

NH PRIMARY

What to know if you plan to vote



Bradley Bennett, a Department of Public Works employee, sets up voting booths ahead of the New Hampshire primary at City Hall in Lebanon.

ALEX DRIEHAUS / Valley News

Registered? Where are the polls?

By DAVID BROOKS
Concord Monitor

If you're planning to vote in Tuesday's party primaries — and you should, because party primaries are important and most people ignore them, which means your ballot carries more weight — here's what you need to know before you arrive at the polling station:

Where do I vote?

There's a complete list of all the 300-plus polling places in New Hampshire online at app.sos.nh.gov/statelist-clerkandpolling. (SOS stands for the Secretary of State's office, which oversees elections in New Hampshire.) It includes the voting hours.

Am I registered to vote?

To make sure you're still

registered to vote in your town or ward, check the state database at app.sos.nh.gov/voterinformation.

Darn it, I'm not registered!

Don't despair: You can register at the polls on Election Day.

You have to prove you are at least 18, a U.S. citizen and live in the area served by the

polling place. Incidentally, there's no minimum time you must have lived there; you can vote on the day you move to town if you've got proof. And you can vote on the day of your 18th birthday!

For a list of potential documents to show each of these requirements, see sos.nh.gov/elections/regist

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VERMONT

Priest arrested at ICE protest

Seven clergy members charged with trespassing

By MOLLY HUGHES
Valley News Staff Writer

The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, a 69-year-old Episcopal priest from Bradford, Vt., was one of seven clergy members arrested Friday morning after blocking the doors of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Williston, Vt.

"We have a clergy group that's been working on resistance to some of the tactics of ICE and mass deportations that are going on," Kooperkamp said in an interview Friday afternoon. "We decided just to block the doors, to try to disrupt the activity for the day."

Kooperkamp, who has served at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Barre, Vt., since 2012, said the group was mostly Christian, with some interfaith clergy as well.

"Out of our religious values, we believe that we need to take care of our neighbors," he said. "That's called to us from our religious traditions, and that's why we were there."

According to Vermont State Police, the group entered a private office building in Williston to protest federal agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and would not leave. Troopers and Williston police spoke with the protest's leaders. Some demonstrators left on their own. The rest indicated they would have to be arrested.

Kooperkamp described the same moment.

"The Williston police and Vermont state troopers warned us that we were trespassing — that if we didn't move, we would be arrested," he said. "So we didn't move. We were arrested."

All seven were cited for unlawful trespass, taken to the state police barracks in Williston, and released. Kooperkamp said they were fingerprinted and photographed there. They are due in the criminal division of Vermont Superior Court in Burlington on Oct. 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Along with Kooperkamp, state police identified those arrested as Catherine

SEE ARREST A5

WEST LEBANON

I-89 exit 20 ramp closure is delayed

By MOLLY HUGHES
Valley News Staff Writer

WEST LEBANON — The Interstate 89 exit 20 southbound off-ramp will close later than expected as work continues on a multi-year bridge replacement project that has snarled traffic around the interchange.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation plans to close the ramp between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on either Wednesday or Thursday to pave it. The department had previously said the closure would happen the previous week.

Weather permitting, the ramp will be closed for only one day and will reopen once paving is complete, department officials

said.

Traffic will be detoured south on I-89 to Exit 19 in Lebanon to reverse direction onto I-89 northbound, where the Exit 20 northbound off-ramp can be used.

"Road users should remain alert while traveling through the construction zone and obey all posted signs," the department stated in a news release.

Work crews were off the road for the Labor Day weekend and were expected to return after the holiday, said Andrew Silovich, a contract administrator with the department.

"We won't be back on the road until either Tuesday afternoon, more than likely Wednesday morning," he said in a phone interview.

The closure follows delays that began Monday, when state officials closed one southbound lane of Interstate 89 near exit 20 in West Lebanon, as previously reported by the Valley News.

R.S. Audley of Bow, N.H., is the prime contractor on the \$43 million project, which began in 2020 and is slated for completion this fall. The original completion date was September 2025. Environmental factors pushed the timetable back.

"Some delays with working in the river, dealing with ice flows ... got the dirt work and paving side kind of out of sequence," Silovich said.

To keep up with roadway delays, visit newengland511.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Colby-Sawyer honors retired New London fire chief

By LIZ SAUCHELLI
Valley News Staff Writer

Colby-Sawyer College President Dean McCurdy honored newly retired New London fire chief Jason "Jay" Lyon with the school's 2026 Community Award last month.

Each year, the New London-based college honors a community member, organization or business for contributions made to the school community, according to a news release. Lyon spent 35 years with the department — including 18 as chief — before retiring in March.

"During that time, he collaborated extensively and effectively with the college on fire code compliance,

major construction and renovation projects and ongoing life safety improvements, always keeping student safety at the center of the work," according to the release.

He participated in preparedness drills at the college, trained college staff and provided leadership during major weather events, including ice storms in 1998 and 2008.

"Over the years, it has recognized individuals and organizations that have shaped this community in extraordinary ways," Lyon said about receiving the award in the release. "To have my name mentioned alongside theirs is something I never imagined, and it's an honor I will always treasure."

Lyon lives in Wilmot, N.H., with his wife, Amy Lyon, an associate professor in Colby-Sawyer's social sciences department, according to the release.

Hanover High teacher named Society for Science advocate

The Society for Science has selected Hanover High School science teacher Kevin Lavigne for its 2026-2027 Advocate Program.

Lavigne — who has taught at Hanover High School for more than 30 years — will receive \$3,000 from the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization, to assist students interested in pursuing their own re-

search projects and entering science-related competitions, according to a Society for Science news release. He is one of 87 educators from across the country who will participate in the program this school year.

"I am honored to be selected as an Advocate because it expands my ability to connect students — especially those from rural and underrepresented communities — with authentic, high-level STEM re-

Lavigne

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