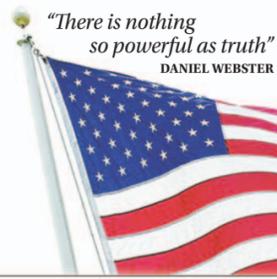


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Critics expect big Northern Pass profits

Seeking a path: PSNH maintains that putting transmission lines underground remains too costly.

By PAULA TRACY New Hampshire Union Leader

While company officials assert they have no hard and fast numbers yet, critics of the proposed Northern Pass say at least \$68 million a year in profit is coming to Public Service of New Hampshire if the project is approved.

government indicate Northern Pass will clear at least that amount even without any fees for rights of way, which have not been established.

That profit margin would exceed margins for PSNH's transmission and generation facilities, said Christophe Courchesne, an attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation of NH which has filed as an intervenor.

Other intervenors in the Presidential Permit for project, including Susan Schibanoff of Easton and Jim and Alexandra Dannis of Dalton, also say they believe that whatever the amount, over 40 years, it may likely be the reason why no other options, such as going underground along medians, rail beds or under water, are being considered.

Mike Skelton, spokesman for PSNH, said Friday that the company continues to study underground technology but at this time it remains

cost prohibitive and would not make the project economic," and he contended would have "significant environmental impact on the land, far more than the impact of an overhead line."

Northern Pass Transmission LLC is a joint venture of Northeast Utilities and NStar. It seeks to bring 1,200 megawatts of Hydro Quebec's power through New Hampshire to the New England market. As proposed, the project would use rights of way owned by PSNH from Groveton to Deerfield.

The project still needs to secure a new 40-mile right of way from Groveton to the Canadian border.

Northeast Utilities is PSNH's parent company. Northern Pass would be a sister organization to PSNH with profits going to Northeast Utilities stockholders, not ratepayers or property owners.

The way it is set up, Hydro-Quebec will pay Northern Pass to use the lines and will make their money on

See Northern Pass, Page A10



Scene in Manchester

Teresa Robinson and Katie McQuaid

What's up at the Falls?

Finally, the makeover of the hotel property at the Amoskeag Traffic Circle is set to begin. We still can't shake the memories of when it housed a Hooters.

David Roedel, a Queen City resident and one of the project's developers, tells The Scene that in addition to a LaQuinta Inn, The Falls Center will also feature a well-established restaurant and an upscale meeting and banquet center. As people who produce a lot of events, we're really excited about the new banquet space, which the Greater Manchester area has really lacked since the closing of CR Sparks and the Wayfarer in Bedford.

The ceremonial groundbreaking is taking place later this month and the renovation, including major interior and exterior improvements, should be complete early next year. We appreciate the Roedel Companies are investing in this well-traveled area and giving it some much needed curb appeal.

You can stay up-to-date with the renovations by visiting www.whatsupatthefalls.com.

Speaking of nice places

With the surge of bed bugs in our region we're all a little wary of sleeping in strange beds. At the recent Leadership Summit of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation we learned the dormitories at New Horizons' shelter now feature bed bug-proof beds thanks to a grant from the

See Scene, Page A10

Solemn remembrance



The name of Army Spc. Nicholas Bernier of East Kingston is among the nearly 6,300 in a "Field of Flags" planted Saturday in Plaistow.

JASON SCHREIBER

A sea of red, white and blue

200 volunteers: Families of the fallen heartened by show of support thousands of American flags represent.

By JASON SCHREIBER Union Leader Correspondent

PLAISTOW — When Army Capt. Jonathan Grassbaugh of Hampstead was killed in Iraq in 2007, his father worried that as time passed his son would be forgotten like so many other fallen heroes.

"It's really heartening that people will remember because your greatest fear is that nobody will remember," Mark Grassbaugh said as he looked out over a two-acre field that was changed from green to a sea of red, white, and blue.

Nearly 200 volunteers determined to never forget the service-



Nearly 6,300 flags now fill a field next to the Rockingham Church at 90 Newton Road in Plaistow as a tribute to those killed in the War on Terror.

men and women killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan gathered Saturday in the field next to the Rockingham Church at 90 Newton Road.

They came armed with tools to punch holes in the ground and nearly 6,300 American flags — each

See Flags, Page A2

Lowe's shuts doors in city unexpectedly

Hooksett next: Manchester employees were told of the closure of the home improvement store Sunday night in an emergency meeting.

By TIM BUCKLAND New Hampshire Union Leader

MANCHESTER — The Lowe's Home Improvement store in Manchester — and possibly more throughout New Hampshire — closed abruptly Sunday night, leaving hundreds out of work.

Standing in a group of collective surprise and anger, several of the Manchester store's ex-employees said they were told in an "emergency meeting" Sunday night that the store was closing immediately. They cried, hugged and clutched manila envelopes they said contained their sev-

See Lowe's, Page A2

Auburn teen beat cancer, dies in crash

Sean Levesque: Friends talk of a positive outlook from a young man who had overcome so much.

By CORY FRANCR Union Leader Correspondent

AUBURN — Throughout Sean Levesque's battle with lymphoma, he maintained a positive outlook toward the world. And when he finally came out of his three-year battle with the disease, victorious at age 18, Levesque's friend Nicole Carreau said he was ready to take that attitude into the rest of his young life.

That life was cut short Saturday morning when Levesque, 19, died after driving his pickup truck went off Pingree Hill Road in Auburn. The narrow, country road snakes

See Auburn, Page A10

INSIDE TODAY

Table with 2 columns: Topic and Page number. Includes Abby, Business, Classified, Comics/TV, Crosswords, Entertainment, Lifestyles, Notices, Obituaries, Opinion, Sports, Weather.

A Small Prayer

When conflicts get blown out of proportion, Lord, may we walk away and bring them to You. Amen

Today's Chuckle

If you can't teach an old dog new tricks, how did all those old politicians learn to tweet on Twitter? Amen

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Today IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NEWSPAPER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Presidential primary is a real contest

New Hampshire will offer the nation clues as to the direction of the volatile presidential race, but with more than two-thirds of Republican voters in the Granite State still undecided among the candidates, anything can happen and anyone can win.

Page A6

NATION

Dr. King memorial

President Barack Obama and civil rights leaders on Sunday helped dedicate a memorial to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with thousands of spectators watching.

Page A5

Occupy movement refines message

Protesters in downtown Chicago, often criticized for being haphazard and unfocused, have taken steps to make their mission clearer. Members of Occupy Chicago, one of many spinoffs of the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York, listed 12 demands to help resolve the nation's economic crisis.

Page A7

BUSINESS

The Spirit lives on in Henniker

Two longtime friends are putting their expertise to use, buying the Country Spirit restaurant and tavern in Henniker. Rick Hall and Jason Metnick worked there as teens and developed a great fondness for the place. Now, it's their turn.

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Today's Letters:

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Big doings

Volunteers Duncan Perry, Left, and Tony Davis help move a pumpkin to the scales during the weigh in portion of the Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off and Regatta event in Goffstown this weekend.



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