

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 7 ♦ February 13, 2026

Andover's Newest Firefighter



Andover Fire Department is pleased to announce that Jeremy Cornell joined the department this past fall. Jeremy brings 28 years of fire service to Andover. You may recognize him as he is also Andover's Highway Supervisor.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME!

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

HOMS BOYS vs SMS @ 9:00AM

HOMS GIRLS vs HENNIKER @ 11:00AM

LOCATION: WEARE MIDDLE SCHOOL

This week in history

FEBRUARY 13, 1689

William & Mary proclaimed joint sovereigns of Britain

FEBRUARY 14, 1929

Sir Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

FEBRUARY 15, 1988

IOC officially recognizes the Special Olympics

FEBRUARY 16, 1923

Archaeologist opens King Tut's tomb

FEBRUARY 17, 2017

Princess Cristina of Spain found not guilty of fraud

FEBRUARY 18, 1929

First Academy Awards winners announced

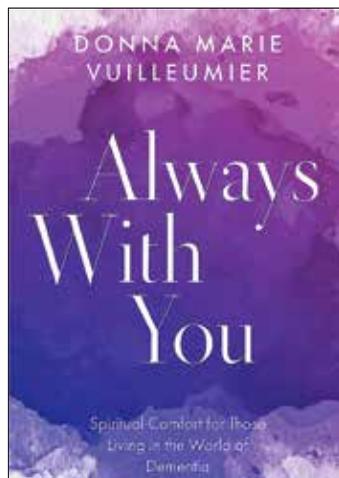
FEBRUARY 19, 1968

Mister Roger's neighborhood debuts



The entire 6th grade class at the Dunbarton Elementary School graduated the Law Enforcement Against Drugs' Too Good For Drugs course. Each student was presented with a graduation certificate, followed by plenty of baked goods to enjoy. LEAD is an evidence-based drug and violence prevention program that promotes effective decision making skills, goal setting, and positive relationships. LEAD was introduced to 6th grade students at DES starting with the 2021-2022 school year. To date, over 200 students have graduated from this 10-week program.

Hillsborough pastor authors new book on Dementia



Donna Marie Vuilleumier, Pastor of Hillsborough's Smith Memorial Congregational Church, has authored a new book on dealing with a loved one's dementia.

With compassion, "Always With You: Spiritual Comfort for Those Living in the World of Dementia" provides insight and practical tips for caregivers and congregations to support the spiritual well-being of those living with dementia.

Vuilleumier explains, "Seminary prepared me to minister in a variety of situations, but my first teacher on ministering to those with Alzheimer's/dementia was a Holocaust survivor in the very final stage of the disease.

That one afternoon more than 20 years ago led me to see real possibilities for meaningful connections with people living with dementia.

It started me on a journey of education as student and then

as teacher for patients, families, professional caregivers, clergy and other faith community leaders, and hospice staff."

"Always With You: Spiritual Comfort for Those Living in the World of Dementia" is a caring and practical guide to support the spiritual well-being of those with memory loss illness and their caregivers with basic disease information, real life experiences, guidance on visiting someone with dementia, needs at different stages, biblical reflections and prayers, and a variety of resources.

"[Donna's] approach toward this dreaded disease is one filled with human kindness and understanding at every level for both the caregiver and for the Alzheimer's patient." — From the Foreword of Always With You: Spiritual Comfort for Those Living in the World of Dementia, by Meg Curtis-Sauer.

"Always With You: Spiritual Comfort for Those Living in the World of Dementia" is available from Pilgrim Press (<https://thepilgrimpress.com/>) and Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Always-You-Spiritual-Comfort-Dementia>)

There will be a book launch on March 22, 2026, at 3-5 p.m. at the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH, and an open house book talk from 5-7 p.m. on April 16, 2026, at the Fuller Public Library, 29 School Street, Hillsborough, NH.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

February 14, 2025

Sunapee honors Fire Chief John Galloway
Area town exploring regionalization of Police Departments
Kearsarge reverses its policy on transgenders in sports
ConVal proposal would cap school district budgets

February 16, 2024

New London Dispatcher Gary Barthol honored
H-D's "Hillcat Corner" receives Gold Level International ranking
Hopkinton town budget up 6.2% - schools up 6.8%
Bennington residents approve all 28 warrant articles

February 17, 2023

Two workers injured when Bennington roof collapses
Chief Emily Cobb appointed to Police Standards & Training Council
Fireworks erupt at Washington Budget Hearing/Candidates Night
Duncan-Jenkins Trust awards 66 student & teacher Enrichment Grants

February 18, 2022

Weare rejects ban on teaching CRT
Colby-Sawyer coach arrested on child sex charges
New London to renovate Philbrick-Cricenti Bog
Diane Kendall named Henniker Town Administrator

February 19, 2021

Man dies, daughter survives Peterborough crash
Cracker Barrel is now the Hopkinton Village Store
Snowmobiler collides with Hillsborough bob house
Antrim man is sued for defrauding an investor

February 21, 2020

Center Woods teacher donates kidney to colleague
Missing Weare man's body discovered in MA
Hopkinton Fire Department promotes two
Newbury man dives into lake to avoid arrest

February 22, 2019

20-year-old Hillsborough woman killed on Main Street
Weare to pay former policeman Joe Kelley again
Henniker Rescue Squad recognized police officer
Hillsborough teenager not guilty of graduation threat

February 23, 2018

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force at John Stark
Hopkinton taking steps to improve school security
H-D Board applies for two School Security Grants
Weare woman thankful of those who saved her life

February 24, 2017

Juvenile charged with gun threat at John Stark
Goffstown man faces felony burglary charges
The Hancock Market sold to Inn owners
Warner man convicted of several sexual assaults

February 23, 2016

H-D Elementary Principal resigns
Goffstown woman guilty of forging checks
PETA withdraws protest of Newport's "Greased Pig"
New Town Clerk/Tax Collector in New London

Hillsboro-Deering voters attended a marathon Deliberative Session

A dedicated group of voters remained for the entire four hours it took to discuss and debate the 23 articles at the Hillsboro-Deering School District's Deliberative Session Wednesday evening.

Article 01: Elections of Officers.

Article 02: Set Salaries of School Board, Agents/Officers.

Article 03: The Operating Budget was proposed at \$23,792,673. An amendment to reduce it by \$100,000 was defeated on ballot vote of 52 Yes - 91 No, after being hotly debated.

Article 04: Requests \$775,000 for Food Service and, \$1,250,000 for Federal and State

projects. Such sum to be offset by school lunch sales and State and Federal grants. Majority.

Article 05: Appropriates \$1,170,231 for SAU Budget, \$990,015 being H-D's share.

Article 06: The Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Support Staff provides salary increases of 2026-2027 \$211,651, 2027-2028 \$86,925 and 2028-2029 \$85,333.

Article 07: The Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hillsboro-Deering Federation of Teachers provides raises of 2026-2027 \$270,939 and 2027-2028 \$307,516.

Article 10: Provides up to \$2,500 to be added to the Tech-

nology Expendable Trust Fund to come from June 2026.

Article 11: Provides up to \$10,000 to raise and appropriate Fund Special Education Expend-

able Trust.

Article 12: Adds \$350,000 to the Fund School Building Maintenance Expendable Trust to come from the 2026 unas-

signed fund balance. Recommended by School Board.

Article 13: Requests \$56,520 to replace and repair the Elementary plumbing system.



Members of Henniker Fire & Rescue save a young deer that fell through the ice.



Recently, members of the Hillsboro-Deering High School National Honor Society visited the kindergarten classes. They chose a book to read with the students and then worked together to create a fun snowman craft. It was a great opportunity for their youngest learners to connect with high school role models and for NHS students to give back to the school community.

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Coming up: Happy St. Patrick's Day

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The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association recently announced their 2026 Carlisle Award Winners for the "Best Maple Syrup in NH." First Place: Charlie Sr. & Charlie Jr. of Hunt's Sugar House, LLC, Hillsborough, (left photo) and Third Place: Shawn Atkins of Atkins Family Sugarhouse, Washington, (right photo).



Congratulations to the winners of Antrim's Tuttle Library's Chili Festival. 1st Lunny Bradley, 2nd Chris Healey, 3rd Fletcher Novotny.



Congratulations to KRHS sophomore Anna Kuykendall, who won the school-wide Poetry Out Loud Competition Monday night. The runner up is senior Mason Christensen. Anna will move on to the Regional Semi-Finals on Tuesday, February 17th at Plymouth State University.

John Stark voters overwhelmingly support 95.5% raises for teachers

The Henniker and Weare residents who came to the John Stark High School's Deliberative Session Friday night were definitely pro-teacher.

Following the School Board's presentation on comparative salaries between John Stark and other area high schools, a long line of speakers stepped forward to support the proposed one-year contract for teachers. Each was roundly applauded.

Many speakers were concerned that salary differentials would lure teachers away to other districts.

The contract provides an average increase in salaries of 9.5% costing \$488,810. Board member James Newcomb said the increase reflected the fact that teachers worked this year with no contract and were getting two years of raises at once.

However, the Town Finance Committee, by a vote of 6-3, opposed the contract, saying it was "more than taxpayers can afford."

The contract, along with all the other warrant articles, will be voted on Election Day, March 10.

Voters will also be asked to approve a \$16.15 million proposed operating budget, which is 4% higher than last year's \$15.52 budget. The Default Budget is set at \$16.04 million.

The Finance Committee opposed the budget on a 9-1 vote, saying, "A majority feels that the John Stark district can operate on a default budget in the coming year." According to the report, specifically rejecting a \$65,000 request to hire an athletic trainer, creating the new position.

Another article seeks \$111,000 to pay extra tuition for more students to attend the Concord Regional Technology Center, which accepts students from a variety of sending schools. It was supported by the Finance Committee, 9-1.

A two-year contract for support personnel, costing an esti-

mated \$142,000 in its first year, was supported by the Finance Committee.

If the budget and all warrant articles pass, it will increase the tax rate by an estimated 63 cents

per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, costing \$252 a year for a \$400,000 home.



Hillsborough County Attorney John Coughlin spoke at Friday's Hillsboro Area Republicans breakfast meeting in Bennington.

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ORAL HEALTH TREATMENT IN PATIENTS DUE FOR SURGERY



Dr. Esin Narli

Oral health treatment in patients due for surgery is associated with significantly lower rates of postoperative pneumonia and shorter hospital stays, per observational study in one Japanese hospital, suggesting it might reduce infection risk.

The institutional oral care protocol was implemented at least 2 weeks before surgery in patients with sufficient preoperative time, typically during outpatient visits prior to hospitalization. This protocol initially comprised a comprehensive oral evaluation, including dental radiography, periodontal tissue examination, oral hygiene assessment, and identification of potential sources of infection such as dental caries and periodontal disease.

To achieve oral bacterial control, dental practitioners treat infected teeth; dental hygienists remove plaque and calculus using ultrasonic scalers and manual instruments; mechanical tooth surface cleaning with fluoride-containing paste; tongue coating removal; and ultrasonic denture cleaning.

Patients received detailed instructions on self-care practices. This instruction encompasses dental plaque and food debris removal from tooth surfaces and interdental areas through appropriate brushing techniques supplemented by auxiliary cleaning devices such as interdental brushes and dental floss. The patients were advised to clean their oral mucosa using tongue and sponge brushes, maintain dentures with specialized cleansing agents, and use chlorhexidine-containing mouthwash rinses.

In patients with insufficient preoperative time, a single session of mechanical tooth surface cleaning was performed. When required, custom mouthpieces were fabricated to prevent tooth displacement during endotracheal intubation. Patients who declined the oral care protocol underwent surgery without implementing these preventive measures.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

A new study published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* has found that semaglutide, a popular diabetes and weight-loss drug, may lower the risk of dementia in people with type 2 diabetes (T2D). Dementia, a condition that slowly makes it harder for people to remember things and think clearly, occurs when brain cells are damaged and their connections stop working properly.

This damage, which worsens over time, can be caused by various modifiable factors, including obesity, T2D, cardiovascular diseases, traumatic brain injury and stroke. According to the National Institutes of Health, more than 6 million people in the United States are diagnosed with dementia, and it causes more than 100,000 deaths each year. Encouragingly, research indicates that 45% of dementia cases could be prevented by addressing modifiable risk factors. The study found that T2D patients taking semaglutide had a significantly lower risk of developing dementia compared to other antidiabetic medications. These results were more profound in women and older adults. Semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide receptor (GLP-1R) molecule that decreases hunger and helps regulate blood sugar in T2D, is also the active component in the diabetes and weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic. Semaglutide has shown a broad range of benefits, including reductions in cardiovascular diseases.

Corticosteroids, a commonly prescribed medication to alleviate cancer-related symptoms for non-small cell lung cancer patients treated with immunotherapy, are the main reason certain immunotherapies may fail in treating the disease, according to a new study published in *Cancer Research Communications*. The research showed that high doses of steroids, when given before and/or during a specific type of immunotherapy, caused patients' tumors to shrink less than those of patients not on steroids. Those patients also did not live as long.

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Home Town Heroes



Antrim Police Chief Blake and several first responders were recognized for their recent cardiac arrest medical call for service which saved a life that day. Because of their efforts, the patient survived and has made a full recovery.



Congrats to the members of Franklin Fire who last month assisted with birth of a health baby boy in the field on New Year's Day. Nathan Ecker - 1st delivery, Ethan Ellingson- 1st delivery, Andrew Perkins - 2nd delivery, Capt. Keith McNulty - 3rd delivery. Missing from photo: Stephen Fecteau. Congrats on earning your stork pins!



Firefighters participated in the traditional push-in ceremony of New Boston's newest fire apparatus into the new station. This ceremony dates back to the days of horse-drawn equipment when members had to push the equipment into the bay.

Hopkinton voters asked to set aside \$1,320,000 for the future projects

Hopkinton Town Meeting voters will be asked to approve an Operating Budget of \$10,445,074 for general municipal operations.

The Select Board is also requesting that \$1,320,000 be added to 11 existing Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

Fire Department Vehicles & Equipment.....\$75,000
 Library Replacement Systems\$5,000
 Police Vehicle Replacement\$56,000
 Police/Fire Radio Replace-

ment.....\$15,000
 Revaluation.....\$9,000
 Town Hall Renovation\$95,000
 New & Replacement Equip. & Vehicles for Public Works & Highway Dept.....\$15,000
 Road/Bridge Rehab \$750,000
 Sewer Equipment/Sludge Removal.....\$205,000
 Transfer Station Equip & Facilities.....\$70,000
 Recreation Facilities..\$25,000
 Another \$132,000 is requested to be added to established

Expendable Trusts, including:
 Town Facilities.....\$123,000
 Recreation Facilities.....\$2,500
 Library Technology.....\$1,000
 Library Building & Grounds ...

.....\$1,500
 Payroll Liability.....\$2,000
 Article 6 asks voters to Designate the Betsy's Woods (Wilder) Map/Lot on Old Putney Hill

Road Lots as Town Forest.
 Voters will also be asked to Re-adopt the Optional Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability.



Leif Rosenbaum, 16, a junior at Hopkinton High School and member of Troop 77, met with the Select Board requesting permission to complete his Eagle Scout Project, which is a rebuilding of the picnic area along the Contoocook River. He plans on installing two new metal benches, a picnic table and two new trash cans at a cost of \$4,900. The Board approved.



KRHS Assistant Principal Christopher Geraghty and KRHS Social Studies teachers Sandy Nelson and Lauren Connolly had the pleasure of chaperoning the annual Harvard Model United Nations trip for four days in Boston.



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In Service to Others



At last week's Hopkinton Rotary Club meeting Kent Barker went over the history of Daniel Webster as one of the greatest lawyers.



The Goffstown Network thanked the Rotary Club for the delivery of the pre-made bags purchased along with the non-perishables donated. The funds will be split between the New Boston food pantry and Weare's Hand-in-Hand Senior Center food pantry.

Goffstown voters asked to approve of a 5.4% budget increase

Goffstown voters will be asked to adopt a \$27.5 million operating budget in March, which is about \$1.4 million more than last year, or a nearly 5.4% increase.

Several town warrant articles involve road maintenance. Some seek to make up for cuts made to the public works department in prior years, which led to worse road conditions, officials said.

This year's proposed operating budget sets aside \$1.6 million for the road plan. But to bring that amount more in line with prior years, Select Board members unanimously recommended an additional \$450,000 from their unassigned fund balance, which would not raise property taxes.

Other warrant articles included \$430,000 to purchase a curbside solid waste packer. This would have a 16-cent tax rate impact, or \$66.66 more for a \$416,600 home.

Also on the ballot will be a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union in public works. That would have a tax rate impact of 2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$8.33 for a \$416,600 home, in its first year. The total estimated costs for the town would be \$47,020 this year, \$65,721 in 2027 and \$79,931 in 2028. One of the more controversial warrant articles involved providing monthly stipends for Select Board members to attend meetings. Some speakers said they've made it clear in the past that they don't want their tax money to be used for stipends, while others said stipends could attract younger, qualified candidates for office.

Select Board Vice Chairman Mark Lemay said the stipends would cost \$457 per month, and would add 1 cent per \$1,000 of assessed property value or a little more than \$4 in taxes to the average homeowner.

Goffstown residents will have the opportunity to support their public library by voting to

establish a capital reserve fund for building projects, using an initial deposit of \$50,000 from

the town's unassigned fund balance. The money would have no tax impact.



Troop 529 had three scouts and two leaders representing at Scout Sunday at Holy Cross in Weare. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Troop to show their reverence and gratitude to the church for sponsoring their unit and providing a weekly meeting and storage space.

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Leigh and Joyce Bosse

PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE (MI): PART I



By: Joyce Bosse

Following years of all-time low mortgage interest rates, mortgage interest rates fluctuated throughout 2025, generally remaining elevated compared to the record lows seen during the pandemic. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has been hovering around the mid to high 6% range, complicating the plans of some home buyers, particularly those looking to purchase their first home. What many renters who are looking to become homeowners may not realize is that mortgage rates are only one aspect of affordability, which should be viewed as a three-legged stool: home price, mortgage interest rate, and down payment. Even in a challenging interest rate or home price environment, private mortgage insurance (MI) can be used to help low down payment borrowers achieve the American dream of homeownership.

The private mortgage insurance industry currently insures roughly \$1.6 trillion in mortgages. The vast majority (\$1.4 trillion) are tied to loans backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Private MI has helped nearly 39 million borrowers access homeownership with low down payments. Further, private MI helped nearly 800,000 homeowners purchase a home or refinance a mortgage in 2024, with nearly 35% having incomes below \$75,000 and more than 64% of those loans going to first-time buyers.

So, if the home price is within range, how much cash do you need for a down payment? You may think it is 20%, but the truth is, with private MI you can qualify for a mortgage with as little as 3% down.

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LETTERS POLICY:

We will print signed letters to the editor on a space available basis. Letters should be no more than 250 words, typed or e-mailed. Letters must be signed but names may be excluded upon request.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:

We encourage individuals and groups to submit photos of their events or activities, either by mail or e-mail.

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Guest Editorial

This article was written by a 26 year old college student by the name of Alyssa Ahlgren in 2019, who's in grad school for her MBA. What a GREAT perspicive... LDB

I'm sitting in a small coffee shop near Nokomis (Florida) trying to think of what to write about. I scroll through my newsfeed on my phone looking at the latest headlines of presidential candidates calling for policies to "fix" the so-called injustices of capitalism. I put my phone down and continue to look around.

I see people talking freely, working on their Mac-Book's, ordering food they get in an instant, seeing cars go by outside, and it dawned on me. We live in the most privileged time in the most prosperous nation and we've become completely blind to it.

Vehicles, food, technology, freedom to associate with whom we choose. These things are so ingrained in our American way of life we don't give them a second thought. We are so well off here in the United States that our poverty line begins 31 times above the global average. Thirty One Times!!!

Virtually no one in the United States is considered poor by global standards. Yet, in a time where we can order a product off Amazon with one click and have it at our doorstep the next day, we are unappreciative, unsatisfied, and ungrateful.

Our unappreciation is evident as the popularity of socialist policies among my generation continues to grow. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recently said to Newsweek talking about the millennial generation, "An entire generation, which is now becoming one of the

largest electorates in America, came of age and never saw American prosperity."

Never saw American prosperity! Let that sink in.

When I first read that statement, I thought to myself, that was quite literally the most entitled and factually illiterate thing I've ever heard in my 26 years on this earth. Many young people agree with her, which is entirely misguided.

My generation is being indoctrinated by a mainstream narrative to actually believe we have never seen prosperity. I know this first hand, I went to college, let's just say I didn't have the popular opinion, but I digress.

Why then, with all of the overwhelming evidence around us, evidence that I can even see sitting at a coffee shop, do we not view this as prosperity? We have people who are dying to get into our country.

People around the world destitute and truly impoverished. Yet, we have a young generation convinced they've never seen prosperity, and as a result, we elect some politicians who are dead set on taking steps towards abolishing capitalism.

Why? The answer is this, my generation has only seen prosperity. We have no contrast. We didn't live in the great depression, or live through two world wars, the Korean War, The Vietnam War or we didn't see the rise and fall of socialism and communism.

We don't know what it's like to live without the internet, without cars, without smartphones. We don't have a lack of prosperity problem. We have an entitlement problem, an ungratefulness problem, and it's spreading like a plague.

Letters to the Editor

Renee Goode we hardly knew ye!

For some, the less we know the better, at least for some Anti ICE agitators that seems to be the case. Ah! Those crocodile tears for a fallen comrade! You people have some serious anger issues. It is admirable that you want to protect your "neighbors." I was always told you are known by the company you keep! It is quite a rogue's gallery you call neighbors: Sex traffickers, drug dealers, pedophiles, murderers, rapists, gang members, drunk drivers, gov't fraudsters, election manipulators and child genital Doctor Mengales. It is a veritable who's who of sub human scum. You won't even allow the local officials to cleanly extract these people from the cells they are being held and turn them over to ICE.

You nimrods release these people back into the streets so you can riot and entice the less than dangerous immigrants to be swept up in all the commotion. You endanger the ICE officers and the very people you say you are trying to protect. Last year NYC released approx. 7,000 criminal illegals back on to the streets to avoid ICE apprehensions. Do you hate President Trump that much as to inflict this kind of carnage?

You were silent when the Obama administration was rounding up illegal immigrants in the middle of the last decade. Most of them were not the "worst of the worst."

The media was going on ride-alongs with ICE agents. That OK! So long as your idol Obama was promoting it.

Obama gave border chief Tom Homan a medal! When Trump does it, it is bad!

26! That is the ridiculously low number of innocent people murdered by illegal immigrants last year according to "official" statistics. ICE killed 2 agitators. A 13 to 1 ratio. The Texas Dept of Public safety has solid statistics showing actual numbers of crimes committed by "non citizens" from 2011-2025 in Texas alone. Here is a clue. It isn't 26. The numbers are staggering.

Roughly 80% of the illegals in Minnesota are on welfare. What you won't do to court new voters!

Do the names Jashapreet Singh, Rijinder Kumar, or Yisong Huang ring a bell with any of you deep thinkers out there? They were all big rig truck drivers, here illegally and killed 6 innocents on the highway and maimed others. They killed more truly innocent people than all of ICE put together. All were allowed on the roads due to Liberal governors and the likes of you. What! No moral indignation? News flash: A different illegal trucker was captured by the dreaded Gestapo ICE after killing 4 Amish people some time ago. Total update 10! (That I looked up). Do you remember Bethany Magee who was incinerated alive on a Chicago subway, by a man ►

Letters to the Editor continued

arrested at least 70 times. Lawrence Reed (citizen) had 8 felony convictions and 7 misdemeanor convictions. He was on the streets thanks to the same mindset that so conveniently mourns Prette and Goode's death. Set free by liberal judges. She is an inconvenient truth. No tears for her! Where were you goons when an unarmed Ashley Babbit was shot on January 6* by a DEI incompetent Capitol police officer? Where is all that equal justice you prattle on about? Thats right! She was a Trump supporter, white and the cop was black. No Rodney King moment there!

What, no outrage? Your "neighbors" were pillaging billions of dollars of our tax money and sending it overseas through fraud waste and abuse of the Medicaid system by immigrants in Minneapolis. A state mostly dominated by liberals. The inhumanity of it all that they and their Dhimmitude's (look it up!) in the statehouse should be prosecuted! That would be racist!

The Biden administration's criminal immigration system allowed over 400,000 unescorted children to enter the disgusting world human trafficking and forced labor etc. He allowed 10-15 million people to flood into this country unvetted, many of whom overwhelmed our hospitals, schools and welfare institutions. During the pandemic, while Americans were in lock down and illegals could roam freely, travel on planes without IDs. Hundreds of thousands of other illegal immigrant adults who came here in the promise of a better life were raped and abused in transit.

Where were you guardians of women and children? Crickets! Worse you lied! Thank you, President Biden.

You care nothing about Goode, Prettee or the immigrants. You need useful idiots and martyrs to carry out your anti Trump agenda. You cannot win on the level playing field of ideas, so you create havoc, confusion, intimidation and voting pandemonium.

The words Nazi, Racist, Gulags, Jim Crow, lynchings etc are just symbols to you, to be manipulated while the real victims of these horrors are just forgotten. Remember! It was many Democrats that lynched, created Jim Crow, endorsed white supremacy (KKK), fostered Slavery, resegregated the Federal workforce under President Wilson (D). None of these were or is a Republican/MAGA, historical fact.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D) once said: "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts." "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" George Santayna. It is a sad commentary when your standard bearers are Saul Alinsky, Stalin, Chairman Mao, Woodrow Wilson and that great thinker Ilhan Omar.

Apparently, the historical fruit has not fallen far from the Democratic tree. From the Bible (Jeremiah 13:23), which asks, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?"

Frank Pearsall, Hillsborough

Dear Editor:

I cannot claim to be an expert at municipal budgeting, or indeed to be all that well versed in the mechanics of local government. My experience consists, in sum, of

two years as student representative on the Hillsboro-Deering School Board and several town meetings that went well into the evening, cherished memories but hardly a well of experience. Still, the fact that even from this admittedly modest experience I can tell how potentially disastrous the so-called "open enrollment" proposal for public schools now before our legislators is should be a testimony to the folly of the slipshod legislation now being rushed through the General Court.

The open enrollment proposal risks destroying any predictability in year-to-year budgeting by local school districts. It would, if enacted, override any local control over enrollment, allowing unlimited outflows to other districts and limiting inflow to districts only by capacity, a limit to be calculated and posted monthly, but which the proposed legislation provides scarcely any guidance on how to calculate.

The legislation now under discussion is thin on details, but would work what amounts to the most significant change to public education in New Hampshire in a decade. The least that could be hoped for would be a comprehensive bill, one dealing with the many issues at length. Instead, as Somerset Superintendent John Shea aptly put it, we have a "wrecking ball of chaos." In times like these, I would wager that citizens are hardly clamoring for more chaos.

Let us also dispel the rumor that this is a "parental choice" law. It offers parental choice for those who are able to transport their children to other districts (you cannot plausibly mandate districts to pick up students wherever they live when the law provides for no limitation on the geographic spread of students) and who, when necessary, are willing to foot the balance between the district they are leaving and the district the student is attending (the law only requires that sending districts pay up a minimum of 80% of their per pupil spending). In other words, it offers no more choice than the current system; choice for a few at the expense of any semblance of stability or predictability for the many, taxpayers and students alike. Further, New Hampshire raises over 70% of its education funding from local sources, drastically more than any other state in the nation (Nebraska, at number 2, does not even crack 60%). This proposal ignores this reality, leaving in place a highly localized funding system to foot the bill for a totally unmoored and open-door enrollment policy that eviscerates local control. There can be no question that the outcome will be unpredictably, instability, and headaches for local school boards and tax payers alike.

The time may come when New Hampshire will be put to the choice: local control or statewide policies? Vermont is facing that choice now, in the wake of steep tax hikes across the state. Indeed, after reflection we may find much benefit in a more statewide funding system. But this open-enrollment proposal offers only instability, coupling statewide enrollment with local funding, Concord calling the shots while the towns foot the bill. In times gone by, this would rise the ire of Granite Staters of every stripe. May it do so again.

Joshua Marshall, formerly of Hillsboro (a temporarily embarrassed Yankee in Durham, NC)

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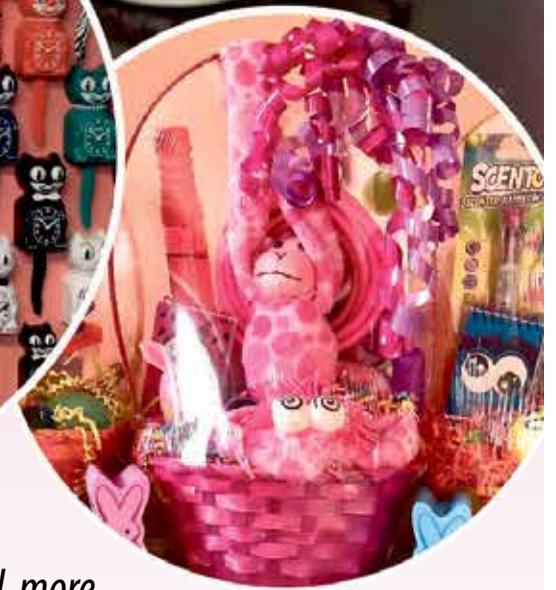
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 **Sports**



Congratulations to the 2026 Girls Alpine State Champs.

GIRLS ALPINE SKIING
Division III Girls

Hopkinton 1st: The Hawks won the overall state title with 391 points in GS and 386 points in slalom. Senior Marcella Guadagno won the giant slalom race with a combined time of 58.77, while her teammates junior Lia Chapin and senior Anne Pearce finished second and third place. The team placed five skiers in the top ten. Pearce, Guadagno, Chapin and freshman Lillian Firth placed third through sixth while Loew finished eighth.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hopkinton 49, Newport 14: Lexi Korbet (12 points), Paige Boudette (10 points, 7 steals), Ella-Mai Johnson (7 points), Elli Gregory (7 points), Caroline Chehade (4 steals, 3 rebounds).
Fall Mountain 55, Hopkinton 21: Helen Yeaton (6 points, 9 rebounds), Paige Boudette (5 points, 2 steals), Zoe Bishop (4 points, 5 rebounds).

Hopkinton 60, Monadnock 50: The Hawks made 12/15 free throws in the 4th quarter to pull away late and win their 4th straight.

Bow 58, Milford 43: Peyton Vaughn scored 14 points to lead Bow. Bella Berg had 10 points and Reis Domini and Kyleigh Duval each added 9 points in the win.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hopkinton 53, Fall Mountain 42: Kristof Cauley scored 24 points and Jackson Westover added 20 points in the win. Fall Mountain's Zach Hearne scored 11.

Souhegan 71, John Stark 29: Souhegan opened the game on a 25-2 run and didn't look back.

Kearsarge 49, Monadnock 33: Kearsarge defense held Monadnock to just 11 combined points during the second and third quarters.

Kearsarge 69, Newfound 49: Sharp shooting by Kearsarge led to an early lead, 24-14 in the first quarter. Kearsarge led 41-25 at the half.



The ConVal Cougars Unified Basketball Team ended its season undefeated after winning the final game 47-46 against the undefeated Milford Spartans.

 Sports



John Stark-Hopkinton/Hillsboro-Deering's Kip Hedquist (8) battles for possession of the puck with Pembroke-Campbell's Thomas Hanson (14) during a game at Everett Arena in 2024.



Ross Stephens and Griffin Schultz. Stephens broke a 21-year-old state record on his way to winning the 300-meter dash and Schultz finished fourth in the 55-meter dash. ConVal's indoor track team finished third at the State Championship Meet at Plymouth State University on Sunday, Feb. 8. Photo courtesy of Cindy McLaughlin.

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K-9 Marco assists police in arresting Newport couple

On February 4th, Newport Police received information that a wanted fugitive may be located at a residence on Cottage Street. Officers responded to that location and observed the following subject on the property: Cody L. Jennison, 23, of Newport.

Jennison had an active arrest warrant for a felony level Violation of Probation, and an electronic bench warrant for non-appearance in court on a misdemeanor level offense. When officers attempted to arrest Jennison, he barricaded himself inside the residence along with Brianna Tarrian, 26, of Newport.

Mutual aid was requested from the Claremont and Sunapee Police Departments, a perimeter was established around the residence, and numerous announcements were made instructing the occupants to surrender. A search warrant was obtained, and officers conducted a search of the residence with K9 Handler Walter Anderson and his K9 partner, Mako.

K9 Mako located Tarrian hiding in an upstairs bedroom and, when she did not submit to arrest, apprehended her. She was treated on the scene for minor injuries from the apprehension and taken into custody for felony level Hindering Apprehension and misdemeanor level Resisting Arrest or Detention. She was processed and released on bail pending arraignment in the 5th Circuit Court – District Division – Newport.

K9 Mako continued his search for Jennison, eventually alerting to a crawl space behind the wall of a bed-



Cody Jennison



Brianna Tarrian

room. Upon being deployed into the crawl space, K9 Mako located him hiding underneath furniture and other debris. Jennison surrendered and was taken into custody without further incident on his active warrants and a new misdemeanor charge of Resisting Arrest or Detention. He was transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections without bail pending hearings in the 5th Circuit Court – District Division – Newport and Sullivan Superior Court.



Douglas Frechette



Kimberly Frechette

Dubarton couple indicted for sexual assault on Henniker minor

A grand jury in Merrimack County recently indicted Douglas Frechette, 51, of School Street in East Lempster, on incest, four endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent, and 15 aggravated felonious sexual assault charges, all felonies. He was accused of raping and fondling a boy between Sept. 1, 2008, and June 30, 2010; Oct. 1, 2014, and May 1, 2015; and April 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017; in Henniker and Aug. 1, 2012, and Sept.

30, 2014, in Dunbarton.

Also indicted was Kimberly Frechette, 51, of School Street in East Lempster, on incest, two endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent, and four aggravated felonious sexual assault charges, all felonies. She was accused of repeatedly raping a boy on Feb. 7, 2015, in Henniker and between Aug. 1, 2012, and Sept. 30, 2014, in Dunbarton.

Andover Select Board reviews budget & warrant before town meeting

The Andover Select Board held a Special Meeting to review and discuss the proposed 2026 municipal budget, warrant articles with an overall tax impact in advance of Town Meeting.

The Select Board reviewed a tax impact summary prepared by the Town Administrator, including estimated tax rate changes, valuation assumptions, and the effects of proposed budget and warrant article adjustments. Discussion focused on identifying opportunities to reduce the projected tax rate while balancing operational needs, capital projects, and long-term infrastructure planning.

The Board discussed projected revenues, county and education assessments, valuation growth assumptions, and the limitations of estimates prior to final state and county figures. Consideration was given to maintaining conservative revenue assumptions.

Significant discussion centered on capital reserve fund appropriations, particularly highway projects, highway equipment, professional services,

and bridge-related projects. The Board evaluated whether proposed funding levels were appropriate, whether certain projects could be deferred, and the trade-offs between tax impact and infrastructure needs.

The Select Board reviewed the proposed highway projects funding and reached general consensus to maintain the current project funding level, recognizing the condition of several roads and the need for continued investment. The distinction between operating budgets and capital reserve funds was discussed in detail. The Board also discussed the Cilleyville Bog Bridge, including long-term options for preservation, potential costs, and the appropriateness of the proposed appropriation as an initial step toward future work.

Additional discussion included welfare funding adequacy, patriotic services appropriations, master plan funding, and coordination of presentations at Town Meeting to ensure clear communication to voters.

Bennington wants to add a 3rd police officer

Bennington voters will be asked to hire a third full-time police officer at a cost of \$120,000 for salary and benefits.

Select Board Chair Jim Cleary said,

“This would drastically reduce our reliance on the State Police.”

Police Chief Tom Horne spoke in favor of hiring a third officer.

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Business of the Year: Cory Patten's Auto & Truck Works (center)

Nonprofit of the Year: Newport AAC Food Pantry (right)

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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

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 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. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Bill's name to Bennington Sportsmen's Club, Bennington, NH 03442.



Cindy K. Bunker

Hancock — Cindy Bunker (70) passed away at home on January 30, 2026. Cynthia (Cindy) Kenerson Bunker was born on March 25, 1955, in Laconia, New Hampshire, to Maurice Paige and Elsie Corning (Kenerson) Bunker. She is predeceased by her parents; brothers, Maurice Bunker Jr. and Hollis Bunker Sr.; sister, Priscilla Bunker; sister-in-law, Sally Bunker (Clough); and her nephew, Hollis Bunker Jr. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Bonnie Bunker (Corriveau); and her nephews and nieces, Paula Walling (Bunker), Sarah Smith (Bunker), Ellen Bunker, John Bunker, and Carrie Sagatis (Bunker). She is also survived by many wonderful friends who have been like family to her.



In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to an animal shelter near you in memory of Cindy.

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.



John Duncan Coolidge, M.D.

Andover — Dr. John Duncan Coolidge, M.D. died unexpectedly at Concord Hospital in Concord, New Hampshire on January 25, 2026 at the age of 80. Duncan was born on October 5, 1945 in Portland, Maine to Mary Louise and John Coolidge. Duncan is predeceased by his parents, Mary Louise Coolidge and John Coolidge of Pinehurst, North Carolina, his brother Daniel Coolidge of Andover, New Hampshire, and his brother John, who died in infancy. Duncan leaves behind his wife Margaret, their children Kathleen and Jonathan, their spouses Timothy Eltzroth and Laura Coolidge, and four grandchildren, his sister Mary Dean Perna and her spouse William Perna, and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Twin Rivers Food Pantry, 2 Central St., Franklin, NH, 03235.



Walter Crawford Marsh

Weare — Walter Crawford Marsh, 84, of Weare, NH, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 26, 2026, in Concord, NH. Walter was born on December 6, 1941, in Winthrop, Massachusetts, and was the son of Walter and Alice (Rich) Marsh. Walter was predeceased by his beloved wife of over 50 years, Paula (Kenney) Marsh; his brothers, John and Richard Marsh; his brother-in-law, Arthur Dymont; and his sisters-in-law, Gail Kenney and Beth Kenney. He is survived by his two beloved children: Melissa J. Martin and her husband, David, of Cornelius, NC, and Walter C. Marsh, Jr., and his girlfriend, Stephanie Brown, of Henniker, NH. He was a devoted grandfather to Erin (Martin) Brewer; Trevor Martin and his fiancée, Emma Gilmartin; Quinn Martin; Ana (Marsh) McGrath and her husband, Kyle McGrath; Kaiden Marsh; and Ryder Brown, and he was a cherished great-grandfather to Benjamin Brewer and Jackson McGrath. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law, Paul "Rocky" Kenney, and David Kenney; his sister-in-law, Joan Dymont; and many loving nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Walter's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorial and Honor Gifts, P.O. Box 1999, Memphis, TN 38101.



Constance Marie Gravel

Dunbarton — Constance "Connie" Marie Gravel, a longtime resident of Manchester and Dunbarton New Hampshire, passed peacefully after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church 180 Loudon Road, Concord. Burial will follow at 12 p.m. at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, in Boscawen. In lieu of flowers the family invites you to honor Connie's memory by contributing to the Constance M. Gravel Nursing Scholarship established to support stu-



dents who face the same educational and life challenges she overcame with determination and faith. Donations may be made online through GoFundMe at <http://spot.fund/jzbp53zce> OR by mailing a check payable to Constance M. Gravel Nursing Scholarship at The Foundation for New Hampshire Community Colleges (FNHCC) 26 College Dr. Concord NH 03301.

Lesley J. Wallace

Franklin — Lesley Jane Wallace (Ayer), 74, of Franklin, NH passed away peacefully at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon, NH on Thursday, February 5, 2026, after a short illness. Born on June 22, 1951, in Manchester, NH, Lesley was the middle of three children to Richard and Lillian (Orlop) Ayer. Lesley is survived by her husband, David of Franklin, NH; son, David and his husband, Steven Marshall of Bradford, VT and her brother, Richard (Karen) Ayer, as well as brother and sisters in law and beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Richard and Lillian Ayer. A private celebration of Lesley's life will be held with immediate family. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Dartmouth Health & Geisel School of Medicine in Lesley's name.

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

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 **Events:** Community Bulletin Board

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

GOATS MILK SOAP MAKING WITH RICKIE: 12pm-3pm. 31 N Main St., Franklin, NH. Come make goats milk soap from scratch. There is a slight tweak to soap making when you use fresh goats milk. We'll offer a felted bar of soap making class for an additional \$5 each during wait times and after time. You'll get to take this felted soap home with you and come back after 48 hours to pick up one bar of goats milk soap that you helped to make. Class will be limited to 6-8 people and the cost is \$35 per person. Bring a friend. The store has many awesome little gifts for purchasing. Please call 603-520-2640 to confirm your spot. This is a popular class. Refreshments will be served.

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!

JUST JUNK: Make Whimsical Sculptures From Found Objects with Sandy Bartholomew. 2-4pm at Center for the Arts, 428 Main St., New London. Turn the ordinary into the extraordinary in Just Junk, a playful art class where everyday junk is transformed into imaginative sculpture. Using found and discarded materials, you'll explore texture, balance, and creativity while letting whimsy lead the way. This class encourages experimentation, humor, and fresh ways of seeing what others might overlook. What kind of junk? Look for wooden boxes, spoons and forks, buttons, pipe cleaners, old jewelry, string, toy parts, old tools, electrical parts, branches, fabric, yarn, beads, shells, cans, bottle tops, washers, nails, screws, junk, junk and more JUNK (and the stranger, the better!). Bring a glue gun, weld bond glue, wire and string. Sandy's energetic style and inventive approach make this class fun, freeing, and full of surprises. Cost is \$45 per person. Age 18+. Class size: 12.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

SNOW SNAKE GAMES: Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum invites families to celebrate winter with Snow Snake, a traditional Indigenous winter game, held on 11 snow-covered acres. Please join us on from 10am to 2pm at 18 Highlawn Road, Warner, NH. In addition to the games, the event will include a campfire with s'mores. Visitors are encouraged to dress for the weather and come ready to play. This program reflects the museum's mission to share Indigenous culture and history, while fostering connection to land, community, and season. The outside event is FREE. Regular admission

applies to tour the museum. For more info: www.indianmuseum.org/calendar or 603-456-2600.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS – THE BOB SEGER EXPERIENCE: The ultimate tribute to Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band at Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square in Claremont. 7:30pm-9:30pm. Tickets are \$35-\$40 plus fees. This 9-piece New Jersey-based powerhouse has set out to re-create everything about Bob and his music. If you are a true Bob Seger fan, you won't want to miss Hollywood Nights! For more info/tickets visit cohn.org or call 603.542.4433.

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



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P/T KITCHEN COOK:

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

AA MEETINGS

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

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KIDS' CRAFT STATIONS AND GAMES
SNACKS AND WARM REFRESHMENTS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session **Saturday, February 28, 2026** 10:00-10:30 a.m., at the Hillsborough Town Offices at 27 School St., Hillsborough for the purpose of corrections, party changes or new registrations. New voters should bring a photo ID, proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport or Naturalization papers) and proof of residency. If you have any questions, you can go to sos.nh.gov to see how to register to vote. February 28th will be the last chance to register to vote prior to Election Day, March 10, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Town of Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen will be holding a required public hearing on a petitioned warrant article to increase the Board of Selectmen from 3 members to 5 members on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026** @ 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office Building, 27 School Street, Hillsborough NH.

Attention Candidates for School & Town Offices

Send us your photo and a brief statement of why you are running for that office and we'll publish it in our **MARCH 6TH** issue of The Messenger.

If you don't have a photo, stop by our office at 246 West Main Street in Hillsboro and we'll take one for you.

DEADLINE FOR YOUR SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

MAIL TO: The Messenger
PO Box 1190, Hillsboro, NH 03244
or EMAIL: leighb@tds.net

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