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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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Concord, New Hampshire

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GAMBLING

Casino revenue nears half-billion dollars

NH gaming halls generated \$60 million for the state; \$64 million for charities

By **SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN**
 Concord Monitor

New Hampshire's casino industry saw significant growth last year as larger facilities opened, game rooms expanded, and slot machines were introduced — pushing state revenue

from charitable gaming up more than 70%.

The state collected \$60.2 million from casinos in 2025. This total includes revenue from games of chance such as poker, blackjack, slot machines, and historic horse racing machines, according to data from the New Hampshire Lottery and Gaming Commission.

By comparison, the state made \$35.2 million from charitable gaming in 2024.

With the growing casino industry, it isn't just the state's coffers that are filling.

Local charities and nonprofits that partner with gaming venues also saw substantial gains. In 2025, donations to these organizations totaled \$64 million, up from \$39.3 million the previous year, with some donations reaching into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The biggest winners are the game room operators themselves, which

took in \$250 million in 2025 from horse racing and games of chance alone, with video lottery games on track to generate another \$75 million a year.

All told, casino betting in New Hampshire is nearing half a billion dollars a year in revenue.

These figures don't include money generated from other sources, like lottery tickets or sports

SEE **GAMBLING A6**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Will heads to high court

Judge from Loudon confirmed by 4-1 vote

By **CHARLOTTE MATHERLY**
 Concord Monitor

In his time on the court, Daniel Will rejected evidence when he found that police violated constitutional rights and denied a warrant that he determined didn't meet probable cause standards.

It's that commitment to civil liberties that prompted the Executive Council to confirm Will in a 4-1 vote as the newest justice on the New Hampshire Supreme Court.



Will

"This is not a judge that defers to the government," Councilor John Stephen of Manchester said before the vote on Wednesday. "This is a judge that follows the Constitution wherever it leads."

Will, who lives in Loudon, has served as a Superior Court justice since 2021. Before that, he was New Hampshire's first solicitor general, representing the state's legal interests before the state and U.S. Supreme Courts.

SEE **WILL A6**

ARTS AHEAD



RACHEL WACHMAN
 Community editor

Lots of love to go around

Valentine's Day weekend promises fun for lovers and broken hearts alike

Red has been my favorite color for over a decade — and pink is a close second. So, while some people break out their burgundy sweaters or their pink socks for Valentine's Day, my outfit on Saturday won't be any different than it is most other days of the year.

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But that's okay! It's fun to watch others sport a pop of color that they might not otherwise consider wearing. I love a good festive moment, and Valentine's Day certainly provides one.

There's a lot happening to celebrate love this weekend — romantic love, platonic love and love of community!

On Thursday in downtown Concord, Homebody and Social

SEE **ARTS AHEAD A5**

REAL ESTATE: What makes buying a home in New Hampshire hard for young people? Low inventory, high prices and lots of competition



GEOFF FORESTER / For the Monitor

Homeowners Madeline Ables and Trevor Jackson discuss what they want to do to their new home near White Park on Jan. 30.

Starter struggles

By **EMILIA WISNIEWSKI**
 Concord Monitor

Madeline Ables and Trevor Jackson settled into their two-story home near downtown Concord just in time for the holidays.

In the first few months in their new home, they've already painted the kitchen cabinets sage green and hung framed photos in nearly every room. A few boxes await unpacking in their shared home office space.

Ables, an Upper Valley native, and Jackson, originally from South Carolina, met at Franklin Pierce School of Law. They graduated in 2024 and knew they wanted to buy a home in Concord. Their wedding ceremony in July took place at White Park, just a few blocks away from where they live now.

SEE **HOMEBUYERS A6**



GEOFF FORESTER / For the Monitor

New homeowner Trevor Jackson (right) shows master electrician David LeClerc the basement wiring in his Concord home near White Park on Jan. 30.

ENVIRONMENT

Annual NH bird count this weekend

By **DAVID BROOKS**
 Concord Monitor

If you haven't dared to go outside since December because of the weather and suspect the cold will keep you indoors until spring, you can still take part in one of the oldest "citizen science" projects around.

The 39th annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey will take place this weekend with people urged to report the birds they see around their houses. Spotting them through the kitchen window is perfectly acceptable.

"Participants can count birds for as little as 15 minutes or as long as they'd like over the two-day period. Counts can be done from a window or outdoors (coffee or hot chocolate optional)," is how New Hampshire Audubon, the state's host for this national event, put it in a press release.

SEE **BIRDS A5**



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