

Sports: Bedford's Gilbert has been in the zone on the mound • B3

"There is nothing so powerful as truth"
 DANIEL WEBSTER



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"FROM COÖS TO THE SEA"

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HEALTH

2 with NH ties on cruise with hantavirus outbreak

State and federal health agencies working together to monitor situation, reduce risk once travelers return, officials say.

By Krysten Godfrey Maddocks
 Union Leader Staff

New Hampshire health officials said they are aware of two individuals with New Hampshire addresses who traveled on the MV Hondius cruise ship, recently tied

to three fatalities and at least two positive cases of hantavirus.

The two individuals have returned to the United States, but not to New Hampshire, according to a news release issued by the state Department of Health and Human Services.

"We are actively communicating with our federal partners to assess whether they will be returning to the state in order to coordinate appropriate monitoring to ensure their health and that of the public," the news release stated. "There is no current health

risk to residents, and we will provide additional information as it becomes available."

If cruise ship passengers exposed to hantavirus return to New Hampshire, they would undergo symptom monitoring by the Division of Public Health.

"If any individual develops symptoms, we will work with the local health care system to ensure the patient is safely evaluated in a medical setting and tested for hantavirus," state health officials said.

Since the cruise ship docked

in the Canary Islands on Sunday, 16 American passengers were flown to the University of Nebraska Medical Center; 15 are in quarantine and one person who tested positive for hantavirus is in a separate biocontainment unit. Two other American passengers were flown to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta for further assessment and care, one of whom tested positive.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has conducted briefings for state health officials and developed and distributed

health guidelines related to the MV Hondius hantavirus situation. Health officials are regularly in contact with their federal counterparts to stay informed of ongoing developments.

Medical staff have already begun coordinating with the CDC and state public health officials, according to Dr. Edward J. Merrens, chief clinical officer at Dartmouth Health.

"We feel very confident in our capabilities across the United

► See **Hantavirus**, Page A2

Fitting update for a pioneering NH aviator



Rick Freed mixes paint while updating his mural with new artwork of pilot Bernice Blake, right, at the Aviation Museum in Londonderry last week.

DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

Legendary pilot Bernice Blake's mural reaches new heights

By Paul Feely
 Union Leader Staff

New Hampshire artist Rick Freed is well-known for his murals, including those in the Millyard Museum.

His latest task might just qualify as his first facelift — updating a prior image he painted of one of New Hampshire's most famous female aviation pioneers, Bernice Blake.

"The head that was here before was too big for the body," Freed says as he paints. "And now that the details are more refined, if I did it the same size, it would look like a

bobblehead."

Freed was on site last week at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire in Londonderry, near Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, updating his epic mural in the facility's lobby depicting N.H. aviation pioneers.

Specifically, he's updating the image of Blake (located just inside and to the left of the front door), the Manchester woman who in 1929 became the first woman in the Granite State to pilot a plane, was the first female pilot to earn a commercial license in New England and a known pal of Amelia Earhart.

When Freed originally painted

Blake's image in 2004, he had only a low-resolution newspaper picture to go on, said Jeff Rapsis, executive director of the Aviation Museum.

"The photo isn't crisp, so he did the best he could," Rapsis said. "Bernice happens to be very prominent. She's at eye level and of course as one of the few females — all we have is Christa McAuliffe and Bernice — she gets a lot of attention. And for the entire time that we've had that there and the entire time I've been here, over 20 years, people have come in — her family members especially — and have said, 'It doesn't

► See **Mural**, Page A2

MANCHESTER

Officials to consider plans for housing at former funeral home

Nine units would be placed at site of the former Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home on Manchester Street.

By Paul Feely
 Union Leader Staff

Plans to turn a former Manchester funeral home into housing go before the city's zoning board this week.

The Manchester Zoning Board of Adjustment will also hear a request for a rehearing regarding a project on Ray Street approved earlier this spring, filed by two abutters who oppose the project, when it meets Thursday at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

ATI Property, LLC, is seeking variances regarding plans to put nine housing units in 285 Manchester Street, site of the former Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home.

The applicant seeks to create nine dwelling units on a lot with 9,000 square

feet of buildable land area, where 11,500 square feet is required; construct a second floor above the existing garage with a 4-foot side yard setback where a 10-foot setback is required; and create one new parking space at the southeast corner of the lot in the street yard with no setback where 10 feet is required, in the MX-2 Zoning District.

The existing lot has frontage along Manchester Street, Beech Street and Monadnock Lane, with 11 existing off-street parking spaces including two handicap-accessible spots.

According to paperwork submitted by land planning firm TFMoran on behalf of the applicant, "the increase in units will provide additional residential opportunities in an area where available housing is at a premium."

"The increase from six to nine units will not change the essential character of the neighborhood, as the structure will be renovated

► See **Funeral Home**, Page A2

SUNUNU YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Many new abuse allegations untrue, DCYF director says

Erroneous reports include a six-week lockdown, broken arm, withholding food and water, legislators told.

By Kevin Landrigan
 Union Leader Staff

Many abuses alleged at the Sununu Youth Services Center in Manchester since January were false, Division of Children, Youth and Families Director Marie Noonan said Monday.

The erroneous claims included reports of a six-week lockdown, a child in state care suffering a broken arm and staff withholding food and water, she said.

"Unfortunately, much of what has been brought

before this committee and shared with the public has been based on preliminary or initial review or no review at all and is not always fully factual when further review is conducted," Noonan said.

"The public does not always hear the corrections made along the way if those corrections are made. We are a small state, and I believe we should be working together in a more productive manner," she added.

In the agency's first detailed comments since a state investigation into the matter began, Noonan told a legislative subcommittee that the facility needs 14 additional full-time youth counselors, but she cannot fill those positions because

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NH Fuel Gauge

Most recent statewide averages:
Regular gas \$4.487
Diesel \$5.748

Sources: gasprices.aaa.com

Today's Chuckle

There are those who think the best investment in opera would be earplugs.

A Small Prayer

Be merciful to us in our distress, O Lord. Amen

New Hampshire Union Leader

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