



STATE HOUSE

Kirk praised, mourned in Concord

Reactions to political violence range from calls for unity to war

By CHARLOTTE MATHERLY
Concord Monitor

A soft breeze rustled the flowers placed on the State House plaza as Gabriella Killinger crouched down, gently placing a Starbucks cup next to the other offerings.

It was a Mint Majesty green tea with two honeys, she said —

Charlie Kirk's favorite.

Killinger, a young woman from Concord, first came across his videos on social media a year ago and felt drawn in. Like many people, she also saw the videos sur-

face online Wednesday afternoon when Kirk was shot while speaking at a college campus in Utah. "He was just so easy to listen

SEE KIRK A4

CHARLOTTE MATHERLY / Monitor staff

Gabriella Killinger of Concord crouches down to place a cup of Starbucks green tea next to a memorial for Charlie Kirk.



NORTHERN BORDER

Ayotte seeks return of tourists

New Hampshire travels to Canada with a message after a lackluster summer of visits

By CHARLOTTE MATHERLY
Monitor staff

The six-hour drive from Ontario to New Hampshire is a familiar one for Brad Norrad.

He has passed through the eastern townships of Quebec, crossed into the U.S. in Canaan, Vermont, and across the Connecticut River to reach New Hampshire almost every year since 1972, when his family first happened upon Jefferson Valley.

There, they stopped by a stream, and he showed his kids how to fish.

"We caught this beautiful 10-inch speckled trout," he recalled in an interview earlier this summer. "I always said I was the one that got hooked, because I've been going back to that valley ever since."

No more, Norrad said, at least not while President Donald Trump is in office.

Not only does he find Trump's comments and actions toward Canada offensive — think tariffs and the "51st state" rhetoric — but Norrad said he and other Canadians fear crossing the border and the possibility of being detained.

After 50 years of retreating to one of his favorite places, Norrad is boycotting the U.S., both by canceling his usual vacation and pledging not to buy U.S.-made products. It almost

SEE TOURISM A5

CONCORD

Board to discuss Eastman sale

By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN
Monitor staff

The Concord Board of Education will hold a special meeting on Monday evening to discuss the potential sale of the Eastman School in East Concord.

Board President Pamela Walsh has suggested the district look into the sale as a way to fund the construction of a new middle school. If pursued, the effort would put a charter amendment passed last year to the test for the first time.

The new rule states: "No parcel of real property owned by the Concord School District, larger than one acre, shall be sold, gifted or exchanged by the District without an affirmative simple majority vote of Concord

SEE SALE A5



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ABOUT THE SERIES

Each week, the 'Concord Monitor' will recognize one of our region's many Hometown Heroes. Follow along at concordmonitor.com and learn how you can nominate a Hometown Hero.



GEOFF FORESTER / Monitor file

Betty Hoadley speaks in favor of building the middle school on the Rundlett site at the school board meeting on December 6, 2023.

Sage mentor, school watchdog

Betty Hoadley, 90, has served as a resource for the Concord School Board for decades

By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN
Monitor staff

Before Betty Hoadley was a regular on the microphone during the public comment periods of Concord school board meetings, she was president of the board itself.

Before that, she was a teacher in four different Concord schools and a parent to three children who attended them. And before that, she was herself a student in Concord schools.

For years since stepping back from public

office, Hoadley has remained a vigorous watchdog of the Concord Board of Education, offering counsel and a listening ear to those following in her footsteps, as well as a bottomless well of knowledge about school history.

She has long been what Charlie Russell calls a "spokesperson for the taxpayer," the result of her years as a Republican state representative with a bent for fiscal conservatism. She's also been someone eager to serve.

"When you're 90 years old and you're still rolling your sleeves up and saying 'what can I

do, how can I help?' I guess that's as good a testament to anybody's life and reputation as you can make," said Russell, a long-time observer of local politics.

For Cara Meeker, a member of the Concord Board of Education who calls her a mentor, Hoadley's dedication extends to both sides of the board table.

"She is a walking library for understanding how our town works and how our schools


SEE HOMETOWN HEROES A3



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