



The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

LITTLETON

Planners Approve
Subdivision For Casino
Property

FREE



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Planners Approve Subdivision For Casino Property

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — After a public hearing on Tuesday, town planners approved a minor subdivision for the casino property along Meadow Street, where the operation that will feature gaming machines and table games will occupy the building that currently houses the Staples office supply store.

The public input segment of the hearing raised concerns among residents about parking challenges, possible impacts on nearby wetlands, and potential impacts on the community from a casino.

Planners said the subdivision is the first step in a process that could involve subsequent town approvals, depending on how it evolves.

Granite State Gaming and Hospitality (GSG) was approved for a minor subdivision at 780-804 Meadow St., also known as the Kilburn Ledge plaza.

In addition to Staples, a separate adjacent building houses the state liquor store, military recruit-

ing station, smoke and beer shop, and Asian Gourmet restaurant.

The two-lot subdivision will essentially divide the 3.17-parcel that supports the Staples building from the parent parcel of about 43 acres, said Andy Nadeau, the agent for GSG and a civil engineer with Verdantas, formerly called Horizons Engineering.

Verdantas previously completed a survey for GSG.

The subdivision meets road frontage and other zoning requirements and entails no variances, setbacks, additional buildings, or any site changes, he said.

The property is in two districts — the front portion on both sides of Meadow Street is zoned commercial-1, and the back land is zoned rural.

“The town does own a conservation easement on that back land,” said Nadeau. “The town has owned it for some time.”

One planner asked about traffic flow in the area.

“That’s a good question,” said Nadeau. “That’s something we have discussed. When the applicant comes forward with additional plans for the property, there



The Littleton Planning Board on Tuesday approved a minor subdivision for the casino property along Meadow Street. Pictured here is a rendering of the completed casino, which is slated to go in the building that currently occupies the Staples office supply store at 804 Meadow St. (Contributed image)

may be some type of parking agreement in place. Right now, they’re going to own both parcels. If the ownership gets divided up at some point between the two different parcels, there likely will be some type of parking arrangement ... Right now, it’s one big parking lot.”

To a planner’s question about whether there’s enough parking, Nadeau said it will depend on the eventual use of the Staples parcel and added that the current parking is approved for the facilities there and for those sharing the same lot.

Those tenants currently have one shared entrance/exit, with an exit only on the other side of Sta-

ples.

Another planner asked what’s motivating the subdivision and why Staples is being divided out.

“The ownership team is trying to long-term strategize what to do with the lot, and right now subdividing it for the purpose of our use is going to be why we’re asking for it today,” said Eric Barbaro, chief operating officer for GSG.

“We do understand that parking is a big challenge, and that’s why we’re putting in some big work looking at civil and identifying what opportunities we’ll have,” he said. “We’re in the design phase right now. As we start to come up with solutions, we’ll have more of an understanding as to where we’re trying to go with the plan.”

Under town zoning, the casino, as planned, does not constitute a change in use to the commercially zoned property.

During the public input part of the hearing, no abutters spoke in favor of the subdivision after planning board chairman Tony J. Ilacqua asked if there were any abutters in favor wishing to speak.

Abutter Roger Merrill said his only concern relates to parking.

The request is for a subdivision, and the applicant is not doing anything different with the property, said Ilacqua.

“If they decide to do something further, then they have to go through the process as well,” said Ilacqua. “We don’t know where the journey’s going to end. If they’re willing to do something, they have to go through zoning, make sure all state regulations, DES, DOT, all their boxes are crossed.”

“Down the road, they could expand more, they could make the building bigger, they can do all this down the road if they go through the process?” asked Merrill.

“This is the first step of the journey,” said Ilacqua. “That’s what we’re looking at today.”

No non-abutters in favor spoke when asked if they wanted to comment on the subdivision.

Non-abutter Herbert Will offered a comment and said he suspects that GSG at some point might sell the larger parcel with the wetlands.

“It seems that GSG is trying to divest themselves of any responsibility for the care of that wetlands and riparian buffer,” said Will. “There are already issues there with accumulations of trash from behind the restaurant and snow-piles that get pushed into that wetlands area. That will no longer be their property.”

Will said he’s concerned that GSG is trying to rid itself of the rest of the plaza property.

“It is in contrast to the Pollyanna Glad Town, and what we’re building down there is not a good thing for the community, but that may be beyond the scope of this meeting,” he said.

The wetlands habitat is sensitive, and nearby property owners have flooding concerns, he said.

“What we are doing here is cutting that off or removing that from the tender care of GSG,” said Will. “They just want to be able to sell that property off — my speculation — and divest themselves of that concern.”

Traffic is also a major concern, and there has already been a fatality at the Staples plaza, he said.

Snow is piled high, making it difficult to see onto the narrow road on which motorists generally drive at high speeds, he said.

The parking, too, is “terrible,” said Will.

“Although I do understand there are plans to address additional parking,” he said.

Merrill, who serves on the Littleton Conservation Commission, which oversees the conservation easement for the wetlands behind Staples, said he has similar concerns about snow accumulation and what he said has been snowplowed straight into the wetlands.

Outreach to the previous property owner regarding the snow never went anywhere, said Merrill.

“I hear a lot of concerns around the operations,” said Barbaro. “I’m more than happy to meet with any of your concerns. Parking, snow removal, all of those are operational concerns that we’re constantly working through in the design phase. I’d love to hear your opinions ... I’m happy to answer any of your questions after this

meeting that relate to the operations.”

Will said he also wants to go on record about the Ammonoosuc Meadows Cemetery across the street, which was founded in 1790, has three Revolutionary War veterans interred, and will be the site of a Memorial Day gathering on May 25.

During the May 11 Littleton Select Board meeting, Will said the cemetery is in a “shameful state of disrepair.”

An impact study will be presented to both the select and planning boards “regarding the impacts of Granite State Gaming on the local character and on that sensitive area,” he said.

Down the street by The Home Depot is a historical marker on the site of Littleton’s first settlement, Littleton Selectman Taylor Caswell said at the May 11 Select Board meeting.

To GSG representatives at Tuesday’s planner hearing, Caswell, who also serves as an ex-officio planning board member, cited the 2026 town vote in which Littleton residents, through a new state law that gives communities a local option, authorized a ban on future casinos in the town beyond GSG’s casino, which had already been in the pipeline and was therefore exempt from a ban.

“I would acknowledge the fact that this is the first step in a long process,” said Caswell. “The town just voted in March of this year against casinos in Littleton going forward. So you guys, I think, are going to have, as you’re probably well aware, an opportunity to try to make some friends in Littleton and to demonstrate some of the things that you’re starting to hear tonight and some of the things we hope you’re going to be willing to address because you’re grandfathered in under this process.”

Understanding that many residents voted against casinos, GSG and stakeholders need “to go into this to try to make the best out of this situation” and “try to address a lot of the concerns that I certainly have heard and I know you’re going to be hearing more and more about as we move along in this process,” said Caswell.

“But I appreciate your willingness to be here tonight,” he said.

Staples is expected to vacate the 23,000-square-foot building by June 26 to make way for GSG’s construction/building renovations that are expected to begin in July.



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NORTH COUNTRY

Landfill Bill Passes House Thursday, Gov. Ready To Sign Into Law

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

After passing the New Hampshire Senate last week and the House of Representatives on Thursday, a landfill bill seeking to create a new solid waste site evaluation committee while preserving local control for communities is bound for the governor's signature.

House Bill 707 passed the House on a voice vote, without amendment.

In a statement issued after the vote, Gov. Kelly Ayotte called it "a bill to protect New Hampshire's outdoors and ensure local communities have a say in the siting process for new landfills."

"This is a win for our North Country and the local communities who have been fighting for years to have a say in the landfill siting process," said

Ayotte. "I said from day one we wouldn't let beautiful areas of our state become a dumping ground for out-of-state trash, and I thank the members of the Legislature and leaders from the North Country who worked with us on a solution to this critical issue. I'm thrilled to see this legislation coming to my desk and look forward to signing it into law."

On Monday, before the vote, the Bethlehem Select Board issued a statement about HB 707, which several weeks ago was amended to preserve local control and existing legal agreements that a community might have with a landfill company, such as Bethlehem's 2012 settlement agreement with Casella Waste Systems in which then-Casella CEO John Casella agreed in writing to not buy new land for expansion or seek expansion once the company's landfill there reaches ca-

capacity at 61 acres, which is now expected to occur in 2026.

"The Bethlehem Select Board supports the amended HB 707 because it creates a more comprehensive review process for major solid waste facility proposals by allowing consideration of impacts beyond the traditional environmental permitting review conducted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services," said Select Board member Andrea Knowles.

"So the amended legislation specifically allows evaluation of broader regional and community impacts such as property values, tourism, traffic, noise, odor, recreation, aesthetics, economic impacts, and overall public interest considerations, which broadens our opportunity," she said. "Because of the site evaluation committee model, we are able to now look at even more and provide a more

transparent forum that balances statewide needs with local and regional concerns."

Knowles thanked the North Country Alliance for Balanced Change (NCABC) for what she said is its continued support and advocacy on behalf of Bethlehem, state Sen. David Rochefort, R-Littleton, for protecting the interests of the town, Ayotte for her leadership in moving the legislation forward, and state Sen. Howard Pearl, R-Loudon, for his willingness to address Bethlehem's concerns about the original language of HB 707.

That original language and bill — which new Casella CEO Ned Coletta, in an earnings call to company stockholders on

Feb. 20, said was being headed up by John Casella — would have dissolved any existing legal agreements between towns and landfill companies and opened the way for possible landfill expansion in Bethlehem for years beyond 2026, using more than 100 acres of adjacent land that Casella bought in 2015, and after residents in 2017 and 2018 voted down additional expansions.

"So we're now optimistic that this legislation will move into law at the betterment of the entire state and the town of Bethlehem," said Knowles.

Bethlehem town administrator Mary Moritz thanked resident Rich Southwell for attending statehouse hearings on HB

707 and advocating on behalf of the town, thus constituting what she said was a presence before lawmakers that made a difference.

"I was very happy to do it," said Southwell. "Don't want to ever do it again."

Before Thursday's vote, NCABC, which continues to do the "lion's share of the work," sent a letter to all 400 state representatives asking them to support the bill as amended, said Bethlehem Select Board member Nancy Strand.

"They also mentioned that it took seven years to get this far," said Strand. "Sometimes these things take a long time and I commend all the people who stuck with it all this time."

ON THE COVER

Members of Boy Scout Troop 209 and the Littleton VFW color guard placed wreaths on the plaques honoring veterans during Littleton's Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

LITTLETON

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OBITUARIES

JOHN HYNES

John Thomas Hynes of Easton, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully at home on May 14, 2026, surrounded by his family. Born June 1, 1941, on Staten Island, New York, John was the eldest of seven children of the late John A. and Margaret (Kelly) Hynes.

John grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, where he attended local schools before beginning a lifelong career on the railroad with the now NJ Transit. He loved the rhythm and intricate workings of railroading. Over nearly 40 years—primarily within the Engineering & Electrical Departments—he held numerous positions, retiring as a Line Engineer in 1999.

Community service was woven into the fabric of John's life. In Dover, New Jersey, he served on several boards and completed multiple terms as Alderman. As chair of the Dover Recreation Commission, he championed facility improvements, coached youth sports, and helped establish the girls' softball and youth soccer programs. He also played a key role in creating a town-wide Senior Citizens Day and constructing the town gazebo. In 1999, the State of New Jersey recognized John for his many years of dedicated service.

In 2001, John and his wife, Maria, moved



to Easton, New Hampshire, drawn by his love of skiing and the White Mountains. They built a joyful life in the North Country, continuing their deep commitment to service. Together, they became founding members of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and volunteered with RSVP, Chore Corps, and Habitat for Humanity. John also served on the Lafayette Tri-Town Rec-

reation Committee, the Easton Zoning Board of Adjustment, and as a Trustee of the Trust Funds. He and Maria shared a simple guiding belief: to leave every place better than they found it.

John embraced life with enthusiasm. He loved skiing, traveling, playing softball and golf, kayaking, biking, and hiking. Time spent with friends brought him great joy.

John leaves behind his devoted wife of 57 years, Maria; their three children and spouses, John J. (Hailey), Kellie (Irakli), and Christian (Shannon); five grandchildren, Nikoloz (Elene), Bidzina, Calliope, Cecillia, and Sullivan; and his great-grandson, Konstantine. He is also survived by four siblings and 10 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Bernadette and Gerald and his nephew Jeremy.

ETHEL COOPER

Ethel Clara (Champagne) Fillion Cooper, 95, Whitefield, NH, passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Morrison Nursing Home. She was born on April 29, 1931, in Littleton, NH, to Lillian (Burgess) and Medrick Champagne.

Ethel grew up in the Littleton area and attended Littleton High School graduating class of 1949. She started her long and varied working career at NE Telephone as an operator and traffic clerk in Littleton. A few years later after moving to Woodsville with her first husband Roger Fillion and having her children, she worked at Hovey's Shops and then Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank. She then moved back to Littleton, owned and operated a Montgomery Ward Store with her second husband Don Cooper, worked at the Profile Junior and Senior High School in Bethlehem and also the zoning office in Littleton.

She was a devout Catholic, a communicant at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and for a time was the church organist and sang for many special masses and funerals in the local area. Ethel was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, North Country Chorus, RSVP, the Grange, and volunteered at the Grafton County Nursing Home, at the Horse Meadow Senior Center, the Morrison Nursing Home and also



volunteered at various hospitals, singing and playing piano. She also used her musical talents outside of church, alongside her first husband Roger Fillion as they played at dances for over 17 years.

Ethel found love and was widowed, twice. Her first marriage of 24 years was to Roger Fillion who passed away on March 30, 1977. On June 8, 1979, she married Donald Cooper and they were married for

27 years before he passed on Feb. 15, 2006.

She was predeceased by her parents, Medrick and Lillian Champagne, and by her only sibling, Carl Champagne.

Ethel's memory will be cherished by her four children; Lori Blood and husband Steve of Ryegate Corner, VT, Joyce Fillion of Green, Ohio, Donna Fillion of Littleton, NH and Neal Fillion of Palm Springs, CA; eight grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; one nephew, many cousins and close friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 10 a.m., at St. Rose of Lima Church, in Littleton, NH, with a burial to follow at St. Rose of Lima Cemetery.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.




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75-Plus Volunteers Turn Out For North Country Day Of Caring

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

More than 75 volunteers visited area communities on Wednesday to complete multiple service projects for local nonprofits, as part of Granite United Way's annual North Country Day of Caring.

"There's some cool stuff going on," Nanci Carney, North Country community director for Granite United Way, said shortly after pulling up to the Bancroft House, a shelter in Franconia for women, children and families experi-

encing homelessness, which was getting a new paint job.

Nationally, United Way's Day of Caring has been occurring for more than three decades.

In the North Country, it's been going on for more than a decade, if not longer.

"I was just with Sister Monique who's wearing a shirt that said 2016," said Carney, who's been coordinating event since she stepped into the community director role in 2015.

Sister Monique Couture is a resident and leader at the Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Located at the top of Grove Street, the convent includes the Mt. Sacred Heart Garden, which, for six decades, has provided food to those in need.

"She runs the Mt. Sacred Heart Garden," said Carney. "We have a team up there today and that's the garden where all the produce goes to food pantries in the area. They're planting potatoes and onions today."

In all, there were a dozen different projects.

"They range from North Haverhill, where we have a team at the Horse Meadow Senior, to Lisbon, where we have a team

at the Boys and Girls Club taking down walls," said Carney. "We're just out there. It was pretty incredible."

The largest crop of volunteers — about 30 — were at Copper Cannon Camp, in Bethlehem, where five different projects were occurring, among them re-doing the road into the camp and putting in the camp's garden.

Copper Cannon Camp provides tuition-free activities to underserved youth.

At the Littleton Area Senior Center, a crew was painting the interior foyer and hallways.

About five years ago, volunteers painted the senior center's exterior.

Many who turned out across the communities on Wednesday are longtime volunteers

"Some at Mt. Sacred Heart Garden today said they've been there every single year," said Carney.

A number of company sponsors allow their employees to volunteer for the day.

"Most of the banks come back year after year," said Carney. "Littleton Coin comes every year. A lot of companies give their people free days off to come and participate, which is great. They get a team-building day. It's a win-win for everybody, for the businesses and the agencies. A lot of the agencies can't afford

to do a lot of these projects. So there's volunteers for day who get stuff done."

Before they set out for the jobs — for a day that lasted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — the Littleton Area Senior Center sponsored a kick-off breakfast for all of the volunteers.

Afterward, Rek-Lis Brewing Co. in Bethlehem sponsored a very generous volunteer appreciation celebration at its pint house, said Carney.

United Way's Day of Caring is an annual volunteer event that nationwide mobilizes thousands of volunteers to pitch in on short-term, wish-list projects for hundreds of local nonprofits with limited resources that rely on volunteer support for tasks such as painting, cleaning, planting flowers, and more.

As stated by the national organization, "Volunteering makes a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. It fosters a sense of teamwork and contributes to building a stronger, more supportive community."

The companies that had volunteers for the North Country Day of Caring were:

Littleton Coin Co., Casella Waste Systems, Mascoma Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, Bank of New Hampshire, Horace Mann Insurance, CAI Technologies,



A crew takes lunch after working on jobs at Copper Cannon Camp in Bethlehem.

White Mountains Community College, Littleton Eye Care, North Country Healthcare, Littleton Food Co-op, New Hampshire Climbing Center, Badger Peabody and Smith Realty, Littleton Rotary Club, and the Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Student volunteer teams came from Lisbon High School, Littleton High School, and Woodsville High School.

The corporate sponsors were Casella, White Mountains Community College, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, Rek-Lis Brewing Co., and the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council/Littleton Area Senior Center.

The project sites were Copper Cannon Camp (five projects), Boys and Girls Club of the North Country (two projects), Littleton Area Senior Center (two projects), Bancroft House (two projects), Horse Meadow Senior Center, and Mt. Sacred Heart Garden.

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My name is **Peter Laufenberg**. I am a current board member of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC), Selectman, a financial advisor, and a life-long New Hampshire resident.



BIG MONEY. OUT-OF-STATE AGENDAS.

For the first time in NHEC history, a well-financed out-of-state climate activist organization based in Boulder, Colorado, is pouring big money into expensive full-color mailers, aggressive text campaigns, slick websites, and even free-drink events to elect their hand-picked slate. A Plymouth climate group tied to the same network is helping. Their massive outside spending has made this the **most expensive election our cooperative has ever seen**.



THEIR HAND-PICKED SLATE.

The climate activist group from Boulder wants you to vote for a Cambridge, Massachusetts resident and voter, a British lawyer, and a long-time Eversource employee to oust the current Board members. These challengers and their activist backers aren't just asking for more renewables regardless of cost — they're pushing an agenda that would **drive up energy prices and threaten reliable service** for working families and seniors.



PROVEN LEADERSHIP. REAL RESULTS.

Meanwhile, the incumbent directors — Bill Darcy and Bob MacLeod — have been responsible stewards. They support practical, clean, local energy but never at the expense of NHEC's core mission. They've delivered real results for our members: a **16% fixed monthly rate reduction** and rate increase lower than inflation, keeping our electric service reliable and affordable.



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With traditional low turnout in cooperative elections, their big-money tactics can succeed if we don't participate! **Protect your finances, your reliable power, and the cooperative's focus on all members** by voting for the incumbent directors, Bill Darcy and Bob MacLeod.



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Littleton Honors The Fallen On Memorial Day

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Courage. Service. Sacrifice. Gratitude. Remembrance. Traditions that matter.

Speaking about what Memorial Day has meant to him during the town's annual ceremonies on Monday was Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

A 1986 graduate of Littleton High School who enlisted in the Army and served six years active duty in aviation as a helicopter crew chief both stateside and abroad, Smith would return to his hometown, serve with the New Hampshire Army National Guard, and join the Littleton Police Department, where he worked his way up the ranks to chief in 2007 and has led numerous police department community service initiatives and Littleton volunteer efforts.

The 2026 keynote speaker for the Memorial Day ceremonies on Veterans Memorial Bridge, Smith has served on the board of Littleton Regional Healthcare and on the board of New Hampshire Court-Appointed Special Advocates, which provides a voice for abused and neglected children. He has played key roles in Grafton County's drug court and Littleton district mental health court, coordinates bicycle safety for youth, supports the fund-raiser for Special Olympics, and stepped in as interim town manager in 2024.

"Chief Smith's professional career has been rooted in public service, leadership, and a deep commitment to the well-being of his community," said Phil Rivera, master of ceremonies.

Smith began by thanking the Littleton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 816, Littleton Ameri-

can Legion Post 68, the Littleton Lions Club, and "everyone else who helped organize today's Memorial Day procession and ceremony here in Littleton."

"Traditions like this matter," he said. "They remind us not only to gather together as a community, but also why we gather together."

Smith said he was initially reluctant to speak for the 2026 ceremony and wasn't sure he was the right person.

But after reflecting on what Memorial Day has meant to him during the course of his life, he agreed.

"As a young child, I always remembered Memorial Day feeling different from the rest of the year," he said. "Spring had arrived. The grass seemed greener than it would all year. Trees were beginning to bloom. Fresh flowers were everywhere. My family would visit cemeteries, and I remember seeing American flags placed beside gravestones. At the time, I knew it was important, but I did not fully understand why. My parents explained that Memorial Day was about respecting the sacrifices made by the veterans for our country. But as a child, I don't think I truly understood the depth of the word 'sacrifice.'"

That understanding, he said, would come later.

"As a young 17-year-old private first class during my first enlistment, the meaning of Memorial Day became very real to me," said Smith. "I began to understand what service truly required. I began to understand courage, duty, and sacrifice in a way I never had before. And over the years, Memorial Day became more meaningful with each passing year."

He would watch veterans from the VFW, American Le-



Speaking on the significance of Memorial Day during Littleton's 2026 ceremonies on Monday was Paul Smith, an Army veteran who is the town's police chief. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

gion, and other organizations gather to together "to remind all of us how important this solemn day truly is."

"It was through ceremonies like these that I learned the meaning behind the folds of our American flag, the significance of the 21-gun salute, and the history and emotion behind the playing of Taps," said Smith. "I suppose that is what community is all about. Not only remembering — but teaching others why we remember."

Memorial Day, he said, began not as a long weekend or federal holiday, but as a way to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil, after Gen. John Logan, in 1868, proclaimed May 30 as "decoration day."

After the First World War, the day expanded to honor all American military personnel who died in service to their country.

Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971.

"Here in Littleton, we have approximately 50 names displayed on the plaques along the bridge — soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines from conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror," said Smith.

"Those names are not simply names carved into plaques. They represent the very best of what it means to be an American. They did what had to be done, when it had to be done, often far away from home, and they gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we could continue to enjoy the freedoms we sometimes take for granted today.

"The freedom to speak openly," he said. "The freedom to disagree. The freedom to protest. The freedom to question authority and question government. And yes, even the freedom to gather with family and friends later today. Those freedoms were not free. They were purchased through service, courage, sacrifice, and loss."

Sometimes the meaning of those words can be lost, said Smith.

"Sacrifice means giving something of yourself for something greater than yourself," he said.

For many fallen heroes, it meant leaving behind families, friends, and hometowns.

"And for far too many, it meant giving their lives so that others could continue to live free," he said.

Notification of Special Education Records Destruction

School Administrative Unit #84

In accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, SAU #84/Littleton School District hereby notifies you of its intent to destroy special education records for students who have reached the age of 26 on or by June 30, 2026. Student records include but are not limited to, all special education records (copies of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), evaluation reports, and progress reports). Destruction of these records will begin on or after July 15, 2026.

Should you wish to obtain your students' records, please contact Christine Hudson at 603-444-5215 ext. 2, or chudson@littletonschools.org prior to July 15, 2026.

Courage is not the absence of fear, but moving forward despite fear and "standing in uncertainty, danger, and hardship, and continuing anyway because duty, honor, and love of country demanded it," said Smith.

"Service to country means placing the needs of others before your own," he said. "It means believing that freedom, democracy, and the American way of life are worth protecting — even at great personal cost. Service is not about recognition or glory. Most of those who served never sought either. It was about responsibility, commitment, and love of nation."

Gratitude is more than simply saying "thank you," and true gratitude means remembering and "teaching future generations why days like today matter," said Smith.

"Today is not simply a celebration," he said. "It is a day of remembrance. A solemn day to honor those who never came home ... Remember those who gave everything so that future generations could continue to live free."

Monday's Memorial Day ceremonies featured Bridget Payette, who sang the National Anthem.

Littleton High School senior Joanna Cote sang America the Beautiful.

Assisted by the VFW Post 816

color guard, local Boy and Girl Scouts placed wreaths on the plaques of fallen veterans honored on Cottage Street's Veterans Memorial Bridge.

"I am an American because of the brave warriors whose names are inscribed on this bridge today," Smith. "And let us never forget that courage, service, sacrifice, gratitude, and remembrance are not just values we honor on Memorial Day — they are the values that define the very foundation of our country."

The ceremony concluded with a prayer, a tossing of a wreath into the river to honor the fallen, a 21-gun salute, and the playing of Taps.

2026 also included a new addition — a ceremonial wreath, which, with the endorsement of the Littleton Garden Club, will be a part of future ceremonies.

"This particular plaque right here is from the White Mountains Community College," said Rivera. "They would like to thank all the veterans and others gathered here today to honor those who served and paid the ultimate price with their lives. They say we are honored to share a handmade artistic wreath for the ceremony. White Mountains Community College welding students hand-built the base ... Donating their time and materials for this community project made it very special."

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Littleton History Buffs Recall Revolutionary War Soldiers And Town's Early Years

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — As the nation gears up to celebrate its 250th birthday, history buffs in Littleton are remembering the community's early settlers who fought in the Revolutionary War and helped forge a settlement into a town.

Three of them — Sgt. Elkanah Hoskins, who also went to battle in the French and Indian War and in Shay's Rebellion, and Private Asa Lewis and Private Jonathan Parker — will be celebrated Monday during a Memorial Day walk and talk through the Ammonoosuc Meadows Cemetery, where they have been buried for two or more centuries.

"We had good connections to the American Revolution," said Eric Rheinwein, of the Littleton Area Historical Society.

During that time period, there were no native Littleton people, said Dick Alberini, of the historical society.

"They all came from Massachusetts or Connecticut and ended up here," he said. "You remember the guy who said, 'go West, young man'?" This was before that guy was born, so it was, 'go North, young man, go North.'"

They did, and Alberini and

others with the historical society suspect that some came to Littleton — then a hinterland — after fleeing capture for their participation in the 1786-87 Shay's Rebellion.

The Shay's insurrection that was waged in western and Worcester, Mass., was sparked by a national debt crisis at the close of the Revolutionary War, little to no pay reimbursement for state militia veterans for their war service, and economic hardships for states and citizens, occurred several years after the American Revolution and led to the young nation's first major federal military response.

One of Shay's participants seeking refuge in the Granite State was Hoskins.

"Elkanah, oh my God, he was hoot," said Alberini. "He was in Shay's Rebellion and escaped Massachusetts before they came after him for treason and he came up here. That was the first treasonous act against the American government. He was a captain, they were going after him, and he came up here to hide."

"After the collapse of the ill-fated adventure, Elkanah hastily sold his property in Petersham, MA, and with his family and 1,200 silver dollars moved to Westmoreland, NH, and ended up here in 1796,"



As Littleton prepares to celebrate Memorial Day on Monday and the nation's 250th birthday on the Fourth of July, history buffs are recalling the town's Revolutionary War soldiers, among them Sgt. Elkanah Hoskins, whose tombstone is pictured here at the Ammonoosuc Meadows Cemetery. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

Littleton author Sharon Craigie wrote in her book, "Chronological History of Littleton, New Hampshire Volume I 1787-1873.

Hoskins could have been one of the Shay's leaders, said Rheinwein.

George Washington went after the Shay's instigators and "was putting down the troublemakers" in one of the first big military acts by the federal government, he said.

Private John Wallace, a Revolutionary War fighter serving in the Massachusetts Continental Line, was another participant in Shay's Rebellion.

"We were a hotbed of people escaping," said Rheinwein.

Today, Wallace is buried in Franconia.

Littleton was officially incorporated in 1784, just one year after the eight-year Revolutionary War, which formally ended with the Treaty of Paris.

With his uprising days behind him, Hoskins would go on to serve as an early Littleton selectman.

Not all Revolution fighters were Shay's escapees.

Capt. Nathan Caswell, also an early Littleton selectman who, with his son, Private Nathan Caswell Jr., fought in the Revolutionary War with the New Hampshire Rangers, was among the original settlers in Littleton, then a land of trees

and little else.

"On 4/10/1770, Nathan Caswell, having broken up his home in Orford, set out for his new home in the wilderness accompanied by his wife and 4 children ...," wrote Craigie.

In addition to being the father of Nathan Jr., Caswell was the father of Aphorp, the first white child born in Littleton.

The Caswells used to live down by what today is The Home Depot on Meadow Street, where the best farmland in Littleton was to be had.

Both Nathan and Nathan Jr. likely participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill, said Alberini.

Asa Lewis, who also served on the Littleton Board of Selectmen and whom Alberini will impersonate during Monday's cemetery walk, built the gristmill and the first timber frame home in Littleton at a time when everyone else was living in log cabins.

As for Hoskins, he would go on to buy Nathan Caswell's house on the Ammonoosuc Meadows.

"He was the third owner and opened it up as an inn," said Alberini.

Hoskins also plied the booze trade, which became popular in Littleton's early years after the Revolution.

"Every year, certain people would get licenses to sell spiri-

tuous liquors," said Alberini. "It got really spirited here in about 1806. You could swing a dead cat and hit a bar. He sold booze all the time. I think he was the first one to sell imported spirits."

Littleton's early politicians used to meet at the "red store" (dubbed so not for its loyalty to Britain, but because of its color), which is now the location of the First United Methodist Church.

"That's where they would hash out what's going on in town," said Alberini.

The Littleton Area Historical Society has a list of 42 soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, with some, like Hoskins, participating in the other battles.

They include more than 20 known soldiers buried in Littleton cemeteries, four buried in Guildhall and one each in Concord and Newport in Vermont, and, in New Hampshire, three in Lyman, one in Franconia, and one in Whitefield.

"That makes interesting history," said Alberini.

For the Memorial Day cemetery walk and talk, Alberini will play Lewis, Nick Hale will play Hoskins, and Mark and Sandra Roberts will play Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Parker, with the first talk at 2 p.m., the second at 2:20 p.m., and third at 2:40 p.m.

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N.H. Grand Jury Indicts Groton Woman For Stolen Truck, Chase, Injured Officers

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

A Grafton Superior Court grand jury has indicted the Groton woman accused of stealing a pickup truck in January, leading police in New Hampshire on a high-speed chase, and deliberately causing a chain-reaction collision in Littleton that injured two officers.

In the May round of indictments released on Thursday, Marisa N. Levesque, 42, is charged with two Class B felony counts of second-degree assault for causing a back injury to New Hampshire State Police Trooper Jeremy Brann.

One of the counts accuses her of assault with a deadly weapon,

which New Hampshire law defines to include vehicles in the manner in which they are driven.

Levesque faces a third Class B felony count of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon for placing Brann, NHSP Trooper Andrew Eastman, and Littleton police officer Timothy Monahan in danger of serious bodily injury.

A fourth Class B felony count of second-degree assault with a deadly weapon accuses her of causing Monahan to suffer a burn and contusion.

A fifth Class B felony count charges her with disobeying police officers for failing to stop and to only increase her driving speed in an attempt to elude officers after they activated their emergency lights and sirens and

signaled for her to pull over.

A sixth Class B felony count of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon accuses Levesque of placing other motorists in danger of serious bodily injury when she drove more than 100 mph, passed vehicles in no-pass zones, and failed to maintain her own lane.

A seventh Class B felony count of unlawful conduct after an accident alleges that Levesque failed to stop after she

rammed Brann's cruiser, which then struck a second police cruiser, which then struck third along northbound Interstate 93 at the Moore Reservoir causeway.

In addition, for the stolen pickup truck, she faces a Class A felony count of receiving stolen property.

The forced collision in Littleton occurred on the afternoon of Jan. 30, following Levesque's alleged theft of the 2026 GMC pickup truck from Bruce Smith,

the truck's owner, in Gorham, New Hampshire.

In Gorham, police were alerted to the stolen truck, which then led to a westward police pursuit across northern New Hampshire. Levesque was arrested along southbound I-91 in Vermont, just across the New Hampshire border, after Vermont State Police disabled the truck with spike strips.

Levesque, who has been released from the Grafton County

House of Corrections on electronic monitoring, is scheduled for a video arraignment and bail hearing at Grafton Superior Court on June 8.

The indictments state that the crimes occurred while Levesque had been released on bail for a previous offense.

She faces a felony charge of methamphetamine possession from February 2025 that remains pending at Grafton Superior Court.

Littleton Man Indicted For Raping Child

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

A Littleton man arrested in February on charges of repeatedly raping a child who is a member of his family faces up to life in prison after being indicted by a Grafton Superior Court grand jury.

In the May round of felony indictments released on Thursday, Kenneth D. Ricker, 62, is charged with four special class felony counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault, carrying extended terms of imprisonment, three of which accuse him of engaging in a pattern of sexual assaults.

He also faces one special class felony count of attempted aggravated felonious sexual assault.

Between September 2017 and August 2021, Ricker is alleged to have engaged in a pattern of sexual assaults against the girl, beginning when she was 7 years old.

In addition, he faces a Class B felony count of felonious sexual assault carrying an extended term of imprisonment, a Class B felony count of in-

decent exposure and lewdness, and a Class B felony count of endangering the welfare of a child.

A fourth Class B felony count accuses him of tampering with a witness.

According to the tampering indictment, Ricker, reportedly believing that an official investigation was about to commence regarding the sexual assaults, allegedly attempted to induce the girl to withhold testimony or information to police when he told her that "he was not happy that she had talked about what he had done and threatened to post photos of [her] on Facebook."

In all, he faces 21 felony counts, 9 of which, on May 14, went to the grand jury for indictment.

Ricker, who remains in the Grafton County House of Corrections on preventive detention, is scheduled for a video arraignment and bail hearing on June 8.

He is being represented by court-appointed attorney Adam Hescocock.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Grafton County Attorney Antonia Barry.

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Town, Water And Light Assess Littleton-Wide Blackout And Response

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — After a day of assessment, officials from the town and Water and Light discussed Wednesday's town-wide blackout, what prompted it, the fire danger risk that day, and possible ways to better communicate with businesses and residents for future emergencies requiring a lightning-fast turnaround time.

"A lot of people thought it was a planned outage," said Lori Hogan, CEO of Littleton Water and Light. "No, it was an emergency."

In all, it took just 2 1/2 hours from the 1:15 p.m. discovery of a downed line deep in the woods by the Moore Reservoir, to developing a plan of action, doing as much outreach as possible before cutting the power at 3 p.m. to fix it, and restoring power at 3:55 p.m.

Hogan, who detailed the inci-

dent to the Select Board during a board work session on Thursday, spent all day completing incident documentation and an after-action report for the LWL commissioners, which has not yet been presented to the commissioners.

The downed line was found during a routine fly-over inspection by helicopter, which LWL hires out each quarter to inspect the health of its electric system.

"They look at all the poles, lines, substations," said Hogan. "They're looking for hot-spots, anything that we can't see. A large portion of our transmission line is through the woods. It's off-road, and we don't have that kind of equipment. They were doing an inspection of the transmission line over by St. Johnsbury Road, across from Old Partridge Lake Road, and noticed that we had damage to one of our lines."

The insulator that the line passes through and that sits atop the pole was broken, leaving the line,

known as Line 30, sitting on the crossbar.

"This is our main transmission line, this is high voltage," said Hogan. "It's our primary feed. We only have a single feed from Pattenville, which is controlled by National Grid."

The danger was high.

"I talked to some other industry professionals today, and they couldn't believe we didn't have an all-out fire," said Hogan.

The region is still in a drought, and Wednesday was hot and windy.

After LWL received the 1:15 p.m. call, LWL operations manager Justen Elliott instantly responded to an individual inspection to determine if crews would be able to get to it.

On scene, he heard the line buzzing and observed it shaking, said Hogan.

"We got together with National Grid, and we made the call that it was a true emergency and need-

ed to be done," she said. "They started working on switching orders, and we started getting all the crews together."

Town leadership, the LWL commission, and emergency services, including Littleton Fire Rescue, were informed due to the fire risk.

LWL has a list of hospitals and skilled nursing facilities that are contacted first for patients who might be on life support, on oxygen or otherwise at risk.

Hogan called them all, but none answered. Messages she left referred them to the police or fire departments.

Schools were called and then businesses, the latter of which are prioritized on sensitivity to outages, such as childcare or restaurants with refrigeration or auto mechanics who might be underneath a vehicle when power is cut, she said.

"We were physically calling every single business we could,"

said Hogan. "It was going off at 3, and we knew about it at 1:30. We were busy. There were four people in the office making phone calls. I was programming our outbound call system so it would do outbound calls to every active resident customer because we were taking care of the businesses manually. I was able to get that queued up around 2, but unfortunately we only had one hour so we achieved less than 20 percent of outbound calls to residents."

At the time, LWL was unsure whether a bucket loader could reach the line for the repair.

It could reach the site, but only with a small bucket truck, not a large one. But after the job was complete, the bucket truck almost couldn't get back out along the steep access road.

LWL told those it contacted that the power could be out for up to two hours, but was able to get the line re-energized in 21 minutes.

Flickers, though, occurred along Meadow Street.

And Saranac Street was still completely out, from another problem that resulted from a change in voltage that tripped one of LWL's re-closers.

"So we had to chase that down and then had an all-clear by 3:55," said Hogan. "It just happened really quickly."

Citing the drought conditions and fire risk, Selectman Ed Chierian called LWL's response "outstanding."

He suggested exploring a faster, automated system in which businesses and residents can opt in to receive an alert when power is going out.

For Wednesday's outage, LWL's Facebook post advising it would occur at 3 p.m. was the most visible notice to customers, said Hogan.

Selectman Taylor Caswell, who also agreed that LWL's response to the emergency was outstanding, suggested looking into the Genesis system that the New Hampshire Department of Safety uses for emergencies.

Caswell said he began hearing from a number of Littleton businesses and others about the Facebook post and who questioned if the notice was real or if it was AI-generated.

He suggested some form of communication to businesses

and residents in future situations "to tamp down the noise, because there was a lot of it."

Outside of hospitals and top-end organizations, LWL shouldn't have to sit down and call everyone, said Caswell, who added that his only question is how to find a communications process to make such events go a little more smoothly.

It's tricky to find an emergency and less than two hours later be on site for the fix, said Chierian.

"That's why an automated system is the only way to do it," said Chierian. "Otherwise, you're pulled between the response, which is the most important, and the communication. The rumor mill is never good, and finding out by Facebook just amplifies it. People get, especially these days, crazy. To me, it's not an appropriate way to communicate. It's unreliable."

Some people will suspect AI regardless of the communication system, said Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

"We send out texts and emails when we want a parking lot cleared, and they still suspect that it's AI, and they signed up for the service," he said.

Having notices on the police or fire department's social media sites does help to increase message believability, said Smith.

"We try to hit as many social media platforms as we can," he said.

Although a Facebook notice is an unofficial medium, the Facebook post that Littleton Fire Rescue generated was seen by more than 30,000 people, and a number of businesses shared it, making it effective, said LFR chief Chad Miller.

Facebook, though, only works by algorithm and doesn't automatically show up in everyone's news-feed, and when it does appear for some, the situation has already passed, said Caswell.

For more targeted outages, LWL's system notifies businesses and residents by street, which has benefits when advance notice can be given, said Hogan.

For town-wide outages, LWL can work with the town or emergency services to see whether Grafton County can authorize the use of the Genesis system in widespread, time-sensitive situations, she said.

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A fantastic opportunity exists for a part-time position in our growing practice. You will be responsible for executing all clinical functions in accordance with the Doctors' instructions and with consideration of the patients' concerns and comfort. Working in a fast-paced team oriented environment, flexibility and attention to detail are a must! The right candidate is detail-oriented and manages their time efficiently. Applicants must have excellent manual dexterity and interpersonal skills. Some dental experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate!

This position is for a career-oriented individual with long-term employment goals. We offer competitive compensation, profit sharing and other benefits. Some travel is required.

Please send a resume and letter of interest to:



Hiller Orthodontics
smiles@hillerortho.com

Taveras Transportation Is Hiring!
No CDL Required!

Taveras Transportation is growing and looking for dependable drivers to join our team.

Position: Driver
Type: Full-Time / Part-Time
CDL NOT Required

Requirements:

Must be 25 years or older
Valid Drivers License
Clean driving record
Must pass drug screening
Reliable & punctual
Professional attitude
Able to work independently

What We Offer:

Competitive Pay
Steady Work
Weekly Pay
Opportunity for Growth
Professional Work Environment

If you're responsible, dependable, and ready to work, we want to hear from you!

Call or Text: 603-991-1425
Apply in person at:
236 Railroad St, Littleton, NH

JEFF'S PAINTING

We are booking for the 2026 season. Specialize in exterior painting, carpentry, siding and roofing. Our 40 foot 4-wheel drive power lift makes high project simple and safe. Many years in the building trades. We also fix bad siding, trim boards, soffits, etc. before we paint.

We offer free estimates! We are fully insured. Call Jeff at: 802-472-3827 or email: segvt55@com-cast.net

NORTH WOODS ROOF COATINGS
Coat + seal your rusting metal roof. Free estimates. www.northwood-roofcoatings.com or call 802-735-6419 anytime.

Apartments For Rent 605

Littleton, small ground floor, 1 bed-room. Heat, rubbish removal, parking included. Nice outside sitting area. \$1,200/month, 603-444-0977.

Office Space For Rent 660

Office Space For Rent 660

ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY

WE'RE HIRING

Coaching Opportunities

The St. Johnsbury Academy Athletic Department is actively recruiting for the following 2026-2027 seasonal coaching positions:

FALL

Girls Cross Country

WINTER

Girls Basketball (Varsity)
Boys Hockey

The successful candidates will be part of a broader team that fosters the core commitments of St. Johnsbury Academy.

Athletic Program details are outlined at stjacademy.org/athletics.

Pay ranges from \$3500-\$5600 per season.

For full job descriptions and to download our employment application please visit:
STJACADEMY.ORG/EMPLOYMENT

Send your letter of interest, resumé, and application to:

Human Resources
St. Johnsbury Academy
P.O. Box 906
1000 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Or via email: humanresources@stjacademy.org



St. Johnsbury Academy is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a diverse environment.

ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY

WE'RE HIRING

Student Life Program Coordinator

The Student Life Program Coordinator enhances campus life by developing and managing clubs, intramurals, community service, and student events. Working closely with school leadership, this role supports a vibrant, inclusive student experience for both day and boarding students, promotes engagement, and helps align co-curricular programming with the Academy's mission.

Responsibilities include event planning, student leadership support, program coordination, and collaboration across departments.

Ideal candidates are energetic, organized, and student-focused, with strong communication skills and experience working with diverse high school populations. Evening and weekend availability required.

This is a ten month fully benefited position.

Pay range for this position is: \$37,000 - \$43,000 Annually.

*Successful candidate must complete a background check and fingerprinting.

For full job descriptions and to download our employment application please visit:
STJACADEMY.ORG/EMPLOYMENT

Send your letter of interest, resumé, and application to:

Human Resources
St. Johnsbury Academy
P.O. Box 906
1000 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Or via email: humanresources@stjacademy.org



St. Johnsbury Academy is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a diverse environment.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE FOR LEASE

LOCATION: In the Town of Bradford, Vermont on U.S. Route 5, a class I highway; 1 mile to the town center; 2 miles to the I-91 on-ramp.

DESCRIPTION: 185 square feet; main area is 12' x 12' with an 8'5" alcove; light and airy with three windows; fully carpeted; hung ceiling; electric baseboard heat.

Included in the lease: Electricity, lawn care, snow removal, trash removal, paper products.

Additional features (at no extra cost): Parking lot, handicapped accessible bathroom, waiting room.

Additional Information: This office is in a professional building with more than 20 health professionals working on premises. The atmosphere is cooperative and collegial. The office would be a good fit for a professional in health or health-related services such as counseling/therapy, cranial/sacral therapy, acupuncture and related professions. It could also work well for other professionals such as a credit counselor, financial advisor, CPA, parent support professional, community nurse, or a tutor.

Contact

Oxbow Holdings, LLC
PO Box 66, Bradford, VT 05033
Call or Text: 802-449-7611

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