

THE Hudson Times

February 29, 2024 ♦ Volume 2 – Issue 9

A FREE Weekly Publication



CAMP-IN TRICK Bonaparte the Magician entertained members of Cub Scout Pack 21 at the VFW Hudson Memorial Post 5791 on Friday night, Feb. 23, during their annual “Camp-In” event. The pack enjoyed a number of overnight activities. See more photos on page 8. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Community Power Plan Looks to Include Renewable Power Options

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Craig Putnam, Director of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee, outlined a range of green energy options for the general services in the Community Power Aggregation Plan set to come into effect early-to-mid March.

The Board of Selectmen voted to partner with the Community Power

Coalition of NH in October of 2023, opening the town to new renewable energy options.

According to the Selectmen approved plan, “two primary goals of the intelligent use of customer energy technologies to reduce energy expenditures and carbon emissions on a voluntary basis” and to “reduce fossil fuel consumption overall.”

Different categories of

rate plans will serve as the most viable factor in green energy for the average customer.

“There are four rates that apply to residential general services outdoor light,” said Putman. “Hudson has chosen to default anyone that joins Hudson Community Power at the Granite Basic level.”

While this level is the **continued on page 2**

Four Candidates Look to Fill Two Selectmen Seats

In an effort to give readers a more informed opinion on the candidates running for the two seats available for the three-year term on Hudson’s Board of Selectmen, our publisher, Deb Paul, reached out to all four candidates.

Two of the four candidates responded to a question we gave them on what makes them the best choice for voters.

The only other contested race in Hudson’s March 12 Town Election is for a three-year seat as a Library Trustee.

Lisa Weber and Ruth Sessions are looking to be elected to one, three-year term seat.

Dillon Dumont Incumbent

My name is Dillon Dumont, and I’m a candidate for the Hudson Selectmen three-year term. I have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful people since I was elected to a one-year term in March of last year. In order to strengthen the planning department and assist with code enforcement, I took part in the employment of a new assistant planner, and zoning administrator during that period. I also participated in the hiring of a new DPW Director.

As a member of the zoning ordinance review committee, I contributed sug-

gestions to address zoning issues in Hudson. Successfully participated in the DPW and Fire Department contract negotiations. Voted in favor of and assisted in funding a pilot program to install strobe lights to stop lights at problematic intersections to increase visibility and safety.

While serving on the Benson park committee I was able to Coordinated a donation for a second entrance to the dog park from gate city fence and finalized the donation of a golf cart. All of this while voting for a level funded budget.

I have the capacity to go across the aisle and collaborate **continued on page 2**

School Board Debate Some Changes to Travel Policy

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

During the Feb. 19 Hudson School Board meeting, one of the debated policies was in regards to a proposed rewrite of its expense reimbursement policy. “We currently have a very different policy than districts around us,” Business Administrator, Jen Burk, said. She explained that when they get employees from other districts, they have some who are confused and possibly concerned “with the board component to this.” Burk explained that traditionally the travel requests go up the chain of command to the assistant superintendent or superintendent level, noting that they are part of the budget.

As part of the proposed policy, “Any employee wishing to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred under this policy must complete a travel expense reimbursement form, to be submitted along with the pre-approved purchase requisition, all original, itemized receipts, and approval confirmations for all expenses, to the SAU Business Office within fifteen days upon returning from the trip.”

“When official travel by personally owned vehicles has been authorized, mileage payment shall be made at the rate currently set by the Internal Revenue Service,” the proposed policy reads.

Any travel outside of the state, or that would re-

quire an overnight stay “must have the prior approval (written or electronic) of the Superintendent or designee, and such approval shall accompany the request for reimbursement as outlined above.”

“All expense reimbursement forms, and travel expense vouchers must be approved by the employee’s supervisor and administrator and must include all associated receipts for requested reimbursement including flights, hotel, meals and other related expenses,” the proposed policy states. “In the event that reimbursement is being made for multiple employees on a single receipt, the senior

continued on page 8

Candidates

Continued from page 1

orate with people from all different backgrounds to obtain the best results for Hudson, and I am really proud of the job that I was able to accomplish in just one year.

I am a lifelong resident in Hudson and I am very proud of our town. I will always prioritize Hudson. For these reasons I am asking your vote on March 12th.

Thank you
Dillon Dumont

Heidi Jakoby

I am honored to be running for the Board of Selectmen three-year term and appreciate your willingness to get to know me as a candidate. As a first-generation college graduate, I have always worked hard. In a variety of ways, I have dedicated myself to helping others and my community.

My varied work experience includes contractor, retail, food service, corporate, nonprofit and entrepreneurship. This combination has given me a unique perspective on community.

Most importantly, what I will bring to the Board of Selectmen is an ability to actively listen and respond to all members of the community. This includes employees of the town and other town officials. Connecting efforts from various groups will help to create a more efficient and effective BOS. Transparency and continuous communication to the public is the key to moving Hudson forward, with the support and understanding of all community members. Fostering an atmosphere of agreeing to disagree agreeably, will

give more members of our community the comfort necessary to share their views, concerns, and celebrations. The Hudson community does not have to agree on everything, but everything needs to be clearly communicated in a way that all can understand.

Over the past year I have connected with various people in and around the Hudson Community, to assist with communication and community building. Researching a way to get a weekly town newspaper succeeded when I was introduced to Nutfield Publishing. In turn, I discov-

ered they were hoping to expand into Hudson for a while, but needed a person to help them connect with the community.

Additionally, when I realized I was young enough to join the Senior Center, I paired up with Kathy Martinek who was working on a Home Lock Box program. Together with the Police Department that program is now up and running.

I want to serve the entire Hudson community. As a Selectman I will continuously communicate, research, and ask questions to

move Hudson forward and to ensure Hudson continues to be "A Great Town to Call Home". I can be reached through my website: Heidi-Jakoby.com or Facebook: Heidi Jakoby Hudson Unite.

The Hudson Times reached out to all candidates several times through the email addresses supplied by the Hudson Town Clerk and even extended the deadline a week to accommodate them, but we did not get responses from candidates Marilyn McGrath and Richard J. Weissgarber

Power

continued from page 1

least expensive option, only around 24% of the power provided through this plan will come from renewable sources. According to the official Aggregation Plan, that number "will increase incrementally to 25.2% by 2025."

"The other three options: Granite Plus, Clean

50, and Clean 100, are rate classes that offer higher levels of green/renewable energy," said Putnam. "Those are a little more expensive, as you'd probably expect. "One of the things to understand is that Community Power programs have more flexibility in the purchasing of electricity. Community Power programs can go to marketing anytime they

want."

For these "opt-up" plans, Granite Plus will have 33% of its energy from carbon-free sources, with the next two plans offering 50% and 100% carbon-free sources respectively.

The standard Eversource plan has renewable power at around the Basic level.

One resident asked, "If

Community Power NH decides at a later date to go Granite Plus or Clean 100, does that mean all customers will have to go with that rate?"

According to the Director, this would not happen and the choice of which rate to go with, or even to pay for a Community Plan was up to the individual, promising "you can move

through any of the options at any time."

When asked by one attendee if a higher tier plan would "get better energy or get a refrigerator working better" or if she would end up "losing anything by signing up for a higher plan," Putman responded by joking that "the electrons are the electrons" and the only difference was price

and generation source.

Putman clarified that while there is the possibility to move onto more ambitious energy plans in the future with a capital reserve fund, no taxpayer money was being allocated to the Aggregation Plan, while local generation projects like the Solar Farms West Road Landfill were "entirely separate" from Aggregation.

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Accepting New Customers

Electric Aggregation Plan Coming to Hudson in March

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson Community Power held a public information session on Jan. 31 to outline the town's Electric Aggregation Plan, which was approved by the voters last March as an automatic opt-in program.

"When we're talking about community power, what's going on is that Hudson Community Power will purchase electricity from the sources that you choose. Today, if you're not with one of the competitive electric suppliers, Eversource is buying power on your behalf, and they're called the default supplier,"

explained Craig Putnam, Director of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee. "What Community Power is about is replacing Eversource as the purchaser of your power. You'll have more choices, and more choices with a lower price when we go live with the program in March."

He went on to explain that Eversource will still own the power delivery infrastructure, including the wires, poles, bills, meters, and transformers. As the name implies, an aggregation plan leverages the more extensive buying power of many residents and businesses together for

lower prices.

"You have a choice of one when it comes to rates, it's whatever Eversource makes available to you, unless you want to go with one of the competitive suppliers," said Putnam. "The goal is to be able to leverage larger buying power to get lower prices."

The Aggregation program is an opt-out program with Eversource remaining the default option for residents who choose not to participate, except for net-metered customers, who can opt-in to the program if they want. There's typically no charge for switching back and forth between

the default and community supplier, although switching away from a competitive electric supplier may include an early termination fee depending on contract terms.

For those in the Aggregation Plan, the "supplier" line of a power bill will read "Community Power," not "Eversource."

With the automatic opt-in and the upcoming implementation of the Plan, there was concern from members of the public that not everyone was fully informed. One resident stated, "I was at the senior center, and nobody except one person knew anything

about what I was talking about. It might be a good idea to do a question and answer at the senior center."

Putnam agreed this was a good idea and promised to put more effort into informing elderly residents of the changes, though he noted that low turnout had been an issue previously.

"We have done drop-in question and answer sessions, we did them two a week for several weeks running, and one person showed up," said the Director. "We really did our best to try and get the word out."

Other concerns were

around the automatic opt-in, with one person saying they "found it offensive" that they had to opt out and they "should have the ability to do what I want to do."

Putnam re-emphasized that the automatic opt-in was necessary to get enough people to use Community Power to make it worthwhile.

Service for the Aggregation supplier is set to begin in early March, with the exact switchover date depending on when meters are read. More information is available online at www.communitypowernh.gov/hudson.

Friars Drive Warehouse Gets Waiver from Planning Board

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Valentine's Day meeting of the Hudson Planning Board opened with a site plan amendment for an ongoing project at 48 Friars Drive. Attorney, Morgan Hollis, of Gottesman & Hollis was at the meeting to give a presentation with Project Manager, Hayley Palazola.

"A site plan was approved on March 23, 2022, for a 504,000 square foot warehouse," said Hollis. "Thereafter, the applicant started in on final construction designs, buildings, and on-site/off-site requirements right of way, and a final right turn lane design was approved on June 27, 2022. The important reason is in the site plan development agreement and conditions of approval, condition #5 states: applicants shall provide in-depth detail of

the right turn slip lane that exits Lowell Road onto Friars Drive."

It is one of several conditions imposed on the original plan and must be approved by Engineering and Public Works. A follow-up also included relocating Eversource power lines nearby to accommodate the turn lane. Relocation began last October; the warehouse also has a tenant, the Life is Good Company, expecting to move forward faster than construction can happen under the current plan.

"Normally we would wait another two months to get this wrapped up, but we can't, we really need some cooperation and help from the town to move the tenant from one building in Hudson to the other building," Hollis explained.

He expected to have most work done within the next few weeks, weather

permitting, but wanted permission to start some paving and landscaping work before fully meeting the condition in the original site plan.

"I'm having a little concern with the safety aspect," said Board Chair, Tim Malley. "The original intent was to help alleviate that traffic to get it off Lowell Road. Now, while we do this construction, we're going to be shutting down at least one lane of Lowell Road."

The attorney noted that a study had already been done, and the traffic impact is expected to be "minimal." The right turn included widening to limit the impact the warehouse complex had on Lowell. Traffic has been a perennial concern for the project.

Project Engineer, Jean Sullivan, added that final paving for the turn lane was

expected to take "a couple of days." Guard rails for safety and a fence to separate the road from a nearby detention pond are included in the factory plan.

"Employees, the heavy majority would come from Route 3 and Lowell," said Keith Campbell from Life is Good. He promised to encourage workers to take Executive Drive in the future.

While sympathetic to the request, there was some concern from the Planning Board that altering a site plan condition would create

a precedent for a similar modification of any future site plan.

"Historically, have we been doing this in the past?" asked Board member, Victor Oates. "I can't recall ever doing this before, although I've only been here three years."

The Chair responded by saying there has been flexibility for items that are "physically impossible" to complete in the middle of winter, although this was usually for landscaping and paving within property lines.

"To get poles to move is a pretty monumental task, it takes time, and we have our moratorium on doing roadwork in the wintertime. The timing didn't coincide, I think they put in a good faith effort," said Board member, Ed Van der Veen.

The Planning Board voted to approve the amendment with the stipulation directing Life is Good traffic to use Executive Drive to enter the site until completion of the lane and subject to final administrative review.

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Editorial

Why is it That My Property Tax Bill Never Goes Down?

It is said that, “there are only two things in life that are certain: death and taxes”.

We can say with equal certainty that taxes almost always go up. Do you ever wonder why?

There are some people in our community who believe that if we welcome businesses, it will keep taxes flat. Unfortunately, with more business comes more need for housing. Then with increased residency comes the ask for bigger schools. We then need more fire and police due to the increase in utilizing services, and those departments need bigger budgets and better equipment to meet the increased need. The resulting increase in wear and tear on roads means we need more repair and plowing, so the DPW needs a bigger budget and better equipment, and before you know it, your “flat” tax rate is increasing at a pace that will price out the elderly and those on fixed incomes in our community.

I moved here 28 plus years ago to get away from the big city. The small town I once knew is quickly disappearing. We are known as the fastest growing town in Southern NH, yet with all this growth, I only see our quality of life diminishing. Considering the amount of growth that has happened in the in the last

10-12 years, one would have thought my tax bill (note: not my tax rate) would have gone down, or at the very least stayed the same. Yet somehow, even with robust commercial growth, the total tax base stays the same or increases. Perhaps it is it time to think out of the box. Many spending articles are wants, not needs, and we really need to reevaluate what a “need” is before we take more money from the resident. After all shouldn't growth and prosperity lower taxes and distribute the burden over a broader base?

Voting for change is scary, as is voting for people who's faces you aren't as familiar with. But outside the box thinking is exactly what we need if we are going to create a healthier community environment and help prevent corruption, favoritism, nepotism, and cronyism.

Growth is inevitable and changes are a good thing, but rapid growth without sound planning has disastrous effects on the tax rate. Growth and change are both good and should be welcomed but in a controlled, methodical, proactive manner; we should be moving with purpose and action as a community, not reaction.

GO VOTE ON March 12.

THE Hudson Times

The Hudson Times is a weekly publication covering Hudson related news and information, it is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.

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Letters

Hudson Needs New Leadership not a New Blvd.

To the editor,

Candidates' night demonstrated a need for new leadership who are critical thinkers and have a vision for what Hudson should be and how to accomplish. When asked for a vision of what Hudson would look like in the next 10 years most of the current board members could not articulate Hudson's vision, which is stunning. When asked about the biggest issue, they called out Traffic. Well, no kidding you created this problem due to a complete lack of comprehensive planning! Current leadership on our Select and Planning Boards have put us in this traffic situation and claim the Hudson Blvd., and new traffic technology will solve it. Trucks and cars going to and from the new Target Flow Center and Life is Good Distribution Center have not even started yet, in addition any regional traffic study around this Blvd., does not include all the development it will bring. This Blvd., will only make things worse. Once again, they do not see it because this is not about traffic, but rather development (I encourage residents to view the master plan map).

The Hudson Blvd., will

unlock thousands of acres of undeveloped land in G/G1 zones for commercial/industrial development. Do not be fooled. We were blindsided once with the 50 ft building height increase in a town sponsored warrant article in 2016/17. It will not happen again. Do not trust Warrant Article Recommendations from our Boards. Many of these same people who supported the 50ft height are supporting the Blvd., study. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission noted that “the Hudson Blvd., project has the potential to unlock the economic development potential of some of the most significant commercial and industrial sites in southern NH resulting in the creation of close to 6 million square feet of commercial and industrial development”. There are +4000 acres of undeveloped land bordering the proposed Boulevard path of which much is owned by developers. This will bring hundreds of additional tractor trailers and thousands more cars. So, you see this Blvd., is not about relieving our traffic but rather adding commercial development. Allowing the road to be built will solidify Hudson as a “pass-through town” and the center of commercial and industrial focus for the entire region. If you

think traffic and congestion is bad now, just wait.

Hudson can be a great town, but first we need great “new” leadership with vision and plans. To get there we need to approve and conduct a complete infrastructure study (vote YES on article 29), establish a short-term building moratorium (vote YES on article 50), then use this information to build a working master plan, and fund this with money being asked for in the Hudson Blvd., study (vote NO on article 10). To implement this change I encourage everyone to vote for Heidi Jakoby as she will work to make Hudson a great place to call home.

We will make Hudson great again 1 election and warrant article at a time.

James Dobens
Hudson

Response to Editorial

To the editor,

The Editorial “Prepare for the Election” in the Feb. 22, 2024 issue is excellent.

Great presentation and food for thought for all of us. Hopefully it inspires those that need a push to be responsible to vote on March 12.

Thank you.

Kathy Martinek
Hudson

Election Letters

It has been a longstanding policy of Nutfield Publishing to not publish campaign letters in the newspaper on the week prior to the town and school election. Reason being: It does not give those affected by a letter published the chance to rebut any inaccuracies in the statements made. The only letters pertaining to the March 12 election appearing in the March 7 issue will be to correct inaccuracies made in letters/articles in prior publications.

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

There is one more week left to run political ads for warrant articles and/or candidates. Deadline for completed ads is Monday, 3/4, at noon, contact by calling 603-537-2760 or email HUDSONTIMES@nutpub.net.

In addition, next week, on March 7, the Hudson Times will be mailed to every address in Hudson. This will be a one-time occurrence, although we are hoping to make this happen on a weekly basis.

Benson Park Committee Look to Address Safety Risks

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Feb. 15 meeting of the Benson Park Committee saw slow, but steady progress with a safety inspection for the old Hudson Train Station. Committee Chair, Jack Madden, announced a formal approval with American Environmental Testing Services of New England as the contractor to conduct a lead inspection and risk assessment.

While the focus was on lead abatement, town officials also plan on conducting a mold and moisture

assessment on the structure. "We're slowly making progress, once we get the lead paint and the mold done, we can have volunteers work inside without inhaling nasty things that they shouldn't inhale," said Madden.

The Chair was also happy to announce progress on a project to implement a new GPS-based map of park trails.

"If you go to the Benson Park Committee webpage on the town website, the new map is already there," said Madden. "All-in-all, it looks very good. Esri is the name

of the company that did the map, and they've got a downloadable software package you can put on your cellphone; you go to the app store and just download it!"

A few last-minute updates, such as the inclusion of Hazelton Barn are still being added.

The Hudson office of INTEGRA Biosciences was seeking to volunteer 20 to 40 employees for Tuesday, April 23, to work on needed tasks in Benson Park. This event is separate from the first volunteer Clean-Up Day of the season,

which is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m.

The storage box at Hudson Dog Park recently suffered damage likely related to the recent frost and will need to be fixed.

"The Dog Park has a box, one of those storage boxes that had a spring that was easy to open and close that got what I'm assuming wasn't intentional damage," said Vice Chair, Judith Brouillette. "I think it was frozen, and somebody forced it, literally ripping the top of the box off. I imagine it's going to be gross in there if

things keep getting wet."

The Committee promised to look at the box to see what needed to be done. It was unclear whether or not repairs would cost anything.

At least eight dead trees will need to be removed from the park. Committee member, Scott Anderson, was in contact with the Department of Public Works to discuss removal options.

"These are large, mature trees like firs and pines that are dead near the pond and the gazebo area," Anderson elaborated. "At some point, they're going to deteriorate and rot,

leading to a risk of injury."

Public Works has agreed to bring in a tree company with specialized equipment to have the trees removed before the end of winter. As the trees were in Benson Park for decades, Anderson expressed interest in having planting replacements following the needed removal.

"I like that idea of replanting, and I think a lot of people would appreciate that," agreed Committee member, Erica Carreau.

Several other large, dead trees will need removal over the next few months.

Selectmen Table Discussion On Manifest Changes

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the possibility of moving to an electronic version of signing manifests instead of being required to do so in person during its Feb. 13 meeting.

The preliminary idea came from Selectman, Kara Roy, who said she thought it was something that should be discussed to make things easier. "I think for the sake of efficiency we should look at this," she said.

Finance Director, Lisa Labrie, in an email, said she spoke to the representative at Harris Computer Group, who is their primary "software support person for MuniSmart."

"I was told that automatic electronic signatures

are mainly used for check printing (Accounts Payable and Payroll)," she wrote. Labrie explained that "there is the capability to automatically print a person's name on the signature line for POs but this will be done without the person looking at it. It will print on the line at the time that the PO is printed."

"Authorization levels can be setup within the PO system for POs to be generated and printed with various tiers at specific dollar amounts," Labrie wrote. "In this scenario, No POs would be printed without all authorized signatures needed. This will require all signers (BOS and Managers) to have access to MuniSmart and each will need to be trained on how to use our Purchase Order Sys-

tem. It will also require additional licenses, which can be costly."

Roy explained during the meeting that she thought they should wait until after the election because if the warrant article, which would move to a Town Manager style of government, passes, they wouldn't need to do it anymore. She added that if they were to move forward with it, there would need to be some training done in order to get it in place.

In her reasoning for wanting to explore it, Roy

said in her view, it would make it so the finance department wouldn't have to wait for them to go to Town Hall to sign it, making it more efficient.

Board of Selectmen Chair, Marilyn McGrath, said she spoke to Labrie and said "based on what she told me she's not in favor of it either." She noted that she would not be supporting it if they were to take a vote on it.

She also noted that it's her hope that they don't get a Town Manager, and if it doesn't pass, she thinks that

the other Selectmen should have a discussion with Labrie about "what this would mean."

No vote on the proposal

was taken during the meeting.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is set to take place on March 5 at 7 p.m.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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I have many ideas for improvement including better training for substitutes and para-professionals
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Hudson School Board Approve Multiple Travel Requests

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board discussed and voted on a number of travel requests during its Feb. 19 board meeting.

One of the travel requests was for Alvirne Farm. “The Alvirne Farm Manager, Emery Nadeau, would like to attend the NY Farm Show in Syracuse February 22-24,” a memo to the School Board read. “This is a yearly farm show where Emery networks with other industry professionals and has a chance to explore advances in technology, equipment, and processes. Revolving funds will be used for hotel and mileage reimbursement of roughly \$1,100.”

It was explained by

Superintendent, Dan Moulis, that it’s a show Nadeau has attended before.

“This has been a show he has attended in the past,” he said, explaining that it’s the closest in the region. Moulis added that it’s very important because they can find out when new equipment is available in the farming industry. “He has gone for several years and has found it very beneficial,” Moulis said.

Another travel request came from Alvirne High School Athletic Director, Karen Bonney, on behalf of the wrestling team.

“I am requesting permission for an overnight stay for some of our wrestlers and the coaches who potentially would qualify

for the New England Wrestling Tournament in Providence, RI,” Bonney wrote in a memo to the School Board. “The dates of the event are March 1-2, 2024. One of the coaches will be driving the school van. Students will not be missing school as it is our vacation week. The plan is to go down to RI Friday night and compete on Saturday and come back Saturday night. The cost of the trip (transportation and hotel) will be paid out of my athletic account.”

One question asked was how many athletes qualified. “I think it was three,” Moulis said. Both of the travel requests were unanimously approved.

The School Board also approved a request for the

British Car Show. “They are requesting the use of the Hills House Grounds for July 26 and 27,” Moulis told the School Board.

The School Board also voted to withdraw its policy on “Highly Qualified Teachers.” “This policy is now outdated from the No Child Left Behind Act,” Moulis said.

The policy stated:

“Pursuant to federal law, the school district will strive to ensure that all teachers who teach core academic subjects will satisfy “Highly Qualified Teacher” requirements set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics

and government, economics, art, history, and geography.

Because standards for satisfying Highly Qualified Teacher requirements differ between elementary school and secondary school, the Superintendent and building principals are responsible for:

1. Making sure all teachers who are required to do so meet or exceed Highly Qualified Teacher requirements.
2. Properly documenting necessary paperwork and, if necessary, providing such paperwork to the NH Department of Education; and
3. Providing notice to parents/guardians whose children are not being instructed by a teacher who

satisfies Highly Qualified Teacher requirements, as required by No Child Left Behind.

Additionally, it is encouraged that all “long-term substitute” teachers meet the requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers per No Child Left Behind. For the purposes of this policy, the term “long-term substitute” is defined as it is in the District’s collective bargaining agreement/master agreement, if applicable. Per the requirements of No Child Left Behind, parents will be notified if students have received instruction for four or more consecutive weeks in a core academic subject by a teacher who is not highly qualified.”

Benson Park Committee Ponder Possible Spring Improvements

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee met on Feb. 15 to talk about the state of Benson Park’s finances.

“We have spent \$192.96 to date. We had no expenditures in the month of January, and that leaves us \$907.44 of our \$1,100

budget,” explained Committee Chair, Jack Madden. “Funds that will come out of that are going to be the lamination for the parking passes I’m going to make this year for our vehicles when we come in here to do work.”

Benson Park also has around \$66,000 in its Capi-

tal Reserve Fund, with the possible addition of another \$10,000 pending the approval of Warrant Article 18 on March 12. The Chair encouraged everyone to vote.

On the issue of finding new revenue sources for the park, Madden announced his submission of the Ben-

son Park Donation Account to the Board of Selectmen.

“All this does is ask permission from the Board of Selectmen to investigate what we have to do in order to bring this to fruition,” said Madden. “Once we have that done, we’ll come back to the Board of Selectmen and say ‘Okay, these are all the things we need to do and how much it’s going to cost, do we have your blessing to move forward?’”

While the original idea had been to set up a “donation button” for Benson Park on the town website, the process has proven to be more complicated than originally intended. Of note was the possibility of being charged \$100 per month just to run a donation account.

Vice Chair, Judith Brouillette, announced progress in the assembly of seven new Adopt-A-Spot signs for the park.

“They came out beautiful, they just need to be primed and painted. I volunteered to do that, my sister is going to help,” said Brouillette. “We’ll work on those and they should be done by the next meeting.”

She was unsure when the signs would be up in the park, although putting them up in April with spring weather was floated as an idea.

The Benson Park Committee has a list of potential clean-up tasks and possible capital projects they hope to accomplish in 2024.

“We’ve got the most recent Master Plan, we have

from two years ago, a list of things we needed to be done (some of which we’ve already accomplished), and I would suggest we get a subcommittee together to walk around the park and find things that need to be fixed,” Madden suggested.

He asked other Committee members to give the issue some thought.

“Each April, the Landscape Committee does a walk through the park for a general look of conditions,” said Benson Park member, Scott Anderson, as he suggested doing a joint inspection to find possible capital improvements.

The Benson Park Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at the Hudson Cable Access Center.

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Fire Department Look To Secure Funds Through Grants

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen heard a proposal to allow the Fire Department to apply for four different grants during its Feb. 13 meeting.

Fire Chief, Scott Tice, explained that there is only one available right now, but they are actively looking at ways to be able to bring in more revenue, to help with different projects, and initiatives.

"The Fire Department consistently seeks out additional resources to fund projects that are not able to be supported within our

operational budget," Tice wrote in a memo. "We are asking for the board to approve our request to apply for various grants to assist with this."

One of the initiatives that they are looking at is a "more robust health and wellness program."

"With cancer rates and mental health concerns on the rise, it is imperative that we find funding to implement a quality program for our membership," Tice said.

Tice explained that the idea would be to be able to send members to an annual mental health check in, as well as help pay for physi-

cals, which would include cancer and cardiovascular screenings.

"The FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards," Tice wrote. "We have been successful with AFG in the past, and will look to this program for funding towards a health and wellness program. Additionally, we may utilize AFG for more than one of the activity areas within the application

to assist in funding other areas of need that have been identified below."

Some of the other potential projects Tice pointed to includes getting cold water rescue equipment, noting that some of their current equipment is "worn out and/or past NFPA recommended dates."

Another initiative he pointed to is a department wide training for fire ground survival, as well live fire training, and thermal imaging tactical classes.

The department is also hoping to get "Swift water rescue equipment," which

Tice said is needed due "to the high risk exposure with the Merrimack River."

Tice stated they were also looking for approval to be able to apply for different funding sources as well, that aren't currently available. He explained that sometimes the funding sources open up, but it's only for a short period of time, so they wanted to make sure they have permission so they can apply right away.

They include:

- Walmart Local Community Grant
- Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant

• Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant Program

"The proposal this evening is simply for permission to apply for these grants," Tice wrote. "Prior to accepting any grant if awarded, the Board of Selectmen would have the opportunity to hold a public hearing and decide whether we want to accept the funds."

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved allowing for the department to apply for the grant opportunities.

School Street Subdivision Approved by Planning Board

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Feb. 14 meeting had the Hudson Planning Board hear a presentation for a two-lot subdivision plan at 41 School Street. The property resident, Craig Parks, attended the meeting with Greg Jeffrey of Litchfield's Jeffrey Land Survey, LLC.

"The client is wishing to subdivide one lot, which is just over 20,000 square feet, into two lots, each one being over 10,000 square feet," outlined Jeffrey. "The proposed lot would have access to town sewer, water, electricity, and would front School Street."

He noted that the subdivided property could have a dwelling complete with

parking, although there were no definitive plans. There was no public input on the subdivision.

"I see a sewer going across the existing house lot, but I don't see an easement referenced," said Board member, James Crowley, who was referring to the utility line servicing the property on the given map. "On my drawing, it sounds like it goes across the property to the adjacent property."

He noted an easement was needed to service both properties under Hudson regulations. He had several other issues with some of the paperwork and the setback in the front lot line, although he conceded it did not technically violate local

laws.

"He beats the regs, I just wish we had better regs," said Crowley, who called for changes to some of the lot line rules. Most issues were quickly fixed.

Interim Town Planner, Jay Minkarah, suggested "that a sewer easement be granted for the benefit of the lot" as a stipulation for approval. Other notes included limiting construction on the weekends.

The School Street subdivision was approved overwhelmingly by the Planning Board.

Two recent site plan approvals contained a "sidewalk stipulation" 26 Atwood Avenue project and the Monument construction plan both previ-

ously approved by the Planning Board were brought into question following a memo by the Town Attorney. Board Chair, Tim Malley, mentioned a possible reconsideration of the issue, including the proposed addition of a sidewalk fund to the site plan.

"The only portion of the approval that is questionable whether it is legal, is the stipulation on the sidewalks," said Malley. "The Planning Board has never created a sidewalk fund; we don't have mechanisms for the disbursement of those funds."

"And also, we failed to specify an amount. The board would have to specify an amount if it were going to make that condition, it can't delegate," added Minkarah.

The Chair clarified that only the stipulations, not the entire site plan, would come under discussion for reconsideration and that there would be a public hearing on the matter.

"Hudson is developing, and we're sitting here every week making it develop," said Crowley. "We've got to start adding sidewalks to this town!"

The board voted to reconsider the sidewalk stipulations on both site plans and to hold a public hearing on this matter Wednesday March 13, 2023.

The board called for new regulations and the possible establishment of a sidewalk fund for Hudson. Administrative action will need to be taken to develop this policy.

The Planning Board is set to meet on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.



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Cub Scouts Hold In-Door Camp Out to Kick off Vacation



CAMP-IN TRICK Bonaparte the Magician entertained members of Cub Scout Pack 21 at the VFW Hudson Memorial Post 5791 on Friday night, Feb. 23, before scouts enjoyed a movie and settled down for their annual “Camp-In.” This gives the young scouts a way to prepare for the camp outs the older Boy Scouts participate in on a regular basis. The pack woke up on Saturday morning for a pancake and sausage breakfast. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Travel

Continued from page 1 supervisor/administrator in the traveling party must charge that expense and submit the receipt for reimbursement in accordance with this policy. Receipts covering multiple employees must include a list of the employees covered by that expense. In no case shall an employee pay for the expenses of his/her supervisor.”

Burk explained that as part of the process the superintendent would report to the board what they have going on for conferences and other professional de-

velopment, and if the board was interested in hearing their experience they could come forward after.

School Board member, Ethan Beals, asked aside from other districts doing things differently, what the motivation was for changing the policy.

“I’ve had people tell me specifically they felt physically ill having to come to the board to ask to go to a conference,” Burk said.

Burk also explained that they don’t bring other purchases back to the board that are budgeted for and that they just go through the normal budget process.

School Board member, Gary Gasdia, said he never understood why they were going to the board in the first place for the requests, but he liked the idea of people either coming back to the board after to explain what they learned, or to have the superintendent give them a report.

He also noted that there were times in the past when previous boards used travel expenses as a way to “grill” people. “I’d hate to see anyone not take advantage of it,” Gasdia said.

Beals said he doesn’t know if he will support it when it comes to a final vote.

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HUDSON SPORTS

Two Alvirne Wrestlers Take First at Meet of Champions

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Wrestling team had two of their wrestlers come away with first-place finishes at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Bedford High School.

After getting a Division II State Championship one week earlier, Shawn

Boudreau continued his winning streak to beat the best in the state for a first place win in the 215 lb.-weight-class.

Also at that competition, the New Hampshire Girl's State Championships were also being held, where Hudson's Morgan Gora battled her way to a state title in the 120 lb. weight-class.

In doing so, Gora

became the first female champion in the school's history.

All of her wins in the State Championship were by pinfalls.

Lady Bronco, Jillian Boncore, had a second-place finish in the girls' 145 lb. weight. Boncore had a fall-win in her first-round bout over Raymond's Kasey Loch, but was pinned in the finals, despite a very tough bout against Souhegan's, Isabelle Brandt.

Boudreau won his Division II State title with a 9-3 decision win over Antonio Herbert of Goffstown.

Boudreau had three wins at the MOCs, all coming from decisions. He started the day with a 5-3 victory over Patrick Vachon of Manchester Memorial, followed by a 6-2 semi-final win over Lukas Boulanger of John Stark. His weight-class finals win came with another 6-2 victory, this time over Anthony Caruso of Pinkerton Academy.

Other MOC place finishers for the Broncos team were: Logan Jacques, at 157-pounds, who took fifth-place, and Cameron Steed, a sixth-place finish at 165-pounds.

Jacques won a DII state

title, one-week prior, with a 25-16 fall win against Dylan Manley of Hollis-Brookline High School.

Steed also had a DII State Title, winning with a fall at 1:50 against Tomas Acosta of Hollis-Brookline.

Wins by Boudreau and Gora and the second place finish of Boncore qualified those three wrestlers for the New England's in Providence RI this coming weekend.

This will be the first-ever New England Interscholastic Girls' Wrestling Championship being held at the same time and place of the boys competition.

They are being held March 1 and 2 at the Providence Career and Technical Academy in Providence RI.



Morgan Gora, the first Alvirne Girls' state title, at the Meet of Champions on Saturday afternoon.



Shawn Boudreau beat the best in the state for a first place win in the 215 lb. weight-class at the MOCs on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Alvirne Boys' Basketball Drop Two Games, Head to Playoffs



Broncos junior forward, Andrew Deely, gets triple-teamed under the basket in the team's final home game of the season.

Photos by Chris Paul

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

Alvirne's boys' basketball was a bit crazy this past week with head coach Leo Gershgorin's resignation coming on Monday afternoon and Christian Patnaude taking over for Gershgorin right before Tuesday's game against Bedford. It didn't seem to matter too much to the Broncos, as they managed to battle Bedford and only lose 69-60 and then battle Goffstown Friday to a 50-49 final with Goffstown scoring the game-winner on a buzzer-beater, spoiling Alvirne's senior night.

Tuesday night, Alvirne traveled to Bedford for a matchup against Division II's second seed and a team that is poised to make a deep run in the playoffs. They managed to jump out to a 5-2 lead on the Bulldogs early on before Bedford quickly made it 7-5 and then Aiden Mills tied things up at 7-7 just over a minute and a half into the game. Bedford then attempted to pull away a bit, getting a 12-7 lead

before Gabe Conrow managed to give the Broncos a 15-14 lead with just over four minutes to play in the first quarter. Alvirne pushed that lead to 17-14 and then 23-17 before allowing the Bulldogs to go on a 7-0 run to end the first quarter up by the slimmest of margins 21-23.

In the second, Bedford would jump out to a 32-25 lead before allowing the Broncos to climb back into the game, tying it at 32-32 with just over three minutes to play in the half. Niko Badoian's three-pointer with 2:00 left in the half gave Bedford the lead back, but Alvirne re-gained the lead 36-35 with just over a minute left in the half. Alvirne took the lead into the half after each team hit a two-pointer 38-37.

The Bulldogs seemed to wake up in the third quarter, outscoring the Broncos 15-8 and taking a 52-45 lead into the game's final frame. Alvirne, if nothing else, was proving that Bedford was a beatable team. If not by them, then perhaps by someone else.

Alvirne got the game to



Christian Patnaude took over as Broncos head coach last week.

as close as a three-point game in the fourth before the Bulldogs were able to pull away and beat the Broncos 69-60.

On Friday, it was senior night for Alvirne where the Broncos celebrated their lone senior, Aiden Mills before their matchup with the Grizzlies. This game didn't mean a ton in the standings for Alvirne, as they were going to finish either ninth or tenth in the standings depending on the outcome of their game and Nashua South/Portsmouth.

Alvirne jumped out to a 15-6 lead through the first quarter of action, and they were poised to potentially have a trip to Nashua South lined up, as the Panthers beat the Clippers to lock up the eighth seed. Unfortunately for Alvirne, the Grizzlies put up 19 points to

Alvirne's 10 in the second quarter, sending the game to the half with the Grizzlies up 27-25.

The third quarter saw the lead switch hands repeatedly with Alvirne ultimately coming out on top 42-40 through three quarters. Sammy Dewitt led the way in the third quarter with five points. Alex Valenzuela and Garrett Hall added four points each and Andrew Deely had two in the third quarter. The Santos brothers, Gio and Isaiah, led the way for the Grizzlies in the third, accounting for ten total points.

In the fourth, it was more of the same story as the third quarter: back-and-forth action with the lead switching hands almost on a possession-by-possession basis. Goffstown ultimately outscored the Broncos 10-7 in the final frame with the final three points coming on a shot from Gio Santos with 1.3 seconds on the clock. Alvirne was unable to tie the game and send it to overtime, so they fell by a final score of 50-49 on senior night, dropping their record to 9-9 and solidifying a matchup against the Blackbirds in Keene on Wednesday at 5:00 PM. The winner of Keene/Alvirne will play the winner of Bedford/Manchester Central on Saturday, March 2.

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UNANTICIPATED REVENUE

Pursuant to RSA 40:14 (XI), the Hudson School Board will hold a public hearing on March 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Hills Memorial Library, 18 Library St., Hudson, NH to accept and authorize unanticipated revenue to expend grant funds.

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Girls' Basketball Drop Two, Play Grizzlies in Preliminary Round

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

Alvirne's girls' basketball finished their regular season with a pair of tough opponents with games at home against Bedford on Tuesday and on the road against Goffstown on Friday. Tuesday's home finale ended in a 74-37 Bronco loss, and Friday the Broncos made it significantly closer, falling 36-30 to the Grizzlies in a tight battle. Alvirne finishes the regular season at 9-9 and in the 11th seed in DI with another trip to Goffstown for the preliminary round on Tuesday at 6:00 PM.

On Tuesday, Division I's top-seeded Bedford Bulldogs came to town for the Lady Broncos' final home game of the season, and things did not go very well for the Broncos. Bedford took the lead with 5:26 to go in the first quarter and never looked back. The score at the end of the first quarter was 25-9 through the end of the first quarter.

For the Bulldogs, it felt like everything was going right for them in their second-to-last tune-up before the playoffs. They were able to jump out to a sizeable lead and get everyone some playing time in the first three quarters. By the end of the second quarter, Bedford was already up 48-22, and the Broncos would only be able to put up 37 total points in the game.

The third quarter saw the Bulldogs just try to get themselves comfortably over a 35-point lead and ensure that the fourth quarter would be running time throughout. By the end of the third frame, the score was 70-27.

The fourth quarter was the first one in which Alvirne outscored Bedford, ultimately putting up 10 points to Bedford's 4, but with the clock being in running time, both teams understood that the game was effectively over and were trying to wind the clock. Minimal fouls helped the fourth quarter move quickly and end with a final score of 74-37 in favor of the Bulldogs, clinching them Division I's top seed.

On Friday, Alvirne traveled to Goffstown to take on the Grizzlies in their regular season finale. This game proved to be much closer than Tuesday's matchup, but ultimately, Alvirne lost 36-30.

The Broncos started out slow in the first, falling behind 15-7 through one quarter. Goffstown was helped by a pair of three-pointers by Abaigeal Estano and another by Meredith Winterburn. On the other hand, Alvirne struggled from the field, only getting a single three-pointer from Courtney Anderson as well as four points off free throws.

Alvirne was able to



Courtney Anderson gets covered by Bedford's Lana McCarthy during the Lady Bronco final home game of the season last week. *Photos by Chris Paul*

rebound quite nicely in the second quarter, outscoring the Grizzlies 9-3 with Keeleigh Capps getting the lone field goal for Goffstown and Maggie Sasso adding a free throw while Ella Hartson accounted for 8 points and Rachael Allard added a free throw for the Broncos. Going into the halftime break, the score was 18-16.

In the third quarter, Alvirne managed to even the score up with 6:23 to play in the third, and from there, each team would put up six points, sending the

game into its final quarter with the score even at 24-24.

The fourth quarter saw the Grizzlies jump out on a 5-0 run in the first 2:40 of the frame before Lexi Floyd got her own rebound and put it up for two points. The Grizzlies then pushed their lead to 32-26 before Julia Adams added a two of her own to make it 32-28. After a Grizzly three-pointer from Winterburn, Ella Hartson hit her seventh shot from



Lady Bronco's junior forward Ella Hartson heads for the hoop and two-points during final home game of the season against the Bedford Lady Bulldogs.

the field, giving her a team-high 15 points. The final score on Friday finished at 36-30 in favor of Goffstown.

"It was a great game. Down to the wire [it] was a 3-point game with 35 seconds left. Just need to dot the I and cross the T on a few things [for Tuesday night]," said head coach Frank Girginis.

Alvirne will match up with these Grizzlies once

again on Tuesday night, once again in Goffstown. Should they win that matchup, they would move on to play the winner of Londonderry/Nashua North either in Londonderry or at Alvirne depending on the result of that game. If Londonderry beats Nashua North, the game will be in Londonderry, whereas if Nashua North pulls off the upset, the quarterfinals will be held at Alvirne.

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Merrimack Spoils Admirals' Senior Night in 1-0 Duel

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

What could be better than senior night as the final game of the regular season and a final tune-up before the playoffs? Senior night against your biggest rivals. The Admirals got just that this past Saturday as they played host to the Tomahawks in the final game of the regular season, and the last time they'd play at Skate 3 in NHIAA play until December. Unfortunately for the Admirals, the result didn't turn out how the team wanted to send off their seniors as the Tomahawks won 1-0 on the backs of a 16-save shutout by former Admiral James Brew and a powerplay goal that Will Farrell snuck by Admirals' senior netminder Trent Scarbro on the short side.

The afternoon began with all the usual festivities of senior nights. The Admirals first gave shoutouts and well-wishes to Merrimack's four active seniors and then to their own five seniors. Saturday evening was the last time the likes of Captain Cedrik Beaulieu, Assistant Captain Cade Bouchard, fan-favorite Cory Tomkins, hard-hitting James Nemeth, and electric netminder Trent Scarbro would ever skate on home ice at Skate 3, with this

seeming like the final home game for every one of this year's seniors, as none have committed to play college hockey yet.

Once the celebrations ended and the puck was dropped, it was clear that Merrimack was not the same team the Admirals played at West Side Arena on January 6. This Merrimack team lost Brayden Guagliumi to juniors and senior Eliot Medlock to a suspension. The Admirals controlled play early on and it seemed like it was only a matter of time until they beat their former goaltender and got the scoring going. Until the penalties kicked in, that is.

Alvirne-Milford has been plagued with penalty trouble throughout the season, some of it being of their own doing thanks to their physical, hard-hitting style of hockey, and part of it being because of some questionable officiating. Saturday was a case of the latter with Merrimack getting six powerplays to Alvirne-Milford's two, including three extended 5-on-3 opportunities for Merrimack and a slashing double-minor call on Bryce Larco.

The first period was as evenly matched as it gets between the two sides with



Assistant Captain Cade Bouchard
Courtesy of Luca DeRosa

the Admirals getting five shots on goal and the Tomahawks having six. Arguably, Alvirne-Milford had better scoring chances but Merrimack had the one extra shot. Going into the second period even, the Admirals felt good about their chances. They had battled the top team in DII to a scoreless first period. Mission accomplished. Now it was time to get on the scoreboard.

Early in the second period, Braydon Atwood would be the second Admiral to skate to the penalty bench in the game, setting up the first two-minute 5-on-3 opportunity for the Tomahawks on the night. Fortunately, despite having four shots on the powerplay, the Admirals were able to kill both penalties and get back to 5-on-5.

Landon Briand was the next Admiral to sit, his penalty was for interference on a hit on Noah Khan that

the puck was fresh off Khan's stick. The second penalty of the night that shouldn't have been called, and the third minor, as Larco's had been a double-minor. Ryan Ricard would join him 24 seconds later setting up 1:36 of 5-on-3. This one was undoubtedly a penalty, and it was the fifth call on the Admirals in the first 20:30 of the game. The first penalty on Merrimack didn't come until there was 2:39 to play in the second period. Alvirne-Milford was unable to capitalize on their man advantage, but Merrimack was yet to do so, as well, and the score through two periods remained right where it started: 0-0. Merrimack was heavily out-shooting Alvirne-Milford 19-9, but Trent Scarbro was playing like he never wanted to lose another game in his life as he kept the Tomahawks off the board.

Just over a minute into the third period, James Nemeth was called for interference when no such thing existed, sending the Admirals to the box for a sixth time. It was on this penalty that Will Farrell got the lone tally of the night, beating Scarbro over his left shoulder and giving the Tomahawks an eventual 1-0 win over their rivals.

With 9:23 to play, the Tomahawks got their third

5-on-3 opportunity, this one sending James Nemeth to the box for a boarding major with a 10-minute misconduct and Bryce Larco joined him for roughing after the initial hit. Alvirne-Milford killed off both of these penalties, moving their PK for the night to 87.5%. They would get one more kill on the night moving their penalty kill to 8/9, good for 88.9%. In one game. Most teams don't see nine penalties in a week, yet this was the third time Alvirne-Milford had that in a game this season. The second with Greg Lenti as the head official.

"He cost us the game. Probably the worst official I've ever seen," said Admirals' head coach Dave Thibeault. "You'd think on senior night he'd give us a break. Hard to win when they send you to the box 9 times."

Alvirne-Milford will take the week to prepare for their first-round playoff matchup at Phillips Exeter Academy against the Winnacunnet Warriors, a team that beat the Admirals in that very building 4-2 back on January 27. Puck drop in Exeter will be at 6:00 PM as the Admirals look to make their first appearance in the final four in team history, and Alvirne's first since their run to the Division III finals in 2011-12.

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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.

Lions Scholarships

The Hudson Lions Club will be awarding four general individual \$1,000 scholarships to graduating High School Seniors and one individual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Senior who is a member of the Alvirne Leo's Club. Applicants must be a Hudson NH resident. Applications may be obtained at the Alvirne Guidance Office or email: DGRoger@comcast.net. Applications are due by April 12.

Honk Musical

Class Act and the Alvirne High School Music department are getting ready to present Honk, a musical tale of the Ugly Duckling. Show times: April 12 at 6:30 p.m., April 13 at 1 p.m. & 6:30

p.m. Students \$10, Adults \$15. To purchase tickets go to <https://alvirneclassact.ludus.com>

Easter Basket Drive

On Saturday, March 2 at the Dollar Tree, Derry Rd., Hudson, from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Hudson Lions Club will be seeking donations for the Hudson Community Food Pantry to fill Easter Baskets for Kids. Candy, Kids toys, stuffed animals, bubble blowing, coloring books, Crayons, paint set, stickers, jump rope are suggestions. Monetary Donations are also accepted.

Hudson Girls Softball League

Tryouts for Hudson Girls Softball League will be held at Hudson Memorial School's Gym, on Saturday, Feb., 24

from 4 - 6 p.m., Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m. - noon, and Saturday, March 23, from 2 - 4 p.m. Divisions 6U-14U are encouraged to attend! TRYOUTS! Tryouts are held to evaluate the skill level of players to ensure teams are as evenly matched as possible. Every player will make a team. Any NEW player (8U or older) or player wishing to advance a division must attend tryouts. Early advancement is not guaranteed. If you have questions prior to registration, please contact us at playhgs1@gmail.com. Interested in sponsoring a team? Contact Meg Radziewicz at hgs1.fundraising@gmail.com or go to www.hgs1nh.com (Returning players are not required to attend tryouts unless they wish to advance to a higher

division.)

Bensons Hike

On Friday, March 1, Rodgers Memorial Library will host a hike at 9:30 a.m. It will be an hour hike exploring the trails at Benson's Park. The group will meet at the Gorilla Cage at 9:15 a.m. Please dress for the weather as the hike will go rain or shine.

Maple Weekend is Coming

Londonderry's Peterson Sugarhouse, 28 Peabody Row Londonderry, will be open for visitors March 16 - 17, from noon - 4 p.m., for NH Annual Maple Weekend. Their evaporators will be going, pure local NH maple syrup in all sizes as well as their homemade maple pecans and maple candy for sale. Of course, there'll be Free Samples of delicious ice cream w/ maple syrup drizzled on top for everyone.

Elementary Craft

On Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m., students in grades K-5 are invited to make a rainbow collage with oil pastels and watercolors at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Dungeons & Donuts

Looking for people to play Dungeons & Dragons with? Come to Rodgers Memorial Library to play and grab a donut, on Saturday, March 2 and 16, at 9:30 a.m.

Tween Mario Kart

On Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m., come eat snacks and play Mario Kart at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Live Zentangle Class Series

On Thursday, March 7, 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m., join Diane MacKinnon for a 3-class series that will result in a beautiful spring wreath, created by you, and ready for framing at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Rodgers Readers

On Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m., discuss "The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President - and Why It Failed" by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch at the Rodgers Library.

Fire Outreach

Hudson Fire Department

will be at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, on March 5 for the Fire Departments Community Outreach with Steve Dube at 10 a.m., in the Function Room. Coffee will be served.

Genealogy Club

On Friday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m., join genealogist, speaker, and educator Katherine Wilson as she goes over free available resources for beginning online research in any of our immigrant ancestors' home countries at Rodgers Memorial Library.

Crime and Cookies

This True Crime Podcast Club will be held on Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m., at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Join and discuss this month's listen while enjoying a tasty dessert.

Read 'Em and Eat at T-Bones

Come to T-Bones to discuss books over good food and drinks on Monday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m. March's book is "One Of Us Is Lying" by Karen M. McManus.

continued on page 14

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

Characters & Cocoa

On Thursday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m., Rodgers Memorial Library will host this new monthly group for writers to socialize and talk about the craft. The emphasis will be more on discussion than workshopping. Hot chocolate will be served.

Five Scholarships

The Hudson Lions Club will be awarding four general individual \$1,000 scholarships to graduating High School Seniors and one individual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Senior who is a member of the Alvirne Leo's Club. Applicants must be a Hudson NH resident. Applications may be obtained at the Alvirne Guidance Office or email: DGRoger@com-

cast.net. Applications are due by April 12.

Teen Hangout

On Tuesdays and Thursdays in March at 2:30 p.m., the Rodgers Memorial Library will have a Teens only time for snacking, playing board games and video games, doing crafts after school, and just hanging out. Ages 13-18 only.

Stitchers' Circle

On Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m., come and Stitch/cross stitch, blackwork, embroider, knit, crochet, hand craft, at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Not a formal class, but people willing to help.

Book Donation Dates

The Friends of the Library of Hudson will hold a book donation day each

month at Rodgers Memorial Library. It's the Thursday immediately following Second Hand Prose (SHP). Upcoming dates are: Feb. 15. All day (9 a.m. - 9 p.m.). Books are dropped off in the library to a study room. Do not use the donation bin in the parking lot - the bin donations do not go to the friends.

Candy Poker

On Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library for a monthly game of Texas Hold' Em poker. Play for candy and take your winnings home. Beginners welcome.

Spring Storytime

On Saturday, March 30, at 10 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library for songs, stories, dancing, and bubbles that will have the

Continued on page 15

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Aviation Museum to Hold Volunteer Open House

Learn how you can help a museum/educational non-profit make a difference, and have fun doing it

Would you like to be part of a community of people who enjoy airplanes and aviation? Would you like to make a difference, help a good cause and have fun doing it?

Then you're invited to attend the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire's upcoming volunteer open house, scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

At the museum's volunteer open house, you'll meet

current volunteers and learn about the many ways to help the Aviation Museum carry out its mission.

The Aviation Museum, based in the 1937 art deco passenger terminal at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, is dedicated to preserving the Granite State's rich aviation past, and also inspiring today's students to become the aerospace pioneers of tomorrow.

The open house will take place at the museum, which is located at 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry.

"As a non-profit, we depend on volunteers to

carry out our mission, so everyone has the potential to make a big difference," said Jeff Rapsis, the Aviation Museum's executive director.

"The young person who visits the Aviation Museum today could be the aerospace achiever of tomorrow, and volunteer interaction is how that happens," Rapsis said.

If you plan to attend, please call (603) 669-4877 and leave a message with your name, or send an e-mail to Leah Dearborn at ldearborn@nhahs.org.

For the museum's main

exhibit floor, volunteers greet guests at the front desk, lead tours, and help staff the gift shop.

For the education outreach program, volunteers help inspire young people of all ages about the physics of flight and the wonders of aviation.

For the museum's historical archive, volunteers help evaluate donations, catalog items, and help researchers.

For administration, volunteers help with memberships, fundraising, communications, and building maintenance.

Technically-minded volunteers help with the museum's IT systems; those with aviation experience manage the museum's Elite Flight Simulator, although anyone can be trained to operate it.

Those with mechanical or engineering experience may be interested in helping the Aviation Museum's innovative student plane-build partnership with three N.H. high schools in Manchester, Lebanon, and Farmington.

Volunteers are also needed to help with special events year round, such as

the Aviation Museum's annual car show, fundraising gala, and more.

"Volunteering at the Aviation Museum is a rewarding way to give back to the community, and help light the spark of aviation in people young and old," Rapsis said.

For more information about volunteering at the Aviation Museum, visit www.aviationmuseumofnh.org or call (603) 669-4820. Follow the Aviation Museum on social media at www.facebook.com/nhahs.

Around Town

Continued from page 14
whole family moving and grooving.

Cookbook Club

On Tuesday, March 12 at 11:30 p.m., prepare a recipe from this month's topic, Ottolenghi Simple, then engage with others about your recipe adventures at Rodgers Memorial Library.

Starry Messenge

On Wednesday, March 27, at 6 p.m. The Starry Messenger, presented by Michael Francis, a dramatic fun-filled adaptation of Galileo's short treatise "Sidereus Nuncius," will be held at Rodgers Memorial Library. Come to the Library as Galileo (dressed in 17th-century costume) arrives to present a public lecture on his most recent discoveries made using his newly-devised spyglass.

Preparing for Spring Planting

On Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m., Rodgers Memorial Library circulation Librarian Dana Benner will discuss what you should be doing now so everything goes smoothly when the time comes to get your garden planted.

PFOA Water Test

You can request a water

sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey (surveymonkey.com) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov, Phone: 603.271.8801

Pokemon Party

On Thursday, March 14 at 6 p.m., grades 1-5 are invited to come watch Detective Pikachu, design your own Pokemon card, and enjoy a snack at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, March 19 at 1:30 p.m., join the Rodgers Memorial Library the third Tuesday of every month for an in-depth discussion of quality best-selling fiction and nonfiction books including biographies. This month's book: "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult.

Mystery Lovers Book Club

On Monday, March 18 at 1 p.m., murder, mystery and mayhem all in one place, also laugh....a lot at the Rodgers Memorial Library. This month's book pick is "The Verifiers" by Jane Pek.

Access Wisdom Book Club

On Thursday, March 14

at 7:30 p.m., certified life coach Diane MacKinnon leads a book club highlighting books that help us all gain more access to our own wisdom at Rodgers Memorial Library. This month's book is: Young Forever: The Secrets to Living Your Longest, Healthiest Life by Dr. Mark Hyman.

Tween Spring Snack Bonanza

On Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m., for grades 4-8, make a few fun spring themed snacks at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Curious Kids

On Fridays in March and Saturday, at 10 a.m., explore learning centers with your preschooler with a different theme each week at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Adventurers Storytime

On Tuesdays in March at 10 a.m., join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Memorial Library. This event is for ages 3-5. There will be a different theme each week. Caretaker participates with their child or children. Children should be able to sit through a story. Siblings welcome.

Friends of the Library Meeting

On Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m., The Friends of the

Library of Hudson, NH, will hold their regular business meeting. Everyone is welcome.

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 A) low-income, and B) living in our Greater Nashua catchment 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. Please email info@unitedwaynashua.org if you have any questions.

Drop In Stitchers

Come to the Rodgers Memorial Library every Friday at 9:15 a.m. for this craft group. If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knit-

ting, crocheting, rug making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this group! If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just like to chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone.

Dino the Therapy Dog

Every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., come meet Dino, the therapy dog at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to make new friends.

Movers & Shakers

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. there will be a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3. Registration is required. Please indicate how many will attend including adults, infants, and siblings. Caretaker participates.

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.

Songs & Snuggles

On Thursdays in March at 10 a.m., enjoy time together with other caregivers and their babies to learn, play, and develop language and motor skills at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Crocheting with Linda

On Tuesdays in March at 5:30 p.m., the Rodgers Memorial Library will host a four weeks series with an amigurumi project. This is not a beginner class, and you will need to purchase your own supplies. A list will be sent out to all registrants two weeks before the first class.

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