

# The Word Around Town... Letters to our Editor

## Food for the Hungry Food Pantry Needs Summer Volunteers

As you read this letter, you are probably going to say, "There goes that lady again! She's looking for Volunteers!" Yes, you are right! Many wonderful people have answered the "call" from reading Letters to the Editor.

Many of our people decide a vacation is in order during the summer. You think that's a poor excuse? (Personally, I do, too!) We are in need of substitutes. (Our "Regulars" will be able to go, without a guilty conscience). Please excuse my bad jokes.

Come join our happy group. Requirements? Able-bodied and available on a Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Caring about our Salem neighbors who are in need. If you decide to join us, I believe it will enhance your life. Our volunteers are wonderful people, as are the people we serve. The Food for the Hungry Food Pantry (a Mission of the Pleasant Street United Methodist Church) is located at 8 Pleasant Street, Salem. For information, please call the church at 898-2501 and leave a message. We will return your call.

Catherine Panciocco - Salem

## Katrina Swett for Congress

When Katrina Swett announced her Democratic candidacy for Congress in New Hampshire's Second District last month, it signaled the entrance of the best possible kind of public servant needed by our state at this time. Her centrist position points on the problems that we all face as our nation slowly recovers from the regressive past decade, which has been well documented lately in the media, but just as important is the fact that they stem from her strong core beliefs held throughout her entire life, and not just a "which way are the poll winds blowing today" mentality that governs so many other politicians. Here are some of her policy principles that voters should know:

- Katrina Swett favors generous tax credits for American companies who hire locally instead of outsourcing our jobs overseas, here positioning herself against the prevailing GOP philosophy that favors shipping those jobs away to supposedly improve corporate bottom-line. Job creation for American citizens is her absolute top priority.
- Swett is fully committed to holding British Petroleum financially accountable for the Gulf oil catastrophe, and will fight (and win) in Washington against the present Republican Party that inexplicably wants the United States to pick up the corporation's tab, even while they simultaneously harangue about the federal deficit.
- As the United States continues to "get greener" with regard to renewable clean energy sources, Swett will fight to lower our dependence on foreign oil with investments in New Hampshire solar, wind, and biofuel industries, and will expand on our current federal rebates for homeowners and businesses who improve energy efficiency (windows, insulation, etc.).
- Swett is fully engaged in continuing the reform going on currently in Washington of our financial and banking institutions, ensuring that our recent near-economic collapse, as well as last decade's myriad scandals that occurred due to lax regulation, will never happen again. This includes championing legislation that will prevent these corporations from awarding outrageous and undeserved bonuses to their lead officers, as well as holding them totally accountable for any financial failures, instead of relying on the

federal government to bail them out.

Katrina Swett is well versed in both national and world affairs, being a professor of international relations at Tufts University as well as president of the Lantos Foundation, her own non-profit human rights organization. She also presently serves on the board of New England College in Henniker. Married for the past 30 years to former New Hampshire congressman Dick Swett and mother of seven adult children, she by necessity understands both family values as well as the middle-class ones that were mostly forgotten by the last White House occupants.

As America's recovery continues on economic, sociological, and foreign relations platforms, Katrina Swett will fight to be a valid and hard-working asset for New Hampshire's middle class, "the only thing too big to fail."

William F. Klessens - Salem

## Governmental Inconsistency

The cartoon caricature of President Obama is consistent in portraying the President as incompetent, dumb, and lazy. The message, however, is not consistent. Prior to the Gulf oil disaster, the federal government was spending all our money and was trying to control everything. This was in the form of statement without any reason behind it. Last week, the message changed. The government is now apparently not spending enough money and is not controlling things enough. Again, we are not given any reasons for this sentiment.

Richard J. O'Shaughnessy - Salem

## Stopping the Rise of Illegal Immigrants

Here is the latest.

Illegal aliens are crimmigrants because they break our laws just by being here. There are some who work and make their contribution—but even they steal identities and create fraud. Sorry, it's fact. The fact of the government elects not to enforce valid law is a crime itself because all levels have taken an oath—upon their word—to enforce law. So much for belief in both their word, and their belief in an oath, or promise, to the People.

Our history shows we have had border problems many times. There are three others: The Mexican Repatriation, Operation Wetback, and the Chandler Roundup.

The Mexican Repatriation in 1929 and 1939, when as many as one million people of Mexican descent were forced or pressured to leave the U.S. The Quota Act of 1924 established a system of nationality quotas and reduced immigration to the United States from over one million persons per year to 165,000 per year. Canada, Mexico, and other Latin American countries were exempted.

Following the onset of the Depression, the government began an active drive against crimmigrants. Announcing that there were 400,000 crimmigrants in the U.S., the Secretary of Labor ordered his agents to carry out provisions of the new law. They raided public and private places around the country. Some 500,000 Mexicans left the U.S. from 1929 to 1939. Thirty-five thousand were deported and another 47,000 illegals left on their own. About 400,000 voluntarily repatriated.

The issue returned in the 1950s. Our population was a little more than 165 million in 1955, we had over three million Mexican crimmigrants or two percent of the overall population. To give a perspective, California's population was 13.5 million.

There was a rise in illegal border crossing by Mexicans to a current rate of more than 1,000,000 a year. The effort began in California and Arizona and coordinated Border Patrol agents, along with state and local police agencies, mounting



an aggressive crackdown. Tactics employed included systematic police sweeps of some neighborhoods, and random stops and ID checks of "Mexican-looking" people. In some cases, illegal immigrants were deported along with their American-born, minor-dependent children.

Seven hundred fifty agents targeted agricultural areas. Fifty thousand immigrants were caught in the two states. Four hundred eighty-eight thousand illegal immigrants are claimed to have left voluntarily, for fear of being apprehended. In three months, 80,000 had been taken into custody in Texas, and the INS estimates that 500,000 to 700,000 had left on their own. To discourage illicit re-entry, buses and trains took many deportees deep within Mexican territory prior to releasing them. Tens of thousands more were deported by two chartered ships and were ferried 500 miles to the south. Some were taken as far as 1,000 miles.

In 1997, the Chandler Roundup was an enforcement operation in Chandler Arizona, in which hundreds of suspected crimmigrants were arrested. Over five days in the summer of 1997, from July 27 to July 31, officers on bicycles patrolled Chandler asking suspected Hispanic people for proof of citizenship and arresting those who could not provide proof. Four hundred thirty-two illegal immigrants were arrested in Chandler and later deported.

We need no new laws or "Comprehensive Change." We need enforcement of current laws against employers and crimmigrants. The death, destruction, and theft of our wealth and property have to be stopped. Unfortunately, this has been made a race issue—which it is not. It is really a voter issue with Obama seeing 20 million newly minted voters for his re-election. In the interim, he is not upholding his oath of office and his promises to us. But what is the oath, anyway? Who cares in 2010? In the meantime, we lose over \$100 billion to support them while they murder, rape, and assault our citizens, and while causing a large number of car accidents and property crime. Sound like great citizens to me.

Bill Weimar - Salem

## Recycling Limbs

Throughout the month of July, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital and American Prosthetics and Orthotics will be collecting used prosthetic

limbs that are no longer needed. These items will be donated to "MedShare," an agency that acts as a recycling and distribution center for surplus medical supplies and equipment.

MedShare then sends these prosthetic limbs and orthotics to economically developing countries that have limited medical resources, and they are modified for the use of individuals at underserved healthcare institutions throughout the world. Due to federal regulations, used limbs cannot be recycled for use in the United States. Anyone wishing to donate used prosthetic limbs or orthotics should bring them to Northeast Rehab Hospital at 70 Butler Street in Salem, or Northeast Rehab Hospital at Western New Hampshire Medical Center's West Campus, 29 Northwest Boulevard, Nashua.

Northeast Rehab Hospital is celebrating 25 years of being the Power of Rehab. People from the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire have been able to access a wide range of rehabilitation services following illnesses, injuries, and surgeries since 1984. For more information on Northeast Rehab, please visit [www.northeastrehab.com](http://www.northeastrehab.com).

American Prosthetics and Orthotics is a custom orthotic and prosthetic company with offices located in Braitree, Lowell, and Plymouth, MA, and Salem. We are a locally owned company that has been dedicated to providing the highest quality of services for our patients for over 25 years. It is this approach, along with a family-type atmosphere, that has made us the leading provider of orthotic and prosthetic devices in New England. For more information on American Prosthetics and Orthotics, please visit [www.americanprosthetics.com](http://www.americanprosthetics.com).

MedShare is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the environment and healthcare through the efficient recovery and redistribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment to underserved healthcare facilities in developing countries.

Our shipments of medical supplies and equipment have brought healing and the promise of better lives to 80 countries and countless patients. For more information on MedShare, please visit [www.medshare.org](http://www.medshare.org).

Naomi Gardner, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital - Salem

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## Day at Soule Engages Students Differently

by Robyn Hatch

School has come a long way from how it was a few years ago. No longer is the concentration on the subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic. The whole subject matter has been opened up to reality and what is going on in the world. Children are exposed to as much as possible and how these new pieces of information fit into their world. A day at Soule was a good example.

The children had an assembly first thing in the morning presented by Jessie O'Leary, who is the Assistant Manager for the Weathervane Restaurant in Salem. Not only did her passion for lobsters show as she talked to the students, but she also allowed the students to touch and pick them up on the table, which was an exciting first for many.

Next came an Author Tea Party in Mrs. Buck's first grade. The students read their stories to at least 10 people, which gets them used to reading and showing what they were capable of writing over the year. The first graders were so incredibly proud of what they had written.

The other classrooms held the same "tea party" event on different days, and all differently. Again, this event pushes reading, writing and presenting to others. The students, parents, and friends all walked away with new adventures in their brains.

Jenny Marshall, reading specialist for Soule and Barron, was seen in some of the classrooms. Her students know her as the teacher who rides her bike to school from Dover, where she lives. This ride takes her two and a half hours each way. She does it for the love of cycling, and she demonstrated that love to show students this form of exercise and enjoyment.

As evidenced by these events that occur for only one day at Soule School, it opens a new world to the students beyond their normal curriculum. Take time to visit your child's school to participate and see what is really going on in the schools—you might be very surprised.



Sophia Stanganelli intently concentrates on her story



Ryan Pappalardo and Avery, the subject of his story



Max Sheehan, Jack Lacey, and Timmy Ryan get close to the lobsters



Shraddha Kollipara reads to dad, Raj



Jouse Portillo enjoys reading to a visitor