

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

The Messenger

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 23 ♦ June 12, 2026

HDHS Principal leaving



Hillsboro-Deering High School Principal Jim O'Rourke is leaving the school after his 15 years of dedicated service. He has taken the position of

Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Nashua. Thank you, Jim for all you have done for HDHS. You will be missed.



Weare's newest Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Ania Labrie, the first female Eagle Scout in Troop 529 in Weare.

This week in history

JUNE 12, 1942

Anne Frank receives a diary

JUNE 13, 1971

New York Times publishes the Pentagon Papers

JUNE 14, 1922

Warren Harding is 1st president to broadcast a radio message

JUNE 15, 1991

Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupts

JUNE 16, 1884

First roller coaster in America opens

JUNE 17, 1885

Statue of Liberty arrives in New York

JUNE 18, 1942

Film critic Roger Ebert is born



Class Marshals Ryan Shortt and Alyssia Spencer lead Hillsboro-Deering's Class of 2026 to its Commencement Exercises.

H-D graduates urged to 'Have the courage to make mistakes'

The Hillsboro-Deering class of 2026 gathered, with family, faculty and friends, under the big white tent last Friday evening for commencement exercises.

Principal Jim O'Rourke offered greetings and Student Council President Kylie Crowe led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the national anthem.

Class President Aleena Velazquez welcomed all to the ceremony and reminded her classmates that at H-D they had "learned the ability to be resilient."

O'Roake then introduced Salutatorian Noah Harrington and Valedictorian Kylie Crowe.

During her speech, Crowe reminded

the assembled that "being human is better than being perfect - that perfection is not the goal, growth is."

In his commencement address, H-D Athletic Director Joseph Gillett urged the graduates to "have the courage to make mistakes," then learn from them and move on.

Hillsboro & Weare Police Departments agree to work with ICE

Police departments in Weare and Hillsboro joined a federal immigration enforcement contract, beginning a process that will allow local police officers to conduct some immigration operations.

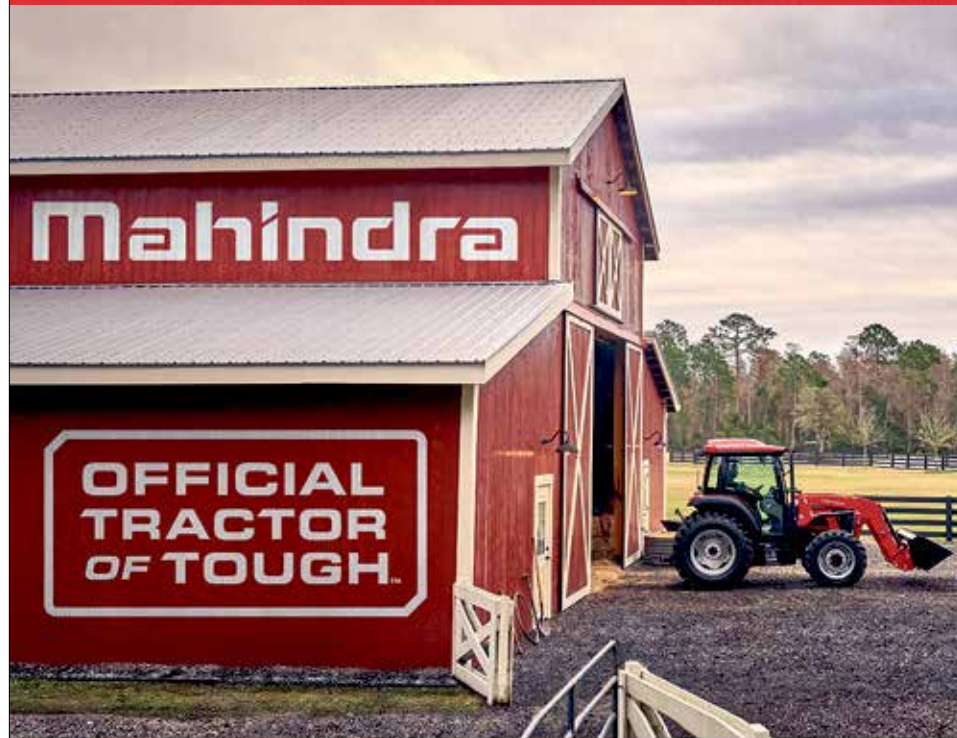
Weare entered the contract, called a 287(g) agreement, on June 2nd, according to a list of participating agencies

kept by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Hillsboro joined on May 31. Copies of the contracts were not yet publicly available.

The agreements under ICE's so-called "task force" model generally authorize local police, while carrying out their normal operations, to arrest and interrogate

people for warrants or on suspected immigration violations. They can also issue immigration detainers and hold custody of people arrested locally or by ICE, as well as transport them to ICE-approved detention centers. Police departments can receive federal funding for immigration-related work.

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Yesteryear *Local history as reported in The Messenger*

June 13, 2025

Hopkinton & Warner crews rescue injured hiker
Committee to study Deering withdrawal from SAU #34 begins work
Peering native serves with Naval Aviation Warfighters
Franklin's Stuart Trachy named to the Lottery Commission

June 14, 2024

Select Board denies petition to forgive Antrim church taxes
H-D graduates told "It's not just the destination, it's the journey"
Hopkinton graduates challenged - Find passion in life
ConVal graduates urged to take joy in the process

June 16, 2023

Slain woman's ex-husband warned of killer's violent tendencies
Land Conservation Trust acquires 71.66 Bradford acres
Hopkinton's 67 graduates include 5 sets of twins
Sunapee Harbor reopened after major oil spill

June 17, 2022

Bradford wins Preservation Alliance Award
Vote on revised H-D Teacher's Contract July 12th
H-D graduates told "Live with profound love"
ConVal "Do what you love - love what you do"

June 18, 2021

Peter Flynn leaves New Boston for Hooksett
Bradford celebrates reopening of Bement Bridge
Newbury Fire Station to be dedicated in August
New London Hospital to open Walk-In Clinic

June 19, 2020

Henniker man charged with driving over 100 mph
New London Select Board reviews its options
Only minor injuries in Weare ATV crash
Schoodacs Cafe available for a new owner

June 21, 2019

105 abused dogs in Bradford
Hopkinton graduates "On the road to somewhere"
Stark graduates urged to "Take a deep breath"
Kearsarge graduates urged to "Share your talents"

June 22, 2018

Rotary sponsors "Flags Over Hopkinton"
Franklin Mayor vows to veto efforts to raise tax cap
New Boston officials ponder \$1.3 million surplus
H-D Board considers Performing Arts Center

June 23, 2017

Cancer survivor thanks school & community
John Stark voters reject teachers' contract again
Bow's K-9 Officer receives a hero's sendoff
Henniker sued for wrongful termination

June 17, 2016

Antrim woman rescued from Mount Washington
Sunapee speed stop results in felony drug bust
Renovations on Mary Haddad Bandstand completed
Conservation Easement prevents Corvus acquisition

Kearsarge graduates reminded “Don’t be afraid to try something new”

The rain held off long enough for the Kearsarge Regional High School Class of 2026 to complete its Commencement Exercises last Saturday.

Following a tradition unique to Kearsarge, Senior Emma Geraghty welcomed the kindergartners who will compose the Class of 2038 to join the Senior Choir in singing “God Bless America,” followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Elie McCarthy. Student Council President Grace

Tanguay welcome all to the event and Superintendent John Fortney asked the graduates an important question in their future endeavors: “What will you contribute?”

Student addresses were given by William Reid and Emma Geraghty.

Geraghty recalled the many accomplishment of her classmates while Reid urged them, in times of trouble; “Don’t forget what you have done right.”

In his Farewell address, Class

President Mason Christensen recalled singing as a kindergartener at the 2014 Commencement,

while showing off the T-Shirt he wore that day. He challenged his classmates, “Don’t be afraid to try

something new.” And to “Treasure the time you have with the people around you.”



William Reid addresses his classmates.



Alex Bieniecki of Wentworth uses an electric chainsaw as he works a pine tree sculpture of a group of otters at the Lakehouse Tavern in Hopkinton.

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 **School Days**



H-D fourth graders continued their study of New Hampshire history and natural resources with an exciting visit to the Flume Gorge in Lincoln. Students learned firsthand about erosion and weathering as they explored the stunning natural landscape, connecting classroom lessons to real-world observations.



Kearsarge AP Art and Advanced Open Studio students had the opportunity to visit NYC and three of its major museums-The Whitney, MET, and MOMA.



Andover 2nd graders had a shore-ly amazing time exploring Odiorne Point in Rye, NH. From discovering marine life to learning about New Hampshire's coastal ecosystem, students spent the day learning, exploring, and making memories.

Hopkinton grads told 'When something is right for you - It will give you energy'



Hopkinton High School's Class of 2026

Following a long tradition, the 70 graduates of Hopkinton High School's Class of 2026 lined the center aisle to "Clap-In" the faculty that had prepared them for this moment.

Noting the unity of this small community, Co-Valedictorian Rebecca LeWine reminisced that, "It is a small town, and there's no doubt that we will see these teachers and this community again."

Co-Valedictorian Rebecca LeWine echoed the thought, saying, "Actually, I think it'd be much harder not to see anyone again."

Student Body President Kyle Buelte continued the theme, saying, "I'm just so, so grateful to have grown up in a community like Hopkinton... The people here are just so caring and altruistic — they always put others' best interests above their own, and it's been everything I can ask for and more living here."

Helen Yeaton, co-president of the school's Peer Outreach Club, emphasized that because the town "has so many extracurriculars and opportunities for students, it's pretty easy actually to find other kids that have very similar interests to you."

Yeaton herself led the Peer Outreach Club with one of her close friends as co-president. She, Buelte and Hedquist also participated in the Rotary's Interact Club, whose motto is "Service Above Self."

In her Commencement Address, Social Studies Department Chair Kate Sintros challenged the graduates to chase the careers that excite them, not solely because they are impressive or prestigious. "When something is right for you, it will give you energy. That's how you know." Completing the tradition, faculty members lined the aisle to "Clap-Out" their former students.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

An estimated 15.3 million American adults ages 50 and older take prescribed sleep medications, including benzodiazepines and “Z-drugs” such as Ambien. Use of these medications tends to increase with age and is more common among women and white adults. While medical guidelines discourage long-term use, doctors often prescribe these drugs long-term. For some patients, the primary benefit becomes the avoidance of withdrawal, which in a clinical setting is easily misconstrued as ongoing effectiveness. Insomnia itself carries serious risks for older adults, including depression, heart disease and cognitive decline. But while many people take sleep medications hoping to improve their quality of life, long-term use appears to do more harm than good. According to a new study published in *The Lancet Regional Health — Americas*. Avoiding use of these medications among older adults would reduce lifetime incidence of falls by 8.5% and cognitive impairment by 2.1%, researchers found. It would also increase life expectancy by 1.3 months.

A widely prescribed diabetes drug may be sabotaging one of the most trusted strategies for preventing the disease: exercise. That is the conclusion of a study published in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, which found that metformin blunts critical improvements in blood vessel function, fitness and blood sugar control that normally come from working out. Since 2006, doctors have been advised to tell patients with high blood sugar to take metformin while engaging in exercise. Two proven therapies should deliver better results together, they reasoned. But researchers found that exercise alone improved vascular insulin sensitivity, meaning blood vessels responded better to insulin and allowed more blood flow to muscles. This matters because insulin’s ability to open blood vessels helps shuttle glucose out of the bloodstream and into tissues, lowering blood sugar after meals. But when metformin was added, the improvements shrank. The drug also diminished gains in aerobic fitness and reduced the positive effects on inflammation and fasting glucose.

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THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF VAPING, SMOKING, AND DRINKING ON YOUR TEETH: PART III



Dr. Esin Narli

Will my gums get better if I stop vaping/smoking?

Yes. The good news is that people who quit smoking or vaping have the same risk of developing gum disease and responding to gum treatment as non-smokers. Once you quit smoking, do not be alarmed if your gums bleed more. Seek treatment from a dentist or dental hygienist. They can also show you how to care for your teeth at home.

If you smoke, it is important to see your dentist for regular check-ups. Symptoms of gum disease to watch for include red, swollen, tender, bleeding gums; discharge (pus) coming from your gums; gums that are loose and pull away from your teeth; a bad taste or bad breath; loose teeth, which can change the feel of your bite when your teeth are placed together or cause dentures to fit differently; and spaces opening between your teeth.

Vaping and smoking can slow healing after dental treatment. Nicotine use makes it harder for the immune system to fight infections. This slows down healing after tooth removal or injuries in the mouth.

Vaping and smoking can also lead to dry socket – a slow healing tooth socket after a tooth removal which is very painful; increased pain after oral and gum surgery; and less success if you have dental implants. Of course, you should contact your dentist if you have any problems after dental treatment.

The long and short of it is, if you currently vape or smoke, quitting now will only have positive effects on every aspect of your health.

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In Service to Others



Local students awarded \$13,500 in scholarships during Goffstown Lions Club’s 75th Anniversary Year. As part of its 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Lions Club proudly increased its scholarship funding and awarded a total of \$13,500 to three outstanding graduating seniors from Goffstown High School.



Hopkinton Rotary’s guest speaker, New Hampshire Secretary of State David Scanlan spoke to club members about voter rights and protecting our elections.

State Senator Ruth Ward (R-Stoddard) will not seek re-election

State Senator Ruth Ward (R-Stoddard) announced her intention to retire from her Senate seat at the end of the session and not seek re-election in 2026. She has represented NH Senate District 8 since first elected in 2016.

“This is a very bittersweet moment. My 10 years spent in the NH Senate have been some of the most important of my life, but I also know that it is my time to step away and spend more time closer to home.

My journey, which took a young medical technician student immigrating to the U.S. from Sweden, to serving on local boards in my hometown of Stoddard, and finally to the Senate, has been incredible and fulfilling.

I cannot thank the voters of District 8 enough for entrusting me to represent them in this prestigious institution.

There are so many great moments and achievements that

I will forever take pride in that I cannot begin to name them all. I certainly hope that I have left the State of New Hampshire a better place than when I entered office in 2017.

I am especially proud of the fact that during my tenure in office, the State has made tremendous progress in providing educational opportunities and choices that have never been available before to New Hampshire students.

I spent my entire Senate career on the Education Committee and our focus on empowering parents with innovative programs, such as the Education Freedom Account Program, are a legacy that I am proud to leave for future generations to build upon.

I will miss the friendships and relationships that I have developed over the past decade in the Senate the most. When my beloved husband Fred passed away in January,



NH Senate President Sharon Carson (R) presents a plaque to retiring Senator Ruth Ward (L) in recognition of her decade of service to the state.

I was very lucky to have my colleagues, the Senate staff and many other Statehouse regulars that have become a second family to me. They have supported

and helped me since my very first day in the Senate and I know that they will remain friends long after I leave office.


While my name will not


be on the ballot this upcoming November, I plan to remain active and continue to fight for a better New Hampshire for all Granite Staters.”



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A very special thank you to Bank of New Hampshire for their two grants to the Grapevine: a \$1,000 sponsorship for their 2026 Annual Spring Walk and a \$2,500 grant to support their work in helping people access Affordable Housing. Pictured are a few grateful Grapevine staff with Rose Novotny, Assistant V.P. / Antrim Bank Manager.



Laughter filled the air at Norway Pond on Monday evening as 25 teams competed in Avenue A's fourth annual Blindfolded Boat Race. As of Monday evening, the campaign raised around \$10,000.



Locke's Promise announced the success of its fourth annual Climb the Peak for MS event, at Pats Peak. Despite ongoing economic challenges and a difficult job market, the community rallied with extraordinary generosity, helping the organization raise more than \$37,300 — with donations continuing through the end of June.

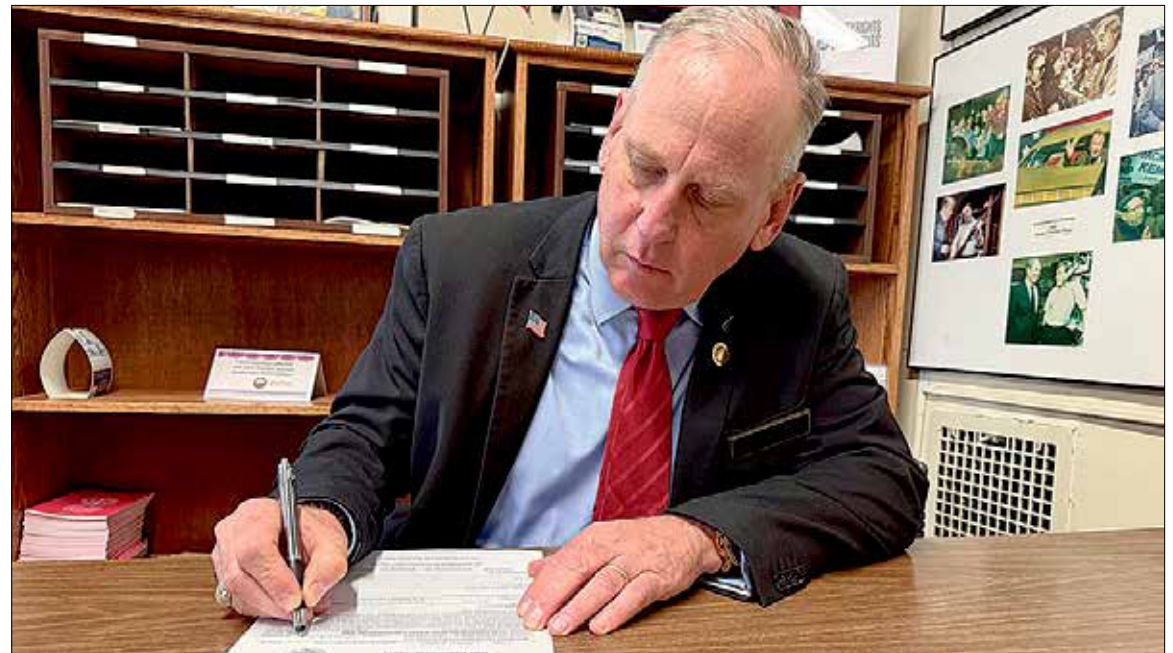
Rep. Jim Creighton announces campaign for New Hampshire Senate in District 8

New Hampshire State Representative Jim Creighton (R-Antrim) announced his campaign for the New Hampshire State Senate in District 8. This seat is currently held by retiring Senator Ruth Ward (R-Stoddard).

“Senator Ruth Ward has been an outstanding advocate for the people of District 8 and a respected leader in the New Hampshire Senate. Throughout her service, she has brought integrity, common sense, and a deep commitment to our communities, earning the trust of her constituents and colleagues alike. District 8 is stronger because of her hard work and dedication to New Hampshire values. As Ruth begins this well-deserved retirement, I want to thank her for her years of service and leadership. If elected to the State Senate, I will work hard to build on the strong foundation she has established and continue fighting for the families, businesses, and communities of District 8.”

“My life has always been about service. Service to my country as a lifelong member of the United States Army. Service to my family as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. And service to my state as a citizen legislator. For the past 6 years, it has been my honor to represent Hillsborough and Antrim in the NH State House. I am ready for a new challenge and a new opportunity to do even more good for my community and for my state. That’s why I have decided to run for the New Hampshire Senate in District 8.

My priorities in the Senate will be to first and foremost to represent my district and ensure that their concerns and opinions aren’t just heard in Concord, but taken seriously. I will fight to keep municipalities from endlessly raising property taxes each and every year and I will never allow an income or a sales tax to be imposed in our great state. As an avid outdoorsman, I will work to be a good steward of our envi-



Rep. Jim Creighton (R-Antrim) signs up to run for State Senator at the Secretary of State’s Office.

ronment, which is a driving force of our tourism industry, but also critically important to our way of life. Most importantly, I will be an honest, hardworking and transparent conservative leader.

I could not be more excited to

kick off my campaign and meet with as many voters as I can over the next six months!”

Rep. Jim Creighton is a West Point Graduate and 34 year veteran of the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Colonel. He has

served in the NH Legislature since 2021. He lives in Antrim with his wife Tamasine and has two adult daughters and one grandchild. Senate District 8 is currently held by retiring Sen. Ruth Ward (R-Stoddard).



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

LETTERS POLICY:

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

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Publisher's Perspective

A True Public Servant



State Sen. Ruth Ward

On page 7 you will read of the retirement of State Senator Ruth Ward. In this day, dominated by the politics of hate, where political opponents have been transformed into enemies, it is easy to be wary and skeptical of politicians who promise everything to get elected, but have a faulty memory afterward.

Not so for Senator Ward who served with honesty,

dedication, and dignity for a decade.

Not one for dramatic stump speeches, she traveled her extensive district tirelessly with only one purpose - to listen to her constituents' opinions and concerns.

As Chair of the Senate's Education Committee, she fought to expand educational options for NH families.

Thank you Senator for your service.

We will miss you and only hope that your successor, Republican or Democrat, will live up to the example you set.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

In your 5/29 issue, you took up almost half a page with images of democratic politicians whom you claimed the NAACP "endorsed" with criticism that they were all white, juxtaposed with pictures of black republicans that weren't "endorsed". Any paper, even a small weekly like yours, maybe ESPECIALLY yours, should check your facts before printing these untruths which sway public opinion of those who don't know to fact check such "information". I know that your paper is right wing republican, but should not be reporting "fake news" that your party so widely screams about and is as guilty of, if not more so, than any.

Here are the facts, directly from the NAACP:

"Let us be clear: The NAACP has not and does not endorse candidates. We fight for civil rights."

They do issue a "scorecard" grading people in office on their performance on different areas, such as civil rights. That's a very different thing than an endorsement.

Chris Johnson, Antrim

I agree with your "FACTS", the NAACP now favors policies over people. It is only a coincidence that they are Democrats. LDB

To The Editor:

Monumental U.S. Construction projects:

In the pantheon of history, mankind has always strived to achieve the impossible in construction. The newest member to this august list is right here in Hillsborough.

The Hillsborough sidewalk! Approximately 10 years in the making! Spanning almost as much length as the Transcontinental railroad out west, 1912 miles! Wait! That was in miles, the sidewalk is in feet! Our undertaking broke ground (depends on what your definition is) on May 18th 2026. Signs are up and we are awaiting the next step in 2-3 years.... a backhoe. Factoring in inflation, the sidewalk no doubt will cost almost as much as the Transcontinental Railroad!

Transcontinental Railroad: 1912 miles from 1863-1869 (6 years).

Other projects of note: Empire State Building: 15 months, Hoover dam: 1931-1935 (4+ years), Golden Gate Bridge: 1933-1937 (4 years, 4 months), Panama Canal: 10 years 1904-1914.

So you might ask what does the Hillsborough sidewalk have these other projects didn't have? Computers/ no cigarette smokers and focus groups. Ah! Progress!

There is hope! I know it is a long shot but The Great Wall of China is 13,000 miles long and took 2,000 years to build. I am reasonably optimistic we ought to beat that. The odds makers in Las Vegas say it is even money!

Frank Pearsall, Hillsborough

Words to live by

1. Compliment three people every day.
2. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
3. Be the first to say, "Hello."
4. Live beneath your means.
5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
7. Forget the Jonses.
8. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has.
9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
10. Be tough-minded but tenderhearted.
11. Be kinder than necessary.
12. Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
13. Keep your promises.
14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.
16. Leave everything better than you found it.
17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.
18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
19. Don't rain on other people's parades.
20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone that you love them.

Tim Coffin announces candidacy for State Rep.



Tim Coffin

Tim Coffin today announced his candidacy for New Hampshire State Representative for Hillsborough District 27, representing Deering and Frankestown. Running as an Independent, Coffin is launching his campaign with a simple message: common-sense leadership, common ground, and practical solutions that put local communities first.

“I’m running because our communities deserve thoughtful, forward-looking representation that focuses on results instead of partisanship,” said Coffin. “The people of Deering and Frankestown want honest leader-

ship, careful stewardship, and decisions that are genuine, sustainable, and fair.”

Coffin has more than 35 years of experience in the municipal finance markets, where he has worked with local governments, advisors, and investors to help finance essential public projects. His professional background includes support for investments in public schools, clean water, health care, and transportation—experience he says has given him a practical understanding of how public policy affects everyday life.

His campaign will focus on protecting the quality of life in Deering and Frankestown, supporting responsible fiscal decisions, strengthening local infrastructure and public services, and encouraging a more respectful, solutions-oriented political culture in Concord. Coffin says he will work to ensure residents have an independent voice who listens carefully, weighs issues thoughtfully, and serves the district with integrity. “This campaign is about bringing people together around practical ideas and a shared commitment to our towns,” Coffin said. “I’m ready to listen, to learn, and to serve.”



Deputy Speaker of the NH House of Representatives Steven Smith was recently presented with the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in recognition of his personal and professional contributions at the local, state and regional level.



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PLANNING A HOME RENOVATION? BE ON LOOKOUT FOR THESE THINGS THAT CAN DERAIL YOUR PROJECT: PART II



By: Joyce Bosse

After you have decided on the scope of your project, get a few contractor quotes and ask for references.

Ask about how smoothly the project went, about any delays and why. Ask if you can visit a recent job to see if the work is up to your standards. People have different tolerances, so what they think is acceptable may not apply to you. Skill mismatches lead to substandard work and costly corrections. Some contractors get a reputation for being unreliable, failing to show up at the appointed time, moving workers from one job to another leaving your work site unstaffed. Also ask about the availability of their subs, such as electricians and masons as delays can be expensive and stressful.

As far as sticking to your budget, make sure to pad in a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses of at least 10-20% of the estimated cost.

Lead paint, mold, or asbestos will need to be remediated. Structural issues may be lying under your floors or in your walls and will need to be resolved before the work can begin. Make sure to have your funds available to pay the contractor and suppliers.

The other thing is to be informed about the availability and backlog for the products you need. Work may be paused on site if materials aren't there.

Delays can occur due to tariffs, price volatility, and shipping routes. You may need to reselect materials if you need to complete the project on a certain timeline.

Another potential delay, especially going into winter, is weather delays. Allow for flexibility in the timeline.

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Sports

Graeme Hartford presented the Climber Award

During last Wednesday's Hellcat Spring Sports Award Ceremony, Graeme Hartford was honored with the Unified Team's "Climber Award." The award recognizes an athlete whose growth throughout the season has been nothing short of remarkable.

At the beginning of the year, Graeme approached many of the challenges in front of him with understandable skepticism. New events, new expectations, and unfamiliar situations can be intimidating.

But, what makes this award special is not where someone starts—it's how far they're willing to go.

As the season progressed, he embraced every opportunity to grow. He became more confident, more determined, and more willing to step outside of his comfort zone.

By the end of the season, there wasn't an event he wasn't willing to try. Whenever the team needed someone to step up, he was ready. In one of the clearest examples of his growth, he jumped into a relay team at the last minute without hesitation, trusting both himself and his teammates.

What made these moments even more impressive was how well he executed them. Every challenge he took on reflected the hard work he had put in throughout the season. He drew on the skills he had practiced, the lessons he had learned, and the confidence he had built through countless hours of training. Time and time again, he proved that he was capable of more than he originally believed.

His journey is a reminder that growth doesn't happen



Graeme (C) is shown with his coaches Shannon Hueber and Haley Hathorn.

all at once. It happens when you choose to keep showing up, keep learning, and keep saying "yes" to challenges. Through determination, trust, and a willingness to embrace every opportunity, he completely changed his trajectory and became an athlete his teammates could always count on.

For his incredible growth, perseverance, and willingness to rise to every challenge placed before him, Graeme Hartford was presented with the Climber Award.



Hillsboro-Deering Spring Athletic Awards 2026

Varsity Baseball • Silver Slugger - Seth Dalphond • Gold Glove - Isaiah Sawyer • Workhorse Award - Lennon Seymour.

Varsity Softball • Rookie of the Year - Ariana Bowen • Coach's Award - Kennedy Horion • Most Valuable Player - Skyla Auger.

Varsity Track and Field • Male Coaches Award - Noah Welch • Female Coaches Award - Ashton Fredette • Captain Award - Keegan Poland.

Unified Track and Field • The Climber Award - Graeme Hartford • The Beacon of Joy Award - Victoria

Brown.

• Congratulations to Cadence Smead for making Division III Softball All-State Honorable Mention • Congratulations to the Unified Track and Field team for a successful first season in Hillcat History • Congratulations to Nathalie Proulx, Lily Valley, Ashton Fredette, Anney Henry, Nolan Gaffey, Braden Savoy, Haven Porter, Owen Gosselin and Dillon Noilles for competing at the Track & Field Division III State Championships. The girls 4x800 relay, boys 4x100 relay and the boys 110 hurdles all earned PRs on the day.

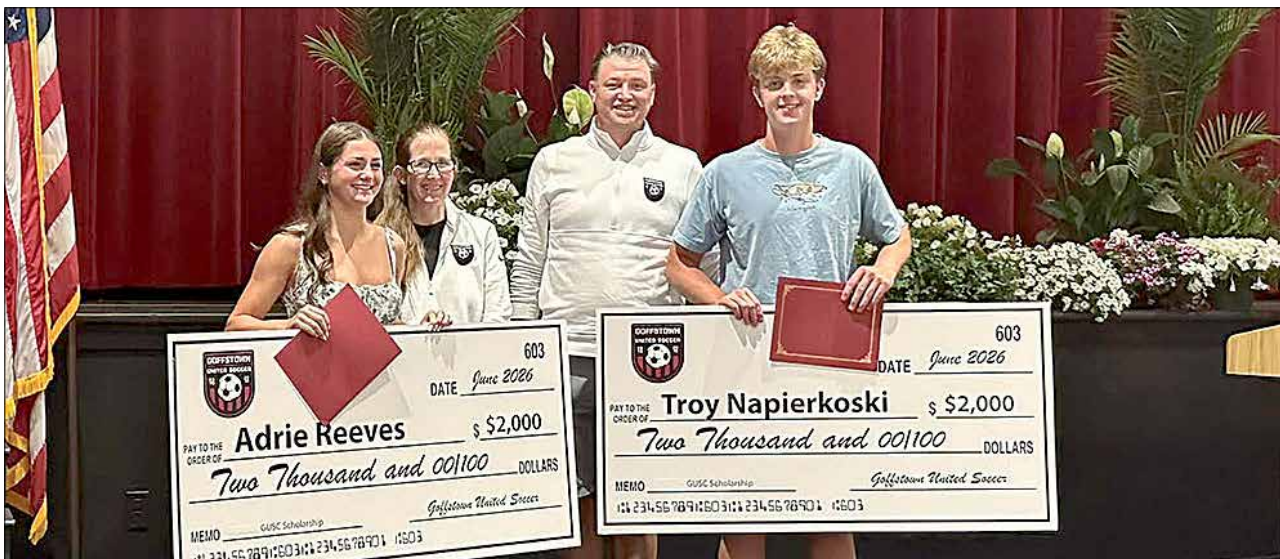
 Sports



Hopkinton's 2025/2026 Scholar Athletes of the Year. Twenty-two (one was absent) Scholar-Athletes were recently recognized at a ceremony in Concord. Recognition was for those seniors who have played two or more NHIAA school sports every year of their high school careers, carry a GPA of a B+ or better, have participated in Community Service Activities, and have not had a violation in the Athletic Agreement. As always, Hopkinton had one of the biggest overall groups of athletes who met this criteria. It was a wonderful group and a nice ceremony, and hopefully many of Hopkinton's younger Hawks continue with this outstanding tradition in the future.



ConVal's Ross Stephens set a new state record at the boys' Meet of Champions Saturday at Oyster River High School. Stephens came from behind to win the race in a record 47.67.



Goffstown United Soccer Club awarded the inaugural GUSC Scholarship to two outstanding student-athletes, each receiving \$2,000. Congratulations to Adrie Reeves and Troy Napierkoski and best of luck to them as they take on their next chapter.

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Christine Haley named 2026 Withington Award Recipient

The Richard W. Withington Award was established by Richard Withington in 1981, and is presented annually to honor an employee of the Hillsboro-Deering School District who is recognized as an ambassador from the schools to the larger community, and who has achieved excellence in their work, contributed significantly to the general welfare of students in ways above and beyond the normal requirements of their job, offering students and adults alike a model of strong professional behavior. This year's Withington Award recipient is an exceptional ambassador for the Hillsboro-Deering School District, a professional who has consistently pursued excellence, elevated the lives of students far beyond the expectations of her position, and modeled the very highest standards of professionalism, compassion, and dedication.

Her work contributes to a culture of belonging. Under her guidance, students discover confidence, resilience, and self-expression. The environment she creates is one in which children feel valued, supported,

and inspired to grow not only as musicians and performers, but as people. She guides the performing arts experience for students through her leadership of band, chorus, and drama productions. She understands that the long-term success of our middle and high school music students begins with the foundation established in elementary school, and is committed to making that foundation strong. Her collaboration with colleagues at Hillsboro-Deering Middle and High Schools showcases their vision of a robust K-12 Music program that inspires students to sustain their passion for the arts through middle school, high school, and beyond.

She is the kind of educator whose presence strengthens every aspect of the school community. She exemplifies the very qualities the Withington Award was created to honor: excellence, leadership, service, professionalism, resilience, and an enduring commitment to students and community.

It is an honor to announce Ms. Christine Haley as the 2026 Richard W. Withington Award Recipient.



On June 6, 2026, Richard Wright of Newbury was presented with an award from the NH Fish and Game in recognition of 60 years of teaching Hunter Education, educating people in the knowledge, skills and behaviors needed to become safe and responsible hunters. An engraved granite bench is being placed in Owl Brook Education Center in Holderness NH in recognition of his dedication to teaching Hunter Safety. L-R, Tom Flynn, Eric Geib, Richard Wright, Josh Mackay.

HDHS named Jostens' 2026 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

Hillsboro-Deering High School program recognized for dynamic and engaging yearbook

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, announced that Hillsboro-Deering High School's yearbook program has achieved the Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence 2026 award at the Silver Level. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students to develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

The Hillsboro-Deering High School award-winning yearbook program is led by Jacob Ellis, Julie Flanders, Gavin Ford, Isaiah Gildea, Katie Gipson, Carys Guillou, Pheobe Inselman, and Alyssah Johnson under the direction of Marc Payeur and Michelle Prentiss, Hillsboro-Deering's Yearbook Advisors.

"I am super proud of this yearbook team - this group of

seniors were all invested on creating a book their classmates could be proud of. They creatively came up with a theme that coincided with this year's 250th anniversary of our country. The theme of the book is Our History and the team did a nice job developing it," said Payeur.

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are presented twice a year, in spring and in fall based on the yearbook's arrival date at the school. The award was presented to the Hillsboro-Deering High School yearbook program for achieving defined criteria in between one and three of the following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process.

"Jostens is proud to recognize those individuals who have created an exceptional yearbook for their school and community," said Tammy Whitaker, Jostens VP and COO Yearbook Division. "These



Front row: Pheobe Inselman, Alyssah Johnson, Carys Guillou. Back row: Katie Gipson, Gavin Ford, Jacob Ellis, Isaiah Gildea, Julie Flanders.

schools did an exceptional job on multiple levels, despite the challenges presented by this

school year. Yearbooks are a critical part of capturing and telling a school's story, and Jos-

tens is dedicated to supporting yearbook staff members as they do their important work."

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New London Hospital begins construction on new Surgical Care Center

New London Hospital (NLH), a member of Dartmouth Health, recently began the initial phases of construction on its new Surgical Care Center.

Located in the rear of the hospital, the Surgical Care Center will be approximately 40,000 square feet over two levels, adding four operating rooms, a 22-bed post-anesthesia unit and

expanded sterile processing.

Additionally, upgrades will be made to supporting areas including a waiting room, materials management and a separate Surgical Care Center entrance.

“With the construction of our new Surgical Care Center, NLH is poised to meet the growing surgical needs of our community,” said Lauren Geddes Wirth, MD,

President and CEO of NLH.

“This expansion positions NLH as a regional leader in exceptional healthcare, by investing in critical services in a strategic area of operations for our region, and

the Dartmouth Health system as a whole.”

Current surgical and endoscopy operations at NLH will remain unaffected throughout the construction, with no impact

to patient care.

The Center is slated to open in the fall of 2028. New London Hospital has contracted Linea 5 Architects and Walsh Brothers Construction.



Newport's Richards School has been recognized as a National Rising Star Campus by Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) — a national initiative dedicated to building relationship-centered school cultures. Richards School is the first school in New Hampshire to fully implement the CKH program and the first in the state to receive this National Recognition.

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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Charles Edmund Hamel, Jr.

Hillsboro - Charles Edmund Hamel, Jr. passed away on May 26, 2026. "Chick" was born on October 21, 1930 in Worcester, MA to Charles Edmund Hamel, Sr. and Constance (Connie) Grace Hamel (Sharon). Chick was predeceased by Charles Edmund Hamel, Sr. and Constance (Connie) Grace Hamel (Sharon), Edward Sharon Hamel (brother), Mary Ann Hamel and Nick Zimmermann (grandson). He is survived by his daughters, Deborah McDonald, Joanne Hayes (and Richard), Kathy Hamel, Susan Kingsbury (and Allan), Stephanie Garon (and Matt) and his son David Hamel (and Mel). He also leaves his grandchildren, Garrett McGovern, Molly McGovern, Elizabeth McEachern (and Jeff), Katlyn Miniaci (and Gerard), Emily Jobin, Kalen Garon and Emerson Hamel, and his great-grandchildren, Riley McGovern, Teagan McGovern, Bodhi McGovern, Adrianna Bingham, Zachary Spaulding, Temperance Zimmermann, Mirabelle Zimmermann, and his brother-in-law Edward Francis Marlowe. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to an area youth sports program. Memorial Services will be held at St. Theresa Catholic Church on June 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Tina May Adams

Tina May Adams (Alukonis), born June 12, 1944, passed away on June 2, 2026, in Newburyport, MA, surround-



ed by her loving family. She was the oldest daughter of the late Elsa (Bucigrosso) and John Alukonis, and the sister of the late Joan Miller (Alukonis) and her baby brother, John, who passed away as an infant. Tina was the devoted wife of the late Paul Richard Adams, Sr., and the loving mother of her daughter Tracey, her son Paul and daughter-in-law Jodi, her late son Eric, and her daughter Rachel and son-in-law Sean. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Nicolette, Cortney, Michael, Summer, Grady, Aedan, Micah, and Liam, and a cherished great-grandmother to Addison, Sophia, Colin, Finnegan, Chloe, and Everly.

Zachary Jacob Martin Barnes

Hopkinton - With profound sadness and broken hearts, we announce the passing of Zachary Jacob Martin Barnes, 25, of Contoocook, NH. Zach fought valiantly against the aggressive colon cancer that ravaged his body, and endured way too much suffering with grace and courage. Zach loved his family: his parents, Ginny Martin and Ken Barnes, his devoted partner Kenzie Masunas, his aunts, Susan Wallace (Rob Johnston) and Pat Martin (Rick Moog), and uncle Jonathan Barnes (Anna Filosi), and 24(!) cousins. A memorial ceremony will be held at Temple Beth Jacob in Con-



cord, NH, at 11 a.m., on Monday July 6, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations in Zach's name may be sent to HIAS.org to support refugees & asylum-seekers, Kids4Peace-global.org, Pope SPCA in Concord NH, and the ACLU.

Abbyann Wasilew

Henniker - In loving memory of Abbyann Wasilew, 82, who peacefully departed this world on May 24, 2026 surrounded by her loving family, with a passport full of stamps and stories from her well-traveled life. Born in Hackensack, NJ, on January 23, 1944 ("1-2-3-4-4," she would quip), the daughter of the late Francis and Blanche Hewens, younger sister to the late Nancy Bloomquist. Abbyann leaves behind her younger sister, Melissa Wisehaupt, and her husband, Den, and "little brother," Dr. Jeremy Hewens, and his wife, Jean. She was the proud Mom to Nancy Little and her husband, Todd; Jessica Traber and her husband, Jason; and Amy Huneau and her husband, Jeremy. She was a boastful "Mimi" to Carter, Mollie, Ben, Julia, and Meryl, her grandchildren who always looked forward to a crazy Mimi story. Her last, and most beloved title, was the adored wife and adventure partner of Dave Wasilew.



Dr. Charles Kimball Crawford

Peterborough - Dr. Charles "Chuck" Kimball Crawford, a brilliant physicist, former Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, entrepreneur, pilot, and dedicated philanthropist, passed away on May 9, 2026, in Peterborough. Born on July 9, 1937, in New Jersey, his parents, Bertha (Batchelder) and Walter, and his brother David predeceased him. He is survived by his sister, Diane. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces in the Batchelder, Tallarico, and Crawford branches of his extended family. He is also survived by his cherished co-workers and colleagues at Kimball Physics, all of whom he was so proud. An informal graveside burial service will be held on September 12, 2026, at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Chuck's name to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.



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JUNE 20
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- Barn Playhouse Interns 10:30AM
- Zumba Gold Flash Mob 11AM
- Silver Circus-Magic & Juggling 12-1PM
- Morgan Hill Bookstore Read Aloud for Kids 1PM
- Inflatable Fun • Lawn Games
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- Balloon Creations - by Donation
- Yummy Food for Sale
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June 14 1:30


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Events: Community Bulletin Board

SATURDAY JUNE 13

MASK PAINTING: with Deering resident and talented craftsperson Anne Cavagnaro. Starting at 10am at the Deering Library, and appropriate for all ages. Very popular last year!

MUSEUM OPEN: The Newbury Firefighters Museum will be open to the public on Saturday Mornings from 10am to 1pm during the summer months. The museum is located adjacent to the Newbury Fire Station at 919 Route 103 in Newbury. Parking is available in the Velie Memorial Playground parking lot next to the museum.

SUNDAY JUNE 14

ROCK & ROLL: at Jim Mitchell Park. 2-5pm. Raffle tickets, drawing during intermission. Food will be available from Reed's North. Sponsored by Weaver Brothers Construction Company and MadgeTech. This event is free. Donations welcomed.

TUESDAY JUNE 16

HENNIKER CONCERT: The Party Crashers. Opening the 2026 Henniker Concert Series is a high-energy six piece band that specializes in crowd-friendly, dance-driven performances playing hits from the 60's to today. Starting the evening is the John Stark Stage Band showing off some very talented local youth. 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Henniker. Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be held indoors in adjacent Community Center.

SATURDAY JUNE 20

PAINTING MINI BIRDHOUSES: with Deering resident Ellie Cluche. Starting at 10am at the Deering Library. Show your creativity! For kids of all ages.

TUESDAY JUNE 23

HENNIKER CONCERT: The Dan Fallon Band – A best of the Lakes Award-winning band known for being fun, engaging and dance focused. Their performances are designed to keep audiences smiling and moving all night. Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Henniker. Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be held indoors in adjacent Community Center.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY JUNE 27-28

FIELD DAY, HENNIKER: The Contoocook Valley Radio Club will be operating Field Day, the annual ARRL Emergency Preparedness Exercise, from 2pm on Saturday to 2pm on Sunday. If you would like to participate, or learn more about Amateur Radio, please call 603-428-3840, before June 26th.

TUESDAY JUNE 30

HENNIKER CONCERT: Peabody's Coaltrain – This local NH acoustic, Americana 6-piece band featuring strings and shared vocal harmonies is an annual crowd favorite. Musicians include Jason Teaster on acoustic guitar, Dave Anderson on harmonica, Steve Cybulski on banjo, Dave Carroll on mandolin, Mark Frales on upright bass, and Scott Hayes on guitar and dobro. Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park. Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be held indoors in adjacent Community Center.

TUESDAY JULY 7

HENNIKER CONCERT: The Scott Spradling Band. Since 2010, the 11-piece Scott Spradling Band has played events like Best of NH, fundraisers, community events, weddings and celebrations across New Hampshire. Their repertoire spans the last 50 years, with a strong focus on 60's, 70's and 80's music, plus big band swing and current pop hits. Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of inclement weather concert will be held in the adjoining Community Center.

TUESDAY JULY 14

HENNIKER CONCERT: Blues, Brews & BBQ Fest – 50 Shades of Blues, an established working band playing exceptional and rocking rhythm and blues music. Based in Southern New Hampshire, they are dedicated to bringing expert musicianship along with outstanding vocals and harmonies. Come and hear both classic tunes and more current selections, creating a captivating mix of music, perfect for a summer's evening. Each member of the band brings decades of performing and recording experience: Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of inclement weather concert will be held in the adjoining Community Center.

TUESDAY JULY 21

HENNIKER CONCERT: The Dwayne Haggins Band – Returning for the second year, this band was among the top five performers last summer. Get ready for blues and soul singing rising star, Dwayne Haggins. Described as the love child of Hank Williams and Otis Redding. The John Legend of rockabilly, and even, the what-took-you-so-long? fusion of Elvis Presley and Marvin Gaye. Every performance is a show-stopper – don't miss it! Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of inclement weather, concert will be held in the adjacent Community Center.

TUESDAY JULY 28

HENNIKER CONCERT: Not Fade Away – NH's premier Grateful Dead tribute band. Celebrate Jerry Garcia's birthday with full sets of Primal Dead hits. Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the adjoining Community Center.

TUESDAY AUGUST 4

HENNIKER CONCERT: Ferns Family Band – The Ferns Family Band is a trio fronted by award winning singer Mara Ferren, who never fails to impress with her seemingly effortless vocal prowess. Mara is supported by her brother, Quinlan, the backbone of the band on keys who masterfully juggles all piano, organ, bass, percussion and orchestral sounds. Henniker Summer Concert Series, 6-8pm, Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in adjacent Community Center.

TUESDAY AUGUST 11

HENNIKER CONCERT: Kotoko Brass - This 7-piece, Boston-based brass and drumming ensemble, melds the beautifully complex traditional drumming of Central Ghana, the

sturdy bass and keyboards of the Caribbean, and the joyous horns of New Orleans to forge a sound the Boston Globe has described as "propulsive, infectious party music." Henniker Summer Concert Series. 6-8pm. Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be in the adjacent Community Center.

TUESDAY AUGUST 18

HENNIKER CONCERT: Waking Finnegan - A critically acclaimed, high energy Celtic rock band blending traditional Celtic music with modern rock. Known for lightning-fast fiddle and whistle tunes, powerful ballads and an infectious stage presence, they have toured internationally and been featured on radio stations in the US and abroad. Henniker Summer Concert Series. 6-8pm. Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be in the adjacent Community Center.

TUESDAY AUGUST 25

HENNIKER CONCERT: Studio Two – The Beatles are back! Hailed "New England's Best Beatles Tribute Band," the group pays tribute to the early Beatles years, concentrating on the most exciting and fun time in the Beatles career—the touring and club years. Henniker Summer Concert Series. 6-8pm. Angela Robinson Bandstand, Community Park, Free. Donations welcomed. In case of rain, concert will be in the adjacent Community Center.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

GUARD LUNCH: Retirees of the New Hampshire Army National Guard are cordially invited to attend the 17th Annual NHARNG Retiree Day Luncheon, which will be held at 10am in the Joint Force Headquarters Building 1, Concord, NH. The luncheon fee is \$5.00, and as customary, a Retiree group photo will be taken. Retirees who are attending the luncheon for the first time are asked to register with Chief Warrant Officer 5 (Retired) Rick Plante at (603) 657-0345 or via email at nharngetirees@gmail.com

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ABUTTER NOTIFICATION ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Be advised, you are hereby notified of a hearing of the Zoning Board on **Tuesday, June 22, 2026**, at 7:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall. Nicole Anson & Corey Brigham will seek approval for a variance for the property on Lincoln Drive, Tax Map 14, Lot 271. The variance application to reduce the rear setbacks to 31' will be considered by the ZBA. This meeting is open to the public for discussion or concerns.

TOWN OF HENNIKER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 17, 2026 – 6:00 PM

The Town of Henniker Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a **public hearing on June 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Henniker Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Rd.**

- 1. Rehearing ZBA Case 2026:03:** Variance request from the driveway setback required of Article VIII COMERCIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS, 133-28 Regulations for all commercial districts D, no parking space or access driveway shall be located within 10 feet of a side or back lot boundaries. Applicant/owner David Tassie, Map 8 Lot 540-X2B, 41 Elm St, Zoned CR.

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.

ABUTTER NOTIFICATION ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Be advised, you are hereby notified of a hearing of the Zoning Board on **Tuesday, June 22, 2026**, at 7:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall. Aaron Keith will seek approval for a variance for the property at 87 Huntley Mountain Road, Tax Map 14, Lot 459. The variance application to reduce the front setbacks to 30' will be considered by the ZBA. This meeting is open to the public for discussion or concerns.

ABUTTER NOTIFICATION ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Be advised, you are hereby notified of a hearing of the Zoning Board on **Tuesday, June 22, 2026**, at 7:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall. Aaron Keith will seek approval for a variance for the property at 87 Huntley Mountain Road, Tax Map 14, Lot 459. The variance application to reduce the front setbacks to 30' will be considered by the ZBA. This meeting is open to the public for discussion or concerns.

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