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"There is nothing so powerful as truth"
DANIEL WEBSTER

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"FROM COÖS TO THE SEA"

UnionLeader.com | Monday, November 9, 2026 | Vol. 164, No. 158 • 20 Pages

STATE HOUSE

With Dems in control, battle for speaker of House takes shape

New Hampton's Jim Maggiore announced his bid on Friday, with Exeter's Alexis Simpson considered the frontrunner for the position.

By Kevin Landrigan
Union Leader Staff

Five-term state Rep. Jim Maggiore, who has cast many key votes against his own caucus, launched his bid for speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives on Friday.

Maggiore, a 58-year-old Democrat from New Hampton and a self-described "stay-at-home dad," said if elected he would lead a House with "more collaboration" that respects and honors the views of every lawmaker.

"Unlike the past, we are going to listen to what you say and respect that you have said it. That wasn't always happening in the past. It will in the future," Maggiore said at his kickoff in a newly renovated Legislative Office Building. "You will be a valued member of this caucus and this House."

House Democratic Leader Alexis Simpson of Exeter, also elected to her fifth term last Tuesday, is widely viewed as the frontrunner to replace Speaker Sherman Packard, R-Londonderry, after Democrats took control with historic numbers of more than 290 elected to the 400-person body.

"This victory is yours and you deserve the fun we are going to have being in the majority in the Legislature," Maggiore said.

Last summer, Packard announced he would not seek a fourth term as House leader. He lost his bid for a 19th term in the House last Tuesday as Londonderry's all-GOP, seven-person delegation was flipped to 6-1 Democratic majority.

Prior to Tuesday, three GOP leaders had been running to replace Packard, Majority Leader Jason Osborne, R-Auburn, Deputy Speaker Steven Smith, R-Charlestown, and Speaker Pro Tem Jim Kofalt, R-Wilton.

It's unknown if all three will seek to be House GOP leader. Five-term Rep. Michael Moffett, R-Loudon, has told associates he'll also be running for the post.

The House Democratic and Republican caucuses will hold private meetings in the coming weeks to pick their candidates. The full Legislature meets Dec. 2

► See **House Speaker,** page A2

MANCHESTER

Residents have their say on Sununu Center property's future

Task force is gathering community input and identifying priorities for several factors including land use and neighborhood impact.

By Paul Feely
Union Leader Staff

An estimated 100 people packed a meeting at the Webster Elementary School in Manchester last week to give input on the future of the Sununu Youth Services Center property in the city's North End.

The meeting was the first of two community input sessions scheduled by the Sununu Youth Development Center Task Force this month. The second will be held Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Highland-Goffe's Falls Elementary School.

"This is state-owned property in that location, but as per the statute, the city is expected to — and that's what the intent here is — gather information and to have a voice and a seat at the table for what ultimately the state does with that property in terms of their RFP (Requests for Proposal) and for how it is sold and who it is sold to," Manchester Mayor Jay Ruais said. "So what we wanted to do through the use of this task force was to make sure that we were collecting as much information as we could from the city as to what we are looking for in that location."

Task force members include: Ruais; June Trisciani, alderman at-large; Bryce Kaw-uh, alderman Ward 1; Norm Vincent, alderman Ward 11; Mike Reed, Realtor; Joshua Wright, Ward 1 resident; Brad Cook, attorney; Mark MacKenzie, state representative (District 40/Ward 1, abutter of property); Jeff Myrdek, Manchester Historic Association representative; Gary Hunter, direct abutter; and Marcy Lyman, natural resources consultant.

Ruais established the Sununu Youth Services Center Property Task Force in August. Members are charged with gathering community input and identifying priorities related to land use, traffic, infrastructure, historic preservation and neighborhood impacts.

► See **Sununu Center,** page A2

State champions crowned





Championships in several New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association sports were decided Friday and Saturday, with girls voleyball, girls soccer and boys soccer seasons coming to a close.

Above: Members of the Nashua High School South boys soccer team celebrate after their 3-1 win over Bedford High School in the Div. I championship game at Manchester Memorial High School Saturday night.

Left: Pinkerton Academy's Katelin McDonough jumps into the arms of teammate Camryn McNulty as they celebrate McNulty's goal in Saturday afternoon's Div. I girls champinship game at Manchester Memorial. Pinkerton defeated Bedford, 1-0.

For more coverage of the NHIAA championships, see Sports, Pages B1-4.

PHOTOS BY JODIE ANDRUSKEVICH/UNION LEADER

NASHUA

$30M library redesign budget approved; construction to begin next fall

By Tatum Goetting
Union Leader Staff

Nashua's Library Board of Trustees approved an estimated $30 million construction budget to redesign a third of the library at a meeting last week.

The current Nashua Public Library was constructed in 1970 along the Nashua River. The building's style was considered "brutalism," which emphasized exposed structural elements like beams over aesthetics.

Despite renovations like a roof replacement in 2008 and a 2017 lower-level meeting room renovation, the original 1970 building has not received any infrastructure upgrades.

In 2022, the Nashua Public Library hired designLAB to assess the building's structure. Upon inspection, the firm found cracks in the building's concrete structure and failing roof flashing that caused water leakage.

► See **Library,** page A2



An artist's rendering of what the Nashua Public Library's entry way would look like after renovations.

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Today's Chuckle

Teenager: A kid who looks at their parents and hopes genetics aren't true.

A Small Prayer

Lord, answer us when we call out in distress. Amen

New Hampshire Union Leader
Price $3.00

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