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The Record



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

LOCAL NEWS
**COVID Cancels
Holiday Events**

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Candidates Before You Vote. Pages 10 to 23

Littleton Cancels Halloween Events Due To COVID Concerns

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — On the heels of the canceled Christmas parade, the community's annual lighting of the jack-o-lanterns, Halloween bonfire, haunted walk, and Main Street trick-or-treating has become another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event was set for Sat. Oct. 24, but on Friday, Dave Harkless, organizer for the jack-o-lanterns and bonfire, announced on Friday that it would not go on.

"We had to pull the plug and play it safe," said Harkless, who was hopeful a few weeks ago. "There were a number of things. The town got anxious about it and didn't feel they could work with the project without liability issues. Parks and Rec was going to be in on it, but they had to pull out and there weren't enough volunteers. The wheels just came off the bus."

In a good year with good weather, the event and its gathering of the jack-o-lanterns that are lit on the rocks of the Ammonoosuc River can draw 2,000 people, and Main Street can have several hundred trick-or-treating children, said Harkless.

Is it not an official town event but a community effort that involves partners that have included the Littleton Rotary Club and Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce.

A few weeks ago, plan to proceed was humming along until New Hampshire saw a recent uptick in positive COVID-19 cases, he said.

"The event was nine days away and it was not going to get any better in



nine days," said Harkless.

One of the questions was how could everyone turning out be required to wear masks, he said.

"It's been a great event and it's a little disappointing, but given the current climate, it's understandable," said Littleton Town Manager Andrew Dorsett.

Event organizers were able to give back the pumpkins.

"We were fortunate we were able to return out pumpkins we got earlier this week" said Harkless. "We had 360 and had 300 that we gave back."

The remaining pumpkins will be handed over to nonprofits that want to do carving.

On the upside, Littleton has had some successful events during the pandemic, said Harkless.

"The farmers market did it right this year," he said. "They had one-way traffic and required masks. But you never really had more than 100 people at the farmers market."

And one Halloween activity sponsored by the Littleton Police Department has been able to proceed - the COVID-friendly Great Pumpkin Challenge.

It began Oct. 7 and involves 15 golden pumpkins with a golden ticket attached.

Each week day until Oct. 29, a new pumpkin will appear somewhere in town, challenging families to find them. Clues are provided on the police departments web site and social media pages.

The drawing for the grand prize, offering experiences valued at more than \$200 for the winning family, will be held on Oct. 31.

"We started this a few years ago and it's pretty fun for families and is something to get families out and doing things," said Jamie Allaire administrative assistant for LPD.

Another police department-sponsored activity is the Pumpkinhead People Contest.

Residences and businesses can build displays with pumpkins and have themes. When a display is completed, Littleton police take a photograph of it. The judging will take place on Halloween, Sat. Oct. 31.

One residence will be selected as a winner and one business selected a winner.

... Christmas Parade Called Off Too

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

The Littleton Christmas Parade has been called off.

Slated for Nov. 27, the popular event was canceled due to a lack of liability insurance, said organizer Dennis Hartwell on Thursday.

"It's a big disappointment," Hartwell said.

The parade parted ways with longtime sponsor the Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce after last year's event. The Town of Littleton came on as a sponsor this year, in order to provide liability insurance.

However the town withdrew support due to concerns over crowd size, social distance, and COVID transmission risk.

The event typically draws over 1,000 spectators.

Said Hartwell, "I was contacted by town officials today that they are not comfortable with me doing the Littleton Christmas Parade this year. Normally, they would cover the parade with the town's liability insurance [but] this year they have opted to pull out."

Hartwell cannot afford to insure the event on his own. Without town insurance, he would be liable for any injury, accident or incident. That includes fines associated with a New Hampshire mask order for crowds over 100.

He called the cancellation unfortunate but added that he "can certainly understand" the town's reasons for withdrawing support of the event.

Despite the parade being canceled, Hartwell and Parks and Recreation Director Chris Wilkins are working on plans to bring Santa Claus to town in a socially distant manner.

Since 1986, Littleton has hosted a Christmas Parade on the Friday after Thanksgiving. It typically features over 60 entries.

This year's parade theme "Christmas Stories Based on Books, TV and Film" will be continued to 2021. This year's sponsors will be given the option of a refund or rolling over their sponsorship to next year.

Earlier this year other parades were cancelled for public safety reasons in Derby (July 4th), Franconia (Old Home Day), Lancaster (July 4th), Lisbon (Lilac Festival), Lyndonville (Stars & Stripes), St. Johnsbury (Memorial Day, Halloween), and Woodsville-Wells River (July 4th).

New Hampshire currently has 829 active COVID cases. Locally, three communities have under four confirmed cases: Lancaster, Lisbon and Stark. To date the state has reported 9,426 positive cases, 761 hospitalizations, and 463 deaths.

Bethlehem Christmas Parade Nixed, Resident Halloween Event Proceeding

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

Christmas in Bethlehem, the holiday event featuring Santa Claus, workshops for children, music, a parade and fireworks, is canceled for 2020 because of health and safety concerns during the coronavirus.

"We can't do it because we serve food and other things and it just wouldn't be good," Jack Anderson, Bethlehem's fire chief and emergency management director, said Tuesday.

The day-long family event that has been an annual tradition for a decade takes place on the first Saturday of December and draws between 500 and 600 people, turning out for a holiday bazaar at the Methodist church, a community

lunch, holiday sales at downtown shops, meeting Santa Claus, the grant-a-wish tree, crafts workshops, a pop-up photo studio, a reading of the names for the veterans tree, a giant bonfire, lighting of the grand tree, entertainment, and fireworks as the grand finale.

"It's not a good place to practice social distancing," said Anderson. "Hopefully, we can do it next year."

Proceeding for Halloween, which this year falls on a Saturday, is a resident-organized trunk-or-treat event at the town gazebo at Main and Prospect streets.

During Monday's Bethlehem Board of Selectmen's meeting, resident Cheryl Jensen asked about the status of Christmas and Halloween events and the town's liability, if any, for having

events on town property during the pandemic.

"It's going to be put on by a private group and the town doesn't have any jurisdiction over it," Board Chairman Gabe Boisseau said of the trunk-or-treat. "We are not putting it on."

When it comes to town property, such as the gazebo, basketball courts or tennis courts, the town has never really given permission or not given permission for use, said April Hibberd, town administrative assistant.

"People call me a lot and ask to use the gazebo for weddings, baby showers, birthday parties," she said. "It's public property."

On Tuesday, Hibberd said any liability would only come about if the town's insurance company was called to investigate and determined that there was a valid claim.

Any claim would be handled the same way as a claim filed in regard to someone getting injured on town property, such as at a basketball court, for instance, she said.

"It's public property," Hibberd said. "We don't police it, and the only time we do is if it's a for-profit type of event."

For Halloween, risk is being mitigated, trunk-or-treat organizer, Chris McGrath told selectmen.

"Just so everyone knows, we're talking safety and it's very important," he said. "Masks will be needed and cars will be spaced out. There will be hand sanitizer and booths set out. It will be one way. Kids won't be allowed to congregate and everyone will be in your groups that you came with."

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\$8.99 Lb



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\$6.99 Lb



Local
McKenzie Garlic & Herb Turkey

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Local
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\$9.99 Lb



12 pks
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\$14.99



12 pks
Blue Moon Beer

\$14.99

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News Briefs

Water And Light Nearing Answer Or Options On Budget Question

LITTLETON - To go to a town vote or not.

That is the question before the Littleton Water and Light commissioners are now hoping to have an answer or options to move forward with in November, as budget deadlines get closer.

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration is taking the position that LWL is a town department and as such is out of compliance with New Hampshire's budget law because it hasn't put its budget before March town meeting voters since at least 1993.

LWL argues that, except for the appointment of commissioners by selectmen, it is an independent entity and not a town department and therefore does not have to participate in the municipal budget process and put its budget to a town vote.

"Littleton Water and Light goes back to 1903 and there is a lot of material," LWL Commission Chairman Schuyler Sweet said Monday. "Unfortunately, it is not as clear as it could be."

No one in 1903 could have anticipated what would happen in 2020, he said.

The LWL attorney was expected to attend a commission meeting on Monday, but wanted to delay by one meeting to conduct more research, said LWL Commissioner Peter Cooper.

"We are trying to get some good guidance on what it is we need to do," he said.

LWL's next meeting is on Nov. 2.

On Sept. 14, LWL commissioners voted to not comply with a DRA order at the present time and instead first consult with legal counsel.

In recent weeks, community support has been voiced, said Sweet.

"We are getting individually as commissioners, and Tom [Considine, LWL superintendent] is getting in the office, lots of phone calls," said Sweet. "For the most part, they are supportive and say don't give up."

LWL has a net zero budget - annual gross revenues run about \$12 million - and offers some of the lowest utility rates in New Hampshire.

Helping LWL keep rates low is a bank balance that runs about \$4 million that is used as collateral to buy power on the open market.

If LWL is ultimately required to put its budget before voters, the

town would have control over its net revenue.

Veterans Facing COVID Isolation

The coronavirus has taken a toll on mental health.

For many, social distance mandates and high unemployment rates have increased feelings of loneliness and depression.

That's particularly worrisome for the military community, which already faced a suicide epidemic before COVID.

Approximately 20 veterans and active duty military commit suicide each day, a higher rate than the rest of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Veterans Administration.

"It's a disease of isolation," said Eric Golnick, CEO of Veteran & First Responder (VFR) Healthcare, during a roundtable with Sen. Maggie Hassan on Monday.

A former Naval officer, Golnick co-founded VFR to provide mental health and substance use treatment for service members, veterans, first responders and their families.

They, like other health care providers, have relied on remote services to deliver treatment during the pandemic.

That is key for New Hampshire's 102,000 military veterans, the majority of which are over 65.

"Teletherapy and telehealth have been part of our long-term strategy, especially in rural areas, but the pandemic precipitated that quickly," he said. It has been well received by VFR clients. "We're seeing that veterans are not only enjoying it, they're actually coming to therapy more often, which is so important."

Meanwhile the VA Medical Clinic in Manchester reported that 45 percent of its clients have accessed care by telephone or video conference technology since March.

The biggest growth area has been video conference visits.

Last week Sen. Hassan called on the federal VA officials to strengthen New Hampshire veterans' access to telehealth.

"For those that have used it they can't get enough of it," said Nancy Falleur, Chief of Telehealth for the Manchester VAMC.

In the North Country, some veterans have been cut off from telehealth due to a lack of broadband access.

However, for those who can connect, remote services are meeting their needs.

Dalton McLaughlin, director of strategic partnerships at VFR Healthcare, said "Access to tele-based medicine is an incredible benefit to veterans. We can reach more people without them having to come all the way to where we are, particularly the older population that is already at risk."

Golnick expects those services will become even more important when the pandemic passes.

"Veterans do well under crisis and under stress. So I'm not worried about now. What I'm worried about is once things start calming down. A lot of vets, once they lose that purpose that's when they run into trouble," he said.

EMPLOYMENT: The veteran unemployment rate has more than doubled from 3.1 percent in 2019 to 6.4 percent in 2020.

That ties into veterans' mental health struggles.

Leland Goldberg, president and founder of The Veterans Entrepreneurial Training and Resource Network (VETRN), said many veterans lose their sense of purpose and identity when they are removed from a workplace environment.

VETRN was created to help. It offers a 26-week Streetwise MBA program, free of charge, to veteran-owned business owners and their

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Paid Political Advertisement

Re-elect Mike Cryans for Executive Council

Duties of the Executive Council:

- Votes on the Governor's nominations for major positions and boards in state government.
- Votes on all Judicial nominations.
- Responsible for the 10-Year Highway Plan that includes projects for roads, bridges and airports.
- Councilors each represent 20% of the population; District 1 is comprised of the upper 2/3 of the state and includes 4 cities and 109 towns.



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ON THE COVER: Northern New Hampshire saw its first significant snowfall of the season Saturday with up to eight inches reported in some areas. The wet, heavy snow caused power outages and forced Santa's Village to close for the day. The storm created slick road conditions, and state and town plow crews were out early clearing roads. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

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families. It provides training, resources and peer-to-peer mentoring and has graduated 70 to date.

“You lose that family when you come out of the military,” said Goldberg, who served in the Vietnam War.

Job training and business education programs aimed at veterans can help New Hampshire to tackle a “tsunami of mental health issues” caused by COVID.

Dr. Deborah Osgood, CEO of Osgood and Associates and a graduate of the VETRN program, said those programs can help veterans find self-esteem through full- and part-time employment.

“It’s that piece that really validates who they are, takes them out of the trauma, and transitions them into a new part of their life where they can see they have value and worth, and it’s validated by the community,” she said.

Ski Industry Braces For Growing Demand In Pandemic Season

The pandemic has created a new class of outdoor enthusiast: The COVID newcomer.

Novices to nature fled coronavirus hotspots by the thousands and flocked to northern New Hampshire, where they tried hiking, biking, and camping in the relative safety of the White Mountains region.

Soon they will turn their attention to winter, and the ski industry is preparing to meet demand for entry-level activities.

“We think winter recreation could see its highest demand yet from a new audience,” said Olivia Rowan, publisher of Ski Area Management Magazine, during a roundtable Oct. 15.

That prediction is based on a growing mountain of evidence.

During the summer, national cycling and camping retailers experienced double-digit growth in sales and some outdoor recreation venues reported record receipts in July and August.

Francois Goulet, president of Group Rossignol North America, said entry-level bike sales have doubled from last year and “trying to find a tent in June or July was impossible.”

Those buying habits have carried over to winter sports.

Reflecting an influx of newcomers, those trends have gone beyond downhill skiing, to include activities with lower risk and gradual learning curves like cross country skiing, snow shoeing and fat biking.

Nordic ski sales have increased by double-digit amounts, with many retailers resuming cross country ski sales due to anticipated demand. Meanwhile some Nordic ski areas have doubled or tripled their season pass sales from this time last year. Much of that can be chalked up to newcomer interest.

Reese Brown, executive director of the Cross Country Ski Area Association, said months of working and learning from home — with parents and kids cooped up together — has inspired families to get out and try new things.

“The crowds at home are really driving people outside for anything they can do,” Brown said. “Everyone is willing to walk the dog now or take the garbage out, anything to get outside.”

Alexa Bernotavicz, mountain operations director at Bretton Woods, said the resort would take a conservative approach to open the season, in order to ensure social distance and ease into new regulations.

Like other resorts, Bretton Woods will focus on messaging, to ensure visitors follow COVID guidelines.

She said the resort will be reservation-based, but will allow walk up lift pass purchases, if capacity allows.

“If it’s a Tuesday and we’re not super busy, and someone walks up to the window, we won’t turn people away,” she said.

She noted the White Mountains enjoyed a busy summer and that winter visitors would be offered a wide range of activities at Bretton Woods and the Omni Mountain Washington Resort, including Nordic skiing, snow shoeing, fat biking and sleigh rides, to provide them options beyond downhill skiing — particularly if the alpine resort is at capacity.

“We’ve had a very busy summer here in the White Mountains. Our trail heads were packed, people were mountain biking, hiking, fishing,

You couldn’t find a tent in any of the stores. People were out backpacking, rock climbing. So I think we’re going to continue to see that throughout the winter,” she said.

Volunteer Group Forming To Tackle Town’s Litter Problem

BETHLEHEM — Wanted: volunteers to take a bite out of littering. On the heels of the town’s new littering ordinance adopted on Sept. 28, one resident is forming an anti-litter group to help keep the town

clean and looking good.

For years, Bethlehem has had one annual roadside cleanup day, organized by the town conservation commission and taking place on a Saturday in early May.

The new group, though, could make cleanups a regular thing.

“It’s a new thing,” said Margaret Hocking, a Bethlehem resident for more than three decades. “I’m still gathering a list of volunteers so we’ll see what happens. It all started with an idea stemming from doing

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Introducing Daniel Underbakke, MD Specializing in General Surgery



Dr. Daniel Underbakke, General Surgeon, has joined the Surgical Associates at Littleton Regional Healthcare. Dr. Underbakke is specially trained to provide a range of diagnostic and treatment services, most of which can be done through minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Underbakke is available for patient referrals for the following conditions/procedures and more:

- Endoscopy
- Cholecystectomy
- Ulcer repair
- Colon resection
- Catheter placement
- Hemorrhoids management
- Hernia repair
- Mastectomy
- Splenectomy
- Varicose Veins ligation
- Appendectomy
- Wound care

Dr. Underbakke graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Wisconsin followed by his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He fulfilled his General Surgery Residency and General Surgery Internship followed by his Research Fellowship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

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the recreational areas in Bethlehem and I think it's going to blossom into roadsides."

The catalyst for it all was a friend who volunteers at Forest Lake to pick up trash, she said.

The littering ordinance in Bethlehem came about after concerns were voiced to selectmen by several residents seeing an increase in trash, including dumped furniture, along town roadsides.

Hocking became aware of those conversations.

"Also, my husband has been participating in the Thursday weekly skateboard sessions at the skate park," she said. "My daughter and I will go, too, sometimes and I've noticed some trash at the basketball courts and the skateboard park. We've also been enjoying the pump track that is fairly new to Bethlehem and loving it and I've noticed a few pieces of trash there, too."

Initially, she contacted the selectmen about cleaning up the recreational areas of the town.

"I love how it's morphed into more," said Hocking. "I've lived here for over 30 years and I really love where I live. I'm gathering a list of volunteers who have contacted me so I can realistically see how many areas and roads can be covered. I'm hoping once I get a feel for how many volunteers I have, we can meet and decide what area and roads need the most coverage and go from there and set a schedule and rotation. I'm so happy to be living in an area where so many truly love and care for their town."

In an email Wednesday to some residents who have already expressed interest, Hocking said she is getting a sense of key areas in town that really need attention, and said any and all feedback is welcome.

The next step after feedback is developing a schedule and rotation and to determine if trash can be taken to the town hall.

"Hopefully, this will be a beautiful beginning," she said. "I've heard suggestions on volunteer T-shirts and I like it."

On Sept. 28, selectmen voted 5-0 to adopt an littering ordinance for public property that will fine violators up to \$1,000 and carry a minimum fine of \$500 for those caught littering three times in a 12-month period.

The ordinance gives police flexibility in fining violators by allowing officers to impose smaller fines on those caught throwing out small amounts of trash and a large fine for those dumping bigger amounts on roadways and in other public areas.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Hocking at 120tiptop@roadrunner.com.

Family Of Maura Murray Seeks Historical Marker

The disappearance of Maura Murray has become a part of New Hampshire history.

It left a family grief-stricken and searching for answers, and being among the first missing persons cases in the age of social media, it has attracted the interest of thousands of people from across the nation and world.

The case has also drawn scores of people annually to the spot where Maura disappeared, along Route 112 in Haverhill near the Weathered Barn.

To remember Maura, her family, for the better part of two decades, has kept a blue ribbon attached

Health Officials On Notice Following Regional Spike

New Hampshire's uptick in confirmed COVID-19 cases, including new ones in Grafton County, has municipal health officers and emergency management directors in the North Country on the alert and bracing for a possible increase in northern New Hampshire, where a few new cases have appeared in recent days.

"An alert from DHHS [the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services] came in Monday or Tuesday about a jump in cases statewide," Milton Bratz, health officer for Littleton, in northern Grafton County, said Friday. "I hadn't seen an alert in some time. They are calling this a third wave now. The second was in June or July and then it tapered off. But the numbers are now climbing nationally."

Federal health officials have reported a big spike nationally in October, he said.

On Tuesday, officials in Vermont announced that increasing cases across the region have raised the number of counties impacted by Vermont's travel restrictions, and those counties now include Grafton County.

Bratz attributes part of the overall increase in cases to some people getting lax with wearing

masks and social distancing.

For the North Country, an increase in cases could be more of a problem than in some other areas, in part because immunity hasn't been built up, he said.

"We are vulnerable," said Bratz. "Fortunately, hardly anyone up here has had it, but from an epidemiological standpoint it's not a good thing."

And with flu season now beginning, it adds another element of the unknown, he said.

Unlike the influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919, which killed more people after it mutated, the coronavirus has mutated in certain areas of the country, such as California, to become more infectious, but less lethal, said Bratz.

The coronavirus, though, is still statistically more lethal and contagious than the flu.

As of Friday, according to the DHHS active cases map, Littleton again has an active case (it had several earlier in the year) as do the towns of Lisbon, Dalton, Lancaster, and Stark.

The case in Stark was listed by DHHS earlier this week.

The map uses colors to indicate the number of cases and the color shown for the North Country towns is low enough to not reflect a specific number, meaning the count could be one case or up to four cases because DHHS suppresses the

exact number for municipalities with one to four cases.

Jack Anderson, fire chief and emergency management director for Bethlehem, said an increase in New Hampshire isn't unexpected, especially with the recent holiday and influx of tourists in the area.

His concern is about people coming into the North Country from out of state and posing a risk.

"We have no way of knowing if any of them are infected when they come up here," said Anderson.

There is also no way of knowing if a large group of people from out of state have the virus and are quarantining in northern New Hampshire, he said.

Both Bratz and Anderson said they are pleased with how North Country schools are maintaining safety through required masking and social distancing, which both said are important to reduce infections and must be maintained until the pandemic has subsided.

"Probably 90 percent of the people are doing their duty and due diligence and wearing masks, but I'm still seeing another 10 percent who don't and they are the ones that spread it," said Anderson.

to a tree along the roadside that marks the spot where she vanished on the evening of Feb. 9, 2004.

With that tree now at risk of being taken down by the property owner, the family is asking the state for a New Hampshire state highway historical marker to be installed at the location as a permanent recognition of Maura's disappearance.

At noon today, the Murray family, state Rep. Debra DeSimone, R-Atkinson, and local residents will submit in person an official request and marker application to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in Concord.

Anyone seeking a marker to commemorate a significant person, place or event in New Hampshire can submit the formal request to DHR with a petition signed by a minimum of 20 New Hampshire residents.

The petition submitted with the Murray request netted the signatures of 680 New Hampshire residents, and in total, has more than 3,000 signatures.

"Thousands of residents and visitors travel to where Maura was last seen on Route 112 every year as her disappearance has become one of the most high-profile unsolved mysteries in the world," said Julie Murray, Maura's sister. "We are proud to support Rep. DeSimone and the 3,367 petitioners requesting a historical marker be erected where Maura was last seen before disappearing without a trace."

The request includes draft marker text that was voted on by 724 supporters, letters of support from the Murray family and DeSimone as well as from Robert McDonald, professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, which Maura had attended, and pen-and-ink and on-line petitions with the 3,367 signatures from people in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and 42 different countries, said Murray.

"The disappearance of Maura Murray is a historical event in New Hampshire and unequivocally meets the criteria for a marker set forth by law," said

DeSimone. "I strongly urge Mr. Ben Wilson, DHR Director, to swiftly recognize the historical significance of Maura's disappearance with the approval and installation of a historical marker."

Julie Murray said, "We are thankful to have an elected official in the effort to fight for this important historical marker."

On Thursday, DeSimone said the Murray family was brought to her attention by one of her constituents, Joe Davey, of Atkinson.

"I feel for the property owners and understand it's an encroachment upon their life," said DeSimone, a mother and grandmother. "I also feel for the Murray family and my heart is broken for them. I cannot in my wildest dreams imagine losing a child in this manner. To not know where my child is, if my child is alive or not, is unimaginable. I will honestly tell you I will do everything possible to assist them in their quest."

DeSimone has been in discussions with state officials for a solution, and while she doesn't yet know what can or cannot be done, she said a way will be found to give the Murray family a contact point, and if not a marker, some other point.

"I want to find some sort of peaceful way for this family to go to a place and pray and have some sort of vigil," said DeSimone.

In July, after it was learned the property owner was looking to cut down the tree, the Murray family, in partnership with residents in New Hampshire, launched a Blue Ribbon campaign to support the request for a historical marker.

After the submitting the petition today, the Murray family and DeSimone will drive to Haverhill to visit the blue ribbon tree with volunteers and participate in a boots-on-the-ground search.

Led by Nancy Cory, the search will have about 20 volunteers, some coming from as far as Maryland, who will focus on areas along Interstates 93 and 91, as well as areas along the Kancamagus Highway,

said Murray

Maura was a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst when she vanished after crashing her car at the location on Route 112.

Some speculate she might have run away to begin a new life, ran into the woods and succumbed to the elements, or was suicidal.

Others, including the Murray family, believe she was grabbed by someone and is the victim of foul play and likely no longer alive.

They are hoping that someone with information as to what happened will come forward.

Maura's disappearance became a cold case after the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit was established in 2009.

She is officially classified as a missing person and Senior Assistant New Hampshire Attorney General Jeffery Strelzin has called the case a criminal investigation into a missing person.

After the initial police searches in 2004, volunteer searches have taken place through the years to find Maura and, in the words of her father, Fred Murray, bring her home.

In his letter of support to the DHR, McDonald, who knew Maura when she was a cadet at West Point and who helped search for her in New Hampshire in 2004, said even today, more than 16 years after her disappearance, the "unsolved mystery" continues to inspire interest as well as television specials, pod casts, and blogs.

"As a historian, it strikes me that there are two factors giving this missing person case special significance," wrote McDonald. "First, there is the blockbuster nature of the event, which captured the attention of the American people like few others. Indeed, Maura Murray has been ranked alongside aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart as one of the 14 most famous missing persons in American history

ELECTION 2020



If you are retired you should be concerned about

- ☀ Capital gains tax
- ☀ Increased interest and dividends tax
- ☀ Increased county tax even without ever seeing a budget or balance sheet
- ☀ Increased property tax
- ☀ Income tax on all income

If you own a small business you should be concerned about

- ☀ Increased business profits and enterprise taxes to support unnamed government programs and the regulatory bureaucracy
- ☀ A minimum wage above the federal one might force you to lay off workers
- ☀ More regulations that subsidize your competitors and stifle competition

If you

- ☀ Trust our elected representatives to do the right thing
- ☀ Aren't informed of everything the New Hampshire legislature puts into law

Then you put your freedom and liberty at risk because the Democrats in the New Hampshire legislature voted for all of these and hope you don't notice or care. They want to enslave you to government handouts at their pleasure, not yours. It's socialism pure and simple.

☀ ☀ ☀ *It is time for change in Concord* ☀ ☀ ☀

**VOTE FOR RESPONSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE, TRANSPARENT ONLY
NECESSARY GOVERNMENT**

VOTE FOR

**Erin Hennessey
Matthew Simon
Robert Peraino
Wes Chapmon
Omer Ahern**

**Calvin Beaulier
Joseph DePalma
David Binford
Joe Kenney
Doug Dutile**

Obituaries

Michael J. Poulin

Michael J. Poulin, 66, of Littleton, N.H., passed away on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020, peacefully at home with his family by his side.

Michael was born on June 24, 1954, in St. Johnsbury, Vt., to Marc and Mariette (Bolduc) Poulin. He attended Catholic Central and St. Johnsbury Academy. He grew up logging with his father, where eventually him and his brother Daniel owned Poulin Brothers Logging. 18 years ago he changed careers and began driving for Carroll Concrete where he truly loved his job and the people he worked with. He retired in the winter of 2019 but then returned part-time until recently.

Michael was a lifelong member of the St. Johnsbury Elks Club, where he enjoyed playing cribbage and pool. He enjoyed golfing and was a member of the St. Johnsbury Country Club for over 50 years. Whenever he could he loved spending time with his family, friends and especially his golf buddies. He enjoyed giving the gift of Lifetime Hunting and Fishing to his grandchildren who he is so proud of.

Survivors include his wife, Joan Dube of Littleton, N.H., whom he married on June 24, 2017; two daughters: Angela Wheatley and husband, Timothy, of Williamstown, Vt., and Kaitlyn Palmieri and husband, Tony, of Kirby, Vt.; stepdaughter: Amy Patenaude of Berlin, N.H.; two stepsons: Jason St. Hilaire and wife, Ashley, of Keene, N.H., and Eric St. Hilaire of Berlin, N.H.; two brothers: Richard and wife, Lynn, of Statesboro, Ga., and Daniel and partner, Kelly Smith,



Michael Poulin

of Kirby, Vt.; and three sisters: Lucie Poulin-Pristow of Kirby, Linda Entriiken and husband, Paul, of Brooksville, Fla., and Carol Perreault and husband, Leon, of St. Johnsbury; four grandchildren: Paige, Harper, Jacob, and Penelope; and three step-grandchildren: Kailyn, Aiden, and Cruze.

He was predeceased by his parents: Marc and Mariette Poulin.

A Graveside service will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in St. Johnsbury. A gathering will follow at the Elks Club in St. Johnsbury, Vt., where the 11th Hour Service of Remembrance will be observed. The gathering will begin outside. All are asked to wear masks and follow social distance guidelines.

Michael took the challenge of fighting cancer head on without complaint, still putting others' concerns above his own. Donations in Michael's name can be made to Norris Cotton Cancer Center North, 1080 Hospital Drive, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com

Eleanor A. Mason

Eleanor A. Mason, 90, of Winooski, Vt., former resident of Whitefield/Twin Mountain, N.H., died Oct. 9, 2020 at her daughter Anne Mason's home in Winooski surrounded by loving family after a period of declining health.

Eleanor was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, Sept. 20, 1930. She was the eldest of three children born to Anthony and Anna (Eagan) Boudreau of Waltham. She graduated from Billerica High School in 1947 and the following year was married to Warren Mason, Sr. and started their family of 10 children.

Eleanor and her husband owned the Mason Farm & Mason's Riding Stables in Merrimack, N.H., and the Mason Stock Farm in Whitefield, N.H. At age 48 she became a full-time student at Plymouth State College commuting every day through Franconia Notch and earned her Bachelor's Degree in History/Education in 1982. She taught at the White Mountain Regional High School in Whitefield and the Hugh J. Gallen Vocational Center in Littleton. She sold local real estate, and was a well known reporter in the North Country for the Caledonian-Record, and the Democrat. She was a writer and photographer for the Country Folks Magazine and she was very proud that she was the Twin Mountain Librarian. Eleanor was an avid creative writer and belonged to North Country Writers group. She was a member of the Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred heart of Jesus, a member of a North Country Women's Business Association and a local quilting group. In her retirement, after selling the farm and before her health issues, she was a well-known figure who lived a very independent and active life into her late 70s and was recognized by local townspeople while taking daily exercise by walking with her dog Elsie. Eleanor was predeceased by her husband of 40 years, Warren Mason, Sr. She was also predeceased by two daughters, Marilyn (Mason) Woodman, Marjorie Mason, grandson John Mason and a sister, Louise Carbone.

She is survived by eight children: Warren Mason, Jr., ED.D., and his wife, Annette of Meredith; Timothy Mason, and his wife Debbie of Ossipee; Stephen Mason, and his wife Mary of Littleton; Elizabeth Parker, and her husband Kevin of Greenfield; Edith Worcester, and her husband Mark of Whitefield; Laura Mason, and husband Alan Greenwalt of Whitefield; Lynne Davis of Oneco, Conn.; and her youngest daughter and long-time caregiver, Anne Mason of Winooski. Eleanor is also survived by her one brother, Raymond Boudreau, and his wife Gerri, of Wrentham, Mass., and one sister-in-law, Anna Mason, of Harvard, Mass. Additionally, she is survived by 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held private at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15 at the St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Whitefield, N.H., with Father Matthew Schultz officiating. Burial followed at the Park Street Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held in 2021. To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com.



Eleanor Mason

Jean B. (Congdon) Doolan

Jean B. (Congdon) Doolan, 84, of Brentwood, N.H., and long-time resident of Littleton, N.H., passed away on Oct. 4, 2020. Jean was born to parents Clarence (Curly) Congdon and Esther V. (Rines) Congdon on Dec. 31, 1935. Many in the Littleton area remember her from the "Globe" (a pre-Walmart era dept. store) where she worked for many years as an assistant manager. She loved bingo, puzzles, and the music of Roy Orbison and Dick Curless. As well as Curless, she was lucky enough to meet legendary county star Buck Owens.

Jean graduated from Canaan Vermont High School in 1954 and was a league basketball champ in her junior and senior school year. On Sept. 15, 2012, she and 27 others were inducted into the Orleans and Northern Essex Athletic Hall of Fame. She was also a Majorette.

After graduation Jean moved to Lancaster, N.H., to continue her nursing career at Weeks Medical Center. In 1958 she married Ralph "Buster" Doolan Jr. of Lancaster, N.H., who predeceased her in 2018. She had five children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren (one on the way).

In 1989 she and her husband Ralph founded the Sawlog Bulletin magazine, an international business journal for timber harvesters; it quickly became popular throughout Northeastern U.S. and Eastern Canada and is a well-respected and thriving publication today.

Jean and Ralph were active in politics contributing to and working on many campaigns.

She is survived by two brothers: Robert Congdon and wife Brenda of Clinton Township, Mich., and Terry Congdon of Chelsea, Mass.; children: Vicki Kroll and husband Ronald of Hudson, Fla., Carol Thalín and husband George of Candia, N.H., Mike Doolan and wife Debbie of Dunbarton, N.H., Terri May and husband Mike of Rochester, N.H., Debbie Couture and husband Gerry of Epping, N.H.; grandchildren: Alex Doolan of Littleton, N.H., Trevor Thalín of Candia, N.H., Michaela Devoe and husband Tyler of Dunbarton, N.H., Keegan Doolan and Fiancé Alyssa of Arizona, and Reed Doolan of Arizona, Dillan Couture of Ore., and Brett Couture of Epping, N.H.; great-grandchildren: Brylen and Cormack Devoe of Dunbarton, N.H., and Michael Doolan, Arizona. She is predeceased by grandson Kevin Forest Clark of Littleton, N.H.

A celebration of life will be held at the McIntire School building in Whitefield, N.H., on Oct. 24. The family has requested in lieu of flowers, that donations be made in Jean's memory to the High Pointe House, 360 North Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830.

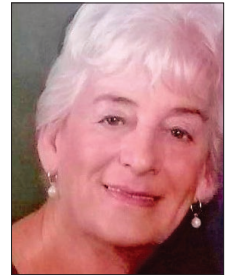
Brewitt Funeral Service & Crematory, 2 Epping St. On the Common, Raymond, N.H., will oversee funeral arrangements.

Gale Clark

Gale Clark 82, of Bedford, Pa., died Saturday, October 3, 2020 at UPMC Bedford Memorial Hospital. He was born on Aug. 19, 1938, in Bedford, Pa. a son of the late Hulbert and Irene (Diehl) Clark. On Sept. 30, 1981 in Whitefield, N.H., he married Susan (Watkins) Clark who preceded him in death on Feb. 21, 2007. He served in the US Navy. He lived many years in Whitefield, N.H., and worked for the NH State Liquor Outlet.

He is survived by two daughters: Tina Clark, of Bedford, and Tonya Clark, of Philadelphia; a son, Robert Clark and wife Julie, of Schellburg; and two grandchildren: Laura Clark, of Pittsburgh, and Corey Clark, of Philadelphia. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Dorothy Jane Clark, and a brother, Kenneth Clark.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, Oct. 19, 2 p.m., at the St. Matthews Catholic church in Whitefield, N.H., with burial to follow at the Park Street Cemetery. To offer your condolences to the family please visit www.rossfuneral.com.



Jean Doolan

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News Briefs

Continued from Page 6

... Second, there is the fact that this has been dubbed the first crime mystery of the social media age.”

As for the spot along Route 112, McDonald said it is “a place of great significance for countless others who have learned of her life and taken an intense interest in the mystery of her disappearance. It is without a doubt a historic place as it was the location of a historically significant event.”

Once a request for a historical marker is submitted, it typically takes several months for the committee at the DHR to make a decision and that decision will probably come some time in the spring, said Murray.

“Based on my most recent conversation with the land owners, they still intend to cut down the tree,” she said. “My family remains prepared to do whatever is necessary to save the tree, to include our offers to purchase or lease the property from the current landowner.”

If those negotiations are not successful and a historical marker is ultimately approved, Murray said the marker would likely be installed some time in 2021.

With no grave to visit or ashes to scatter, Murray said the spot where her sister disappeared has become a sacred place for her family and serves as a symbol to remember and honor Maura.

In her family’s letter to the DHR asking for a marker, she said Maura’s disappearance not only forever changed the course of her family’s history, but also had profound and reverberating effects on New Hampshire, including on the state’s residents, visitors, public officials, and all branches of state government. She thanked everyone who has supported the effort for permanent recognition.

Broadband Projects Would Benefit From Proposed Deadline Extension

If there’s one thing the coronavirus pandemic made clear, it’s that the North Country has serious gaps in high-speed Internet and is in need of better broadband infrastructure for the growing number of people working from home and the children learning from home.

In March, federal money was made available to states through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and a portion of that money was earmarked for improving and expanding broadband.

The challenge, especially for northern New Hampshire, which doesn’t have many broadband projects that are shovel ready and where many efforts are in the beginning stages, is that the money under the current deadline has to be expended by Dec. 15.

Now, though, with bipartisan legislation in the United States Congress, that deadline could be extended one whole year, through 2021, U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-NH, said during a virtual meeting on Thursday involving town officials and Internet providers across the state.

“That would be tremendous for a lot of our towns,” Linda Lauer, of Bath, chair of the Grafton County Commission, said after the meeting.

Grafton County recently established a county broadband committee to explore options and long-term solutions for improving service and filling gaps.

Many Grafton County towns have made steps in the right direction, but just can’t complete projects before the current 2020 deadline, said Lauer.

“This opens up opportunities for some towns,” she said of an extension.

One town to benefit is Haverhill, whose village of Woodsville and other areas have dead zones with no service or poor service.

An effort is advancing to build a mesh network through multiple antennas that would be hosted by Woodsville businesses, organizations or residents, who would donate bandwidth in exchange for technical service or promotion.

Hassan’s virtual roundtable on the importance of federal funding for broadband expansion in the Granite State included Nicholas Coates, town administrator for Bristol; Rob Koester, senior vice-president of consumer product management with Consolidated Communications;

Carole Monroe, CEO of ValleyNet; and Chris Rand, vice-president and chief strategy officer with Granite State Communications.

Under the CARES ACT, New Hampshire received \$1.25 billion to support the state’s response to COVID-19 and some of that money has been used to fund broadband infrastructure projects.

“The common theme most of us are hearing around the country is the deadline is a big impediment,” said Hassan.

Hassan is working with U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-IA, to expand the current year-end deadline for states to use the CARES Act money.

The money, she said, is vital to build out broadband services to improve remote learning opportunities as well as tele-work and tele-health.

“One of the things we’ve talked about in the past is the importance of broadband and the gaps in access that we have in New Hampshire, but it has never been as clear as it is now,” said Hassan. “Broadband is

not just a luxury, it is a necessity.”

There are stories of children having to go to a school parking lot for Internet service in order to complete school work, she said.


A deadline extension would be fantastic because some areas being reached for broadband now are the most difficult, said Rand.

The places with no access at all are generally very rural and very high cost, said Koester.

Affordability is also an issue for low-income families and it will need to be addressed, said Rand.

And efforts need to ensure that projects are building for the long haul, said Monroe. “Certainly, the workforce is moving to New Hampshire,” she said. “People are looking where to buy houses based on connectivity.” The proposed Dec. 31, 2021 deadline that would extend the current deadline by a little more than a year will probably go to a Senate vote after the Nov. 3 election.


THE doctor is in... NEWPORT




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Election 2020

STATE SENATE DISTRICT ONE

District One encompasses all towns in Coos County as well as Littleton, Bethlehem, Franconia, Easton, Sugar Hill, Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman, and Monroe in northern Grafton County.

Sue Ford Democrat

Sue Ford, D-Easton, is a four state representative and a retired teacher and school administrator.

She chairs the House's Finance Division II Committee, which oversees the budgets of the departments of Safety, Fish and Game, Transportation, and Education.

How do you see the role of a senator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session.

The pandemic has shown us that we need to think of health insurance in a different way. It's no longer enough to know that I have insurance - my neighbor and community also need to have affordable insurance so we can stay healthy and protect each other. Depending on the result of the SCOTUS decision this may become a New Hampshire issue. If 20 million people lose insurance, we're all in trouble. Our NH residents need good affordable insurance. We cannot allow people to go bankrupt when they need health care.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their senator? Upon what are you basing the assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their senator?

I've spent time calling and listening to the issues. I also have a Facebook page and a website where people can leave comments. I have also attended several outdoor, masks on and socially distanced events. The three issues in Senate District #1 that rise to the top are health care, broadband/cell phone service and the inequities in educational funding.

Define "effective legislator."

An effective legislator is someone who listens and supports her constituents. An effective legislator stands up for her district and makes those needs known in Concord.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it.

I have been the chair of the House Finance Committee Division II and can state that there is not enough money to fund the state needs. Besides the adequacy money to local school districts we also need to fund the Department of Transportation to build out our infrastructure and provide the department with the equipment and resources to keep us safe, especially in the winter. We looked at the



revenue stream last session and there are loopholes that can be adjusted to bring in more revenue.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of educational services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

Before we address this issue, we need to know what the recommendations are from the Commission that has been examining state funding this fall and the court's decision on the Con-Val court case that was recently heard by the NH Supreme Court. Once we know what the requirements are from the court and the Commission the House and Senate will need to put these recommendations into practice.

What is your assessment of the state's effort to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people - especially those in rural areas - could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

New Hampshire has done extraordinarily little to address climate change. Every attempt to move toward clean energy has been vetoed by the current Governor. Moving toward wind and solar power could bring new jobs to the north country and also help the environment.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

See Ford, Page 11

Erin Hennessey Republican

Erin Hennessey, R-Littleton, is a three-term state representative and a certified public accountant.

She serves on the House's Finance Division III Committee, which oversees the budget of the Department of Health and Human Services and deals with health and social issues.

How do you see the role of a senator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

As a Senator, my pandemic recovery priorities would be to help those affected most - schools and our kids, our North Country small businesses, and our residents looking to get back to work. I will help ensure our schools have the resources they need to reopen fully and stay open. I will work to prevent business tax hikes from taking effect (let's not kick our small businesses while they are down). And, I will help ensure individuals have the resources they need to find a job and safely get back to work, including continuing to expand broadband throughout the North Country and continuing to help our childcare providers reopen their doors.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their senator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their senator?

As I travel the North Country campaigning, I am still learning daily what people in District 1 are looking for in their State Senator. The most common theme about their desires - show up. People feel very strongly that you cannot properly represent them in Concord unless you take the time to go to their meetings and hear their concerns. And, their three greatest concerns right now are all pandemic related. They are looking for policies to help get kids back to school safely and full time, to reopen the economy and get back to work, and to ensure we do not tax our way to recovery including property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes.

Define "effective legislator."

An effective legislator is someone who advocates for her constituents. Most of this is done outside of the Senate Chambers. To effectively serve Senate District 1, I would continue to travel the district from Thornton, to Monroe, to Pittsburg, and all places in-between. This means attending select board meetings, school board meetings, anniversary celebrations, etc. One cannot understand



the diverse needs of this large district without getting to know the people in it and their needs. An effective legislator also works with members from both sides of the aisle to pass legislation that is needed for the North Country.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

The Governor has done a great job in cutting spending during this crisis. The hiring freeze will most likely have to continue through the first year of the next budget to keep spending lower. Higher taxes and fees will only hinder NH's economic recovery. In order to recover and grow, NH needs strong economic policies - low business taxes, no sales tax, and no capital gains taxes.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No, I have not and I will not support a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes. Nor will I support legislation framed as something else that requires a mandatory tax on wages.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

I've strongly supported the return of stabilization grants, school building aid, and adding sign-

See Hennessey, Page 11

Hennessey

Continued from Page 10

nificant resources for education. We need to continue to increase education funding and options to meet the needs of all of our students – equity and funding usually go hand-in-hand.

What is your assessment of the state's efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

The state's efforts to help address climate change concerns have been hampered by partisan behavior that doesn't help anything. We need to start with compromise legislation when it comes to expanded net-metering. We need to reconsider our biomass plants that help support the healthy growth of our NH forests which in turn help prevent forest fires. But with any action we take, we need to ensure the cost is not passed onto our NH ratepayers.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

NH is one of the safest states in nation. Whether for hunting, recreational shooting, or for those looking to defend their lives and loved ones, I will continue to support Granite Staters' 2nd amendment rights and NH's current laws.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

It is important that our children have the best opportunities to succeed and we need to take all the necessary precautions to make sure that our schools are as safe as possible. For many students, schools weren't a safe place even before COVID, and we need to work to fix that. We need to continue to expand wrap-around mental health

services for our children. We need to expand the New Hampshire Student Assistance Program to all schools in the state. We need to continue to expand resources for school administrators and teachers to identify the risk factors and patterns of suicidal behavior. With more time being spent using technology in education and remote learning we need to fully fund the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to prevent cyber bullying and online child exploitation. Just last week there was a story about an online classroom environment that was hacked with pornography - occurrences like these need to be investigated and perpetrators arrested.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

Rep. Ford and I agree on many things but we differ on several important stances.

1) I consider any tax on wages an income tax. I cosponsored SB730, an optional Paid Family Leave bill and voted against HB712. Rep. Ford supports HB712 that mandates a .5% tax on income. Once NH opens the door to one income tax, no matter what the purpose, the rate will increase and other income taxes will follow. I will not open the door to an income tax in NH.

2) Public Charter Schools are an important option for a child's education. Not every child thrives in traditional public schools. The North Country public schools recognized this and started the North Country Charter Academy years ago. Our public schools also refer students to take courses online through VLACs. I voted to accept \$46M of federal funding to help expand these existing schools and create new public charter schools in NH. Rep. Ford has voted against this many times. Schools have changed so much just in the past decade. We need to ensure we are open to educational options that meet all of our students' needs – a bonus is if they help lower property taxes.

3) I have not and will not vote to raise business taxes. Raising business taxes puts up barriers for businesses to expand or move to the North Country, especially businesses with higher paying jobs that we desperately need. Raising business taxes will hurt all of our North Country small businesses. Especially in these pandemic times, NH needs to create an environment for our businesses to grow and expand, not to kick them when they are down.

These reasons and my track record for constituent service and bipartisanship at the State House make me the right Senate candidate for the North Country.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

Just a few of the bills I will happily sponsor include legislation to prevent any business tax increases; to accept the \$46M is federal funds to expand public charter schools in NH; to add funds to the capital budget for the much needed expansion of White Mountain Community College programs and locations; to bring back the net-metering compromise bill, the landfill siting bill, and the voluntary paid family leave bill. Also, as always, I will work with my constituents to bring forward legislation to help address their issues.

Ford

Continued from Page 10

I want to keep guns out of the schools. If you are in uniform and as part of your job you carry a firearm, the children understand and welcome you. Unknown people walking in with a gun in a holster just terrorize our children...are you a "good" guy or a "bad" guy. Children deserve a safe environment.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

Safe from what...Covid-19? If that's the safety issue, all schools should be brought up to code for ventilation standards. I was a school principal in 3 different schools in 2 different towns and never had good ventilation in any school. I also want to make sure visitors are noticed and allowed inside the school when recognized as having business in the school. Right now, when a student starts a new school year, he or she looks for a place to hide in every new classroom. That's unacceptable and definitely won't help with social distancing.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I have had a career in school administration and know what a school budget should provide. I know the difference between needs and wants and can support local districts accordingly. After 4 years on the Finance Committee I understand the NH state budget and governmental processes and will legislate accordingly.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring bills to adjust the school funding formula and make that formula fairer for the North Country. I will support a fair redistricting plan and vote against gerrymandering. Depending on the decision by SCOTUS I will be sponsoring legislation to make sure our NH residents can afford health care and pre-existing conditions are covered. I am also interested in supporting better broadband and cell phone service across the state and will be supporting implementation in this area as well as oversight and accountability. Currently there is no oversight when towns and individuals have problems.

ACROSS

- 1 Suitable
- 4 Hoisting device
- 9 Brown bird
- 13 Novelist — Tolstoy
- 14 Change the length
- 15 Slice thin
- 16 Would-be officeholder
- 18 Gives a ticket
- 19 Bach instrument
- 20 Boring performances
- 22 Delegates
- 25 Beat decisively
- 26 Tries to find
- 28 Breezes
- 32 TV button
- 35 Faucet problems
- 37 Gourmet delicacy
- 38 Online auction site
- 40 Apprehension
- 42 Meditation guide
- 43 Fluffy quilt
- 45 Metered rides
- 47 Before marriage
- 48 Prepared, as potatoes
- 50 Byron contemporary
- 52 Sp. or Eng.
- 54 Private eyes
- 58 Learned ones
- 62 A bit creepy
- 63 Skulk about
- 64 Upper shift key
- 67 New York's — Island
- 68 Band instrument
- 69 Wyo. neighbor
- 70 Struck silent
- 71 Dull
- 72 Wimple sporter

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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DOWN

- 1 Bauxite giant
- 2 Lumpy fruits
- 3 Fireplace tool
- 4 Cowered
- 5 Scarlet
- 6 "Caught ya!"
- 7 Takes home
- 8 Do editing
- 9 Top-notch (hyph.)
- 10 Loan figure
- 11 Constantly
- 12 Legendary loch
- 15 Looks high and low
- 17 Platform
- 21 Law (abbr.)
- 23 Oddball
- 24 Sidestep
- 27 Make a statement
- 29 Man-goat deity
- 30 Grow weary
- 31 Fishtail
- 32 Prez's stand-in
- 33 Drama award
- 34 Put cargo on board
- 36 Jazz instruments
- 39 Got dingy
- 41 Radio part
- 44 Indeed
- 46 Guided
- 49 Genetic info carrier
- 51 Goes to court
- 53 Snatches
- 55 Educate
- 56 Devotee of Rama
- 57 Driver's choice
- 58 Humane org.
- 59 Cornfield robber
- 60 Make sharp
- 61 Grime
- 65 Tiger Woods' org.
- 66 Cotton gin name

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Election 2020

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DISTRICT ONE

Mike Cryans, of Hanover, and Joe Kenney, of Wakefield, are running for Executive Council District 1, which serves all of Coos County and towns in northern Grafton County.

Mike Cryans Democrat

Mike Cryans of Hanover defeated Kenney in 2018 after Kenney had served two full terms in the Executive Council.

How do you see the role of an executive councilor being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your priorities be in the next session?

The impact to so many individuals with unemployment exploding from 500 cases per week prior to COVID-19 to 119,000 in the following four weeks (roughly 30,000 per week) as well as the impact on restaurants, hotels and hospitality enterprises has created a dilemma in our state never seen before. Helping these individuals and businesses has been my number one priority. These priorities will continue - helping those who have been hit hard by COVID-19. The past seven months has been like no other that the Executive Council has had to deal with.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their councilor? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their councilor?

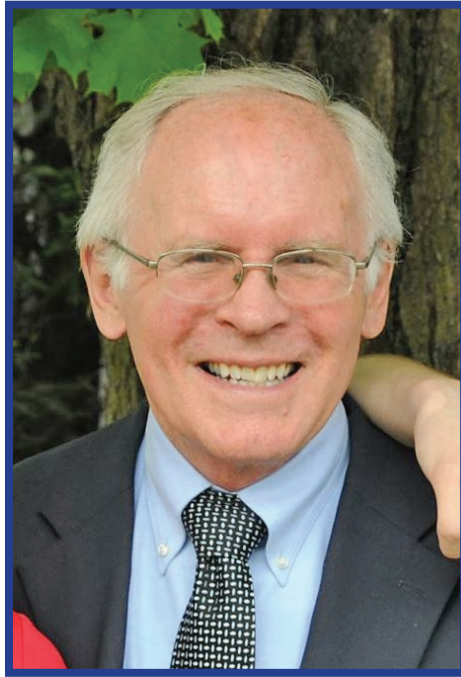
There is an axiom "the farther away from Concord, the more people feel forgotten." This means residents expect strong constituent service because the Councilor from District 1 is their connection with Concord. My three top priorities are: (1) to expand broadband service (2) open main streets/businesses in a safe manner, and (3) open schools safely for students and teachers.

Define "effective councilor" and "constituent service."

An effective Executive Councilor makes constituent service a number one priority. A constituent deserves to be helped or to get an answer to their question or issue(s). This position also opens doors that many individuals are not able to, such as contacting the Commissioner of a particular department that relates to their concern.

Which specific economic development projects in the North Country have you helped advance and how?

This question could have been answered differently prior to March 13, but the biggest economic development is helping businesses often on a one-on-one basis to move forward with the many programs offered through the CARES Act as well as the thousands of individuals relying on unemployment benefits to survive. Many residents, before I



intervened, had gone for more than six weeks without a check from Employment Security. I could feel the stress and anguish they were experiencing, but also the relief once they received their check.

What are some votes as a councilor that you are proud of?

I am proud of the many Commissioners, Directors and Board members from District One who are currently serving. It takes an extra sacrifice due to the distance away from Concord, especially for the volunteer Boards. The almost \$1 billion for Medicaid and Medicare expansion, as well as the many contracts that keep many of the non-profits doing the admirable work they do day in and day out, all passed through the Executive Council agenda.

What do you look for when voting to approve the appointment of a commissioner or judge citizens to board, commissions or state agencies?

Regarding Commissioners' and judges, is the person qualified and will they do an excellent job? In addition, regarding the volunteer Boards and Commissioners, will they attend the meetings and be well prepared?

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

Throughout my first term I have worked full-time each and every day covering the 109 towns and four cities in District 1, dealing with problems and issues in this vast district with no regard to the person's political affiliation. I work equally for Democrats and Republicans alike. I will continue to work diligently on the behalf of the residents of District 1 and I ask for your vote.

Joe Kenney Republican

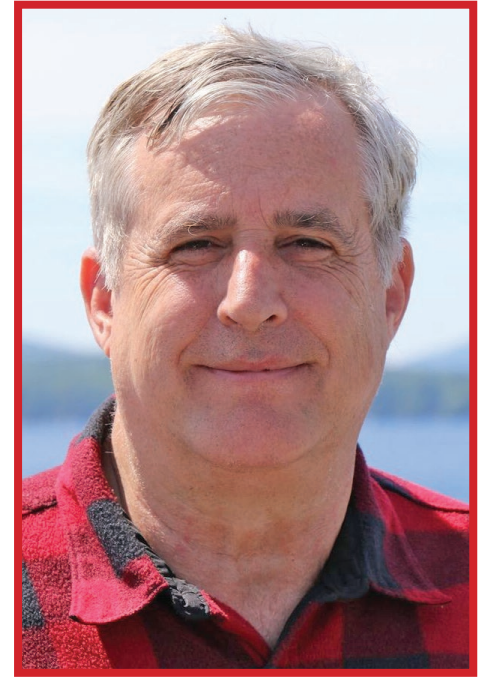
Joe Kenney, of Wakefield served two full terms in the Executive Council after winning a special election in March 2014 following the death of longtime District 1 Councilor Ray Burton. He lost to Cryans in 2018.

How do you see the role of an executive councilor being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your priorities be in the next session?

The loss of life and impact on our health care workers and first responders has had a major impact on all of us and of course it should for our Executive Councilor. The state loss of revenue is between \$350 to \$500 million from the pandemic. Many restaurant and lodging businesses have shut down temporary or permanently due the safety restrictions and the disincentive for tourists and families to travel and eat out. At the Council level, we need to work with the Governor to restrain spending and to push out contracts that will help our private and public sectors. We need to get people back to work and to get them off of unemployment to support their families, the business community and our tax base. Further job training programs will be needed for consideration and expansion. As in the past, I will hit the road to visit businesses and bring NH commissioners out of Concord to aid in jump-starting our economy. The District 1 Councilor needs to communicate with the District on a constant basis and to follow up with the needs of the area. There needs to be an ongoing effort by the Council to communicate updates on the status of the pandemic and push out contracts through health and human services for hospitals, health care clinics, schools, first responders, and non-profits. There are several priorities for the upcoming session that need to be addressed to include: resources to support hard hit businesses, hospitals and schools. Additionally, resources that are needed for the opioid crisis, broadband expansion and infrastructure improvements.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their councilor? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their councilor?

Citizens want access to their Executive Councilor or when in need, it's that simple. No assessment needed. Your Councilor has direct access to the NH Governor and commissioners. There are very few legislators in the North Country out of 424 but only one Executive Councilor out of five in the state.



The North Country Executive Councilor has a lot of say at the Governor's table and it is by far the most important Council seat in state government. Your reputation and work ethic will carry one far in Concord. While out of office, I helped people with health care needs, flag requests, infrastructure meetings, business request, regulatory questions etc. In the past, I have set up office hours in the North Country to allow people to ask questions and concerns directly. I have been brought citizens down to attend a Governor and Council Meetings. I have had five Executive Councilor meetings in the District, also known as "the road show." I established and sent out reports after each Council meeting to the towns and other leaders on the email list. If the Councilor is seen and accessible, then other citizens will become familiar with the office and find their Councilor "approachable." Many people from other states are moving into New Hampshire and they don't know what an Executive Councilor is, it is our responsibility to explain to them so they can make the important connection to highest level of state government. School and leadership academy visits are a must to educate students and young leaders on the Executive Council and I want to bring back the Ray Burton Internship Program. Citizens typically ask about social security, health care and division of motor vehicle issues.

Define "effective councilor" and "constituent service."

To pen a phrase from one of my past constituents, "An effective Councilor has to be someone who is "johnny-on-the-spot." This was an attribute

See Kenney, Page 13

Kenney

Continued from Page 12

that the former Executive Councilor Ray Burton had and I continued that tradition for five years when I was on the Council. An effective Councilor puts people first and politics second and does their darndest to help that individual out and not to forget the "little guy." The District 1 Council seat should not be party driven, it's needs to be people driven. In the past, I have told people this is not my seat, but it's yours, I am just a facilitator to get things done. In the end, to be effective Councilor one needs to know how state government works, the budget process, state commissioner roles and responsibilities, the issues within the District, the demographic makeup, and see problems before they happen. Constituent service is the ability to take one's knowledge of state government and life experiences to help a fellow citizen who is in need of assistance to solve a problem. Often than not, the follow up is just as important as the initial request, so being persistent is a good constituent service attribute. No question should go unanswered.

Which specific economic development projects in the North Country have you helped advance and how?

I was the driving force to secure funding to repair a red listed bridge in West Stewartstown near the Ethan Allen Company that had been in bad conditions for years. Received a Preservation Achievement Award for work. This bridge supports local commerce and public safety. Brokered a road waiver with Department of Transportation and Rotobec USA to allow them to expand their company off of Brown Road in Groveton. It brought dozens of new jobs to the area. Supported Community Development Block Grant to expand Capone Ironworks into Berlin, creating several new jobs and provide further job training. Worked with local, state and federal officials to secure funding and to allow for disabled veteran to acquire the Village Gun Shop in Whitefield. Advanced water & Sewage & Road projects in Colebrook & Conway inside the Ten Year Highway Improvement Plan. Worked to secure funding for Waumbek Methna Snowmobile Club trail bridge in Jefferson.

See Kenney, Page 22

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Election 2020

GRAFTON HOUSE DISTRICT 1

The two-seat Grafton-1 district represents Littleton and Bethlehem.

Linda Massimilla

Democrat

Rep. Linda Massimilla, D-Littleton, is a four-term state representative who serves on the House's Committee on State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

We have to figure out how to make hearings more inclusive for the public and house sessions more feasible and frequent so we can do the people's business more efficiently during the pandemic.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

From constituent feedback I find that people are concerned about what resources are available to get them through this epidemic, the need



to expand broadband access for education and business use as well as health care and the economy.

Define "effective legislator."

See **Massimilla**, Page 20

Calvin Beaulier

Republican

Republican Calvin Beaulier holds a law degree and works remotely for a Century 21 franchise in Houston, Texas, that is owned by his mother and called Century 21 Realty Partners. He is also an independent New Hampshire real estate broker doing business in the Granite State as Freestead Realty.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

We are facing a generational challenge to our way of life and future. The legislature's number one priority heading into 2021 should be recovery from the pandemic and the economic fallout. We have to rebuild our economy to help families and small businesses trying to recover. Tax hikes like the ones Governor Sununu rightfully vetoed these past two years will only make it worse. Instead we need a responsible budget and good business environment. If we don't get this right our economy is toast. My top priorities will be to help Governor Sununu and any other elected official oppose tax hikes and help rebuild our economy.



How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top

See **Beaulier**, Page 21

Sally Sherrard

Democrat

Democrat Sally Sherrard of Littleton is seeking her first term.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

My role as a legislator in this pandemic would be to urge the leadership to have fewer in person sessions and more video conferences. My legislative priorities will include, access to affordable health-care, increase in the minimum wage, quality child-care and early childhood education, all provided by qualified licensed professionals

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

I will address my understanding of my constituents' needs by casting my vote based on how they have explained their views on the issues in question. I am basing my knowledge on their needs from listening to the views presented at town meet-



ings, reading articles in the local media and being receptive to my constituents concerns. The top three priorities are listed above in question one. One other concern would be to keep the performing arts active

See **Sherrard**, Page 20

Joseph DePalma IV

Republican

Republican Joseph DePalma IV is a 2019 graduate of Littleton High School and a business administration major and professional sales student at Plymouth State University.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic the role of a legislator will remain the same but will become increasingly challenging as we navigate the complexities of completely reopening our state's economy. In the next session our legislative priorities should be to completely reopen our state's economy responsibly, aid our state's businesses that our struggling to make ends meet in the midst of this crisis, resist efforts by the Democratic party to create broad-based income and sales taxes in our state, and find fiscally responsible ways to reduce the property tax burden that localized school funding places on taxpayers.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you bas-



ing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

See **DePalma**, Page 21

Election 2020

GRAFTON HOUSE DISTRICT 3

The Grafton-3 House district represents towns that include Bath, Benton, Easton, Landaff, Orford, Piermont and Warren

Some responses were edited for length. For complete candidates' responses visit www.caledonianrecord.com

Denny Ruprecht Democrat

Currently serving in the Grafton-15 House seat, first-term Rep. Denny Ruprecht, D-Landaff, is seeking a second term in the state house.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

From a practical perspective, our role is impacted in many ways. The logistical complications of meeting safely have been resolved by House sessions being held at the UNH Whittemore Center in Durham, rather than in Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord. I anticipate that this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future.

My legislative priorities are focused on rebuilding our economy and protecting public health. Our pandemic-induced recession will mean that the state will have some serious financial issues coming down the pike, not to mention the economic hardships felt by so many of us, but we can't aban-



don our commitment to maintaining the health and well-being of Granite Staters. The role of any legislator heading into the next session will be to careful-

See **Ruprecht**, Page 23

Wes Chapmon Republican

Republican Wes Chapmon, of Bath, is a musician and owner of recording studio Studio Bohemo.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

Legislative duties do not change in an emergency. We still have the same fundamental responsibilities in honoring our oaths and upholding the rule of law by defending the Constitutions of the State of New Hampshire and the United States. Of course, Covid-19 and the states response to it and the laws regarding the states response to it will be at the top of everyone's list. This will definitely predominate the legislative docket for some time and our chief responsibility is fidelity to the Constitution to make sure that the states' response in times of trouble is both appropriate and constitutional.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where



are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

See **Chapmon**, Page 23

COOS HOUSE DISTRICT 4

The one-seat Coos-4 House District represents Dalton and Lancaster.

Some responses were edited for length. For complete candidates' responses visit www.caledonianrecord.com

Evelyn Merrick Democrat

Democrat Evalyn Merrick, of Lancaster, who previously served as a state representative representing the Lancaster area, is challenging incumbent state Rep. Kevin Craig, R-Lancaster, who is seeking a second term.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

As a member of the Legislature, I will help to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, which will be a priority, by recognizing the financial, personal and medical challenges we all face, the loss of jobs, health care, safe access to public services, impact on schools, students, teachers and families. One of the major economic fallouts from the pandemic and high unemployment rates are mental health care challenges. I will work with the federal delegation, as well as state agencies, to advocate for resources for the people and businesses in the North Coun-



try most in need. I will work to assure the funds from the BEA, and from COVID federal funds, earmarked for rural NH, which will help jump-start

See **Merrick**, Page 19

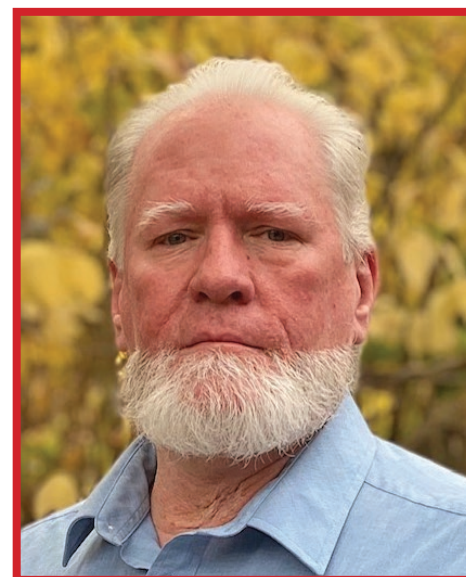
Kevin Craig Republican

Incumbent state Rep. Kevin Craig, R-Lancaster, who is seeking a second term, is being challenged by Democrat Evalyn Merrick, of Lancaster, who previously served as a state representative representing the Lancaster area.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

The worst fallout from the pandemic (aside from the lives lost, of course) is the loss of jobs and businesses. It will be difficult to quantify other secondary effects, such as suicides, drug and alcohol abuse, and property crime that is driven by either desperation or opportunism.

I will be looking at refining the authority of the Executive Branch to issue emergency orders, so that they can only be universal in nature and not targeted by sector, and cannot be extended without legislative approval.



Even when the governor is of my own party, unchecked executive power is a threat to liberty.

How would you categorize your understand-

See **Craig**, Page 19

Election 2020

COOS HOUSE DISTRICT 5

The Coos-5 House District covers Carroll, Jefferson, Randolph and Whitefield

Some responses were edited for length. For complete candidates' responses visit www.caledonianrecord.com

Edith Tucker Democrat

Rep. Edith Tucker, D-Randolph, a North Country newspaper reporter, is seeking a second term.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

The economic fallout from COVID-19 will certainly be very great, especially in tourist-dependent Coos 5. Priorities are to help mitigate the harm to our small businesses as well as students and schools and improving high-speed internet access for both remote learners and at-home workers.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

I mailed a letter to 10% of my constituents 6 weeks ago, asking them to tell me their areas of



"greatest concern." Replies indicate:

a. parents of K-12 students want increased state aid for area SAUs to ensure their children do not fall

See **Tucker**, Page 17

John Greer Republican

Republican John Greer, of Carroll, has worked in the aluminum can industry for 40 years.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

Initially, we were told they were locking down the economy for 2 weeks to keep the hospitals from being swamped. But 8 months in (as of October 6), there are 20 hospitalizations in the entire state of NH due to Covid (NH Department of Health and Human Services). The CDC reports people under 70 have a 99.5% chance of survival. Obviously, people in high risk groups need to be protected. But if elected, I will not be throwing roadblocks on top of what NH residents have had to deal with so far due to the Covid reaction. In past infectious outbreaks, we protected people at risk. One has to wonder why this time we are shutting down the economy and locking up the healthy? The reaction to the disease



may prove to be worse than the disease itself. My legislative priority is to protect the vulnerable, but get the economy moving.

See **Greer**, Page 17

COOS HOUSE DISTRICT 7

The Coos-7 House seat represents Carroll, Dalton, Jefferson, Lancaster, Northumberland, Stark, and Whitefield.

Some responses were edited for length. For complete candidates' responses visit www.caledonianrecord.com

Gregor Stocks Democrat

Gregor Stocks is a Democrat and software engineer from Jefferson.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

I'm optimistic that we'll have a widely-distributed vaccine or effective treatment for COVID by January, and the legislature will be able to prioritize long-term issues like rural broadband, education funding, and campaign finance reform. But we can't be sure of that, and it may be that we'll have to keep focusing on harm reduction - on keeping our kids and seniors safe with proper ventilation and PPE, and on giving our small businesses support so they can survive the crisis.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top



three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

The topics that come up over and over again

See **Stocks**, Page 17

Troy Merner Republican

State Rep. Troy Merner, R-Lancaster, a retired from the steel industry and member of a several North Country economic development groups, is seeking second term in the Coos-7 House district.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

The next biennium budget will be taking up the first of the year and we will have to look at all the different priorities for the state for the next budget make sure we are still maintaining the level of services that the state provides.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

Being accessible for the constituents. Wheth-



er by email or phone, I receive a lot of calls over the 11 towns that I represent about the pandemic. The number one priority has been broadband. I've

See **Merner**, Page 17

Stocks

Continued from Page 16

when I speak to citizens of my district are keeping our citizens safe from COVID, protecting Second Amendment rights, and preserving the natural beauty that is the backbone of the modern economy of Coös.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

Fixing education funding has to involve raising

state revenue, though it would be offset by a reduction in local property taxes. Among the most promising sources for that revenue are the legalization and taxation of marijuana, and rewriting the adequacy formula so property-rich towns pay their fair share of state property taxes.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

Introducing a broad-based income or sales tax would give up one of New Hampshire's major competitive advantages, and I don't believe either is necessary at this time.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recom-

mend for addressing this area of concern?

The overall level of education funding in New Hampshire is above the national average, and students in property-rich school districts have access to a truly world-class education. But a higher proportion of that funding comes through property taxes than any other state, which means that districts with lower property values face a double whammy of underfunded schools and extremely high property taxes. The state has a legal obligation to fund an adequate education for all its students, and it should meet that obligation.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

The Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms. Restrictions on that right should

be rolled back, not expanded.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I look forward to cosponsoring the next round of the good-government bills that have been vetoed in recent sessions, such as HB1665 (establishing an independent redistricting commission, so legislators can't choose their voters) and SB156 (closing the LLC loophole, which allows rich donors to ignore limits on campaign donations). Eliminating civil asset forfeiture, which allows law enforcement to seize property without due process, is also high on my list - Rep. Sylvia (R-Belknap 6) has been a consistent advocate for this reform, and it will be an honor to work with him on it if he's re-elected.

Merner

Continued from Page 16

already filed an early bill co-sponsoring for broadband. Being involved in economic development over the last 10 years, I've been making sure we keep the advantage to keep bringing businesses in and in our education to get the workers with the skills to fill those positions.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue

is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

There is no way to tell. We will be sitting with revenues. They may be stimulus relief from the federal government that would keep us on an even keel and I would not support at this time raising any taxes.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No, I would not.

In the state's education system, is the greater

concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

There is a pending ruling in the Supreme Court on this issue. It would have to be brought up after that decision is made.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

None.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

My involvement in the community. I've been on

many boards. I am a trustee for the charter school. I have never seen my opponent ever in the community and I don't even know what he stands for.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

A broadband bill, which is already been filed and a net metering bill, which is important to the North Country. Also, going to work with the biomass plants that are all shut down to try to put something together for them. Those are just the bills I'm working on my committee. I will cosponsor other bills and other committees as they come up.

Tucker

Continued from Page 16

behind academically

b. a return to political civility, with lawmakers working across party lines for the common good, and

c. more job opportunities for high school and college graduates who want to remain in Coös.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

At the time of this writing, it's too soon to know whether the state will receive enough federal aid,

similar to CARES Act monies, to make up for revenue shortfalls. I don't expect to favor any new fees or taxes, and I'll fight against cuts to Coös.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I would not vote for either an income or a sales tax or business tax increases. As always, the two-year budget must be balanced.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

The blue-ribbon commission now studying how N.H.'s public education equity and funding issues are intertwined will surely recommend funding changes. Finding out which changes the public

would support will involve debate, discussion, and input that could lead to a specific & carefully hammered-out bipartisan solution.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

We must enforce laws now on the books and strengthen background checks. I support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that secures the "right of the people to keep and bear arms."

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I've spent 25 years as a local reporter. That experience gives me a deep understanding of Coös' challenges and opportunities, its citizens' resilience, and its great beauty. I've served 2 terms representing Coös 5, so that I've "learned the ropes" is a definite

advantage.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

If re-elected, I will work collaboratively with other Coös reps to cosponsor a bill to prohibit new landfills from being sited within 2 miles of state parks, such as Forest Lake, but without including the Appalachian Trail. I will cosponsor a bill (similar to HB 1160) to allow municipalities the option of voting to enact a local Rooms tax, using proceeds to help pay costs of hosting hospitality venues. I will sponsor a bill to study whether an adequate portion of the dollars N.H. receives each year from the Tobacco Settlement is being spent on effective youth smoking prevention programs, designed to reduce future health costs. Most Settlement monies go into the General Fund.\

Greer

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How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

My priorities are clear in all my promotional material: maintaining the NH advantage through low taxes, low regulation and personal liberty. If elected, I will have confirmation that this is the course the voters want me to follow. NH is in danger of becoming just another high tax, highly regulated state. There is just one man keeping this nightmare from unfolding. The Governor. I intend to help him to keep the Free State...FREE.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

NO!

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

My number one concern is what is best for the children. Unfortunately, many states have failing schools where the students pay the price. This is not the case in NH. So, my hat is off to our educators. On the other hand, fairness and cost are important too. One problem that makes inequity an issue is the gargantuan size of taxes going to support our schools. We should focus on technology to lower educational costs. Improving the North County internet infrastructure will be key here as well. Letting costs continue to skyrocket will start to force people

out of their homes and harm housing affordability. That's not fair either! Technology is lowering costs at a staggering pace across our economy. This trend will pick up faster as artificial intelligence improves. We need to ensure students get the best education possible at the lowest cost...with the emphasis on educational quality.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

NONE

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

The purpose of my candidacy is to give voters a choice. My opponent did not have a challenger two years ago. Fortunately for the voters of Coös District 5, they now have a choice. The difference between us could not be wider. If the voters want to pay an income tax on wages and a capital gains tax, while

losing second amendment rights, she is the person to vote for. Her voting record demonstrates she is as passionate about taking these freedoms from NH citizens as I am about protecting them. I will not vote to raise taxes and will protect our God given right to self-defense. The voters will decide which approach is better for them by November 3rd.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

The North County supports many tourist attractions and activities that generate untold millions to the state budget. We support our State by providing enhanced police presence, greater fire department capabilities, ambulance services and robust trash removal services that benefit the tourism industry. In return we get little compensation from the State for our increased costs. North Country towns should be reimbursed for these higher costs out of the 9% tax revenue on hotel rooms.

Election 2020

OTHER CANDIDATES

Tim Egan Democrat Grafton 2

Two candidates are running for the one-seat Grafton-2 House district, which represents Franconia, Lisbon, Lyman, Monroe and Sugar Hill.

Seeking reelection to a second term is state Rep. Timothy Egan, D-Sugar Hill, a television producer and a professor at Northern Vermont University, who is being challenged by Republican Robert Peraino, a retired physician from Franconia.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

I think legislators will need to focus on improving our health care systems and building up our economy:

1. Creating a better health care system with transparency for pricing, easier access to tele-medicine and out placement services for mental health. Thus improved broadband and college med-tech programs will go a long way to making those improvements happen.

2. Be open minded in working with NH businesses, educational institutions and agency heads to figure out how to create more revenue without creating a statewide sales and income tax. Priorities would be looking at recycling/redemption, adult use cannabis or adjusting current use.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

My understanding: Very Good.

My assessment is based on the fact that I listen to, talk with and visit all the towns in my district. I communicate with select boards, school boards, community groups, arts groups and business leaders.

- Improving rural broadband
- Education funding for high school and colleges
- Preserving the environment

Define "effective legislator."

An effective legislator is one that communicates with constituents, understands a problem, does research on the issue, communicates with fellow legislators to determine if legislation is needed - then takes action.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

The state can't cut many more services without causing issues - there is not enough funding for pub-

lic schools to help those with special needs, not enough funding for mental health care, not enough for needed bridge repairs, not enough wardens for Fish and Game to provide safety or management to hikers and ATVs. So we need to increase revenue to cover those issues and others. We need should increase fines for littering and illegal dumping, as well mandate training courses for ATV riders, especially requiring permits for those under 17.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No on an Income tax. No on a statewide sales tax. Open to excise taxes on certain product or services, like alcohol, cigarettes, gaming or cannabis. The Tax Triggers bill passed in the last House term is working just fine.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

The funding is a concern, as the state needs to work harder with our federal delegation to get increased support for the mentally and physically developmentally challenged. The lack of federal support is causing our towns and school deep financial stress, especially on services for a vulnerable population.

What is your assessment of the state's efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people - especially those in rural areas - could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

By focusing on requiring clean water & clean air, limiting landfills and expanding biomass or solar power, those efforts will address climate change AND keep the environment, that is maximized by tourism, pristine but benefiting this in the rural areas of NH.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

We should be banning access to high capacity weapons and magazines. I support sportsmen and hunters, but you don't need an assault rifle to shoot a turkey.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

Ban open carry or concealed carry in schools, unless approved by the school board as part of their public safety plan that is devised in consultation with local law enforcement.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contenders in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I think what makes me worthy of election is that my approach and perspective aligns with the majority of district voters. My practical sense to leg-



islative interaction, community engagement and smart yet limited government involvement, is what people want. My district does not want impolite ideologues with tired rhetoric and lack of community engagement like other contenders in my district.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

Increasing fines for littering, illegal dumping and poaching. Supporting limitations on landfills near state parks. Net-metering. ATV training/safety requirements when on riding club trails and especially town and state roads. Legalization of adult use cannabis and regulation to build a new revenue generating industry.

NOTE: Republican challenger Robert Peraino did not respond to The Caledonian-Record's candidate questionnaire.

Elaine French Democrat Grafton 14

Two candidates are running for the one-seat Grafton-14 House district, which represents Bethlehem, Franconia, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, and Sugar Hill.

Seeking reelection to a second term is state Rep. Elaine French, D-Littleton, a retired teacher, who is being challenged by Republican Matthew Simon, of Littleton, owner of Simon's Market.

How do you see the role of a legislator heading into the next session being impacted by the fallout from the pandemic? What should your legislative priorities be in the next session?

Two of the bills I sponsored passed the House with bi-partisan majority. The Senate laid both on the table due to the pandemic.

HB 1319 sought to put a 2 mile buffer zone around all NH State Parks to protect them from the siting of new solid waste facilities. We have improved the wording and I will be resubmitting it for the 2020 session. The second bill sets up a study commission to look into increasing child's access to legal in certain situations, i.e. family is involved in a DCYF case, possibility of expulsion from school. I plan to re-submit this bill in 2022, waiting until the pandemic is better controlled.



Address the impact of the pandemic on NH and work to correct it as problems and solutions are identified.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

My understanding of what my district residents want from me varies, there are 7 towns, I have more contact with the larger towns, I have contacted all the select boards, sent information about my background, how to reach me by phone and email. I have offered to attend select board meetings if my presence would be helpful I engage in conversations with area residents whenever I can, talk to cashiers in stores, waitstaff, customers in stores, and other hardworking people who are trying to make a life in this down economy which has been made even harder by the pandemic. The 3 top priorities paid leave, higher hourly wages and getting schools back to "normal".

Define "effective legislator."

An "effective legislator" is focused on bettering the lives of the residents of their district, county and state rather than following party lines all of the time.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

The state budget needs an influx of additional revenue. School funding is a major issue. I am a retired teacher, I taught in small school districts in 3 states for all but 1 of my 38 years. Funding was an issue in every district. I started teaching in Lisbon just after the Claremont suit. Though the plaintiffs "won", funding has not been equal, each school district must educate their children with the money they can raise.

I think that shifting the tax burden upwards and off of working families is an option to be looked into. In 2019 there was a bill that would have increased a capital gains type tax currently in effect from \$.02 to \$.05/\$1.00 on people with investments over a certain amount. That money would have gone only to the NH education trust fund. This would have made a big difference.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I would not support income or sales taxes. I do not know enough about the business tax situation to comment. There are some other possibilities i.e. deposits on bottles - about 40% of bottle deposits are not collected and the state would have those funds to

See **Other Candidates**, Page 20

Craig

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ing of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

The number one issue that I hear in my district, including from some Democrats, is a desire for Republicans to retake the majority.

While that might seem unusual, many traditional blue-collar Democrats oppose the direction their party is headed when it comes to broad-based taxation, gun control, and government spending.

If you care to put them into any particular order, it would be opposition to any form of income tax, any increase in gun control, and any increase in spending.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

We absolutely must cut the budget. The current biennial budget was only possible because of record tax revenue, but the pandemic's impact on our economy means that won't be the case in 2021-22.

State parks and Fish & Game operate on the revenue they raise through admission fees, licenses, and

specialty license plate sales. That should be the goal of all state agencies.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I will always oppose any state income tax, sales tax, or increase in business taxes. Some advocate "tax reform" by calling to replace property taxes with income or sales taxes. I do not. Property taxes are too high, but that's because spending is too high. Sales taxes are inherently regressive, adversely affecting the poor more than the wealthy.

Business taxes hurt businesses, and hurting business is not good for employees, especially those in the lower income range. We cannot help people by putting them out of work. The New Hampshire Advantage is why we stand above our neighboring New England states.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

White Mountains Regional School District, SAU-36, has a good reputation for providing quality education. I work with many of our high-schoolers, and I've participated in a mock job fair at WMRHS, and spoken with our younger students at the Lancaster School. I am also very impressed with North Country Charter Academy and their work with students who aren't doing well in the traditional classroom setting.

I have the utmost respect for teachers, who are

too often the ball in a game of political ping-pong. I don't know any teachers who aren't doing their best for their students.

I believe that we need more educational choices, because one size doesn't fit all. I have five grown children, and each of them had a different education based on their individual needs. One of them attended traditional public schooling through Grade 12, followed by university. One never set foot in a classroom, and was "unschooled" his entire life. The others had a blend of public, private, and home-school education. We have certainly never had the kind of money for elite private education, but we made it work. My wife and I spent years working opposite shifts to make this happen; it's not easy, but it's worth it to give each child what they need. I'm no stranger to dealing with students on the autism spectrum, since it has affected more than one of my own children.

With all that said, the enemy of adequate education is administrative bloat. My friends who are teachers agree, and if we end top-down demands from the state and federal bureaucracy, teachers would receive more funding.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

I support eliminating the last vestiges of gun control in New Hampshire. That includes the prohibition on loaded rifles or shotguns in vehicles, and the requirement to have a license to carry a loaded handgun on an OHRV.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor

or co-sponsor?

First would be a "Defend The Guard" bill, which would forbid deploying our NH National Guard units overseas without approval of the state's commander-in-chief, who is the governor. As a veteran, I know that our Guard and Reserve units' readiness has been harmed by continued deployments to foreign war zones. When we need them here at home to respond to disasters or emergencies, they are too often either overseas, or too weakened to respond effectively. Our hometown soldiers are exhausted, and retention and recruiting has suffered.

Second would be a bill that requires the same public notice for immigration checkpoints, as is required for impaired driving checkpoints.

Some representatives boast of how many bills they sponsor, but I believe we need fewer bills, not more. Every proposed bill costs the taxpayers more than \$1,000 just to be researched and printed (sometimes much more), and the staff time spent on committee hearings adds even more to the cost.

I don't seek glory for having my name listed as the prime sponsor of a bill. I care more about voting for good bills and good amendments, and voting against bad bills and amendments. I work across party lines where possible, but I will always vote for these basic principles: personal liberty, lower taxes, transparency in government, and fewer regulations and obstacles to free enterprise.

During my first term, I developed a reputation as someone who speaks infrequently, but my opinions are taken seriously. I plan to continue along that line.

Merrick

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the depressed economies and those hit hardest by Covid, reach the neediest. I will look for opportunities that allow all my constituents access to health care, and support the rights of all to exercise free choice. I trust the people of Coös.

How would you categorize your understanding of what people in your district desire from their legislator? Upon what are you basing that assessment? What would you say are the top three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

My understanding of the needs of my fellow community members is a direct result of living in the North Country for almost 30 years, and participating in discussions about the needs of our towns with fellow citizens. I was privileged to have served in the Legislature for three terms. The most effective way to understand the desires of the people in my district is to ask them what they need, what is important to them, where they feel emphasis should be placed with regard to issues such as school funding, health care, infrastructure, jobs, homelessness, mental health and other challenges that they may face. As your representative, I will listen with an open mind, and work across the aisle to make changes. The top three priorities, based on the majority of people I have asked, are the following in no particular order: Building a robust, reliable broadband infrastructure service throughout the North Country; having more accessible and affordable health care options, and finding ways to help promote economic development and support businesses as they cope with the pandemic. We desperately need a strong North Country economy in order to survive, thrive, create more job opportunities, and provide opportu-

nities for our children.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

The state budget does need an influx of additional revenue, especially in light of the effects of Covid 19 on every citizen in the state. I will ensure that the federal Covid funding makes its way to the North Country. Other priorities, as I see them, would be spending on education, services for seniors and Veterans, job/business tax credits to get people back on their feet, infrastructure improvement, especially broadband to the rural areas that don't have it, when we have a large number of low income families who are forced to work and study from home. The current funding streams can support North Country priorities, along with federal funding earmarked for Covid related impacts. If we cut the budget, we risk cutting badly needed services for so many people who have been adversely effected by the pandemic. Social services, including mental health care, suicide prevention, food services for seniors and homebound residents, rent, heat assistance, etc. are critical services in the North Country. If we can encourage public and private funding opportunities which will bring matching federal dollars to NH to address specific challenges, by working with the state agencies, I believe we will be able to address a substantial part of the shortfalls we face. We cannot turn our backs on the neediest of our neighbors.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

What I believe is that we need to take the burden off the property owner. It is a regressive tax and impacts our seniors, our low income families, and the

young families who want to move here to find employment and raise a family. We simply can't afford the current level of property taxes. I don't support a sales tax or an income tax in the current economic environment. I want to encourage an environment where start-up and smaller companies that rely on raiser-thin margins to make investments to grow their companies are not paying an unfair share. Larger corporations and businesses should pay their fair share to encourage an environment that enables growth. We have a variety of fees and taxes, but often these revenue sources disproportionately impact lower wage earners. The priority must be on reducing the burden of property taxes and find other creative ways to increase revenue.

In the state's education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

In order to have equity/fairness in education, one needs the funding and resources to provide the support students need and the opportunities to have equally successful futures. We need to address both areas, as they are both being challenged in regard to what schools, and programs, and to where the funding is being targeted. They both affect the outcome. I believe that the first priority should be to enhance equity between the poorest and wealthiest school districts. This one option would be especially beneficial to the North Country.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

I strongly support the rights of our neighbors who hunt and do not want to see us change our culture in NH. The present laws allow for citizens to carry loaded, concealed handguns. There is no clear background check required by private sellers, no waiting period or limitation on the amount or type of firearm a person can own. There is no state per-

mit required to purchase a firearm, no registration required, no ban on assault weapons, no magazine capacity restrictions. New Hampshire should follow the proposed federal guidelines and institute common sense gun laws supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. "New Hampshire's weak gun laws endanger its residents, particularly those at risk for suicide. Legislators owe it to their constituents to take proactive measures to save lives from gun violence." I would like to see lives saved, and all these concerns addressed. This does not mean Gun Control. We need to support Gun Safety and the protection of our individual citizens, those challenged by mental health issues, and especially our children. At the very least, a "committee should be established to study firearms incidences involving children with access to unsecured firearms."

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I have had the honor of serving the citizens of Coös as a State Representative from this area in the past. An example of legislation I sponsored and cosponsored while serving, which became law, includes, but is not limited to: the legalization of Medicinal Cannabis for qualifying patients; Aquatic Wetlands Mitigation which protects water ways above and below ground level; Jobs Creation Tax Credits which encourages small businesses to move to rural areas like ours, and Medicaid Expansion. The top issues I will focus on are improving access and affordability to health care, mitigating the impacts of Covid 19, improving our infrastructure and broadband to encourage small businesses to flourish in the North Country, raising the minimum wage, and ensuring that the disenfranchised, under-served and marginalized citizens are recognized and empowered to succeed. I look forward to working with my colleagues to build consensus and champion bills that deliver results for the North Country.

Sherrard

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during this pandemic. They are so important during these difficult times.

Define “effective legislator.”

An effective legislator is one who is actively receiving feedback from their constituents and being available to vote on their behalf. I want to be in the house of representatives to get things done.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

The state budget does not need cutting. We should have a broad based tax to pay for education and infrastructure. In particular I would support a personal income tax on yearly taxable income of \$100,000 or more.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I would support an increase in business taxes for businesses making over a certain determined amount of profit on a yearly basis.

In the state’s education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

Both funding and equity in N H’s education system are critical in order to provide NH children with an adequate education. Both issues need to be addressed to create a system of public education which is fair for all NH students and to NH tax payers. The NH Legislature needs to establish a funding level that is sufficient and equitable throughout the state. The current system of funding public education through property taxes places undue burdens on some towns and the residents of those towns, while giving substantial property tax breaks to towns with higher property values.

What is your assessment of the state’s efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

Given what we learned from the Northern Pass fight, the state has to work harder at listening to the peoples voices. We should support alternative energy sources. Climate Change should be at the top of the list when making decisions concerning our environment. Climate change is everyone’s concern! Our Earth’s Health should be addressed before profit.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

We should have background checks with a waiting period to purchase a gun. There should be a law prohibiting the sale of semi-automatic weapons. People that are not able to make good decisions in using a firearm, young children, folks with certain mental problems, and people with a past history of violence or domestic abuse should not have possession of a firearm. Background checks, gun cabinets/gun safes, and being vigilant citizens willing to report to law enforcement the possibility of distressed individuals can all play an important role in the reduction of gun violence. I have experienced gun violence in my past. Better regulations could have prevented this trauma. The impact for me has been long lasting. I still respect the right to own firearms, as do the majority of citizens in this country.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

Extra funding for educating parents, teachers, and children in identifying troublesome behavior in our students.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contenders in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I feel I differ from other contenders in my beliefs of freedom of choice and separating church and state. I bring decades of experiences and activism to my constituents.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I feel I need more education and hands on experience at the State House to answer this question. I can pledge that I will always vote for bills that will be of most value to my constituents. Any bills under consideration which would increase access and funding for Planned Parenthood would be something I would actively support during my tenure.

Massimilla

Continued from Page 14

An effective legislator is one who listens with an open mind to all points of view. One who realizes that good ideas are not exclusive to one party and that he/she represents all constituents. An effective legislator helps people access resources to assist them in dealing with issues.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

I am sure there are areas of the state budget that could be modified, but with Covid-19 I think we need to examine how the state can assist people with jobs, housing, and other concerns. Revenue sources are something we all have to start creatively thinking about.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No.
In the state’s education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

Both. More revenue spent on funding for online learning and broadband expansion and reexamining the formula we use for providing an equitable education here in NH.

What is your assessment of the state’s efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

We can always do more. New Hampshire’s participation in RGGI has helped to reduce carbon emissions and has made NH’s emissions some of the lowest in the country. I would encourage cities to look into Electric Vehicle Mass Transit

and offer incentives to motivate companies and municipalities to move toward more environmentally friendly projects for generating energy. Here in the North Country, the White Mountains Community College is continuing to investigate offering courses on the repair and maintenance of electric vehicles as well as the construction of infrastructure necessary to the EV industry. These courses will hopefully open up new job opportunities for North Country residents.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

There are always amendments that can be made to any law to improve them. I feel we need to take a look at the laws that are on the books and see if we can help make them safer for NH citizens. I also think we need to have a serious discussion about assault weapons.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

Make certain that all staff and students are up to date about all current safety measures and procedures and have a safety officer available for each school.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contenders in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I feel all the candidates bring their own unique talents to the job. I have the advantage of having developed a wide network of relationships as resources to help address a variety of constituents’ concerns. Because I am retired, I have more time to devote to the job.

I am also good at bring together different stakeholder groups to problem solve issues as I did with the tri-county drug summits and the chronic pain roundtable

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

This September I resubmitted my bill HB201 that passed the House but was not introduced in the Senate because of the shutdown of the legislature due to the pandemic. The bill would increase the penalty for having sex with a minor from a Class B to a Class A felony.

Other Candidates

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use. Legalization of cannabis could be another source of income for the state.

In the state’s education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

I think funding adequately would assure that each district would be able to supply the education services needed by their students.

What is your assessment of the state’s efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

1 - The state’s efforts to address climate concerns are uneven. We have passed legislation to reduce the level PFAS in our water. Increasing net metering was vetoed – 2 examples.

2 - We have to have a habitable world to have an economy. The damage done by extreme weather is causing a tremendous amount of damage and is what economic impact of green initiatives should be measured against, if not the weather’s impact on human lives. Vocational training in green infrastructure should help workers in impacted careers find employment in more stable employment into the future.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

Gun violence prevention is important. I was very disappointed when the House was not able to override the governor’s veto of

HB 1660 – establishing a protective order for vulnerable adults. In a negotiated compromise the provision allowing the confiscation of firearms was removed. During the time between the governor’s veto and September there were 3 firearm fatalities – a suicide and a murder-suicide. One or all of the MIGHT have been prevented if the bill had not been vetoed.

Making schools safer is difficult, in that no 2 school districts or schools are identical. Building configurations, number of students and ages, and school placement in the town are a few examples. I have talked to two police officials in Grafton County about having weapons in schools for safety. One would prefer no one to have a weapon so that if they get a live shooter call they can easily identify the problematic person. The other official would like there to be armed school protection officers. I see the pros and cons of each position.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I believe in science and think it’s selfish and dangerous to encourage gatherings of unmasked people during a respiratory epidemic. I believe in dignity and love for ALL NH residents. I have an immense amount of experience in both education and child services, and I believe that building a livable future and adequately preparing children to live in it is the most important thing a civilization can do.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

Addressed in answer to #1.

NOTE: Republican challenger Matt Simon did not respond to The Caledonian-Record’s candidate questionnaire.

DePalma

Continued from Page 14

Through my conversations with those in my district, I believe that the people in my district want a legislator that:

1. Represents the people rather the party
2. Works across party lines
3. Ensures that New Hampshire maintains its limited government and low taxes

Define “effective legislator.”

An effective legislator is a legislator that puts their constituents before their party and would rather embody the beliefs of the people they represent than tow the party line.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

I believe that Governor Sununu has done an excellent job in ensuring that our state’s budget is kept in check and I do not believe that the budget needs to increase or decrease. If more revenue was needed I believe that it should come from sources that primarily tax visitors to the state, in the form room and meals tax, rather than burdening our state’s residents.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I would NOT support any legislation that implemented a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in business taxes. The reason that New Hampshire’s economy has been so successful has been because of the New Hampshire advantage (our lack of broad-based taxes), and any effort to weaken this advantage would prove extremely detrimental to New Hampshire’s vibrant economy.

In the state’s education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

In the state’s education system, I believe the greater concern is the funding of local schools. In many low-income communities, local taxpayers are forced to foot an enormous bill each year to

fund their local schools. The Democrats believe that the solution to this issue is to create a larger educational bureaucracy at the state level. Sure, this solution may sound great in principle, but the reality is that communities will be forced to surrender control to a large government bureaucracy. This sharply contrasts with New Hampshire’s principles as a state with an extremely limited government that prides itself on local control. I believe that the solution to this problem is to create and embrace economic development incentives for low-income communities, like the Opportunity Zones programs, to increase the tax base of low-income municipalities and lessen the tax burden of localized education systems.

What is your assessment of the state’s efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

I do not believe that the state has done enough to address the ongoing climate crisis. I understand the implications of taking aggressive action to curb climate change, as my family owns a trucking company. Taking sweeping actions against climate change would kill many small businesses just like our own. I would support legislation that would promote tax incentives for reducing carbon emissions and grant programs for businesses to convert to renewable energy.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

I do not believe that any additional firearms laws are necessary in the State of New Hampshire. New Hampshire’s minimal gun regulations allow citizens to fully take advantage of their 2nd amendment rights and have resulted in our state’s extremely low crime rate.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

I do not believe that any additional measures are needed to make our schools safer.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

In the state’s education system, is the greater concern in the funding or in the equity of education services? Which approach do you recommend for addressing this area of concern?

I think there is equal concern with both funding and equity in education, but I don’t think solutions need to be at odds with one another. I’m a proponent of school choice and vouchers. Different students learn differently, and therefore parents should be able to pick from different models that work best for their families. Access to those alternative models should not be limited to just the fortunate. I think COVID-19 school debacles have revealed some of the weaknesses of our current top-down approach to education. If there has ever been a time to innovate in our education system, now is the time.

What is your assessment of the state’s efforts to address climate concerns? How do you strike a balance between taking significant action vs. the possibility that people – especially those in rural areas – could be harshly impacted financially by those actions?

I think New Hampshire stands out as a great steward of the environment. Our environment is one of our greatest assets. People come from all over the world to enjoy the outdoors here. We have a land use policy that favors forests and conservation. Governor Sununu has also been at the forefront of protecting our water. The notion that we have to pick between the environment and the economy is a false choice.

In the United States our forestry industry is a net sink of CO₂, our managed forests absorb more than they emit. Forestry in rural New England can be a major factor in the reduction of atmospheric carbon. There is also potential for renewed local small scale hydro power which was a historic driver of economic development in the region. Environmental problems are only ever solved if the solutions work with the culture and economic interest of the community, not

As a 19-year-old college student, running against many older contenders I believe that my age is what separates me from my contenders. People may say I don’t have enough experience to take on this role, but to them I say, “experience breeds ignorance.” I currently serve as vice president of my family’s business, Meadow Leasing. I am currently a student at Plymouth State University, I have served on New Hampshire’s Legislative Youth Advisory Council, I am a member of Littleton’s River District Commission, and have served as an intern to Littleton’s town manager. The founding fathers of our nation believed the role of a legislator should not be a full-time job for the old and retired, it should be a part-time job for those who are members of the workforce, who can relate to the constituents they represent.

As a college student in today’s world, every day I witness the failure of our own party to spread its message to the younger generations. Our party seems to have given up on my generation, allowing the majority of us to become indoctrinated with liberal ideologies. Nowadays, young Republicans like myself on college campuses are almost closeted, afraid to say who we voted for or who we support, because we are immediately labeled as homophobic, xenophobic, racists by our liberal peers who lack the ability to see past Tweets and out of context statements thrust onto news headlines. It seems the tolerance that they preach doesn’t apply to Republicans. Who’s going to be sitting in the state legislature in 30 years? It has never been more imperative for our party to get younger than now because if we do not than the Republican values that have built this nation will begin to deteriorate. It is time for a young Republicans like myself to bring conservative values back to younger generations of Americans.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

The top bills that I intend to sponsor, or co-sponsor would be bills that: cut regulatory measures for our state’s businesses, bills that would help fight the climate crisis in a fiscally responsible manner, bills that promote community economic development programs, bills that improved our state’s infrastructure, and bills that encourage and incentivize young people to come and stay in New Hampshire.

against it.

What, if any, additional firearms laws do you think are necessary in New Hampshire?

I think New Hampshire has sensible and adequate firearms laws. This is backed up by data showing NH as one of the safest states with one of the lowest rates of violence. Roughly half of NH households have a firearm, I would guess more so in the North Country. I think that responsible gun owners have a right to own firearms for protection and sport. If Governor Sununu had not vetoed several anti-gun bills in the last two years, that right would be in serious jeopardy.

What, if any, additional measures do you think are needed to make schools safer?

I think that the hybrid model has some flaws. I think that families who view the risk of kids returning to school should be provided with a fully remote learning option. At the same time, those families and teachers who are willing to assume the risk should be allowed back in the classroom full time.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contenders in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I’m a family man, I have two wonderful kids at home and they deserve to inherit a world with more freedom and justice than now. That’s my guiding principle and reason for running for office. Our society is facing major, even existential crises and I want to do what I can to help meet those challenges.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I would like to do something to address the critical shortage of affordable housing in New Hampshire. I don’t think that means that the government should become a property developer or landlord, instead I think we need to cut some of the red tape that is preventing quality new housing from being built. I would sponsor a bill to that effect.

Beaulier

Continued from Page 14

three priorities the greatest number of people in the district have for you as their legislator?

I’m a big believer in constituent service. Any member of the community should be able to call their representative if they are having issues with Concord and get real help. I would also say that the community should expect their legislator to also show up and vote in every legislative session. I base that on what I want out of the people I vote for to represent my community and me.

Define “effective legislator.”

Somebody that shows up in Concord and works for their community. Somebody who understands politics as they are and despite that, looks to build consensus and deliver results for the people who voted them into office.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

We cannot rebuild our economy by raising taxes and destroying the New Hampshire Advantage. We need be laser focused on cutting government waste. Families have to budget and live within their means, we should expect the same from our government. Every dollar of additional government revenue is a dollar that was taken from a taxpayer. We should be very sure that they are being spent wisely.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

Absolutely not, and I have taken the pledge to oppose new taxes in New Hampshire.

Kenney

Continued from Page 13

Supported school building aid funding for Woodsville High School in Haverhill. Worked closely with Gorham Paper on the regulatory side to keep manufacturing site up and running in Gorham. Worked with State DOT officials on emergency road repair on Route 135 in Lancaster. Worked with Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund with regulatory issues to support Profile Lake platform in Franconia. Assisted Gord's Corner Store with permits to open bridge connector to store in Milan. Supported funding for the Lake Umbagog bathhouse in Errol and Jericho Park bathhouse project in Berlin. Voted and supported for the expansion of FirstNet AT&T contract into Northern New Hampshire to better support our First Responders and to expand cell phone and broadband use. Worked with and supported Littleton officials on Riverwalk infrastructure funding projects in Littleton. Worked with several businesses with regards to liquor, health and labor licensing issues. Supported and voted for North Country grants in reference to

water and sewage projects that came from the State Water Drinking Fund. Made several trips to Montreal to assist the State Division of Economic Development with recruitment activities. Worked with Bob Chapman in Groveton on several occasions to help expand the business park ultimately creating 115 jobs with a new manufacturer, NSA. Worked with the State Division of Economic Development to assist a Quebec manufacturer locate in Berlin. Worked with the Town of Lyme and state officials to advanced permitting to conduct construction project along Riverside Road. Helped in the securing a \$750,000 line of credit through the Business Finance Authority for the Tri-County Community Action Program in Berlin.

What are some votes as a councilor that you are proud of?

The Medicaid Care Management, NH Health Protection and Managed Care program contracts that brought nearly a billion dollars of health care services to the citizens of NH. Our senior congregate meal contracts that support good nutrient and socialization for seniors. Vote to support state funding for the Town of Milan to create a town-owned community forest that totaled 265 acres at the time. The contract that established New Hampshire participation in North Woods

Law program, the Stonegarden grants for law enforcement to protect our Northern Borders in Coos County, the vote and advocacy for the AT&T FirstNet program to build out inter-operability communication for first responders to further expand build out of North Country cell towers, the vote on extending a \$300,000 grant to Friendship House in Bethlehem for drug and alcohol treatment, the vote and advocacy for \$1.2 million CMAQ grant to the North Country for a pathway project in North Conway, the vote to make Gordon McDonald our State Attorney General, and the advocacy for our low power energy plants and the active opposition to Northern Pass.

What do you look for when voting to approve the appointment of a commissioner or judge citizens to board, commissions or state agencies?

There are three basic criteria I look for: do they meet the qualifications of the nominated position; secondly, are they NH based and involved in their community; and lastly, what work and/or educational experiences do they have that would make them a good board member, commissioner or judge. Additionally, what do their professional peers think of them. I never ask questions about race, politics, religion or gender to a candidate. I want the best person for the job who will make NH proud. The required public hearings for commissioners and judge nominees are a good place to vet the candidates and to ask them to answers questions related to their position in which they are trying to get confirmed. From my standpoint, judicial appointments take on more scrutiny because these people in "black robes" can have a profound impact on a citizen's life. Someone applying to become a judge goes through a judicial commission selection process before coming to the Council, and they have been vetted extensively. I expect that these judicial candidates adhere to the state and federal constitution and do not conduct judicial activism while on the bench. It is important for them to have good judicial temperament to be a judge. Further, they need to be good at assisting and guiding pro se litigants in the courthouse. There is nothing more intimidating than being before a judge, we expect our judges to have good people skills and to be fair, firm but honest.

Where do you feel you differ from the other contender in your district and what makes you the candidate worthy of election?

I want to make it clear, I support our men and women in blue and our veterans. I feel the NH Council has been become too much like Washington-style politics and lacks leadership. Mr. Cryans' was the deciding vote against the confirmation of Gordon McDonald to the State Supreme Court, stating his inexperience and uncertainty about reproductive rights. McDonald is recognized by his peers as most experienced civil litigator in the state and NH has never had a reproductive case tried in the NH State Supreme Court. McDonald had unprecedented statewide bipartisan support amongst Democrats and Republicans within the legal community. This was nothing more than a repeat of the Brett Kavanaugh US Supreme Court hearings in Washington. Mr. Cryans' was the deciding voted against the pay raise of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, because he was a Republican and he did not like his approach to the job- another example, of Washington- style politics. Mr. Cryan's voted against an African American to the State Board of Education and forced another African American to withdraw his nomination as director of the Office of Professional Licensing and Certification — just when NH state government is encouraging diversity and opportunity for minorities. Mr. Cryans' has used his vote to "abstained" with critical votes. In the most famous murder case in NH, he refused to vote on Pam Smart commutation vote, saying it was too difficult to vote either way. Mr. Cryan's abstained his vote on nomination of Manchester Police Chief David Mara to oversee the troubled Hillsborough County Attorney's Office and his lack of a vote defeated the nomination. The District 1 Council seat has become too polarizing and I want to put people above politics. I never abstained from a vote on the Council as your Executive Councilor for five years. I always told the Governor and Council look North and don't forget the North Country. I will not take away the voice of the North Country and I will be a strong advocate for this part of the state. You will always know where I stand. The current Executive Councilor position has slipped back to a part-time position and I want to make it a full-time position again. I want to be a strong voice for District 1 and get rid of the Washington-style politics. I believe this is what sets me apart from Mr. Cryans.

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Ruprecht

Continued from Page 15

ly balance the lives and livelihoods of our constituents, and that's what I intend to do should I be re-elected.

Does the state budget need cutting or an influx of additional revenue? If cuts are needed, where are the areas to consider? If more revenue is needed, what would you spend it on and what tax or fee increases should be considered to pay for it?

I think it is premature and unwise to say at this juncture. The state is still operating on the 2020-2021 budget, and the process for the 2021-2022 budget is still in an early phase. At this point the Governor is working on his proposed budget and will present that budget to the legislature in February.

At that point, the budget will be passed onto the Finance Committees for months of intensive work and negotiations. The people at the table for these talks, including leaders from both parties, the Governor's Office, agency heads, and any number of experts and specialists, know much more about the workings of state finance than most of us. I will defer to the work of the committee and my constituents in deciding how I'll vote on the proposed budget, but until then I don't want to get out over my skis.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

I would not support legislation to implement a state income tax or sales tax, consistent with my first term in office. I support the business tax agreement that the legislature made with the Governor in the last budget.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

The top bill I intend to sponsor, as I did last session, is one to support our biomass industry, which is critical to hundreds of North Country jobs. I would also sponsor a bill, as I did last session with a Republican colleague from Haverhill, that would make education funding more equitable by sharing statewide revenue with municipalities in order to take much of the burden off of local towns and local property taxpayers.

Chapman

Continued from Page 15

Government should run with the same fiscal responsibility we apply to our own finances. We can not simply force our employers to pay us more if we have an out of control spending problem and we should not run our public offices in this manner either. It is not the constitutional role, nor was it the intention of our founders, for government to right ever social wrong or cure every social ill, but rather to establish a rule of law to safeguard our natural rights and provide for a common defense.

That should be the core responsibility of government and programs that are not fundamental to that goal should be weighed and considered. The process of weighing and considering which programs to cut should not be undertaken haphazardly or based on special interest or pet peeves but rather with a clear view of the scope of government and the cost/benefit of the program. Should New Hampshire maintain programs to license cosmetology?

The states response to Covid will result in a massive shortfall of hundreds of thousands of dollars and may last for some time after bans are lifted and we begin to recover. Some will want to raise taxes by squeezing businesses the state destroyed or severely damaged and the people the state financially devastated. I believe instead we can and will find more than enough fat in the budget to eliminate without cutting any essential services that are within the proper scope of government to provide.

Would you support legislation to implement a state income tax, a sales tax, or an increase in the business taxes?

No! Absolutely not! That would have a counterproductive effect. We cant tax our way out of mismanagement and bad policy. People will prosper and rebuild a thriving economy if unburdened by the state. This will in turn restore revenue to support state government.

What are the top bills you intend to sponsor or co-sponsor?

I am already working on several that will limit usurpation of power and hold elected officials accountable for violations of the Constitution under color of law.

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