

The Messenger

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

Free ♦ Our 155th Year ♦ Issue 43 ♦ October 30, 2026

America Please Take Heed

"The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But, under the name of 'liberalism,' they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation, without knowing how it happened. The Socialist Party will no longer be running a candidate for president. The Democratic Party is leading this country to Socialism much faster than we could ever hope to."

Norman Thomas, American Socialist 1944

Preserve The American Dream

In Our Last National Election,
77 Million Voted Red,
75 Million Voted Blue,
90 Million Voters Stayed Home.

Your voice wasted in silence. On November 3rd, 2026, you have the right and obligation to let your voice be heard. Do not waste your right to vote. Your vote is your obligation to your republic.



Hillsborough Deering 5th 6th HYAA girls' soccer team took 1st place in Weare on Saturday October 17th.

Deering man sentenced to 5 to 15 years in state prison



Daniel Kramer

The Hillsboro Police Department announces that Daniel Kramer, age 38, of Deering, New Hampshire, was sentenced in the Hillsborough County Superior Court Northern District on drug and firearms charges. The defendant pleaded guilty to three counts of Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Sell, Subsequent Offense, and three counts of Felon in Possession of Dangerous Weapon.

The Court sentenced the defendant to

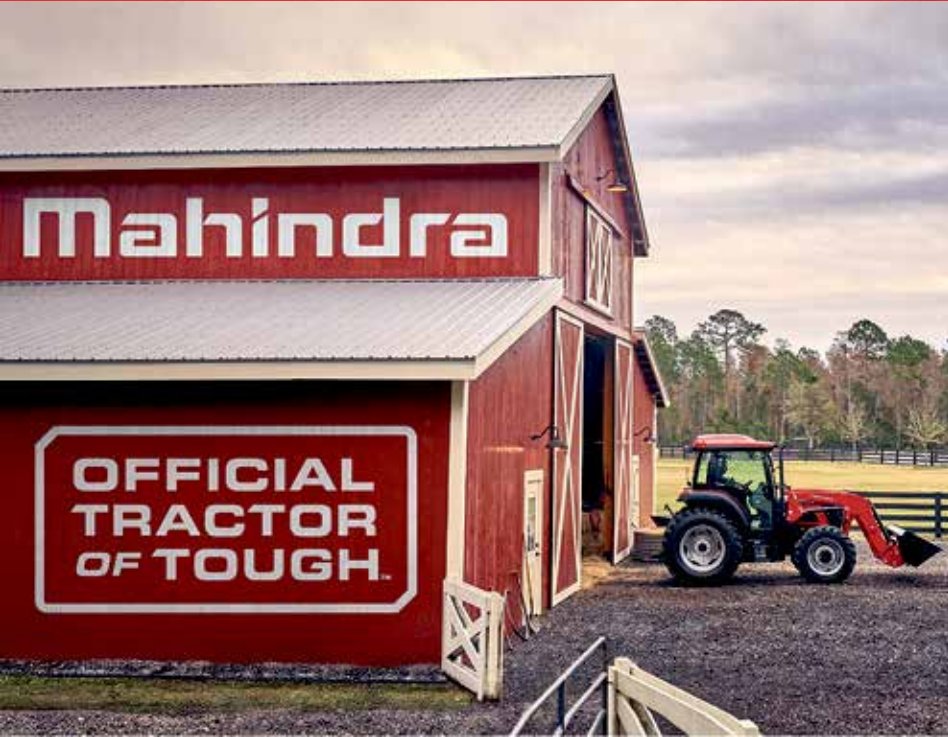
serve 5 to 15 years in state prison on two of the drug charges, to be served concurrently, and 7.5 to 15 years in state prison, suspended for 20 years from the date of sentencing. On the felon in possession charges, the Court sentenced the defendant to an additional 3.5 to 7 years in state prison, suspended for 20 years from the date of sentencing.

The evidence in this case established that on May 29, 2025, Daniel Kramer was in possession with intent to sell substantial amounts of illicit drugs and possessed dangerous weapons, firearms, and ammunition as a convicted felon. During

the investigation, the Hillsboro Police Department executed search warrants at his residence and storage unit where over an ounce of fentanyl, over two ounces of methamphetamine, over one and a half pounds of marijuana, hundreds of illicit prescription pills, multiple handguns, rifles, a shotgun, firearm parts, machinery and tools used to manufacture firearms, and a large amount of ammunition were seized.

The investigation and resolution of this case was the result of collaborative efforts of the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office and the Hillsboro Police Department.

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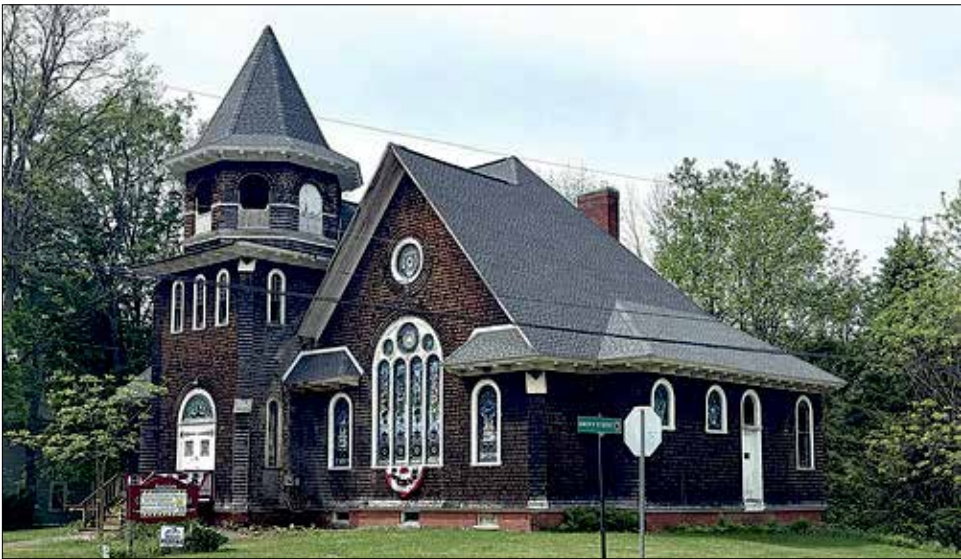
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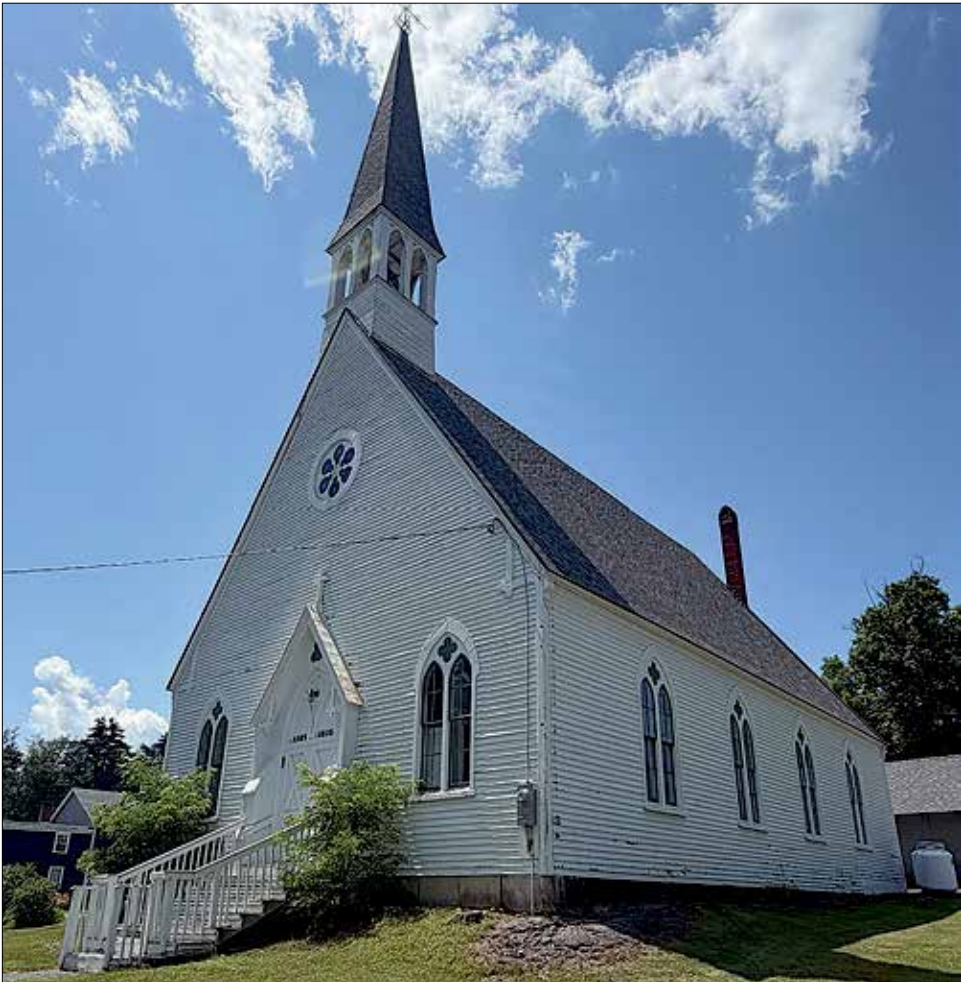
*2018 data including all Mahindra group brand sales.
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NH Seven to Save List



Woodbury Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (Antrim) Built in 1904, the Woodbury Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is a distinctive example of Shingle Style architecture and one of a kind in New Hampshire. With its unusual sanctuary, bell tower, and stained-glass windows, the building has long served as a community gathering place. Plans call for the former church to house the Antrim Historical Society Museum and provide space for music, theater, and community programs. Although the building has been reroofed and damaged materials removed, water infiltration and deferred maintenance remain significant challenges.



Historic preservation: Constructed in 1875 on the site of an earlier church dating to 1789, South Weare Union Church retains an unusually complete collection of historic features, including original pews, a pipe organ, lancet windows, horse sheds, and a privy. For generations, the church has been a gathering place for worship, weddings, funerals, and community events. Recently named to the state's Seven to Save list, the property faces modern financial challenges—including town real estate taxes—as supporters work to raise funds for critical window, ceiling, and modern facility upgrades.

Former New London Hospital Chief Medical Officer sentenced in \$1.9 million Medicare Fraud

A former chief medical officer at New London Hospital was sentenced in federal court to 1 year and 1 day in prison for a scheme that billed Medicare \$1.9 million for unnecessary medical devices he prescribed to patients he had never consulted with or examined. Steven Powell, a 56-year-old former New Hampshire physician, was sentenced Oct. 13 by U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro, who recommended that Powell be incarcerated “at the lowest level of custody that can possibly be imposed” and “as close as possible to his family for visitation.” Powell must report to prison Nov. 13.

Powell, who lived in Grantham and now lives in Georgia, pleaded guilty in April 2023 in U.S. District Court in New Hampshire to health care fraud after federal prosecutors charged him with participating in a telemedicine-based fraud scheme in which he signed hundreds of medically unnecessary orders for durable medical equipment, including knee, wrist, back and shoulder braces, according to court documents. His sentencing has been repeatedly delayed since 2023 for reasons such as attorney scheduling conflicts and Powell undergoing a medical procedure.

Powell committed the Medicare fraud after resigning as chief medical officer of New London Hospital, where he worked for 15 years, the Valley News previously reported.

Between December 2018 and March 2019, Powell signed orders for more than 500 Medicare beneficiaries, resulting in roughly 1,400 claims submitted to Medicare totaling \$1,908,702 in fraudulent billing, of which Medicare paid \$761,202, according to court documents.

A telemedicine company, Expansion, generated fabricated medical records and routed them to Powell through

DocuSign for signature, court records show.

Powell was paid \$15 per consult to sign orders falsely stating he assessed or treated the patient to determine whether the medical devices were medically necessary.

The orders were then transmitted back to Expansion, which sold them to medical device suppliers that later submitted the claims to Medicare. The owner of Expansion, 42-year-old Steven Richardson, was sentenced in August to two years in federal prison followed by two years of supervised release in a \$110 million telemedicine fraud scheme involving medically unnecessary durable medical equipment.

Powell routinely ordered multiple braces per beneficiary, including two or more for nearly every patient and four or more for at least 71 beneficiaries, according to court documents. In December 2018, for example, he received a DocuSign packet containing 105 pages and requiring 75 signatures. According to records investigators reviewed, he completed every signature in one minute and 20 seconds, an average of 1.3 seconds per page. That packet included orders for four braces for a 77-year-old Medicare beneficiary who was immobile during the last year of his life. The man had never met Powell but received the braces in the mail without explanation, according to court documents.

“This repeated conduct demonstrates calculated decision-making and a willingness to prioritize personal financial gain over both legal obligations and patient welfare,” Assistant U.S. Attorney John Kennedy wrote in the government’s sentencing memorandum on Oct. 7, recommending a sentence of 18 months in prison.

“The defendant is an educated and experienced physician who had every opportunity to comply with the law and uphold the professional obligations that accompany a medical license,” John Kennedy wrote.

The health care fraud charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Court records show the defense did not file a sentencing memorandum.

Powell attended college and medical school in Georgia and later earned a Master of Public Health degree from The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice at Dartmouth College, the Valley News reported in June 2023. He completed a combined residency in psychiatry and internal medicine at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, where he also served as chief resident in the departments of internal medicine and psychiatry.

Powell had been business partners with Adnan Khan, a former Grantham physician convicted in April 2025 of unlawfully distributing opioid medication to patients.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of the Inspector General led the investigation into Powell’s actions, according to a Department of Justice press release on Oct. 13.

“Dr. Steven Powell abandoned all pretense of professional ethics when he caused nearly \$2 million in false Medicare bills from bogus prescriptions for medical equipment,” Ted Docks, special agent in charge of the FBI’s Boston Division, said in the release. “By looting these funds, this physician not only strained the system, but cheated the taxpayers who fund it.”

TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

People with gout are at an increased risk of illnesses such as heart disease and stroke. A groundbreaking new study has found that medicines used to treat gout can also reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with gout. The new research, which is published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, shows that treating gout to target blood urate levels also prevents heart attacks and stroke. Gout is a common form of arthritis where people have high levels of urate in their blood and urate crystals deposited inside and around their joints. Tablets such as allopurinol, taken at the right dose, reduce blood urate levels and dissolve urate crystal deposits. People with gout who achieve serum urate levels below 360 micromol/L (6 mg/dL) with urate lowering drugs such as allopurinol experience fewer gout flares.

• • •

A new landmark study published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* supports the safety of the common painkillers paracetamol and ibuprofen in the first year of life, and finds no link to eczema or bronchiolitis, a common respiratory illness. Previous research suggested a potential link between paracetamol use in the first year of life and later eczema, asthma and other diseases. Paracetamol (Acetaminophen Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, and Midol) are the most common medicines prescribed or bought over the counter for babies worldwide.

• • •

Many more people work very early morning shifts than overnight ones, and a large proportion struggle with excessive sleepiness from shift work disorder, leading to problems with focus, performance and safety. A new clinical trial found that the wake-promoting drug solriamfetol (Sunosi) helped early morning shift workers with shift work disorder stay more alert. Their results are published this week in *NEJM Evidence*.

• • •

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12 THINGS YOUR DENTIST KNOWS ABOUT YOU JUST BY LOOKING IN YOUR MOUTH: PART IV



Dr. Esin Narli

You Bite Your Nails
Without looking at your hands, a dentist may be able to detect this habit. Signs include chips and cracking of the teeth, plus wear and tear on the teeth from the constant stress on them. This can cause your teeth to become uneven and lead to jaw pain and discomfort. Patients that bite their nails using their front teeth usually have leveled off, flat front teeth. The nails themselves are not what cause the damage, but rather the contact that occurs between the top and bottom teeth.

You May Have an Eating Disorder
Many patients are surprised that their dentist is the first one to ask about eating disorders but bulimia exhibits a very distinct pattern of tooth wear that your dentist can easily identify. This erosion happens almost exclusively on the tongue-side of the front teeth and can contribute to increased cavities. But that acid erosion on the back of a patient's teeth does not always indicate an eating disorder. Other possibilities include acid reflux and the use of antidepressants or mood-elevating drugs, both of which reduce the amount of saliva in the mouth, thereby upping the odds of acid damage.

You Love Energy Drinks
You may know why you chipped your tooth, but even though the cause may be apparent, there could be underlying factors that weakened the tooth and made it susceptible to being chipped in the first place. Teeth can be softened by sodas and other sugary beverages over time, which may make a tooth more susceptible to chipping. Energy drinks, which tend to be even more acidic than soft drinks, may cause even more damage to tooth enamel.

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Tucker McCarthy offered conceptual plans for two three-story apartment buildings, each containing 25 rental units, on School Street.

Hillsborough Zoning Board asked to allow a Special Exception of a 48 unit apartment complex

A standing-room-only crowd packed the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting to voice unanimous disapproval for a proposed multi-family housing development at 73 School Street.

The public hearing centered on a request from developer David Fullerton for a special exception to allow a multi-family project exceeding four units. Civil engineer Tucker McCarthy presented conceptual site plans for two three-story apartment complexes, with each building slated to contain 24 rental units.

Abutters and local residents strongly opposed the project. Andrew Irvin, owner of Hillsboro House nursing home, reminded board members that a nearly identical dense housing proposal for the parcel was rejected in 1998. Irvin stressed the severe traffic hazards the development would introduce to the neighborhood corridor.



Citing that same historical precedent, resident Tom McClure argued that a board approval would directly override long-standing community consensus.

Adding to the traffic safety concerns, a local school crossing guard and a school janitor both testified about existing congestion issues along School Street, while resident Dana Ford highlighted the inevitable diminution of surrounding property values.

Resident Lisa Murdoch stated that the size of the complex was simply “not in character with the neighborhood.”

Zoning Board Vice Chairman Keith Cobbett agreed, noting that expanding the site footprint from 4 units to 48 units was “beyond imagination.”

The board scheduled an official site walk for October 26 and voted to continue the public hearing until November 10 at 6:00 p.m..

Warner approves a 34-unit workforce housing project

The Warner Planning Board approved a 34-unit workforce housing development in a split 4-3 vote. The approval carries strict conditions, as well as the board’s requirement of annual tenant income recertification, dictating that residents whose earnings rise more than 40% over the eligible threshold will no longer qualify for the workforce units.

Other approved stipulations include a strict environmental salt management protocol, documentation for

parking lot de-icing, and final safety sign-offs from both the local fire chief and the state fire marshal.

The project went before town planners this June, one year after a larger iteration was rejected by the Zoning Board. CATCH Neighborhood Housing challenged that initial denial in court and won, returning to the town with this downsized 34-unit blueprint, scaled back from the original 48-unit proposal.

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A quick response from fire dept. contains a major spill in Sunapee Harbor

Emergency crews successfully contained an unidentified oil slick in Sunapee Harbor on Monday afternoon, marking the second major hazardous material response in the heavily trafficked waterway in less than a week.

The Sunapee Fire Department was dispatched to the harbor at approximately 4:16 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19, following multiple reports from residents noticing a heavy chemical sheen on the water. Arriving fire units immediately confirmed a visible spill blanketing a substantial portion of the inner harbor, affecting the waters near the Indian Cave Docks, The Blue Canoe restaurant, and the shoreline adjacent to the Wild Goose Country Store.

Firefighters and shore personnel quickly mobilized to deploy floating containment booms and emergency absorption equipment, working under tight time constraints to block the expanding slick from drifting further into Lake Sunapee or down-

stream into the Sugar River. While the perimeter was successfully secured by 5:40 p.m. and initial cleanup operations commenced, crews ultimately had to suspend efforts for the night due to approaching darkness and safety considerations. The environmental booms remained anchored in place overnight and throughout the day on Tuesday, Oct. 20, as specialized teams returned to resume cleanup efforts and conduct further assessments of the affected shoreline.

During the initial response, fire personnel and municipal workers conducted an extensive investigation of the surrounding docks, drainage points, and local vessels in an attempt to pinpoint the source of the leak. While that search proved unsuccessful, responders successfully skimmed samples of the fluid for analysis. Preliminary visual reviews of the samples and scene photographs by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental



Services (NH DES) suggest the material may be commercial gear oil or heavy hydraulic fluid. Local officials from the Sunapee Water and Sewer Department were notified and confirmed that town drinking water infrastructure remains safe, as the local intake

valve sits 30 feet below the lake's surface, well insulated from the surface slick.

Fire officials clarified that Monday's incident is entirely unrelated to a separate hydraulic line rupture that occurred Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the Su-

napee Harbor West Docks. That previous spill, which involved a contractor's crane pulling boats from the water ahead of the winter freeze, was completely mitigated last week, and officials emphasize that the two harbor incidents are entirely separate.



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Hillsboro man arrested, charged with Criminal Threatening

On October 23, 2026, at approximately 3:00 p.m., Hillsboro Police responded to Windsor Road after a resident reported that a man pointed a firearm at her as she drove by.

Officers located the suspect, identified as 67-year-old Sterling Silva of Hillsboro, but did not find a firearm in his possession.

Based on the investigation, officers searched a nearby wooded area. A K-9 trained in firearm detection was deployed and located a firearm and loaded magazine concealed beneath leaves near a tree. Silva was arrested on multiple counts of Criminal Threatening, Falsifying Physical Evidence, and Reckless Conduct with a Deadly Weapon. He was held without bail until his arraignment, held Monday, October 26, 2026.

Santa's Helpers need your help

The Santa's Helpers Project, sponsored by the Hillsboro District Food Pantry, is seeking donations of small items suitable for Christmas stockings (crayons, coloring books, Play-Doh, small toys, personal care items, etc.) and donations of toys and other items for gift giving under the tree.

Donations can be left at the Food Pantry during their Tuesday open hours from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For families who need assistance with the holiday, organizers will be handing out items for children ages infant to 18 at the Hillsboro Methodist Church, 16 Henniker Street in Hillsboro (use the back entrance), on Tuesday, Dec. 8, and Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

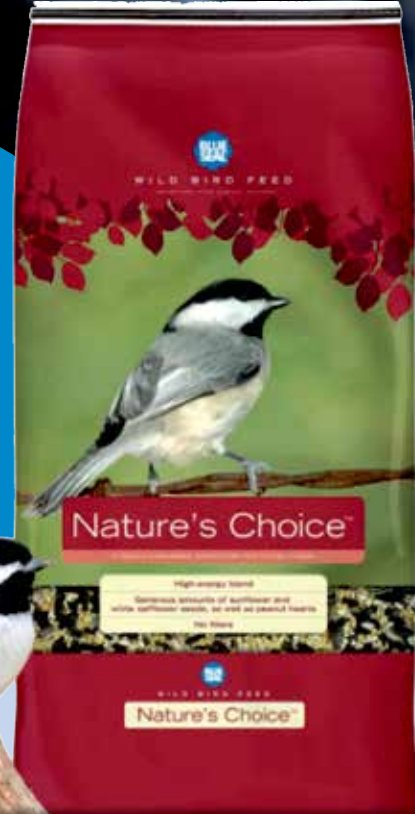
For more information please contact Laura Gould at 603-464-4007.

HILLSBORO-DEERING COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARIZED BUDGET BY FUNCTION				
	FY 2025 UNAUDITED	FY 2026 BUDGET	FY 2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE
REGULAR INSTRUCTION - 1100	\$ 9,765,685	\$ 9,893,948	\$ 8,867,066	(1,026,882)
SPECIAL EDUCATION - 1200	4,571,824	4,948,439	5,031,811	83,372
VOCATIONAL TUITION - 1300	107,696	50,000	62,000	12,000
ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS - 1400	363,554	364,040	339,283	(24,757)
GUIDANCE - 2120	1,009,545	1,136,575	1,075,737	(60,837)
NURSE - 2130	320,531	372,214	389,528	17,313
PSYCH - 2140	331,523	368,886	397,162	28,276
SPEECH/LANGUAGE - 2150	448,543	457,124	489,052	31,928
OCC & PHYS THERAPY - 2160	321,999	366,796	405,333	38,537
INTERPRETOR/TUTOR - 2170	77,105	85,633	77,772	(7,861)
IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION - 2210	122,963	143,223	141,155	(2,068)
MEDIA/LIBRARY - 2220	1,153,464	1,309,280	1,262,151	(47,129)
SCHOOL BOARD - 2310	87,950	118,776	96,772	(22,005)
*ADMINISTRATION - 2320	133,268	124,112	143,427	19,315
OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL - 2410	1,380,266	1,405,286	1,507,525	102,239
MAINTENANCE - 2600	2,377,869	2,273,003	2,233,658	(39,345)
TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM SCHOOL - 2721	692,830	670,986	711,094	40,108
TRANSPORTATION SPED TO/FROM SCHOOL - 2722	317,554	366,087	257,949	(108,138)
TRANSPORTATION VOC EDUCATION - 2723	85,723	85,723	93,613	7,890
TRANSPORTATION ATHLETICS - 2724	47,836	50,248	51,385	1,137
TRANSPORATION FIELD TRIPS - 2725	34,598	47,500	41,200	(6,300)
FOOD SERVICE FUND TRANSFER - 5221	75,000	75,000	118,000	43,000
TRANSFER to EIF - 5250	270,000	362,500	362,500	-
Grand Total:	\$24,097,325	\$25,075,378	\$24,155,173	N/A
FOOD SERVICE FUND TOTAL	\$ 753,704	\$ 850,000	\$ 775,000	
FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS TOTAL	\$ 1,148,183	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,250,000	

*This line does not include the School Administrative Unit (SAU) apportionment which is voted upon in a separate warrant article. The proposed SAU budget, if passed, would add \$990,015 to the FY 2027 budget.



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Truck driver arrested in Bow on multiple offenses



Edgar Ramirez

The Bow NH Police Department arrested a tractor-trailer driver on multiple charges after responding to a report of a commercial vehicle blocking Bow school buses at the bus parking lot at 12 Robinson Road.

Officers responded to the reported incident and contacted the driver, who was ultimately determined to be driving while intoxicated.

The driver refused to exit the tractor-trailer despite officers' commands. Officers needed to remove the driver from the ve-

hicle and took him into custody after a brief struggle.

The driver was identified as Edgar Ramirez, 33 years old, from Odessa, TX.

During the investigation, officers located approximately 170 beer bottles inside the cab of the tractor-trailer.

Several hours earlier, the Bow Police Department was searching for this same tractor trailer after it was reportedly leaving a truck stop with an intoxicated driver.

At that time, officers were not able to locate the truck.

Ramirez was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated, 2nd Open Container of Alcohol, Resisting Arrest.

Ramirez was held until his arraignment, which occurred on Monday, October 26, 2026, in the 6th Circuit - District Division - Concord Court.





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Kearsarge Superintendent briefs Newbury Select Board on school funding problems



Michael Bessette recently met with the Newbury Select Board to discuss House Bills 1300 and 1374, noting that a district assessment has identified \$35 million in needed capital repairs. Bessette addressed the potential impact of HB 1300's tax-cap provisions alongside proposed school closures, explaining that the legislation would significantly alter the district's statutory budgeting process.

Select Board Chair Kristen Schultz noted she was serving strictly as a town official, not as a School Board member.

To fund repairs, the district is evaluating a capital plan to invest \$2 million annually over

the next decade through 20-year municipal bonds. Sutton Central Elementary—which serves 64 students and costs nearly \$3 million annually to operate—requires \$2 million in structural repairs. Bessette stated that consolidating Sutton students and staff into other regional facilities would yield roughly \$1.7 million in annual savings. Meanwhile, the 150-year-old Simonds Elementary requires an estimated \$6 million in upgrades despite having a stable infrastructure.

Bessette clarified that the widely cited \$33,000 per-pupil figure represents Simonds' total operational budget divided by enrollment, rather than direct spending per student.

The Sutton facility remains highly inefficient regarding per-pupil expenditures, with local property taxpayers bearing 70% of all public education funding. While Bradford Elementary could accommodate

Simonds' 120 students, doing so would eliminate dedicated classrooms for music, art, and special-needs programming, requiring a \$22 million expansion and renovation.

Under HB 1374, the state's school-closing petitions law, a town vote regarding the closure

of Sutton Elementary is tracking toward a Dec. 5 deadline.

If passed, Bessette would be legally required to close the Sutton facility by July 1, 2027.

Bessette affirmed the district will follow all New Hampshire statutory requirements. He explained that unless financed

through voter-approved bonds, all capital repair costs would fall directly under the strict tax cap.

If the tax cap is enacted following the Nov. 3 election, the district must bond those long-term maintenance costs to keep facilities operational and repaired.



Congratulations to Hillsborough's own Hunt's Sugar House for winning "Best Amber Maple Syrup" in North America. The award highlights the dedicated efforts of Mitchell, Teresa, Charlie, and the entire Hunt family.

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Dunbarton man arrested on multiple charges related to theft



Andrew Leduc

A Dunbarton man faces a mountain of felony and misdemeanor charges following a multi-agency, monthslong stolen property investigation that uncovered a massive cache of stolen tools, a missing motorcycle, illicit drugs, and long-term utility fraud.

Andrew Leduc, 47, of Dunbarton, was processed on an arrest warrant Tuesday, Oct. 20, while already being held at the Merrimack County House of Corrections on separate charges. The sweeping investigation originally began earlier this year after

local authorities received initial reports of a large-scale commercial tool theft.

Following the execution of multiple coordinated search warrants at Leduc's residence, investigators successfully recovered an estimated \$14,500 worth of stolen equipment, including heavy-duty jack stands, a welder, various drills, socket sets, batteries, and specialty hand tools. Officers also located a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that was reported stolen out of Hooksett in 2023, alongside quantities of methamphetamine and associated drug paraphernalia. Numerous other tools and pieces of equipment believed to be stolen were also seized by officers on the scene for further verification.

Beyond the stolen property, detectives discovered that the home's electrical meter had been

completely bypassed. Power had been illegally siphoned to the property for a continuous period of more than two years, resulting in a total estimated financial loss exceeding \$12,000 for a local utility provider.

Leduc is officially charged with multiple offenses, including two Class A felony counts of receiving stolen property, Class A felony theft of services, Class B felony common nuisance under the Controlled Drug Act, and Class B felony tampering with witnesses or informants. He also faces misdemeanor counts of receiving stolen property, theft of utility services, and possession of property without serial numbers. Leduc was arraigned the following day in the 6th Circuit District Division Court in Concord, and further judicial proceedings remain pending.



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DEADLINE:

Monday at 5pm prior to Friday publication.

ADVERTISEMENT ERRORS:

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 Couple Of Questions

As a life-long Republican I don't expect Democrat readers to take my advice, but I do ask that, before you cast your vote on Tuesday, please truthfully answer these two questions.

1. IS AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS? As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the world's most free, most prosperous, most generous, most accommodating nation on the face of the earth, are we now drifting dangerously left, as the once proud Democrat Party embraces Socialism, Communism and the Muslim brotherhood, and is

that really where you want us to go?

2. WHO PAYS? Free, Free, Free. Increasingly that is all we hear from Democrat candidates. If we give free universal healthcare, free tuition, and free food, not only to all American citizens, but also to illegal aliens, Who Pays? There are not enough billionaires to tax to the fullest, to cover the cost. The only ones left to pay are you and me.

Please answer these questions honestly. They may give you a hint who to vote for. LDB

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I often see democrats online saying, "NH property taxes are rising due to state revenue cuts." This is patently false. First of all, property taxes are only rising because the democrats who are complaining are voting for ridiculous amounts of spending without even batting an eye at town and school meetings. In my town of Bradford alone, we spend around \$700,000 to fund a police department in a town with 1,700 residents and a 0% violent crime rate. I guess in the eyes of democrats the state should pay for that too? Or how about the school district we are a part of which spends \$56 million for roughly 1,700 kids, yes, we spend over \$33,000 per kid. Over twice the national average, and significantly higher than the NH average. No amount of funding will save these schools. If they couldn't make it work a decade ago with a \$35 million budget, and they can't make it work now with a \$56 million budget, they aren't going to make it work with any amount of money. The schools and towns problem is not funding, and it has never been funding. It is spending and only spending.

FACT: Despite decreasing enrollments every single year, the state of NH has continued to fund education at record numbers. Meanwhile, enrollment has fallen by 16%, and the state has increased its education funding by 58% (from \$451,640,255 in 2004 to \$715,470,267 in 2026). This number means the state is giving roughly \$7,300 per kid. If schools spent even close to the national average this would put NH in the middle of the pack for state contribution. It is more than adequate to cover costs the problem is schools choose to overspend. In my town of Bradford, despite only gaining 1 kid in 6 years, the funding from the state has gone from 892K in 2020 to 1.3M in 2026. Warner has lost 21 kids but has gone from 1.5M in 2020 to 1.8M in 2026. Franklin has lost 94 students and has gone from 4.8M in 2020 to 10.3M in 2026. Where is the downshift? This is the same trend for every single city/town in the state. The state is not responsible for your overspending in the same way that you are not responsible for someone else's credit card debt. It is not the state's purview to spend other people's money to fund your reckless spending. There is also no correlation between spending money and student outcomes. FACT: In the last 5 years the state has doubled its contribution sent back to cities and towns from the rooms and meals tax. In my town of Bradford, we received \$85,470.02 in 2020 and in 2026 \$169,060.44 which is a 98% increase in funding back to my

town. Someone please explain how this is a downshift?

Remember when you vote this November that the democrats messaging is complete lies. Their candidates are out to lunch, and they will increase the budget by numbers that will make your jaw fall to the floor. Just in the last budget cycle alone they proposed almost 2 billion dollars in new spending that will have to come from us. Their entire goal is to inflate the budget so much that they must use other tax options to balance it which will inevitably lead us to an income and sales tax. They already did that last time they were in charge and thankfully we elected a republican legislature that removed the wasteful and excessive spending. As a NH native, I believe that this state is worth defending. Not a single person in this state can afford a democratic majority in Concord. Taxes are not affordable, and the Democrat "solutions" to non-existent problems will cost you more money. You can count on that!

Spencer Wyand, Bradford

Letter to the Editor

Twisting Facts and Selling Fantasy I attended a candidate night for District 8 – Henniker, Bradford, Warner – on Wednesday 10/20/2026. The subject of Kearsarge School Facilities became a hot issue. A recently completed study is making the rounds in the school district with the blessing of the school committee. Kearsarge taxpayers are facing a 50 million dollar bond to repair school buildings. Alternatively, closing two elementary schools will allow a smaller 25 million dollar bond. Closing schools is a hot topic; it's akin to the proverbial '3rd rail issue' in politics. Deadly. Rebecca Harned is running for State Senate and District 8 is part of the senate district. She is on the municipal budget committee of the Kearsarge Schools. Her comments were jaw dropping. Ms. Harned stated (paraphrase) 'I have not been informed on this matter; the situation is raising more questions than answers. This matter should be tabled until further discussion and information is forthcoming.' How does one sit on a financial committee for the schools and not know about this debacle hitting our school district? I've known about it for 3 years; I ask around and seek answers. The municipal budget committee is privy to all aspects of school finance. All elected officials have been quiet on the matter until now. This was the plan; hide to problem for a few years then spring it on the taxpayer. Ms Harned's response falls short of reality. Not know what is going on in the school finance's when you ►



Letters to the Editor continued

sit on the municipal budget committee. Spare me the false innocence. Is it dereliction of elected duty? Are others on the Kearsarge School Board and Municipal Budget Committee also guilty? However, Ms. Harned would like to be a State Senator. Her optics on integrity and candor leave a big hole in that answer.

Stephen Pierce, Bradford,

Dear Editor:

I am proud to endorse Natalie Wells for State Representative. I had the honor of serving with Natalie in the New Hampshire House during 2021-2022 term when I served as Speaker. Natalie was a principled, hardworking member of our Republican majority who showed up, did the work, and never forgot who she was there to represent.

Natalie is a conservative who understands what matters most to Granite Staters: safety, prosperity, and freedom. She has been a strong voice for fiscal responsibility, parental rights, and protecting our New Hampshire values. In Concord, she was someone I could count on to stand for limited government and common-sense solutions, and to respect the institution of the House while fighting for her district.

We need proven, principled Republicans like Natalie Wells back in Concord.

I ask the voters of Bradford, Henniker and Warner to join me in supporting Natalie Wells for State Representative.

Speaker Sherman Packard NH House

Dear Editor:

The democrat messaging this election cycle is pretty wild. Let's start with the most obvious evidence: Has any democrat in the state of NH ever been endorsed by any anti-tax organization, has any prominent democrat from any town in the state ever stood up at a town meeting or school board meeting and questioned the spending? Has any democrat running for office or in your town come out in support of the property tax cap question on the ballot? Every single action every single democrat takes every single year is to increase spending at the state, local, and school level and now they are running on the mantra of lowering taxes? Yea, right.

I remember a time when democrats ran on the idea that by increasing spending, they will create more services to create a better NH, although I do not generally agree with this, this was at least an arguable point. Now, many of their candidates are running on a "I will decrease your taxes" line. Meanwhile, democrat voters across the state do not even want lower taxes. They may say they do but actions speak louder than words. We see the votes they take. We know why our property taxes go up.

The fact that the democrat side is now trying to spin this and gaslight us to try and win in November is actually, not that surprising because they have no productive solutions to the problems they imagine, so they must try something. People act like somehow electing democrats will be a "positive change in NH." The only change it will be is to make us like Maine, Vermont, Mass, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York. NH ranks and consistently ranks as the top state or top 5 state in so many crucial metrics all because of the Republi-

can/Libertarian minded state legislature and the checks on spending and government bloat.

Dear Editor:

I oppose a school budget cap, though I'm a retiree struggling with high property taxes. Why?

Because well-educated children are the future of democracy, and 85% of NH children attend public schools. I trust education professionals to know what is necessary for good schools.

Also, the cap in HR 1300 is misleading. It would not necessarily lower our taxes; it's linked to inflation, now soaring because of Washington's war in Iran. And a two-year cap prevents schools from adjusting to unexpected costs like rising energy prices, health insurance premiums, and other volatile unknowns.

A school district must control its own budget and be accountable only to the towns it serves.

Not a General Court seemingly bent on stripping public resources through tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy, to the tune of \$3 billion in the past years, funds that would more than pay for schools, Medicaid, SNAP, childcare, and infrastructure. And reduce our property taxes as well.

The capper for me was learning that in 2024, the NH Education Freedom Accounts allowed NH students to spend upwards of \$750,000 of our tax dollars at 44 private schools in 11 states, from Maine to California, including prestigious Ethel Walker in CT! Wealthy people don't have the right to choose private schooling at the expense of NH's public school system. It's wrong.

Don't be tricked. Join me in voting NO on HB 1300, and vote for General Court Candidates who support robust NH public schools and responsible stewardship of NH's tax dollars.

Lucinda Winslow, Antrim

Dear Editor:

Question 2 on the November 3 ballot asks whether to limit school property tax growth and cap the SAU central office at 6% of district appropriations. This is not about cutting students' and teachers' instructional needs.

SAU 34 is the central administrative office that serves Hillsborough, Deering, Washington and Windsor. Its budget is not open to amendment from the legislative body, leaving the public taxpayers with little say in it.

I've been looking at the SAU's spending and am left asking why was a new position created for Grant Geisler to stay on the payroll? Mr. Geisler resigned as SAU Business Manager effective June 30, 2024; Becky Minichiello was promoted to fill the vacancy. At the time, Mr. Geisler's pay was \$117,300, about \$56.40 an hour. Two years later, he's still on the payroll but now at \$75 an hour.

The March 2026 appointments memo says Mr. Geisler's position is Federal Projects Fiscal Manager and Business Office Support. His "Activity Agreement," provided to me says his position is a Grant Manager. The job description the SAU sent me is for an Accounts Payable and Federal Funds Bookkeeper. Three titles, one person. Which job is it? I think

the SAU board should tell us the duties and why \$75 / hour.

Let's not forget the 2024 audit...The auditors found the greenhouse was coded to building and grounds repairs and maintenance with no capital outlay budget and called it a violation of RSA 32:10. Mr. Geisler was the person at the school board meeting who pushed for that project to be approved before the March 2024 Town elections and who coded the building acquisition capital outlay expenses to repairs and maintenance.

Let's also not forget that our SAU has been retaining an unassigned fund balance that was \$267,512 in the 2024 audit and \$238,535 in 2025. That's money retained from us being overtaxed year after year!

Meanwhile, student population at Hillsboro-Deering continues to decrease while SAU 34's headcount went from 9 employees up to 10, and the guy who quit received a pay increase for a position that is not defined. I wonder if the SAU board can show us what this position adds to the students' instructional needs.

Riché Colcombe, Hillsborough

Dear Editor:

Governor Kelly Ayotte advocates natural gas and small modular nuclear plants to lower electricity bills and heat NH homes. Same platform she ran on in 2024.

So where are these small nuclear plants? In R&D. Not a single SMR is in commercial use in the US, and none will produce energy (let alone cheap energy) until at least 2035.

What about natural gas? Not here either. The queue for delivery of gas turbine generators is backed up to 2032, thanks to data center demand (which Ayotte also supports).

Expect 15% electricity cost increases and \$1000s more this winter for heating oil. What's Kelly doing about this? She's watching energy costs for NH residents climb, while going along with Trump's veto of offshore wind-farms. Starting this year, each farm was scheduled to pump a nuclear power plant's worth of the cheapest available energy into the NE grid.

What about home- and community-scale solar panels that can deliver electricity at 10 cents or less a kWh? Ayotte allowed extremists in the Legislature to throw every regulatory obstacle in the way. 5MW community solar plants could be set up and running in 6-12 months, if Republican legislation weren't hamstringing their development. Batteries are already smoothing renewable energy production. They'll only get better over time.

Kelly Ayotte has no viable energy policy – besides accepting funds from the fossil fuel lobby that wants to run this state from Texas by flooding our Legislature with campaign money.

In contrast, the Warmington energy policy will be based on good old-fashioned New England common sense and self-reliance. No dependency upon Koch brothers or Mideast oil. Regulatory and legislative support for rapid deployment of the cheapest energy sources. Full support for solar energy. Let's get this done.

Paul Fiondella, Stoddard

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US SENATOR



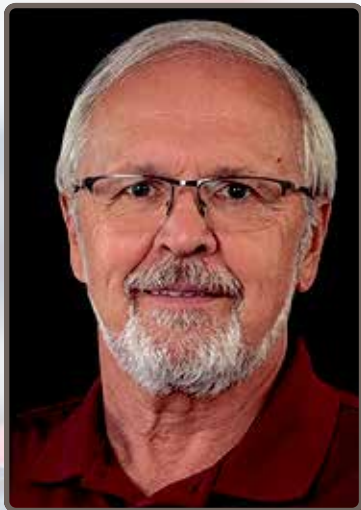
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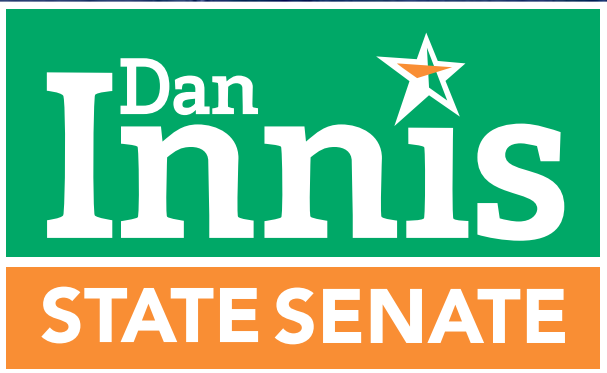
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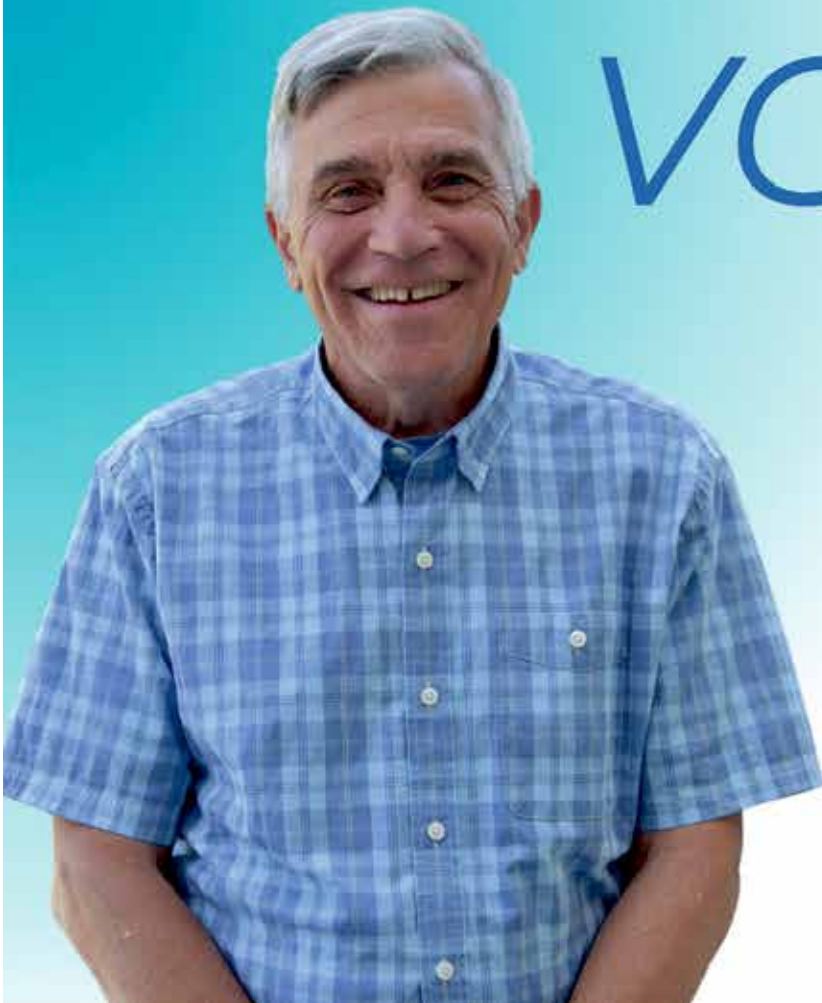
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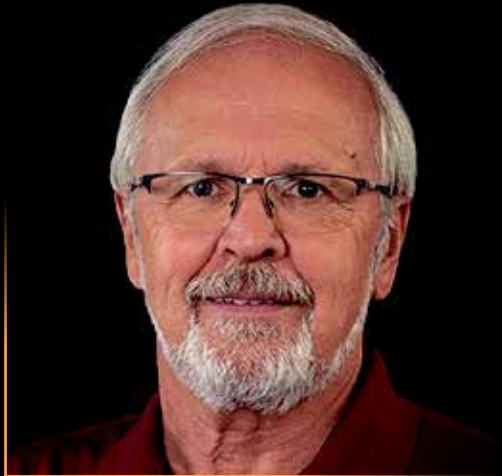
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AN OPEN LETTER

To the Women of Deering and Francestown



I’ve been married to Tim for 34 years, and I’ve never seen him walk away from a problem he could help solve. I’ve watched how he handles life’s good times and bad, for our family, in business, and in the community. That’s why I want to share with you, woman to woman, that he will make a great State Representative for District 27.

Tim is a hard worker, a problem-solver, and remarkably patient, and the ease with which he does it all is truly inspiring!

Online rhetoric and partisan politics have divided even our small towns. Tim brings people together. He’ll use his skills to bridge differences with integrity, honesty & open communication.

Tim is generous with his time and expertise. He has served on our church vestry and the Budget Advisory Committee, spoken at conferences, and mentored students pursuing careers in financial services. Now he’s making that same commitment to our towns, carrying our local voice to the Legislature. Voters will soon discover what I’ve long known, he is genuinely committed to finding common ground.

Tim has spent 40 years making the numbers work for communities like ours, and I know he’ll bring that same care to Concord for you and your family.

On November 3rd, I hope you’ll join me in voting for him.

Sincerely,
Amy Coffin

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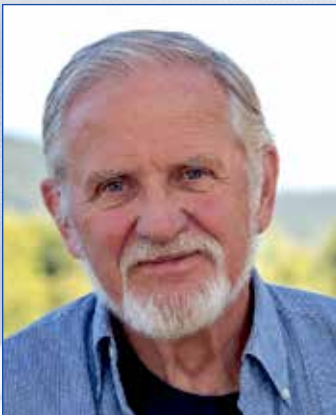
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Obituaries: Friends & Neighbors Remembered

Patricia Mathison

Hillsboro - Patricia Mathison, 81, of Hillsboro, New Hampshire, passed away in Peterborough, on September 17, 2026. Born in Farmington, Connecticut, on February 24, 1945, Patricia was the daughter of Lillian and Robert Sperry. She is survived by her husband, Glenn Mathison; her son, Jasper Elder III; and several grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at St. Andrew’s Church in Hopkinton, on November 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.



Alice L. Worden

Hillsboro - Alice L. Worden passed away peacefully on October 20, 2026 at Presidential Oaks in Concord, NH. She was born on December 30, 1935. She was predeceased by her parents, Lawrence and Ethel Dodge Southwick; her husband, Lawrence Worden; her sister, Betty Dinsmore. She is survived by her sons, Steven Blanchette and his wife Amanda, Mark Blanchette and his wife Sandy; her daughters, Diane Butler and her husband John Butler, Susan Higgins and her husband Andy Higgins; special step daughter, Pam Worden; half sisters, Lorrie McLean, Bonnie Nielsen, Cheryl Rockwell. Many grand, great grand and great great grandchildren. A graveside service will be held at



10:30 a.m. on October 31st at Evergreen Cemetery on Old Stagecoach Rd., Bennington, NH. A reception with refreshments will follow the service at Susan Higgins, 211 West Main St Hillsboro.

Robert W. Burke, CTRC USN Ret.

Contoocook - Robert “Bob” Burke, 92, of Contoocook passed away peacefully in his home on October 20, 2026. Born in Hyanis, Massachusetts on March 6, 1934, Robert is survived by his daughter, Betti Burke; stepdaughter, Michelle Korbet; seven grandchildren: Adam, Jonathan, John, Rachel, Sr Bernadette, Tara, and Zachary; 18 great-grandchildren; and 3 nieces, Donna, Fran and Sandy. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, James Burke; his first wife, Virginia Burke; his true love, Jean Robertson; his sons, Philip and Alan Burke; and his granddaughter, Jacquelyn. In accordance with Robert’s wishes, a private service will be held to honor his life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NH Audubon, Attn: Development, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord.



Elaine LaCroix

Contoocook - Elaine Frances (Shannon) LaCroix passed away on October 15, 2026 with her daughter by her side after a brief battle with aggressive cancer. Elaine was born in Lowell, Mass on December 19, 1942. She was the only child of Yvette Yolande (Brissette) Shannon and Francis



Shannon. Elaine is survived by her daughter Danielle LaCroix Meserve, her son-in-law, Dan Meserve of Contoocook, NH, and her three beloved grandchildren: Nicholas, Timothy, and Katelyn. The family will be holding two Celebrations of Life, one in New Hampshire on her birthday, December 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Fratello’s in Manchester and one in the Villages at a later date. If you would like to honor Elaine, please consider a donation to this wonderful organization at www.granitevna.org/donate.

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NATALIE WELLS ASKS FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOV. 3rd

MERRIMACK DISTRICT 8 (Bradford, Henniker, Warner)



I believe most NH citizens are happy with our state being different than our neighboring states. And I believe that is what THIS election is about. Wallet Hub ranks our 50 states on taxpayer returns on investment. Once again, “NH is ranked #1.” This is due to NH’s lack of an Income Tax and this is just one of NH’s Advantage.

Having served two terms in the state legislature, my record will show that I voted to protect NH and will Continue to Support:

- Lower taxes (especially NO sales or income tax)
- Protecting our elections which includes showing a positive ID to vote.
- Ensuring parental support for their children’s education and upbringing.
- Protecting Girls in sports and locker rooms.
- Sensible zoning that respects property owner’s rights to be free from intrusive zoning restrictions.
- The continued exploration for sensible energy sources.
- Ensuring NH remains a caring environment for retirees and our servicemen.
- Protecting all our Constitutional rights as Americans.

Elect Republican

Natalie WELLS

Bradford | Henniker | Warner

STATE REP.

We are fortunate to live in this wonderful place. It’s an honor that so many see our state as where they want to live and raise their family. NH is the last beacon of light in New England. Let’s stand strong together, keep NH – NH. **I ask for your Vote and support on November 3rd.**

Respectfully, Natalie Wells <https://nataliewellsnh.com> <https://facebook.com/nataliewellsfornh> nataliewells4nh@gmail.com

Events: Community Bulletin Board

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31

PUNCH DRUNK REVIVAL: 7pm at the American Legion Young Richardson Post 59 Halloween Bash. Located at 538 W Main St, Hillsborough, NH. A casual adult Halloween party with a live music performance.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

SAVOR THE SEASON TEA: at Smith Church, Hillsborough, at 2pm. Seating is limited. Admission is \$20 by reservation or \$25 that day at the door. Please contact Judy at 603-715-1414 or by e-mail - judy@hatco.com to reserve. A full 3 course menu of homemade fall flavors, shopping at the Tea Emporium, raffle baskets, surprises await. Smith Church is accessible to all. Payment for everything is by cash or check.

FRANCESTOWN COFFEEHOUSE: performance begins at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm at the Francetown Town Hall. Variety of music with featured act the Lion Sisters. Also artist's display by Betsy Green, along with snack foods. \$8 suggested donation per person. See francetowncoffeehouse.org.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

OH RATS! I'VE GOT RATS, NOW WHAT? 6pm at Fuller Public Library, 29 School St, Hillsborough. Free Informa-

tional workshop led by local rodent control expert Wendy Berry on managing rat and mouse issues around backyards and coops. To register, call 603-464-3595 or email: director@fullerlibrary.info

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22

COMMUNITY WORSHIP: at 3pm, a community Thanksgiv-

ing worship service will be held at the Deering Community Church (763 Deering Center Road, Deering). Co-hosted by the Hillsboro Methodist Church, St. Mary Catholic Church, and Smith Memorial Church, UCC, this annual service is open to all in the community. Our offering this year will be for the Hillsboro District Food Pantry.



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No. 2026-04

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:7 that the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing for an Appeal of Administrative Decision of the interpretation of the Loon Pond Ordinance. The property is located at 164 County Road (Map 5 Lot 136) in the Rural Zone in the Loon Pond Watershed.

Hearing for this application will be presented to the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment on **Tuesday, November 10, 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.



Town of Hillsborough NH LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No. 2026-05

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:7 that the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing for a Variance to construct a carport extending into the side setback. The property is located at 71 Myrtle Street (Map 23 Lot 8) in the Village Residential Zone.

The hearing for this application will be presented to the Hillsborough Zoning Board of Adjustment on **Tuesday, November 10, 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.

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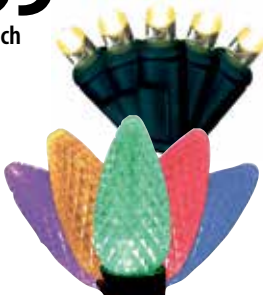
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