

RANDOLPH

‘Control of a building’



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

JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News photographs

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 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

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LEBANON

Council takes up zoning changes

Proposal for Route 120 aims to encourage housing

By **CLARE SHANAHAN**
Valley News Staff Writer

LEBANON — Developers and city officials have long eyed the northern part of Lebanon, along Route 120, as a hot-spot for new housing and businesses, and the result has already been evident with large apartment complexes cropping up there in recent years.

After years of planning and studies, the City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday to consider zoning changes for properties between Exit 18 off Interstate 89 and the Hanover town line. The changes can move forward with council approval and will not appear before voters.

That corridor is “seen as an emerging third village center in Lebanon” in addition to downtown Lebanon and West Lebanon, according to the city’s description of a 2024 study that looked at opportunities for development and preservation along Route 120.

The proposed changes try to “strike the balance between a need for housing and a need for allowing some of these properties to reinvent themselves and ... preserving the connectedness of conserved lands,” Lebanon Planning and Development Director Nate Reichert said Monday.

As things stand, most of the north part of Lebanon along Route 120 and Etna and Heater roads are designated for industrial use. Under the proposed changes, most of the area would be updated to allow mixed-use development including multi-family housing, businesses such as offices, mobile food services and group day care facilities.

With special permission, the zoning designation called “general commercial one” also allows uses such as retail stores, restaurants, animal boarding facilities, schools and inpatient rehabilitation.

The area directly around Centerra would be re-designated as a “central business district,” which allows for multiple kinds of housing and many kinds of businesses and facilities such as community centers, health clubs,

The designation for much of the corridor would be updated to allow mixed-use development including multi-family housing and businesses.

SEE **ZONING** A8

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

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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-

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JENNIFER HAUCK / Valley News

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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