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RANDOLPH

‘Control of a building’



JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News photographs

Staining of the wooden structure shows from water leaking under the copper cladding of the Kimball Public Library cupola in Randolph on Thursday.

Library board and Selectboard tussle over renovation plan



Kimball Public Library Director Amy Grasmick, second left, speaks to members of the Friends of Kimball Public Library at a meeting in Randolph on Thursday.

By SOFIA LANGLOIS
Valley News Staff Writer

RANDOLPH — The Board of Trustees of Kimball Public Library and the Selectboard are at odds over funding for roof fixes and other repairs for the 124-year-old library building.

The trustees contend the Selectboard has slow-walked the approval of a \$150,000 grant and inappropriately sought a third-party estimate for the project without holding a formal public process to do so.

Frustrated over repair delays, Heather Bowman, treasurer of the Kimball trustees, has filed an open

meeting law violation complaint against the Selectboard with the state's Attorney General's Office, after first bringing it to the Selectboard directly on Jan. 15.

“The library building is suffering active structural damage while the Selectboard delays based on a contractor estimate that doesn’t exist,” Bowman wrote in the complaint dated Jan. 15.

But Selectboard members have defended their actions, saying they conducted appropriate due diligence and rejecting claims of an open meeting violation. If a

SEE RANDOLPH A5

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Housing goals not met despite building surge

Shift towards multi-family housing developments

By KATE DARIO
New Hampshire Public Radio

In 2025, more than 5,800 housing units were constructed in New Hampshire, the highest number since 2006, according to a new report from the state Department of Business and Economic Affairs. But despite this recent high, the report said the state has met only about

80% of its building goal between 2020 and 2025, which aims to balance the housing market by 2040.

In 2024, municipalities issued permits for 5,822 housing units. “Assuming all permitted units were constructed in 2025,” the report said, “New Hampshire has added 25,688 housing units since 2020.” But a 2023 assessment from NH Housing said the state needed to build 32,704 housing units during that 5-year period. That would keep it on track for its 2040 goal, which calls for building 88,364 additional units between 2020 and 2040.

According to the department, 2025’s pace was only a marginal increase compared to previous years.

“We had a higher level this year, and I’m not meaning like thousands and thousands more, but it was higher this year than in the past 20 years,” said Heather Shank, director of the department’s Division of Planning and Community Development.

The state has added 4,000 housing units or more every year since 2018, according to the

SEE HOUSING A5

SEE ZONING A8

LEBANON

Woman and cats are rescued

By ALEX EBRAHIMI
Valley News Staff Writer

WEST LEBANON — The city’s fire and police departments are investigating a Sunday morning fire at The Village at Crafts Hill Apartments, where a woman and three cats were rescued.

The Lebanon Fire Department was dis-

patched just before 7 a.m. on Sunday to a report of smoke in a building at the 100-unit apartment complex.

On arrival, firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the main entrance of a two-story, multi-unit apartment building, according to a Lebanon Fire De-

SEE LEBANON A5

Next-door-neighbor Kellie Fisher and her son Ari, 4, spend time outside their apartment on Monday in West Lebanon after the weekend fire.



INSIDE



SPORTS

THE QUEEN OF CORTINA

American downhill skier Lindsey Vonn hopes to recover from her injury in time for the Winter Olympics in Italy. [Page B1](#)

WORLD & NATION

FATHER DISPUTES HE ABANDONED SON

After they were released from custody, Adrian Conejo Arias, who is originally from Ecuador, told ABC News that he loves his son, Liam, and would never abandon him, disputing statements from the Department of Homeland Security, which alleged that Arias had left his child in a vehicle. [Page A8](#)



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