

BUSINESS: Grant to expand North Country broadband | Page B3

# Greater Manchester

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
UNION LEADER

Friday, December 18, 2009 • Page B1



## City AND Suburbs

### GOFFSTOWN

#### Budget committee OK's \$19.2m plan

The budget committee passed a town budget of \$19.2 million Tuesday after slashing more than \$973,000 from the selectmen's spending plan.

That amount has increased about \$2.5 million since three years ago.

The budget passed in a 9-3 vote with committee members Sue Tremblay, Steve Fournier and David

# Unions rally for Job Corps Center

## ◆ Cold day in Manchester: Some workers and construction firms at odds over job requirements.

By MARK HAYWARD  
New Hampshire Union Leader

**MANCHESTER** — Union activists doled out hot soup to construction workers at a center city park yesterday, to show that hardhats are facing the possibility of a soup line be-

cause of squabbling that has stalled a \$35 million Job Corps Center construction project.

Brisk northerly winds whisked steam clouds from the soup pots. Trades-union members, bundled in multiple layers, stood alongside hatless politicians and other support-

ers at Bronstein Park. Speakers decried North Branch Construction and the Associated Building Contractors for challenging union-friendly requirements for any company that bids on the Job Corps Center in Manchester.

Early last month, the U.S. Labor Department halted bidding on the project. It's unclear

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Workers from the New Hampshire Building Trades Union gather at Bronstein Park in Manchester yesterday to protest the cancellation of the Manchester Job Corps Center project.

DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

## White cash

## Hard times may crimp



# uck by ice

object runs away after hitting only one vehicle.

"We're just trying to send a message out that it could have been a lot worse," Nye said.

Thibeault was released on \$500 personal recognizance bail while police plan to seek a juvenile petition in Brentwood Family Court against the 16-year-old boy. Both teenagers were released to their parents, Nye said. No court dates have been set.

# s fire inspection

to be able to get this resolved within the next few weeks." Primrose said the city is still trying to decide whether the shack is temporary, like a tent, or more permanent like a cabin. If it is temporary, the men don't need a building permit or a certificate of occupancy.

City Mayor Dale Pregent referred comment to City of Keene's attorney Thomas Mulins who was not immediately available for comment.

Last week, Pregent said the reason for the inspections was to address life or safety issues.

According to the city document, stamped by Keene Fire Inspector Gary LeFreniere, it includes properly installing the wood stoves in what the city is calling a "cabin" with a 6-inch clearance under the stove, an 18-inch clearance behind the stove, and a proper collar to pass the stove pipes through the wall and the ceiling.

# Rally

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when the project will resume.

Yesterday's rally took place about a block away from the state unemployment office.

"North Branch, you ought to be ashamed of yourself," said Pat Long, an alderman-elect and retired business manager for the local Ironworkers' union. "It's not about the employees to them ... It's about their profits."

An official from Concord-based North Branch was not available last night. But the president of a construction trade association said most New Hampshire companies would have been frozen out of the Job Corps work if a project labor agreement were required.

"It's frustrating to hear comments that only union companies are responsible employers. That is inaccurate and insulting to all non-union companies and employees out there," said Mark Holden, president of the New Hampshire chapter of Associated Building Contractors. The organization represents about 300 construction companies.

Earlier this year, North Branch filed a court challenge to a requirement that bidders on the Job Corps Center have experience with project labor agreements. The agreements favor companies that hire union construction workers and spell out work rules, hiring provisions, wages, benefits, train-

ing programs and retirement contributions.

The New Hampshire Building and Construction Trades held the rally. It started at 4 p.m. and drew a couple trades-union workers. They tied their banners to trees. A Grinch, dressed in Santa Claus garb, walked among them. Speakers included union bosses and politicians.

Scott Jones, a Teamster driver, said his company, Aggregate Industries, let him drive a cement mixer to the rally. He parked it on Beech Street.

Jones said he has been able to keep working, but people with less seniority at Aggregate haven't. One co-worker spent the summer in Jones' backyard in a camper because he couldn't afford rent, Jones said.

The Job Corps Center would be a multiyear project that would provide plenty of pouring work throughout the project, said Rich Laughton, business agent for the Teamsters Local 633.

Weare-resident Bret Hadley does concrete work with a small Masons' union that represents workers in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. He said he keeps busy, sometimes on a big job, and other times on smaller, one-man jobs.

"Everybody wants to eat, has bills to pay, wants to keep warm. That's what it's all about," he said.

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