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The Messenger

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 10 ♦ March 6, 2026



24 Years of Dedicated Service

Hillsboro-Deering School Board Chair Chris Bober (R) congratulates Paul Plater (L) on his dedicated service on the Board since 2002.

New Dean at Colby-Sawyer



Hilary Williams has been appointed academic vice president (AVP) and dean of faculty at Colby-Sawyer College, effective immediately. She had served in the role on an interim basis

since May 2025, while a nationwide search was undertaken. Her previous administrative roles at Colby-Sawyer include dean for the School of Arts & Sciences and chair of the Department of Fine & Performing Arts.

This week in history

MARCH 7, 1876

Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone

MARCH 8, 1669

Mount Etna warns of eruption

MARCH 9, 2018

Thousands march against corruption in Slovakia

MARCH 10, 1913

Abolitionist Harriet Tubman dies

MARCH 11, 1942

General Douglas MacArthur leaves the Philippines

MARCH 12, 1933

FDR gives first fireside chat

MARCH 13, 1781

William Herschel discovers Uranus



It was a great time at the Annual Washington Fire Department Ice Fishing Derby.

Windsor man deceased after fire at his home

New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean P. Toomey and Hillsboro Fire Chief Kenny Stafford Jr. announce that Michael Paul, 71, was deceased and a joint investigation is underway after a fire at a home in Windsor.

At 3:54 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, members of the Hillsboro Fire Department responded to Stone Circle in Windsor after a caller reported their neighbor's home was smoldering. When the first responders arrived, they found a single-family home nearly burnt to the ground and learned that one person was

unaccounted for.

Firefighters determined the fire had been active for a significant amount of time before they got to the scene, extinguished remaining hot spots, and began to search for the person reported missing. Investigators with the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and are leading the investigation into the cause and origin of the fire.

Members of the Hillsboro Fire Department assisted investigators at the scene. Firefighters from Henniker,

Deering, Antrim, and Washington also responded. No first responders were hurt during this incident. At this time, investigators do not believe the fire is suspicious.

Mr. Paul's cause and manner of death are pending an autopsy scheduled at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is encouraged to contact the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office at (603) 223-4289 or fmo@dos.nh.gov.

Franklin house fire leaves family of seven homeless

A Franklin home has been deemed a complete loss, leaving two adults and five children displaced.

Two dogs were reported to have perished in the fire.

Crews arrived to heavy fire through-

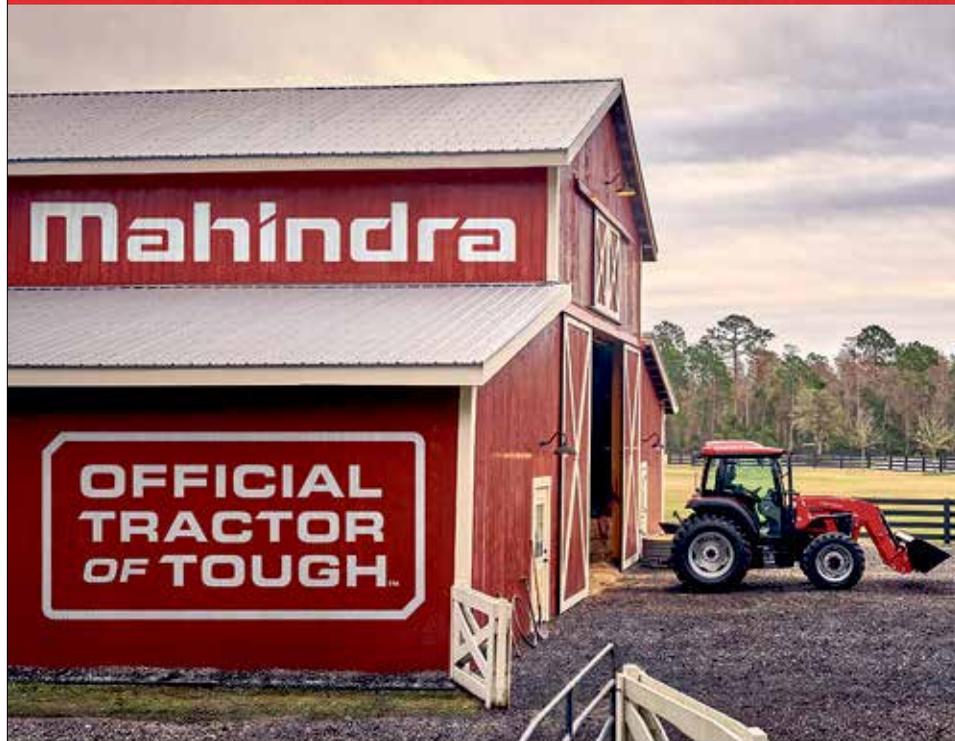
out the Cape-style home but had to wait for mutual aid partners for additional water supply, as the closest fire hydrant was 2½ miles away. The homeowner was unable to reach 911 due to cell service and had to walk a distance before

he could make the call.

The fire remains under investigation. The Red Cross is assisting the family.

Ten departments responded to the scene and two provided station coverage.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

March 7, 2025

Multiple accidents on I-89 in Hopkinton
John Stark DECA Team at career Development Conference
Weare girls excel during Project Soapbox speech contest
New London logger convicted of deceptive practices

March 8, 2024

Contoocook cadet awarded \$5,000 Air Force scholarship
Three injured as accidents close Route 101 in Peterborough
Special recognition given Sunapee Chief John Galloway
Accident closed Route 103 in Newbury

March 10, 2023

New Boston nurse charged with abuse
Franklin Patrolman's Association votes "No Confidence" in City Manager
Hopkinton Boys & Girls suffer double loss to #1 seeds in Division III
Chamber forum features candidates for Select & Planning Boards

March 11, 2022

Explosion and Fire in Bradford
Hillsborough voters reject attempt to cut Police budget
Henniker voters OK school budget & teacher contracts
Antrim's Route 9 closed after tractor-trailer rollover

March 12, 2021

Hillsborough honors Bill Goss for 43 years service
Hopkinton parents want schools opened now
Warner Historical Society Indigenous History
Young Weare boy shows the power of giving

March 13, 2020

Patricia Parenteau named SAU #34 Superintendent
Washington Town Meeting honors Ron & Grace Jager
Persistence pays off - Newbury approves Fire Station
Warner Town Meeting voters face full agenda

March 15, 2019

ConVal district files suit against State of NH
Hopkinton School District approves \$9.8 million bond
John Stark/Hopkinton wins Division II Hockey
Hillsborough voters spend \$9 million in 1 hour

March 16, 2018

Bow voters want community building saved
Henniker Selectman Ben Fortner resigns
Goffstown voters reject additional firefighters
Mixed results at Hopkinton School meeting

March 17, 2017

Northfield officers save woman
Mount Sunapee skier found unresponsive
Peterborough trio arrested at Monadnock Country Club
Newport man arrested with stolen jewelry

March 11, 2016

Franklin firing range takes fire
After four defeats, Bow Safety Building approved
Bradford Town Hall renovation fails by 5 votes
Weare voters support highway garage - nix cruisers

Weare Officers commended for upgrading Emergency Radio Communications

It has been well documented that the Emergency Radio Communications System for the Town of Weare, New Hampshire compromised the health, safety, and welfare of both the public and municipal employees due to inadequate and unreliable coverage throughout the Town.

This deficiency was notably highlighted during an officer-involved shooting in 2019, when an officer sustained a life-threatening gunshot wound and responding officers were initially unable to request emergency medical assistance because the radio system failed to transmit.

Early projections to correct the system estimated costs of approximately \$1.4 million for the system itself, in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in recurring annual fees.

In 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law. When funding from this Act was distributed to municipalities, the Weare Board of Selectmen

prioritized using these funds to address the Town's radio infrastructure deficiencies. Challenges such as proposed tower locations that failed to meet coverage requirements and the burden of recurring annual fees initially threatened to derail the project.

In June 2022, the Weare Police Department volunteered to lead and facilitate the design and implementation of the emergency radio system upgrades.

Two members of the department—Sergeant Brandon Montplaisir and Officer Laura Purslow—worked diligently to identify tower locations capable of providing adequate coverage and to negotiate with tower owners regarding placement and fees.

Their efforts resulted in the identification of three existing towers whose owners agreed to allow equipment installation at no recurring cost.

Additionally, they identified



Sgt. Brandon Montplaisir



Chief Moore & Officer Purslow

a Town-owned property that would provide the necessary northeast coverage with the construction of a new tower.

The project was completed in November 2025 at a total cost of just over \$900,000 and carries no recurring annual fees.

Due to their attention to detail and tireless efforts, the Emergency Radio Communications System was successfully redesigned and upgraded to meet the needs of the community. Their diligence significantly reduced the overall cost of the

project while eliminating all recurring fees.

It is for their comprehensive effort that Sergeant Brandon Montplaisir and Officer Laura Purslow are awarded the Weare Police Department's Police Commendation Award.

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Join Hillsborough's America's 250th Anniversary Celebration!

July 4, 2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our great country and the Hillsboro Lions Club wants to be sure Hillsboro steps up to provide a full-day whole-town celebration of this momentous occasion.

Like Old Fashioned Christmas, their hope is to have every Church, Civic Group, and Business sponsor a special event or hold a special sale to commemorate the event. The Lions have reserved both Butler Park and

Kemp Park to host various activities throughout the day, and they would welcome your participation.

To join in the festivities, let them know as soon as you can, so your event can be included in the calendar of events and massive publicity campaign.

Send your information to Leigh Bosse, Project Chair at PO Box 1190 or e-mail to leighb@tds.net. For questions call Leigh at 603-464-3388.

Dunbarton School District voters asked to adopt SB2

Dunbarton residents will decide whether to change the traditional format of their school district's annual meetings. JR Hoell, a former state representative, is leading the effort to bring the SB 2 format to the school district in hopes of the new structure inviting more community engagement.

SB 2 splits the traditional meeting into two parts: a deliberative session where residents can debate and amend warrant articles, followed by a separate voting day when residents cast their ballots.

Concerns about the school district's rising budget

prompted Hoell to explore the SB 2 alternative. Separating the vote from a lengthy meeting would incentivize more residents to participate and give leaders a clearer sense of where the community stands, he said.

This year's proposed school budget is \$11.6 million, a 10.4% increase from last year.

The school board has unanimously recommended that residents vote against the SB 2 proposal.

Clement Madden, school board chair, said he believes the change would not benefit a small community like Dunbarton.

A block of ice through windshield injures Henniker woman

A block of ice smashed through a windshield early Saturday in Henniker, sending shards of glass into the passenger side of a car and injuring a woman inside.

According to officials, the incident happened on Route 202 under the Route 114 overpass.

"It came down from the bridge as soon as we came out from that overpass," said Dawn Harsh, who was riding in the front passenger seat. "It struck just as we came right into the light."

Harsh said she was on her way to her twin grandsons' birthday party when the ice crashed through the windshield.

"It sounded like it was a very big, like, crash coming through the window. And with the ice, it was a loud impact," she said.

Henniker police responded and investigated where the ice may have come from.

"I looked at the bridge, and I looked at the fencing. There seemed to be some gaps, so I'm not entirely sure if it came from the bridge," said Officer Hayley Minahen of the Henniker Police Department.

"Could have possibly come from a vehicle on 114, but we aren't entirely sure."

Harsh retrieved items inside her Kia SUV from a tow yard Sunday morning, including presents for her grandchildren.

She was treated at a local hospital and released. She said she continues to experience pain from several injuries.

"Very, very sore. I am bruised on my whole chest area — my abdomen, my face, inside of my mouth, neck," she said.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation said its crews inspected the bridge.

"At this time, there is no indication of an ongoing concern for motorists," the NHDOT said

in a statement.

Harsh said she hopes the incident serves as a reminder to keep roadways safe, especially during the winter.

"I'm hoping for, in general for everybody that we can make our roadways safer and make sure that those are maintained, especially in a big winter like

we've had this year," she said.

She also urged drivers to clear snow and ice from their vehicles to help prevent similar incidents.



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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

The United States could safely drop tetanus and diphtheria booster shots for adults and save an estimated \$1 billion a year, according to a new review published in *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*. Dropping the 10-year schedule for adult boosters would more closely match guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization. Previous research concluded the combined vaccine produced at least 30 years of immunity, well beyond the current recommendation of every 10 years for adults from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The vaccine is usually given as a combined tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine, known as DTaP. The new review suggests doing away with adult boosters altogether, as long as childhood vaccination rates remain high, and the vaccine remains available on a case-by-case basis. For example, it may be necessary for someone injured in a workplace accident or car crash to receive a tetanus booster.

A new study that examined older and newer medications to treat seizures has found that using some medications during pregnancy is linked to an increased risk of malformations at birth, or birth defects. The study is published in *Neurology*. Researchers found that the risk of major birth defects varied among medications. Valproate posed the highest risk, with major birth defects occurring in 9% of infants exposed. Phenobarbital followed at 6%. Among newer drugs, birth defects occurred in 5% of those exposed to topiramate, while the group exposed to lamotrigine had malformations in 2% of births. When compared to those who took lamotrigine, those who took valproate had more than five times the risk of birth defects, those who took phenobarbital had nearly three times the risk, and those taking topiramate had over twice the risk. The results did not show an increased risk with medications like levetiracetam, oxcarbazepine, gabapentin and zonisamide. For lacosamide and pregabalin, the data wasn't clear enough to make solid conclusions, so more research is needed.

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ONE IN THREE YOUNG ADULTS SKIP THE DENTIST, AND THAT'S A PROBLEM: PART II



Dr. Esin Narli

A recent study by Tufts University School of Dental Medicine analyzed health, demographic, and dental-care data from nearly 128,000 adults in the National Institutes of Health's All of Us program, one of the world's largest biomedical databases. Yau-Hua Yu, the study's author, used the data to examine how physical challenges and mental health issues reported by individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds varied depending on three factors: whether they had visited a dentist in the past year, their income level, and their age.

"Across all ages, people generally managed to see a doctor," says Yu. "But those who skipped dental care most often pointed to cost and lack of insurance coverage." She says this finding reinforces the need to address the persistent policy gap in dental coverage, especially for those not covered by employer-based insurance or public programs.

Young adults who missed dental visits were also more likely to skip medical care, struggle with copays, rely on emergency care, and report poor mental health or memory problems. Yu found that this group of study participants were more likely to be renters, uninsured, and racially diverse – and that unstable housing added financial and emotional strain.

The study's age-based analysis revealed other important generational contrasts. While adults aged 66 years or older were more likely to have insurance and own a home, they also reported more disabilities. Individuals who reported difficulty walking, bathing, running errands, or concentrating were more likely to skip dental care, particularly among these older adults.

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Hometown Heroes



The NH Fire Academy Ice Rescue class was held at Newbury Harbor on Lake Sunapee. Firefighters from around the state, including Newbury, attended the two day state certification course.



On Thursday, February 26th, Sunapee Fire was called to an apartment building on Alpine Court for a fire alarm activation. Sunapee Fire personnel were able to locate the source of the smoke – an issue with a pellet stove, which they shut down and cleaned out. Once the smoke condition was removed from all the apartments, all the occupants were allowed to reenter the building.



The Franconia Fire Department assisted Fire Mutual Aid to get through 2-1/2' - 3' of snow on top of Temple Mountain to help access the tower site to ensure equipment is working for emergency communications in the Monadnock area.

Quick response by area firefighters saves garage fire from spreading to house

On Friday, February 27, 2026, at 01:33, Sunapee Fire, along with mutual aid from New London, Newbury, Newport, Goshen, and an ambulance from New London Hospital EMS, were called to a residence on Hamel Road for a fully involved garage fire. A Newbury Police officer arrived on the scene and confirmed that the building was fully involved and that neighbors reported two occupants were still inside. The Newbury Police officer gained access to the residence and evacuated the two occupants. The fire blocked the residents' evacuation route to the road, so the Newbury Police officer and two occupants of the residence were forced to evacuate by crossing the ice on Mountain View Lake and making their way back to the beach. The neighbors of the building that was on fire were forced to do the same.

Sunapee Safety Officer John Gosselin arrived on the scene

and reported a fully involved garage fire that had extended to a pickup truck and was then extending to the house. Sunapee immediately upgraded the incident to a 2nd Alarm Structure Fire, bringing in mutual aid from Croydon, Bradford, Grantham, and Springfield.

The first Sunapee Fire apparatus arrived on the scene and immediately deployed hose lines and began extinguishing the fire. Engine 2's crew also made entry into the house and conducted a primary search to ensure and confirm that there were no more people or pets inside the residence.

Thanks to an aggressive fire attack from not only the first-arriving Sunapee units but also all the mutual aid departments, the house was saved and suffered only minor damage on the exterior and interior. The occupants were able to reoccupy it after the fire had been extinguished. Unfortunately, the garage, the



car inside, and the pickup truck outside were a total loss.

Sunapee Fire personnel remained on the scene until 05:39, checking for hot spots and making sure the fire was fully extinguished.

The Sunapee Fire Department was assisted on the scene by the following departments/agencies:

- New London Fire
- Newbury Fire
- Springfield Fire

- Bradford Fire
- Croydon Fire
- Grantham Fire
- Sunapee Police
- Newbury Police
- Sunapee Highway Department
- Eversource Power Company



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Attorney General charges Weare woman with civil rights violations



Diane Durgin

The Attorney General's Office has charged a Weare woman with civil rights violations, claiming she told a 911 operator she fired two shots at a lost man's car because "the guy is Black." Attorney General John M. Formella announced the enforcement action by the state Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit against Diane Durgin, 67, of Weare, alleging violations of the state's Civil Rights Act.

The civil complaint, filed Monday in Hillsborough Superior Court North, alleges that on Oct. 20, 2024, Durgin threatened physical force against a victim, identified in court documents as X.G., when she allegedly drew a gun, pointed it at him, and threatened to kill him after seeing that he was Black.

"The State asks that this Court find that Defendant violated the New Hampshire Civil Rights Act three times when she attempted to and threatened to damage the victim's property and threatened to use physical force against the victim by firing her gun at the victim while he was driving his car away," the complaint says. "The evidence demonstrates that race motivated Defendant's conduct and his actions interfered with the rights of her victim."

According to the complaint, X.G. (a Black man) drove to Weare on Oct. 20, 2024, to complete the purchase of a car part he had prearranged with a seller online.

At approximately 6 a.m., X.G. arrived at what he thought was the seller's house and drove down the driveway; in reality, he had mistakenly pulled into the driveway of Durgin's home on Colby Road.

Soon after X.G. arrived, Durgin, who is White, "exited her home with her handgun by her side and approached X.G. in his car," the complaint says.

"When she approached close enough to the car to see X.G. in the driver's seat and to see that he is Black, Defendant drew and pointed her gun at X.G.," the complaint says. "X.G. then quickly explained why he was

there and showed Defendant his phone conversation with the seller arranging the purchase. Defendant continued to point her gun at X.G., called him a 'Black mf,' told him not to move, and said she would kill him."

Durgin allegedly repeated the threat even after the victim attempted to explain that he was lost.

According to the complaint, Durgin moved around from the driver's side of the car to the passenger side, and X.G. rolled down his window to show there was no one else in the car. Durgin allegedly continued to point her gun at X.G. and repeated her threat to kill him.

X.G. began to drive his car down the driveway in an attempt to leave, and Durgin allegedly fired two shots at his car, missing both times, the complaint says. X.G.'s car went off the side of the driveway and into a ditch, and he exited the vehicle, ran to the end of the driveway and called 911.

According to the complaint, Durgin also called 911 to report what happened, and during that recorded call the following exchange occurred:

Dispatcher: Why did you shoot at this person?
Durgin: Because he's telling me ... first of all, he's lurking around my yard looking at stuff, my equipment yard. And then he's telling me he's supposed to be meeting a guy here. The guy is Black. And he, he ... he says he's meeting someone here and I think he's coming here to steal. Dispatcher: Okay, so you shot... Defendant: (talking over dispatcher) I shot at his ... I shot ... I shot at his car."

When police arrived on scene, Durgin allegedly admitted to shooting at X.G.'s car but would not give police the gun she used.

On March 19, a grand jury indicted Durgin for one count of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon, one count of criminal threatening against a person with a deadly weapon, and one count of attempted first-degree assault with a deadly weapon.

Attempts to reach Durgin or an attorney for comment Thursday were unsuccessful.

Each violation of the Civil Rights Act allows for a maximum civil penalty of \$5,000. Violations of the Civil Rights Act also empower the court to restrain defendants from committing future violations of the Civil Rights Act and other hate-motivated conduct for three years.

The Civil Rights Unit has asked the court to implement a preliminary restraining order against Durgin "to protect the victim and the public," prosecutors said.

Man injured in snowmobile crash in Clough State Park

On Monday night at approximately 8:35 p.m., a Conservation Officer from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department responded to a report of a snowmobile crash on the Basset Mill Road Trail in the Town of Weare at Clough State Park.

Upon notification of the incident, members of the Weare Fire Department, Dubarton Fire Department and officers of the Weare and Dunbarton Police Departments all responded.

Once on scene, officers were able to determine that

the operator, Robert Sweet, 24, of Weare, NH was operating his snowmobile with friends on the Basset Mill Road Trail. While navigating a left turn his ski got caught in deep snow and pulled him off the trail. Sweet's machine came to an abrupt stop where he was ejected off the machine and into a tree. Sweet was treated by EMS personnel at the scene and was ultimately transported by Weare Fire Department Ambulance to Concord Hospital for further evaluation and treatment of his injuries.

\$4,510,464 grant approved to remove Goffstown's Hadley Falls Dam

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) announces that Governor Ayotte and the Executive Council have approved \$4,510,464 to support removal of the Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown and restore natural river and wetland functions of the Piscataquog River and surrounding area. The funding comes from the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund and was authorized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NHDES Dam Bureau.

The goal of the Hadley Falls Dam Removal and River Restoration Project is to remove the defunct, high-hazard, state-owned dam and restore the natural movement of water, sediment and wildlife through the Piscataquog River watershed. Once completed, the project will reconnect approximately 69.5 miles of free-flowing river, upstream and downstream of

the existing dam site.

Project work will restore and enhance about 3.3 acres of wetland and 2,887 linear feet of stream habitat within the former 20-acre impoundment.

Planned activities include:

- Removing the concrete spillway and remaining timber crib structure.
- Reconstructing about 647 feet of stream channel.
- Restoring approximately 1.2 acres of floodplain wetland.
- Planting native vegetation and managing invasive species.
- Monitoring the site to ensure long-term stream stability and riparian buffer recovery.

These restoration efforts are expected to improve regional habitat connectivity and support aquatic species that migrate by improving access to important spawning and rearing habitat in the Piscataquog and Merrimack River watersheds.

The project also supports improved water quality, more

natural sediment and nutrient transport, increased flood resiliency and storage capacity, shoreline stability, wildlife habitat connectivity and recreational opportunities.

The NHDES ARM Fund Program manages money used to offset unavoidable impacts to

aquatic resources. Competitive grants support projects that restore, enhance and protect aquatic resources and associated upland buffers across nine watershed service areas in New Hampshire.

Since 2006, more than \$34 million has funded over 154

projects, including land preservation, aquatic barrier removal and living shoreline projects. The program's goal is to achieve no net loss of aquatic resources statewide.

For more information, visit the ARM Fund Program website or email des.arm@des.nh.gov.



Mark Manganiello, from the NHED Bureau of School Finance, spoke to the Hillsboro-Deering School Board on Adequacy formula changes; Enrollment decline and property growth and its impact on school funding; Regional and Statewide trends and financial benchmarks for Hillsboro-Deering; and How revaluations effect local tax rates and how adequacy and SWEPT impact cooperative school districts.



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By: Joyce Bosse

A common misconception is that a landlord's insurance policy for the property eliminates the need for renters to purchase their own insurance. Not so. Your landlord's insurance does not cover your personal belongings or any liability claims against you. While you may not be liable for repairing the rental property after a covered loss, your personal possessions may still need replacement if they are damaged or stolen.

Renters insurance can provide peace of mind and protection against other financial losses in times of crisis, and it's relatively affordable. The actual cost will depend on several factors, such as the type of coverage you choose, how much coverage you buy, and the amount of your deductible, otherwise known as the amount you agree to pay before a claim is paid.

When considering rental insurance, it's important to understand what it covers and to ask your agent about available discounts, deductibles and coverage limits. It's a small investment that gives renters an invaluable peace of mind, knowing that their treasured belongings are protected.

Coverage while traveling: Renters insurance not only safeguards your possessions at home but may also offer protection while you are away. If a valuable item such as your laptop was stolen from your hotel room while on vacation, your policy may cover the loss.

Financial protection: An unexpected event, like your dog biting a neighbor, may lead to a lawsuit. Renters insurance may cover damages up to your coverage limit in addition to legal bills.

Neighbor-related incidents: if your upstairs neighbor leaves the stove on, resulting in a fire that destroys your belongings, you would bear the loss without renters insurance.

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STAFF

Leigh Bosse: Publisher

Joyce Bosse: Editor

Christi Carlson:

Advertising Design

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

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Monday at 5pm prior to Friday publication.

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We will be responsible for errors in advertisements only to the extent of correcting the same in the next issue using space equal to the items in error.

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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.

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

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

Publisher's Perspective



Despicable Democrats

Memo to: Sen. Shaheen, Sen. Hassan, Rep. Papas, Rep. Goodlander

You can hate the President. You can hate Republican policies.

But your failure to stand for supporting Americans vs. illegal aliens, your failure to stand for our gold medal

Men's Olympic Hockey Team, your failure to stand for our hero first responders, and your failure to stand for our Congressional Medal of Honor recipients is more than disrespectful - it is downright despicable.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I urge Henniker Townspeople to support Article 28 on the Henniker Town Warrant. Voting YES will save wildlife, pets, and small children from harm. Voting YES will reduce deaths among eagles, hawks, owls, foxes, and other wildlife resulting from the use of rodent poisons (rodenticides). These poisons are effective, but raptors and small mammals, including dogs and cats eat the rodents that have died from the poison. In 2025, more than 300 dogs, 15 cats, and over 60 wild animals were

treated for rodenticide poisoning in NH. The number of animals that were poisoned but not treated is unknown.

Passage of Article 28 will limit the use of poisons intended to kill rats and mice on town-owned property.

After the adoption of Article 28, residents will be notified at a hearing before any rodenticide poisons are used on town-owned property. They will be assured that the poison is being used only after other less lethal pest management controls have been attempted but failed.

VOTE YES ON ARTICLE 28. ▶

Letters to the Editor continued

**Maria Colby, Director Wings
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Henniker**

To the Editor:

The planning board and in particular the ZBA are keeping this town from experiencing positive business growth. A recent article in the Hillsboro Hub newsletter shows the complete disconnect our town planner Robin Payson has with the reality of what is actually happening in town. Robin pointed out the “yellow” building downtown being full, but at the time of publication only one out of three units was occupied and that is after another commercial unit was already converted to residential on the ground floor. The Rumrill Block (a building I would like to put a restaurant in) was touted as being occupied but the truth is, it is subsidized by the landlord to keep it occupied and it is not a sustainable business and currently is open less than 18 hours per week. The ZBA in the last few years has allowed relatively wealthy people (not people financially strained) to take commercial property out of commercial use and also out of the commercial tax rate. This allows these properties to be kept instead of sold and are permanently part of someone’s real estate portfolio instead of being used commercially to serve our community. Some of these properties, like the old Ollie’s Treasure Shop location are/were prime for smaller investors (smaller investors is what we have) as larger investors are often driven away by the smaller population and also (yes, I’m going to say it) our crumbling buildings, roads and infrastructure. A great spot that I was interested in is the old Mama McDonough’s, but it too has been changed to residential so the owners have no incentive to sell or lease it as they can now afford to just live in it and it is out of any commercial use. I have more examples but I can also talk about the underutilization of our buildings as well. I can not find another food truck to join me in town because of what our town looks like and its reputation. Simply power washing the filthy vinyl siding on every downtown building would make a night and day difference, let alone getting Bara Dental to show some respect for the community and finish their building (I’m sure Tom Bara’s house isn’t in such disrepair!), I can go on and on with examples, it’s called pride and integrity. The ZBA is the towns only contended race. I believe Frank Malinoski (based on his development of a family friendly business) and John Segedy are our best choices moving forward on the ZBA. Unfortunately, Keith Cobett has already been a part of those poor decisions and has also had a less than successful run as president of the Chamber of Commerce. What most people don’t understand is that the ZBA is the deciders of WHO gets to break the rules, and the deciders of WHY they get to break the rules. The way past ZBA votes have gone it’s usually those who shouldn’t be breaking the rules who are allowed. This is because the people on this board don’t have the integrity to tell their well connected and wealthier friends “no”, but do have it in them to tell the “regular” people “no” all the time. Cronyism and cowardice are our two worst enemies but they are best friends of those who currently occupy nearly ALL of our public offices. Our home is in Washington, but our livelihood is

in Hillsboro, we care.

Aaron Zipper, Washington

Dear Editor:

March is here, and for most New Hampshire towns, that means the annual town meeting. “All politics is local” is a commonly used phrase that holds truth. Town elections are where your vote has the most weight and directly affects your community and your life.

Article 18 on the Antrim Town Warrant provides residents a way to make their voices heard at the state level. A petition signed by 53 Antrim voters added this article to the warrant. The article asks whether Antrim supports requiring the state legislature to protect taxpayers by adequately funding essential services and preventing policies that shift costs to local property taxpayers. State budgets have reduced or eliminated revenue sources such as the Interest and Dividends Tax, the Business Profits Tax, and the Meals and Rooms Tax. To counteract this loss of income, the state has shifted the costs of education, county services, and infrastructure to the towns, resulting in higher property taxes.

Article 18 sends a clear message that Antrim expects the state to pay its fair share. If the article is adopted the Antrim Selectboard will send the results of the vote to the governor and all members of the General Court representing Antrim.

Antrim Town Meeting is 6:00 pm Thursday, March 12, at Town Hall. The full warrant is on the town website. <https://www.antrimnh.org/>

Voters in all New Hampshire towns should learn about their town meetings, attend them and make their voices heard where it matters most: at home!

Linda Olson Bundy, Antrim

Dear Editor:

Short-term Rentals by Right?
Is this good for Washington?

The Washington Planning Board is proposing to allow short-term rental (STR) businesses “by right” without requiring a business permit or rental notification to the Town as long as the property owner (which includes a corporation officer, LLC member or trustee of a Trust) resides within the limits of the Town or within 5 miles thereof. How is this good for all of our residents, our neighborhoods and our sense of community we cherish? It’s NOT. WHY NOT?

STR’s bring renters who often fail to respect town and neighborhood rules/ regulations and common neighborly courtesy, i.e. noise, fires, pets, lights, etc. They have no vested interest in preserving our community values and neighborly good behavior and thus problems arise.

The proposed requirement of residency for a “by right” short-term rental is “for a responsible person to be able to be contacted and respond promptly to any problems that may develop at the short-term rental.” (Per the proposed definition of “residence” for short-term rentals). How can this “resident” be contacted and respond when issues arise if there is NO permit or notification requirement which would ensure the name and contact information is available to the Select Board or Police?

Without a permit requirement for STRs, there is no oversight for fire and life safety, septic adequacy for number of rental occupants/rooms, or accommodations for parking. All of which can adversely impact neighborhoods, especially our neighborhoods and lakefront subdivisions comprised of small lots.

Allowing businesses to own and operate short term rentals removes these properties from the inventory of residential homes that could be purchased and used as residential homes for permanent and younger families.

Appropriate permitting of STR’s, which are indeed businesses, serves to protect the residents of our town by balancing local oversight of regulations with the protection of individuals’ property rights.

Please protect our sense of community and neighborhoods by voting NO for the Short-Term Rental by Right changes to our Land Use Ordinance section 200.2.

Name withheld

Deering and Hillsboro Voters:

On behalf of the Deering Withdrawal Feasibility Study Committee, I urge you to vote YES on Article 22 on the Hillsboro-Deering Cooperative School District ballot on March 10, 2026.

You may be wondering what this Committee is and why this article matters. The Committee was formed last year after Deering began exploring withdrawal from the Cooperative because Deering currently pays \$8,295 more per student than Hillsboro for the same education. For a town with little commercial tax base, that difference places an overwhelming burden on homeowners.

Under Chapter 195 of New Hampshire law, the allocation formula that determines how taxes are divided between the two towns can be reviewed every five years to ensure fairness. However, our district has not revised its formula since 1998. That outdated structure has contributed to today’s significant disparity.

Article 22 proposes adjusting the order of steps in the allocation formula. This change would provide meaningful tax relief to Deering while resulting in only a modest increase for Hillsboro — and Deering would still pay more per student. It is a reasonable, measured step toward a fairer balance between the two towns.

A YES vote on Article 22 does not reduce school funding or cut services. Not a single dollar is taken from students or teachers. It simply makes the tax distribution more equitable. Voting YES supports our schools, our students, and the strength of both communities — while affirming that fairness matters for taxpayers in Deering and Hillsboro alike.

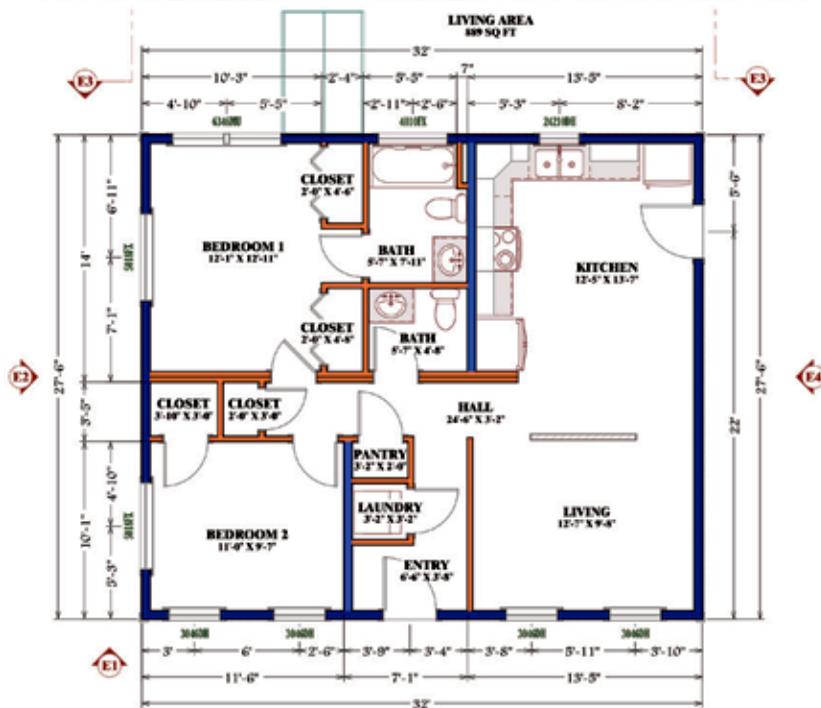
Katie Lavoie, Deering

Dear Editor:

To the Weare taxpayers, on March 10, 2026 you will have your yearly opportunity to vote on town and school budgets. While some requests by respective Boards “may”? be reasonable, you have only 2 choices. Spend a little more or a lot more.

Choose wisely. You will be taxed accordingly.

Frank Campana, Weare



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What's yours?

Sports



The Hillsboro Hillcats 5th-6th grade girls team went undefeated and took home the championship coached by Chris and Sasha Grimes.



Bryan Dumais and his 3rd-4th grade girls basketball team also went undefeated and won the championship in Dunbarton.



The 3rd-4th grade Hillcats Team.

 Sports



The Bow Falcons completed their Div. III three-peat on Sunday and qualified 10 wrestlers to the Meet of Champions.
Courtesy photo by Heather Brown.



The Henniker Huskies 3rd-4th grade basketball team took home 2nd place.



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- Hillsboro Food Pantry
- Free Eye Glasses

**To join, or for more information —
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603-464-3388**

Candidates Corner *A public service from The Messenger*

Marlene Freyler Bradford Select Board



I am running for Bradford Selectman again because I would like to finish what we started in September with our new Administrator and the great things that are happening in the Town offices.

The Town has no Tan Note this year which saves the taxpayer interest on the note, Taxes were sent out on time for the first time in years which means that we had money

early so there was no reason for a Tan Note, The Town Report is done and will be available a week before Town Meeting and anyone can pick them up at the Town Hall. There were at least 20 items that had to be done.

When the new Administrator came on board with the help of Maureen Brandon in the Finance Office and Erica Gross and Amelia in the Town Clerks Office they have narrowed the list way down. I would like to remind voters it is you who make the decisions at Town Meeting if you don't show up then you can't complain.

Remember your first tax bill goes to the School, The State and the County, your second tax bill pays for the operation of the town.

Get out and vote and read your town report before town meeting, this is your town.

Charles Wood Deering Select Board



I'm Charles Wood, and I'm running to be your next Selectman.

Though we've lived in Deering full-time for just over three years, my wife Deanna and I have deep family roots here spanning back generations. (Fisher & Farrell). We've always been connected to this town, which is why we came back to build our forever home here. We love Deering's history, rural character,

and strong community spirit. I own two successful local businesses, Colonial Lighting and Colonial Builders, so many of you may know me through those. With decades of experience in corporate management, financial planning, asset management, and public interaction, I bring practical skills that I believe will serve our town well on the Board of Selectmen.

Currently, I serve on the Planning Board, the CMPIC Committee, the Historical Society Board of Directors (and as a corporate sponsor), and I was part of the Deering 250th Committee. I enjoy volunteering to make Deering better for everyone.

A couple of my priorities would include:

- Addressing the real financial strain on taxpayers. Taxes keep rising while services haven't kept pace. I have a few ideas that may help avoid pricing out our neighbors on fixed or low incomes.

- Improving town government to better serve citizens through transparent decisions, open discussions, and increased and ongoing community input beyond Town Meeting. I want to hear from you!

I'd be honored to represent you, and I'd work hard to preserve what makes Deering special, our friends and neighbors.

I ask for your support and your vote on March 10, 2026.

Laura Martinage Deering Treasurer



My name is Laura (Lori) Martinage, and I'm writing to announce my write in candidacy for Town of Deering Treasurer.

I've been part of the Deering Community for 60 years and, like many of you, I pay taxes and care deeply about keeping our town financially strong, transparent, and responsible. The Treasurer's job demands trust, accountability, and

making sure that every tax dollar is handled with care and absolute clarity. I am running as a write-in candidate because I believe the towns-people deserve a choice in this election.

I have demonstrated a commitment to these values, most recently serving as Chairman of the Deering Budget Advisory Committee.

I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from North Adams State College and my MBA from New Hampshire College. I am the current Chief Financial Officer of a successful NH manufacturing company, where I have worked for 32 years.

If elected Treasurer, I will work hard to ensure that our town's funds are managed responsibly, that records are maintained carefully, and that all information is accessible and easy to understand.

I would be honored if you checked the box and wrote "Laura Martinage" for Treasurer at the polls (8:00 AM and 7:00 PM) on March 10, 2026 at the Deering Town Hall.

Thank you for your trust, and your continued commitment to our town.

Jill Smith Deering Treasurer



Deering residents - Although I am the only candidate who filed for Town Treasurer, I believe it's important to explain why I'm running and what I will do if elected. For the past decade, Deering has faced repeated negative audit findings, rising audit costs, and ongoing concerns about how our finances are reported. When financial records aren't accurate or controls are weak, it leads to mistakes, higher audit bills, and difficulty building a reliable town budget. Those extra costs fall on taxpayers. The Treasurer is responsible for safeguarding, depositing, and paying out town funds according to state law.

That role should serve as a strong check and balance within town government. If elected, I will take back reconciliation duties that were previously handed off and maintain the second set of books recommended by our auditors. I will ensure consistent application of Deering's financial internal control policies and ensure proper segregation of duties which reduces the risk of fraud and

costly errors.

costly errors.

I'll oversee the proper, lawful investment of town funds, and ensure full compliance with NH municipal law. I will provide transparent, timely financial reporting to the Selectmen and the public. I have five years of experience serving on Deering Boards & Committees, professional Municipal Accounting experience with a local Trust Company, a Masters degree from Boston College, and strong knowledge of New Hampshire Municipal Finance Law. I am familiar with Deering's revenues, expenses, reserves, and audit history, and I understand where improvements are required. My goal is simple: protect taxpayer dollars, improve financial reporting, reduce audit costs over time, and restore confidence in how our town's money is managed. I ask for you to vote for Jill Smith on March 10th.

Wendy Durrett Greenfield Library Trustee



Beatrix Potter once said "We cannot stay home all our lives, we must present ourselves to the world and we must look upon it as an adventure."

My decision to run for Library Trustee echoes in these words by one of our most beloved children's book authors and illustrators. Not only do I see this experience as an adventure, but also as a way to give back to our

little world in Greenfield and beyond.

Potter had a tremendous love for literature and also for animals. Throughout my life I have dedicated my time to helping animals as a Veterinary Technician and have also owned a pet sitting business for many years. Taking care of others and their pets has always been a passion of mine. I plan to use that same dedicated energy to ensure that our library is a space that enriches our community and gives our children a place to build their futures.

As a Library Trustee, I will ensure our library serves the best interests of our community by providing a gathering place with free access to materials, protecting its resources, and promoting literacy. I will work with the Library Trustee Board, the Director and most importantly I will serve you.

I am humbly asking for your vote on March 10th.

Alison Mrohs Henniker Supervisor of the Checklist



Alison Mrohs, proud Henniker resident for eight years and owner of The Henniker House Bed & Breakfast Inn, a woman-owned, small business, welcoming visitors and reflecting the spirit of hospitality that defines our community. She's built strong community relationships and brings organization, care, and attention to detail to everything she does.

Alison also serves as President of the Henniker Chamber of Commerce and helped found the Henniker Beautification Alliance, contributing to projects that keep the town vibrant, beautiful ▶

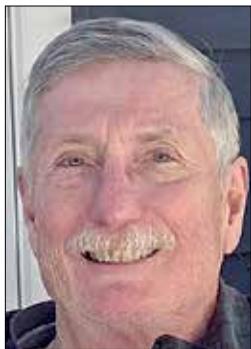
Candidates Corner *A public service from The Messenger*

and inviting.

She now hopes to serve as Supervisor of the Checklist, focusing on accuracy, fairness, and accessibility, committed to ensuring that Henniker's voter records remain up-to-date and that every eligible resident has a smooth, respectful experience when registering or updating their information. Priorities include accurate and compliant voter records, a friendly, nonpartisan experience for all residents, transparent and trustworthy election processes and strengthening confidence in local democracy.

With her business experience, community leadership, and dedication to public service, Alison is ready to serve Henniker with integrity, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to our town.

Michael Tucker Henniker Select Board



Hello Messenger readers, my name is Michael Tucker, a 34-year homeowner in Henniker. I am running for the position of selectman for the one-year term in the March 10th election. Since my retirement from OSRAM Sylvania in Hillsboro after a 36-year career, I've been looking for the right way to give back to the town that has provided my family with a great life. This opportunity is

the chance to serve, listen, and contribute to the arena that I believe is the cornerstone of democracy: local government. I believe that my experience as an engineering manager with budgetary, personnel and customer liaison responsibilities will allow me to work well with the other four selectmen to best serve the residents of Henniker. I would greatly appreciate your consideration on

election day. You can find more information about me at <https://rustygage.wixsite.com/michaeltucker>

Thank you for your consideration.

Rusty Gage Henniker Trustee of Trust Funds



My name is Rusty Gage, and I am running for Henniker's Trustee of the Trust Funds because I believe it is time to move beyond simply casting a vote by taking more of an active role in serving our community.

As Director of Active Living at White Birch Center, I have built a local reputation for being dependable, candid, and thoughtful; a reputation as someone who keeps his word,

speaks up when something doesn't feel right, and readily acknowledges when more learning is needed. Stewardship of community resources is part of my daily responsibility, and I approach it with care, transparency, and respect.

Serving as Trustee of the Trust Funds would be a natural extension of that work and a meaningful way to continue contributing to the financial well-being of our town.

Voters can read more about Rusty at his campaign website: <https://rustygage.wixsite.com/rusty-gage-for-trust>

John Segedy Hillsborough Zoning Board

My name is John Segedy and I am a resident (34 years) and property owner (37 years) in Hillsborough who raised 2 wonderful children here. I am running for election to the Zoning Board of



Adjustment.

I have served the town in a number of positions including School Board member, School District Moderator (current), Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) member, Conservation Commission Alternate Member & Recording Secretary - current. I have been a business owner and understand the needs of property owners and business owners.

I am running for election to the ZBA because I find it both interesting and challenging. I have experience having been previously involved with the Board on and off since 2010 (recording secretary, alternate member, full member and Vice-Chair). I believe in the purpose of the ZBA - being to provide property owners a relatively easy, cost effective means of addressing issues involving use of their property to avoid the need to use the courts.

Aside from my experience I bring a belief that applicants (and opponents) all deserve to be treated with respect and listened to. I also believe that people should have the right to use their property as they see fit as long as they aren't interfering with someone else's rights.

I would also note that while I was involved with the Board there have been no cases appealed to the courts.

While obviously not entirely my doing (I was only 1 of 5 members) I do feel that is an indication that the Board has worked as it should. I have also worked to bring transparency to the Board by spearheading the changing of this Board to an elected one a few years ago.

I appreciate your taking the time to read this and hopefully to come out and vote on Tuesday the 10th, both at the polls and ▶

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then at Town Meeting that evening.



Rick Bixby Warner Select Board

"I am running for select board because I would like to continue to keep the town sustainable for families like mine to live here. We moved here when I was 3. I'm thankful I grew up in Warner, living here most of my life. I believe I have a good understanding of how people in the community

want Warner to be. I want to work with the other board members to find new revenue for the town."

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The Greater Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce held a Candidates' Night on Tuesday.

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40 Years of Experience to Get You Fixed RIGHT

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TheHonestEngine.com



The Antrim Grange recently sponsored a Candidates' Night.

Area Dining Guide

RUSTIC ROSE TAVERN
 • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
 Take-out or Dine-in
Come in for Great Food, Beer & Cocktails, and Friendly Service
 • CHECK OUT OUR SPECIALS AND EVENTS
 View our full menu on Yelp or Facebook
 Watch for our upcoming events!
 Hours: Sun. & Mon. 11am-9pm; Thurs. 11am-9pm; Fri. 11am-10pm; Sat. 11am-10pm; Closed Tues. & Wed.
 316 Weare Rd., Henniker
 603-995-4163

Appleseed RESTAURANT & CATERING SERVICES
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 Catering for all occasions
 "Country Dining... at Country Prices"
 www.Appleseedrestaurant.com
 938-2100 • HOURS: Tues.-Sun. 5:00pm - 9:00pm • Closed Mon.
Our menu is available for driveway pickup & delivery!
 Some items may be subject to availability.
 Taking orders from 4:30pm-7:45pm at 603-938-2100

Angelino's
CLOSED FOR THE SEASON
 See you in the Spring!
 Henniker Street • Hillsboro

Reed's North
 Featuring fresh NE comfort food, craft beer & signature cocktails with a fun vibe.
 • THURS 6-8 Trivia Night
 • SAT & SUN 8-12 Breakfast
 • SUN 4-7 Live Music
 2 E Main St. Warner
 ReedsNorth.com 456-2143

Bob's CHOCOLATE Café
 www.bobschocolatecafe.com
 • Savory breakfast & lunch fare
 • Delicious treats • Coffees, teas & a variety of refreshing beverages
 THE BARN @ 1 MAIN ST., FRANCESTOWN, NH
 Mon. & Wed. 9:30am-3:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 9:30am-5:30pm

HILLSBORO House Of Pizza & Bar
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 Come check out our NEW MENU!
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 Est. 1999 • Sean Burt, Proprietor

THE NOOK DINER
 New owners as of April 2023 John & Althea Henderson
 Mon 6am-2pm • Tue CLOSED • Wed-Sat 6am-2pm
 Sun 7am-1pm BREAKFAST ONLY
NH Made GIFT SHOP
New for 2026
 CATERING UP TO 65 guests!
 Also Take Out Catering!
 HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE 603-464-3575
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 Great Food Great Prices Great Service
Dine In or Take-Out
OPEN:
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 Sunday 12noon - 9:00pm
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 Szechuan • Hong Kong • Cantonese Cuisine

DIANE'S & FAMILY!
BRICKOVEN PIZZA
 603-588-3388
 62 Main Street, Antrim, NH
 Open from 11AM-9PM
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
 Closed Sundays & Mondays

Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Elaine (Martin) Paquette



Hancock – Elaine (Martin) Paquette passed away in Exeter Hospital on January 27, 2026 at the age of 88. Born on July 29, 1937 in East Orange, New Jersey. Elaine's passing is felt deeply by her son, Ronald Paquette Jr. and daughter-in-law, Linda; by her daughter Lenore (Paquette) Smith and son-in-law, Michael Smith; grandchildren, Georgette Paquette, and Jeremiah Paquette and wife, Linda; great-grandchildren, Eliza and Eva Paquette, and Acadia and Boden Smith. She leaves behind an especially close cousin, Elsie Parkhouse in FL, in addition to many cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be planned for spring. For those wishing to commemorate Elaine, her family would like donations made to the tax-deductible organization, MGH Dementia Care Collaborative, Yawkey Suite 2C, 32 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Paul J. Tremblay

New Boston – Paul J. Tremblay, age 77, a resident of New Boston passed away after a brief battle with cancer on Saturday, February 21, 2026. He was the beloved husband for over 49 years of the late Marie Anne C. (Poirier) Tremblay. Born in Lowell on May 23, 1948, he was a son of the late Gerard J. and Henriette M. (Bergeron) Tremblay. Surviving him are two sons, John C. (Tremblay) Dupré and his husband, Matthew Dupré



of VA and Marc R. Tremblay and his wife, Melissa Tremblay of New Boston, NH; three grandchildren, Kaden, Bryce, and Minnie; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Roger Tremblay of Salem, Richard and Mary Tremblay of Nashua, Diane Tremblay of Fitzwilliam, and Robert Tremblay and Melissa O'Brien of Grey, Maine; a sister, Denise Gravelle of Hudson; and an aunt, Solange Paquet of Lowell. He was also the brother of the late Jeannine Tremblay, Raymond Tremblay, and Gerard Tremblay Jr. In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make a donation in his memory to Veterans Northeast Outreach Center at <https://nechv.org>

David A. Edwards

Contoocook, NH – David A. Edwards, 69, of Contoocook, NH, passed away sleeping peacefully in the early morning hours of February 4, 2026 at the Hospice House in Concord, NH. David was predeceased by his parents, Orville and Priscilla Edwards, and his sister, Deborah Edwards Emerson. He is survived by his son, Scott Edwards, his former wife and good friend, Sheila MacLean Edwards, his sister, Dodie and her husband, David Smith, and his brother, Dwaine Edwards and his wife, Kelly Smith. He also left behind his beloved Dixie the dog and Kiki the cat who miss him terribly. At



David's request there will be no formal Funeral services or burial, but a gathering of family and friends. All of who are invited to attend a Celebration of Life to be held at the American Legion, Post 81, Contoocook, NH on Saturday, March 7th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Donations can be made in David's name to the most wonderful Granite VNA Hospice Program, 30 Pillsbury Street Concord, NH 03301.

David Hartman



Warner – David Elbert Hartman of Warner, New Hampshire, passed peacefully on January 23, 2026. Born September 20, 1942 in Sandusky, Ohio, the son of Walter and Ethelberta Hartman. He is survived by his wife, Linda; their children, Nathan Hartman (Kate Thorley) and Laura Weedon (Thane Weedon); and grandchildren, Hazel, Willca, Kaia, and Duncan. We welcome all family and friends to celebrate Dave's life Sunday April 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at MainStreet BookEnds of Warner, 16 East Main Street, Warner, NH.

Edie Karrmann



Washington – Just five months short of her 90th birthday, Edie Karrmann of Washington passed away February 3, 2026, at the Concord Hospital surrounded by family. Having four of her own, and five stepchildren, 16 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, it made for very large get-togethers. Edie was predeceased by her husband Edward, oldest son Rick of Pine Bush NY, sister Joyce Fogue of Wallingford Ct., brothers Walter Peck, longtime resident and school bus driver in Washington, Robert Peck (Uncle Bob as everyone knew him and his "pretty car" as she called it), and Richard Peck, who survived the bombings of Pearl Harbor. Her long time wish for a memorial was a large party with a country band which will be held in September. In lieu of flowers we will be making a donation to her favorite animal shelter.

Childhood Cancer Lifeline
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Join us for an evening of fabulous food and fun to support local families who have a child with cancer.

Childhood Cancer Lifeline Dinner & Auction Pats Peak Ski Area Saturday April 11, 2026 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets in advance:
bit.ly/CCL-Dinner-Auction-2026

Individual: \$40 | Couple: \$70 | Junior (6-17): \$15

Children under age 6 are free. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5 more per ticket than those purchased in advance. Discounted rates are available to Childhood Cancer Lifeline families and current employees of Pats Peak Ski Area - see ticket site for details.

Are you a local business or artist? The Childhood Cancer Lifeline is accepting donations for this event until the end of March. If interested in supporting this event, please email info@childhoodcancerlifeline.org or call (603) 645-1489. Thank you for your support!

P.O. Box 395, Hillsboro, NH 03244 | 603-645-1489
www.childhoodcancerlifeline.org

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

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

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

Play
Keno 603,
Queen of
Hearts,
& other
fun games!

169 Bountree Road • Contoocook, NH 03229

It is with deep sadness
that we learned of the recent passing
of former Water and Sewer Commissioner
Walter "John" Crane. He served 18 years on the
commission, from 1983-85, 1987-96 and
2003-2008. His dedication, integrity, and tireless
service to our community have left a lasting impact
that will be remembered for years to come.
We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

-Town of Hillsborough Water & Sewer
commissioners and staff

Events: Community Bulletin Board

FRIDAY MARCH 6

DAY OF PRAYER: Hillsboro 12noon-1:45. If you are tired of the noise, violence and bad news these days, you are invited to come eat, sing, pray at an ecumenical service of the International Women's World Day of Prayer. Theme: "I will give you rest, Come" A greater Hillsboro area gathering, planned by women from many different churches. The service was written by women in Nigeria. Two local Nigerians will share with us: Father Maurice from St. Marys and Agnes Olawuyi from Smith Church. Potluck lunch at 12 noon, (includes some Nigerian style food to sample) downstairs at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hillsboro. Service at 12:45 In sanctuary of St. Mary's. It is led by women, but open to all (men, women, and children). A freewill offering will be split between: World wide: World Day of Prayer grants - projects helping women and children and locally: Grapevine in Antrim that help many locally. For further info, call 603-478-5650.

SATURDAY MARCH 7

FRANCESTOWN COFFEEHOUSE: Performance begins at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm at the Francestown Town Hall. Variety of music with featured act "Cara Ensemble," a 5-piece band playing traditional Irish and Celtic music. Also artist's display and snack foods. \$8 suggested donation per person.

SUNDAY MARCH 15

FLEA MARKET: 8-1. You are invited to attend the Con-

toocook Valley Radio Club "Hamfest/Flea Market" in the BIG Gym at the front of the Henniker Community School. License testing and upgrade sessions will be held. Info at www.k1bke.org or call, Tim at: 860-251-9494.

TUESDAY MARCH 17

LECTURE SERIES: The complete 2026 Cottrell-Baldwin Environmental Lecture series takes place March 17-April 7, from 7-8:30 p.m., at Fox Forest's Henry I. Baldwin Environmental Center, 309 Center Road in Hillsborough. This year's topics and speakers are:

- **"One Disaster at a Time:** The History of Crawford Notch," Elizabeth Peel, N.H. Historic Sites Bureau, March 17.
- **"The State of Forest Health in New Hampshire,"** Kyle Lombard, Bill Davidson and Ryan Crandall, N.H. Forest Health Bureau, March 24.
- **"Winter Mammal Tracking in New Hampshire,"** Susi Spikol, Harris Center for Conservation Education, March 31.
- **"New Hampshire Forests – Past, Present and Future,"** 125 Years of Protecting New Hampshire Landscapes and Landmarks," Dave Anderson, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, April 7.

Full descriptions of each lecture are available on the events section of the Forest Society's website, forest-society.org/events. There is no cost to attend the lectures and walk-ins are welcome, but registration in advance is appreciated.

HILLSBORO-DEERING SAU & BUDGET INFORMATION

SAU / Budget Overview

- **Proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget \$23,792,673**
- SAU Appropriation: \$990,015
- **Proposed FY 2027 Budget with SAU: \$24,782,688**
- **FY 2026 Approved Budget with SAU: \$25,721,149**

—Proposed Change—

Decrease: -\$938,461 Percent Change: -3.65%

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- **HD Default Budget: \$23,934,859 (\$142,186 HIGHER)**
- **SAU Alternative: \$991,066 (\$1,051 HIGHER)**

IF THE SAU BUDGET FAILS, IT WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER APPROPRIATION:

- **SAU Appropriation: \$991,066 — (\$1,051 HIGHER) —**

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF ARTICLES 3, 5, 6 & 7

- **Article 3 — Proposed Operating Budget \$23,792,673**
- **Article 5 — SAU Appropriation \$990,015**
- **Article 6 — Collective Bargaining (Support Staff) Operating Budget \$211,651**
- **Article 7 — Collective Bargaining (Teachers) \$270,939**

Total decrease — \$455,871

Total % decrease — 1.77%

SUMMARY OF ARTICLES 3, 5, 6 & 7

- **Article 3 — Proposed Operating Budget**
Funds daily operations of Hillsboro-Deering Schools.
- **Article 5 — SAU Appropriation**
Funds Superintendents Office, Business Office, Office of Support Services & Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.
- **Article 6 — Collective Bargaining Agreement (Support Staff)**
Funds previously negotiated wages and benefits for Support Staff.
- **Article 7 — Collective Bargaining Agreement (Teachers)**
Funds previously negotiated wages and benefits for teachers.

VOTING DAY — MARCH 10, 2026

- **Hillsboro: 7am-7pm**
Middle School Gymnasium
- **Deering: 8am-7pm**
Deering Town Hall

PLEASE COME OUT TO VOTE!



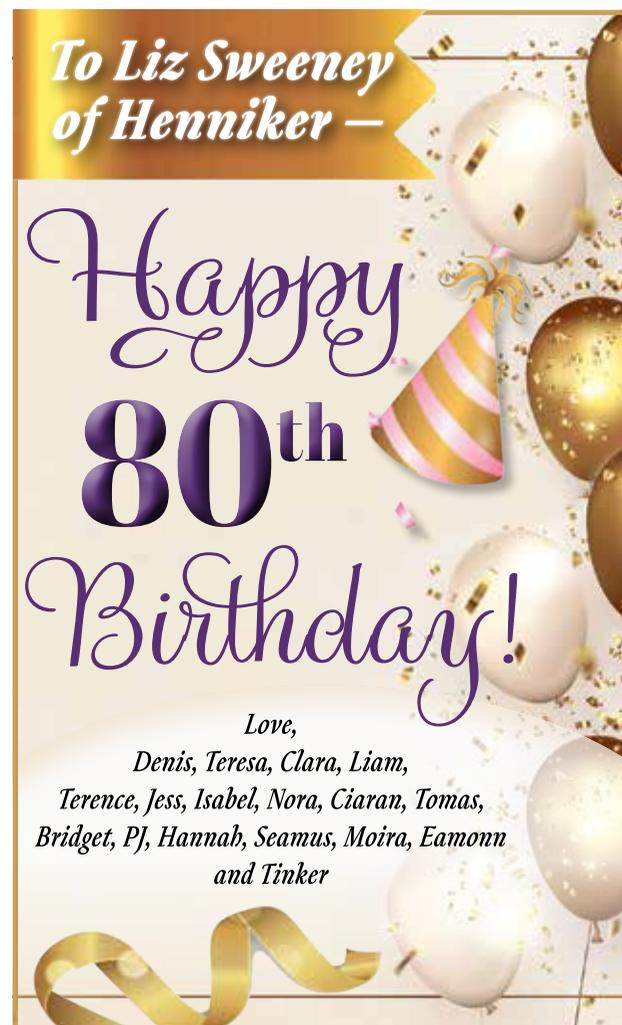
Great Brook School's

MARCH CRAFT FAIR

9 AM - 2 PM
MARCH 28TH - 2026

FOOD | VENDORS
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
GAMES FOR KIDS

16 SCHOOL STREET
ANTRIM NH 03440
Great Brook School Gym



To Liz Sweeney
of Henniker —

Happy 80th Birthday!

Love,
Denis, Teresa, Clara, Liam,
Terence, Jess, Isabel, Nora, Ciaran, Tomas,
Bridget, PJ, Hannah, Seamus, Moira, Eamonn
and Tinker

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

HENNIKER -- PROFESSIONAL OFFICE OR BUSINESS SPACE: Excellent location on Route 114 in downtown Henniker. Good visibility, off-street parking. 428-3262, days.

HELP WANTED

CAREGIVER: Paralyzed female in Antrim looking for a personal care attendant for Sunday mornings 7AM – 12PM and Wed, Thurs nights 7:30-9, along with assisting with errands and appointments possibly. On occasion fill ins for other (pca)'s. Must be reliable, love dogs, a team player, pass background check, 3 reference checks. No certifications needed consumer directed. Starting pay \$22 per hour hiring through an agency called granite state independent living. If interested, please call 603-547-0925.

P/T KITCHEN COOK:

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

AA MEETINGS

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

*Looking for help?
Have something to sell?*

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

TOWN OF HENNIKER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 18, 2026 – 6:00 PM

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

1. **ZBA Case 2026:02:** Appeal of Administrative Decision by the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the denial of a building permit for the Manufactured Housing Park based on RSA 205-A and Chapter 133, for a 0.56-acre property. Applicant/owner Splash Penguin LLC, Map 5C Lot 393-A1, 566 Western Avenue, Zoned CV.

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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FUELS**

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BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TOWN OF DEERING, NH

Case No.: 2026-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Notice is hereby given that on **March 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**, at the Deering Town Hall, 762 Deering Center Road, Deering, NH 03244, the Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing:

Regarding a request by Alison Ross and Douglas Ross for a variance to construct an accessory stairway to provide access to their lake frontage, where the slopes exceed 25%, on the property located at 509 Ellsworth Road, Tax Map 228, Lot 21. The variance is required to allow construction of the stairway within 20 feet of the reference line of Deering Reservoir whereas a setback of 20 feet is required per Deering Zoning Ordinance 4.5.15 (a)(i).



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No 2026-04

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:4 & 675:7 that the Hillsborough Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a Change of Use/ Waiver of Site Plan Review at 460 D West Main Street to change an office to a coffee shop. The property is located in the Commercial Zone. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, **March 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

TOWN OF DEERING

ROAD POSTING NOTICE

Beginning on Monday, March 9, 2026, all Class V roads in Deering will be posted to a 6-ton limit, until further notice. (RSA 41:11).

For exceptions or waivers, please contact Jim Card, Road Agent, at (603) 748-3028.



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No 2026-05

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:4 & 675:7 that the Hillsborough Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a Change of Use/ Home Business at 24 Center Road to have a firearms sales business in a finished basement of the home. The property is located in the Residential Zone. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, **March 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

*Get into the Spirit
of your community*



Join us at the Country Spirit and the Spirit will donate 10% of your bill to the Henniker Area Rotary Club!

MARCH 25, 2026 4:00 - 7:00

— Reservations Requested —

603-428-7007

■ The Henniker Area Rotary Club supports the communities of Henniker, Hillsboro, Weare, Washington and Windsor by giving scholarships to area students, giving grants to both individuals and area groups, helping students participate in school clubs, sponsoring the 4-Way Test Speech Contest and both Hillsboro and Henniker Food Pantries, supporting National and International causes such as the eradication of polio and natural disasters, holding a yearly low cost Rabies Clinic, putting up wreaths in Henniker, maintaining Amey Brook Park, and helping you show your patriotism with our flag program

HILLSBORO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S

FREE Spaghetti DINNER

FUNDRAISER Donations accepted
All proceeds support HCS

Join us for a delicious evening of food, fun, and fellowship! Dinner includes Spaghetti with homemade meatballs, appetizers, and desserts!

FRIDAY • MARCH 20, 2026

SEATINGS @
5 and 6:30PM
TAKE-OUT
AVAILABLE

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03244

To reserve
your spot call
603-478-2233



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2018 RAM 1500 CREW BIG HORN 4X4

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A/C, AM/FM, MP3 Player, Keyless Start, Back-Up Camera, Bluetooth, Cruise, More!
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AWD

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2020 HONDA CRV EX-L

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Stk# 6C001A

AWD

ONLY \$21,990

*See sales associate for details

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Big March Savings!

Valid March 1-31, 2026

**Not all eligible products are pictured.

*Ace Rewards Instant Savings available only to Ace Rewards members. Where applicable by law, tax will be charged on the sale price before application of Instant Savings. Instant Savings in this ad are valid through 1/31/26 online, in the Ace mobile app and at participating stores.

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21⁹⁹ Each

Ace® Fiberglass Handle Yard & Garden Tools
7012859, 7011414, 7012818, 7011273.
Steel Tine or Poly Tine
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BUY ONE

139⁰⁰ Each

CRAFTSMAN® V20 Brushless Drill/Driver Kit or Brushless Impact Driver Kit
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GET TWO FREE Up To **\$178.00 Value** **RED HOT BUY**

Select CRAFTSMAN® V20 Power Tools (tools only) & Accessories

- A. 2 Ah Battery, 2827590
- B. 140 Pc. Drill & Driver Bit Set, 2048161
- C. 150 PSI Inflator, 8090757
- D. Random Orbit Sander, 2862886



BUY ONE

Select Milwaukee® M18™ Power Tool Kits or Batteries

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- B. REDLITHIUM™ High Output Battery 2/Pk., 2033351
- C. 6 Gal. Wet/Dry Vac, 2048145



SALE **RED HOT BUY**

119⁹⁹

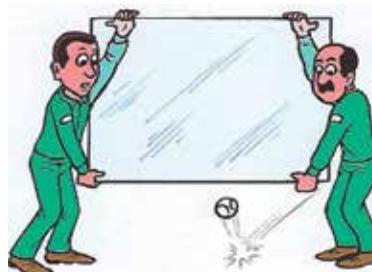
Ace® 6 Cu. Ft. Heavy Duty Poly Wheelbarrow
High-density poly tray is impact resistant.
7036611



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10% off

All Screen & Window Repairs




GET ONE FREE **RED HOT BUY** \$199.00 Value

Milwaukee® M18™ REDLITHIUM™ XC 6 Ah High Output Battery
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SALE **RED HOT BUY**

499⁹⁹

Blackstone® Iron Forged 4-Burner Outdoor Griddle
8093917
Iron Forged 2-Burner Outdoor Griddle, 8093915...SALE \$349.99



SALE YOUR CHOICE **RED HOT BUY**

15⁹⁹ Each

Select Milwaukee® Hand Tools & Accessories

- A. SAWZALL® 8 Pc. Blade Set, 2029548
- B. 2 Pc. FASTBACK™ Folding Utility Knife Set, 2811511
- C. 32 Pc. SHOCKWAVE™ Impact Duty™ Screwdriver Bit Set, 2421899
- D. 10" Torque Lock™ Straight Jaw Pliers, 2802692



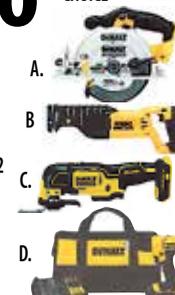
SALE \$159.00 - \$30 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE* **RED HOT BUY**

YOUR CHOICE

129⁰⁰ Each

Select DEWALT® 20V MAX Power Tools

- A. Circular Saw (tool only), 2393122
- B. Reciprocating Saw (tool only), 2393114
- C. ATOMIC™ Brushless Oscillating Multi-Tool (tool only), 2538395
- D. Drill/Driver Kit, 2385458



BUY ONE

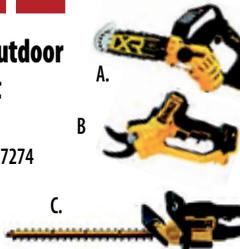
DEWALT® 60V MAX 17" String Trimmer Kit or 20V MAX Trimmer & Blower Combo Kit
7020951, 7025981



GET ONE FREE Up To **\$189.00 Value** **RED HOT BUY**

Select DEWALT® Outdoor Power Equipment (tools only)

- A. Pruning Chain Saw, 7027274
- B. Pruner, 7029520
- C. Hedge Trimmer, 7037991



SALE **RED HOT BUY**

1,619⁹⁹

Big Green Egg® Large Ceramic Grill & Smoker Kit
8797946D. **KIT INCLUDES:** Large Ceramic Grill & Smoker, 8695280D. Large Nest, 8695447D. Large convEGGtor®, 8697088D. Natural Lump Charcoal, 17.6 Lb., 8697104D. Ash Tool, 8696379D. Grid Gripper, 869627D. Charcoal Starters, 20 Ct., 8695355D.

