



POLITICS

NH Libertarian Party's advocacy for killing all elected Democrats decried

■ Gov. Ayotte joins chorus of those calling the threat "irresponsible and dangerous."

By Kevin Landrigan
Union Leader Staff

U.S. Rep. Maggie Goodlander, D-N.H., Democratic nominee for governor Cinde Warmington of Concord and House Democratic Leader Alexis Simpson of Exeter called upon prosecutors to criminally investigate the social media post of the New Hampshire Libertarian Party that called for the assassination of every elected Democrat in the state.



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

The New Hampshire Libertarian Party advocated for the assassination of all elected Democrats on social media Tuesday. Jeremy Kauffman, pictured, is chairman of the group and often authors its social media posts.

"We openly support the assassination of basically every elected Democrat in New Hampshire," the party posted Tuesday on X. "But if you don't have the balls to do that then you should probably vote GOP."

In the past, these posts have been authored by Jeremy Kauffman of Manchester, the chair of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire, who has a history of posting controversial, often hostile commentary.

Some of that past behavior helped get his state party group decertified by the national Libertarian Party in May.

"LPNH believes that New Hampshire is healthier and freer when anyone who would enact an income tax fears for their life," Kauffman said in an email response to the Union Leader Wednesday.

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Box truck plunges into Merrimack



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

A multivehicle crash Wednesday around 8 a.m. ended with a box truck in the Merrimack River and a hole in a guardrail on the Interstate 293 bridge above in Manchester.

Seven sent to hospitals, driver OK after truck careens into the river off I-293 in Manchester

By Paul Feely
Union Leader Staff

Eleven people were injured — including a minor who suffered serious injuries — and seven people were transported to area hospitals after multiple vehicles were involved in a series of crashes which resulted in a box truck plunging into the Merrimack River off Interstate 293 in Manchester early Wednesday, State Police said.

Around 7:38 a.m. Wednesday, State Police responded to a report of a crash involving serious injuries and a 30-foot



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

A box truck lies submerged after plunging about 100 feet off the Interstate 293 bridge into the Merrimack River on Wednesday.

box truck that broke through the guard-rail on the bridge and fell into the Merrimack River at mile marker 2.8 on I-293 northbound in Manchester.

► See **Box Truck**, Page A2

NASHUA

Police: Arson suspect allegedly had fire-starting tools on him

■ Arrested after a manhunt following Monday fire, Derrick Couture faces multiple charges.

By Dean Shalhoup
Union Leader Correspondent

In June, a man later identified as Derrick Couture of 16 Barnesdale Road in Nashua allegedly wielded an ax while shouting, "you're all gonna die" as he



Couture

charged at a neighbor who was out walking her dog, police said in a report filed at the time.

The woman grabbed her dog and retreated safely into her home, police said.

Three months after that incident, Couture is accused of setting his Barnesdale Road home on fire Monday before fleeing to Tyngsborough, Mass., prompting a manhunt, po-

lice said.

The search ended Tuesday afternoon back at 16 Barnesdale Road when neighbors called police after noticing Couture had returned to his residence, which by then had been cordoned off as a crime scene, according to the Nashua Police Department.

After officers arrived, a neighbor told police she saw a man who she recognized as Couture leaving

► See **Suspect**, Page A5

PFAS LITIGATION

Londonderry, Keene sue over contamination in firefighter gear

By Zachary Marano
Union Leader Staff

The town of Londonderry and the City of Keene sued several companies in federal court Monday, alleging they knowingly exposed firefighters throughout the state to PFAS compounds.

Many New Hampshire cities and towns have replaced or need to replace firefighter "turnout" gear made with 3M Company and EIDP, Inc./DuPont products, representatives for Keene and Londonderry said.

DuPont and 3M Company don't make firefighter gear themselves, but they make heat-resistant and water-

proof fabrics and textiles used by firefighter gear manufacturers along with other products.

Many of these companies' products contain hazardous "forever chemicals," the lawsuit claims, and contributed to higher rates of cancer among firefighters.

"3M and DuPont knew for decades that PFAS chemicals were toxic and posed substantial risks to human health and the environment, but concealed this information and instead promoted PFAS and products containing PFAS, including for use in turnout

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New Hampshire Union Leader

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