

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 6 ♦ February 6, 2026



Goffstown Dispatcher Dies

We are saddened to have learned of retired Goffstown Police Department dispatcher Ray Brule's passing. Those who relied on his skills and abilities recognized the heart he held for those on the other end. Today, we send up a sincere thank you for always having our backs Ray. See his obituary on page 20.

This week in history

FEBRUARY 6, 1988

Michael Jordan slam-dunks from the free-throw line

FEBRUARY 7, 1964

The Beatles arrive in America

FEBRUARY 8, 1965

The Supreme's "Stop! In The Name of Love" released

FEBRUARY 9, 1950

Senator Joseph McCarthy makes claims about Communists in the State Department

FEBRUARY 10, 1970

Avalanche buries skiers in France

FEBRUARY 11, 1990

Nelson Mandela released from prison

FEBRUARY 12, 1994

Thieves steal Edvard Munch's The Scream



The Knight Riders Snowmobile Club had 434 paid entries in the 2026 vintage ride, a record attendance.

One minor injured during annual snowmobile ride

A minor was injured Saturday afternoon in a head-on snowmobile crash on Bible Hill Road in Bennington, according to New Hampshire Fish and Game.

The crash was reported at about 2:15 p.m. Feb. 1. Authorities said one oper-

ator, identified as Christopher Bascom, 41, of Charlestown, was uninjured. The other snowmobile was operated by a minor, who sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Both operators were thrown from their snowmobiles

during the collision. The injured minor was transported to Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough.

The crash remains under investigation, but officials said operator inattention appears to be the primary cause.

Elderly pedestrian dies in Hillsborough MV accident

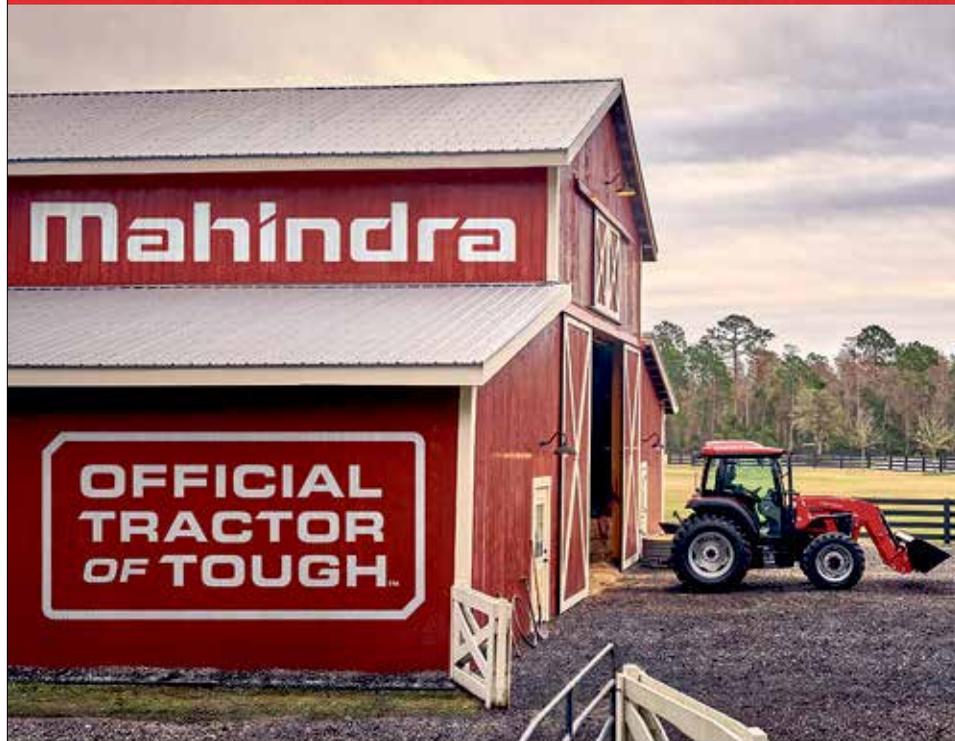
On Feb. 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsboro Police, Fire, and Rescue responded to the area of 27 Henniker Street for a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian.

The investigation revealed that a pedestrian was attempting to cross the roadway and was struck by a vehicle trav-

eling eastbound. The driver of that vehicle, identified as Stephen Gallagher, age 55, of Hillsboro, immediately stopped, rendered aid, and fully cooperated with investigators. Sadly, the pedestrian, identified as Elizabeth Otten, 82, of Hillsboro, succumbed to her injuries.

Henniker Street was closed for a brief period while investigators processed the scene. The preliminary investigation suggests that lighting conditions, limited visibility, and the roadway curve contributed to the incident. All aspects of this case remain under investigation.

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Walking Tour of Henniker Timber Harvest

Ever wondered what happens during a timber harvest or how foresters decide which trees stay and which ones go? Join the Forest Society and UNH Cooperative Extension for a special winter tour of an active timber harvest on Saturday, February 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The timber harvest will take place off Dudley Pond Road in Henniker. Forest Society signs will be placed along the road and staff will direct participants to parking.

This guided hike offers a behind-the-scenes look at modern, sustainable forestry in action. Foresters will lead participants through the harvest area, explain the goals of the project, and answer questions about everything from forest planning to long-term ecosystem health.

This harvest is also testing out innovative new techniques designed to help a wider variety of tree species grow successfully in light of heavy deer browsing pressure. Participants will see these meth-

ods firsthand and learn how foresters are adapting to changing forest conditions.

Along the way, the tour will dive into:

- How foresters choose which trees to cut and which to leave
- How forests grow back after a harvest
- Timber markets and how wood products move from forest to mill
- Machinery used in modern logging
- Wildlife habitat considerations
- Timber harvesting laws and best practices

Be prepared for a real outdoor adventure. The route includes uneven, icy, and steep terrain, so traction devices are required and trekking poles are recommended. Dress warmly, wear sturdy winter boots, and plan to be outside and away from your vehicle for the full three hours.

Parking is limited, so registration is required at forestsociety.org/events. If weather becomes an issue, registrants will receive an email update on February 13.

Hancock Select Board & Budget Committee hold joint Hearing

Hancock's Select Board and Budget Committee held a joint hearing on the proposed Operating Budget of \$3,238,598, a \$13,027 increase over 2025.

The largest results from Monadnock Prosecutions Group no longer providing its services to the town, eliminating a \$130,193 expense.

Another reduction comes from the General Government Buildings line. The 2025 expense was \$127,157 reduced by

\$22,913 to \$104,244.

Ambulance Service and Fire Department account for the largest increases in the proposed budget.

Hancock contracts with Peterborough's Fire & Rescue for its ambulance services.

The previous year's budget included \$123,638 for the service. This year's proposal would increase it by \$36,596, bringing the proposed budget item to \$160,234.

Town of Weare celebrates Naomi Bolton's 30 years of dedicated service

Weare residents debated questions of personnel compensation and equipment purchases at the Town's Deliberative Session on Saturday. The 2026-2027 proposed

Naomi Bolton

Operating Budget is set at \$9.6 million, which is \$385,331 higher than the default budget and a \$632,000 increase over last year's budget. With a tax impact of \$4.05, the proposed budget would cost the average property taxpayer \$1,620 a year, given a home valued at \$400,000.

The proposed budget provides increases to contracts and payroll, including promotions for Department of Public Works and transfer station personnel, and trash disposal.

One of those increases calls for a \$3,000 incentive for on-call snow plow operators: \$1,500 at

the start of plow season and, depending on attendance, \$1,500 at the end. In total, these would amount to \$50,000.

The Town's Finance Committee declined to recommend five warrant articles to voters: Article 18, which would promote the assistant director of the library to a full-time employee, and Article 19, which would do the same for the Highway Department employee. An amendment to Article 15, to the purchase of a new Chevrolet Tahoe police pursuit vehicle, was withdrawn and the question will appear as written on the ballot.

The meeting ended on a high note with a celebration of Naomi Bolton's 30 years of service as Town Administrator. Bolton resigned her position in December, but continues to stay on during the transition.

Benji Knapp, Chair of the Select Board praised Bolton's longevity as Town Administrator, saying she has "done every

job there is to do," including working as interim town administrator past her retirement to fa-

cilitate the town meeting process and allow the town enough time to find her replacement. Knapp

stated, "I'm sure this isn't the last time we'll ask for your help at town meeting."



The boys of Antrim's Boy Scout Troop 2 had a great night skiing and riding Crocthed Mountain for their troop ski night and as part of the Snow Sports Merit Badge.

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Sunapee Fire & EMS on the scene of an odor investigation on Alpine Court. Sunapee Fire personnel checked the building extensively and were unable to locate any issue.



Sunapee Fire & EMS, along with Sunapee Police, were on the scene of a motor vehicle collision on Jobs Creek Road by Woodland Road.



Sunapee Fire & EMS, Sunapee Police, and New London Ambulance were on scene of a vehicle off the road on Interstate 89 Northbound by Exit 12A.

2026 Weare School District Budget up \$650,000 or 3.66%

Weare voters gathered on Wednesday, February 4 at Weare Middle School, 16 East Road, to discuss a proposed \$21.4 million school operating budget and new contracts for teachers and support personnel at the school district's deliberative session.

The proposed budget for

the next school year is 3.66%, or about \$650,000, higher than the one approved last year. Health benefits alone rose \$412,000 on two line items, making it the most significant cost driver.

A proposed two-year contract for teachers will be on the ballot. Its first-year cost is \$384,000.

Also on the warrant is a petitioned article concerning Education Freedom Accounts, the state's school voucher program. It "calls on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring

the Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and by limiting eligibility to families with

demonstrated financial need." Weare School District covers Center Woods Elementary and Weare Middle Schools. Final votes will take place on Election Day, March 10.



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NEARLY THREE OUT OF FOUR ADULTS FEAR GOING TO THE DENTIST: PART II



Dr. Esin Narli

When those with moderate or severe fear were asked whether they would be interested in a free, brief treatment for dental fear that could be completed at home, the majority (71.2 percent) expressed interest. Those who were not interested indicated skepticism about whether the treatment would be effective, reported satisfaction with their current coping strategies, or had concerns about time.

The role of memory in dental fear

Given how common dental fear is, NYU Dentistry researchers are also working to better understand how it emerges. Prior research shows that more than half of those who have high levels of dental fear have had negative experiences at the dentist, often as a child or adolescent, but little attention has been paid to the role of memory in developing and maintaining these fears.

Memories of traumatic dental care can be remarkably vivid and tend to have lifelong implications. To explore the connection between memory and dental fear, researchers analyzed survey data and written reflections from parents about their own dental fear as well as their children's fear; the findings are published in the journal *Oral*.

They found that many people with dental fear have memories of pain and negative interactions with dentists – including some behaviors that have since fallen out of favor, such as a dentist putting a hand over a child's mouth to stop disruptive behavior, a technique that has been removed from clinical guidelines. Patients also recounted experiences that led them to perceive dentists as untrustworthy, whether they felt humiliation, that they were not being listened to or believed, or that dentists were recommending unnecessary treatments.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

The *BMJ* has uncovered fresh concerns about the multi-billion-dollar drug ticagrelor, this time in key platelet studies used in its FDA approval. For more than a decade, ticagrelor (Brilinta in the U.S. and Brilique in Europe) has been recommended for patients with acute coronary syndrome — a range of conditions related to sudden reduced blood flow to the heart. Last December, an investigation by The *BMJ* found serious data integrity problems in the landmark clinical trial (PLATO) that was used to gain worldwide approval for ticagrelor, calling into question the drug's advantage over cheaper rivals. Now, as generic versions of the drug prepare to launch this year, The *BMJ* has expanded its investigation, looking at two key platelet studies that AstraZeneca claimed explained ticagrelor's ability to treat acute coronary syndrome successfully. It finds that the "primary endpoint" results (the trial's key measurement) for both clinical trials were inaccurately reported in the leading cardiology journal *Circulation* and reveals that more than 60 of 282 readings from platelet machines used in the trials were not present in U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) datasets. What's more, one active trial investigator never became a study author, while one author told The *BMJ* he was not involved in the trial, and most investigators, including the principal investigator, were unreachable or declined to be interviewed.

Liraglutide, a diabetes medication that lowers brain fluid pressure, has cut monthly migraine days by more than half, according to a new study presented at the European Academy of Neurology Congress 2025. Patients reported an average of 11 fewer headache days per month, while disability scores on the Migraine Disability Assessment Test dropped by 35 points, indicating a clinically meaningful improvement in work, study, and social functioning. GLP-1 agonists have gained recent widespread attention, reshaping treatment approaches for several diseases, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In the treatment of type 2 diabetes, liraglutide helps lower blood sugar levels and reduce body weight by suppressing appetite and reducing energy intake.

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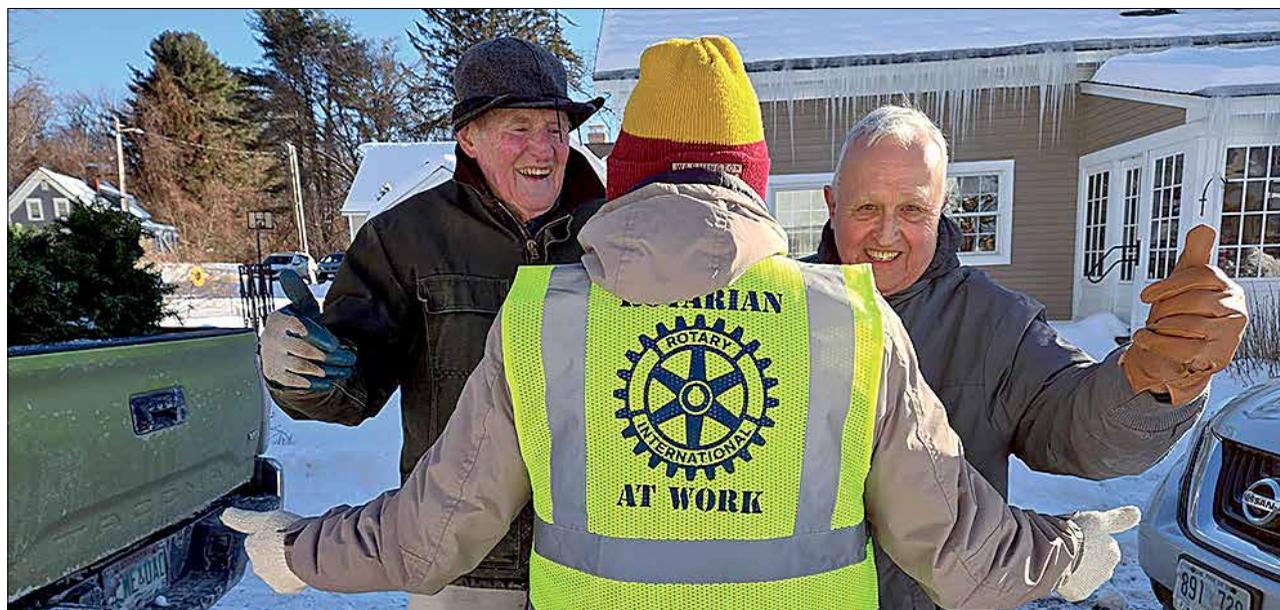
In Service to Others



The Henniker Lions Club held their annual Christmas Tree Bonfire at the Henniker Brewery. The Bonfire helps fund fuel assistance in the community.



The Hopkinton Rotary Club has announced that Eric Schleppehorst was presented with a Paul Harris plus four. Congratulations Eric and thanks for all you do.



Community in Action: The Great Decoration Takedown! They say what goes up must come down, and in Henniker, they make sure it comes down with a laugh! The Henniker Area Rotary gathered to retire the holiday decorations for the season, proving that "many hands make light work"—and a lot of fun.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust named one of America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust is pleased to announce the Bank has been recognized by Newsweek as one of "America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions" for the fifth consecutive year. The Bank was selected from among approximately 8,800 financial institutions based on a combination of indicators of financial health, operational performance, long-term stability metrics, and customer reviews.

"To be considered one of 'America's Best Regional Banks' for the fifth year in a row is an extraordinary achievement and truly reflects our commitment to our customers," said Curtis C. Simard, President and CEO

of Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. "Achieving this milestone is only possible thanks to the consistency and dedication of our colleagues. Together, we are able to provide best-in-class service to our customers and sustain our commitment to helping our customers achieve their goals."

In addition to the "America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Union" recognition by Newsweek, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Bank has also been recognized by Forbes as one of the "World's Best Banks" each year since 2023. Other awards the Bank has won in recent years include Forbes "Best-in-State Banks" in 2022, 2023, and 2024; Newsweek's

"America's Best Banks" in 2022; and Mastercard's Doing Well by Doing Good Award in 2022.

Newsweek collaborated with Plant-A Insights Group, a market data research group, to identify the financial institutions named

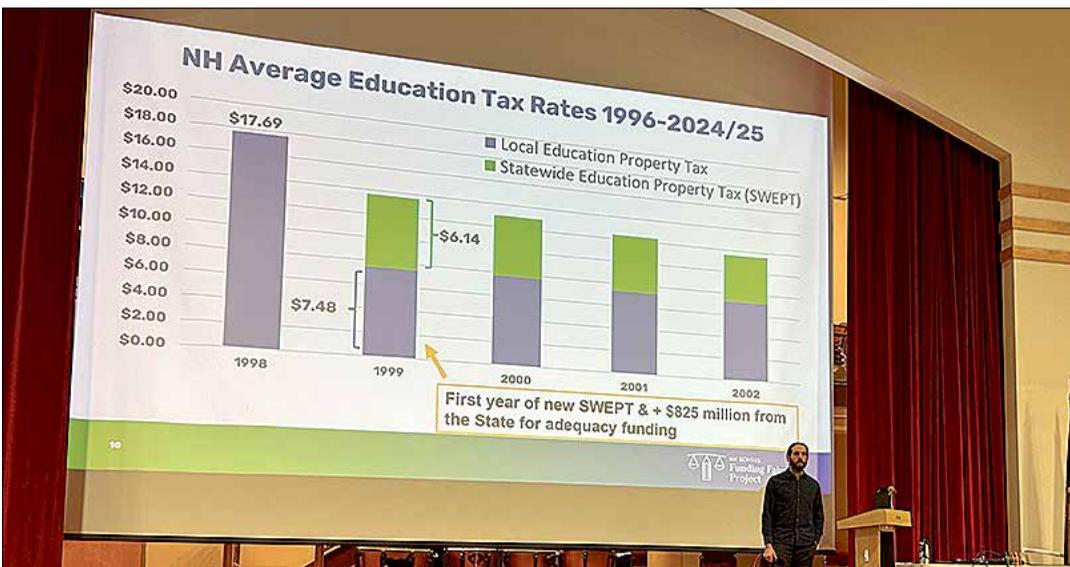
to the "America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2026" list. All regional banks and credit unions across the United States were examined and selected based on indicators of financial health, operational performance,

and metrics indicating long-term stability. Only institutions operating in fewer than 30 states and that had positive profitability, creditworthiness, and healthy lending capacity were included in the analysis.

*If you can't fly then run,
if you can't run then walk,
if you can't walk then crawl,
but whatever you do
you have to keep moving forward.*



~ Martin Luther King



The NH School Funding Fairness project held a well attended forum at the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School last Thursday.

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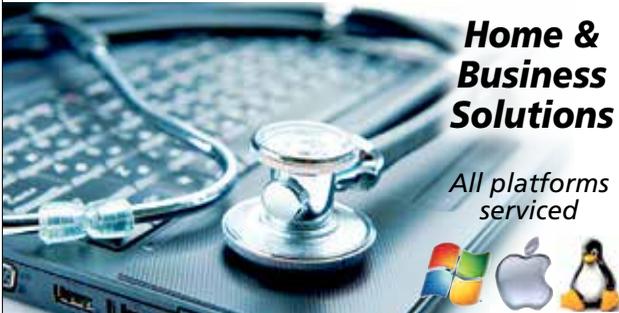
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Welcome Officer Alberts, (L) a part time officer with the city of Franklin. She started her career with the NH State Police in 2005, then moved on to Bow PD where she rose through the ranks to Lieutenant. She also works as an investigator for the Merrimack County Attorneys office. The Weare Police Department pauses to recognize a very special milestone. Administrative Assistant, Emily Dauphinais, (R) is celebrating 10 years of dedicated service to the agency and the Town of Weare. Her commitment to excellence and her deep knowledge of the department make her an invaluable asset to the team and the citizens they serve.



Henniker Area Rotary Club's 4-Way Speech Contest

Calling all local high schoolers! Do you have something to say? The Rotary Club of Henniker wants to hear it—and we're putting \$500 cash on the line for the 1st place winner! Our annual 4-Way Speech Contest is back for 2026, and it's the perfect stage to sharpen your public speaking skills while tackling the big questions.

The Prizes: 1st Place: \$500; 2nd Place: \$300; 3rd Place: \$200 (Winners also move on to the District Level Competition for even more prizes!)

The Rules: We're looking for confidence, clarity, and connection. Here is the breakdown:

Eligibility: Open to all students in grades 9-12 (John Stark, Hillsboro-Deering, and home/private school students are all welcome).

Topic: Choose a topic you're passionate about—personal, social, or global.

The Challenge: Apply the Rotary 4-Way Test to your topic: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Length: Your speech must be between 5–7 minutes.

Key Dates: Registration Deadline: February 20, 2026
Local Competition: March 22, 2026 (12:00 p.m. at Henniker Community Center) Semi-Finals: April 12, 2026

Ready to apply? Don't wait! Contact your school representative or reach out to us directly for an application: Jane Jepson (JSRH): jane.jepson@sau24.org M. Prentiss (H-D HS): mprentiss@hdsd.org

Car hit and injured Goffstown school crossing guard

A crossing guard was struck by a vehicle outside Bartlett Elementary School on Goffstown's Mast Road Tuesday morning. The crossing guard was hit just after 8 a.m. and was taken to Elliot Hospital with serious injuries

that were not considered to be life-threatening.

The vehicle that struck the guard remained on the scene. Police are looking into what caused the crash, including whether solar glare played a role.

The Messenger's

FREE AD POLICY

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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Leigh and Joyce Bosse



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Henniker voters face an ambitious 29 article warrant at Town Meeting

The Henniker Select Board held a Public Hearing Tuesday evening to discuss the proposed operating budget and warrant articles.

Articles 1-4 dealt with elections and Zoning amendments.

Article 5: The Operating Budget is set at \$7,024, 729.00 which reflects an increase of about 1.7% over the current budget.

Article 6: Asks for \$263,228.00 for the Tucker Free Library.

Article 7: Requests \$768,917.00 for the Wastewater Operating Budget.

Article 8: Set the Cogswell Wastewater Operating Budget at 4568,708.00.

Article 9, 10 & 11: Appoints agent to various trust funds.

Article 12: Amends the Police Equipment Expendable Trust Fund to include vehicles.

Article 13: Amends the purpose of the Police Special Detail Fund to retain its income.

Article 14: Sets a \$5.00 fee on motor vehicle registration for Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund.

Article 15: Allocates \$650,000.00 to Capital Reserve Funds.

Article 16: Allocates 80,000.00 to the ambulance-Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 17: Appropriates \$900,000.00 to Expendable Trust Funds.

Article 18: Appropriates \$309,600.00 to a Wastewater Upgrade Project.

Article 19: Appropriates \$110,000.00 to purchase highway equipment.

Article 20: Appropriates \$86,200.00 for a Highway Equipment Shelter.

Article 21: Asks for \$16,500.00 to design and construct a Main Street Crosswalk.

Article 22: Asks for \$15,000.00 to support the Granite State Visiting Nurse Association.

Article 23: Would establish a Community Services and Care Planning Board.

Article 24: Modifies the Disability Tax Credit.

Article 25: Re-Adopts the Tax

Exemptions on Commercial & Industrial properties.

Article 26: Established a social district for the consumption of alcohol.

Article 27: Prohibits Games

of Chance.

Article 28: Prohibits 2nd Generation SGAR Rodenticides.

Article 29: Requires a Permit to possess and discharge Class C Fireworks.



Henniker Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin asked the Select Board to approve a \$38,800 contract with KV Partners to reclaim River Road.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) LOANS: PART II



By: Joyce Bosse

Even knowing about the advantages of VA loans and that you may be eligible, you may still be unsure about using this earned benefit because of popular misconceptions.

Myth: A VA loan can only be accessed once

Many veterans are under the impression that you can only access a VA loan once. However, you can use and reuse the VA benefit again and again. There is no limit to how many times you can use the VA loan program as long as you remain eligible.

Myth: You can only have one VA loan at a time

Sometimes you may have to finance multiple properties at once. Under certain conditions, with a VA loan, you may be able to finance multiple homes simultaneously, including your primary home, rental properties and vacation homes.

Myth: VA loans are less preferable to sellers because they have a lot of restrictions

A VA loan may take a few days more to close versus a conventional loan, but that doesn't necessarily make them more restrictive.

VA loans have additional controls in place to protect the veteran and their family; e.g., appraisals have to be completed by a VA-approved appraiser, which may increase the processing time of the loan.

Myth: The appraisal process for VA loans is more stringent and difficult than a conventional loan

The appraisal process is similar to a conventional loan. The VA approves and hires local appraisal professionals to ensure a smooth process.

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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.



Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

During these days back in my home town in Hillsboro, NH, I have found news of one event that is happening in southern USA, that is positive, instead of the usual negative, violent events happening across the country. It has only begun to be mentioned in major news, but has helped me not be overcome with how violent and unsettled our county has become.

I found it a month ago on Facebook, (that I rarely read), but it helps keep me more focused on what is important in life.

Have you heard about the two dozen Buddhist monks from their monastery in Fort Worth, Texas that have been walking silently, in single file in their traditional orange robes step by step along roads for over 20 miles each day for the last three months toward Washington, DC? Their silent walking peacefully, without any noise or multiple banners, through the villages each day has now begun to attract crowds of ten thousand in Charleston, SC and even more in High Point and Raleigh, NC, (despite snow and cold weather).

Why? They are not walking to convince anyone to become Buddhist or any particular religion, nor any political party. They simply say when asked, we are all human beings, let us live in peace together. They smile, gently show compassion to anyone who looks ill, worried, elderly, or young children, letting each know they are valuable human beings. One time when asked to share, they suggested we set aside our "lovers" (our cell phones) and be human with each other! Even the sheriffs, police, local government officials, and emergency people have appreciated their way of bringing peace and are now voluntarily helping them walk safely each day. It has given hope to people from all ages, spectrums of life and belief who have gathered peacefully to witness the monks together like good neighbors.

Let us all live in peace, help our neighbors in our daily lives. We, as humans, all face violence, death, and difficult times (whether we have relatives/friends in Minnesota, Maine, or know people who in fear of being thrown into jail/deportation no matter whether they are legal citizens or not). Let us be strong as Americans and live with our neighbors in peace.

Marian Baker, Hillsborough

Letter to the Editor:

(in response to Peaceful protest or obstruction of justice):

Mrs. Good's death should NOT be honored? Who EXACTLY do you think YOU are? Judge, Jury, Executioner, God? What are your standards for whose death should be "honored" and who should not? Would you say this to the faces of Mrs. Good's children, family and loved ones? Or don't you have the nerve for that?

"ICE Agents" are armed, masked hulking men with no badge number or name tag. How do we know who they are and hold them accountable without videotaping them? They are tear gassing children and spraying

pepper spray and mace in PEACEFUL protestors' faces! If our local police behaved in such a manner, they would be held to account!!! Who shoots someone in the head and then THREE times in the face, calls her a "F---ing B---ch" and then flees the scene? These "ICE Agents" are reprehensible & trample Constitutional rights every day they parade around our FREE cities and NO ONE will hold them accountable.

So while you're deciding who "should be honored" and who should not, those of us who fight to uphold our Constitution and the Rule of Law—where do we stand? If we come down on the LEFTY LIBERAL side of the equation, do our deaths not count? And, how will the RIGHTY so called "CHRISTIANS" be judged? I'm certainly glad I will not have to think of what words to use to eulogize you.

Sincerely & with the greatest disdain,

**Lois V. Rostanzo, Citizen of Hillsborough, NH
(for almost 18 years now)**

The difference in tone of these two letters is an example of exactly what is tearing our country apart. We need more of one and less of the other. Can you guess which one I prefer? LDB

Letter to the Editor:

To the people of Hillsboro,

The town of Hillsboro has been actively trying to raise funds for a community center. Recently this effort has come to an end and the funds raised are supposed to be donated to a charity. The goal as far as I can tell was to raise money and build a grand community center, complete with a pool and all the amenities. The goal was to far too big to be realistically obtainable but the goal is certainly obtainable if it is broken up into smaller pieces and were to start off smaller. We all drive by a building that is perfect to start a community center in... the former Rite-Aid building! The space is large, open and perfect for multi-functional use. There are many avenues of producing revenue, such as renting space to many groups in town who are always looking for large spaces that the school cannot always accommodate. There is a drive through window that can be leased to a food business that would not only serve the center but the community through the drive through and memberships can be sold for "open gym time" and other activities. Many affordable recreational activities can be accommodated using a model like Dinkers, or the Teen Center(with ping pong, pool table etc), bounce house nights, etc... I have and others in the community have ideas. The town of Hillsboro has the ability to to work a deal with taxes to make the rent more affordable and the committee has raised money to start with. What we need to do is take this opportunity to start a Community Center now and grow it into what the community wants in time or we don't get one in our lifetime. Had I only been willing to build a full scale ice cream shop or ant foodservice operation and not start off smaller in a trailer, I would not have a business nor would Hillsboro have the accessible choices it now does and would still have another empty space.

Aaron Zipper, Washington

Announcing Henniker's Summer Concert Series 2026

Last year generous support from the Friends of the Henniker Concert Series made it possible to add a 13th concert to the schedule. This year, we aim to do it again—and with your help, we can! Every Tuesday night from June 16 to September 1, 2026, the Henniker Summer Concert Series will fill Angela Robinson Bandstand in Community Park with music, fun, and connection. With audiences of all ages, ranging from 200 to 700 people each week, it's the largest community event in Henniker during the summer.

It all began modestly 46 years ago when New England College Professor of Music Angela Robinson revived a 19th century tradition of hosting outdoor community concerts. When volunteer musicians no longer were available, the town of Henniker provided initial funding for Angela to hire local bands so the series could continue. From those humble beginnings on the lawn of the NEC Administration Building, the series has grown over the years, with support from the business community and the Friends, to engage some of the region's most exciting performers. Now, the bands perform in the aptly named Angela Robinson Bandstand, gifted to the town by her husband, the late Walter Robinson. Although Angela and Walter are no longer with us, the tradition and magic of music continues. Be Part of the Magic—Become a Friend. With a

\$100 donation, you can help keep this cherished tradition, celebrating its 46th season alive and ensure we continue bringing talented performers to Henniker for the 2026 season. As a Friend of the Henniker Concert Series, You'll Receive:

- Invitation to the exclusive Friends VIP catered reception - a night of celebration and gratitude!
- Your name listed on the official concert flyer.
- Recognition on a special "Friends Poster" displayed throughout the concert series.
- A Certificate of Appreciation suitable for framing.
- A colorful Season Concert sticker to display proudly.
- Your name included on the Henniker Concert Series website.
- Advance mailing of the 2026 Season Program.

Your support doesn't just make the music possible; it strengthens our community by fostering connection, joy, and local pride without using any taxpayer dollars. Let's make 2026 another extraordinary year of summer entertainment. Become a Friend today and help us keep the music playing in Henniker! To become a Friend of the Henniker Summer Concert Series, send your check for \$100 made out to Henniker Concerts Private Trust, c/o Ruth Zax, PO Box 486, Henniker, NH 03242.

Open enrollment debates dominated Goffstown Deliberative Session

A debate over open enrollment took center stage at the Goffstown School District deliberative session Monday night.

Open-enrollment public schools can accept students from anywhere in the state, and under the current law, taxpayers in those students' communities would pay for 80% of the cost per pupil.

Other warrant articles include:

- Setting the school district's proposed operating budget for 2026-27 at roughly \$58.5 million. The

local tax rate would increase by 41 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value under the proposed budget (about \$170 for a home assessed at a \$416,000) or by 29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value under the default budget (about \$120 for a \$416,000 home).

- A four-year collective bargaining agreement with the Goffstown Education Association that would raise salaries and benefits. It would require raising an additional \$1.6 million in its first year, for a tax impact of \$241.63 on a \$416,000 home.

Henniker School District sets its Operating Budget at \$11,186,252

A sparse crowd attended the Henniker School District's Deliberative Session Monday evening.

For an explanation, discussion and debate of Warrant Articles to be voted on at the District meeting on March 10th.

ARTICLE 1: Sets the salaries of district officers including the School Board.

ARTICLE 2: Asks voters to discontinue the technology Equipment Expendable Trust and to transfer

its balance of \$71,805.00 to the General Fund and to raise a like amount to be added to the Educationally Handicapped Expendable Trust.

ARTICLE 3: Asks voters to approve an Operating Budget of \$11,186,252.00 with a Default Budget of \$11,055,780.00.

ARTICLE 4: Asks voters to approve a new two-year collective bargaining agreement with the teacher's union, totaling \$396,340 over the two years.

The town of Hopkinton to hold its initial "Dog of the Year" contest

For the first time ever, Hopkinton is holding a special Kid's Election to vote for Hopkinton's 2026 Dog of the Year. The election will be held on March 10th (Town & School Election Day) at Hopkinton Middle High School. Families may submit one photo of your dog per household, with your dog's name and a short caption.

Please be sure to include your name, the dog's name, your phone number, and email.

Entries can be submitted to: dtctc@hopkinton-nh.gov; submissions open February 2 through February

20th at 12 p.m. To be eligible, you must be a current resident of Hopkinton and your dog's rabies vaccination must be up to date and licensed for 2026 by February 20th at noon.

Town employees will narrow the entries down to five finalists, who will be added to a special ballot for the Kid's Election on March 10. The winner will be notified by phone or email and announced at the Hopkinton Town Meeting (on March 19).

Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you need assistance or have any questions, (603)746-3180.

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- **Daniel's Restaurant** *Special Valentine dinner, dessert and cocktail menu. Reservations suggested 603-428-7621*
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- **Henniker Book Farm & Gifts** *Stop In to See What's New! www.hennikerbookfarm.com*
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- **Henniker House Bed & Breakfast Inn** *Come Relax on the River!*
- **Henniker Lions Club** *Serving Henniker for over 40 years!*
- **Henniker Pharmacy** *Great selection of cards, flowers, candles, wine, chocolate, clothing and more!*
- **Henniker PTA** *Make every child's potential a reality*
- **Henniker Rotary Club** *Service Above Self!!*
- **Henniker Septic Services** *In This Game, A Flush Beats A Full House*
- **Henniker Thrift Store** *Open Wed 1-4, Fri 3-5, Sat 10-1*
- **Henniker Veterinary Services** *Your Partner in Pet Health*
- **Intervale Pancake House** *Open Daily 6:30 am-noon*
- **Locke's Promise Inc.** *Empowering NH to live beyond the limits of MS. www.lockespromise.com*
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- **Progressive Consulting** *Access Control & Camera Systems*
- **SAU 24 Henniker Community School** *Preparing Learners for Their Future*
- **Sonny's Main Street Restaurant** *Great Pizza, Subs, Salads on Main Street!*
- **Spacious Skies French Pond** *Family Friendly Oasis in Henniker NH!*
- **Stonefalls Gardens** *Opening in April!*
- **Upstairs at Daniel's Gift Shop** *Special treats for your Valentine. Chocolates, jewelry, cards. Thurs-Sun 12-6*
- **Western Avenue Pizza** *Excellent Pizzas, Subs, Salads including GF!*

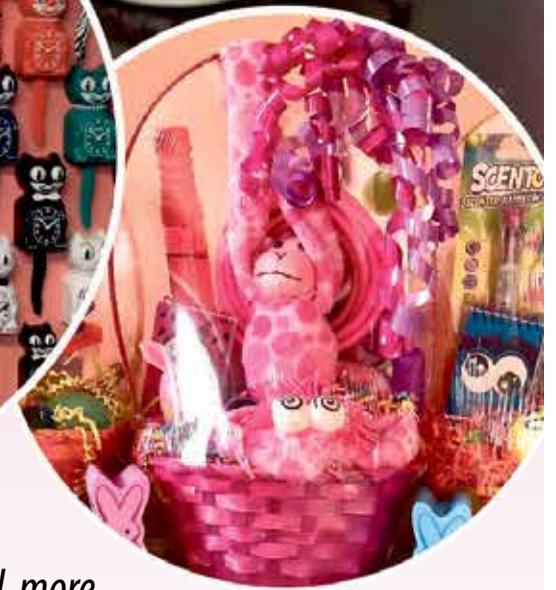
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Sports



Coach Reilly Moskalenko, Gage Richard and Assistant Coach Brandon McDougal stand proud on the mats after Gage Richard is a dual-athlete in football and wrestling and is being highlighted as a Kearsarge High School athlete of the month for his efforts on and off the field. Richard's 100th win. Photo courtesy of Scott Richard.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Kearsarge 59, Hillsboro-Deering 14: Kearsarge took control with a 24-4 first quarter.

Kearsarge 35, Prospect Mountain 30: Kearsarge's team defense controlled Prospect's high-powered offense.

Hopkinton 51, Monadnock 43: The Hawks went on the road and won a key DIII matchup over the fifth-place Huskies.

Hopkinton 55, Mascoma Valley 33: The Hawks never trailed as they jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first quarter.

Coe-Brown 76, John Stark 35: Emma Lapierre scored 30 points, Jaymee Bartlett had 14 points and Brooke Main added 8 points to lead Coe-Brown.

Bow 43, Kennett 10: Peyton Vaughn scored 13 points and Reis Domini added 6 as Bow ran past Kennett.

Bow 52, Merrimack Valley 45: Peyton Vaughn (26 points), Lauren Longley (12 points).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Kearsarge 64, Hillsboro 29: Kearsarge came out on fire with 25 points in the 1st quarter, then took a 44-11 half-time lead.

Kearsarge 63, Prospect Mountain 51: Kearsarge played well through 3 quarters and held on after a good comeback by Prospect Mountain in the 4th quarter.

Hopkinton 71, Monadnock 53: Ben Normand 17 points, Kristof Cauley 14 points.

Hopkinton 47, Mascoma Valley 44: Ben Normand, 20 points.

Coe-Brown 63, John Stark 44: Coe-Brown pulled out to an early lead but the Generals hung tough, battling throughout the second half.

Hanover 64, John Stark 33: A big third quarter by Hanover put the game away.

Bow 54, Kennett 52: Bow won the second quarter 19-8 to battle back after going down big in the first quarter.

Bow 46, Merrimack Valley 33: The defense for Bow holding an MV team that averages around 58 points a game to 33.

BOYS HOCKEY

Stark/H-D 3, Kearsarge Plymouth 1: Owen Buss 1 goal, Ryan Andrews 1 goal, Kip Hedquist 1 goal

Sports

Hopkinton's Ashlee Brehio named to Elon's President's List while winning the CAA Division I Soccer Championship

Elon, NC - Ashlee Rose Brehio was named to the President's List at Elon University for the fall 2025 semester. The President's List is composed of students with no grade below an A- in a minimum of 12 semester hours. While maintaining her grades, Ashlee was captain on the Division I soccer team which this year claimed the CAA Division I Championship and had a record of 13-4-1. They then moved on to the NCAA Tournament where they were ultimately defeated by Duke University. Ashlee was named to the All Tournament Team.

Last year Elon made it to the CAA Division I semi-finals and she was again named to the All Tournament Team. During her college career she has received many soccer accolades, including in her freshmen year she was named to Top Drawer Soccer Top 100 female freshmen players in the United States, the CAA Second Team and the freshmen and senior years she was named Attacking Player of the Year for Elon.

Ashlee graduated from Hopkinton High School where, in her senior year, she scored 46 goals and 25 assists leading the Hawks to a State Championship. Ashlee is the daughter of Glen Brehio and Dr. Teri Brehio of Hopkinton. For the month of January Ashlee is "resting" in Tanzania, exploring the Serengeti, hiking 15,000 foot Mt. Meru, Ol Doinyo Lengai (9,700 feet), and finally Mount Kilimanjaro (elevation 19,341 feet) with a group of students from Elon.



Ashlee Brehio

Kearsarge Regional High School's January Student-Athlete of the Month



Will Carson

Congratulations to Will Carson! Will is a true example of what it means to be a Kearsarge student-athlete. As the Varsity Hockey Captain and a Varsity Football player, Will leads by example through his work ethic, commitment to his teammates, and positive attitude.

In the classroom, Will is a strong student who takes pride in his academics. Off the field and ice, he is a caring, respectful individual who consistently looks out for others and represents our school with integrity.

Will truly embodies our motto at Kearsarge Regional High School: Commit. Care. Compete.

We're also excited to celebrate Will's next step—he has been accepted into the Automotive Program in Nashua for next year. We're proud of all he has accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds.

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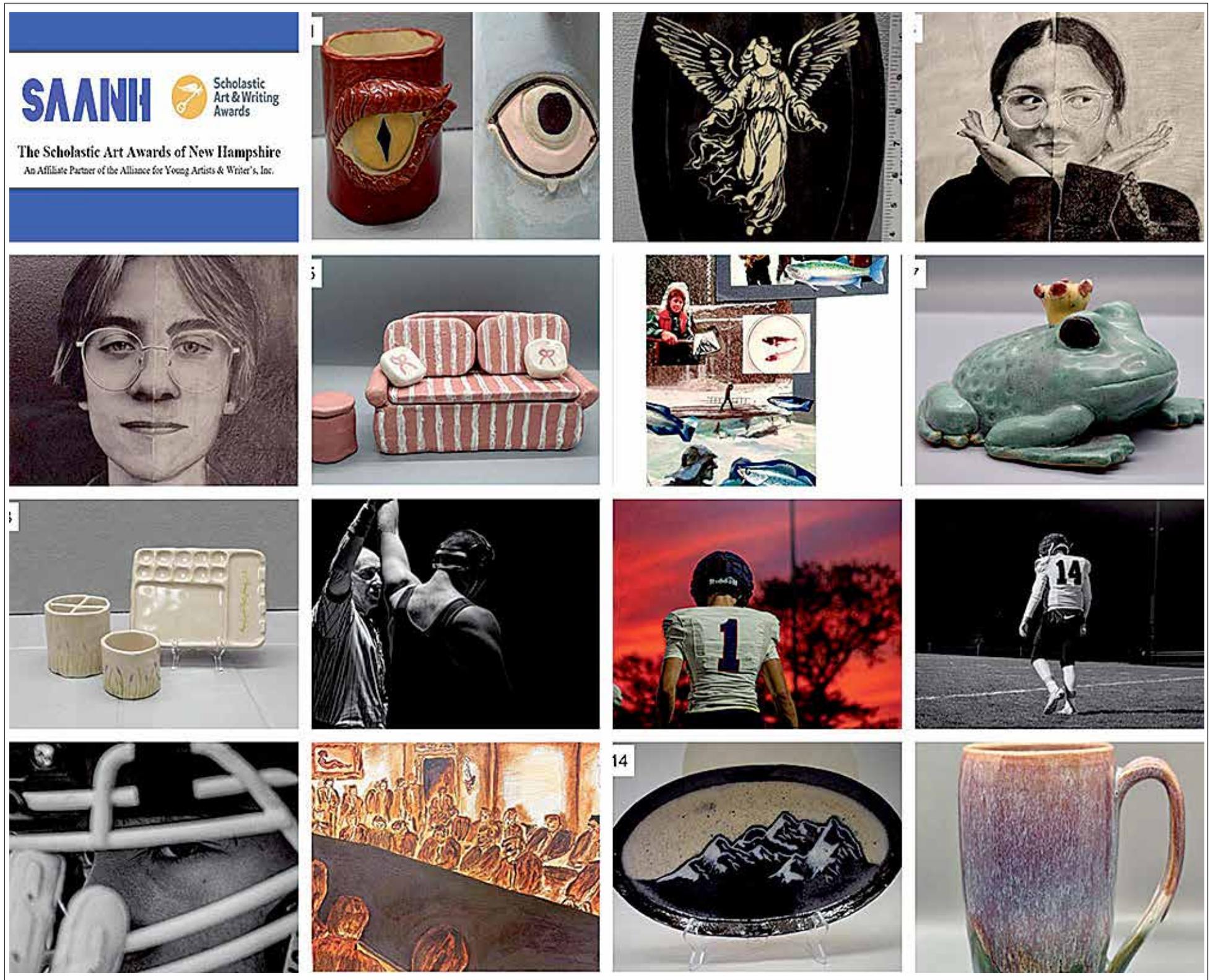


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The Scholastic Art Awards of NH



The Scholastic Art Awards is a student art show juried by professional artists in the state, who are experts in their creative field. Congratulations to all the artists!
(Winning Artists from L-R in the above photo) 1 Kylee Asinof (11), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 2 Kylee Asinof (11), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 3 Liliana Bolding (9), Drawing, Honorable Mention 4 Dylan Burke (11), Drawing, Silver Award 5 Savannah Chapman (12), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 6 Benjamin Damske (11), Mixed Media, Honorable Mention 7 Evan Furness (11), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 8 Sirius Holbrook (9), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 9 Chase Lansford (11), Photography, Gold Award 10 Chase Lansford (11), Photography, Honorable Mention 11 Chase Lansford (11), Photography, Honorable Mention 12 Chase Lansford (11), Photography, Silver Award 13 Carmela Martin (12), Painting, Honorable Mention 14 Lenny Provencher (10), Ceramics & Glass, Silver Award 15 Jenna Sinclair (12), Ceramics & Glass, Honorable Mention.

Alma Mater

Plymouth State University President's List

Andrew Edmunds of Antrim, NH majoring in Management.
 Asia Porter of Bennington, NH majoring in Psychology.
 Willem Wamser of Dunbarton, NH majoring in Business Administration.
 Roman Cadwallader of Frankestown, NH majoring in Undeclared.
 Haley Serafine of Frankestown, NH majoring in Marketing.
 Samantha Brown of Goffstown, NH majoring in Elementary Ed & Youth Develop.
 Griffin Cote of Goffstown, NH majoring in Business Administration.
 Eleanor Laroche of Goffstown, NH majoring in Allied Health Sciences.
 Noah Place of Goffstown, NH majoring in Elementary Ed & Youth Develop.
 Nicole Tardiff of Goffstown, NH majoring in History & Social Studies Ed.
 Patrick Wheatley of Goffstown, NH majoring in Nursing.
 Annileah Coubrough of Henniker, NH majoring in Environmental Science & Policy.
 Avery Geaumont of Henniker, NH majoring in Exercise and Sport Physiology.
 Abigail VonDette of Hillsboro, NH majoring in Elementary Ed & Youth Develop.
 Grey Goudreault of Hillsborough, NH majoring in Elementary Ed & Youth Develop.
 Kathryn Thyng of Hillsborough, NH majoring in Physical Education.

Olivia Bradfield of Hopkinton, NH majoring in Psychology.
 Boden Cyr of New Boston, NH majoring in Business Administration.
 Dillon Gaudet of New Boston, NH majoring in Business Administration.
 Quinn Hamel of New Boston, NH majoring in Environmental Science & Policy.
 Abigail McKee of New Boston, NH majoring in Psychology.
 Aidan McCullough of New London, NH majoring in Allied Health Sciences.
 Bristol Messer of Newbury, NH majoring in Allied Health Sciences.
 Dylan Palmer of Newbury, NH majoring in Commun. and Media Studies.
 Isabelle Howard of Peterborough, NH majoring in Marketing.
 Daniel Sleeper of Peterborough, NH majoring in Theatre Arts.
 Kaitlyn Stone of Peterborough, NH majoring in Art and Design.
 Natalie Tremblay of Peterborough, NH majoring in Allied Health Sciences.
 Brynna Wright of Stoddard, NH majoring in Accounting.
 Gianna Crandall of Warner, NH majoring in Elementary Ed & Youth Develop.
 Kelsey Kane of Warner, NH majoring in Environmental Science & Policy.
 Terra LeBlanc of Warner, NH majoring in Exercise and Sport Physiology.
 Riley Meadows of Warner, NH majoring in Psychology.

Plymouth State University Dean's List

Ethan Hansen of Goffstown, NH majoring in Business Administration.
 Lucas Ouellette of Goffstown, NH majoring in Information Technology.
 Jacob Garside of Henniker, NH majoring in Meteorology.
 Amelia Laidlaw of New Boston, NH majoring in Nursing.
 Devin McCullough of New London, NH majoring in Physical Education.
 Nathan Clifford of Newbury, NH majoring in Environmental Biology.
 Camden Dezotell of Newbury, NH majoring in Sports Management.
 Elena Ellia of Sharon, NH majoring in Nursing.

Clark University Dean's List

Brayden G. Hollinrake, of Goffstown, NH was named to first honors.
 Juliette B. Tarsa, of Dunbarton, NH was named to first honors.
 Emma R. St. Louis, of Goffstown, NH was named to second honors.

Salve Regina University Dean's List

Emma Cate of Henniker
 Carlie Tomsick of Contoocook

Western New England University Dean's List

Bryce Wimer of New London
 Solomon Page of Peterborough
 Laura Cuddy of Goffstown

Sophia Dery of Goffstown
 Adara Boucher of Bradford has been named to the President's List.

University of Alabama Dean's List

Kiera Rose Gilman of Frankestown was named to the Deans List.
 Elizabeth Clarner of Hopkinton was named to the Deans List.
 Emma Westward of New London was named to the Deans List.

Muhlenberg College Dean's List

A graduate of Academy for Science and Design Charter High School, Harrison Neff of Goffstown, NH has been named to the Dean's List while studying Psychology at Muhlenberg College.
 A graduate of Conval Regional High School, Natalie Preble of Antrim, NH has been named to the Dean's List while studying Physics and Mathematics at Muhlenberg College.
 A graduate of The New Hampton School, Justin Wyle of Deering, NH (03244) has been named to the Dean's List while studying Biology at Muhlenberg College.

Other Colleges & Universities

Morgan Bemont of Peterborough Earns Dean's List Honors at American International College.
 Nolan Staples-Roy, of Hopkinton was named to the Dean's List at Illinois Wesleyan University. Staples-Roy is a first-year majoring in Undecided.

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The Merrimack Savings Bank hires Mark Lester to lead Henniker Branch



Mark Lester

Merrimack County Savings Bank (The Merrimack) welcomes Mark Lester as AVP, Branch & Business Development Manager of its Henniker Branch. In this position, Lester will oversee branch operations and support the growth of the local business community.

“We’re pleased to have Mark join our team and the Henniker community,” said Michelle Olivier, RVP Branch Manager at The Merrimack. “With his deep expertise in banking and past leadership experience, I’m confident Mark will thrive in this role.”

Lester joins The Merrimack with two decades of experience in the banking industry serving in AVP and VP Branch Manager roles. He’s also a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies, an intensive two-year program.

A New Hampshire native, Lester thrives on being actively involved in the community. He’s served on numerous boards for non-profit organizations and is a longtime member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of

Concord. Lester also enjoys participating in Hoops on Wheels for Granite State Independent Living and Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes for Thrive Survivor Support Center, who named him the recipient of the Fleischman Award in 2024.

Merrimack Style is treating everyone – customers, employees and community members – with dignity, care, respect and compassion. Founded in 1867, The Merrimack has served the people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities in Central and Southern New Hampshire for 159 years. Merrimack County Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank that benefits local depositors, borrowers, and surrounding communities instead of stockholders on Wall Street. To learn more, visit any of their local offices

in Bow, Concord, Contoocook, Henniker, Hooksett, Nashua and

Windham; call 603.225.2793 or visit themerrimack.com.

Denzel Washington said:

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Area Dining Guide

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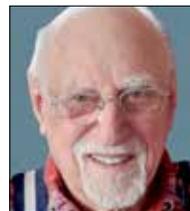
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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

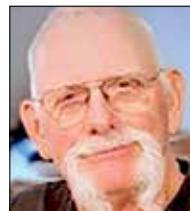
Conrad A. Perreault



Hillsboro - Conrad A. Perreault, 91, passed away peacefully at home on January 19, 2026 after a brief illness. He was born February 28, 1934, in Troy, NH, to Henry and Mary (Falardeau) Paro. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jeanne; daughter Karen Burke (Thomas); son Kenn Perreault Valena; and grandchildren Jonathan Burke, and Isabelle and Terran Perreault. He also leaves behind his sister, Margaret Gillett, and many special nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and many in-laws. Memorial gifts may be made to the Relief Fund of the Keene VFW Post 799, PO Box 24, Keene, NH 03431; or the American Legion Post #4, 797 Court St., Keene, NH 03431.

Dennis Reed "Den" Cluche

Deering - Dennis Reed "Den," "Denny," "Grumpa"



Cluche, 76, of Deering, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully on January 25, 2026. Born on July 15, 1949, in Goffstown, Dennis was the son of the late George and Eva (Chandler) Cluche. Den is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ellen (Ashford) Cluche; son Chad Cluche (Courtney Bennett), son Brandon Cluche (Laura Newton), and daughter Amanda Morris (Peter Morris); his siblings, Edward, Chris (Laurie), and Beverly Chartier; 7 grandchildren; Gillian, Mikayla, Davin, Evelyn, Lincoln, Scarlett, Leland and many nieces, nephews, and friends who loved him dearly. The family will hold a Celebration of Life at a later date to honor Den's remarkable spirit.

Michael Backman

New Boston - Michael A. Backman, 76, passed away on January 26, 2026, at his residence in New Boston. He was born January 10, 1950, in Derry, to Glenn and Paulina (Hall) Backman. He is survived by his loving wife, Stephanie; his children, Andrew, Kathryn and Jeffrey Backman; four beloved grandchildren; his sisters, Darlene Fraser, Deborah Bullard, and Dyanna Stewart; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Liberty House.



Clarke L. Kidder

Contoocook - After a brief illness, Clarke L. Kidder passed away on December 16, 2025. He was born (September 21, 1943) in Upstate New York. In addition to his wife, Clarke is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Laura M. Kidder and Denis T. Kingston; his son and daughter-in-law, Andrew C. and Kristina (Brierre) Kidder; and two grandchildren, Dean (19) and Paige (17) Kidder.



William Cleary

Bennington - William Cleary, a lifelong resident of Bennington, NH, passed away on January 29, 2026 at



the age of 83 after a long fight with cancer. Bill was born in Peterborough NH on August 7, 1942 to his parents Walter D. Cleary and Marion J Griswald. Bill is survived by his wife, Sandra (Paige) Cleary, his children, James Cleary and his wife Carol, Pamela Cleary and Randy Cleary and his wife Lori. He is also survived by an abundance of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother, James W. Cleary, his sister Joyce Miner and her husband Ken Miner and his parents. A Funeral service will be held at the Bennington Congregational Church at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026. It will be followed by a Celebration of Life at the Monadnock Country Club in Peterborough, NH from 11:00-2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Bill's name to Bennington Sportsmen's Club, Bennington, NH 03442.

Dennis Francis Daly

New Boston - Dennis Francis Daly, 66, passed away



on January 24th 2026 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was surrounded by his family in his home in New Boston, NH. Born in Waltham, Massachusetts on February 28th, 1959. Dennis was the son of the late William S. Daly and Virginia (Savage) Daly. Dennis is survived by his loving wife Wendy Deabill; his children and their partners Julia (Will) Daly and David (Melissa) Daly and their partners; his step-children and their spouses Kate (Joel) Romero and Ken (Marissa) Lavoie; his siblings Virginia Daly, Denise and Ed Ferrari, Kathleen Vinnicombe; his step-grandchildren Gabriel Romero, Jacob Lavoie, and Abigail Lavoie; many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews; and dearly beloved friends. Dennis is predeceased by his siblings William E. Daly and Michael Daly. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Dennis Daly, may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Robert Arthur Morrill

Antrim - Robert Arthur Morrill, 78, of Antrim New Hampshire passed away on January 12th 2026 after a challenging battle with cancer. He leaves behind his adoring wife Cory, sons Michael and Matthew, daughter Lisa and countless admirers. Memorial donations in Bob's memory are to be made to the American Cancer Society: <https://donate.cancer.org/>



Robert (Bob) P. Jones

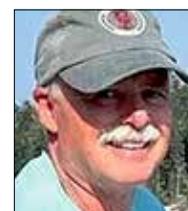
Antrim - Robert (Bob) P. Jones, 89, of Antrim passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026 after a brief illness. Bob was born August 25, 1936 in Henniker. He is survived by his three children Sharon Howard, Steven (Laurie) Jones, and Susan (John) Stalbird. His five step-children Philip (Ginny) Dubia, Michelle (Patrick) Dubia, Natalie (Rick) Libby, John (Becky) Dubia, Valerie (Mike) Rutter; his first wife Joyce Dunlap and family friend



Kathy Houghton. He was blessed with 21 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his wife Regina A. Jones; siblings, Evelyn Lemire, Albert Jones, Ruth Bowen, and Beatrice Magoon; his son David Jones; parents Rose and Arthur Jones. A Memorial Service will be held on February 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Antrim. A celebration of life will follow 2:30-5:30 at the American Legion Post 59, Hillsboro. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to Antrim Ambulance, P.O. Box 517, Antrim, NH 03440.

Gary L. Williams

Hancock - Gary L. Williams, 70, of Hancock passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of his family, on January 29, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's. Born in Waltham, MA, on January 11, 1956, the son of Leon and Lorraine (Nelson) Williams. In addition to his wife



Lisa (Joseph) Williams, he is survived by his three children, Jason Williams and wife Kristi (Sweet) Williams of North Grafton, MA; Hannah (Williams) Johnston and husband David Johnston, of Peterborough, NH; and Alexandra (Williams) Desrosiers and husband Collin Desrosiers of Hancock, NH; five grandchildren - Mackenzie and Hailey Williams, Ronan and Fiadh Johnston, and Crew Desrosiers; his brother David Williams and wife Barbara (Combs) Williams of Antrim, NH; and many siblings-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews. A celebration of Gary's life will be announced in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gary's name to Monadnock Adult Care Center in Jaffrey, or Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) Keene, NH.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Hill

Hancock - Jacqueline Hill passed away January 30, 2026 at the age of 100 years old. She was the wife of the late Paul E. Hill of Hancock, the daughter of Charles and Romela (Doucet) Sawyer of Greenville, NH. She leaves two daughters, Carolyn Taylor, her husband Scott and Nancy Hill, her granddaughter Shannon (Chris) Cummings and three great granddaughters, Kenzie, Shelby and Finley. There will be no service and burial will be at the convenience of the family.



Ronald George Pierce

Andover - Ronald George Pierce died peacefully surrounded by his loving family in his home in Andover, N.H., on Jan. 18, 2026, at the age of 84. Affectionately known as Ron and Pop, he was born on May 4, 1941, to Percy and Irene (Dentith) Pierce of Wrexham, Wales, U.K. He is predeceased by his parents, his brother, Richard Pierce, and his first wife, Barbara (Walker) Pierce, his childhood sweetheart, to whom he was married for 40 years and adored until his final days. Ron leaves ▶

Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered continued

his wife of 24 years, Delima (Lee) Fitzgerald-Pierce, his children, David Pierce and wife, Suzanne, Jonathan Pierce and wife, Julie, Samantha Palmer and husband, Adrien, Charles Pierce and wife, Nikki; his step-children, Heather Boren and husband, Jeff, Farrah Sheehan, Todd Sheehan and partner, Jola Palazzolla, Caily Wolfenden and husband, Nate, daughter-in-law, Samantha Ferrin, and son-in law, Andrew Deselle. Pop leaves 13 grandchildren in the U.K. and U.S. ranging in age from 31 to 5. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice of 107 Newport Road, New London, NH 03257.

Raymond R. Brule, Jr.

Goffstown - Raymond R. Brule, Jr., 66, of Goffstown, NH died on Monday, January 26, 2026 at his



residence. Ray was born on July 29, 1959, in Manchester, NH, the son of Raymond R. and Patricia (Eddinger) Brule, Sr. Ray is survived by his mother, Patricia of Manchester; two sons, Benjamin R. Brule and wife, Melissa of Goffstown; Matthew P.

Brule and wife, Dreamer of Manchester; five grandchildren, Bradley, Charlie, Genevieve, Laken and Lainey; two brothers, Robert and Paul Brule, two sisters, Marie St. Amand and Sandra Morrison; several nieces and nephews; and his closest and most deeply adored friend of more than 30 years, Jessica Skorupski. He was predeceased by his father, Raymond Sr. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to the Goffstown Police

Association, in memory of Ray.

Sandra "Sandy" (Kinsman) Wright

Bradford - Sandra "Sandy" (Kinsman) Wright died peacefully in Concord Hospital on January 14 in Concord, NH at the age of 82. Sandra was born on May 26, 1943 in Lynn, MA to Benjamin and Rosamond Kinsman. Sandra is predeceased by her parents, brother Benjamin, and daughter Jennifer. Surviving family members include her husband, Harold; sister, Joanne Pavlas; children Melissa, Adam, and Jennifer; and grandchildren Justin, Isabel and Jordan. A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at noon at the Bradford Community Church, 88 W Main Street, Bradford, NH 03221, with a reception to follow at the Applesed Restaurant around the corner at 63 High Street.

Events: Community Bulletin Board

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

BRAZILIAN MUSIC: Francestown Academy Coffeehouse performance begins at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm at the Francestown 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 francestown-coffeehouse.org.

SNOW FAMILIES: 10am-noon at The Grapevine, 4 Aiken Street, Antrim. Join us for a morning of fun for all ages! This FREE fun family gathering will include sledding, making snow families, and crafts, including Valentine's Day card making with Pam Berry, plus a special visit from a live bunny friend, Snoopy the rabbit!. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. For more info: email: info@grapevინeh.org or call: 588-2620. Not a school-sponsored event.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXPERIENCE: 4pm, Friends of the Bradford Town Hall Theater present The Life of the Revolutionary War Soldier in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. A program for the whole family! Step back in time and enjoy live reenactments in authentic uniforms, a musket drill demonstration, and engaging discussion of daily life during the Revolutionary War. Suggested donation at the door: \$10 per person/\$20 per family. 75 West Main Street, Floor 2, Bradford.

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.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

PARENT CAFÉ: For elementary age parents & caregivers, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Join Teresa, Karen and Amy for 3 Monday sessions (2/9, 3/9 & 4/13) at The Grapevine, 4 Aiken Street, Antrim. Parent Café is a welcoming space for parents and caregivers to come together, share experiences, and brainstorm ideas around a focused topic. This three-session workshop will explore parenting challenges, children's behaviors, resilience, fear, and the realities of everyday life. Dinner and Childcare with Paula is included. For more info or to register email: info@grapevინeh.org or call: 588-2620. Not

a school-sponsored event.

WASHINGTON PROGRAM: The Washington Historical Society presents an online Zoom program with scholar and teacher Nicole Ruane on Monday evening at 7. Her topic: Mary Baker Eddy: New Hampshire's Most Important Religious Thinker. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the New Hampshire "Humanities to Go" program.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS: Pillsbury Library, 18 E. Main Street, Warner. The Library book discussion group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in the library. All are welcome! The library has copies available for borrowing, up to 4 weeks before the meetings.

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.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19

FREE WATER TESTING: Keep your family safe from the health risks of common well water contaminants. Bedrock and soil in the area contains naturally occurring radon and arsenic. You cannot taste, smell or see these elements in your water, but over time they can cause health issues. There are actions you can take, such as installing water treatment, if you find contaminants in your water. The NH Department of Environmental Services and the Hillsborough Conservation Commission invite private well users in Hillsborough & Windsor to participate in a free workshop and water testing on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6pm at the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School. NHDES will pay the laboratory costs for the tests. Please register by e-mailing that you plan to attend to welltest@des.nh.gov. We'll see you there!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT: Antrim Grange will host the annual Meet the Candidates Night at 7 pm upstairs in An-

trim Town Hall. The event invites Antrim voters to hear from candidates running for local office in one setting, providing an opportunity to hear from those seeking election. Candidates will share their messages in person ahead of town voting day on March 10. The forum is intended for both longtime and newer voters. It offers a chance to learn about the various positions up for election and to put faces to the names that will appear on the ballot at town voting day.

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AA MEETINGS

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

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TOWN OF ANTRIM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in accordance with RSA 287-D:32 on **Tuesday February 17, 2026**, in the Antrim Town Hall at 66 Main Street Antrim, NH, immediately following the 6:00 p.m. hearing regarding Keno games, for the purpose of hearing any questions or concerns regarding prohibiting the operation of Games of Chance within Town.

TOWN OF ANTRIM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in accordance with RSA 284:51, on **Tuesday February 17, 2026** at 6 p.m. in the Antrim Town Hall at 66 Main Street Antrim, NH for the purpose of hearing any questions or concerns regarding prohibiting the operation of Keno games within Town.

PUBLIC NOTICE HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL DISTRICT

The **Hillsboro-Deering School Board** will hold a **Public Hearing** on **Monday, February 16, 2026 at 5:30 pm** in the **Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Media Center**

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss adoption of the terms of RSA 194-D "Open Enrollment" for the purpose of allowing the Hillsboro-Deering School District to operate under the provisions of that law.

PUBLIC NOTICE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

The **Washington School Board** will hold a **Public Hearing** on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the **Washington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room**

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss adoption of the terms of RSA 194-D "Open Enrollment" for the purpose of allowing the Washington School District to operate under the provisions of that law.



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No 2026-02 and 2026-03

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:4 & 675:7 that the Hillsborough Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a Subdivision and Site Plan Harvey Way (Map 110 Lot 152) by Jack Franks of Avanru Development. The applications are for a Site Plan and Subdivision that include a 12 Lot subdivision. The resulting lots will be developed into 10 single family residential lots, 1 elderly housing multifamily lot and a lot for the currently unnamed roadway extension to be deeded to the Town of Hillsborough. The property located in the Commercial Zone. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, **February 18, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillsborough Town Offices, 27 School Street, Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

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

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Town of Weare BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Weare Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, February 23, 2026**, beginning at **7:00 PM** pursuant to RSA 31:95-d, V, for the purpose of hearing public testimony and comment on changing the fractional portion of revenue going into the previously established Transfer Station Recyclable Special Revenue Fund, from 50% to 100%. The fund was originally approved at the March 2022 Town meeting, Article 12 pursuant to RSA 31:95-c.

This hearing will be held at the Town Office Building conference room, 15 Flanders Memorial Drive in Weare, NH. Please note, any person with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting and needs to be provided a reasonable accommodation 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.

TOWN OF HENNIKER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Henniker Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a **public hearing on February 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Henniker Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Rd.**

1. **ZBA Case 2026:01:** Variance request from the frontage provisions required of Article X Lot Size Regulations, Section 133-40, minimum frontage required 200 feet proposed 178 feet on a 13.7 +/- acre property, Applicant/owner Lou Schuller, Map 6 Lot 293-F, 100 French Road, Zoned RR.

Copies of all materials are available for review at Henniker Town Hall during normal business hours, as well as on the Town's website. Members of the public are welcome to attend the public hearings.

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