan 1st place with a combined time of 1:15.38, Oliver Weiss of Bow 2nd at 1:19.94, Logan Montano of Conval 3rd at 1:21.99.

LETTERS - continued from page 10

contract allows our district to remain competitive for retaining and hiring qualified employees who work with our students.

Article 7 is the contract for the Hillsboro Deering Federation of Teachers. This article is being brought back after being defeated last year. This 2-year contract includes a 1% cost of living increase for year one. District contribution to health premiums will decrease from 84% to 83% with teachers increasing their contribution from

16% to 17%.

The Overall impacts to the taxpayers with Articles 3, 5 (the SAU budget), 6 & 7 reflects a decrease of -\$455,871 (-1.77%)

We hope to see you all at the Deliberative Session at 7pm in the Middle School cafeteria on February 4th, 2026.

Sincerely,

*Hillsboro-Deering School Board
Chris Bober, Krista Davison, Paul Plater,
Kathryn McGinn and Jessica Pollard*

Alma Mater

Clarkson University Presidential Scholars

Anthony Cauley of Hopkinton
Matthew Clarner of Hopkinton
Brendan Elrick of Contoocook
Stephanie Elrick of Contoocook
Logan Maccarone of Dunbarton

Hofstra University Dean's List

Sophie Bourgeois of New Boston
Adreanna Carroll of Hillsborough

Other Colleges & Universities

D'Aleczandria Johnson, a Freshman Theatre Arts and French major from Contoocook has been named to the Le Moyne College Dean's List. Margaretta Sasso of Goffstown was among more than 2,050 students named to the College of Charleston

President's List. Sasso is majoring in Biology. Olivia Philippy of Goffstown was named to the College of Charleston Fall Dean's List. Philippy is majoring in Biology. Daniel McCall from Peterborough, a member of the class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "AI Generated Video for Cooking Instructions."

Adam Scott Kebalka of Newbury, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University. Springfield College has named Malachi Page from Peterborough to the Dean's List. Page has a primary major of History.

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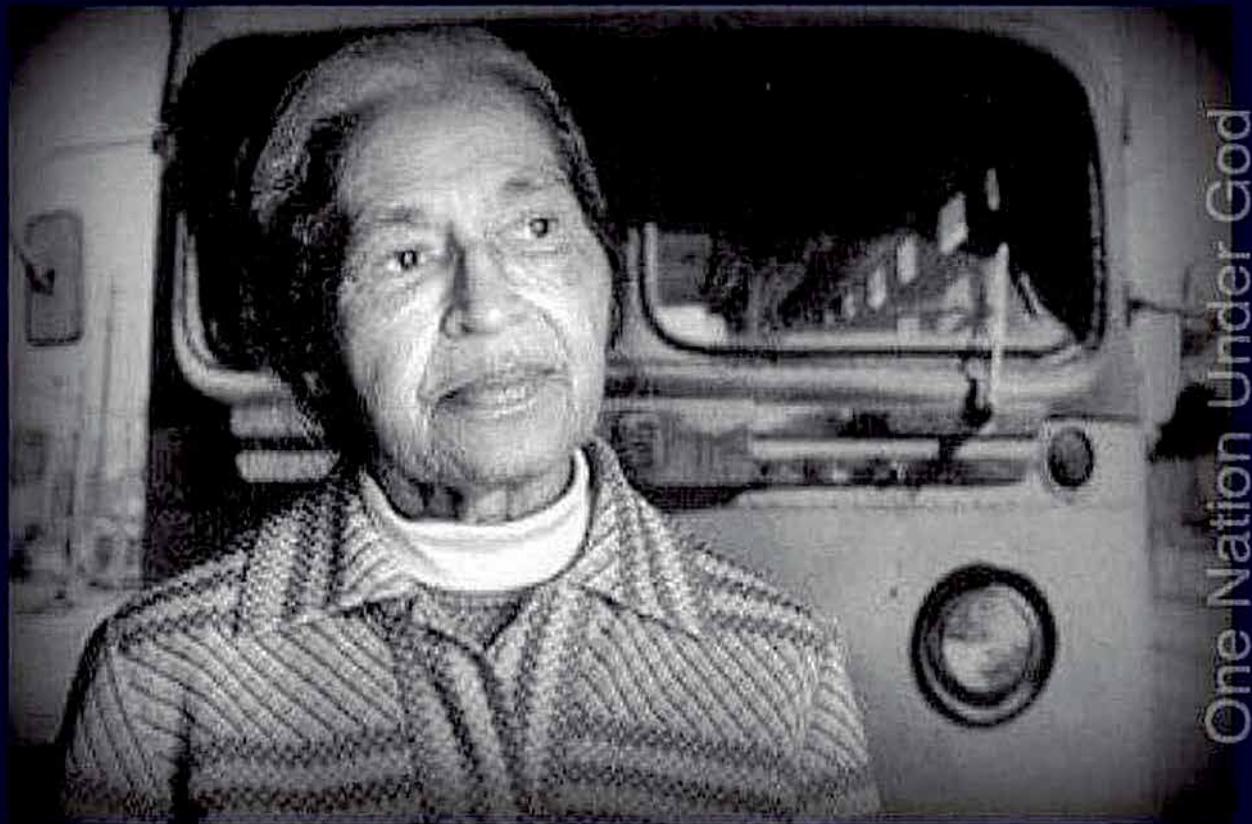


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New London, Newport & Newbury firefighters assist Sunapee at house fire

On Thursday, January 15th, Sunapee Fire was called to 381 Lake Ave for a fire alarm activation. While Sunapee units were still responding to the station for the initial fire alarm activation, New London Dispatch upgraded the call to a 1st Alarm Structure Fire Response after the homeowner called 911 and reported a smoke condition inside the building.

The 1st Alarm Assignment brought in mutual aid from New London, Newport, and Newbury.

Sunapee Engine 2 arrived on the scene at 05:32 and had nothing showing from the exterior of the residence. The homeowner and a dog had safely exited the residence prior to Sunapee Fire's arrival.

Sunapee Engine 2's crew made entry into the residence and discovered a moderate smoke condition and odor in the basement of the building. After a quick but thorough investigation

by Sunapee Engine 2's crew, it was determined to be an issue with an oil boiler. Mutual aid from New London, Newport, and Newbury was cancelled, and additional Sunapee units held in quarters.

Sunapee Fire personnel shut down the boiler and checked for any further extension in the basement. The issue was contained to the boiler, and there was no other damage to the residence.

Sunapee Fire personnel ventilated smoke and high carbon monoxide levels from the residence.

Once all the smoke and carbon monoxide readings had been cleared from the residence, the property was turned back over to the homeowner.

All Sunapee Fire units cleared at 06:09.

This is Sunapee's third call within the last month, where working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms have saved

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For any questions, please

reach out to Chief Tillson at firechief@sunapeenh.gov



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Sunapee Fire & EMS and Sunapee Police responded on the scene of a motor vehicle accident rollover on Route 11 by Trow Hill.



A tractor-trailer hit a power pole on Route 149 near The Wilds in Deering.



Newbury Fire Rescue responded to two motor vehicle crashes within two miles of each other during Saturday's snowstorm. Crews were dispatched to a collision between a car and a snowplow at Route 103 and Village Road. There were no injuries and no damage to either vehicle. The apparatus cleared at 3:57. Newbury Police and New London Ambulance were dispatched to a crash on Route 103 and Morse Hill Road. It was determined that the ambulance was not needed.



Weare Fire Department was dispatched to Concord Stage Rd. for a report of a motor vehicle rollover with unknown injury. Upon arrival they found a single vehicle off the road and on its side with three occupants that had already self-extricated prior to the crew's arrival. All occupants were evaluated by the ambulance crew and all were non-transport with no injury.

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Peterborough Players 2026 summer season opens with “Baskerville”

The Peterborough Players have announced their 2026 summer season, featuring five productions ranging from comedy and musical theater to classic drama, all staged in the company's historic barn theater.

The season will open with “Baskerville,” a comedy by Ken Ludwig directed by Brendon Fox. The family-friendly production puts a comedic spin on Sherlock Holmes' famous case involving the mysterious Baskerville curse, with five actors portraying dozens of characters.

The second production will be “A Danger to Yourself and Others,” a contemporary comedy by Colette Mazunik, also directed by Fox. The play follows an everyman caught in a web of deception while searching for his own identity. Mazunik is ex-

pected to be in residence during the production's development.

The season's musical offering will be “Million Dollar Quartet,” directed by Rachel Sabo-Hedges. Based on a real-life 1956 jam session at Sun Records, the show depicts Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The performers will play the music live on stage. Next will be David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama “Proof,” directed by Charles Morey. The play explores themes of love, loss and legacy through the relationship between a young woman and her late mathematician father.

The season will conclude with “Emma,” Jane Austen's novel adapted by Kate Hamill and directed by Fox. The com-



edy centers on a well-meaning but misguided matchmaker navigating romance and self-discovery.

Join your neighbors and subscribe to Peterborough Players. Visit our website to get unlimited access to our stories, our e-edition, newly-added archival stories, audio and more!

For the 2026 season, Saturday performances will move to matinees. The schedule will also include audience talkbacks, pre-show presentations, cabarets and value-night subscription options.

Season ticket renewals begin Monday, February 16, followed by new subscriptions on March 2.

Individual ticket sales and Barn Door seat selection open March 16. The Players' Arts on Screen series will continue through May 30, with tickets currently available.

The box office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 603-924-7585 or visiting us online at peterboroughplayers.org.

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Vose Farm Residences, an affordable workforce housing community developed by Catholic Charities NH, officially opened Jan. 15, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Applications are now being accepted, with the first tenants expected to move in February. Applications for residency at Vose Farm are available at www.vosefarmresidences.com.

Area Dining Guide

RUSTIC ROSE TAVERN

• Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Take-out or Dine-in

Come in for Great Food, Beer & Cocktails, and Friendly Service

• Check out our specials and events

View our full menu on [Yelp](#) or [Facebook](#)
Watch for our upcoming events!

Hours: Sun. & Mon. 11am-9pm; Thurs. 11am-9pm; Fri. 11am-10pm; Sat. 11am-10pm; Closed Tues. & Wed.

316 Weare Rd., Henniker
603-995-4163



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"Country Dining...
at Country Prices"

www.Appleseedrestaurant.com

938-2100 • HOURS: Tues.-Sun.
5:00pm - 9:00pm • Closed Mon.

Our menu is available for driveway pickup & delivery!

Some items may be subject to availability.

Taking orders from 4:30pm-7:45pm at 603-938-2100



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See you in the Spring!

Henniker Street • Hillsboro

Reed's North

Featuring fresh NE comfort food, craft beer & signature cocktails with a fun vibe.

- THURS 6-8 Trivia Night
- SAT & SUN 8-12 Breakfast
- SUN 4-7 Live Music

2 E Main St. Warner
ReedsNorth.com 456-2143



Bob's CHOCOLATE Café

www.bobschocolatecafe.com

- Savory breakfast & lunch fare
- Delicious treats • Coffees, teas & a variety of refreshing beverages

THE BARN @ 1 MAIN ST., FRANCESTOWN, NH
Mon. & Wed. 9:30am-3:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 9:30am-5:30pm

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Est. 1999 • Sean Burt, Proprietor



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New owners as of April 2023 John & Althea Henderson

Mon 6am-2pm - Tue CLOSED - Wed-Sat 6am-2pm
Sun 7am-1pm BREAKFAST ONLY

NH Made GIFT SHOP

New for 2026

CATERING UP TO 65 guests!

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Chinese Restaurant

Great Food
Great Prices
Great Service

Dine In or Take-Out

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62 Main Street, Antrim, NH

Open from 11AM-9PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday
Closed Sundays & Mondays

RED COAT REALTY'S Community Support Program



**“Giving Something Back
To Our Home Towns”**

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.

ANTRIM

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
Stone Arch Players

WASHINGTON

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

WEARE

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

*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.**

Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Jane Elizabeth O’Hearn



Sunapee — Jane Elizabeth O’Hearn of Naples, Florida, and Sunapee, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully on January 6, at Avow Hospice, surrounded by her family, husband, Robert, children Megan and her husband Michael Konkus, their children, Owen and Myles, her son, Matthew O’Hearn and his wife Renee and their children, John, Oliver, and Celia. Jane was born February 20, 1949, in Gardner, Massachusetts, third child of James and Barbara Eacmen. Burial service will be held in the spring at St. John Cemetery, in Gardner, Massachusetts, where it all began.

Edward J. Hogan



Franklin — Mr. Edward J. Hogan of Franklin, NH passed away on January 9th at the age of 73. The son of Edward and Ella Hogan. He is predeceased by his wife Kathy of 37 years. Ed is survived by his daughter Jen Olejarz and her husband Aaron of Bedford NH; his son Jon Hogan and his wife Annemarie of Derry, NH; 4 grandchildren: Reed and Abrey Olejarz, Harper and Izzy Hogan; sister Elaine Hogan of Tewksbury, MA; brother and sister-in-law Kevin and Debbie Hogan of Chelmsford, MA; sister-in-law Amy Pigeon of Newburyport, MA; and 3 nieces. Spring burial will be in Franklin Cemetery, in Franklin, NH.

William F. “Bill” Carney Sr



Bow — William F. “Bill” Carney Sr passed away peacefully on the morning of January 11, 2026 after a period of declining health. Bill is predeceased by four brothers Jackie, Bob, Ralph and Paul. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Eileen; two sons William (Annie) and David; grandchildren Michael (Maria), Alyson (Brycen), Colin, Jake and Jack; great grandchildren Skyla and Liam. Bill was born March 29, 1934 in Salem, MA to the late John and Mary Carney and grew up in Beverly, MA. Please join us for an Open House to celebrate a life well lived at 185 Robert Rogers Road, Dunbarton NH on January 24, 2026 between 12-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers a donation may be sent to Duck’s Unlimited, Inc. 1 Waterfowl Way Memphis, TN 38120.



The 7th grade Family and Consumer Science classes at KRMS recently competed in a Gourmet Grilled Cheese Challenge. Judges included past student winners, Sutton PD, and faculty and staff.

Events: Community Bulletin Board

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

JACOB LIVE AT TAVERNE ON THE SQUARE: 2 Pleasant St., Claremont, NH. 7:30pm-10pm. Enjoy great dining from Chef Rhonda and her crew, excellent drinks from Jess and the bartenders, and Jacob will handle music! Enjoy this gem in the middle of downtown Claremont. Call ahead to make reservations at (603) 287-4416. See you there!

WHATS UP WITH E-BIKES: 18 Robert A Easter Way, Claremont, NH at 5:30pm. Curious about the buzz around e-bikes? Join us in person to explore everything from the coolest models to handy tips for beginners. Whether you're a seasoned rider or just e-bike curious, come hang out and ask questions. It's all about having fun and learning the ins and outs of electric biking. Don't miss out! Let's get rolling! Call 603-542-2453 for more info.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

NATURE EXPLORATION STORY TIME (NEST) - SPLENDID SNOW: 10am-11pm. LSPA Center for Lake Studies, 63 Main Street Sunapee, NH. Come join LSPA educators at the Center for Lake Studies to explore the natural world. Each Tuesday morning will be filled with hands on learning through sensory experiences, guided exploration, creative play, art, and music. LSPA's story time is designed for young children and their caregivers. Come to one session or all - each program is organized around a different ecological theme. Come join the fun! This Tuesday morning we will learn about the properties of water and why snowflakes are so

spectacular.

LARCENY AND OLD LACE AUDITIONS: Tuesday, 1/27 6-8pm, Thursday, 1/29 6-8pm, Saturday 1/31 12-2pm at Hillsboro Methodist Church, 16 Henniker St, Hillsboro.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

SATISFACTION - THE INTERNATIONAL ROLLING STONES SHOW: at Claremont Opera House, Claremont, NH. 7:30pm-9:30pm. Tickets are \$30-\$35 plus fees. There is a \$2 additional box office fee when you purchase in person. Come experience the international touring tribute show to the World's Greatest Rock & Roll Band. This highly acclaimed production showcases the most authentic cast & costuming of its kind. The likes of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and cast bring a colorful performance to over 50 years of classic hits. Call 603-542-4433 or visit <https://cohn.org/> for more info.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WARNER'S WRITER'S GROUP: Pillsbury Library (Frank Maria Meeting Room), 18 E Main St. Warner. 6:30-7:45pm. This is an informal gathering that may evolve over time. There's no critique or pressure, just a supportive space to write, connect, and maybe share what you're working on if you wish. Bring your laptop or notebook, settle in, and enjoy an hour+ of dedicated writing time with others who get it. We meet the first Tuesday of every month.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

BRAZILIAN MUSIC: Frankestown Academy Coffeeshouse performance begins at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm at the

Frankestown Town Hall. Variety of acts including "Pato Pato," a duo playing Brazilian music including Samba. Also display artist Mary Rondeau of Pickett Fence Gift Shop, and snack foods. \$8 suggested donation per person. See frankestown-coffeehouse.org.

CHILI COOK-OFF: Please join us for our 8th annual Chili Cook-Off from 11am-2pm at James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main Street, Antrim. For more information call (603) 588-6786.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

TASTY THURSDAY GOES GLOBAL: Something different is coming to Tasty Thursday! Come warm up and try some dishes with an international flavor - Swedish meatballs, Italian lasagna, Polish stuffed cabbage, Quiche Lorraine, Black beans and rice, and many more. At 5pm, Smith Memorial Church, Hillsboro.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT: Antrim Grange will host the annual Meet the Candidates Night at 7pm at the Antrim Town Hall. Antrim voters are invited to come and hear candidates running for local office share their message, in person, at one convenient time and place. For newer voters, it is an opportunity to learn about the various positions up for election and to put a face to names that will be on the ballot at town voting day March 10th.

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

Weare Area Scouts Troops 529 B & G Tree Recycling

Saturdays & Sundays in January
9AM - 2PM (and as needed)

Our Scouts will be happy to pick up your tree if you live in Hillsboro, Deering, Henniker Weare or the surrounding area.

Text or call
603-315-0356



The Scouts are recycling as a fundraiser to help scouts attend summer camp and other scouting purposes. Donations are tax-deductible and all proceeds stay within the local scout unit. Average donations range between \$5-\$20.

Hillsboro Methodist Church

Join us for
Sunday worship
at 10 am

- Evangelical
- Bible Teaching

Affiliated with the Global
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Love + Truth = Grace

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Hillsboro-Methodist-Church-GMC/>

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TOWN OF ANTRIM 2026 BUDGET HEARING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in accordance with RSA 32:5 on the proposed 2026 budget and warrant on **February 9th 2026** at 6:00pm at the Town Hall, 66 Main Street. Snow Date will be February 10th at 6:00pm.

Join us at the Contoocook American Legion Post 81 for Fun, Food & Cameraderie

Visit our website at
contoocooknhpost81.org
for a Calendar of Events
for Members & Guests

HOURS: Mon: Closed • Tues-Sat: 2-9; Sun: 1-6



Play
Keno 603,
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& other
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Classifieds

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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.

*Looking for help?
Have something to sell?*

Send your Classifieds to: Granite Quill Publishers
246 West Main St., Hillsboro, NH or email: leighb@tds.net



Congratulations to the newly sworn-in Franklin Mayor, City Councilors, and School Board members. The January 5th 2026 inaugural meeting was an important moment for Franklin, and it was encouraging to see residents show up to witness the transition of leadership and the start of a new term.



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**Not all eligible products are pictured.

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