

THE Hudson Times

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A FREE Weekly Publication



Residents that attended the Hudson School District Deliberative Session voted down a proposal to cut the 2026-27 School Budget by \$3 million. Shortly after that vote, residents approved a \$700,000 increase.

Photo by Chris Paul

Despite Call for Reduction, Budget Rises at School Deliberative Session

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson held the School District Deliberative Session for the 2026-27 School Budget on a snowy Saturday morning, Feb. 7, drawing a fairly large turnout, despite the weather, giving residents the opportunity to weigh in on spending priorities for the coming year.

The proposed operating budget, which will appear as Warrant Article 1

on the March 10 ballot, totals \$72,166,427, while the default budget stands higher at \$73,252,680. Because the operating budget is lower than the default, the School Board voted not to recommend the article.

School Board Chair Maureen Dionne explained that the Budget Committee made a series of reductions during its December and January meetings,

continued on page 8

Selectmen OK Contract for Target Flow Center Appraisal

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen has approved a contract for the appraisal of the Target Flow Center, a major commercial property that will play a significant role in the town's upcoming 2027 assessment cycle.

The proposal, presented by Chief Assessor Jim Michaud, recommends contracting with George E. Sansoucy, P.E., LLC to conduct the valuation. "The Assessing Department is pleased to recommend contracting with George E. Sansoucy, P.E., LLC to provide valuation appraisal services for the 2027 assessment of the Target Flow Center... at a cost of \$10,000," Michaud

wrote in a memo to the Board.

Michaud explained that the contract represents a single year commitment for the 2027 tax year, but includes an option for the Board to extend the agreement at the same cost and terms for the 2028 assessment, as well as a further extension for a full USPAP appraisal once construction is expected to be completed on April 1, 2029.

The Sansoucy firm has already been engaged for the 2025 and 2026 appraisal cycles, and Michaud noted that legal counsel reviewed the new contract with no issues identified.

The appraisal is funded through the Property Reval-

uation Capital Reserve, which Michaud said has always been the planned source for valuing this significant property. He added that the town may also use lapsed FY26 funds to supplement the reserve if needed.

Michaud emphasized that the Target Flow Center is a complex, high-value property requiring specialized expertise. "The valuation of this property for April 1, 2027 is accounted for in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve," he said, noting that the town has consistently relied on external contractors for this type of work.

The proposal is classified **continued on page 7**

Bockes Road Building Plan Draws Asbestos Worries From Neighbors

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Planning Board's final meeting of January drew a full room as residents gathered to weigh in on a proposal for a 12,000 squarefoot multitenant retail building on Bockes Road, a revival of a development concept first approved more than 15 years ago. The renewed plan has resurfaced as the area has grown, bringing new neighbors and new concerns.

"An almost identical site plan on this site was approved back in 2010," said David Jordan, engineer with GreenmanPedersen. "The layout was essentially identical to what you're looking at this evening." Jordan explained that the updated

design slightly reduces the building footprint to comply with today's stricter wetland setback requirements. The plan includes 60 parking spaces, with access limited to Bockes Road. "This site would not be allowed to have access from nearby Route 111," he added, noting that state regulations prohibit it.

A key complication is the property's history as a former asbestos disposal site, which restricts how stormwater can be managed. Because the NH Department of Environmental Services prohibits infiltration systems on contaminated soils, the applicant requested a waiver from providing a traditional stormwater infiltration plan.

"All of the water is being discharged to the front of the site," Jordan said. "All the water is ending up at the same point eventually, which is Beaver Brook on the other side of Route 111." He emphasized that the design channels runoff in a controlled manner consistent with state requirements.

The project also relies on an onsite well and septic system due to the absence of municipal water and sewer lines in the area. Some roadway improvements are planned, but residents remained focused on the development's proximity to existing homes.

"This was approved nearly 20 years ago before **continued on page 4**

Landscaper Variance Requests Draws Concerns from Neighbors

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment met on Jan. 22 to hear a variance request from Denise and Justin Paradise, who sought permission to store two work vehicles associated with their landscaping business at their home in the Town Residence (TR) zone. The family has been using their property to park equipment and store tools for their company, prompting a zoning violation and the need for formal relief.

"We're parking the vehicles there; we're just storing them there," said Justin Paradise, explaining that the trucks are only on the property overnight and on weekends. "They leave pretty much every day at 7 a.m., and they return around 5 p.m. We don't

plan on growing any more than where we're at. We don't have customers coming to our house, and we're not storing any pest control or pesticides."

In addition to the two trucks, the family keeps two ocean containers on the property to hold landscaping and snowremoval equipment. Justin argued that allowing the vehicles to remain onsite would help the business avoid the high cost, and current scarcity, of rental storage space.

The request drew mixed reactions from neighbors.

"I am concerned the variance would allow them to actually grow and expand their future operation," wrote abutter Mathew Hudson in an email to the Board. "If there is a way to limit or restrict the

use to two vehicles, then I would support the request to help them clear their violation. If that is not possible, I kindly ask for the variance to be denied."

Zoning Administrator Chris Sullivan clarified that even with a variance, any expansion beyond the two vehicles would likely require additional approval from the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, or both.

Other residents voiced stronger objections. "It's a small residential area," said Paul Provost. "You have four streets in the neighborhood with three houses on each street. It has no place for a business to be established." Provost also raised concerns about emergency access, arguing that the trucks could block fire equipment from reaching a nearby hydrant.

"There are a number of times those trucks will come back in the middle of the afternoon," he added.

Some complaints focused on aesthetics, calling the vehicles and equipment an eyesore. Roger Paradise responded that he avoids bringing the trucks home midday unless absolutely necessary. "I try to be respectful," he said.

"If a fire truck needed to go down, there would not be any way for that street to be blocked off," added Denise Paradise, disputing claims that the vehicles obstruct traffic. "It's not like we're obstructing traffic coming and going."

Not all neighbors opposed the request. "Their business has not impacted us at all," said Joseph Varum. "They're not conducting any business

onsite. They're landscapers, they go mow lawns elsewhere. They haven't been a hindrance to anybody as far as I know." Another resident, Michelle Wyman, agreed, saying the trucks had never bothered her. Leo Bernard described Roger as "a good neighbor."

The Board also discussed whether the two shipping containers constituted a zoning violation. "I think, by right, they would have the ability to have at least one shipping container," said Board member Todd Boyer, comparing the containers to sheds, which often receive some flexibility under zoning rules.

A note from the Town Engineer requested that the property owner obtain a driveway permit for a second driveway, after Sulli-

van noted that the town did not "currently have a driveway permit on file." Board members also asked the family to "clean up" the property and move equipment into the garage where possible.

"As for cleaning everything up, I'll aim for April or May," said Roger.

After a lengthy discussion, the ZBA voted to approve the variance, attaching several conditions:

- The property must be cleaned up by May 15,
- The Paradise family must obtain a driveway permit,
- The shipping containers must comply with zoning standards, and
- The business may not park more than the two approved vehicles on the property.

Sustainability Committee Aims to Expand Roadside Cleanup Program

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee met on Feb. 2 to begin planning its Community Roadside Clean up program for the 2026 spring season.

"My intent, especially now that it's February, is to get back in touch with the Department of Public Works and Jay Twardosky about at least doing two events," said Committee Chair Karl Huber, noting that any volunteer

cleanup requires coordination with the Police and Fire Departments. "Let's recognize roads that may make sense. Let's talk with PD, let's talk with Fire, coordinate the effort, because this committee needs at least a twotothreemonth planning period for any of the programs we want to do."

Committee members agreed that organizing a townwide roadside cleanup is a significant logistical undertaking.

"We should probably select some kind of dates," said member Chris Thatcher. "We do the Earth Day in April typically."

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby asked whether the committee could learn from a recent studentdriven capstone cleanup that came together in just a few weeks. "Has there been a review or any thought given to how the recent capstone project cleanup happened so quickly and easily and

how our cleanups don't seem to?" she asked. "I just thought it was interesting... what procedures they used, and what was learned from that."

She suggested reaching out to the capstone organizer for insight. Huber noted that the town website already includes a stepbystep process for residents or groups interested in hosting their own cleanup.

"This committee is committed to coordinating volunteer efforts for two cleanups, but anybody beyond that is welcome to create their own roadside cleanup," Jakoby said. "Our two are not the only cleanup opportunities."

Committee members also discussed expanding public outreach by highlighting available resources for residents who want to organize their own efforts.

"We'll provide the black trash bags, the blue recycling bags, and the town will come by the next business day to pick up all of said bags. Everything is there," said member Deb Putnam. "We have grabbers that can be signed out, we have safety vests that need to be signed out, we don't want any group going out without safety vests."

Putnam also reminded residents about the hazards often found during roadside cleanups.

"Propane tanks, don't throw them into the forest, please. We've found them during Roadside Cleanups and they're so dangerous," she said, noting that Hudson True Value accepts empty tanks for an \$8 fee. "Syringes are another thing we've found by the side of the road. Please put them into any sort of plastic 'hard shell' container, an old soap bottle, whatever, put the cap on and put it into one of the sharps bins at St. Joseph Hospital or Southern New Hampshire Medical Center."

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will meet next on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

American Legion Hudson Post 48

HOSTS A VALENTINES DAY DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 14 from 5 to 11 p.m.

Dinner will be served from 5 - 7 p.m., followed by DJ Mike from 7 - 11 p.m.,
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School Board Reviews Homework & Physical Activity Policies

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board spent part of its most recent meeting reviewing several proposed policy revisions, continuing its ongoing effort to update and modernize district guidelines. Two policies, one addressing homework expectations and another outlining daily physical activity, received particular attention before being advanced to a second reading.

The first policy under review was the district's homework policy, which outlines expectations for teachers, students, and families. The proposed revision reaffirms that

homework should serve as a meaningful extension of classroom learning, not simply an additional task.

"Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students," the draft states. It emphasizes that assignments must be purposeful, wellplanned, and returned to students in a timely manner. The policy also makes clear that homework should never be assigned as a form of discipline.

A major addition to the revised policy is a requirement that teachers provide a written homework expectations overview at the start

of a course. This overview must explain how assignments will be accessed, how they will be graded, and how homework contributes to the overall class grade. The document must be clearly communicated to both students and parents or guardians.

If a teacher later adjusts those expectations, the policy requires a written summary of the changes to be shared with families. Importantly, no revised expectations may be applied retroactively if doing so would negatively affect a student's grade.

To improve accessibility, the policy encourages teachers to use online

learning management systems or parent portals whenever possible to communicate assignments and updates.

The Board also reviewed updates to the district's Daily Physical Activity policy, which outlines expectations for promoting student and staff wellness through movement and exercise.

The revised policy acknowledges the health risks associated with chronic inactivity and childhood obesity. It recommends that students and staff participate in 30 to 60 minutes of developmentally appropriate physical activity each day, whether

through physical education classes, recess, extracurricular programs, or other schoolsupported activities.

The policy outlines several recommended practices, including:

- Encouraging parents to model active lifestyles
- Supporting school-wide fitness events and walking programs
- Integrating physical activity across academic subjects
- Promoting inclusive, studentinitiated activities
- Ensuring adequate funding, equipment, and facilities
- Providing professional development for staff on promoting lifelong physi-

cal activity

- Building partnerships with community recreation and youth sports organizations

- Encouraging physical activity during recess

- Establishing a system to track and evaluate student participation

Oversight of the policy will fall to the district's Wellness Committee, which is responsible for monitoring implementation and reporting recommendations to the Superintendent. Those recommendations will then be forwarded to the School Board as part of the district's ongoing wellness assessment cycle.

Selectmen OK Grant & Contracts for 2026 Aquatic Invasive Control

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing at its most recent meeting to consider acceptance of the 2026 Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant, a longrunning state partnership that helps the town manage invasive species in Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds.

Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima told the Board that this year's grant award is unusually strong. "We started the year with a legendary grant," he said, noting that the state is now offering a 50% cost match for the town's annual DiverAssist-

ed Suction Harvesting (DASH) and herbicide treatment work.

"With this grant, the Town will receive a 50 percent cost match in 2026 for the DASH services and the herbicide treatment for Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds," Dhima wrote in a memo to the Board.

Dhima explained that the match rate has steadily increased over the years. "Back in the old days, we used to do about 25 percent, then it was 30 percent, then it became 40 percent, and now it's up to 50 percent," he said. He believes the higher match is partly due to fewer communities

applying for the program, which allows the state to distribute more funding to those that remain committed.

Hudson's award totals approximately \$47,500, a figure Dhima described as consistent with the town's annual needs. "It's something we do every year," he said. "It has to do with chemical treatment and the divers going out and actually pulling the weeds. It will never go away, but we're managing it, and it's not getting any worse, and that's the whole point."

Dhima said the town targets different sections of the ponds each year, stay-

ing within the same scope of work approved by the state. "As long as it's within the same scope of work as previous years, then we're doing our job," he said.

The Board unanimously approved acceptance of the grant for up to \$47,990 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Following the grant acceptance, the Board also considered approval of the contractors who will perform the 2026 work.

Dhima explained that the state effectively preselects qualified vendors. "The way it works is they


pick the contractor, and there's not a lot of them, only about three or four," he said. "These are the ones we've used in the past that work very well, so they're the ones that submit a proposal to the state. The state picks them and basically tells us these are the guys you should hire."

Hudson pays the contractors directly and then receives reimbursement through the grant, provided the town follows state rec-

ommendations and reporting requirements.

The Board approved awarding the herbicide treatment contract to Solitude Lake Management for up to \$69,630, and the DASH contract to Aqualogic for up to \$26,350. Both companies have worked with Hudson in previous years.

The approvals ensure that invasive plant control efforts will move forward on schedule in spring 2026.



**HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

HEARING FOR PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE

**Monday, February 16, 2026, 6:30 p.m.,
Hills Memorial Library, 18 Library Street**

Pursuant to RSA 40:14, IV, the Hudson School Board shall hold a public hearing in conjunction with its regular scheduled meeting on February 16, 2026 which starts at 6:30pm and is held at the Hills Memorial Library, 18 Library St., Hudson, NH, to discuss petition warrant article 12 proposing the municipal budget committee determine the default budget of the school district pursuant to RSA 40:14-b.

The petition warrant article will be voted on at the March 10, 2026, District meeting.

If canceled due to weather, the public hearing will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

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Editorial

Choosing Understanding in a Divided Time

Sometimes it's the small things that remind us of how fortunate we are: a roof over our heads, food in the refrigerator, clothes in the closet, the devices that keep us connected to the world. These everyday comforts fade into the background. The same is true of something even more precious: our freedom.

We rarely pause to appreciate the simple but profound liberties we live with every day, the freedom to live where we choose, to speak our minds, to worship in our own way, or to express political views publicly. At its core, freedom is the ability to choose. And even when we don't have the job we want, the house we dream of, or the bank account we wish we had, we still have a voice in how our community is governed. That is no small thing.

All around us are people trying to make the world better. Activists, volunteers, neighbors, individuals who work to bring people together, to bridge divides, to help us see issues from more than one angle. There is nothing wrong with a different point of view. In fact, democracy depends on it.

Yet we sometimes judge people or situations based on what others have told us, especially when the information comes from someone we trust. That shortcut can be dangerous. Each of us has a responsibility to understand what it might feel like to walk in someone else's shoes, to understand where they are coming from.

People who step up to help others don't do it because they simply "feel bad." They act because they believe they must. Their sense of duty, shaped by their values, their upbringing, their faith, their service, or their personal code of ethics, compels them. That code becomes part of who they are. It guides their choices, shapes their identity, and gives meaning to their actions. It's not just a set of rules; it's a way of moving through the world.

If we want to make our communities stronger, we need to help people talk about those values openly and without fear, with the freedom to debate them, understand them, refine them, and respect that different codes will sometimes collide. Conflict isn't the enemy. Questioning isn't the problem. Refusing to listen is. That refusal leads nowhere and resolves nothing.

As a society, we need to stop assuming we know what someone else thinks or feels. Take a breath. Listen. Try to imagine what they're dealing with, and ask yourself honestly: What would I do in their place? How would I handle that situation?

If we practiced that kind of reflection more often, we'd be better equipped to understand not just one side of a debate, but all sides. And that is how communities move forward, not in perfect agreement, but in shared respect for different perspectives and approaches.

School Board Approves Multiple Student Travel Requests for Spring Activities

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board approved a series of student travel requests at its most recent meeting, clearing the way for several major academic and extracurricular trips scheduled for March.

One of the requests came from the Alvirne FFA, which sought permission for students to attend the Granite State FFA Convention from March 11-13 at the Omni Mount Washington Hotel.

According to the proposal submitted to the Board, the convention offers students the chance to compete in a wide range of Career and Development Events (CDEs), including Prepared Speaking, Impromptu Speech, Extemporaneous Speaking, Animal Welfare, Floral Design, and other skill-based competitions.

Students will also participate in general sessions, workshops, and leadership activities designed to build career readiness. The memo noted that teams earning first place in their CDEs will qualify to represent the

Palmer Center/Alvirne High School, and the State of NH, at the 98th Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this fall.

Several Alvirne students are also expected to receive their FFA State Degree, one of the highest honors awarded at the state level. Advisors have additionally nominated students for various awards that will be announced during the convention's banquet.

The cost for the trip, including hotel and meals, typically ranges from \$100 to \$130 per student, with approximately 25 students and two to three advisors attending. The proposal emphasized the academic value of the trip, noting that students have been studying for their CDEs after school and plan to continue preparing during February vacation.

The Board unanimously approved the request.

The Board also approved an overnight travel request from the AFJROTC, which plans to take juniors and seniors on a four-day educational trip to Gettysburg and Philadelphia from

March 12 - 15.

In a memo to the Board, AFJROTC leadership explained that the program organizes a capstone trip every other school year. The most recent trip took place in 2023, when cadets visited Washington, D.C. This year's destinations were selected by the cadet leadership team.

The memo highlighted the educational value of the trip, noting that cadets will explore historic sites tied to the Civil War, American government, and military history, all central to the AFJROTC curriculum.

Funding for the trip will come from a combination of sources. "Just over half of the trip cost will be covered by outside sources, including the VFW, American Legion, and the U.S. Air Force," the memo stated. Cadets have also raised \$6,000 through local fundraising efforts. In 2023, families contributed \$200 per participant, and a similar contribution is expected this year.

The Board unanimously approved the AFJROTC request as well.

Bockes

Continued from page 1
residents lived here," said abutter Steven Cotroneo, one of three homeowners whose property directly borders the site. "That impact is immediate and personal." Cotroneo submitted a written statement signed by 90 residents, outlining concerns about health, safety, noise, and the longterm effects of commercial activity so close to homes.

He argued that the proposed buffer between the development and nearby residences is inadequate. "At the closest point, the separation isn't 88 feet, it's 14 feet away from my house," he said. "The primary mitigation offered for this proximity appears to be bushes. Bushes do not block light. They don't stop noise or activity, and they don't prevent pests." He urged the

Board to "slow down" the project and consider stronger protections for abutters.

Traffic impacts and the risk of disturbing buried asbestos were also raised repeatedly during the hearing.

"This Board doesn't have any control over state law that mandates certain testing," said Planning Board member Jordan Ulery. "Route 111 is a state road. If the state wants to put up a traffic signal on there, the state will put up a traffic signal. We can recommend to the state that they do." He noted that permits for digging near asbestos sites fall under state jurisdiction, not local discretion.

Jordan responded to concerns about property impacts. "We're not widening Route 111 or Lawrence Road onto anybody's property," he said. "We have more than enough right of

way to do all of that work without impacting the abutters. The 88 feet is clearly labeled on the site plan." He added that the plans had undergone thirdparty peer review to ensure compliance with environmental and engineering standards.

Ulery asked for clarification on asbestos protocols. "For the asbestos on site, I believe you're required by state law to stop operations and bring in an appropriate team, is that right?"

Jordan confirmed that a licensed environmental consultant would prepare a health and safety plan before construction begins. He also agreed to provide additional topographical information, utility depth details, and watertreatment plans at the next meeting, acknowledging that residents deserved a clearer picture of how the site would be managed.

THE Hudson Times

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School Board Reviews Revisions to Homework & Physical Activity Policies

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board spent part of its most recent meeting reviewing several proposed policy revisions, including updates to the district's homework policy and its daily physical activity policy. Both proposals were forwarded to a second reading after discussion.

The first policy under review focused on homework expectations across the district. The proposed revision reaffirms that homework should be a meaningful extension of classroom learning rather than busywork.

"Homework is a con-

structive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students," the draft policy states. It emphasizes that assignments should be purposeful, well planned, and returned to students in a timely manner. The policy also explicitly prohibits assigning homework as a form of discipline.

A major addition to the revised policy is a requirement that teachers provide students and families with a written homework expectations overview at the start of a course. This overview must explain how assignments will be accessed, how

they will be graded, and how homework contributes to the overall class grade.

If a teacher later changes those expectations, the policy requires a written summary of the revisions to be shared with students and parents. Importantly, any changes cannot be applied retroactively if doing so would negatively affect a student's grade.

The proposal also encourages teachers to use online learning management systems or parent portals to make homework more accessible and transparent.

The Board also reviewed updates to the dis-

trict's Daily Physical Activity policy, which outlines expectations for promoting student and staff wellness.

The revised policy acknowledges the growing health risks associated with chronic inactivity and childhood obesity. It recommends that students and staff engage in 30 to 60 minutes of developmentally appropriate physical activity each day, whether through physical education classes, recess, extracurricular programs, or other schoolsupported activities.

The policy outlines several recommended practices, including:

- Encouraging parents

to model active lifestyles

- Supporting school-wide fitness events and walking programs

physical activity across academic subjects

- Promoting inclusive, studentinitiated physical activities

Ensuring adequate funding, equipment, and facilities

- Providing professional development for staff on promoting lifelong physical activity

Strengthening partnerships with community recreation and youth sports organizations

- Encouraging physical

activity during recess

- Establishing a system to track and evaluate student participation

Oversight of the policy will fall to the district's Wellness Committee, which is responsible for monitoring implementation and reporting recommendations to the Superintendent. Those recommendations will then be forwarded to the School Board as part of the district's ongoing wellness assessment cycle.

After reviewing both proposals, the School Board voted to advance the revised policies to a second reading, the next step in the approval process.

Hudson Holiday Light Recycling Event Sees Lower Participation

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee held its first meeting of 2026 on Feb. 2, following a weather-related delay. Members opened the new year with a review of the town's most recent Holiday Light Collection, an annual recycling effort that has grown steadily since its launch but saw a noticeable dip this season.

"We brought in about 290 pounds of lights," reported Committee Chair Karl Huber. "I would say it's just about half of what we did last season." A later 12 pound dropoff brought

the final total to 302 pounds, significantly below the 512 pounds collected in 2025.

Huber attributed the decline partly to the novelty wearing off. "I think last year, the holiday lights event was a new thing. A lot of people had a lot of inventory that they used up," he said. "But 302 pounds this past holiday still worked out pretty good." He also thanked Scout Troop 20 for assisting with the collection.

Committee members agreed there is room to grow the program, and several suggested expanding partnerships for next year. "Maybe we can do some-

thing with TBONES, things like that," said member Deb Putnam. "There are certain restaurants in town that are supportive of community events. The collection boxes we have are small enough that they wouldn't obstruct an entrance or waiting area. We could easily use more boxes and send them out. That's something to discuss in the summer."

This year's effort used four main collection boxes around town. Putnam noted that the type of lights collected also shifted compared to previous years.

"There was a very different mix of lights com-

pared to the first year to the second year, and now to the third year," she said. "Last year I felt that many people were cleaning out the back corners of their Christmas bins, closets, and everything else. There was quite an assortment of things that were turned in, some of that we could not recycle." She added that the program primarily needs LED string lights, while older working lights collected last year were able to be donated. "That did not happen this year," she said.

With the new year underway, the Committee also revisited its longterm goal of expanding composting options in Hudson.

"I think we need to have a discussion on our goals and expectations on what we want to do with that realistically," said member Chris Thatcher. "What do we want to do as a committee? Do we want to focus on information?"

Currently, Alvirne High School participates in small scale composting, and the Department of Public

Works manages yardwaste composting at the Hudson Transfer Station.

"That yard waste processing is now going to move forward in an organized manner," Putnam said. "The addition of other compostable material to a leaf and branch waste pile is another challenge."

In the short term, the Committee plans to continue working with DPW and the Transfer Station while exploring partnerships with companies specializing in household composting.

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Mid-Year Finances Get Reviewed by Hudson Selectmen

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen received a comprehensive midyear financial update at its most recent meeting, with Town Administrator Roy Sorenson outlining how revenues and expenditures are tracking through the end of December, the halfway point of the fiscal year.

Sorenson began by noting that while the town is 50% through the fiscal year, several major funds appear to be running higher than that benchmark. "We're running at 61 percent in the General Fund. Soil, we're at

62. And water, we are at 72," he said.

He emphasized that these elevated percentages are largely the result of encumbrances, which are funds committed to specific projects or contracts but not yet spent. "Obviously a big part of this is encumbrances," Sorenson said.

In the General Fund alone, nearly \$3 million is encumbered. The Soil Fund has about \$559,000 encumbered, and the Water Fund roughly \$650,000. Once those amounts are removed, Sorenson said the town's spending levels fall much closer to where they should

be at midyear. "Without the encumbrances, we're kind of right where we want to be, a little bit north of 50 percent."

On the revenue side, Sorenson reported that the town is performing ahead of projections. As of December, revenues were at 57%, which he described as a healthy position. "We're ahead of that, which is good," he said.

Motor vehicle registrations continue to be one of the town's strongest revenue sources. "Vehicle sales are still up," Sorenson said, noting that the trend has remained steady for

several years.

Investment income is also outperforming expectations. "Our investment interest continues to go extremely well," he said, pointing to higher interest rates as a contributing factor.

One area showing decline is cable franchise fees, a revenue source that has been shrinking as more households move away from traditional cable services. "Cable franchise fee is lower, and that'll continue to trend lower," Sorenson said. He added that while the revenue itself may not rebound, the town's ap-

proach to funding HCTV could change depending on the outcome of a warrant article on the March ballot.

Sorenson reminded the Board that salaries make up the majority of the General Fund budget, making mid-year a critical time to assess staffing costs. "This time of year, six months in, this is where you really want to take a look at your salaries," he said.

The Fire Department is currently at 49.7%, right on schedule. The Police Department is at 52.6%, a figure that includes retirement payouts and related costs.

The Department of Pub-

lic Works sits at 51.1%, but Sorenson cautioned that number will rise sharply in the next report due to recent winter storms. "That's going to go up significantly when my next report comes in," he said. "You heard Mr. Twardoski today talking about overtime."

With the fiscal year now entering its second half, Sorenson said the town is in a stable financial position, with revenues trending ahead of expectations and expenditures largely in line with projections once encumbrances are accounted for.

School Board Briefed on Series of Donations Supporting Programs

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board was briefed on, and unanimously approved, a series of donations at its most recent meeting, reflecting continued community support for programs across the district.

Superintendent Dan Moulis told the Board that while not every donation technically requires School Board approval, he prefers to bring them forward publicly so the community can see the breadth of support coming into the schools. "I

like the Board to be aware of the donations coming in," he said.

One of the largest in-kind donations came from Continental Paving Company, which offered two trucks for use in the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

According to a memo to the Board, the company is donating a fully operational Mack former water truck and a Volvo former dump truck that was involved in an accident and is no longer drivable. Neither

vehicle will be registered for road use; instead, both will serve as hands-on training tools.

"The Mack will be used for future years as a training vehicle for the program for both its diesel engine and hydraulic pump," the memo explained. "The Volvo will be dismantled, with parts such as axles, brakes, electronics, etc. saved to be used as training implements." The trucks, fully depreciated by Continental, are valued at under \$500 for donation purposes.

es.

Moulis noted that the donation will give students valuable realworld experience with heavy equipment systems, something that would be difficult for the district to provide without industry partners.

The Board also accepted a \$5,000 donation from American Legion Post #48 to support the district's lunch program.

Food Services Director Karen Atherton wrote that the funds are intended to "alleviate worry for needy families" by helping ensure students have access to nutritious meals. She praised the Legion's longstanding commitment to the community, noting that the donation "directly benefits our students by helping to provide worryfree nutritious meals fueling their

bodies for learning."

A second \$5,000 donation from the American Legion will support the AFJROTC's planned four-day trip to Gettysburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The memo to the Board highlighted the Legion's ongoing support for the cadet program, including funding assistance for last year's trip to Washington, D.C. AFJROTC cadets regularly volunteer at Post #48 events, including the Hudson Memorial Day Parade and the Field of Honor at Memorial Park.

A third donation from the American Legion, this one for \$2,100, will support the Alvirne FFA Chapter.

In a letter to the Board, Alvirne High School Principal Steve Beals said the

funds will help reduce personal costs for students participating in local, state, regional, and national FFA activities. He praised the chapter's long history of community involvement and agricultural leadership. "We appreciate the kind and generous donation... allowing members to reduce personal costs and allow us to thrive," Beals wrote.

School Board members expressed gratitude for the generosity shown by local organizations and businesses. Moulis emphasized that donations like these strengthen programs that directly benefit students and expand opportunities the district could not otherwise provide.

The Board voted unanimously to accept all donations.



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Selectmen Approve Several Personnel Moves in Town

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen approved a series of personnel actions during the nonpublic portion of its most recent meeting, including retirements, promotions, reassignments, and authorization to begin hiring for multiple positions across town departments.

According to the meeting minutes, the Board unanimously accepted the retirement notice of Fire Prevention Officer Steve Dube, effective April 24, 2026. Dube has served in the Fire Department's pre-

vention division, which oversees inspections, code enforcement, and fire safety education.

To maintain continuity in the role, the Selectmen also unanimously approved the reassignment of Building Official Raymond Abair to the position of Fire Prevention Officer, a nonexempt position governed by the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association agreement.

With Abair moving into the Fire Prevention Office, the Board unanimously approved the promotion of Building

Inspector Mark Cataldo Lever to Building Official, also a nonexempt position under the same supervisors' contract. The move fills the vacancy created by Abair's reassignment and keeps the Inspectional Services Division fully staffed at the leadership level.

The Board also authorized Fire Chief Scott Tice to post and advertise for a fulltime Building Inspector position. The role will be advertised at \$29 to \$31.07 per hour, in accordance with the Teamsters Local 633 Town of Hudson Support Staff Contract. The vacancy stems from the

internal promotions approved earlier in the session.

The Selectmen were also presented with the resignation of Administrative Aide II Paula Orendorf, effective Jan. 23, 2026. The Board unanimously accepted her resignation and approved paying out her remaining earned time, as recommended by Chief Tice.

To fill the vacancy, the Board authorized posting and advertising for a fulltime Administrative Aide II in the Inspectional Services Division, with an hourly rate of \$22.85 to

\$24.48, also under the Teamsters Local 633 contract.

The Board unanimously approved the retirement notice of Firefighter/EMT James Lappin, effective Jan. 23, 2026. Lappin's retirement adds to the list of personnel transitions occurring across the Fire Department this year.

During the public comment portion of the regular meeting, Tim Lyko informed the Board that he would be resigning from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Lyko explained that he recently secured an alternate seat

on the Planning Board, which has long been his preferred area of service.

"I unfortunately have to resign from the Zoning Board of Adjustments because my passion has always been on the Planning Board," Lyko said. He noted that he had been "patiently waiting for an opening" and that he cannot serve on both boards simultaneously because another member already holds dual appointments.

After hearing his remarks, the Selectmen unanimously accepted Lyko's resignation from the ZBA.

Rodgers Memorial Looking for Feedback from Visitors

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Jan. 21 to hear Director Linda Pilla's first report of the new year, which focused heavily on improving how the library gathers and uses feedback from patrons.

"We have a new patron feedback form, and this is

our first time showing information from it," Pilla said. "Patrons, if you come in, you should see our staff members asking you some questions, and they're going to be typing in some superquick responses about how we interact with people and the kind of training that will better facilitate our patrons' use of the library." She empha-

sized that the questions are intentionally "reasonably simple" so as not to delay visitors.

The library continues to be a "net borrower" within the GMILCS inter-library consortium, meaning Hudson residents borrow more materials from other member libraries than they lend out.

"What that means to

us in Hudson is that we are gaining from the collection that is shared with us as part of GMILCS," Pilla explained. "We share our collection with other libraries, but at this point, we are gaining from their collections."

Treasurer Margaret St. Onge noted that Rodgers Memorial's emphasis on keeping its collection fresh likely contributes to this pattern. "You always have the new stuff," she said. "If I want a book from the 1990s or 2000s, that's when I have to go to another library, because I find you are constantly rotating the books, which is good. The newer ones

you have are on the bookcase ready for me to pick up and go out the door."

The Trustees also discussed ongoing responsibilities at the Hills Memorial Library building, despite the withdrawal of regular library operations from the site. A recent heating issue required immediate attention.

"We ran into a heating problem with Hills this last month," Pilla said. "The company we have been using to fill the tank did not fill the tank, and we ran out of fuel." She attributed the lapse to a likely computer error. Working with town administration, the library

secured fuel and switched to the same provider used by the fire station.

To prevent damage during the cold snap, staff used space heaters to keep temperatures between 36 and 40 degrees in areas with water lines. "We didn't have any other unforeseeable circumstances," Pilla said. The fuel tank and heating system, despite their age, passed inspection, and full heat was restored by Jan. 22.

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees will meet next on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at the HCTV building on Kimball Hill Road.

Target

Continued from page 1

fied as a solesource contract, meaning the town did not solicit multiple bids. Michaud outlined several reasons for this approach:

1. Niche expertise: The valuation of this type of property is a highly specialized area within the appraisal industry.

2. Consistency: Using the same consultant ensures

continuity in valuation methodology across multiple tax years.

3. Institutional Memory: Sansoucy's long history with Hudson provides valuable context for assessing complex commercial and utility-related properties.

4. Proven Track Record: "We have substantially won every public utility value property tax case in that time period since," Michaud wrote, noting that Sansoucy has been conducting public

utility valuations for Hudson since 1992.

Michaud also attached documentation outlining the firm's qualifications and experience with similar properties nationwide.

After reviewing the proposal, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the contract. The appraisal work will support the town's 2027 assessment and ensure accurate valuation of one of Hudson's most significant commercial developments.



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Deliberative

Continued from page 1

ultimately arriving at the amount now before voters. She argued that the cuts went too far, pointing to statewide comparisons.

“The state average cost per pupil is \$22,700 for fiscal year 2025. The cost per pupil in Hudson is \$19,704,” Dionne said. “This is significantly under the state average, and it’s lower in comparison to many other surrounding communities.”

Budget Committee Chair James Lawrence described the proposed budget as “prudent,” acknowledging that rising costs and a growing tax rate have left many Hudson homeowners concerned.

That concern was echoed by resident Edward Thompson, who introduced an amendment seeking to cut an addi-

tional \$3 million from the budget.

“Over the last 10 years I’ve watched spiral costs, especially on the school side of my tax bill, and I’m not seeing a huge return in that,” Thompson said. “I’ve watched budgets far outpacing inflation rates and, as you know, people are struggling, and I’m one of them.”

Resident Peggy Huard also criticized what she viewed as a lack of transparency in the budget process and questioned how the School Board manages year-end surpluses. She argued that “there is room for improvement” and called for stronger oversight.

Others pushed back strongly against the proposed cut. Alvirne High School Principal Steve



Edward Thompson, introduced an amendment to cut an \$3 million from the operating budget.

Beals warned that removing \$3 million from an already lean budget would have severe consequences.

“Cutting \$3 million from a budget that I already personally think is too low will decimate the school district,” Beals said. “Class size, the impact on students, the impact on programs will be vast.”

Resident Gary Gasdia agreed, arguing that such a reduction would send the wrong message about the community’s priorities. “If you slash \$3 million, then

send the message - and there should be a billboard in front of the SAU - that says we don’t care about our kids,” he said.

The amendment to cut \$3 million was ultimately rejected by a wide margin.

In response, resident Patty Langlais introduced a counter-amendment to increase the budget by \$700,000, arguing that the focus should remain on student needs.

“For me, this all goes back to the students,” Langlais said.



Patty Langlais introduced a counter-amendment to increase the budget by \$700K. Photos by Chris Paul

The discussion then shifted to broader concerns about academic performance, declining enrollment, and whether spending increases correlate with improved outcomes. Budget Committee member Shawn Jasper argued that the district should consider “performance-based contracts” in the future.

“The one thing that we should be concerned about is what we are getting in return for our money. Are we getting a good education?” Jasper asked. “We’re

paying a lot of money, and we’re not getting the results. The School Board needs to be focused on results.”

After extended debate, Langlais’ amendment to add \$700,000 to the budget passed, setting up a revised proposal for voters to consider in March. The final version of Warrant Article 1 will now reflect the additional funding, and the community will ultimately decide whether the district receives the increase or defaults to the higher default budget.

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HUDSON SPORTS

Hall Hits 1,000th Point, Helps Broncos to Eighth Win

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Boys' Basketball celebrated its eighth victory of the season and at the same time saw senior center Garrett Hall score his 1,000th point of his high school career.

In the 60-55 victory at home against the Nashua North Titans, Hall scored 20-points before hitting his number one thousand marker, taken on a foul shot in the final quarter, and was

the team's 59th point of the game.

In the Tuesday night, Feb. 2, contest, the Broncos were coming off tough losses to Pinkerton Academy and the Trinity Pioneers in the prior week, so getting back on the win column was crucial to the team's overall standings.

Alvirne started strong against Nashua, leading early, but then allowed the Titan to close the gap to 14-13 by the end of the first quarter.

The Bronco were the able out-score the visitors 16-13 in the second period for a 30-26 lead at the half.

In the third, a 12-7 advantage for the home team was enough to carry them to the victory despite seeing the Titans to amass 22-points in the final quarter.

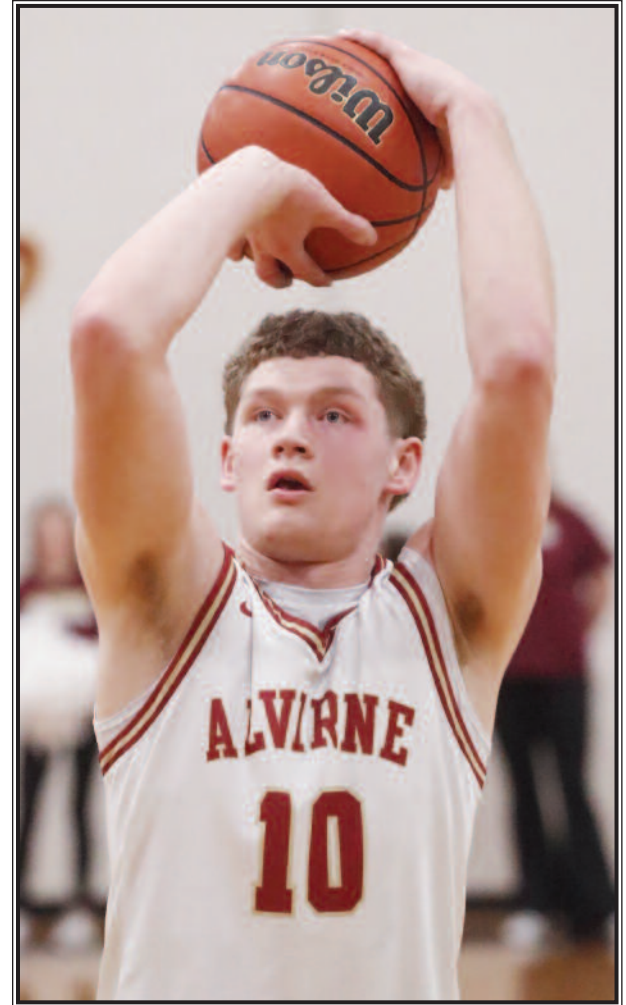
In the victory, Hall had two triples, went four-for-five at the foul line and had four baskets for two-points.

Senior guard Luke Norse, sophomore Cam St.

Clair and junior Angel Kangar all had 11-points in the game.

Norse and St. Clair both had three, three-pointers in the effort.

Three days later, at Bedford High School, the Broncos fell 54-86 to the very tough Bulldogs, putting Alvirne at 8-5. to start the week where they are scheduled to travel to Manchester Central (4-9) on Tuesday and Merrimack High School (5-6) on Friday night.



Garrett Hall score his 1,000th point of his high school career in the game against Nashua North.

Alvirne Track Team Takes #2 at States

In a display of pure athleticism and grit, the Alvirne High School boys' indoor track team secured a historic second place team finish at the 2026 NHIAA Division I State Championships on Sunday.

While the Pinkerton Academy juggernaut took the top spot, the Broncos amassed 33-points to edge out perennial powerhouses

Nashua North (31) and Bishop Guertin (29). The performance was fueled by a "silver streak," with Alvirne athletes capturing second-place finishes in four different disciplines.

Senior Joey Marcotte cemented his legacy as one of the most versatile athletes in program history. Marcotte was the primary engine behind the Broncos'

scoreboard climb, accounting for a massive individual point haul.

In the 55m Hurdles, Marcotte blazed through the finals in 7.70 seconds, missing the state title by a mere five-hundredths of a second. He then transitioned to the Long Jump pit, where he launched a personal-best leap of 21' 8.25" to secure his second

individual silver medal of the day.

The Broncos' success spanned from the throwing circle to the sprint lanes:

Junior Charles Barrett proved he is one of the elite throwers in the state. Barrett secured second place in the Shot Put with a monster toss of 46'9.5", outperforming a deep field of seniors to

continued on page 10

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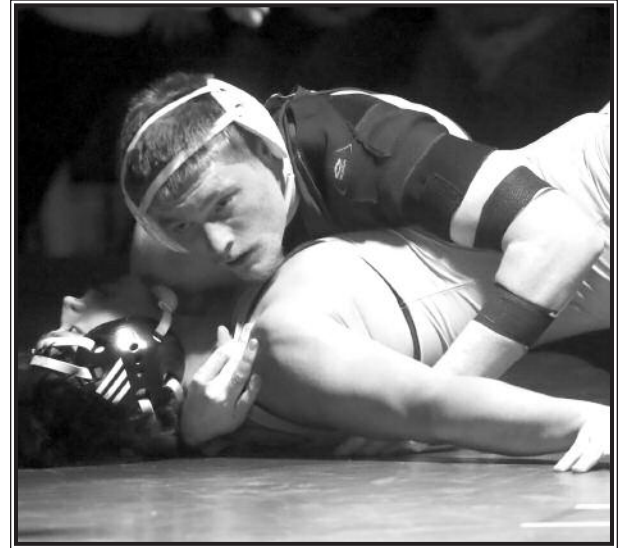
Alvirne Grapplers Topple Titans in Senior Night Match



Noah Gendreau



Joey Lydon



Quentin Tetreault

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Wrestling Team bid a fitting farewell to the squads six seniors that will be departing after the end of the season, pulling out a 48-36 win in the final two matches of the evening by two of those seniors.

The Duel between the Broncos and the Nashua North Titans took place on

Wednesday night, Feb. 4, where the host team jumped out to a big lead after the first four matches ended in 24-0 lead with two pins and two forfeits.

Those two spots that the Titans gave up proved to be critical for the visitors.

The match began at 285-pounds, in that bout, Antius Amare was able to get the ball rolling with a pin within the first 50-second.

Mason Verrocchio (106) gave his team a 12-0 start with another quick fall of his opponent, followed by to victories given on forfeits for what seemed a comfortable early lead.

Nashua got one back at 126-pounds, taking six-points with a pin.

Tim Mally quickly negated that gain forcing a fall at 132 lbs, putting the Broncos up 30-6 going into

the middleweights.

In those weights, Alvirne saw its lead evaporate, giving up six-points in 138, 144, 150 and 157-pounds, to bring the score to 30-30, before Noah Gendreau was able to get the Broncos back on track.

In what was a critical match, Gendreau was able to help take a 36-30 advantage heading into the final stretch of the evening with

his hard-fought fall victory taken in the second period.

The Titan tied the match at 175-pounds, with senior Jillian Boncore falling to Liam Collins, but the final matches of the evening went to fellow seniors Joey Lydon (190) and Quentin Tetreault. Lydon had a pin at 1:33 in the first and Tetreault also scored a fall in the team's final match for the evening to capture the

12-point victory.

The team will head to the NHIAA Division II Championships at Goffstown High School on Feb. 21 before the Meet of Champions on the final weekend of February at Pinkerton Academy.

The Girls' Meet of Champions will take place on Friday night, Feb. 27, the boys' will be held the following day.

Track

continued from page 9

earn eight critical team points.

The 4x200m Silver: The relay team of Michael Landmesser, Joey Marcotte, Jaden Taylor, and Shane Plumley put on a clinic in baton handling.

They clocked a 1:32.72, finishing as the state runners-up behind only Pinkerton.

Senior Jaden Taylor added to the tally with a sixth-place finish in the 300m Dash (36.99), while junior speedster Sam Oquist took eighth in the 55-meter Dash with a finals time of

6.84 (after an even faster 6.74 in the prelims).

The second place finish marks a significant milestone for the Alvirne program. With key scorers like Charles Barrett and Sam Oquist returning next year and heading into the spring the Broncos have established themselves as a dominant

force in New Hampshire track and field.

In the NHIAA Division One Girls' Championship, Alvirne sophomore Olivia Cartagena had the best finish for her team. Cartagena took sixth-place in the 1,500-Meter run with a time of 5:11.32.

Team Results at a Glance

Athlete(s)	Event	Place	Mark/Time
Joey Marcotte	55m Hurdles	2nd	7.70
Joey Marcotte	Long Jump	2nd	21' 8.25"
Charles Barrett	Shot Put	2nd	46' 9.5"
Landmesser, Marcotte, Taylor, Plumley	4x200m Relay	2nd	1:32.72
Jaden Taylor	300m Dash	6th	36.99
Sam Oquist	55m Dash	8th	6.84

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Admirals Drop a Pair to Start Final Month of Season

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

After skating through the month of January unblemished, and getting to 8-2, the Alvirne-Milford High School Hockey team hit a snag to start the month of February, dropping two games with slim, one-point losses.

Both games were on the road, and both could have gone either way, but the

Admirals hope to right the ship headed into week two of the month, as they begin to fight for position in the upcoming Division II play-off bracket.

In game one of last week, on Wednesday, Feb. 4, the Admirals took an early lead against St. Thomas Aquinas, finishing the first at 2-1 with both goals going to freshman Luke Green. The second

marker was unassisted, at 1:48, the other was assisted by Brandon Ganas and Wyatt Pepin.

St. Thomas got the equalizer in the second period, where it stayed until the final period, where Ganas put the Admirals on top 3-2 at 12:18. Brandon Callahan and Chris Bozza assisted on the goal.

St. Thomas had two goals with under three-min-

utes left in the game for the eventual win. The winners kept the visiting goaltender Kian Corcoran very busy, with the Admiral goalie getting 36 saves. St Thomas had 18 saves to secure the win.

Over the weekend, on Saturday night, Oyster River served up the Admirals second loss of the week, winning 3-2 at the Whittemore Center in

Durham.

Once again, the Admirals took an early lead, Callahan scored at 13:24 in the first period, but Oyster River banged one in at the four-minute mark, knotting the score at 1-1 to start the second.

Another early goal for Green put his team on top at 13:18 in the second, but that was all that the Oyster River defense would give up.

The host tied the game before the end of the period and took the one-goal lead with seconds left in regulation.

Dylan MacLeod and Landon Briand had the assists on the Admirals goals.

Shooting was fairly even for both sides, with Oyster River making 25 saves and Corcoran blocking 30 for the Admirals.

Souhegan Added to Alvirne-Milford Hockey Cooperative

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board voted unanimously at its most recent meeting to approve a proposal that would add Souhegan High School to the existing boys' ice hockey cooperative between Alvirne High School and Milford High School, strengthening a program that has relied on shared participation for several years.

In a memo to the Board, Alvirne Athletic Director Justin Hufft explained that the addition of Souhegan is intended to keep the program viable and competitive. "We think this will be a way to keep our program healthy and to ensure that Alvirne students are provided the opportunity to play hockey at the NHIAA level," Hufft wrote. He noted that the agreement is still

in draft form and would need NHIAA approval before becoming official. Any changes would take effect beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

Superintendent Dan Moulis told the Board that the current Alvirne-Milford cooperative has been in place for several years and "has worked well," providing stability for a sport that many schools struggle to field independently due to roster size and cost.

One question raised during the meeting was whether adding a third school might reduce opportunities for current Alvirne or Milford players. Officials clarified that boys' ice hockey is a noncut sport, meaning no student would lose a roster spot as a result of the expansion.

School Board Chair

Maureen Dionne noted that hockey coops are increasingly common across New Hampshire. "It is generally hard to field teams in hockey," she said, pointing to the high cost of equipment, limited ice time, and the number of players required to sustain a program.

A letter drafted for the NHIAA Ice Hockey Committee and Classification Committee outlines the structure of the proposed threeschool partnership. It states that Alvirne, Milford, and Souhegan intend to form a cooperative team beginning in 2026-27 and continuing through the 2027-28 cycle, with a minimum commitment through the end of that period.

The letter also provides historical context:

• Alvirne and Milford have been in a cooperative

since the 2018-2019 season.

• Souhegan previously partnered with Nashua North beginning in 2016-2017.

• The combined team intends to remain in Division II, where Alvirne-Milford has competed since its inception.

Under the proposed agreement:

• The cooperative team will be administered by the Alvirne Athletic Director.

• Athletic directors and principals from all three schools will collaborate to ensure a smooth transition and effective operation.

Funding will follow a sharedcost model. The Alvirne Athletic Department will pay expenses up front, then invoice Milford and Souhegan at the end of the season. Each school's

share will be based on the percentage of rostered players from their district, determined as of the first regular season game.

Board members expressed appreciation for the clarity of the agreement and the proactive planning behind the proposal.

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Re'pH'resh Your Soil: How Wood Ash May Help Your Garden

This winter has been a bitter one in New Hampshire, with temperatures swinging from the 20s down into the negatives. For those keeping warm with a fireplace or wood stove, the ash can pile up quickly, and that's not a bad thing. Wood ash has several practical uses, from adding traction to icy driveways to making homemade soap.

But one of the most beneficial ways to reuse it is in the garden. When used correctly, wood ash can help improve soil health and support stronger plant growth.

Balancing Act

New Hampshire soils naturally tend to be acidic. While some plants thrive in acidic conditions, others

struggle. A common way to reduce soil acidity is to apply a liming agent, and wood ash from home fireplaces and wood stoves can serve as a natural option.

Wood ash contains nutrients such as potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc, and copper. The calcium content, in particular, helps raise soil pH and maintain a more

neutral balance. For gardeners with overly acidic soil, this can make a noticeable difference.

Dig Into the Details

Before spreading wood ash around your garden, it's important to know whether your soil actually needs it. Adding ash to soil that's already balanced can push the pH too high, making it overly alkaline.

Fortunately, New Hampshire gardeners have an easy way to find out what their soil needs. The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension offers soil testing services. By submitting a sample, you'll receive a detailed analysis and recommendations tailored to your garden and the crops you grow.

Some plants, including blueberries, blackberries, potatoes, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, holly, and hostas; prefer acidic soil.

For these, adding wood ash would be counterproductive.

Spread Smart

If your soil test shows that wood ash would be beneficial, apply it carefully. A general guideline is no more than 20 pounds of wood ash per 1,000 square feet, roughly the amount that fits in a standard 5-gallon bucket.

After spreading the ash, mix it into the top 2–4 inches of soil using a rake, spade, or rototiller. One application per year is typically sufficient.

Because wood ash is highly alkaline and very fine, it can irritate skin, eyes, and lungs. Wear long sleeves, gloves, goggles, and a mask when handling it. Apply on a calm day, ideally when the soil is slightly moist to reduce dust.

Only use ash from natu-

ral, untreated wood. Ash from painted or pressure-treated wood can contain harmful heavy metals. While natural wood ash does contain trace metals, using it at recommended rates poses no risk to plants, animals, or people.

One more important caution: never mix wood ash with nitrogen fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate, urea, or ammonium nitrate. Combining them can release ammonia gas.

Back to "Basic"

If your garden could benefit from a little help getting back to "basic," wood ash from your own fireplace may be just the thing. With a soil test, mindful application, and proper safety precautions, this simple byproduct of winter heating can help your garden thrive through spring, summer, and fall.

March is SUDC Awareness Month

Governor Kelly Ayotte has once again proclaimed March as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month in New Hampshire.

SUDC affects approximately 500 children in the United States each year, impacting families with little warning and no clear medical explanation even after a full investigation. Despite being the fifth leading category of death

among children ages one to four, SUDC has received no targeted federal research funding, highlighting the urgent need for awareness and advocacy.

Families across NH are also honoring children through action. On March 15, three NH runners will participate in the United Airlines NYC Half Marathon in memory of Conrad McGovern, who passed away at nearly three years old in

2021. Conrad's mother, aunt, and a close family friend will run to raise funds for research and support.

The SUDC Foundation currently serves more than 2,200 families in over 25 countries, offering trauma informed support, education, and advocacy at no cost.

To learn more about SUDC or participate in the #ShineALightOnSUDC campaign, visit www.sudc.org or email info@sudc.org.



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Wednesday	9:00AM - 8:00PM	Wednesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	9:00AM - 8:00PM	Thursday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	9:00AM - 6:00PM	Friday	7:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM	Saturday	8:00AM - 3:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 3:00PM	Sunday	CLOSED



AROUND TOWN

Around Town Policy: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of three weeks. The deadline for a submission is each Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to hudsontimes@nutpub.net.

VFW Meat Raffle

Are you ready for a fun night out while giving back to Veterans and supporting local Air Force Junior ROTC cadets? Come on Friday, Feb. 20 for a VFW Meat Raffle at VFW Memorial Post 5791, located at 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson. Proceeds benefit the AFJROTC program at Alvirne High School. Try your luck at Bingo, and win great cuts of meat, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 prize. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the meat raffle begins at 7 p.m.

Veterans Assistance

American Legion Post 27, 6 Sargent Rd., Londonderry, will host representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on

Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. noon, to provide direct assistance to veterans in the community. During the event, VA representatives will be available to: Sign veterans up for VA benefits and services; Help resolve existing VA-related issues; Answer questions about eligibility, health-care, and benefits; and Provide guidance on navigating the VA system. This event is open to all veterans, not just members of the American Legion. Veterans who need to sign up with the VA are asked to bring a copy of their DD-214. Veterans, family members, and caregivers are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity for one-on-one support. For more information, veterans may contact American

Legion Post 27 directly via mail@alpost27.com or stop by during the event.

Women's Defense League

The Southern New Hampshire Republican Women (SNHRW) will host a special guest speaker at its March meeting on Monday, March 2, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Windham Restaurant. Guests are welcome to attend and may enjoy refreshments, appetizers, and entrees at their own expense during the meeting. The evening's program will feature a representative from the Women's Defense League, an organization dedicated to empowering women through education, training, and advocacy. This informative session is open to members and guests alike and

promises to be an engaging discussion on safety, education, and civic involvement. For more information about SNHRW membership and upcoming meetings and programs, visit the SNHRW.org

Dragons and grab a donut on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m., at the Rodgers Library. All skill levels are welcome.

Inhouse Secondhand Prose Book Sale

Check out the Secondhand Prose sale area in the Children's Room of Rogers Memorial Library, running during normal library Hours. The book selection offers something for everyone, is restocked frequently and offered at the same bargain price as the big sale. Stationary featuring work of local artists, adorable tote bags, and handmade gifts are also available. The prices are extremely reasonable.

Friends of the Library

February focuses on matters of the heart, what an excellent time to join The Friends of the Library. The Friends business meeting will be held Feb. 17 at 6 p.m., in Rogers Memorial Library's community room. There will be discussions on upcoming events, continue work on new fund-raising and service opportunities. The work of

2026 Hudson Lions Club Scholarships

The Hudson Lions Club will award multiple scholarships consisting of four individual \$1,500 scholarships, two \$1,500 memorial scholarships, honoring Lion Al Rodgers and Lion George Philip Rodgers, a \$2,000 memorial scholarship in memory of Lion Joe Kasper, and a single \$1,500 scholarship for an Alvirne Leo's Club Member. Applicants must be a Hudson resident, graduating from any high school and have been accepted at a school of higher learning. Applications are available at Alvirne High School Guidance Department or email: scholarships@hudsonlions.org. Application deadline April 10, 2026

Dungeons & Donuts

Come play Dungeons &

FOL is vitally important to the community and library programs and events. Please register for the meeting on the RML website Event Calendar.

Curious Kids: Valentines

Explore learning centers with your preschooler at the Rodgers Library on Friday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.

Afternoon Book Group

This club will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 1:30 p.m., at the Rodgers Library. This month's book pick is "Spitfires: The American Women Who Flew in the Face of Danger During World War II" by Becky Aikman.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m., at the Rodgers Library.

Crime & Cookies

The true crime podcast club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m., at the Rodgers **continued on page 14**

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Aviation Museum to Expand Hours, Add Programs for School Vacation

Families looking for fun, indoor activities during New Hampshire's upcoming winter school vacation week will find plenty to enjoy at the Aviation Museum of N.H., located at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

To accommodate vacation week visitors, the museum will be open additional days, welcoming guests from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23 and Tuesday, Feb. 24, in addition to its regular hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.

The Aviation Museum offers hands on exhibits and activities for kids of all ages, including a real Embraer 110 cockpit that young aviators can climb into, scavenger hunts, and a collection of aviation themed toys and interactives. Knowledgeable volunteers - many with professional aviation backgrounds - will be on hand to guide visitors and answer questions.

Flight Simulator Sessions

The museum's Elite Flight Simulator will operate from 1 - 4 p.m., on:

- Monday, Feb. 23
- Wednesday, Feb. 25
- Friday, Feb. 27

The simulator is open to ages 13 and up, with trained operators on duty. Sessions are offered on a first come, first served basis. (The simulator also runs Saturdays from 1 - 4 p.m.)

Story Time for Younger Children

Families with children 12 and under are invited to Story Time at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., on:

- Tuesday, Feb. 24
- Thursday, Feb. 26

Volunteers will read aviation themed stories and lead simple activities. Families are welcome to explore the museum afterward.

Student Plane Building Program

Visitors can also view a display highlighting the museum's growing high school plane building program, which began in 2019 at the Manchester School of Technology and has since expanded to Lebanon High School and Farmington High School.

A Great Spot for Plane

The museum's parking lot offers the closest public view of Runway 17 35, making it a popular spot for watching aircraft take off and land. Parking is free and open daily until 8 p.m.

Admission
 • Children under 6: Free
 • Ages 6-12: \$7.50
 • Veterans and families: \$7.50
 • Adults (13+): \$15

The Aviation Museum has been voted "Best Place to Take Kids" in southern New Hampshire for five consecutive years in the Hippo Reader's Poll.

The museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3), is housed in the historic 1937 art deco terminal at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and is dedicated to preserving New Hampshire's aviation heritage while inspiring the next generation of aviation innovators.

The Aviation Museum is located at 27 Navigator Road, off Harvey Road in Londonderry. For more information, visit aviation-museumofnh.org or call (603) 669 4820. Follow the museum on Facebook at facebook.com/nhahs.

Around Town

Continued from page 13

Library.

Cookbook Club

This club will be held on Monday, Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m., prepare a recipe from this month's topic, then engage with others about your recipe adventures at the Rodgers Library.

(how to avoid) "Death in Glacier National Park"

On Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., join in virtually to discuss Randi Minetor's book "Death in Glacier National Park: Stories of Accidents and Foolhardiness in the Crown of the Continent." Hosted by Rodgers Library.

Read 'Em & Eat @ Friendly Red's

Come to Friendly Red's on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., to discuss February's book is Get a Life, Chloe Brown by Talia Hibbert.

Comic Book Flowers

On Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m., Tweens (Grades 4-8) will use/cut up comic books provided by the Rodgers library (or feel free to bring your own) and use chopsticks or pens as a stem to create your forever living flower(s).

Paws4Safety for Kids

On Friday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m., Children in grades K-5

are invited to join Hudson Animal Control at the Rodgers Library for a fun, hands-on learning experience where kids will discover how to stay safe around their own pets, other people's animals, and local wildlife.

Girl Power PJ Party

Wear your pajamas as to watch the Disney film Tangled, make friendship bracelets, paint our nails, and eat some pizza at the Rodgers Library on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. This event is for grades 2-7.

Paws4Safety for Teens and Tweens

On Friday, Feb. 27 at 11 a.m., Patrons ages 11-18 are invited to join Hudson Animal Control for a fun, hands-on learning experience at the Rodgers Library to discover how to stay safe around their own pets, other people's animals, and local wildlife.

Legion Meat Raffle

American Legion Hudson Post 48's Meat Raffle will be held at Post 48, located at 37 Central St. On the following dates: Saturday, Feb. 21, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, March 21, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, beginning at 2 p.m. This event is open to the public. You must be 16+ to play. The proceeds from this event are to benefit the Alvirne HS CTE Honor Society. Pre-buys

are available in the Foxhole. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

Lego Glasses

On Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m., Design your own pair of LEGO glasses to take home at the Rodgers Library. Ages 4+.

Legion Karaoke

American Legion Hudson Post 48 will be hosting DJ Mike on the following dates: Friday, March 20, from 6 - 10 p.m.; Friday, April 17, from 6 - 10 p.m. In the Foxhole located at 1 Fulton St for Karaoke and Dancing. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30 p.m., the Rodgers Library will have songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

Adventurers Storytime

Come to the Rodgers Library for songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Teen Hangout

Middle and high school students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rodgers Library's teen space after school, most Weekdays at

2:30 p.m. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided. Connect the Library with any questions.

Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and entertainment venue passes, and scholarships. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special message. The order form is on Rodgers Memorial Library website click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy. For an inanimate object, each brick can speak volumes.

BINGO!

Bingo is back at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tuesday afternoon. Slider cards will start being sold at 1:15 p.m., \$1.25 each. You must be registered at the Senior Center to play.

A Good Yarn

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library to Share tips, tricks, and stories while you work on your latest project and connect with fellow fiber enthusiasts. Bring your own supplies and stitch the evening away.

Drop In Stitchers

If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knitting, crocheting, rug making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this Rogers Library group! This group will meet on Fridays at 9:15 a.m.

Baby Lapsit and Playtime

On Thursdays come to the Rogers Library at 10 a.m., for interactive stories and songs for babies and their caregivers followed by playtime.


Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Memorial Library on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for

long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working laptops, tablets, and smartphones, and they will in turn refurbish them for use by low-income individuals and families. The client recipients are low-income, and living in our Greater Nashua area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment email info@unitedway-nashua.org if you have any questions.



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