

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 39 ♦ October 2, 2026



The Governor Visits

NH Governor Kelley Ayotte visited Hillsborough's Sylvania plant to congratulate the company on its on 125 years of excellence in manufacturing.



Francestown's New Fire Truck

Francestown Fire and Rescue will soon debut a brand-new \$950,000 fire truck to replace its 1989 Pierce pumper. Fire Chief Larry Kullgren said he expects it to be in service by mid-October.

This week in history

OCTOBER 2, 2002

Beltway sniper attacks begin in Maryland

OCTOBER 3, 1990

East & West Germany reunite after 45 years

OCTOBER 4, 1970

Rock legend Janis Joplin dies

OCTOBER 5, 1989

Dalai Lama wins Nobel Peace Prize

OCTOBER 6, 1683

First Mennonites arrive in America

OCTOBER 7, 1816

First double-decker steamboat Washington arrives in New Orleans

OCTOBER 8, 1871

The Great Chicago Fire begins



Route 202 was closed for several hours.

Several people injured in Antrim rear-end accident

A car crash in Antrim injured two people and closed State Route 202 for several hours Wednesday, September 23.

A sedan headed southbound near Route 202 and Old Turnpike Road in Antrim hit a pickup truck from behind, causing the pickup truck to flip, according to Antrim Fire and Rescue.

"It appears that the driver of the sedan may have crossed the center line and struck the back of a pickup, which then caused the truck to flip end-over-end eight to ten times," said Fire Chief Marshall Gale. "The truck did stay in the northbound lane and did end up back on its wheels."

Gale said the driver of the sedan was wearing a seatbelt and that airbags

were deployed. Antrim Fire and Rescue couldn't confirm whether the driver and passenger of the pickup truck were wearing seatbelts, as a passing ambulance from another service arrived first and helped the occupants out of the vehicle.

"Another ambulance was passing by, and it was very, very lucky that they stopped and were able to help, as the pickup truck came to rest quite a ways from the sedan, and at first it was just two of us on the scene, trying to do ten things at once," Gale said. "We are very grateful for their help."

From initial reports of the accident, first responders feared the driver of the sedan was entrapped and called in the DHART, but the helicopter was canceled

after the driver was able to crawl out of the vehicle on his own.

"There was no entrapment," Gale said. "Upon our arrival, the driver of the sedan had self-extricated, and we found him lying on the shoulder. People had stopped to offer aid."

The driver of the sedan was transported to Concord Hospital by Antrim Fire and Rescue, and the passenger in the truck was transported by Hillsborough Ambulance. The driver of the truck refused treatment but rode to the hospital along with the passenger.

"It could have been so much worse if other vehicles were involved. It could have been a mass casualty, if not a fatality," Gale said.

Early morning house fire in Hillsboro closes Route 149

First responders were on the scene of a house fire in Hillsborough early Wednesday morning, September 30. No injuries were reported, according to officials. The house was believed to be unoccupied.

About ten fire departments responded to the scene. The Hillsborough Fire Department stated that the call came in just after 3 a.m. Crews reported that there were explosions inside the house after

they arrived. They said it's unclear what started the fire in the first place.

The fire closed Route 149 in Hillsborough at around 3:30 a.m. for over two hours before reopening around 5:45 a.m.

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Yesteryear

Local history as reported in The Messenger

October 3, 2025

Deering woman charged with assault with a deadly weapon
High levels of lead & copper found in Henniker's water system
A new Goffstown Police station - Not before 2030
Public invited to tour Antrim wind facility at Tuttle Hill Trail

October 4, 2024

Three injured in two-car Sunapee accident
New England College receives \$10 million gift from Kovacs family
Bow parents sue school officials after eviction for pink armbands
Andover names Dan Sieburg as its Town Administrator

October 6, 2023

Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr. installed as New England College President
Masons honor Bob & Fran Charron with Community Builder's Award
Warner says goodbye - Newbury says hello to Diane Ricciardelli
Sparks fly at Franklin Candidates Forum - Incumbent Mayor ousted

October 7, 2022

John Cooper Celebration of Life nets \$14,000 for Fire & EMS
Peterborough Police & K-9 Queso locate missing juvenile
Weare Select Board approves seeking 24/7 police coverage in town
\$2 million renovation of Hancock Inn may be "over the top"

October 8, 2021

Deering wants school tax equity
Alyssa Small replaces Rochelle Kelley in Weare
Weare officer takes medical retirement after being shot
94 MPH chase from New London to Warner

October 9, 2020

Henniker adopts \$75 stipend for election workers
Hopkinton girl wins Girl Scouting highest award
Goffstown man seriously injured in crash
Henniker Rotary joins Million Mask Challenge

October 11, 2019

Joe Devine named Henniker Town Administrator
Grapevine Suicide Awareness & Prevention Forum
Greater Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce revived
Colby-Sawyer honors three distinguished alumni

October 12, 2018

Warner Town Clerk resigns
Hillsborough man sentenced to 7-15 years in prison
Weare man missing since subpoena - found dead
Unregistered vehicle leads to marijuana bust

October 13, 2017

Officials silent over departure of Newbury Chief
GST names Ray Eaton a Hometown Hero
Goffstown fire consumes Lemay & Sons facility
Hillsborough man caused Bow crash

October 7, 2016

Questions linger over New Boston woman's death
Antrim to conduct 2020 Community Profile
Franklin woman pleads guilty to social security fraud
Newport Selectmen water restrictions mandatory

Kearsarge School District taxpayers facing building repair costs of \$60 million

Newbury hosted a town hall last Wednesday as Kearsarge School District residents debated school consolidation and the financial toll of keeping Simonds Elementary and Sutton Central Elementary schools open.

They were shocked at the cost the School District would have to shoulder for building repairs. Repairs to Bradford's Kearsarge Elementary School are estimated at \$3 million. At Simonds Elementary School and Sutton Central Elementary School, both of which the district is considering shuttering, repairs would cost \$3 million and \$2 million, respectively.

The forum was hosted by volunteer organization Friends of Newbury, which presented figures from a 2025 analysis conducted by Lavalle Brensinger Architects.

The district's Facilities B Committee, which handles long-term capital investments and oversaw the Lavalle Brensinger

study, reported its findings that, in order to maintain the district's seven schools for the next four years, Kearsarge Regional would need to invest \$60 million.

Of that sum, an estimated \$26 million would go towards critical repairs, such as leaking roofs, furnace replacements and the installation of sprinkler systems.

District enrollment has been on the decline, and some early-elementary classes have fewer than 10 students. The closure of Simonds and Sutton Central could result in at least \$9.5 million in savings, according to the study.

If the fifth grade were to move to the middle school, then empty classrooms at Bradford Elementary School and New London Elementary School could be freed up to make way for the Simonds and Sutton Central students, which would also increase class sizes to between 17 and 23 students.



Abigail Strauss, of Warner, wasn't swayed by these arguments.

The mother of a soon-to-be

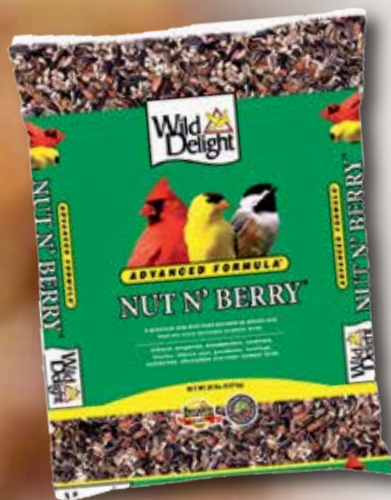
kindergartener, Strauss said she has advocated for the two schools to stay open in order to attract young families, like hers,

to move to the area. She said the plan seems "short-sighted" and would heavily impact Warner's local economy.

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In Service to Others



This week's Hopkinton Rotary Club guest speaker was Terri Trier, a videographer from WMUR TV-9.

HENNIKER
LION CLUB



It was a great day for the Henniker Lions at the Henniker Handmade and Homegrown. The raffle money went towards fuel assistance, food and shelter for people in need in the local community.

Hillsboro Lions Club reports to the Community

After a brief summer break, the Hillsboro Lions are gearing up for their busiest time of the year.

First on the fall agenda is Reading Is Fundamental (RIF). The Hillsboro Lions Club will purchase more than 500 books and distribute them to all K-5 students at the Hillsboro-Deering and Washington Elementary Schools.

The first of three events is tentatively scheduled for Halloween week.

Next will be vision screening for all K-12 students within the SAU #34 school district, helping identify potential vision problems that could affect students' learning and development.

In November, the Hillsboro Lions will host the 50th Annual Senior Dinner. The Lions will purchase and prepare a traditional Thanksgiving feast featuring tur-

key, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, butternut squash, green beans, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, cider, and coffee. More than 150 seniors are expected to attend this special annual event.

The Hillsboro Lions will wrap up the calendar year with their annual Christmas Food Baskets program. Dozens of food baskets will be assembled and delivered to families and individuals in need throughout the Hillsborough area.

During the month of September, 2026, the Hillsboro Lions donated \$200 to "End 68 Hours of Hunger" as part of their \$1200/year commitment to the program.

Through these programs and many other community activities, the Lions continue their commitment to serving local families, students, seniors, and those in need.

Route 11 shutdown as first responders retrieve a car from Otter Pond

On Friday, September 25th Sunapee Fire Department, New London Hospital EMS, and Sunapee Police Department were dispatched to the area of Route 11 and Otter Hill Road for a reported motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle that had entered Otter Pond. Initial reports indicated that the condition of the occupant was unknown.

The occupant successfully self-extricated and began making his way toward shore.

Sunapee Car 1 arrived on scene and confirmed that a single vehicle had entered Otter Pond. The vehicle was located approximately 20 feet offshore and submerged in approximately 20 feet of water. The sole occupant was just reaching shore as emergency personnel arrived and was immediately assisted into a waiting New London Hospital EMS ambulance for evaluation.

The occupant was evaluated by EMS personnel, found to be uninjured, and declined transportation

to the hospital.

Due to the location and depth of the submerged vehicle, specialized resources were requested to safely conduct the recovery. Reed Truck Services was requested with its specialized heavy recovery team, along with the Hanover Fire Department Dive Team.

Reed Truck Services and the Hanover Fire Department Dive Team arrived on scene.

As part of the recovery operation, Sunapee Fire personnel launched Boat 2 onto Otter Pond. Boat 2 was utilized as an operational platform for the Hanover Fire Department Dive Team, with Hanover divers conducting their dive operations from the Sunapee Fire Department vessel.

Divers entered the water and began working with Sunapee Fire personnel and heavy recovery crews to locate, secure, and prepare the submerged vehicle for removal.

Throughout the incident and recovery operation, Sunapee Fire



personnel extensively checked the area surrounding the vehicle and along the shoreline for any signs of leaking fuel, oil, or other automotive fluids. No visible leaks or evidence of hazardous materials

being released were noted.

Fire crews, heavy recovery personnel, and the Hanover Fire Department Dive Team successfully removed the vehicle from Otter Pond and loaded it onto a waiting

flatbed. During the recovery operation, Route 11 was reduced to one lane with alternating traffic and was temporarily closed completely at various times to allow crews to safely operate.

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TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

According to the new scientific statement published in the American Heart Association's journal *Hypertension* using a single-pill combination medication of two or more blood pressure-lowering medications may simplify the process and help adults with high blood pressure reach target blood pressure levels more quickly. Single-pill combinations streamline the prescribing process for clinicians by helping to reduce uncertainty around which medications to start and at what dosage. For most people with high blood pressure that requires medications, which could include some with stage 1 hypertension, the statement encourages clinicians to start with the preferred choice of a combination pill: either an ACE inhibitor or an ARB plus a calcium channel blocker. Observational studies with follow-up periods ranging from 1-5 years have linked single-pill combination medication use with a 15%-30% lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events, such as heart attack, stroke, heart failure-related hospitalizations and death. Prevention of cardiovascular events is also linked to a longer and improved quality of life. According to the American Heart Association's 2025 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics, the annual direct and indirect costs of cardiovascular disease in the United States were an estimated \$417.9 billion. Improving blood pressure control could help lower health care costs for patients and health care organizations over time. Recent studies have found that combination pills are more cost-effective than taking the same medications in separate pills.

Historically, people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) experience a relentless decline of neurological function that eventually robs them of the ability to move, speak, eat or breathe. New research published in *JAMA Neurology* reports that long-term use of tofersen, a new drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a genetic form of this deadly illness, delays symptom progression and death and in about one-quarter of participants leads to stabilization or improvement.

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Dr. Esin Narli

An ultrasonic tooth cleaner uses high-frequency vibrations and water to dislodge plaque, tartar, and stains from teeth, effectively cleaning surfaces and below the gumline, often feeling like a gentle buzzing rather than scraping. Professional ultrasonic scalers are standard dental tools. At-home versions exist, but some lack effectiveness or can potentially damage teeth if misused, so they're best for appliances (like retainers) or used cautiously with professional guidance.

How it Works: A metal tip vibrates at ultrasonic speeds, creating energy to break down buildup. Tiny bubbles form and burst, washing away debris. A fine mist of water cools the tip and flushes away loosened plaque and bacteria. The energy from the bursting bubbles can also disrupt bacterial cell membranes.

Your dentist will often use an ultrasonic scaler which is highly effective, gentle, and speeds up cleaning. The scaler is frequently used in conjunction with manual tools for a complete clean.

There are "home versions" of the ultrasonic cleaner available for personal use. They should be reserved for cleaning appliances like retainers, dentures, and aligners, as individuals without the proper training could actually damage their teeth.

To sum up, the ultrasonic cleaner can be a useful tool when employed properly. It's great at removing stubborn buildup and cleaning hard-to-reach spots. It's also gentle and can be less irritating than manual scraping, especially with sensitive teeth. It's also faster than traditional manual cleaning for large deposits. Again, remember that improper use of at-home devices might cause damage; consult your dentist for personalized advice.

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Around Our Towns



Hopkinton's schools held their annual Homecoming Parade, welcoming students to the new school year.



Deering Fish and Game provided facilities for a Hunter Education Program Field Days on 12 & 26 September. As part of the course a Conservation Officer also instructs and takes questions on current rules on lawful hunting and proper respect for property owners. Pictured is local CO Zach Abrahamsson.

Newport shooting leaves one person dead, another seriously wounded

One man is dead and a woman is hospitalized in critical condition following a shooting at a Newport home on Putnam Road.

The Newport Police Department officers found an adult woman outside the residence suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. After receiving

emergency medical care on the scene from local firefighters, she was transported to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, where she remains in critical but stable condition.

Officers who entered the home discovered the body of a deceased adult male inside.

Newport Police Chief Stephen A. Lee said in a statement

that all parties involved in the incident have been identified and there is no active threat to the public.

Authorities are withholding the identities of both individuals pending the notification of next of kin.

The Newport School District was notified of the shooting, and all area schools remained open

on a normal schedule Wednesday.

The investigation is being conducted with assistance from the Claremont Police Department, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office drone unit, and New Hampshire State Police Troop C. The State Police Major Crimes Unit is also assisting with processing the crime scene.



One dead, one injured in Newport shooting.

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To Susan Thomas and the Deering Library volunteers for their assistance in their efforts to set up the **Margaret B. Wood Library Fund**

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Sports



Hopkinton's Matthew Clarner to represent Team USA at 2027 World University Games.

GIRLS SOCCER

Hopkinton 1, Sanborn 1: Hawks were scored on early, came back to tie before halftime.
Hopkinton 6, Fall Mtn. 2: Hopkinton went into halftime up 5-0. Senior Avery Chase got her first hat-trick of the season.
Bow 6, St. Thomas 0: Two freshman, Addison and Hannah got things going five minutes apart in the first half on great efforts.
Bow 4, Merrimack Valley 0: They started the game with a ton of energy.

BOYS SOCCER

Bow 7, Merrimack Valley 1: A pair of Milo Cocola goals in the first 10 minutes.
Bow 1, Pembroke 0: Ben Reardon sent a long punt over the top to Carter Hall, who scored the GW goal in the 65th minute.
John Stark 2, Oyster River 1: Owen Gitchell free kick to go up 2-0 late. Game winner.
Fall Mtn. 2, Hopkinton 1: Fall Mt. scored two quick goals late in the game – first off a handball in the box and then off a failed clear from a throw-in.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

ConVal 3, MVHS 0: Valley battled back in the 3rd set but couldn't close things out when needed.

FIELD HOCKEY

Kearsarge 2, Hopkinton 1: Noelle Swanson (GK) OT glove save.
Gilford 2, Kearsarge 1: Ryley Grave scores to tie the game at 1-1.

Bow 4, Londonderry 2: Momentum started when Peyton Vaughn scored on a penalty stroke in the first to get on the board 1-0.
John Stark 1, St. Thomas 0: Overtime goal scored by Lyla Raymond assisted by Addison DeCew.



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Francestown Elementary School.

Francestown must purchase its elementary school building for \$1,004,000

The Francestown Independent School Board and a ConVal negotiating team are finalizing details for the transfer of its elementary school, which includes the building and its contents, to Francestown as of July 1, 2027.

If approved, Francestown will purchase its elementary school building from the ConVal School District for \$1,004,000 when it withdraws from the cooperative school district next year.

The sale will go before voters for their approval at the next town meeting, but the price is determined by state law, said ConVal School Board Chair Mike Hoyt. State law requires that the value of any capital improvements to the building be added to that amount — for example, ConVal updated the elementary school's fire alarm system last year. The two groups have been meeting twice a month since this spring, when 77% of Francestown voters and 46% of ConVal voters approved the withdrawal.

Francestown Elementary School serves around 37 students as of September and is one of four nearly identical elementary

schools built by ConVal in 1999. Greenfield, Temple and Hancock also got new schools then, and the towns each bonded to pay for their new buildings.

While the ConVal School Board and Francestown have agreed on the price of the elementary school, the terms of payment have not been settled, as Francestown will have to put any proposal for allocating funds or bonding through town meeting in March 2027.

The two sides are also finalizing negotiations on the contents of Francestown Elementary School, including furniture, curriculum and special education materials, and technology, including Chromebooks and laptops.

Francestown plans to run its elementary school independently for grades K-6, according to the new school board, and older children will have the option of tuitioning to the ConVal middle schools and ConVal High School.

Francestown would like to withdraw from SAU 1 as well as the ConVal district, but the town cannot initiate that process until district withdrawal is finalized.



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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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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



Measure Twice - Cut Once

At last week's Hillsborough Select Board meeting, Town Administrator Laura Buono reported that the town's West Main Street sidewalk project planned for over a decade was "on time and under budget."

It appears though, that the Board failed to heed that sage advice.

As the sidewalk continues from the Bara Dental

Offices to Shaws Supermarket, it crosses 30 driveways and sidewalks. At each of these locations, anyone with a wheelchair, walker, stroller or baby carriage must step down off the curb (as shown above), cross the driveway or sidewalk, and step up again to rejoin the sidewalk.

All that time and no one thought our sidewalks should be pedestrian friendly and handicapped accessible.

The Definition of Insanity:

Doing the Same Thing Over Again and Expecting a Different Result

A few weeks ago the Hillsborough Select Board brought forth a \$100,000 + plan for a major renovation of the Manahan Park Bathhouse, supported with nothing but a pencil drawing and a request from the Parks & Recreation Director. The "plan" was immediately criticized by several members of the public in attendance, who stressed the need for detailed architectural drawing and firm bids before undertaking such a project.

When the Board reconsidered and put the project on hold pending those requirements, it was thought that

the Board had learned a valuable lesson.

Apparently not. Last week, Town Administrator Laura Buono brought forth a plan for a major renovation of the Town Office Building. Again, the "plan" lacked any architectural drawing or formal bids. To add insult to injury, Buono and the Board were prepared to award a no bid contract to move the facility's bathroom without any idea of the total project's scope or cost.

What's another old saying? "Third Time Never Fails" - We can only hope.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor: Questions about Kelly

Why is Kelly Ayotte such a weak and ineffective Governor? Certainly the leaders of her own party see this, as they overrode a record number of her vetoes.

Why doesn't Kelly stand up for the Granite State, as the Trump Administration plunders our White Mountains and destroys trade and tourism with its disastrous threats, tariffs and trade policies? Why does Kelly sup-

Letters to the Editor continued

port and participate in Donald Trump's cruel, murderous ICE "enforcement" efforts?

What has Kelly done to push back on Donald Trump's war against Iran and the resulting high fuel, fertilizer and food prices? Why does she send our soldiers to potentially die and kill in his poorly planned and worse executed war? Why does Kelly keep holding New Hampshire back, when cannabis legalization could provide a significant new revenue source and help lower property taxes? (BTW - Data shows that legal states have significantly lower rates of opioid deaths and teen drug use than prohibitionist states like New Hampshire.)

Finally, the perennial election year question – Are you better off now than you were two years ago, before Kelly became Governor Ayotte?

Respectfully, Jim Riddle, Hillsborough

Dear Editor:

I believe in supporting a candidate for public office who demonstrates a strong character, is involved in community activities and has a willingness to step forward and serve. Austin Cottle is seeking election to the New Hampshire House of Representatives for District 30 and he has my vote. What stands out to me about Austin is his willingness to put his values into action. Rather than simply talking about the importance of local communities and small businesses, he has chosen to

work locally as an organic flower farmer in a local small business. New Hampshire is built on small businesses which contribute directly to the local economy. I respect the commitment, hard work, and independence that it takes to operate in a small business economy. Austin's commitment to serving others through his involvement with community organizations is impressive. As a third degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus, he serves as the Director of Evangelical Faith Formation as well as providing flowers for St Mary's in Hillsborough for all Masses. He is an active member of the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club participating in community suppers and vision screening. Effective representation begins with understanding and serving the people who make up our communities. Austin has my support because he has chosen to become part of the solution on issues that matter to New Hampshire families. He is focused on addressing property taxes, working toward more affordable housing, and ensuring that education meets the needs of every child as defined by their parents. I encourage my fellow residents of District 30: Antrim, Bennington, Hillsborough and Windsor, to VOTE on November 3rd for Austin Cottle. He is a person we want representing our positions in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

**Tamasine Wood-Creighton,
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired, Antrim**

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White Birch Center expands Community Services with support from The Merrimack

Merrimack County Saving Bank (The Merrimack) invests in community with the expansion of the White Birch Center in Henniker.

Working with The Merrimack, White Birch Center secured funding to renovate the Cornerstone Building at 116 Main Street.

The new space creates more room for essential services including the Henniker Food Pantry, Henniker Welfare Agent and Family Resource Center.

“It’s been rewarding to work alongside the team at White Birch Center,” said Isaac Davis, VP Commercial Loan Officer at The Merrimack. “We value their commitment to their mission and the communities they serve, and we’re here to support their growth every step of the way.”

White Birch Center launched its Cornerstone Capital Campaign in the spring of 2024 with the goal of raising \$3 million dollars to fund the project. With renovations complete, the Cornerstone

Building is officially open and will serve as an inclusive community hub supporting children, teens, parents and seniors.

“Every donation helps create programs and spaces that make a difference,” said Marc McMurphy, Executive Director of White Birch Center. “We’re grateful for the generosity of our donors and the partnership we’ve fostered with The Merrimack over the years.” The Merrimack is a steadfast supporter of the White Birch Center contributing \$30,000 to their summer camp program and \$65,000 toward their expansion project. This investment reflects The Merrimack’s commitment to partnering with organizations that create meaningful impact in the community.

Established in 1981, White Birch Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the well-being of individuals and families and to having a positive effect on the fabric of our community. With an emphasis on

Early Learning, Extended Education, and Active Living, White

Birch Center is a cornerstone of our community and a hub for sur-

rounding towns. To learn more visit whitebirchcc.org.



New location of the Henniker Food Pantry.

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Weare woman arrested for multiple driving offenses including DUI

The principal of Manchester High School Central is facing her second driving-under-the-influence charge in less than a decade after being arrested in Bow in July, according to State Police and court documents.

Debora Ann Roukey, 58, of Weare, was arrested on July 12 in Bow on charges of driving under the influence, DUI-2nd offense, speeding 16-20 mph

over the 65 mph speed limit and crossing the yellow/solid line, according to paperwork from Concord’s district court.

Roukey was released on personal recognizance and ordered not to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 24 hours. She was released to a sober party following her arrest.

Roukey’s attorney, Andrew Kendrick Wilson, entered a plea

of not guilty and waived arraignment July 20. As of Friday, no additional court appearance had been scheduled.

On Friday, Manchester School District officials confirmed they knew about the arrest. “We are aware of the allegations against Ms. Roukey,” a school district spokesperson said in a statement. “This remains a personnel matter and we cannot comment further at this time.”

Roukey was arrested by Trooper Kelsey Scott around 1:08 a.m. on Interstate 93 north, according to State Police.

She was allegedly speeding and two right tires of her vehicle crossed the solid line on the highway, police said. During a traffic stop, State Police determined Roukey was “under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or any controlled drug or any combination of intoxicating liquor and controlled drug,” according to authorities.

Roukey was convicted of driving under the influence back in November 2017, according to court records.

She was arrested on Oct. 27, 2017, on DUI and aggravated DUI-0.16-plus charges. She was released on \$2,000 personal recognizance and arraigned Nov. 17, pleading guilty to the DUI charge. The aggravated DUI charge was dropped, court records show.

Roukey paid a \$930 fine and had her license suspended for 10 months, though that suspension was reduced to four months after she completed an impaired driver education program.

In 2021, Roukey was named principal at Central, making her the first woman to hold that job in the high school’s 175-year history.

Roukey is a familiar face around the Manchester School District, having served 13 years as an assistant principal — sev-



Debora Ann Roukey

en at Central. Prior to that, the Goffstown native served as an assistant principal at Manchester High School West.

OCTOBER

7

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OCTOBER

21

NH SENATE DISTRICT 8

OCTOBER

28

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Three Generations: (L-R) Alice, Dennis Sr., Dennis Jr., Connor, cut the cake to celebrate 30 years of the Roberts family owning Hillsboro Ford.



Welcome to Hillsborough: Manager Jeff Brogan cuts the ribbon to officially open the Blue Seal store at the former Achille Agway location in Hillsborough.

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Wediko School students support Bradford’s Kearsarge Food Hub

Throughout the summer and early fall, students from The Wediko School have been digging in, giving back, and discovering new flavors while volunteering with a local food-growing initiative through the Kearsarge Food Hub in Bradford.

Working side by side with staff nearly once a week, Wediko students have contributed more than 40 volunteer hours planting and harvesting an impressive variety of fresh vegetables from the Seed to Table garden plot located at Kearsarge Community Common. The produce they harvest does more than fill baskets; it helps fill tables throughout the community.

All the vegetables harvested by the students are donated to the Kearsarge Food Hub’s “FREEEdge,” a free community refrigerator and food pantry that provides fresh, healthy food to neighbors in need. Garden Education Manager Xochi

Salazar and Garden Education Coordinator Ethan Hirsch have also taken time from their busy schedules to work alongside the students, helping them learn about gardening while connecting their work in the garden to the larger mission of the Food Hub.

The experience has given students an opportunity to learn firsthand how different vegetables grow—and to sample many of them fresh from the field. From crisp green beans and cucumbers to juicy slicer tomatoes and sweet cherry tomatoes, students eagerly tasted their way through the harvest. One of the summer’s biggest curiosities was the tomatillo, a vegetable many students had never encountered before but were excited to learn about and try.

The harvest season also brought potatoes and an assortment of hot peppers, including jalapeños. While the colorful



Wediko students help harvest fresh food for the community.

peppers proved tempting, students quickly discovered that some vegetables pack considerably more heat than others!

These weekly volunteer trips have provided a meaningful op-

portunity for students to connect with nature, develop new skills, try new foods, and contribute to their local community. Through their time and effort, Wediko students have helped put fresh,

locally grown food into the hands of neighbors who can benefit from it—demonstrating how a few hours of work in a garden can grow into something that nourishes an entire community.



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Crime Watch

Facebook leads to Hillsboro man's arrest

Hillsboro Police say they arrested a man after seeing a stolen unicycle posted on Facebook Marketplace. The electric unicycle was reported stolen from a Hillsboro home on Sept. 6. Four days later, police were told the stolen unicycle was listed on Marketplace. The victim recognized a unique scuff mark on the unicycle and identified it as theirs. After an investigation, police arrested 31-year-old Jackson McFarlin of Hillsboro. He is charged with felony theft by unauthorized taking and receiving stolen property.

New Boston man arrested on a warrant

An officer working a speed enforcement grant patrol stopped a speeding vehicle on Route 202/9. During the roadside investigation, Jackson Habimana was identified, a passenger, and it was determined he was wanted by the New Boston Police Department for disobeying an officer. He was arrested, booked, and transported to the custody of New Boston Police.

Man arrested for fentanyl possession

Michael Grass was stopped for speed on RT9 and the vehicle was found to be unregistered and unsafe for the road. During an inventory of the vehicle prior to it being towed, a quantity of suspected fentanyl was located in the vehicle and the defendant was arrested without incident. He was later booked and released on bail with a future court date.



Michael Grass

Woman arrested for intoxication/ assault

Officers were dispatched to a report of an intoxicated female attempting to assault family members. Upon arrival, officers located the female and completed an investigation. During the investigation, officers discovered that the female had assaulted three other household and family members during the incident. The subject was subsequently arrested. Nicole Lillis was bailed and released and provided a future court date. However, the defendant was held in protective custody due to alcohol consumption and was transported to the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections.

Deering man arrested for assault

On August 14th, a woman reported to Hillsboro Police that she was assaulted by the defendant in Deering. After taking the woman's report, officers went to the defendant's residence to interview him regarding the allegation and to serve him paperwork, but he would not come to the door despite

numerous efforts to call and knock. Officers made additional attempts to call the defendant out and he was eventually taken into custody without incident. Timothy Doyle was transported back to the Hillsboro Police Department where he was booked and processed on domestic violence charges and released on personal recognizance bail with a court date.

Man charged with violating court order

An officer was informed of a male walking on Old Henniker Road asking people for rides. The officer located the male on the ground on Henniker Street and stopped to check his welfare. Mark Mooshian was identified as the individual who had violated a protection order out of Loudon, NH. The male was subsequently arrested on the offense arising out of the Loudon Police Department and was released to the custody of the Loudon Police Department.

Man arrested for assaulting mother

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance between a man and a woman at a residence. Following an investigation, it was determined that Benjamin Slowick had assaulted his mother. The defendant was arrested and released on bail with a court date of September 8, 2026.

Man charged with improper passing

A motorcycle was observed passing another vehicle on a double yellow on Deering Center Road near the town hall. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was discovered that the operator had suspended operating privileges in the State of New Hampshire. Keith Hodgman was taken into custody.

Woman charged expired registration

An officer was on patrol in Hillsboro and observed a vehicle with an expired registration. The officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and also discovered that vehicle registration had been suspended. Millicent Brazil was subsequently arrested, booked, and bailed without incident.

Woman arrested for domestic violence

Officers responded to a residence on West Main Street after a report of a male and female yelling and screaming. Officers arrived on scene and located the male party who had a laceration on his side. The male party reported that the female party had left the residence after the altercation. Courtney Martin, the female party, was later located in Bennington, and was arrested for domestic violence without incident. The defendant was booked and processed and provided a future court date at the Hillsboro District Court.

CONGRATULATIONS, BUTCH AMADIO

Celebrating his retirement and welcoming the Amadio Insurance clients to Reliable Insurance Solutions.



Photo by Eric Anderson

The Reliable Insurance Solutions team, including Julie Boggess, who is joining Reliable as a producer and David Poulin, who is returning to the team.

After years of serving individuals and families throughout the Hillsborough community, Butch Amadio is beginning a well-earned retirement. We congratulate Butch on this next chapter and thank him for the relationships and trust he has built over the years.

As Butch steps into retirement, Reliable Insurance Solutions is honored to welcome his clients to our agency. Reliable is a family-owned, veteran-run, independent insurance agency based in Bow, New Hampshire, built around personal service, responsive support and long-term relationships. We're also very pleased to welcome Julie Boggess to the Reliable team as a producer, providing a familiar face and added continuity through the transition.

To Butch: congratulations and enjoy retirement!
To his clients: welcome to Reliable. We look forward to getting to know you.

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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Richard E. Senecal Jr.

Henniker - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Richard E. Senecal Jr., who departed this world peacefully on September 20, 2026, at New London Hospital, surrounded by the presence of his family. Born on January 9, 1948, in the idyllic town of Henniker, Richard was the beloved son of the late Richard Sr. and Mildred (Gallagher) Senecal. He was a husband to Denise (Carmichael). He leaves behind his children: Kevin Senecal (Tami), Kelly Learn, Kristy Harris (Jim), and his stepdaughter Brenda Baldwin (George). His legacy continues through his grandchildren, Ellie Zygmunt, Joshua and Jacob Senecal, Justin and Jacob Learn, Kayla McMahon, Zachary and Ashley Harris, and his great-grandsons, Jack, Griffin, Callum, and one more expected to bring joy in March. A Celebration of life to honor Richard's life will be held on October 11, 2026, from 11:00-2:00 at American Legion, Post 59 in Hillsboro, NH. The family invites all those who knew and loved Richard to join them in celebrating a life well-lived, where stories and memories will be shared in his honor. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice, reflecting Richard's generous spirit and his desire to help others.

Karen Mae Sharpe

Hancock - Karen Mae Sharpe, 75, of Hancock NH passed away peacefully at her home on September 17, 2026. She was surrounded by the love of her family. Karen is survived by her loving husband Robert Sharpe, her children Stacy Grimes, Greg Grimes and his wife Nancy Grimes, Amy Brace and Sara Sharpe, whom she shared a special bond with, her grandchildren, Hannah, Fayth,



Hope, Brittany, Avery, Darren, Bryson, India, Gwyneth, Cole, Allison, and Evan and several great grandchildren whom she adored. She is also survived by her sister Marsha, her brothers, Jimmy and Donald as well as several nieces and nephews. She had an especially close relationship with her sisters' children Sherri and Maureen. She is predeceased by her 3 sons, Matthew, Brian and Bobby, one grandson, Travis, her brother Phil Weatherbee and her parents, Ida and Charles Weatherbee. Family and friends are invited to gather for a graveside memorial service at Maple Ave Cemetery in Hillsboro. The date of the service will be announced at the convenience of the family and will be updated in The Messenger.

Amy S. Rheault-Heafield

New Boston - Amy S. Rheault-Heafield, 56, died September 23, 2026 at her home, unexpectedly. She was born in Manchester on February 19, 1970; the daughter of the late Armand Rheault and Mary Ellen (Daniels) Rheault. Family members include her mother, Mary Ellen (Daniels) Rheault, her loving husband, Karl Heafield of New Boston, her three children; Maya Heafield-Nicholson and her husband Sean of San Clemente, CA, Luke Heafield and his fiance Heather of Marlborough, MA, Eliza Heafield of London, England, six brothers and sisters; Jonathan Rheault and his wife, Terese, David Rheault and his wife, Magali, Randolph Rheault and his wife, Susan, Julie Rheault and her husband, Rafik, George Rheault and his wife, Kelly, Diana Rheault, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu

of flowers, donations may be made in Amy's name to the YWCA of NH at 72 Concord St., Manchester, NH 03101. ywca.org.

Mary "Polly" Curran

Hancock - "Polly" Curran passed away peacefully on August 17, 2026, at the age of 96, at Spring Village at Summerhill in Peterborough, NH. Born Mary Greenish Emery on June 7, 1930, to Florence Josephine (Fassnacht) Emery and Francis Joseph Emery. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jim, who passed away in 2021, her sister Jean (Emery) Koch who passed in 1993, and her son, Matthew, who passed in 1990. She is survived by her sister, F. A. Nancy (Emery) Meanix, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania; her children: Bonnie Bokenkamp (Gary) of Brewster, Massachusetts, Louis Curran of Baltimore, Maryland, Moira Suter (William) of Manassas, Virginia, Benjamin Curran (Haregewoin) of Washington, D.C., Edmund Curran of Lismore, Australia, Sean Curran of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Sarah Annecone of Boulder, Colorado; as well as 15 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 13 nieces and nephews. The interment of Polly's ashes will be October 11, 2026 at Hillside Cemetery in Hancock, NH and friends are welcome to attend from 1-1:30 p.m. An additional celebration of Polly's life will be announced by the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Hancock Woman's Club (P.O. Box 366, Hancock, NH 03449), in honor of Polly Curran.

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Events: Community Bulletin Board

OCTOBER 1-21

SCARECROW CONTEST: Create a scarecrow to sit on a bench in one of Henniker's beautiful public spaces. Register and choose your location at Henniker House B&B front porch. Contact Susan Adams 774-644-1239 for more information.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

FRANCESTOWN COFFEEHOUSE: performance begins at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm at the Francestown Town Hall. Variety of music with featured act Greg Young and Susan Ruth of the Familiar Strangers band. Also artist's display by Abby Hedderly along with snack foods. \$8 suggested donation per person. See francestowncoffeehouse.org.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE: at the Deering Library; from 10am until 2pm. Adult fiction and non-fiction, cookbooks, young adult fiction, and some children's books. Door prize and refreshments!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

BLACK HISTORY OF WARNER: The Revolution through the Early Republic Walking Tour With Lynn Clark & Rebecca Courser from 1-3 pm. Meet at the Warner Town Hall. Bring water & wear walking shoes. This is a fundraiser for the

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. Register at blackheritagetrailnh.org/tours/black-history-walking-tours-nh Adults \$20, Veterans & Seniors \$15, Students \$10.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7

LEARN TO RING HANDBELLS: Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15pm. Downstairs at Smith Congregational Church. Grades 3 and up through adults. No charge to participate. For more information Contact Barbara Daley 603-660-6424; barbara@daleyduet.com.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10

UNITED CHURCH OF WARNER: Fall Foliage Festival Breakfast. 7-11am. Pancakes - Plain and Blueberry, Red Flannel Hash, Baked Beans, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage and Home Fries.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10-11 - HENNIKER: The Craney Hill Fire Tower will be open to the public 10am-4pm, unless it is raining! For more information call, 603-428-3840.

MONDAY OCTOBER 12

NEW ENGLAND GHOSTS: at Deering Town Hall, 6:30pm. Are you brave? Storyteller Jonah Knight will present a true ghost story from each New England state. This show is interactive, gripping, and gives addresses to visit the real-life

locations. PG 13 recommended for spookiness and descriptions of demise. This program is free and open to everyone.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

FULLER LIBRARY: Come join us for a Magical Mystery Tour of music and fun facts about the Fab 4, 6pm at Fuller Public Library.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

FULLER LIBRARY: Learn How to play Mahjong at Fuller Public Library 11am-12pm, helping to teach us will be staff and patrons from the Shedd Free Library in Washington. Please call to register, 603-464-3595.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18

AREA CHOIR: Do you love Christmas music? Do you enjoy making music with others? We are inviting singers to bring in the season in song! Whether you have sung with a choir before or have any church affiliation, The Area Choir is for all who love music. No previous experience needed. The Choir rehearses Sundays from 4-6:30pm, beginning October 18. Rehearsals are held at South Congregational Church, 20 Church Street in Newport, NH. For questions or online registration email TheAreaChoir@gmail.com, visit The Area Choir Facebook page or call 603-848-8848.

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

Household Hazardous Waste COLLECTION DAY

Henniker • Hopkinton • Webster
SATURDAY, October 3, 2026
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
HENNIKER
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Route 114 south; left in center of town; next right onto Ramsdell Road; next left into Highway Department yard.
For More Information Call 603-428-7604 or visit www.hennikernh.org

PUMPKIN CARVING

AT THE MOOSE

SAT OCT 10 • 2-4PM
15 School Street • Hillsboro, NH
MEMBERS AND BONA FIDE GUESTS WITH THEIR CHILDREN

HOT DOGS & CHIPS LUNCH

SUGGESTED DONATION \$6.00 *to support The Moose*

Children under 12 should be supervised by an adult while carving



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No 2026-13

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:4 & 675:7 that the Hillsborough Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a Site Plan Amendment at 16 Antrim Road (Hillsboro Ford) (Map 11k Lot 323) owned by Dennis Roberts Jr. The application is to construct a 4,395 sq ft addition to the existing Body Shop with a 1767 sq ft covered storage area on the rear. The property is located in the Commercial Zone. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, **October 14, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillsborough Fire Department meeting room at, 15 Central 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 Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No. 2026-02

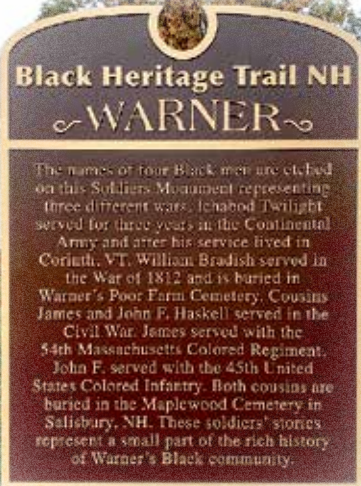
Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:7 that the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing for a Special Exception at to allow a multi-family use of greater than four units at 73 School Street (Map 12 Lot 35) in the Village Residential district. A subdivision will be done to create a new lot for the development and a lot for the existing single-family home to remain.

The Public Hearing for this application will be presented to the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment on Monday, **October 20, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Department Hillsborough Meeting Room at 15 Central Street, Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

Please contact Planning Director Robyn Payson at 603-464-7971 or e-mail robyn@hillsboroughnh.net with any questions regarding this application.

Black History of Warner: The Revolution through the Early Republic Walking Tour

With Lynn Clark & Rebecca Courser



October 4 from 1-3 pm

Meet at the Warner Town Hall • 5 East Main Street
Bring water & wear walking shoes
This is a fundraiser for the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

Register at:
blackheritagenh.org/tours/black-history-walking-tours-nh
Adults \$20; Veterans & Seniors \$15; Students \$10

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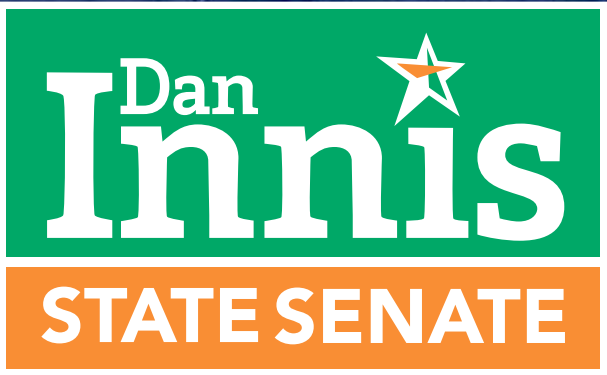
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