

## COLLEGE: High school seniors gear up for college applications; PA student has many choices

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more Square. She's attracted to Duke's international program, the "Duke Engagement," and was impressed with the code of honor and integrity expected at Chapel Hill. With relatives in the South, she won't be alone, she said. And while UNH is her "safety school," Yeames said she could make it work if her financial package was really good.

"I want a big school with lots of school spirit," she said, adding, "I can picture myself going to basketball games."

The common application, a basic application required by many four-year schools, made Yeames's college search process a little easier. She made lists on her iPad – "I'm a big list-maker" – and did a little every day, chipping away at the common application, her teacher recommendations, her essay and other paperwork. All her potential schools took the common application except UNC Chapel Hill.

"At the end of the application process, it was like a big weight was off my shoulders. I just went 'click' and submitted."

The essay was the hardest part, Yeames admitted, and she procrastinated a little on that. She wanted to talk about her



Kathleen Bailey Photo

**Melanie "Lanie" Yeames, a senior at Pembroke Academy, makes use of some down time to check on college application materials.**

### College help

The state offers financial and application help through the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation at [www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org).

parents' divorce, after which her mother moved back to Barbados and Yeames and her brother spent alternating school years in Barbados and New Hampshire.

"I had two separate homes," Yeames said. "I went to school in Barbados in first, third, fifth and seventh grades. My friends in New Hampshire never saw my home in Barbados, and my friends in Barbados never saw my home in

New Hampshire." At the end of eighth grade, their parents offered both Yeames and her older brother a choice: to do all of high school in Barbados or Pembroke.

"High school," she explained, "is more difficult to pick up and leave – you have to accumulate credits."

Because she wanted to go to college in the United States, she chose New Hampshire.

Yeames makes it all work with lists and organization. She takes honors and AP courses, works part-time at her father Richard's pizza business, and spends time with friends and a boyfriend. Extracurriculars weren't a problem on the ap-

lications: she's co-vice president of the school Key Club, president of Students Against Destructive Decisions, founded the Math Team, belongs to the National Honor Society, is part of the Friends of Rachel group, on Student Senate and president of her class.

But with all that, Yeames still has some regrets. She wishes she could have taken more AP courses, especially chemistry and English. She wishes she had been more involved in sports – "but at PA, sports take over your life," she said. And she wishes she could have been involved in more clubs and organizations.

"There are clubs in this school I don't even know about," she said, adding, "I really like clubs!"

While the applications are all filed, she's bracing for another round of paperwork – scholarships.

"And I told my dad he needs to get on with doing the FAFSA – he was a little late with my brother," she said.

And while some of her friends just want to get out, Yeames has mixed feelings about leaving PA, she said as she strode confidently toward the library. "Sometimes I still feel like a freshman – there's so much I still want to do," she said.

## RIVER: New state legislators draft a bill to correct problems caused by shift in Suncook River

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McCormell of Chichester; and Rep. G. Brian Seaworth of Pembroke.

While the price tag of \$7 million and change is "hard to swallow" in a lean economy, Giuda said he and the team would work to find ways to reduce the costs.

Giuda has been involved with the avulsion, advocating for its victims, since 2006.

"The legislature," he said, "did nothing."

Before and after his election he "read every study, talked with engineering firms, talked with VHB" (Vanasse, Hangin and Brustlin, authors of the main study on the avulsion). Through his studies, Giuda determined the biggest issue with the avulsion is to stop the migration of sediment downstream, an estimated 165 tons a day, he said.

Giuda's bill would fund a \$50,000 engineering study to determine whether to leave the river where it is or restore

it to its original course. The river currently runs through a former sand pit, and to leave it that way, he said, is cheaper than restoring it, if they can also stabilize it. But the original river bed, he added, has better bedrock.

Returning the river to its original location is the better option, he said, and the plan would accomplish that by eliminating one of the bends and restoring a cut upstream. That would take an estimated \$6 million.

The bill would also provide \$1 million to dredge places where the tons of sediment have filled in the river bed.

"It used to be 12 feet deep in some places, and now you can walk across it," Giuda said.

Giuda said the total appropriation would be \$7,050,000.

"I know it will be nixed from the start unless we find a creative way to get the money," he said.

State Rep. Dan McGuire, a retired engineer whose

back yard includes a portion of the Suncook, wrote, "The sediment falls out in slower areas of the river and in front of dams, filling up the bed and causing the river to get very shallow and overflow its banks. Some residents have had to reposition their homes and others are experiencing regular flooding. The bill would direct the state to stop the sediment transfer and then dredge downstream to restore the old river level.

"Even if the bill gets postponed for lack of funds, the state does have a few projects in the works that will help with the problem," McGuire added. "The most significant of these is the removal of the Buck Street dam in Pembroke. We legislators prefer the Giuda bill because it cures the disease, while we see the DES actions as just treating the symptoms."

While Giuda said he and the Concord team, including Sen. Jack Barnes, are looking for ways to fund the project, none of their ideas is public at

this time. But it probably won't be paid for by grants, he said.

"Grants are too competitive," he said.

The potential grant recipients also have to wait to be approved, wait for their funds, "and we're not willing to wait," he said.

He and the other representatives are writing a letter to New Hampshire's federal delegation, inviting them to get involved in the project. But Giuda doesn't hold out much hope for that.

"People left it to the feds before, and they did nothing," said Giuda, convinced the avulsion is a state issue. "No individual can fix it, no town can fix it. It has to be the state."

Giuda said the state representatives for the affected towns are all supportive of the bill.

"Now," he said, "we have to convince all 400 of the representatives."

## SEWER: Voters will be asked to pay \$360,108 for unexpected increase in sewer expansion project

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ties to receive that money.

Selectmen voted on Monday, Jan. 17, to recommend – reluctantly – that residents vote in favor of a warrant article that authorizes the Sewer Commission to tap into a reserve account to pay for the cost overrun.

"I think this whole thing was handled terribly," Selectman Jeff Gryval said. "But I think we have no other choice."

Selectman Roger LaFleur was not present, but the remaining two selectmen, Gryval and Jason Tardiff, voted in favor of recommending the warrant article.

Officials said that if the article is not approved, the town will not get stimulus money for half of the overrun.

"This is an unfortunate expense. We're still on the hook," Budget Committee member Carl Caporale said. "This is a 50 percent coupon. Let's aim for the coupon."

The meeting marked the second Monday night in a row town officials criticized the Allenstown Sewer Commission and Michael Trainque, vice president of the Manchester engineering firm Hoyle, Tanner and Associates Inc., for not being up front about the added expenses.

Sewer Commission Chairman Jim Rodger told selectmen the previous week that his board knew of the cost overrun six months ago.

"I think we face a systemic, organic problem with the Sewer Commission," Budget Committee member Mike Frascinella said. "They knew

about it back in June. To me, that's upsetting."

The overrun for the entire project was actually \$1.26 million, but the project vendor, Cambridge Water Technologies, kicked in \$900,000 of that amount.

Trainque said he and sewer officials were caught off guard by the sudden rise in costs in the midst of the project.

"We were blindsided," Trainque said. "The problem came up during design. This was completely unforeseen even to the vendor."

He pointed out the project was the first ever in the United States.

"There was no database to compare to," Trainque said. "Normally it's not a first-of-its-kind."

The project design was "85 to 90 percent complete" at the

time the higher cost estimate was received, according to a joint written statement by the sewer commission and Hoyle, Tanner.

They said "timing was critical" because, to receive federal stimulus funds, a construction contract needed to be set by February 2010.

The project is expected to be fully completed in the next week. It uses a state-of-the-art process called BioMag, which allows greater amounts of waste to settle without building additional aeration tanks.

"You had a bond in 2009 for \$1.6 million and you should have stayed within those boundaries," Budget Committee Chairman Sandra McKenney said. "There's other town projects, and they don't go over. There's no ifs, ands or buts."

# Hooksett state reps to lead State House

CONCORD – Two Hooksett lawmakers, one a veteran entering his 11th term in the state House of Representatives and the other a newcomer to the legislative process, have been named to leadership positions by House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt (Salem).

Rep. David Hess, who has held a number of leadership positions since he was first elected to the House in 1993, will serve as an assistant majority leader, while Rep. Molly Smith, who is a member of the freshman class, has been named as an assistant majority whip.

"Having worked with Molly outside of the legislature for several years, I have been extremely impressed with her leadership skills and ability to articulate our fiscal conservative philosophy," Bettencourt said.

"She was an obvious choice for our leadership team, and I know she will be

a solid voice for her constituents as we strive to correct the many wrongs enacted in Concord over the past four years," added Bettencourt.

"Rep. Hess brings invaluable experience to our leadership team, having served in a number of different key leadership positions, including Majority Leader under former Speaker of the House Gene Chandler. With so many freshmen joining the Republican caucus, it is important to have someone of David's knowledge on our leadership team."

Joining Rep. Smith as assistant majority whips are Rep. Mary Griffin of Windham, Rep. Mike McCarthy of Nashua, Rep. John Tholl of Whitefield and Rep. David Welch of Kingston. Serving as assistant majority leaders, along with Rep. Hess, are Rep. Dick Drisko of Hollis, Rep. Joe Fleck of Wakefield, Rep. Beverly Rodeschin of Newport, and Rep. Ed Smith of Hinsdale.

## PAY: Hooksett hasn't saved for replacements

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two, to ease the financial strain on taxpayers. "That will offset this."

Town Councilor David Boutin disagreed with Gahara's idea, saying most of the requests should be axed.

"In the economy we're in right now, this is not the time to take a hit," Boutin said. "This is exactly the wrong time."

Hemeon said he agrees that "times are tough," but said the "most important thing is that you have a plan."

"All you do is prolong this because you keep stalling it every year," Hemeon told councilors. "The frustrating thing is you make a six-year or 15-year plan, then a new council comes in and it goes out the window."

"We haven't been long term. Every year we go through this," Gahara said.

Town Councilor Nancy Van Scoy said she agrees with Gahara's three-year plan idea.

"Our budget has been con-

trolled by reactivity," Van Scoy said. "The need does not go away."

The 18 proposed capital improvement-related warrant articles total about \$856,000 for next fiscal year if all passed, which is highly unlikely. The Town Council is almost certain to eliminate several of those articles in the coming weeks.

The most costly article, which is expected to pass the council, however, is a \$1.5 million bond to be paid over 15 years to renovate the James Oliver Safety Center. Next fiscal year, \$56,000 would be raised, resulting in a 3-cent tax rate impact. In the following 14 years, \$101,600 plus \$80,000 in interest would be raised each year, resulting in an 11-cent tax rate impact. The building was only constructed in the late 1990s but is plagued with heating and ventilation problems.

"The Safety Center didn't happen on our watch, but now we're facing it," Gahara said. "We need to do something."

## CODE: Old Meeting House needs to meet code

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But Moulton said it's not appropriate for the Fire Department to make a determination on the codes.

"The only way that can be taken care of," he said, "is by an independent third party. That's what you do when you have two groups saying different things."

Carlson said the engineering study was "more than I understood we needed."

He said the architect told him "we didn't need sprinklers," and if there was fire, they had "direct egress" to the outside.

Moulton made the distinction between what an architect does and an engineer does. When he worked with Concord Hospital on their Route 4 medical offices, "the architect made a beautiful building," he said. "Then, with the engineering study, they made over 50 changes to bring it up to code."

"This is not what the Fire Department or captain wants," added Moulton. "It's what the state demands."

And unless the engineering study is done, he said, the Fire Department will not approve the building for "life safety."

"It's in our best interests to do it right the first time, to do it by code," said Selectman Don Harty, the liaison to the Old Meeting House. "None of

us want to take chances with safety."

But there's no money for an engineering study, Carlson pointed out, and Harty suggested making the amount a warrant article to be voted on in March.

Resident Lenny Gilman said he would like to see a warrant article either for the engineering study or for a capital reserve fund to be used for the building. But first, Gilman said, the town needs to figure out what it wants to do with the Meeting House.

He expressed frustration that Epsom has owned the building for four years and hasn't figured out what to do with it.

Resident Mary Frambach warned that the town has to eventually make some use of the building, "or we'll have to pay \$191,000 back to LCHIP." The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program gave a \$191,000 grant for exterior work for the project.

"We have to do some serious thinking about this," Harty said.

Carlson said the architectural study was what had been required for the LCHIP grant.

"If it's not what the firemen wanted, this is the first time I've heard about it," he said. "I thought the architect did a pretty good job," but "if that's what they want, that's what they'll get."

## Hooksett Kiwanis Club seeks entries for community leaders

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Kiwanis Club is having its second annual Community Leaders Recognition Program. There are seven categories:

1. Small Business of the

Year  
2. Large Business of the Year  
3. Hooksett Business Leader of the Year  
4. Hooksett Educator of

the Year  
5. Hooksett Municipal Employee of the Year  
6. Hooksett Adult Volunteer of the Year  
7. Hooksett Youth Volun-

teer of the Year

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 1. Nomination forms are available at Town Hall, the library and at [www.hooksettkiwanis.org](http://www.hooksettkiwanis.org)