

# THE Hudson Times

March 28, 2024 ♦ Volume 2 – Issue 13

A FREE Weekly Publication



**GETTING READY** Patches of snow are still lingering after last weekend's storm, and the Benson Park Committee prepares for a new season of visitors. See story below and page 8.  
*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Benson Park Committee Plan For Events, See Member Resign

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

Benson Park Committee members had John Leone announce he would need to step down from his position during the groups March 21 meeting.

"I regretfully need to submit my resignation to the Benson Park Committee after serving a dozen or so years," said Leone. "For better or worse, I've moved

out of Hudson, and I understand that's a requirement to be on the Committee, I will follow up with an email to make it official."

Leone remains a member of the Friends of Benson Park organization, and he promised to stay active in park affairs. Leone often served as a liaison between the nonprofit group and the Committee.

"I appreciate the work

you've done," said Committee Chair, Jack Madden. "You have been an invaluable addition to the team."

Sue Clement was at the meeting as the Adopt-a-Spot Coordinator with proposed changes to the application progress to Adopt-a-Spot.

"As of last year, the paperwork I've seen is outdated," said Clement. "I

**continued on page 2**

## Maureen Dionne Takes Role of Chair of the School Board

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board held its annual reorganization meeting on March 18, which included the swearing in of its newest School Board member, Grace Kennedy.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Maureen Dionne was quickly selected as the Chair of the School Board. She previously served as the Vice Chair.

Selected as the School Board's Vice Chair was Mike Campbell, who was also elected unanimously by the rest of the Board.

Also during the meeting, the School Board decided on some of its com-

mittee positions.

One of the committees was for the negotiation committee for the Teachers Union contract. Campbell was selected, with one opening. He was also picked to be on the negotiations committee for the District Secretaries union, with one opening.

Dionne and School Board member, Ethan Beals, will both be continuing on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Representing the School Board on the Policy Committee, will be Dionne and Kennedy.

Beals and Dionne will be representing the School Board on the Capital Im-

provement Committee.

No decision was made on who would be on the budget Committee.

"We'll bring that back for discussion," Dionne said.

For the Alvirne Trustees, Campbell said he would continue as the liaison with School Board member, Gary Gasdia, as an alternate. Gasdia will also be continuing as the Board of Selectmen liaison. He will also be the liaison for the Cable Utility Company committee.

Representing the School Board for the Diversity, Equity & inclusion meeting will be Beals and Kennedy.

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## School District Accept SAFE Grant For Security Upgrades

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the March 18 Hudson School Board meeting, the Board held a public hearing in order for the School District to accept unanticipated funds.

It was explained in a memo to the School Board that a public hearing was required by RSA if they are looking to accept \$20,000 or more in unanticipated funds.

"The District is being awarded a grant from the State through the SAFE (Security Action for Education) program which will be used for the purposes of updating the camera system at Alvirne High School," a memo to the School Board read.

No one from the public

spoke during the public hearing and the School Board unanimously approved the unanticipated funds.

The grant funding is for \$100,000.

Also during the meeting, the School Board approved a travel request.

"I am writing to you on the behalf of Jeanne Schratwieser, one of our earth science teachers at Alvirne High School," Science Department Chair, Alex Wetmore, wrote in a memo to the School Board. "I am requesting permission for the approval of professional development for Jeanne to attend the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) national conference in Denver, CO."

Wetmore said the con-

ference would be taking place later that week, and that the cost for the conference for two days would be \$390, which would be paid for with "Alvirne professional development workshop funds."

"The travel and lodging are being covered by the teacher. Joyce Wise has approved the funds for this conference," Wetmore wrote. Wetmore said the conference "is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to collaborate and connect with science teachers from all across the country and the world."

"The presentations and information gained from these national conferences can bring new and exciting ideas to curriculum devel-

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ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The next School Board meeting is slated to take place on April 1.

The Benson Park Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

# THUMBS UP- THUMBS DOWN-

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# Conservation Map Out Strategies for Robinson Pond

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on March 11 to discuss what to do with recent income to the Forestry Fund from recent stumpage at Rangers Town Forest.

"Any summertime projects, we can start looking at those like tree planting or invasive species control," suggested Commission Chair, William Collins.

The next Trail Work Day is still scheduled for Sunday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, as Commission members looked towards an April work day with the expected

spring weather.

"The weather is getting warmer," said Collins. "Sunday mornings seem to work for everybody. 'I was thinking we could do a little more work at Musquash.'"

The April Trail Work Day was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Commission Secretary, Ken Dickinson, continued with work to update the town's GIS map, with particular focus on privately owned, undeveloped land around the northern side of Robinson Pond.

"I think there's at least five parcels that are fairly

sizable, at least 15 acres apiece. If you link them all together, you protect more of the watershed going into Robinson Pond," said Dickinson. "It's probably worth contacting those landowners to see what they're planning on doing or to see if we can get any type of correspondence with them."

He raised the possibility of inviting the owners to a future meeting to work something out regarding preservation and to see what their long-term plans were. The Chair also promised to write to landowners around the Musquash Conservation Area.

"In a lot of these parcels, wetland dominates, and that's probably why it's not developed," Dickinson explained. "Which is a good thing from a watershed preservation standpoint, you've already got all the problems with Robinson Pond with all the septic systems around it and drainage going into the pond."

There have been several cyanobacteria warnings issued for Robinson Pond in recent years during warmer months.

"It makes sense to get people together to understand the value of preservation over there," said Dick-

inson. "

Commissioners floated the idea of buying the land for direct preservation if funding became available and the owners expressed interest. The Conservation fund has around \$480,000.

"Obviously, some people might not want to sell right now. Would an interim thing be to offer them some sort of rebate? Like a tax rebate? If they did certain things so that we don't have more chemicals going into the water?" asked Alternate Commissioner, Linda Krisciunas.

The Chair stated that while the Conservation Commission has no authori-

ty around taxation, landowners only pay a minimal property tax on undeveloped land over ten acres under NH's "current use" law.

"If they want to put a subdivision on that land, they would take it out of current use and pay the town a penalty," said Collins. "That pond is a great recreational spot for the community, and it's a shame that for the past couple of summers, we haven't really been able to utilize it."

The Hudson Conservation Commission is scheduled to meet again on April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

# School Board Discuss Using App For District's Buses

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board discussed the potential of using a bus app for the district's school buses, during its March 11 meeting.

School Board Chair, Gretchen Whiting, explained that potentially having a school bus app is something that she heard about from various people and she

wanted to discuss it publicly. "I wanted to make sure it was an agenda item," she said. Superintendent, Dan Moulis, explained that there had been some information gathered about the FirstView App. Moulis said one of the things they learned is that someone could use it even if they don't have a student in the district. "It's publicly avail-

able so anyone could follow the bus routes in the town if you go with this," he said. He explained that the concern is that it could be publicly accessible by anyone, and that himself and others on the Administration team are concerned with using it. Moulis explained that they recently had a senior leadership team meeting and "Unani-

mously the principals and the administration... were very hesitant and cautious," about using the app.

He said at the elementary and middle school level, they didn't feel comfortable with the security risks. "There was even that concern at the high school level," Moulis said.

One question raised by School Board member, Gary Gasdia, was if there were any surrounding towns that use the app already. He added that people asked them about it, but they don't know for sure if other towns use it, it's something he would want to learn more about and how the other districts feel about it, who use the app. Gasdia said the risks that are associated with it are one ele-

ment to it, and the other element is whether or not the app would help with anything.

Moulis said he would look into what other school

districts do and let the School Board know what he finds.

The next Hudson School Board meeting is set to take place on April 1.

## School Board

Continued from page 1

Superintendent, Dan Moulis, suggested adding a new committee, which would be a Communications Committee.

"It's something we had in my prior district as an advisory committee," he said.

The School Board agreed to add it as a committee.

It was noted by Dionne that they would fill the rest of the committee positions at a future meeting.

Dionne also noted they reached out to the NH School Board Association for TA training, noting that

they are going to try to schedule it in the coming weeks.

She said they haven't done it for two years and with a new School Board member, she thinks that it would be beneficial to have training.

"I think the feedback is that we found [the training] helpful," Dionne said.

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## Editorial Finally Here

The first day of spring was March 18th, and so far spring really is living up to its age-old theme of rebirth this year.

It's hard to have negative feelings when the peepers start calling, the leaves start to show, the early flowers are in bloom, the birds are back, baseball is on the radio or TV, and the sky is a brilliant blue.

We've had a good run so far this year with a mild and short winter, a spring without floods, and it would be a good bet that many of our readers spent in their yards and gardens on those warmer days.

We've been more fortunate than others across the country, even here in the state, where floods have impacted major cities, snowstorms have been heavy, and schools have been cancelled routinely for bad weather. It's not just in our country that the weather patterns can be cruel. It seems like the last 2 years we have had a strange weather patterns, not good or bad, just different.

In that spirit, it's a good time of year to turn over the proverbial new leaf, and

pursue something you haven't tried before. This could range from a new vegetable or flower to grow, to a decision like volunteering in your community by serving on a committee or helping out a nonprofit. Perhaps learn a new sport, or visit someplace different. Many of us think nothing of traveling far away to see the sights, but there are plenty of places to visit close to home that invite us to learn more about the place we have chosen to live.

Consider the Londonderry and Hudson Historical Societies, the Rail Trails and Towns Conservation lands that open up natural areas that often are literally in our own backyard, or the historical museums that each of our towns offer that help explain the past.

Look at spring and its welcoming weather that invites us outdoors as a doorway to all kinds of things new as well as an excuse to sit on a lawn chair and relax in the sun.

The winter may not have been long but it was cold, and we are more than ready for the warmth of this new season.

## Cold and Flu Season Hits Library Staff More than Usual

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

Director of the Rodgers Memorial Library, Linda Pilla, described what she called an "odd" start of the year for the library at the March 20 Trustee meeting. Specifically, she noted that participation in library programs was higher than normal, even as staff members suffered "almost three times the amount" of sick leave compared to the start of 2023.

"We're dealing with some unexpected health issues the staff is dealing with, from a statistical point of view, what we're dealing with this year has been an anomaly," said Pilla. "One of the biggest challenges is dealing with some unexpected health issues that the staff is going through."

Members of the Rodgers Memorial IT staff have been doubling up to cover some of the front desk positions in the library. The Director emphasized how important this effort was and how it allowed her to keep library programs running normally, despite the staff shortage.

"You can see how popular the children's programming is with the numbers, our book groups are fantastic, and I attended an online meeting for the wrap-up of the NH Big Read and what the surveys revealed about the people who participated in the Big Read is that they felt more connected to their community and connected to other people. In the library, services have to adjust," Pilla explained. "It is a challenge to cover multiple absences, but the library staff are just amazing. We just keep on keeping on."

Pilla also contributed to alleviating the shortage by cataloging. There are no trained substitutes available to fill staff shortages. Many of the part-times from IT were already familiar with Rodger Memorial's software system.

Library Trustees looked to fix an issue over the acceptable use policy for the old Hills Memorial building. Bohrer wanted to know why the Trustees never saw any requests to use the building, something typically handled by the School Board.

"Because of a requirement to provide a service rider, most private parties don't press through with a request to use the building, that and there are no kitchen facilities," said Pilla. "That and there's no space, you can't have a party here."

The Director noted that there were some inconsistencies with the approval process.

"We have the right to approve or deny, a library employee may have to open the build, that's in the acceptable use policy too, but then we don't even know who applies, because the application goes to the Hudson School District," said Treasurer, Karen Bohrer.

Trustee Chair, Mimi Guessferd, agreed that more clarification was needed and that the Board should look into the Hills policy to see what changes they needed to make.

The Library Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m. in the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## Nutfield Publishing Will Not Print a Paper on April 11.

Nutfield Publishing will not be printing newspapers on April 11. The publisher will be taking a one-week break. Newspaper publishing will resume on Thursday, April 18. We thank our readers for their understanding.

## THE Hudson Times

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For more information, please contact Sergeant Flynn via email. [mflynn@hudsonnh.gov](mailto:mflynn@hudsonnh.gov)

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# Library Trustees Welcome New Members to First Meeting

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Library Board of Trustees welcomed its two new permanent Trustees, Lisa Weber and Margaret St. Onge, at the Board's official meeting of a new term on March 20.

"I am thrilled to be here and excited to continue to participate in so many library programs, and I hope everybody else does as well," said St. Onge.

"Thank you to everyone who voted for Margaret and I. I'm very excited also to be a Trustee, I've never been on a board before so I'm very excited to learn,"

said Weber.

The Board moved to elect new officers, as Mimi Guessford was chosen for another term as Chair, with Erin Henderson as Vice Chair, and Karen Bohrer as Treasurer, all unanimously.

Guessford went through the 2024 calendar to determine whether the Trustees needed to change their meeting schedule. Board meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of every month, although that date ran into some problems.

"The third Wednesday of June is Juneteenth," noted Guessford. "Do we want to move it forward?"

Library Director, Linda Pilla, agreed that they should the June meeting up to avoid the holiday and to have a meeting well before the end of Hudson's financial year on June 30. The May meeting was also moved up for personal reasons, while there will be no meeting in July.

All Trustees, especially the new members, were invited to the upcoming NH Library Trustees Association (NHLTA) Concord Conference on June 15.

"I always really enjoy it, I go every year to meet other trustees and look at everything from a new

point of view with a day where everybody can do workshops together," said Pilla, who encouraged the other members to use available NHLTA resources whenever possible. "It's just a nice start for Trustees."

"For our newly elected Trustees the orientation that the organization does in Concord is great," added Bohrer. "I would encourage them to attend, if possible, in person."

Friends of Rogers Memorial Library announced their support for several ongoing programs, including the NH Museum Passes and the summer reading

program in their report to the Trustees. The Friends also report success for their donation events and monthly book sales.

"They had a stupendous turnout at their last Second Hand Prose sale," said Pilla. "Everybody's got it figured out, and the quality of donated books has been outstanding."

Their Second Hand Prose sale takes place on the second Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the lower level of the Hills Memorial Library. Books donation events take place on the Thursday after each book sale.

"Thank you to the Friends for everything they do for us, it's very much appreciated!" said Guessford.

The roof of the Hills Memorial Library has stabilized, with no new leaks after temporary repairs. With no danger of catastrophic failure, dryer weather expected over the next couple of months, and no immediate solution for a long-term restoration, the Trustees voted to temporarily table further discussion of the Hills' roof.

"I think it's reasonable to table it until we have something more," said Henderson.

# Chagnon Lane Property Granted Storage Exemption

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Feb. 22 meeting of the Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment opened with a public hearing from Tom Golembeski, who was asking for an Equitable Waiver on a shed at 1 Chagnon Lane. The main issue was that the 280 square-foot storage structure is in violation of zoning regulations stating any comparable shed must be in the back or side of a property, away from main roads.

"We've had a shed there since 2008, and we replaced it because the old one was

rotting out and falling down," said Golembeski. "The way our house is on the lot, there's actually not many places to put it. In the backyard is a septic system that goes within ten feet of the property line. We don't have any room in the side-yard where there's a hill where it's all rocky."

He noted that much of the property was uneven and covered in trees, factors that would make moving the shed difficult and expensive.

"I put the shed in a little gully and behind a row of trees along the road there, so it's hard, it's pretty well

hidden most of the year," Golembeski added. "We'd like to leave it there, and to move it would be pretty close to impossible."

The shed is used as needed, typically around once per month.

"Equitable waivers are dimensional requirements, why wouldn't this require a variance?" asked ZBA Vice Chair, Norm Martin.

As a rule, the placement of a restricted building would usually be covered by a variance request. Zoning Administrator, Chris Sullivan, favored a waiver due to the age of the structure.

"No one caught it, I'm not going to make somebody try to get a variance on something that's been there forever," said Zoning Administrator, Chris Sullivan.

Unlike a variance request, special exemptions do not include a stricter undue hardship requirement and are typically applicable to older, nonconforming structures. No members of the public had anything to say about the application.

"I'll vote in favor of the exemption because it was discovered too late: it's

been there for years, said ZBA member, Tim Lanphear. "It's an innocent mistake, it's done, and it's not causing a nuisance for anyone in the neighborhood or anything."

Board member, Dean Sakati, agreed with his colleague, noting that "correction costs would be expensive and impractical" for Golembeski, adding that the shed "clearly isn't a nuisance since nobody came here to complain, and it doesn't seem like anyone has heard any complaints."

ZBA Chair, Gary Dad-

dario, even questioned whether a small storage shed "could rise to the level of a nuisance from a legal perspective." The issue of a shed on the wrong part of a property has been a common matter for the Board.

With little debate, the ZBA unanimously voted to grant the requested Equitable Waiver.

The next regular meeting of the Hudson Zoning Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

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# Highland Property Owner Looks to Proceed with Wetland Restoration

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board met on March 13 to discuss a conditional use permit for a wetland restoration plan and setback waiver at 78 Highland Street. Wetland Scientist, Steven Riker, from Haley Ward was at the meeting to present the restoration plan on behalf of the property owner, Christine Floyd.

"The plan set proposed to remove fill located within the wetland and buffer. The plan will fully restore the wetland to be compliant with the zoning ordinance," said Riker.

Floyd's application comes in response to a notice of violation related to the filling of the wetland back in 2017.

"Once this gets approved, we need to go to court and make sure they approve it," said Floyd, who was hoping to wrap up a long legal process with her plan.

"What is the proposed completion date of required earthwork, seeding, and vegetation planting aspects of the wetland restoration?" asked Board member, James Crowley.

He was informed there is no completion date yet. Riker hoped to get approval

from the Planning Board and Superior Court before making any estimates. Initially, she had hoped to start in October 2021.

The Planning Board unanimously voted to approve the restoration plan, with Vice Chair, Jordan Ulery, emphasizing it would be "subject to final administrative review" by the Town Planner, Town Engineer, Board of Selectmen, and Town Attorney.

Floyd also hoped for a waiver to extend a gravel driveway to gain access to the back of her property. The extension would go through the wetland buffer,

possibly causing more legal trouble without the waiver.

"It's not even a driveway, off my driveway is a rock area we use to get to the garage," she explained, calling the extension "the only way to get the fill out" to enact the restoration plan.

Her gravel path is already in place and goes toward the backyard.

"There's no plan on paving it or doing anything like that?" Board member, Victor Oates, asked.

The property owner confirmed she had no intention of paving anything, leading to a generalized dis-

cussion over what counts as a "driveway" in Hudson.

"I see all over town, instead of having grass, people want to park their boats or trailers on rocks. Is that considered making a driveway? Because I'm putting rocks into my backyard?" Oates wondered.

After looking at the situation, he wondered whether a small gravel extension needed a waiver at the Highland property.

There was some confusion over whether some of the paperwork was outdated. Floyd indicated her extension had recently been moved in ways not reflected

on her paperwork to the Planning Board.

"If you've removed this driveway, and you are comfortable and confident of that, you don't need an application and can withdraw it," said Chair, Tim Malley.

No vote was needed after the property owner withdrew the waiver, although she was advised to make sure it did not cross the setback line during a future inspection.

The Hudson Planning Board is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

# Gretchen Whiting Recognized During Final Board Meeting

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the March 11 School Board meeting, Superintendent, Dan Moulis, recognized School Board member, Gretchen Whiting, for her years of service on the School Board.

"It is my pleasure to recognize Gretchen Whiting and her years of service to the School Board," Moulis said.

Whiting, who was finishing her second term on the School Board and served as Board Chair, initially was not on the ballot, but decided to run a write-in campaign.

"In my two years working with Gretchen, it's truly been a privilege to work with her," Moulis said.

He said they would have weekly conversations "in which I value her expertise and business acumen that she brings to the school district."

Moulis also noted that she served on different committees and would often attend events during her time on the School Board.

"Gretchen's commitment to the students, teachers, staff, and families is unwavering and the district has been fortunate to have Ms. Whiting as a School

Board member," Moulis said.

School Board member, Mike Campbell, during Board comments, said "I just wanted to thank Gretchen for all her time on the Board. I enjoyed both- ering you, I enjoyed working with you on negotiations and just a thank you for all your time."

School Board member, Gary Gasdia, said, "We've been together a long time... in the event that this is your last meeting it's been an absolute pleasure, I've enjoyed all of our discussions bouncing ideas off of you at many different

times, you've always been a great sounding board for me."

Vice Chair, Maureen Dionne, and School Board member, Ethan Beals, also agreed with the comments made.

"It's been a sincere pleasure serving as your Vice Chair," Dionne said.

Also during the meeting, the School Board approved a number of different hires for spring sports.

For Alvirne High School, it includes Adam Dufault, Unified Track Coach, Andrew Rush, and Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse Coach, Janessa Fletcher.

For Hudson Memorial School, the Board approved hiring Baseball Coach, Jeffrey Nichols, and Boys Track Coach, Erron Hubbell.

The School Board also approved a transfer request

for the Palmer Center.

The request was from the Farm Revolving Supplies account to the Farm Revolving Repairs and Maintenance account.

The budget transfer was \$7,680.98.

"So that transfer needs to be brought forward to the Board for approval," Moulis told the School Board during the meeting.

The next School Board meeting is set for April 1.

## SAFE

Continued from page 1  
oment," Wetmore wrote in a memo.

"Teachers gain knowledge about potential new classes, implementing curriculum, and new ways to engage students in science.

As an earth science teacher, Jeanne would be able to bring new and exciting ideas to our PLC and our students."

School Board members, Ethan Beals and Gary Gasdia, both said they didn't think employees should be paying for their airfare

for professional development, but Business Administrator, Jen Burk, said she looked into it and they told her they were using their points.

The next School Board meeting is slated to take place on April 1.

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# Jasper Tells Farmers They Can Reapply for \$8M in Grants Due To Weather Losses

PAULA TRACY  
INDEPTHNH.ORG

CONCORD - About 60 farmers from across the state left their fields and went online Wednesday hoping to get information about the \$8 million in grants to be distributed after losses from weather events in 2023.

They were told the program was never envisioned as an income replacement program and differs tremendously from a draft bill that was killed which looked at gross losses. They were also told that if they failed to provide all the details to be considered for a grant that disappointed them, they can still add that information.

What the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture Markets and Food calls a "net loss" program <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/index.htm> has been met with complaints and concerns from farmers who said they were hoping for a bit more help.

At least \$16 million was lost, particularly for apple farmers and other fruit growers due to unprecedented freeze and flood events in 2023, according to a voluntary survey.

Agriculture Commissioner Shawn Jasper said the roughly 15 farms that have already applied for the money and may have received an award can go back and add information in Box 19 of the application to further explain their circumstances and may receive a grant adjustment with the deadline of May 15.

He also gave out his cell phone number and said he is the one who would make the final call on the awards after hearing from a lot of

farmers disappointed with the roll out of the program that began March 1.

Jasper said his first call came not from a farmer, but from Gov. Chris Sununu who was hearing from farmers that they did not like the program.

He said much of the misconceptions about it were based on thinking it is a replacement for a bill that was going forward in the legislature which as initially drafted looked at "gross" losses.

Jasper said the plan is to help the neediest first, not those who turned a profit in spite of the weather events.

That bill, Senate Bill 348 is now "gone" Jasper told the farmers during the webinar and it has been replaced with this grant program using federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars instead of state money which will offer relief sooner than limited state money and legislation could.

In the two-hour educational question and answer session moderated by the NH Cooperative Extension, farmer Stephen Wood said he thinks this whole thing is "a fishing expedition" to him and his wife seeking a lot of irrelevant information to crop loss from a weather event.

"This is not the IRS, or DRA. It's not the Social Security Administration, it's the Department of Agriculture."

He said what the state has is a lot of growers who have lost a lot but won't give the department all the information it is looking for to get at the money.

"I'm not alone in this large room," Wood said.

But Dick Uncles, an

agriculture consultant who noted he has worked with the state on agricultural issues in the past, said he was pleased and surprised that the \$8 million is a "work around" the problem of losses that is faster than any state legislation and that because these are public funds there has to be some accountability.

The program asks for federal tax information and details going from 2020 forward including 2023 taxes which some farms have not yet completed.

Some farmers indicated they feel uncomfortable providing that level of information.

Farms that lost at least 30 percent of any crop and which had losses of more than \$30,000 are urged to apply for the grant relief. They can receive up to 50 percent of their losses up to \$500,000.

Grantees will receive 50 percent of their funds as soon as the Governor and Executive Council approve the funds, which will be in batches every two weeks from now on, and the rest sent out after the program closes May 15, Jasper said.

If there are funds left, it is not known what will happen with them as the governor could claw them back and relocate to other departments, but Jasper said he believes the hope and intent is to use all the money for this purpose. But he said he doubted that it would go to those who had less than \$30,000 in gross receipts.

The ARPA money has to be allocated by Aug. 31 and any unused federal post-COVID-19 relief funds must be returned to

Washington. The governor has said that not a penny is going to be returned and will be spent, somehow, on programs in New Hampshire.

Paul Franklin, who owns a farm in Plainfield, said earlier this week he was among the first three recipients of a grant from the program. He said his grant covers only about 3 percent of losses and it is not a "meaningful" relief amount.

He was a participant in the webinar Wednesday.

Jasper said he was unable to change the grant process and the program now.

He said he knows farmers are upset and he has been focusing solely on a response to that.

Some farmers said the formula feels like they are being penalized for taking advantage of other means to make their farms profitable and if they hadn't they might receive more funds.

But Jasper said that being creative is what businesses do in hard times and he and the governor expected that to happen, noting this is not an entitlement or some sort of "bail out" for those who simply had losses.

This "net loss program" using federal funds is different from a legislative bill, now shelved, which

looked at covering "gross" losses over a period of time through state funds, he said, noting there are some misconceptions by farmers who attended the legislative hearing and thought this was a replacement for it.

Jasper said the bill would not have survived in the same form after it went to the Finance Committee.

Madison Hardy, president of the New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association, acknowledged there are many angry farmers right now across the state who had a different idea of what relief was going to look like.

"Losing your crop is really hard," she said earlier this week, noting flooding and freezing events which in some cases led to 100 percent crop losses, like in the case of apples and peaches.

She said farmers did not fully understand eligibility and what the program was for after it was switched from legislative to ARPA grant, but now that people are aware, she said she sees signs of better communication. She urged farmers to apply for the money.

UNH Cooperative Extension Service moderator Sarah Allen noted that the Q and A webinar was not intended as a forum to vent and confront Jasper but to ask questions to better

understand what was out there.

She said as more weather-related issues for farmers crop up she expects more focus and opportunities for the service to explore ways for farms to become more resilient to weather-related catastrophes so they can stay in business.

Jasper said he expected few applications right now as many are still doing 2023 taxes and some businesses are quite complicated, but he urged farmers to apply and particularly use Box 19 on the application to explain circumstances.

He said only he and Josh Marshall, director of Agriculture Development, would be reading then shredding the applications. They can be sent by email at [croprelief@agr.gov](mailto:croprelief@agr.gov) or by mail to the Department of Agriculture Markets and Food at 25 Capitol St. Concord NH 03301 until April 12 or after April 15, 1 Granite Place South, Suite 211, Concord NH 03301. They can also be dropped off in person as the department is moving its office space in mid-April.

For help filling out the application, farmers can reach out to their county cooperative extension partners or call state Agriculture with questions at 603-271-3551.

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# School Board Get Update On After School Math Support Program

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board received an update regarding the School District's math after hours support program, during its March 11 meeting.

Superintendent, Dan Moulis, told the School Board they have had two after school math support sessions up to that point. He added that they haven't had much participation, saying "we are continuing to push [the program] from a communication standpoint."

School Board member,

Ethan Beals, who pushed for the pilot program, said they need to get the word out more, especially with parents talking about it. "Any parents watching, we desperately need help getting the word out," Beals said.

Moulis said the district sent out a message during its Monday updates at Alvirne High School.

The letter read: "We are pleased to share that the Hudson School District is going to offer after-hours math support through the month of March as fol-

lows:

After-Hours Remote Math Support

Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 5, 2024, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., via Teams.

Shannon McCarthy, the Alvirne math department chair will be the support provider for students in grades 8-12. The upper elementary and middle school, grades 5-7 will also offer support at the same time with a different staff member.

Based on feedback we received from families

regarding the need for additional support with homework and problem solving, we are excited to be able to provide this resource. It is our hope that students will engage in this free support. Parents will play a vital role in helping us get your students connected to their math learning after hours. Please use the Team's link provided [links to join the sessions were sent to families of Alvirne High School, Hudson Memorial School, Hills Garrison Elementary, and Nottingham West Elementary via email.] for

math help for students in grades 8-12. A separate Team's link will be provided for grades 5-7."

Beals said he thinks it's a "unique idea" and it's another "outside the box" way to be able to help their students with math.

Beals stated that once students get to the middle school level or above, when parents may not be able to help their students with math, students either knew it or they didn't, and the only option would be to get help after school.

"Now there's an in

between to get help that's not directly after school," Beals said.

He also noted that based on math scores, he thinks there are students that need help.

"Even our best math students still need to get help sometimes," Beals said.

School Board member, Gary Gasdia, said they need to find out from people who aren't using it, why they aren't, and determine if they need to consider any changes to it such as the times.

# Plans for Spring Maintenance at Park Move Forward

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee met on March 21 to discuss the recently approved procedures for the use of their new golf cart.

Committee Chair Jack Madden wanted to ensure everyone would be familiar with those procedures before using the cart.

"I think it would be useful to have at least a few

people trained and signed off to have us operate the thing before our first clean-up day," said Madden.

The clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m.

With better weather, the Committee talked about several routine maintenance tasks they would need to accomplish in the coming months.

"About every two to three years, we paint the black railings around the park, they peel naturally and rust a bit," said John Leone. "These are at the overlooks and the fence that goes partway around the Elephant Barn. It might be time to look at them again and throw on a fresh coat of paint."

A related issue was poison ivy near park entrances. While park maintenance occasionally cuts it back, this has proven to be a short-term fix. The Chair was unsure whether using herbicides was a good idea and wanted to look for non-toxic, long-term solutions.

"In the railroad industry when we were trying to kill

weeds growing up on the railroad tracks, what we used was a steam generator, we basically steamed them to death, and it lasted a long time. It's hot water, no pesticides or anything like that," claimed Madden.

"I'm going to be talking with the Town Engineer, I'll ask him about that and whether we have anything that's an acceptable treatment to kill off poison ivy."

One suggestion involved bringing in goats, although it was unclear how feasible that might be.

Other maintenance plans involved replacing a bridge near the alligator pond. However, structural engineering will need to give their stamp of approval for a new bridge.

"It has to be a structural engineer, although the plans are from the US Forest Service," said Madden.

The Chair already had a "cookie cutter" design for a

new wooden bridge already used for other trails. He did not expect much trouble getting approval after finding the right type of engineer.

Hudson Civil Engineer Don Kirkland suggested inviting a representative from the Department of Historical Resources to visit Benson Park for the first time in at least five years.

"It would be a chance for them to see what we've accomplished in the park collectively," said Madden. "Basically, it would get them on our side if you will, an understanding of what we want to do."

He singled out the refurbishment of Hudson's Train Station as a project Historical Resources would likely want to see.

The Benson Park Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Hudson Cable Access Center.

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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Lady Broncos Make Quarterfinals, Finish Eighth in DI

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

Alvirne's Lady Bronco basketball team took another step in the right direction this year, as they managed to finish the regular season at 9-9, good enough for the 11th seed going into the tournament. Not only did the Lady Broncos beat their regular season record from a year ago by a game, but they were able to come from behind and beat #6 Goffstown before ultimately losing to #3 Londonderry in the quarterfinals.

At the beginning of the season, it was far from sunshine and roses for the Lady Broncos, as they opened up with three consecutive losses to #4 Portsmouth, #2 Pinkerton, and #9 Exeter. The team knew it was not all doom and gloom for them, however, as they had gotten two of their hardest games on the calendar out of the way already, as well as having some momentum from a competitive loss against Exeter, as they only lost by 11 in that contest.

Alvirne's final game before the Christmas break was against Nashua South, who would eventually finish

as the 13th seed, and, in front of their home crowd at Alvirne, got their first win of the regular season, pouncing on the Purple Panthers 59-33.

Coming out of the break after mixed results in their Holiday Tourney, Alvirne dropped a one-point heart-breaker 37-36 to Windham just six days after falling to the Jaguars by two points in the tourney.

Alvirne, thanks to a slightly easier schedule from that point, rattled off four straight victories against Merrimack, Winnacunnet, Trinity, and Manchester Memorial. The run of four straight non-playoff opponents was exactly what the Broncos needed to get their season back on track, moving their record to 5-4 and getting themselves into the thick of the playoff hunt.

Alvirne then took to the road to play Keene after their game against Londonderry was postponed, causing an eight-day layoff for Alvirne. The Broncos showed some rust in that game, and despite battling the Blackbirds to the very end, Alvirne lost a tough game by a final score of 49-



Junior forward Ella Hartson was given honorable mention by the NHBCO.  
*Photo by Chris Paul*

47.

Their next game was against another of the teams to make it to the final four in the Londonderry Lancers. The mission for the Broncos wasn't neces-

is one thing that was a theme across all sports this winter, it was that anything could happen on any given night. Alvirne, unfortunately, was unable to come away with the upset, as they lost 44-27 on their home court, dropping their record to 5-6 on the season and back below .500 for the first time since January 19.

After their loss to the Lancers, Alvirne bounced back, rattling off four straight wins for the second time this year, beating Spaulding 62-33, Nashua North 49-33, upsetting Dover 51-44, and routing Manchester Central-West 52-36. At this point, the Lady Broncos knew they had accomplished a major goal heading into the season: they were in the Division I playoffs. Now they were just playing for seeding the rest of the way.

Unfortunately for the Broncos, the end of their season was almost as difficult as the beginning as they drew Salem, Bedford, and Goffstown to finish the season off, losing all three games and finishing at 9-9 in the regular season, which

left them in the 11th seed with a second game at Goffstown against the Grizzlies in a matter of four days on the heels of a 36-30 loss that was as close as 33-30 with 35 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Despite the loss less than a week earlier and playing back-to-back games in Goffstown, Alvirne came into the preliminary round with a lot of confidence, knowing that had a couple of shots bounced differently, they would have beaten Goffstown to close out the regular season.

Alvirne proved just that, as with time winding down, the Grizzlies held a two-point advantage 49-47 over Alvirne with 3.6 seconds on the clock.

Pressed for time, Julia Adams inbounded the ball to Ella Hartson, who made a heads-up pass to Rachael Allard. Allard was able to get the shot off as time expired and was fouled from behind the three-point arc. Her shot missed, but she would have a chance at immediate redemption. Hitting all three shots, Allard

**continued on page 11**

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# Alvirne Boys' Basketball Squad Finish Eighth in DI

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

When it comes to athletics, very few teams at Alvirne have the level of success in recent memory as Alvirne's boys' basketball team. Coming into the season, Alvirne had made the playoffs six times in their past seven seasons, with 2021-22 being the team's lone season missing the playoffs since 2016-17, with the team making a few runs to the Elite Eight in that span. Big things were expected from the Broncos again this season, as they had already been beating up on teams in summer leagues, winning a pair of them before tipping off the NHIAA portion of their season.

To start the season, the Broncos ran into some growing pains, and similarly to the girls, began the year at 1-3 after losses to Portsmouth and Pinkerton, a win against Exeter, and a loss to Nashua South. Heading into their Holiday Tournament, the Broncos knew that if they wanted to get back to the promised land, they'd need to rattle off some wins in the new year.

The Broncos, after a close loss to Windham coming out of the break, sought to get their footing solidified against Merrimack, and the Broncos did just that, clawing back to 2-4 on the season after a ten-point 54-

44 victory at home.

They then turned their attention to a fellow 2-4 squad in the Winnacunnet Warriors. Alvirne proved in this game that they were not just any 2-4 team, and their record was greatly a product of playing a gauntlet of teams at the beginning of the season. Getting themselves back to .500 would be the first step in that process.

Unfortunately, that step would have to take a little longer than the Broncos would have liked, as the Trinity Pioneers bested Alvirne by 20, 57-37. With Alvirne sitting at 3-5, questions about their playoff probability were beginning to be raised. Things weren't going to be easy for Alvirne, and even with 15 teams making the playoffs, it was hard to say if Alvirne could make it if they didn't find some consistency down the stretch.

After beating Timberlane handily and losing to Keene, the only thing the Broncos were consistent at, to this point, was being inconsistent. They took care of Timberlane, who entered the game winless to that point, 69-50 in a game that was effortless for the Broncos, then they turned around and lost a tough battle at home against the Keene Blackbirds. 4-6 was certainly far from an ideal record,



Junior guard, Sam Dewitt, was named to the NHBCO's Second Team. Photos by Chris Paul

and Alvirne needed to string together some wins and quick.

Things began to turn around for Alvirne on the road at Bishop Guertin. Looking to avenge last season's preliminary-round loss to the Cardinals, the Broncos took to the Guertin hardwood and took care of business against Bishop Guertin, winning 59-44 and getting themselves back to one game below .500.

Alvirne would then rattle off wins against Spaulding and Londonderry to get

themselves back over .500 for the first time this season at 7-6. The playoffs were now in sight for the Broncos, as they had put themselves in a position where they controlled their own destiny with five games to play in the regular season.

After nearly upsetting Nashua North on the road, Alvirne quickly got themselves back over .500 with a 46-36 win on the road against Dover, and then they immediately followed that victory up with a 65-50 win over Salem at home to get themselves to 9-7.

Alvirne finished their regular season off by battling Bedford and losing by single digits just hours after Head Coach Leo Gershgorin tendered his resignation and Christian Patnaude was named interim Head



Sophomore forward, Garrett Hall was given Honorable Mention by the NHBCO this season.

Coach for the remainder of the season, and then they dropped a close battle with the Goffstown Grizzlies that allowed Goffstown to sneak into the playoffs as the 14th seed in the tournament by a final score of 50-49.

In the playoffs, Coach Patnaude picked up his first Varsity win as the Broncos emerged victorious 51-42, avenging their regular season loss to the Blackbirds of Keene, and sending the Broncos to the Elite Eight against the Bedford Bulldogs and a genuine chance to upset Bedford and move on to the Final Four.

Alas, despite their best efforts, the Broncos were unable to outlast the Bulldogs, dropping their quarterfinal matchup 69-51, ending their season as the number eight team in Division I.

This season, starting with over 60 summer and fall league games, saw the Broncos face and overcome adversity, growing stronger with each challenge. Despite occasional defeats, the team's maturity and resilience shone through, particularly in crucial playoff moments such as the thrilling victory over Keene in the first round. Coach Gershgorin's focus on preparation had a clear impact, evident in standout performances against Bishop Guertin and Dover with that focus continuing under Coach Patnaude. Notably, the team's adaptability and depth were highlighted by players stepping up in the face of injuries. This season marked a significant step for Alvirne basketball in Division I in New Hampshire.

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# Middle School Baseball Team Has Girl Tryout for First Time

Gabriella Nichols, an 11-year-old girl attending sixth grade at Hudson Memorial School (HMS) took to the HMS baseball field to tryout for the HMS Colt baseball team, the first girl to tryout for the baseball team in town. Gabriella Nichols, aka Gabbie, is a straight "A" student, on Colt Council for her school, plays the alto Sax for band, and is also a baseball player.

Gabbie has been playing baseball since she was four-years-old starting out in T-Ball for The Hudson Youth Baseball League. Moving onto AA, AAA, and this year will now be on Majors. She has been playing on the Hudson Youth Baseball Travel team since she was seven. She has also been playing for The Merrimack Valley Prospects AAU

Team of Nashua NH since nine-years-old. Her parents tried putting her in softball for a year, she was doing both baseball and softball, knowing that obstacles would occur along the way playing with the boys, but Gabbie's heart remained with baseball and she never lost it. She never cared if she got teased, if a boy wouldn't play catch with her or if she was told she just didn't have it to be a baseball player. The more others spoke negatively or treated her different the more drive she had for the sport.

Gabbie truly is an inspiration and should be recognized and her voice should be heard that a girl can play baseball. Every field she has stepped on she has had to prove herself that she could stick with the boys

and every time she has done just that. She is a lefty, playing first, catching, and pitching. Gabbie will play every position and puts in the 110% even though she is a lefty and should be playing in certain positions.

The school did have to get it approved that if a girl could actually try out or if she had to play softball. Gabbie was approved to tryout and starts March 25. She is hoping to make the team and getting ready for the years to come on the big diamond. She knows as a 6th grader playing time is minimal and she is definitely OK with that, she wants to practice, put in the work and be ready to play for seventh grade.

Gabbie has also applied to play in the Girls Got Game tournament in N.J.

on June 1 and is waiting to get the call that she has been chosen. She wants to be on a baseball field with 95 other girls and have an experience of a lifetime.

The next obstacle that Gabbie has to overcome and prove herself is that there is a new head coach for HMS, whom has been applying since 2018 and just received the job this year for the 2024 season, Jeff Nichols whom is her dad. You can talk to Coach Jeff and he will tell you the same thing that he tells everyone. "On a baseball field, she is not my kid, she is a player, she is a teammate." Whether Gabbie makes it or not, everyone is very proud of her for what she has accomplished so far and her support will never end for her to play the game she loves, baseball.



Gabriella Nichols, a sixth grader at Hudson Memorial School hopes to make the school's baseball team.

## Girls'

Continued from page 10

did what nobody believed to be possible just three seconds prior. Alvirne was going to the Elite Eight.

The Lady Broncos would end up being pitted against #3 Londonderry in the quarterfinals, and the Lancers turned out to simply be too much for the Broncos to handle, beating Alvirne 51-36 behind several strong performances, ending Alvirne's season as the Broncos finished at 10-10 and 8th in Division I.

When asked about his thoughts on the team's suc-

cess this season, Broncos' Head Coach, Frank Girginis, said, "In a season of a lot of 'what if's', the girls responded better than I could have ever hoped for. Not only did they over-achieve as far as their regular season record and advancing to the quarterfinals, but they put Alvirne girls' basketball back on the map with foundational pieces that will help us in the upcoming years. These girls believed, trusted, and played for each other. They believed in what we were doing and no matter what I asked of them, they did it without hesitation or question. As their coach, I can-

not be more grateful for that as well as their effort and faith in how we needed to attack this season. It started with our three seniors, Rachael [Allard], Sadie [Rodgers], and Taryn [Macklin] leading the way and translated down not only the varsity team but JV as well."

"I can already see the excitement of next season as the returning players are already asking about off-season work and summer tournaments. However, even though we had a lot of success this past season we know we can't sit down now and have to work twice as hard to prepare for the

next. However, following in the footsteps of previous leaders, new ones will arise and a new road will be traveled. This time with our eyes on a road called the....the Final Four," Girginis added when asked about the outlook on next season.

The future looks bright for the Lady Broncos, only graduating three players this season. This means that, despite the major impact Allard, Rodgers, and Macklin made this season, next year's group will be able to carry on their legacies, being more experienced and better equipped for another deep playoff run.



## HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #81 Child Find Notice

SAU 81, which serves the town of Hudson NH, seeks to locate and identify all children who may have an educational disability within the geographic boundaries of Hudson, New Hampshire. Any person may refer for evaluation of a child ages 2.5 through 22 for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Failing to pass a hearing or vision screening
2. Unsatisfactory performance on group achievement or accountability measures
3. Receiving multiple academic or behavioral warnings
4. Repeatedly failing one or more subjects

The Child Find requirements of The Hudson School Districts also apply to highly mobile children, homeless children, and children who are suspected of having an educational disability even though they are advancing from grade to grade. Child Find also includes those children in grades K-12 who attend approved, non-public private schools within the geographic boundaries of Hudson regardless of where they reside.

Referrals may be initiated in a variety of ways. For children who attend Hudson public schools, building principals or assistant principals, special education coordinators, classroom teachers or school counselors may be contacted by anyone wishing to initiate a referral for special education. Parents of students attending a NH Public Charter School who wish to make a referral to are encouraged to contact either the Director or Assistant Director of Special Services at 603-883-7765.

Parents of students in grades K-12 who attend private schools outside the geographical boundaries of Hudson should contact the district in which the private school is located in order to make a referral for evaluation.

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# Alvirne Baseball Looks to Bounce Back Under New Regime

**BLAKE SANTANA**  
HUDSON TIMES

Alvirne's baseball team has a new head coach for the second time in four years. After 36 years of stability under long-time head coach Mike Lee, Alvirne turned the page on his successor, Adam Perkins, after the two sides mutually parted ways after back-to-back 4-14 seasons that followed a 12-5 season in 2021 in Perkins' first year as the Bronco skipper. Now, Alvirne turns to Colton Houle, who has been an assistant coach for Alvirne for the past 12 seasons. Houle looks to lead the Broncos back to their winning ways in 2024.

On the bright side, last season, the Broncos only graduated three players: Reece Baker, Alex Blais, and Mike Nemeth, which means that much of the returning team has significant varsity experience for

the Broncos. Alvirne will be looking for players like Norwich University commit Logan Casey, Charlie Crawford, Devin Smith, and Jameson Kruger to impact the team from the opening day. Antonio Vallante will also likely be the team's starting catcher with the graduation of Reece Baker last year.

The biggest concern for Alvirne at this point is likely the pitching. Gone are the days when Josh MacDonald, Nick Jacques, and Jacob Hobart kept a pitcher as strong on the mound as Ty Baker, who now plays at Rivier University, in minimal roles out of the bullpen. Last season, Logan Casey was certainly the ace for Alvirne, but after that, there were some question marks. Will Jameson Kruger take a step forward as a sophomore in his second year of Varsity action? Will Dylan Page be able to make the

leap to Varsity and continue the success he had on the mound at the JV level? If the answers to both of those questions are yeses, then a playoff berth is not out of the question for the Maroon and Gold, especially if Devin Smith proves to be an effective bullpen option.

On the offensive side, losing a bat as strong as Alex Blais will hurt. Blais led the team with two home runs last season with a batting average of around .300 to go along with it. Players like Dylan Page and Jameson Kruger will be crucial in filling that hole, but getting Mikey Bebris back in the lineup after he missed last season recovering from

Tommy John surgery will be essential. If he can return with the same offensive ability he has shown in the past, teams will want to circle him on their lineup cards as a player they can't let beat them.

This year, players like Chase Mitchell and Jaxson Polleck will join the varsity squad full-time, and the Broncos have also added a key piece in the form of a Bishop Guertin transfer. Brandon Ganas, a player who helped lead Alvirne-Milford hockey to its first semifinal appearance since 2011-12, will look to help bring the Broncos back to the playoffs for the first time since 2021 when the

team fell in the first round to the Cardinals. If Ganas can add a solid bat to the squad and hold down the fort defensively, the Broncos will be in a good spot. Adding Mitchell to the fray on the mound could be a significant difference-maker for Alvirne, as well.

If all, or even most, of those pieces, can come together and click for the Broncos, it's not out of the question that they could make the playoffs, and as Alvirne sports have proven throughout the 2023-24 academic year, once they make the dance, anything is possible. Last year, they finished just two games out of a playoff spot, with Trinity

finishing at 6-12 and earning the final playoff berth. A two-game improvement is not out of the question. Especially if the pitching staff gets into a groove early, they can rattle off wins against teams like Timberlane and Merrimack, who struggled mightily last season, and possibly upset a team like Nashua North like they did last season. The concept of a 6-12 or 7-11 season may not be the best Alvirne season in recent memory, thanks mainly to that 2021 season, but it could be enough to make the 15-team playoff and possibly break some brackets.

## It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's a...Turtle?

Learn how New England pilots help rescue endangered sea turtles in the Aviation Museum program on Thursday, April 4.

Never mind when pigs fly. How about turtles?

That's what happens each year when local pilots help a conservation group transport hundreds of cold-stunned sea turtles by air from chilly New England waters to warmer climes.

The program, in honor of Earth Day on April 4,

starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person; Aviation Museum members are admitted free.

David Dinneen, a pilot and Massachusetts Aviation Coordinator for 'Turtles Fly Too,' will speak about how aviation supports the rescue of sea turtles that each year become stranded and disoriented in the cold waters off New England.

Species involved in the rescue include Kemp's Ridley turtles, the most critical-

ly endangered sea turtle in the world.

By mid-November, temperatures begin dropping too fast for these cold-blooded reptiles, and volunteers find them washed ashore in a hypothermic state. That's where the pilots such as Dinneen come in to transport them to emergency treatment facilities. Dinneen is also the aviation coordinator of Cape Cod Ocean Community, a non-profit and community-based organization that facilitates shark surveillance testing projects.

Turtles Fly Too is a non-profit with a mission to use general aviation to

transport endangered species and promote conservation through education and outreach.

Their tactics include giving medivac flights to turtles that remain too long past summer in the waters of the Gulf of Maine.

Learn more about Turtles Fly Too at [www.turtles-flytoo.org](http://www.turtles-flytoo.org). The Aviation Museum is located at 27 Navigator Road, off Harvey Road, in Londonderry. For more information, visit [www.aviationmuseumof-nh.org](http://www.aviationmuseumof-nh.org) or call (603) 669-4820 or email [jrapis@nh-aahs.org](mailto:jrapis@nh-aahs.org). Follow the Aviation Museum on social media at [www.facebook.com/nhahs](http://www.facebook.com/nhahs).

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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](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

## Volunteer Breakfast

Friends of Benson Park will hold a "Benson Park Community Volunteer Breakfast" on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. - noon at Benson Park, Hudson, (In historic Office Building next to the Elephant Barn). Learn about the many Volunteer opportunities available at Benson Park including: Benson Park Store weekend sales, Concerts & Events, Park Clean-up Days, and Adopt-A-Spot park beautification projects and

more. Additionally, at the Breakfast, there will be a short presentation on the Benson Park Museum construction and design project and how you can help. All ages are welcomed to this free event and registration is required at [www.friendsofbensonpark.org](http://www.friendsofbensonpark.org). The Registration deadline is 3/30/24. For updates & weather cancellations be sure to follow us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/Friends-BensonPark](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-BensonPark) & Instagram [www.instagram.com/friendsofbensonpark/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbensonpark/) - Questions?

Email [info@friendsofbensonpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbensonpark.org).

## Psychic & Craft Fair

The Hudson Lions Club will host a Psychic & Craft Fair on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Hudson Community Center, Lions Ave. Hudson. Psychics will be available for readings, cash only. Check out the many vendors who will be selling their wares. For information contact Jeri 603-320-3614, or [Sholeh.sexton4@gmail.com](mailto:Sholeh.sexton4@gmail.com). Proceeds benefit of

Hudson Lions Club Charities.

## Comedy Night

A Live Comedy Night Fundraiser held by the Hudson Lions Club will happen on Thursday April 18, at 7 p.m., at Chunky's Cinema Pub Pelham. Tickets are \$20 each. Doors open at 6 p.m. To purchase tickets, contact: Susan Flynn, Email: [Flynn-family60@gmail.com](mailto:Flynn-family60@gmail.com). Sponsored by Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Nashua, Salem Windham Lions Club. Proceeds benefit of CHAD, children with cancer.

## 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](mailto:DGRoger@comcast.net). Applications are due by April 12.

## Solar Eclipse Party

On Monday, April 8, at 2:30 p.m., come watch the eclipse and celebrate this special event with a science explanation and eat a fun snack at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## Cookbook Club

On Tuesday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library and prepare a recipe from this month's topic, Vegan Recipes, then engage with others about your recipe adventures.

## Rodgers Readers

On Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m., come join in to discuss the book "The Wind Knows

My Name" by Isabel Allende, the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## Dungeons & Donuts

Looking for people to play Dungeons & Dragons with? Come play and grab a donut on Saturday, April 6, and 20, at 9:30 a.m., at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## STEM Challenge

Design an Umbrella on Wednesday, April 10, at 6 p.m., at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Students in grades K-5 are invited to design an umbrella using household supplies.

## 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

continued on page 15

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## Around Town

Continued from page 14

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

### 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@comcast.net. Applications are due by April 12.

### Read 'Em and Eat at T-Bones

Come to T-Bones to discuss books over good food and drinks on Monday, April 29, at 7 p.m. April's Book is The Ocean At "The End Of The Lane" by Neil Gaiman.

### 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 whole family moving and grooving.

### Access Wisdom Book Club

On Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m., certified life coach Diane MacKinnon leads a book club highlighting books that helps individuals gain more access to our own wisdom at the Rodgers memorial Library. This month's book is "The Alchemist" by Paolo Coelho.

### Genealogy Club

Seeking Rogers Roots-the Maine, Canada, Ireland Connection on Friday, April 12, at 1:30 p.m., with the Rodgers memorial Library. This enlightening case takes the listener through the extensive search for the supposed

Scottish roots and parentage of James C. Rogers of Brewer, Maine. This is a virtual program via Zoom.

### Mystery Lovers Book Club

You know you love it - murder, mystery and mayhem all in one place on Monday, April 15, at 1 p.m., at Rodger Memorial Library. This month's book pick is "Killers of a Certain Age" by Deanna Raybourn.

### Tween Anime Club

On Thursday, April 11, at 5:30 p.m., come Watch Anime and Eat Ramen at the Rodgers Memorial Library. This club is for tweens in grades 5-8.

### Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library for an in-depth discussion of quality best-selling fiction and nonfiction books including biographies. This month's book: How to be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question by Michael Schur.

### Crime and Cookies

A True Crime Podcast Club, will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m., at the Memorial Library. Discuss this month's listen while enjoying a tasty dessert.

### Characters & Cocoa

Characters & Cocoa is a 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. This will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m., at Rodgers Memorial Library.

### Elementary Craft

On Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m., Grades 1-5 are invited to join Miss Marissa once a month to do a craft/art project at Rodgers memorial Library. This months project is Llama Painting.

### Friends of the Library Donation Event

On Thursday, April 18, all day. Do you have gently used books in excellent condition you wish to donate to the library? Bring them to All-

Day Book Donation Event! Conditions and exceptions apply, see [events.rogerslibrary.org](https://events.rogerslibrary.org) for details.

### Trivia Night

On Friday, April 19, at 6 p.m. Trivia Master Darryl Brazee joins the Rodgers Memorial Library for an after-hours round of Trivia: American History Edition.

### Family Storytime

On Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m., come for a Special Saturday family storytime at Rodgers Memorial Library! There will be songs, stories, bubbles, and dancing that will keep everyone moving and grooving.

### Candy Poker

On Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., join in on this monthly game of Texas Hold' Em poker, at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Play for candy and take your winnings home! Beginners welcome.

### Family Candy Bingo

On Monday, April 22, at 1 p.m., come Play BINGO with the family and win candy at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Sing-Along, Laught-a-Lot

On Tuesday, April 23, at 10 a.m., Steve Blunt will share a concert full of fun, upbeat songs that tickle the funny bone, warm the heart, and delight the imagination, and with lots of audience participation, at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

### Tween Taylor Swift Party

On Wednesday, April 24, at 2 p.m., Tweens in grades 4-8 are invited to listen to Taylor Swift while having a snack and making bracelets at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

### Curious Kids

On Fridays in April 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 April at 10 a.m., join Ms. Tanya for

stories, songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Memorial Library. This event is or 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.

### Stitchers' Circle

On Saturday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Come and Stitch/cross stitch, black-work, embroider, knit, crochet, hand craft, etc. lead by Oonagh Williams. Not a formal class, but people are willing to help.

### 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](mailto: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, knitting, 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.

### PFOA Water Test

You can request a water sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey ([surveyMonkey.com](https://surveyMonkey.com)) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: [Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov), Phone: 603.271.8801

### Teen Hangout

On Tuesdays in April 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.

### Backyard Planting

On Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m., come join Rodgers memorial Library Circulation Librarian and "Outdoor Guy" Dana Benner to learn how to plant in a way to attract those birds, bees and butterflies.

### Book Sale

On Sunday, April 14, at 11 a.m., a Secondhand Prose Book Sale Sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be held at Hills Memorial Library (downstairs). 18 Library St. There will be Books, CDs, DVDs, for all ages available for \$2 or less.

### Listening Party

On Friday, April 19, at 2:30 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial Library to listen to Taylor Swift's new album, Tortured Poets Department. Enjoy a snack and make friendship bracelets.

### Coast Guard History

A Brief History of the Coast Guard with Captain Greg Ketchen (Retired) will be held virtually through the Rodgers Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 16, at 1 p.m. Greg Ketchen is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Captain living in Osterville, MA. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of topics related to Coast Guard missions and history. Please register for this event and you'll receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails.

### Songs & Snuggles

On Thursdays 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.

### Author Discussion

Author Heather Wolf Discusses "Find More Birds: 111 Surprising Ways to Spot Birds Wherever You Are" virtually through the Rodgers Memorial Library on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. It will be a fascinating conversation about being in the moment and noticing the wonderful and varied birds around us.

**Hudson Times**


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