

**Lakes Region  
WEATHER****TODAY****PARTLY CLOUDY**63°  
Precip. 7%**TONIGHT****PARTLY CLOUDY**38°  
Precip. 44%**TOMORROW****RAIN**High: 53°  
Low: 31°  
Precip. 93%**ODDNEWS**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina woman who grew up picking cotton, got married at 14 and went on to become the oldest living American with more than 120 great-great-grandchildren has died peacefully in her home, according to her family.

Hester Ford was either 115 or 116 years old depending on which census report was accurate. Either way, she was the oldest living American when she died Saturday in Charlotte, according to the Gerontology Research Group, which tracks "super-centenarians." They listed her age as 115 years and 245 days.

"She was a pillar and stalwart to our family and provided much needed love, support and understanding to us all," said her great-granddaughter, Tanisha Patterson-Powe, in a statement emailed to news outlets.

Ford was born on a farm in Lancaster County, South Carolina, in 1905, if you accept the more conservative estimate of her age. She married John Ford at age 14, and gave birth to the first of her 12 children at age 15.

The couple moved to Charlotte, where she remained for the rest of her life. Her husband died in 1963 at age 57, three years after the couple moved to Charlotte. Hester Ford then lived in the home on her own, without assistance, until the age of 108, when she bruised ribs in a bathtub fall and her family members insisted on moving in to help. She lived in the home with family until her death.

**READER pics**

"Beautiful walk along the Pemi Trail in Bristol," wrote Brenda Allen. If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to [readerpics@laconiadailysun.com](mailto:readerpics@laconiadailysun.com) for consideration, and include your Instagram handle if you have one. You can check out previous Reader Pics — and bonus pics not chosen for print — by going to our website, following The Laconia Daily Sun's Instagram page and liking our Facebook page.

**Dry conditions raise concern about another drought**

A messy nor'easter wasn't enough to make up for a lack of late-season snow and dry spring weather, which is causing worries of another summer drought in New England, officials say.

People are already being urged to conserve water in parts of western Massachusetts, and New Hampshire officials warned that water shortages may occur since conditions haven't fully recovered from the drought last summer. Across the region, tinderbox conditions have led to scores of fires.

The signs point to potential trouble.

"Last year we were in a drought. We are kind of headed that way again," said Margaret Curtis of the National Weather Service.

Most of New England is already experiencing abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought, according to the U.S.

Drought Monitor.

The problem goes back to late winter. March is usually a snowy month but there was only a tenth of an inch in Portland, Maine, and a trace in Concord, New Hampshire, Curtis said. The late-season nor'easter on Friday didn't produce enough precipitation to make up the difference, Curtis said.

With the snow pack long gone, stream flows are below normal and there are dry conditions in the forests.

In Maine, the number of forest fires is ahead of last year, with 163 fires having destroyed 122 acres, said Jim Britt, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

"There is great concern among forest rangers and firefighters," Britt said.

In New Hampshire, all

of the state's counties are at least half a foot below average for rainfall in the past year, and officials are worried about the impact on people's wells.

"We could see many more well failures than we did last year going into the second year of drought unless conditions change," said Brandon Kernen, who leads the state drinking and groundwater bureau.

Last summer, there were long stretches of dry weather and record high temperatures in parts of New England. Some farmers who didn't irrigate dealt with dusty fields and lower yields.

Nearly all of New England was in a drought with parts of Maine, New Hampshire, southern Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut in "extreme" drought in 2020.

— Associated Press

**QUESTION  
of the week**

**The owners of Isaiah 61 Cafe in Laconia propose to open a low-barrier shelter to help homeless people in the winter. What do you think of the idea? A sampling of replies from our website, [laconiadailysun.com](http://laconiadailysun.com):**

Not a bad idea. I just wish they could pitch in to give back to the city by working with public works to pick up litter, paint, plant, etc. It would give them purpose and self worth. Also learn that when you work for the things you get builds a feeling of purpose. There must be many things they could do to give back.

— Gary Brock, Laconia

Yes, I favor this shelter. It seems that many of the programs with barriers fail because they have unrealistic expectations. Taking people as they are at the particular moment in time may help both the homeless person and the community.

— Ruth Larson, Alton

I believe allowing Isaiah 61 to create a homeless shelter at that location is overly needed, and perfectly placed. I see homeless walking down my street all winter long. They need a warm and dry place to sleep. That coupled with the very fact that the Laconia Police Dept is only a 1/2 a block away would discourage any criminal activity there. I have met and spoken with Dawn and Dave Longval several times. They are good Christian people, who meet a need, and run a tight ship. I hope they will be allowed to create this much needed shelter.

— Douglas Teegarden, Laconia

It's a noble cause, however this will drive homeless people from other communities here if they can find better accommodations in Laconia and it's prohibitive to a thriving downtown business area. The city should segment a section on the city for these services away from downtown. This initiative is in direct conflict with the renovations going on downtown.

— Tom Johansen, Laconia

This is such a hard question. I'm am torn to pieces but what I feel my answer needs to be. While I acknowledge the need for such a place and support having one in the area I worry about what that will mean for people who live nearby. My family lives within a quarter mile of the cafe and we see every day what folks experiencing homelessness struggle with and what they leave behind in the process. The streets are a mess. There is yelling and fighting every day. The police are called often. The city has worked so hard to try to refurbish downtown and I fear that having a shelter right there will hamper those efforts. We need a shelter. It is the right thing to do and I will help if I can, but I am not sure this is the right place. I have no idea where that place is, to be honest.

— J. Alward, Laconia

That sounds great. The Longvals and the staff try to meet the clientele where they are. Isaiah 61 provides services to those in need without involuntarily involving taxpayers. People (like me) who wish to support their efforts, do. Those who don't, don't have to.

— Rick Notkin, Gilford

see **QUESTION** page 13



## SANBORNTON POLICE LOG

SANBORNTON — Police handled 27 service calls for the week ending April 17.

Two people were arrested.

Joshua Haney, 40, of Knox Mountain Road, in Sanborn-ton, was arrested on a charge of facilitating a drug or under-age house party.

Riley M. Tobin, 18, of Knox Mountain Road, in Sanborn-ton, was charged with unlawful possession of alcohol.

Six people were taken into protective custody.

Officers made motor vehicle stops with led to one driver receiving a summons, and seven others getting written warnings.

Police investigated a report of criminal trespass.

An officer assisted at a medical/fire call.

Police were asked to check out a reported road hazard, and to conduct a welfare check at a residence.

Officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance.

*Thank you for  
reading the*

**The Laconia  
Daily Sun**

### QUESTION from page 2

It's a fantastic idea and much needed in Laconia. I volunteer at the cafe sometimes and have taken in a handful of the homeless over the winters and into the summer sometimes. I know the challenges they will face and what they will need to do in some areas, and I am behind this idea they have on this project 100 percent.

— **Donna Riel, Laconia**

Basic human dignity requires all of humanity to respond to the needs of those in distress so they are safe. Isaiah 61 is trying to be Laconia's response to many who are struggling to survive in the world and especially when the environment is dangerous. The low-barrier shelter is a need in Laconia and the community ought to support that. Because that is what shows the morality of the community.

— **Leonard Campbell, Meredith**

Yes, I feel this is much needed and would hopefully set a positive example to the rest of the state. Users should be held to standards as best as possible. After a ride along the Winni Trail my wife commented on how many unkempt places were in the area. Some people do seem to continually make bad choices, others get tossed aside for myriad reasons. The greater community should try and help set as well as lead to a hopeful positive outcome. EVERYONE needs hope.

— **Dave Coulter, Northfield**

Laconia is blessed to have the Isaiah 61 Cafe available for those who need a place to call "home". They have provided a wonderful service for so many over the years with meals, showers, clothing, and a sense of belonging. Buying the attached building that is no longer in use will mean they will be able to give shelter from the freezing weather in winters as well. This is

all done without charge to those who are not as fortunate as most of us. The city (and all of us) should be thankful for the kindness they and their other volunteers provide, filling a void that benefits our city. We certainly appreciate all they do with their example of caring and showing love for everyone.

— **Kathleen Brown, Laconia**

I recently accepted an offer to serve on the board of Isaiah 61 Cafe, having been involved with the cafe for a few years. Prior to that I served as director of an outreach program in Milford for 27 years, so feel capable of judging the effectiveness of such a program.

I am totally impressed with the work that Dawn and Dave Longval have accomplished in less than 3 years since they opened. They are totally invested in this outreach, so warm and loving toward their "friends". These friends are not always the easiest to love, but the Longvals have truly let them enter their hearts. They have invested a great deal of their own money and one of them is always present when the cafe is open to make sure that it is run properly. All this while being dedicated parents of 6 children!

I feel that we all have an obligation to reach out to the less fortunate. No one should have to sleep outside during our frigid winters. Besides breakfast and lunch, Isaiah offers free use of bathroom facilities, showers, laundry, and lockers to store valuables. The Longvals spend their time inspiring those who are victims of drug or alcohol abuse to find hope to heal their lives. They do not draw any salary. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated couple offering to handle this difficult task and should remember that they need financial assistance to accomplish their mission.

— **Mariette Facques, Gilford**

## Legally Speaking

*A monthly legal column for  
Lakes Region Citizens and visitors.*

### How much do you need to pay your summer intern?

For college students and businesses alike, summer is the time for internships. In New Hampshire, the employer must be pre-approved by the Department of Labor and comply with the Department's School to Work program to offer an unpaid internship..

The U.S. Department of Labor developed standards that an employer must consider in determining whether an internship must be paid. (U.S. Department of Labor)

#### Internships may be unpaid if:

1. Both employer and intern understand that there is no expectation of pay. If compensation is implied or promised, the intern must be paid.
2. The internship provides training similar to that given in an educational environment. This includes hands-on training and clinical training given by educational institutions.
3. The internship is for the benefit of the intern, tying in integrated coursework or academic credit.
4. The internship accommodates the intern's academic commitments and schedule.
5. The internship is limited to the time where the intern is provided with beneficial learning.
6. The intern doesn't displace regular employees but works under supervision of existing staff.
7. Both employer and intern understand that the intern is not entitled to a paid job at the conclusion of the internship.

Absent the above, interns likely must be paid at least minimum wage for services they provide to the "for-profit" or private sector. They must also be paid overtime.

If you have any questions about the above, Wescott Law can help. The attorneys here have the knowledge and experience to help you ensure you are complying with State and Federal law. Give us a call today.

*Wescott Law is dedicated to serving the legal needs of businesses and individuals in the Lakes, Mountain and Seacoast Regions of New Hampshire. Wescott Law's main office is located in Laconia with satellite locations in Meredith, Plymouth and Portsmouth.*



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