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THE NEWSPAPER
OF THE
UPPER VALLEY

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THURSDAY
JANUARY 14, 2010
75¢

Volume 58 — Number 219

VALLEY NEWS

Dartmouth Likely to Cut Jobs During Next 3 Months

President Also Lays Out Plan for Recovery

By SUSAN J. BOUTWELL
Valley News Staff Writer

HANOVER — Dartmouth College can't fundraise its way out of a \$100 million deficit. Instead, the Ivy League school continues to plan for layoffs and root out inefficiencies while searching for growth opportunities, college President Jim Yong Kim said yesterday.

And Kim, a physician and anthropologist by training, has hit on the growth industry he says could put laid off workers back

on the job and also position Dartmouth center stage in the health care reform debate: creation of the first national institute for health care delivery science, where workers would do research, case studies and training, and improve the delivery of health care nationwide.

Similar institutes would eventually be developed at many institutions of higher education. But, said Kim, "We want to build the first one here."

"We have done more research in that area

See RECOVERY—A10



Dartmouth President Jim Yong Kim.
VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK

Union Rallies, Promises to Fight Layoffs

By SUSAN J. BOUTWELL
Valley News Staff Writer

HANOVER — With layoffs looming, union workers at Dartmouth College aren't going to give up their jobs without a fight, they said yesterday at a feisty rally that brought out more than 300 members of Local 560 of the Service Employees International Union, who work mostly in maintenance and service jobs at the college.

The gathering was the start of the workers' campaign to try to preserve their jobs

as college officials figure out how to cut \$100 million in spending over the next two years. The union has about 560 members working in three shifts at Dartmouth. Many workers were on the job yesterday and unable to attend the meeting, said union President Earl Sweet.

But those who showed up — along with a pair of union officials brought in to whip up the crowd — came out swinging at the 90-minute session, which filled a chilly auditorium in Dartmouth Hall with fiery

See UNION—A10

EARTHQUAKE AGONY

Devastation, Tragedy in Haiti

By JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets yesterday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of this capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multi-story headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the

See HAITI—A5



A man carries an injured child outside Hotel Villa Creole in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday night after the strongest earthquake in more than 200 years struck the crowded, shoddily built and impoverished Caribbean nation.
MONTREAL LA PRESSE — IVANOH DEMERS

Lebanon Woman Calls Family In Stricken Nation, to No Avail

By GREGORY TROTTER AND
SUSAN BOUTWELL
Valley News Staff Writers

LEBANON — Marie Cowles has family in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti — her father, six brothers, six sisters, seven uncles, three aunts and about 15 cousins.

She hasn't heard from any of them since the 7.0 earthquake devastated the capital on Tuesday.

"I've tried calling and calling. My heart hurts so bad," said Cowles, a Lebanon resident who has lived in the United States for about 17 years. "They might be OK, they might be dead, we

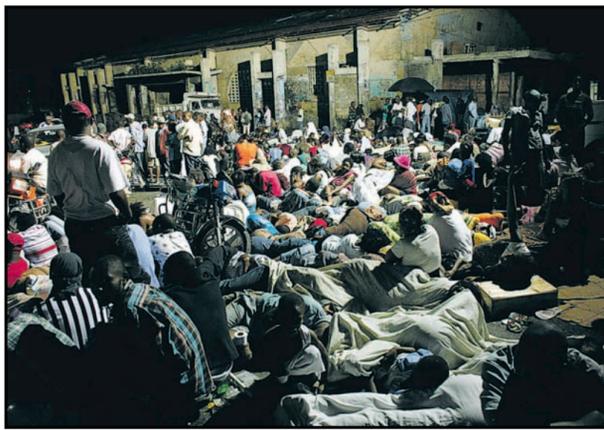


Marie Cowles, of Lebanon, speaks with her grandmother yesterday.
VALLEY NEWS — GEOFF HANSEN

just don't know."

The impact of the disaster was felt in the Upper Valley yesterday, among those tied by blood to the Caribbean country and also among those who have worked there and understand the immense challenges facing the relief efforts.

Starting at about 5 a.m. yesterday, Cowles and her family huddled around the television in her living room, waiting for new developments on survivors in Haiti — and possibly news about their relatives. The images they saw were not promising. The iconic
See LEBANON—A6



Residents sleep in the street in Port-au-Prince after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake.
REUTERS — EDUARDO MUNOZ

Claremont Hears Proposals for Raising Sewer, Water Rates

By BRET YAGER
Valley News Staff Writer

CLAREMONT — A new proposal by consultants would raise water and sewer rates, with increases targeted especially at moderate to heavy users.

A family that uses 200 gallons of water a day and now pays \$276 annually would pay \$290 under the plan, an increase of \$14. But users who are significantly below that, at 62 gallons a day, would see their \$88 annual bill drop \$2 in 2010 before it increased to \$92 in 2011.

The rate structure is intended to raise revenue to replace aging pipes and pump stations, and to protect the frugal and the elderly who often live alone, Public Works Director Bruce Temple told the council.

The proposed sewer rate increases are greater.

The average two-person household would see its annual bill rise from \$280 to \$336 sometime this year, then to \$370 in 2011, an overall increase of 33 percent.

The council took no action at last night's informational session with consultant Muni-

pal and Financial Services Group. The city tabled similar discussions on rate increases last winter, following residents' pressure to wait out the recession before putting increases in place.

The increases would pay for a sewer and water line maintenance program, fixes to reservoirs and dams and allow the city to begin a streamlined electronic meter reading system that will allow monthly billing. The "radio read" program would also allow Public Works to keep better tabs on where the water is going — and where it's being dispersed by leaky

pipes. "I'm interested in finding lost water," Temple said. "I can account for 75, maybe 80 percent of water that leaves the plant. We're losing it somewhere."

The city has millions of dollars of sewer and water work cut out for it in coming years. Public Works has identified key trouble areas, including a collapsed main on Maple Avenue and McKenzie Drive, whose reconstruction is estimated at \$1.3 million.

Sewer, water and drainage lines are also needed along Charlestown Road, and \$2 mil-

See CLAREMONT—A7

Lebanon Nicks at Budget

Increase Still Looms In School Spending

By BOB HOOKWAY
Valley News Staff Writer

LEBANON — The School Board did away last night with plans to hire a full-time teaching aide and a halftime secretary, and cut about \$55,000, including \$10,000 in district athletics, from the draft of its \$33 million budget.

The action comes in the run-up to a city-wide vote on a new middle school that would cost about \$25 million. Voters have rejected similar proposals three times.

Before the cuts last night, the operating budget of \$33,361,395 proposed for the March 9 annual district warrant would have meant an increase of just 1.7 percent over the current spending plan. But some among the eight of nine board members present thought any budget increase was too much.

"I want to see the school pass," board member Hank Tenney said, referring to the fifth- through eighth-grade school planned for the so-called "Moulton property" on Route 4. He said keeping the budget as low as possible could help make that happen. Tenney said he believed some in the community who think the school project is not affordable are hoping for a budget increase, believing that will lead to the school proposal's defeat.

The board's decision to eliminate the two positions passed 7-1, with Mary Jane Thibodeau the lone dissenter. Moments later, the decision to trim \$10,000 from athletics passed 5-2, with Thibodeau and Jeff Peavey in dissent. Chairwoman Laura Dykstra was absent.

"It's going to be painful for everyone, a little bit," board member Andy White said.

Thibodeau pointed out that the original athletic budget proposal called for an increase of \$21,000. But \$11,000 was removed earlier, and now the amount is level funded.

Board member Doug Gross said, given the difficult economic climate, there should not have been any recommendations for new positions at the schools.

"Things are incredibly difficult this year. Why are we hiring this year?" he asked.

The aide was slated for Mount Lebanon Elementary School, the secretary's position would have been at Seminary Hill School.

Jim Fenn, the SAU 88 business administrator, said as last night's meeting was still in progress, he did not have exact figures for the revised proposal, but that it appeared to cut about \$55,000, or about 3 cents per \$1,000 of property valuation on the tax rate.

The new budget and the warrant have been works in progress for the board from early December. Last week, for example, the board turned down a contract proposal with SAU administrators that called for pay increases of 3 percent, 3.25 percent and 3.5 percent over the next three years. Monday night, however, the board approved a deal with 3 percent pay raises each year.

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For Woodsville vs. Rivendell.
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WEATHER - A10
Mostly sunny,
highs 29 to 35.

