

SECOND AMENDMENT

Former student says rights were violated

Federal lawsuit filed on behalf of Hillsboro-Deering graduate

By JEREMY MARGOLIS
Concord Monitor

A recent Hillsboro-Deering High School graduate is suing administrators at his former school for searching his truck for a gun last spring. Jack Harrington, 18, claims the search — which did not turn up any-

thing — violated his Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. The case is being supported by the Second Amendment Foundation, which works to protect legal gun ownership. The search was prompted by a conversation Harrington had with a fellow student about a handgun he owns, according to the complaint. The dialogue, which occurred on a bus ride to a school baseball game,

involved Harrington mentioning that he had recently been subjected to a police traffic stop while the gun was in the glove compartment of the truck. Some weeks later, according to the complaint, Harrington was pulled out of class by school administrators who questioned him about the conversation on the bus and owning a gun. Harrington told the principal, vice principal and the school re-

source officer that he does not bring the gun to school, but they asked him for permission to search his vehicle anyway. Harrington repeatedly refused to agree to the search, before ultimately relenting under what his lawyers characterized as “coerced” consent. Vice Principal Brian McGinn forced the locked doors of Harrington’s truck open and “thoroughly in-

SEE LAWSUIT A5

SPECIAL EDUCATION

State boosts school aid

Districts still on the hook to cover about 10% of eligible expenses for neediest students

By JEREMY MARGOLIS
Concord Monitor

Amid a deluge of financial challenges facing school districts, administrators received somewhat reassuring news about this year’s proration rate for special education aid reimbursement. The state program, which covers a portion of the cost of the most expensive student services, has enough money to cover 90% of schools’ eligible expenses, up significantly from last year’s rate of 66%, according to a notice and data provided by the Department of Education. Still, despite increasing funding for the program by \$16 million this year to a total of almost \$50 million, it will not cover all eligible expenses, leaving school districts on the hook for the remaining 10%. The state follows a complex process to determine how much money schools receive back, relying on an eligibility formula and then setting a proration rate by dividing the amount districts are eligible to receive by the amount the state has allocated. Last year’s proration rate, the lowest since 2017, left school districts scrambling to cover costs they had

SEE AID A6

MAKING STRIDES

Raising funds, reflection for breast cancer

By RACHEL WACHMAN
Concord Monitor

A pink procession will take over Memorial Field and the surrounding streets for Concord’s annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, October 26. October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time when the American Cancer Society holds events and campaigns to help educate the public about the most common cancer facing women. Over 160 teams have registered to participate in the 2.5-mile Concord walk, with around 2,000 people expected to attend. This year’s fundraising goal sits at \$450,000. The event seeks to celebrate those currently facing the disease

SEE MAKING STRIDES A6



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DOWNTOWN: Rooms and restaurant open to customers after 10 months of renovation



DAVID BROOKS photos / Monitor staff
The Doubletree hotel at the intersection of N. Main St. and Loudon Road quietly opened after a 10-month renovation that changed it from a Holiday Inn.

New life for old hotel

By DAVID BROOKS
Concord Monitor

The latest iteration of one of Concord’s most visible hotels has reopened for business. The Doubletree hotel at the intersection of N. Main St. and Loudon Road quietly opened after a 10-month renovation that changed it from a Holiday Inn. All 122 rooms are available to guests, as is the restaurant, although the indoor pool is not yet ready to be used. A formal ribbon-cutting is set for Friday, but business is already brisk, said Eric Hall, the front manager, with clients a mix of newcomers and those who know the building from its past life. “People come in and say, I remember having a meeting here,” Hall commented. A hotel has sat on this site since 1975, when a 100-unit Ramada Inn opened after two previous attempts to build hotels or motels fell through,

SEE HOTEL A5



Eric Hall, front manager at the new Doubletree Hotel in Concord, discusses the front lobby on Wednesday.

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